



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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BILLY GRAHAM The evangelist listens to singing during the Dallas-Fort Worth mission last fall, which many people expected to be his last.

Billy Graham not retiring just yet; schedules May San Diego event

SAN DIEGO (RNS)—Rumors that evangelist Billy Graham's crusade career was at the end appear to have been greatly exaggerated.

Graham announced last week that his preaching events, now called "missions," would continue with a May appearance in San Diego.

Graham, 84, had opted to wait until after he completed his 2002 missions with an event in the Dallas/Fort Worth area before deciding whether he would preach in 2003.

"My burden to proclaim the gospel is as strong as ever," he said in a statement read at the Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego Jan. 9.

"Therefore, health permitting, my associates and I will be glad to accept the invitation to come to California to join hands in proclaiming the gospel."

Former San Diego Chargers kicker Rolf Bernischke will be chairman of the event, May 8-11.

"To help bring such a positive message to the community I love, by the man who has had such an influence on my life and countless others, is indeed a privilege," said Bernischke. "I look forward to the spiritual impact this event will have on San Diego."

Graham added in his statement that he is pleasantly surprised that his ministry opportunities are continuing.

"To be honest, I never expected to continue receiving invitations into my 80s."

In addition to the Dallas/Forth Worth mission in October, Graham preached in Cincinnati in June. He was last in California for a four-day mission in Fresno in October 2001.

"People ask me, 'Isn't this your last crusade? ... They say it very hopefully, some of them,'" Graham told an amused audience during the Texas mission. He has battled Parkinson's disease and has been in declining health for years.

Servant ministry



First Baptist Church of Mayfield credits its vision for servant ministry for leading to growth in recent years. Church leaders say member are involved in 30 ministries, which has helped the church add 400 new members in the past five years.

■ Above: John Hicks and Rebecca Graham (outside truck) check a list of furniture while Joe Poole (left) and Wiley Mayfield prepare to unload donated items. The "helping hands" ministry collects and repairs used furniture for distribution to needy families. ■ Left: Shirley Spillman (from left), Bettye Gargus and Edna Earle Skinner work on handmade quilts that will be given to mothers of newborns at Jackson Purchase Medical Center. See story on page 3. (Photos by Keith Todd)

Mexican pair coming to start churches in state

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

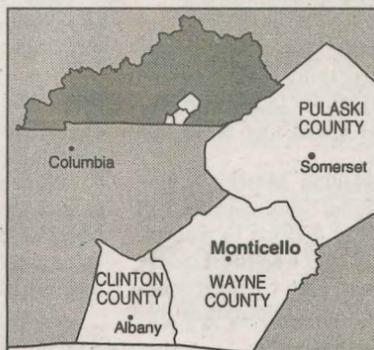
MONTICELLO—Through the ministry of missionary Ken Roberts, physicians Vianey and Angelica Lopez came to sense God's call to missions. But Roberts never dreamed they would wind up starting churches alongside him in southern Kentucky.

"I'm still amazed at the way God brought things together," said Roberts, a former missionary to Mexico. "I never dreamed about being their mentor."

An associate missionary and church planter with the South Central Region Hispanic Ministry, Roberts is delighted the Lopezes decided to come to the Bluegrass State.

One reason is his busy schedule, which includes driving more than 600 miles a week to lead worship services in eight locations.

The first Hispanics employed by the regional ministry, the couple was scheduled to arrive this week to help



start churches in Clinton, Wayne and Pulaski counties.

Although they are doctors, their visas currently restrict them from practicing medicine. But they might later add medical missions to their résumé.

They are the first Hispanics to work with the six-year-old ministry, which encompasses nine Baptist associations in southern Kentucky. An estimated 3,000 Hispanics live in the 12-county region.

"This isn't just migrant workers," Roberts said. "We're seeing more families and children, and children being born here. We need to prepare for this. We also need to get out of the migrant ministry mentality and get into a church planting mentality."

An appointee of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Roberts met the Lopezes in the summer of 1987, when he was a missionary in Campeche City, Mexico.

Although attending a church of another denomination, they switched to the Baptist mission that Roberts started. Mrs. Lopez's mother, grandmother and four siblings all became Christians at that church.

The Lopezes, who later became members of First Baptist Church of Merida, Yucatan, helped establish a mission last year in Campeche City. They provided free medical care to residents there, while Lopez preached and his wife played piano at the church.

□ See Mexican couple ..., page 6

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, January 15

IMB hospital transferred to Yemen's Muslim government

Two Baptist workers escape gunman's attack

JIBLA, Yemen (ABP)—The Dec. 30 attack that killed three Southern Baptist mission workers in Jibla could have claimed even more victims.

Administrator William Koehn, physician Martha Myers and purchasing agent Kathy Gariety were killed by a gunman who interrupted an early morning meeting the three workers were having at Jibla Baptist Hospital.

Al Lindholm, a former hospital worker now based in the capital of Sanaa, was supposed to be in the meeting too.

He likely would have been the killer's fourth victim if not for an automobile accident.

Lindholm was driving from Sanaa for the 8 a.m. meeting. He had a minor accident en route and had to return to Sanaa to get another car, making him two hours late.

"I was less than half an hour away when I received the news by mobile phone," he told Associated Baptist Press. "These were my friends. And I wouldn't have minded dying with them, if that was my calling."

Also spared was Daniel Cajuiat, an X-ray technician and IMB volunteer, who was confronted by the gunman while standing in a doorway, but the attacker's semi-automatic rifle ran out of ammunition.

JIBLA, Yemen (ABP)—Despite initial reports to the contrary, Jibla Baptist Hospital was transferred to the Muslim government of Yemen two days after a gunman killed three Southern Baptist mission workers.

Reports had circulated in recent months that the hospital either would be closed or transferred to a local Muslim charity by the end of 2002.

In the wake of the Dec. 30 attack that left Kathleen Gariety, William Koehn and Martha Myers dead, Southern Baptist International Mission Board spokeswoman Anita Bowden told reporters, "The transfer is still in process, but with three deaths, the discussions understandably have stopped."

The hospital, which has been closed since the shooting, has since been transferred to government officials who will decide if the facility will reopen and who will work there. Most of the 13 American mission workers and their families have left Jibla, and many won't return.

Despite the circumstances, "there will still be as much ministry here," said Al Lindholm, who is overseeing the transfer of the hospital from the IMB to the Yemeni government.

"Miraculous" recovery

In fact, the hospital's recovery since the shooting has been "miraculous," said Lindholm, the IMB's area business strategy manager. "God has given all of us strength. We have been able to do amazing things."

In the days since the shooting, Lindholm and the five other Baptist workers who remained in Jibla have focused on transferring the 45-bed hospital while reassuring local Yemenis, who have long supported the hospital, that it indeed will reopen. The government has appointed a hospital administrator, is securing funding and is discussing which staff members to keep—and that could include a few IMB mission doctors, Lindholm said in a Jan. 7 interview.

"These deaths have motivated and energized the people of the commu-

nity to take responsibility for the hospital," said Lindholm, a former hospital worker now based in the capital of Sanaa. "Things are moving fairly rapidly between the ministry of planning and the ministry of health. ... Officially it belongs to the ministry of health as of the first of January."

As the only full-service hospital in the poor area around Jibla, treating 40,000 patients a year, the facility was considered the region's most prominent Christian ministry. The transfer had been a source of tension between some longtime Jibla mission workers and IMB stateside administrators.

Last July the IMB announced it would no longer operate the facility—the last IMB-run hospital—and would shift the emphasis to mobile clinics, which would provide health screenings, nutrition education and basic medical care to more Yemenis. The shift is part of the IMB's new global strategy called New Directions, which moves the IMB away from institution-based ministries such as hospitals and schools to focus more heavily on church-starting efforts.

Since Islam is the official religion of Yemen, missionaries and proselytizing are not allowed. The IMB said the hospital's ministry has been limited to "pre-evangelism." But hospital staffers say they often share their faith informally with patients and others when asked.

Last September, the IMB said the People's Charitable Society, a Muslim charity with ties to the Yemeni government, would assume control of the hospital Oct. 1.

But the October deadline, and a second one, came and went with no word from the IMB or the government about the transfer. So hospital officials informed the government Dec. 12 that they would begin shutting down the facility, ending all surgeries by Dec. 26 and closing the hospital Dec. 31.

On Dec. 22, the IMB informed the staff that the transfer to the People's Charitable Society was indeed going to take place after all. A meeting was scheduled with government officials for 10 a.m. Dec. 30, at the hospital

Pharmacist recuperating from attack

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Don Caswell, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board worker who survived the Dec. 30 shootings in Jibla, Yemen, is expected to recover fully from his injuries, reported Judy Williams, his attending physician.

Caswell, a pharmacist from Texas, has served at Jibla Baptist Hospital since July 2001. He and his family are staying in an undisclosed location until he has recuperated from his injuries.

Bullets from his attacker's gun hit Caswell's right and left sides. His injuries could have been much more severe, but the bullets did not enter his abdominal cavity, said

Williams, an IMB representative who has worked in Yemen since 1999. He was rushed into surgery immediately after the attack.

Caswell, 49, is now able to walk completely upright and is joking with his wife, Terry—a sure sign he's getting back to normal, Williams said. He is expected to have no long-term complications from his injuries.

Caswell should be able to resume normal activities within two to three weeks, Williams said, though she expects it to be a couple of months before his endurance returns to normal.

The Caswells have two sons, Thomas, 11, and Caleb, 5.



Caswell

compound. The meeting, of course, never took place because of the early morning shootings.

In the months before her death, Gariety, the hospital's purchasing agent, worked behind the scenes to try to keep the facility in the hands of Christians.

In an e-mail interview, she said the IMB's press releases about the transfer "made it sound like everything is just fine and all the (IMB mission workers) are happy and pleased, when that is just not the case." She questioned whether the government would follow through and keep the hospital open. "Even our local employees believe this is a bad idea, that within a year the hospital will be stripped of all supplies and then closed."

Conflicting views

Several days after the shooting Ken Clezy, an Australian surgeon, said he also is doubtful the hospital will survive. "We have lost so many staff because of all the months of uncertainty that there is no way the place can be kept open."

Lindholm, however, remains optimistic. The hospital will open as soon

as possible, he said, although no one is sure when. "Pledges have been made at the highest level of the government" he added. "We're already seeing stability return to the staff."

Lindholm said the government probably will hire back most of the Yemeni employees, who made up about 80 percent of the previous 220-member staff. And the government is open to hiring non-Yemeni workers, including American mission doctors, he said.

That could include IMB doctors, he added. "But not many, because some have already taken other assignments. But we will have a few."

Before the shooting, seven of the 13 IMB mission workers planned to transfer elsewhere in Yemen or out of the country. Two were returning to the States. Four wanted to stay at the hospital, but that included Myers and Gariety, who were killed. Only one IMB doctor—surgeon Judy Williams—is available to stay.

Lindholm said the Yemeni ministry of health "will work with us to decide what doctors will stay." Meanwhile, he added, the IMB personnel "are watching to see where they fit in."

Surgeon: Tragedy in Yemen opens doors to share God's love

By Manda Roten
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Judy Williams was working in the surgical area at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen when she heard that there had been gunshots.

Fellow physician Martha Myers was dead. Hospital administrator Bill Koehn was dying. Efforts to resuscitate purchasing agent Kathy Gariety failed. Pharmacist Don Caswell needed surgery for bullet wounds in his abdomen.

Williams, a surgeon who has worked at the hospital in Yemen since 1999, recounted what happened Dec. 30 in her typical matter-of-fact manner.

"I was in doctor mode," Williams said. "I didn't think, 'This is my friend, my boss.'"

But there were a few moments when the enormity of it all broke through: "Bill's dead. Kathy's dead.

Martha's dead. Don's been shot."

Now, as she attends Caswell, who is recuperating at an undisclosed location, Williams is starting to grieve.

"I'm sad. I cry sometimes," she said. "But then I remember pleasant experiences we had and get a little smile on my face."

Yemeni locals who worked alongside Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers at the hospital counted the victims as their friends too, Williams said.

"They're grieving just as much as we are," she said, "and they are also asking the question 'why?'"

Though Williams doesn't venture to guess why her coworkers died, she can tell her Yemeni friends that she knows her colleagues are in heaven because they had a relationship with God through Jesus.

"We know that God has our best interests at heart, even when we can't see that," she said. "We know that He loves us, even when the evidence we

see doesn't suggest that.

"And to be able to share that, especially with a Muslim people who have a very, very different vision of who God is and what He's like, has been very positive."

Though Williams has been focused on caring for Caswell since the shooting, she experienced a few poignant moments with Yemeni coworkers after the initial commotion settled down.

One man, who was a close friend of Gariety, kept saying, "I'm so, so sorry; I'm so, so sad."

All Williams could tell him was, "I understand."

"Sharing that emotion with him—for him to be sharing that with a female—was very different," Williams said. "It was something I don't think would have happened in most places in Yemen."

Amid the tragedy of the deadly attack, Williams said her colleagues' deaths have opened doors for sharing God's love.

Short term might keep Assembly from looking at more gambling

FRANKFORT—With the 2003 session of the Kentucky General Assembly under way, Howard Beaman is optimistic that expanded gambling efforts won't garner much support from legislators. But he isn't taking anything for granted.

"As far as any gambling bills, nothing's been introduced" during the legislature's opening week, said Beaman, executive director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems.

"But there's still a lot of big questions there," he added. Pro-gambling lobbyists "are working very hard to push for it. With the news of the shortfall in revenue and the budget problems, they're going to be using that on their side."

Despite such efforts, Beaman said he does not expect legislators to approve attempts to legalize slot machines in the state. Similar efforts last year failed to make it to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote.

Competing groups interested in introducing slot machines at race tracks or authorizing free-standing casinos also are expected to hurt the chances of gambling expansion, Beaman added.

"With all the budget wrangling going on, it will be difficult to get something like that passed in a short session" that will conclude in March, he noted.

"All the senators and representatives I've talked to so far are pretty much opposed to it," Beaman said. He added, however, that "we're anticipating something is going to come up so we're watching that as closely as we can."

If legislation to expand gambling is introduced, Beaman said the Kentucky League will seek to keep Kentucky Baptists and other concerned citizens informed about ways to combat the proposal.

Among other legislative issues during the session, Beaman said the Kentucky League supports the concept of increasing taxes on alcohol and tobacco products.

He also voiced support for House Bill 29 which defines an unborn child as a "person" and "human being" in the event of criminal homicide—including murder or manslaughter—and Senate Bill 23 which authorizes production of special "Choose Life" license plates.

Individuals can contact legislators by calling (502) 564-8100 or by leaving a message with the toll-free legislative message line at (800) 372-7181.

Missions matters

Ministries leading to strong growth at Mayfield First Baptist Church

By Keith Todd
State Correspondent

MAYFIELD—From the outside, First Baptist Church of Mayfield has a gothic appearance like something out of Medieval Europe. But the imposing 1930s stone building is home to a 21st century church experiencing strong growth.

First Baptist has nearly doubled in attendance and budget in five years, adding almost 400 new members along the way.

How? Pastor Bob Swift credits a shared vision by members and leaders for what a church should be.

"One of the major things has been the development of a servant ministry attitude and a vision of what that means," Swift said.

That vision includes a belief that Christianity is not a spectator sport. At last count, the church had 30 distinct ministries in the community.

"For instance, at Jackson Purchase Medical Center we've served around 40,000 free breakfasts to families of people having outpatient surgery," he said. "We go back in the evening and provide snack packs to families of intensive care unit patients in the waiting room."

First Baptist founded Grace Medical Clinic to provide free medical services to residents who can't afford treatment.

"We have some 15 physicians, about 30 nurses and a vast array of other volunteers who give of their time," Swift said. "We just recently treated our 1,000th patient."

From cars to quilts

The church has a "helping hands" ministry that refurbishes used furniture for people in need. A women's group makes quilts for each baby born at the local hospital. The car care ministry helps senior adults and single mothers needing auto repairs. The children and youth ministries also are involved in hands-on ministry.

"They go paint houses, they roof buildings, they clean up playgrounds. That teaches them that giving of yourself is important," Swift said. "We have a fund to help support members who want to go on mission trips. Our members have been to Poland, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Africa and everywhere Kentucky Baptists ever need anyone."

The latest ministry brought in a fulltime staff person. Frances Irizari, a native of Puerto Rico, serves Mayfield's growing Hispanic community.

"We've gone from zero to averaging about 40 in Sunday worship. They have their own worship service in their native language," Swift explained.

The new ministries became a magnet to other people who like the church's servant attitude and want to be a part of it.



MEDICAL CLINIC Teri Sparks (left) and Becky Waggoner inventory medicine at Grace Medical Clinic. The clinic, which has provided treatment to more than 1,000 people with no health insurance, is one of approximately 30 ministries at First Baptist Church of Mayfield. (Photo by Keith Todd)

"It has had an impact on our community and that in turn has had an impact on our church," Swift said. "It has demonstrated that this church has a real heart for serving others. Sometimes you hear people say, 'Build it and they will come.' Part of our vision has been 'Serve them and they will come.'"

"We're fulfilling needs"

Lifelong First Baptist member Nancy Carol Crick says perhaps the greatest impact has been on the lives of church members. "We're fulfilling needs that are very real. We've also come to realize that the church is the people."

"Love and excitement has just grown and grown and grown from that. Each member's sense of belonging is a big part of the new attitude," Crick added. "God is behind it, so you want to be there. You don't want to miss an activity of any kind for fear that you'll miss a huge blessing."

The growth required some changes at the church, but Swift notes that few companies use the same approach to business they did in 1900.

"We looked at everything we do. Is it a tradition only or is it based upon Scripture? The things that are biblical we do not change. We changed the way we present it," he said.

Today, the church's worship is a blend of contemporary and traditional styles, but Swift said such change didn't begin until a year after the congregation already was growing. "That has helped us reach younger people, especially younger couples with children."

The growth prompted a \$2.5 million construction program.

"We have ministries being run out of Sunday school rooms, and that's just not conducive to good ministry," Swift observes. "We are one of a few churches our size that never has had a gym. One part of the new building will be for youth worship. The Hispanics need their own worship space, and we're building new offices and rooms for community ministries."

Building Committee Chairman and Deacon Ray Butler says there have been few disagreements over the changes, mostly because it's obvious

that God has been in the middle of the transformation.

"When people get on fire for the Lord, you're going to see things happen. Everything that we have done has been by unanimous vote. There may be some dissent, but I don't know of any. The growth has made us really look forward to tomorrow and what's going to happen next," Butler said. "It's incredible."

In the end, both Butler and Swift say results are hard to argue with and tend to bring people into "one accord."

Growing attendance, budget

"When people are getting saved, and people are joining the church just about every week, and giving is up 70 to 80 percent over five years, that's a sign that God is at work," Swift said.

The 2003 budget will be about \$845,000. Offering receipts reached \$1 million for the first time in 2002.

"When people see that the money is going directly into ministries, they give. They feel like it's going to help somebody," Swift said.

First Baptist recently was recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention for ranking 42nd in the state for giving to the Cooperative Program, a unified budget for supporting Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist ministries.

Asked to name one ministry that has had the most significant impact, Swift says simply, "All of the above."

"I've been in ministry 30 years, so I know it doesn't happen every day, or everywhere," he said. "It's just a once-in-a-lifetime thing where our people have allowed God the freedom to do what God wants to do. When you let God loose, you're going to see great things."

Butler is reluctant to attribute the growth to any one thing, but when pressed he cites prayer.

"That might be the one thing that helped the most. Anything and everything is possible through prayer," Butler said. "To get into growth mode, get on your knees and ask God for guidance and He'll do it."

Mayfield First Baptist Church now has about a thousand members, with regular attendance of more than 500 people in Sunday worship.

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

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Should you feed the bear?

By Larry Burkett

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP)—Investing isn't for the squeamish these days, and bear stock markets never are easy to endure.

Many investors respond emotionally during bear market downturns and feel they have to "do something" even if it turns out wrong. Not the best strategy! The best action might be to ride things out by evaluating a proper risk tolerance and establishing an appropriate asset allocation policy. But often that's easier said than done, especially in a bear market.

Losses to IRAs, 401(k)s and mutual funds have impacted the plans and dreams that many have had for early retirement—or just plain adequate retirement. Investments for the kid's college costs have dwindled, and some people face the prospect of shifting gears from retiring with an adequate income to having to work until they are 70 or older. Most of us know that some sort of revision in our plans is needed, but many simply don't know what to do.

Feed the bear or play dead?

Large animals like bears are unpredictable. If you encounter a bear, tips from experts include: Stay calm; stop or slowly back away; and never run, because that might prompt an attack. Make yourself look bigger: Hold your jacket out like wings and stand on tiptoe. Arizona Game and Fish Department spokesman Pat O'Brien says, "Each situation can be different. We offer these tips so people are armed with some knowledge. However, you need to use your own judgment and act accordingly."

Bear markets aren't predictable either, but you can't just hold your jacket out and stand on tiptoe and solve your situation. Ultimately, much like encountering the wildlife bear, you'll

simply have to "use your own judgment and act accordingly." However, if you are wary of the bear market, keep in mind that the United States continues to have the strongest, largest and most prosperous economy in the world. Focus on long-term strategy and stick to it.

Of course, that's not much comfort for older investors who've seen a lot of their retirement savings vanish recently. Older investors who rely on markets to provide retirement income should spend time carefully validating their asset mixes and diversification and then make any appropriate adjustments on that basis.

On the other hand, younger investors should consider putting money aside for the long term and staying focused on their plans. When prices are low, more stock can be bought for less money. Eventually the markets will stabilize and resume their upward movement, and today's investor will likely come out ahead.

Financial illiteracy

Long before the events of the past two years, a great need has existed for believers to know what God's Word says about finances.

Jonathan Miller, treasurer of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, recently gave testimony at a U.S. Senate hearing about the problem of financial illiteracy.

"Financial illiteracy is not simply a problem faced by our youngest generation of Americans," he said. "In fact, it is an epidemic. When the country's national savings rate during a period of unprecedented prosperity dips below 1 percent, and when 12 percent of Americans have no retirement savings whatsoever, we realize that financial illiteracy could leave many American seniors desperately needing financial assistance."

Whether you're in the younger or

older category, debt-free living is still God's plan for His people. The blessings of debt freedom extend beyond finances to the spiritual and marital realms as well. No one who is financially bound can be spiritually free, and the effect of financial bondage on marriage relationships is measurable in the statistics of failed marriages.

Seek freedom from debt

Therefore, God's people need to make debt freedom and saving money top priorities. During difficult financial times it's more important than ever to understand and abide by biblical principles to help save money and not waste it:

■ **Continue giving.** When we recognize that God owns everything and all blessings come from Him, our role as good managers, or stewards, means giving back to God a portion of what He has entrusted to us. Giving is an external testimony that we believe God owns both the material and spiritual things of our lives and that He is the source of all our supply.

■ **Remember that small savings grow.** Save at least 5 percent (preferably 10 percent) of your income in a money market or interest-bearing savings account. Even small amounts will accumulate.

■ **Eliminate interest payments.** You will "earn" money by paying off credit card balances. In effect, you receive a return of 13 to 21 percent—money you would have been paying to others. You also can save money by making extra monthly home mortgage payments and paying off installment loans on cars and other major purchases.

With so many resources for financial education available, including the Internet, there's no excuse for financial illiteracy. This is especially true for Christians; because, in addition to every other resource, we have the guidance of God's Word in the area of finances.

Larry Burkett, a Southern Baptist layman, is the author of "Jesus on Money"

COMMENTARY

FAMILY

Facing 'impossible decision' requires confidence in God

By Jeremy White

Should you begin receiving Social Security benefits at age 62 or 65?



Should you take the higher pension or annuity amount over the rest of your life, or a lower amount over

the rest of your life and your wife's life?

These are very easy questions to answer and easy to compute—if you know when you will die.

How much easier our financial decisions would be if we knew when we would face serious illness and when we would die. The Bible says, "It is appointed once unto man to die" (Hebrews 9:27). But God chooses to not tell us the time of our appointment.

Analysts and researchers refer to the set of financial choices involving longevity as the "impossible decision." It is impossible to know when you will die. Therefore, it is impossible to know the best decision in terms of dollars.

For example, it is impossible to have certainty of choosing the payout option from your pension plan that will give you the most money over a period of time. You can only know the best possible decision after it is too late.

For people who are more prone to desire control and certainty in their lives, the impossible decision can cause despair. For those who do not have a personal intimate relationship with the omniscient, omnipotent living God, the implications of the impossible decision might leave them hopeless.

For Christians who have a vibrant personal relationship with God, the impossible decision provides another opportunity to place their faith and trust in God.

How, then, should you choose options that are uncertain? Do your part and then trust God for the part He controls.

You should "run the numbers," seek counsel from professionals, learn what you can about your options, obtain agreement with your spouse and analyze your personal situation.

But as Christians, we have another Counselor to help. We have a Counselor in the Holy Spirit to help us with insight through prayer, wisdom from other Christian believers and wisdom from God's Word.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He presents financial seminars and workshops at churches and conferences.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

New Year request

The first Sunday in the new year was very encouraging. I had the opportunity to be in two churches on Sunday morning.

Calhoun Baptist Church was celebrating what God had done last year. There were 42 additions during the year, including 24 by baptism. The church averages 220 people in Sunday school in a town of 900 residents. The church finance committee chairperson explained how lives had been changed through ministries of the church. The church had exceeded its budget by \$13,000, and given \$42,410 to missions through the Cooperative Program.

It was my joy on behalf of all CP missions ministries to present a plaque of appreciation to the pastor, Richard Sams. The church has experienced growth under his leadership and he has a great vision from God for the future.

Sugar Grove Baptist Church in

Utica was launching the new year with a series of services focused on the theme, "What is God saying to His church?" I was the concluding speaker on Sunday morning. Following



Bill Mackey

lunch in the new fellowship hall, Pastor Don James invited members to share what they had heard from God during the weekend.

The beautiful Sugar Grove sanctuary was built in 1861. With the addition of the fellowship hall and full basement (to-be finished) the church has room to grow in Sunday school. The worship service was exciting and included a wonderful small orchestra and special music by the adult choir and six young women who also played in the orchestra. With a Sunday school attendance of about 75 people, the church gave \$10,171 to missions through the Cooperative Program (2000-2001).

It is gratifying for me to observe churches of all sizes who are strong in support of missions.

In preparation for the Sunday theme, I was asking the question, "What is God saying to this servant?" God unfolded several emphases for me in 2003 and I share them requesting your prayers for me. Pray that I will:

■ Hunger daily for the Word of God and a word from God.

■ Walk humbly before holy God.

■ Know the conscious awareness of the presence of Jesus every moment of every day.

■ Experience the power of the Holy Spirit for godly leadership among Kentucky Baptists.

■ Receive God's protection physically as Kay and I travel and serve.

■ Share Jesus faithfully on a daily basis.

This is my heart's desire spiritually for the new year. If you would like to be a prayer partner with me in this journey and receive prayer requests, please e-mail me or my secretary at the following e-mail addresses: Bill.Mackey@kybaptist.org or Pat.Beverly@kybaptist.org.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Support networks can assist grandparents as caregivers

Q: As the primary caregiver for my grandchildren, my ability to take care of them is getting more difficult as I get older. What can I do as the years go by to make sure these children are taken care of and that I don't lose my health in the process?

Grandcare is a stressful occupation. Among the problems that grandparents report are stress-related physical difficulties from sleep deprivation and overwhelming responsibilities. Many grandparents also have chronic health problems prior to assuming responsibility for their grandchildren.

Social isolation is another serious concern. Some grandparents in support groups here in Kentucky said they feel too old to socialize with the parents of their grandchildren's friends, yet have little in common with their retired friends. Some also feel guilty or ashamed that they had to take over for their children.

According to an AARP survey of grandcare providers, parental substance abuse was the leading reason why grandparents took on this responsibility (44 percent of cases).

Meredith Minkler and Kathleen Roe surveyed grandmothers living in Oakland, Calif., for their study, "Grandmothers as Caregivers: Raising Children of the Crack Cocaine Epidemic." It offers not only statistics but the voices of these grandmothers.

Minkler and Roe reviewed the problems of grandcare, but they also looked at support networks and how grandmothers cope personally with stress. They identified five principal strategies that focused on solving the immediate problem, reframing the situation or reducing the symptoms of stress. Most frequently mentioned was a reliance on prayer or personal religious faith. This was followed by focusing on the needs of the child; comparing themselves to others whom they saw as having greater difficulties; making the situation fun and treating challenges as adventures; and reframing the burden as an opportunity or sacred trust.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: There's no single adult ministry in my church. I'm not sure if there's even one in my town. I'm lonely. It would be nice to have a party, but I don't want it to be a pity party. What should I do?

Throw your own party. Think of people who might be interested in fellowshiping together, and invite them to come. There likely are other singles in your community waiting for someone to reach out to them.

Make it a potluck. That way, everyone has something to contribute. People often have their own specialty and would be thrilled to let you try it. If not, it's perfectly acceptable for guests to stop by the grocery and pick up something.

Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a banquet, where all were invited but some chose not to come. His concluding point was that God goes out to the "highways and hedges" to invite those who never would have expected an invitation (Luke 14:23).

You can do the same. Ask around to find names of people and begin the networking process.

What you create can be as simple as a friendship or as big as a new ministry to single adults. Either way, begin the effort with prayer and celebrate the results. And remember, when you have established a network of relationships, keep your eyes open for those who don't have one. God can use your efforts to impact the lives of other single adults in your area.

—*James Stillwell*

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.



Prince of Peace proclaims price of peace

Threats of war with Iraq—or North Korea; the ongoing battle against terrorism; mission workers gunned down in Yemen; racial undercurrents from Louisville to the U.S. Senate and beyond; claims of human cloning; and the list goes on and on.

The prospects of peace seem pretty bleak as we face the hopes and challenges under way in 2003. In the midst of the chaos of life, however, followers of Christ have daily opportunities to reflect the peace that comes only through a personal faith relationship with God's Son.

Achieving external peace appears both illusive and elusive while internal peace can be as close as a willing heart's next prayer.

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it," Psalm 34:14 counsels. The words of the Amplified Bible are even more compelling: "Depart from evil and do good; seek, inquire for and crave peace, and pursue—go after—it!"

When was the last time you made a conscious effort to "go after" peace with all the commitment and enthusiasm you could muster? We often tend to accept a gnawing absence of peace in the world—and in our personal lives—as something over which we have no control.

While none of us has the ability to single-handedly usher in world peace, we do have the God-given directive to "seek peace and pursue it" in our individual lives and our circles of influence.

What does the pursuit of peace look like when it's played out in practical terms? It can be as simple as sharing a word of encouragement with a family member or co-worker or as formidable as taking Christ's words seriously to "love your enemies, bless them that

curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). What an incredible challenge.

Obedying Jesus' admonition to "love your enemies" can be a life-changing experience whether you consider your enemy someone of a different faith and culture living halfway around the world—or the person sitting in the next pew.

True peace begins with turning enemies into friends—even if the first step simply involves doing so in our prayer lives and personal attitudes.

What is our motivation? Acts 10:38 tells us that during His earthly ministry, Jesus "went about doing good." The good He calls every Christian believer to do includes displaying such fruit of the Spirit as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Such actions and attitudes go a long way toward spreading a spirit of peace.

The typical American citizen has no direct input into averting war with Iraq or North Korea. But every follower of Christ has the opportunity—and responsibility—to actively pursue peace.

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all," 2 Thessalonians 3:16 affirms.

No matter what the future holds on a local, national or global scale, Christians have the confidence of knowing the eternal source of internal peace. As you tackle daily challenges and opportunities of all sizes throughout 2003, make certain to keep your focus on the Prince of Peace.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Why human cloning must be banned

By David Gushee

JACKSON, Tenn. (RNS)—Last month's claim by a group called Clonaid that it had produced the first cloned baby has not been independently verified. However, the group should not be taken lightly, despite its wacky belief that aliens created human life on Earth.

For several years both this group and at least one other, based

in Italy, have been working aggressively to achieve the birth of the first human clone.

The Clonaid announcement was met with predictable howls of outrage.

But those of us who oppose cloning—in this case, reproductive cloning, or cloning to produce children—risk being dismissed as merely anti-science and anti-progress unless we get our facts straight, communicate them clearly in the public arena and offer a cogent statement of moral concerns about cloning that can make sense to large numbers of people.

Human cloning is a form of asexual reproduction in which the genetic makeup of a single human individual is deliberately replicated. If brought to birth, the new individual is genetically virtually identical to the person from whom the genetic materials came.

It is a revolution in human reproduction because for the first time in history it makes it possible to bring a new human being into the world with the use of the genetic materials of only one person, instead of two.

Animal cloning was first successfully attempted in 1997. It has not been known if human reproductive cloning was even possible.

News reports indicated the new baby, "Eve," is the clone of a 31-year-old married American woman whose husband is infertile. Eve will be a virtual twin of her mother.

Advocates of reproductive cloning are interested in it for several reasons. Perhaps the main practical application is as yet another form of reproductive technology for individuals and couples unable to conceive a child otherwise, apparently as is the case here.

There are, however, other even more disturbing motivations leading some people to support reproductive cloning, such as replicating a dying person or a person of great talent or beauty.

The leading objection to reproductive cloning offered in public debate has been, and continues to be, that it violates cardinal principles of scientific research. In particular, it constitutes unethical experimentation on a nonconsenting human subject. Failure rates of animal cloning have been quite high, both in terms of fetal losses and strange anomalies of cloned animals that do make it to birth.

Human clones are more likely to die in utero, and are at grave risk of monstrous birth defects or other health maladies if born. Clonaid itself admitted that of 10 clones they have implanted thus far, five were spontaneously terminated during the first few

weeks of pregnancy.

But even if these "technical" problems could be resolved, there are deeper moral objections to cloning.

The fundamental issue, in my view, is intergenerational justice. Cloning is yet another example of adults seeking to meet what they consider to be a need in their lives at the expense of children, who cannot speak for or protect themselves.

It is easy to anticipate the negative impact of cloning on children. Several of these concerns were noted by the President's Council on Bioethics in its July 2002 report on cloning. The council was concerned, for example, that cloned children could encounter grave problems of identity and individuality, in light of their having been copied from an "original" whose life course would shadow the new child from his or her first day.

The council also expressed the worry that cloning would deepen a trend toward the increased commercialization and industrialization of human reproduction, with children viewed as yet another marketplace product to be bought and sold.

Council members also voiced concern about the strains likely to be inflicted on family relations, both among the multiple generations of the same family and in terms of post-marital relations in a culture of divorce.

Reproductive cloning transgresses gravely important moral boundaries. It should be banned by Congress this spring, and around the world as soon as possible.

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

Mexican couple coming to start churches

"We ... need to get out of the migrant ministry mentality and get into a church planting mentality."

South Kentucky missionary Ken Roberts

Continued from page 1

Contacted by e-mail prior to their arrival, Lopez said they had sensed God's call to come to Kentucky ever since meeting Roberts. That feeling was confirmed on a visit to southern Kentucky nearly three years ago.

While they hope to establish stronger Hispanic-American churches, their first priority is evangelism and discipleship.

"We sense that God is about to (convert) many lost souls," Lopez said, "where the angels will celebrate with great joy. Our God will (do) big things because nothing is impossible with Him."

South Central Hispanic Ministry leaders hope to see up to three new Hispanic churches by 2006, according to ministry president Coy Webb.

"This began as a migrant work," said Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello. "But now there are more Hispanics staying here year-round. Angelica will be a tremendous help. Our ministry has been male-dominated, and she can minister to women and families."

The couple will be living in a rental home offered by a member of First Baptist, with furnishings and an automobile provided through donations from area Baptist churches.



Vianey and Angelica Lopez

In addition to financial support from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and member churches, a chicken processing plant near Albany offered a large grant to help bring the Lopezes to southern Kentucky. More than 750 Hispanics work at the facility.

"They saw a need for ministry to their workers," Webb said. "Hispanics themselves are also giving offerings to a fund for their support."

Despite their visa limitations, Webb said ministry officials will be working to secure permission for them to offer medical care next year.

Hospitals in Clinton and Wayne County have expressed interest in the Lopezes' medical assistance and having them serve as interpreters for immigrants, the pastor said.

Roberts, a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Waynesburg,

said the goal of the expanded ministry is starting Hispanic churches that become givers instead of receivers. For example, the 30-member Hispanic mission at Pleasant View gave \$600 to the most recent Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions.

The new missionaries are the sixth and seventh appointees for Hispanic missions in the commonwealth, according to Grundy Janes, KBC director of ethnic language ministries.

The KBC ministry oversees 62 Hispanic congregations and migrant ministries, although only three are constituted as churches. During the next two years, the KBC hopes to see 10 new Hispanic missions started, Janes said.

New churches are only part of the emphasis on ministry development, he added.

Other goals include increasing leadership training for pastors and church leaders, expanding a summer ministry training program with the Mexican Baptist Seminary in Mexico City and increasing training opportunities at various conferences.

The latter includes the first state evangelism conference conducted in Spanish, which will be held Feb. 25 at Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington.

Nonbelievers make up fastest-growing group of Hispanics

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Roman Catholic Church is not losing Hispanics to the Pentecostal faith but to no faith at all, according to a new survey.

The study, an outgrowth of last year's American Religious Identification Survey, found the percentage of U.S. Hispanics who are Catholic dropped from 66 percent in 1990 to 57 percent in 2001, while the percentage of Hispanics with "no religion" doubled from 6 percent to 13 percent over the same time period.

The number of Hispanic Protestants—about a quarter of the overall Hispanic population—has remained stable since 1990, and the percentage of Hispanic Pentecostals grew only from 3 percent to 4 percent.

Ariela Keysar, the study's lead author, said Hispanics claiming no religion should be seen as "unchurched" rather than "unbelievers," because 85 percent of them agree that "God exists" and 76 percent believe in miracles.

UNLEASH the POWER

Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference
Immanuel Baptist Church / Lexington, Kentucky
Monday, February 24 / Tuesday, February 25, 2003
Monday / 1:30 pm pre-session music / 2pm session begins
Conference is FREE and pre-registration is not required!



erwin mcmanus



a louis patterson, III



frank harber



david nasser



For more information or to register, contact:

Evangelism Growth Team Office / Kentucky Baptist Convention
(502) 254-4737 or Toll Free 1-(888) 254-5722 (in KY)

Visit our Web Site: www.kybaptist.org

For childcare information, call Lauren Clark at 859.269.5715 x149.
 Pre-school aged children must register by February 10.

Lexington Area Accommodations

Special rates, if provided, are listed. When making lodging reservations, please mention Kentucky Baptist Convention and verify rates.

Hilton Suites / R
 (Headquarters Hotel)
 245 Lexington Green Circle
 859.271.4000
 \$79 Flat Rate

Comfort Inn / R
 (I-75 / Exit 110)
 2381 Buena Vista Drive
 859.299.0302
 \$54.95 Single
 \$59.95 Double/Triple

Comfort Suites South / R
 (I-75 / Exit 104)
 5527 Athens-Boonesboro
 859.263.0777
 \$49 Single
 \$54 Double
 \$59 Triple/Quad

Courtyard by Marriott / R
 (Lexington South)
 (I-75 / Exit 108)
 1951 Pleasant Ridge Drive
 859.263.9090
 \$69 Flat Rate
 Cut-off date 1/30/03

From I-64E/I-75S (Louisville): Take exit 110 to Winchester Road (S Hwy 60); turn left on New Circle Rd.; turn right on Tates Creek Road, go 1 mile; 2nd church on right.

From I-64W (Cincinnati/Ashland): Take I-75S; follow directions above.

From I-75N (London/Richmond): Take exit 104; turn left on Athens-Boonesboro Rd. 418 (Richmond Rd.); turn left on New Circle Rd.; turn right on Tates Creek Road, go 1 mile; 2nd church on right.

Hampton Inn I-75 / R
 (I-75 / Exit 110)
 2251 Elkhorn Road
 859.299.2613
 \$59 Flat Rate
 Cut-off date 2/16/03

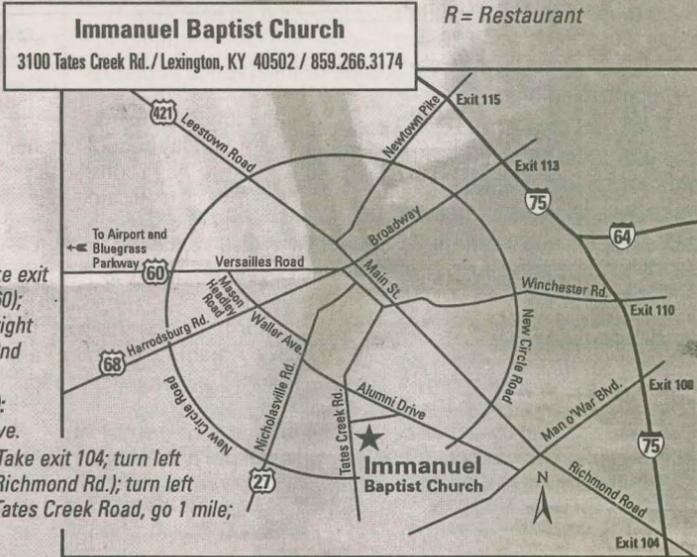
Hilton Garden Inn / R (Exit 108)
 1973 Plaudit Place
 859.543.8300
 \$79 Flat Rate
 Cut-off date 1/23/03

Radisson Plaza Hotel / R
 369 West Vine Street
 859.231.9000 / 800-333-3333
 \$69 Single/Double
 \$79 Triple / \$89 Quad
 Cut-off date 1/23/03

Four Points Sheraton
 (I-75 / Exit 115)
 1938 Stanton Way
 859.259.1311
 \$69 Single/Double
 \$79 Triple / \$89 Quad
 Cut-off date 1/31/03

Sheraton Suites / R
 2601 Richmond Rd
 800-262-3774; 859/268-0060
 \$79 Single/Double
 Cut-off date 2/3/03

Sleep Inn
 1920 Plaudit Place
 859.543.8400
 \$59 Flat Rate
 Cut-off date 1/25/03



Remembering three servants

MARTHA MYERS

'She was our Baptist version of Mother Teresa'

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)—More than 1,200 people celebrated the life of physician Martha Myers, an Alabama Baptist who devoted her career to Southern Baptist medical work in Yemen, during a Jan. 4 memorial service at Dalraida Baptist Church in Montgomery.

Throughout the celebration, Myers' selfless ways and servant mindset surfaced again and again.

"Martha was a victorious Christian and was obedient until death," said Rick Evans, pastor of Dalraida, Myers' home church.

Speaking to a capacity crowd, Evans said, "She had no life of her own, it was of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"What a misguided, deprived heart meant for evil, God has meant for good," he said.

Myers, a 57-year-old obstetrician and gynecologist, served as a Southern Baptist medical worker in Yemen for 24 years.

Myers "was always obedient to the call of God," Evans said, "even as a GA (Girls Auxiliary member) and as a medical student."

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, told friends and family members at the service that he witnessed Myers' call to God and selfless service during his visits to Yemen.

"Only those who saw her take a sick Arab child in her arms could un-



PASTOR'S TRIBUTE Rick Evans, pastor of Dalraida Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., speaks about Martha Myers' victorious Christian life at a Jan. 4 memorial service. (Alabama Baptist photo by Erin Webster)

derstand what a servant is," Rankin said. "Each day she lived there, ... she died to self."

Friend Pat Harris shared how she got to know Myers in 2001. Myers was home for the year due to technical problems preventing her from returning to Yemen.

Myers wished every second she were back in Yemen, but Harris said Myers still allowed God to use her that year in Montgomery.

"She was a wonderful mentor," Harris said. "She was so close to the Lord that she didn't realize how much wisdom she had." During a Jan. 2 memorial service at Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, church member Lynette Granade said, "She was our Baptist version of Mother Teresa. That says it all."

"Yemen was where her heart was," said Myers' younger sister, Joanna Kingery, in an interview after the shooting. "She had become Yemeni, and they counted her as one of them. She was committed to them."

So, Kingery and the entire Myers family see it only fitting that she was buried in the country she loved so dearly.

"In Alabama, Martha's grave would just be a grave," her father, Ira Myers, said. "In Yemen, her grave is a testimony."

Myers and Koehn were buried together Dec. 31 in one of only two Christian cemeteries in the country. The one where they were buried is located at the top of the 22-acre compound where Jibla Baptist Hospital sits.

The Myers' family visited with friends and guests for about three hours after the service. As guests waited patiently in the receiving line, they passed a table filled with souvenirs from Yemen and pictures of Myers.

Along with the colorful photos of the countryside, attractive dolls and interesting handmade items, there also sat a book about forgiveness.

"We are not angry," said Myers' father, a physician and former state public health department director. "Our faith in God is what we depend upon, and God is love," he said. "There is no place for hate."

BILL KOEHN

Administrator 'preached with life, witness, love'

BURLESON, Texas (BP)—For hours Bill Koehn sat at his workbench, carefully fashioning scraps of wood into toys for the children of Yemen.

A Southern Baptist representative and hospital administrator at Jibla Baptist Hospital, Koehn never expected money in exchange for the toys, the toy maker's friends and relatives said at a memorial service in honor of the slain worker in Burleson, Texas, Jan. 2.



A COLLEAGUE REMEMBERS Jim Young, a founder of Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen and friend of the late Bill Koehn, addresses a memorial service celebrating Koehn's work. (BP photo by Mo Sadjadpour)

In fact, seeing the smiles of the children who received the toys was payment enough for the 28-year veteran worker, they said.

Koehn, who believed that sharing the gospel began with "lifestyle and keeping your word," was among three career personnel killed in Yemen Dec. 30 by a Muslim extremist.

More than 200 people attended the memorial service at Cross Timber Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas. Among them were International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham and approximately 100 current and former IMB workers.

Rankin said at the memorial service that the murders in reality had not accomplished what the gunman intended.

"The gunman did not take their lives, for they had already given them to the people of Yemen years ago."

Rankin also said the gunman could not extinguish the memory of Koehn's "remarkable tenure," especially when he went beyond his duties as a hospital administrator to minister to orphans and other children.

Bill Hart, who served as pastor or "counselor" of the Jibla International Fellowship from 1994 until he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and cancer in 1999, said Koehn was "constantly looking for available money to assist widows, orphans and prisoners. He helped thousands."

"Bill had a hope for the people of Yemen, that one day they would be fulfilled. ... Nothing will so endear God to the hearts of the Yemeni people as when they understand the hope in Christ," Rankin said. "Bill preached with his life, witness, compassion and love more than many who stand behind the pulpit ever will."

Koehn family friend Wynona Elder, a retired professor of psychology and counseling at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, characterized Koehn as faithful.

"God does not require success, a long record of accomplishments—no more evident than in Yemen. God requires faithfulness to the task. God will give the increase," Elder said. Koehn patiently labored and displayed the Christian virtue of love as he awaited the increase, she added.

"The call is the most important thing," Peggy Hart, a former nurse and assistant administrator at the Jibla hospital, said. "To have any kind of peace in the day, to sleep at night, you must have the call. Bill had it."

Koehn and his fellow workers treated more than 38,000 inpatients and 4,000 outpatients each year. He had planned to retire and return to the United States in October. Marty Koehn remains in Yemen where she continues to minister to her late husband's colleagues and the people of Jibla.

KATHY GARIETY

Purchasing manager 'pointed people to Jesus'

GREENFIELD, Wis. (BP)—Tears welled up, but so did smiles and laughter as hundreds of people gathered Jan. 6 at Layton Avenue Baptist Church in Greenfield, Wis., to remember their beloved missionary friend, Kathy Gariety.

Gariety's body was laid to rest in Milwaukee earlier in the day. Some friends and family struggled with how such a tragedy could happen. Others took comfort in knowing that Gariety was where she wanted to be.

They recalled her tenacity, her stubbornness, her smile, her passion for the people of Yemen and her ability to rally others to give to the needs of so many who lived there.

"She had conviction, she had commitment, she had the fruits of the Spirit in her life," said Keith Chase, Gariety's friend and pastor for 15 years. "Kathy knew that faith in God meant trusting in God no matter what, no matter when, no matter where. Her faith was strong as anyone I'd ever known."

Chase recalled a trip he took with his wife to Yemen, where Gariety served 10 years as the hospital's purchasing manager. He remembers her popularity with the people there—particularly the children.

"As soon as we got past the gate, children swarmed around Kathy," he



GRAVESIDE Family and friends offer farewells during graveside services for Kathy Gariety in Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 6. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

said. "It took 20 minutes to take a five-minute walk."

Clara Alcott also recounted the influence Gariety had on her as a youth director and Sunday school teacher at the church. "She was a consistent presence in my life," Alcott said. "She was a good teacher because she was personable and strong."

"It's very important for women to have a strong Christian woman's presence in their lives and she was. I saw somebody finishing the race, and I saw someone finishing the race sprinting."

Thai Hua, who moved from Vietnam to the United States, recalled how Gariety helped him during a difficult and uncertain time. "She helped me get my first job at a bookstore," Hua said. "A lot of people say things and

don't mean it, but when she said something, she meant it."

The day before the news of the tragedy in Yemen broke, one of Moorman's sons was flipping through a Bible Gariety had given him as a gift. On one page, she had written: "May God's Word have the final say in every decision you make."

"She certainly pointed people to Jesus and radiated His love," Moorman said. "She did what she talked about and risked her life. She trusted the Lord and put her life in His hands. I'm looking forward to the day when we will see her again."

Cory Braatz remembered Gariety's guidance and encouragement as his Sunday school teacher years ago, and also as a friend when he was trying to decide about seminary.

While many were pressuring him to go to seminary, Gariety encouraged Braatz to be a pastor for a couple of years first and then go to seminary if he knew that was what God called him to do fulltime. He followed her advice and later completed seminary. Today, he is pastor of Como Community Church in Lake Geneva, Wis.

"To thank Kathy is not a difficult thing for me," he said, holding back tears. "It's an easy thing. Thank you, Kathy, for giving to the Lord. I'm one life that was changed."

How strong of a wall?

Congress expected to look at several church-state issues

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Religious liberty will face several challenges in the 108th Congress, according to some groups that track church-state issues on Capitol Hill.

But other religious-issue advocates are looking forward to action on the same issues that their colleagues decry.

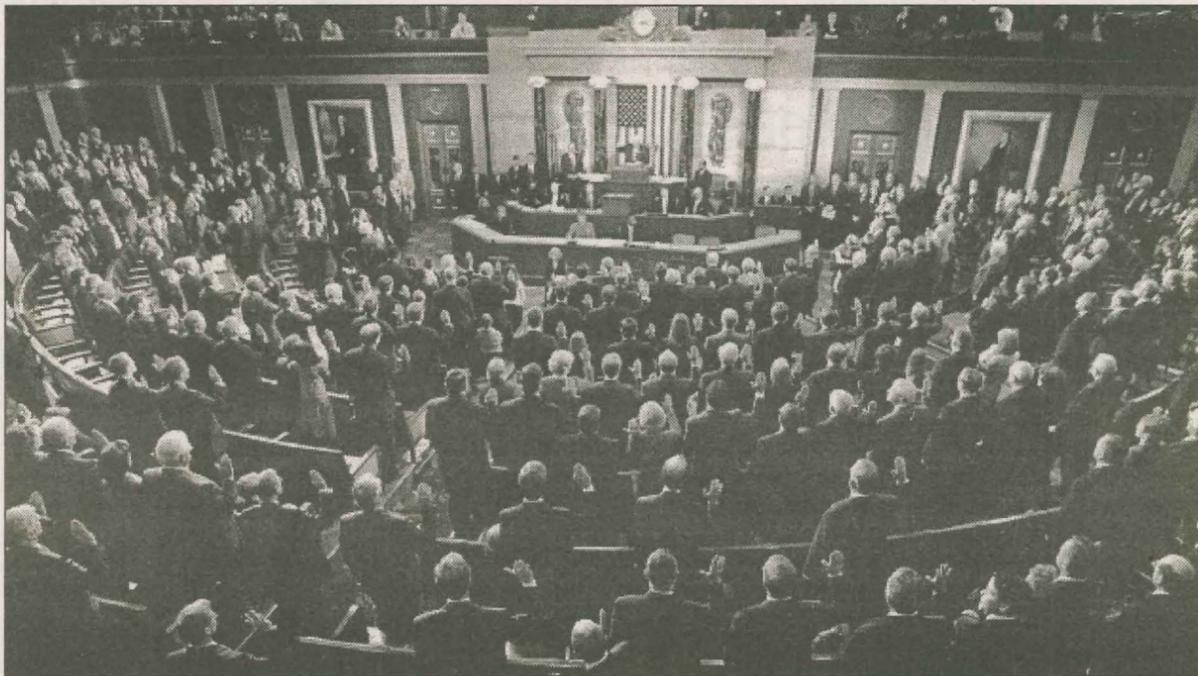
According to legislative liaisons for groups that support strong church-state separation, Republican control of both houses of Congress and the White House means more attempts at weakening the metaphorical "wall of separation" that bans government support for religion.

"We are expecting a very tough congressional session this year, with everything on the table from school vouchers to 'faith-based' funding for churches," said Joe Conn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Conn especially noted that some of the new leaders of Congress—such as Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Texas), the new House majority leader—are outspoken opponents even of the very concept of church-state separation.

In 2001, DeLay told a group of conservative Christian leaders that he supports "standing up and rebuking this notion of separation of church and state" and that he doesn't believe church and state should be separated.

Conn said that "the concept of religious liberty is very much at stake" in the new Congress.



SWEARING IN Members of the 108th Congress are sworn in by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) in the Capitol last week. Several church-state issues are expected to be raised in the 108th Congress. (RNS/Reuters photo by Kevin Lamarque)

Conn, as well as leaders of the Interfaith Alliance, People for the American Way and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs cited several anticipated pieces of legislation as likely bones of contention in the new session of Congress:

■ **A second attempt at passage of the "Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act."** The bill, which failed last session, would have exempted churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship from laws that prevent involvement in partisan politics by non-profit groups organized under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code.

Supporters—such as the South-

ern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission—said the bill simply would have restored a right taken away from churches in the 1950s.

Opponents said it would have led to a disastrous politicization of religious groups and created a huge loophole in the federal campaign-finance reform law.

■ **Federal school-voucher proposals.** Last year, the Supreme Court said a Cleveland program that provides government scholarships to children in private schools, including religious schools, is constitutional as long as the recipient families have a legitimate choice between using the scholarships at secular and religious

schools. Emboldened by this decision, proponents of government funding for religious schools have vowed to push for voucher programs on the federal level.

■ **Federal funding for religious charities.** A recent executive order by President Bush instituted many of his "faith-based initiatives" that got bogged down in the last Senate term. Opponents of such "charitable choice" programs said legislators might attempt to add legislative authority to that executive order now with a friendlier Senate leadership in place. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) already has said he will reintroduce his Senate version of the faith-based bill, which died last year.

Disney World plans to scale back weekly worship at resort hotels

ORLANDO (RNS)—Walt Disney World has decided to scale back its weekly offering of Catholic and Protestant worship services.

The theme park offered its Christmas Day service at the Contemporary Resort as usual, but does not intend to have an organized service at the resort until Easter, the Associated Press reported.

Disney officials cited space problems and said it wasn't appropriate any longer to hold worship services for only two religions when many churches and synagogues in the area could fulfill the needs of worshippers.

Since 1975, two Catholic Masses and one nondenominational Protestant service had been held weekly at the Polynesian Luau resort. Easter and Christmas services will continue.

"As our guest population has grown, so has the diversity of cultures that visit our theme parks," said Disney spokeswoman Rena Callahan. "Places of worship that have grown up around our property are best suited to meet the wide array of spiritual needs of our guests."

Southern Baptist Convention executive Richard Land said Disney's decision was more a reflection of indifference than hostility to religion.

"This is just one further step away from what once was a core constituency of religiously motivated 'family values' clientele," said Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and a longtime Disney critic.

Mormons promise to stop baptizing dead Jews

SALT LAKE CITY (RNS)—Seven years after its original vow to end the practice of baptizing deceased Jews by proxy, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has renewed its promise after the practice was discovered to have continued.

Church officials traveled to New York last month to consult with Jewish leaders on how to resolve the conflict, which arose when the former chairman of the World Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, Ernest Michel, notified the church that the practice was again a problem.

Baptizing by proxy is a tenet of Mormon theology. Church members research their genealogical histories

and submit names of non-Mormon ancestors as candidates for baptism. The deceased relatives are then baptized posthumously by Mormons.

Michel discovered that the church's International Genealogical Index includes as many as 20,000 Holocaust victims who have been baptized by proxy, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported.

The practice is controversial to many Jews, who believe it is insulting for another faith group to perform a religious ritual on deceased Jews. The church counters that because the soul can accept or reject the baptism in the afterlife, it is not a forced conversion.

The church has begun an ongoing consultation with Jewish leaders to develop a system of identifying and removing Jewish names from the genealogical index.

In 1995, the church identified 380,000 Holocaust victims in the index and removed the names, pledging to help church members refrain from posthumously baptizing Jews not related to them.

In another story related to Mormons, the church recently cut hundreds of jobs from its work force in Utah.

About 600 of close to 1,000 eligible employees decided to take voluntary early retirements.

Second Harvest, Salvation Army among 100 most efficient charities

NEW YORK (RNS)—Five of the nation's largest faith-based charities were ranked as part of Worth magazine's 100 most efficient charitable groups.

Charities were rated on how they spend an average of \$100 in donations. Groups that spend more than \$75 on actual services generally are considered the most efficient.

America's Second Harvest, which funnels food to families and

soup kitchens spends \$95 on services, \$2 on fund raising, \$1 on administration and \$2 on reserves.

Catholic Charities, the nation's fourth-largest charity with \$2.6 billion in revenue, spent an average of \$88 on services, \$1 on fund raising, \$9 on administration and \$2 on reserves.

Lutheran Services in America, rated by the Nonprofit Times as the nation's largest charity with \$7.6 billion

in income, spent \$88 on services, 30 cents on fund raising, \$8 on administration and \$4 on reserves.

Volunteers of America, a Christian group that serves 1.4 million people each year, spent \$85 on services, \$2 on fund raising, \$9 on administration and \$4 on reserves.

The Salvation Army, with \$1.9 billion in income, spent \$72 on services, \$4 on fund raising, \$10 on administration and \$14 in reserve funds.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Salvation Army turns down lottery winnings.** A local Florida Salvation Army has declined a \$100,000 donation from a lottery winner. Maj. Cleo Damon, head of the Salvation Army in Naples, Fla., told the potential donor he couldn't take the money and returned the check. "There are times where Maj. Damon is counseling families who are about to become homeless because of gambling," a spokeswoman said. "He really believes that if he had accepted the money, he would be talking out of both sides of his mouth."

■ **California judges might be banned from Scouts.** California's Supreme Court is considering forbidding state judges from joining the Boy Scouts because of its refusal to accept homosexuals. California judges are prohibited from joining groups that discriminate based on sexual orientation, but nonprofit youth groups are exempt. The court took up the proposal at the request of regional bar associations. Scouts spokesman Gregg Shields compared the proposed policy to forbidding judges from being Baptist, Orthodox Jews or "any of numerous faiths which share the Boy Scouts' views."

■ **Graham, Pope among most admired again.** Pope John Paul II and evangelist Billy Graham continue to be cited among the top 10 most admired men in Gallup's annual survey. President Bush ranked No. 1, cited by 28 percent of Americans. The pope was fourth, with 3 percent; Graham was sixth, with 2 percent. Graham has now been cited 45 times on the top 10 list, more than anyone else since Gallup first asked the "most admired" questions in 1948.

Understanding Other Beliefs

Associates Training Workshop

February 11, 2003, Kentucky Baptist Building

Are Mormon's Christians?

Do Muslims Worship the Same God as Christians?

These and other issues will be addressed at the **Interfaith Evangelism Volunteer Training Workshops** at the Kentucky Baptist Convention building in Louisville.

Dr. Cky Carrigan, NAMB Interfaith Evangelism National Missionary will lead the eight-hour study on *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

Dr. Tal Davis, NAMB Interfaith Evangelism Manager, will lead the conference on Islam.

The workshops will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$15 for individuals or \$20 for married couples.

This includes training materials and lunch. Registration deadline is February 7, 2003.

For more information or to pre-register, contact **Margie Oliver** at the **KBC Evangelism** office or email: Margie.Oliver@kybaptist.org.



Evangelism
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LEADING TURNAROUND CHURCHES

Deacons, Pastors & Spouses Retreat • February 7-8, 2003 • Cave City Convention Center



Gene Wood, Presenter

A pastor in California with over 25 years of ministry experience.

Gene Wood, who has led four churches in the turnaround process, will be our retreat leader. Some of Gene's observations from his book **Leading Turnaround Churches** are listed below. Check those which apply to your church. You will probably see glimpses of truth about yourself and your church. Some insights will bring you joy and others may cause some pain. However, in the end, you will find hope. Hope in a God who has not given up on you or your church. Hope in dreams that God can help you realize as a leader and a church.

- 1. **Extreme & Continued Member Dissatisfaction.** When needs are not met, problems lie ahead.
- 2. **Low Morale.** Participants fail to see evidence of life, they lose heart & investment in the church.
- 3. **Declining Bottom Lines.** Attendance, few baptisms and low giving are indicators for gauging health.
- 4. **Consistent Rewarding of Activities Unrelated to the "Main Thing."**
- 5. **Promoting a Number of Activities that Do Not Bring in New People** or create new believers.
- 6. **Phantom Limb Complex** - ministering to something that is not there. Faithfulness without fruitfulness.
- 7. **Evidence of Dead Man Walking** - motion without purpose or plan.

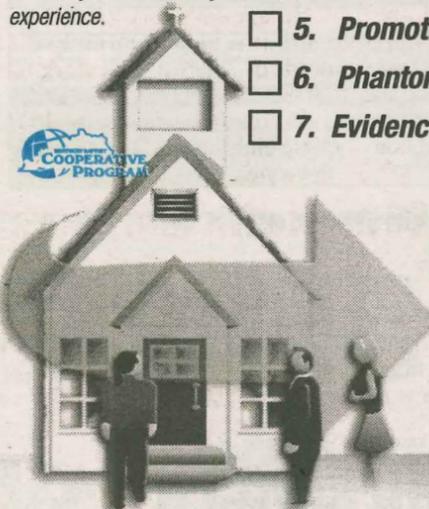
Schedule

Friday, Feb. 7 - 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Saturday, Feb. 8 - 8:15 - 12:40 pm

Cost - \$25.00 per person
Covers conference material, a copy of Gene Wood's book **Leading Turnaround Churches**, Friday evening buffet & Saturday brunch.

More Information

Please call the Church Growth Team for a free brochure with detailed information about registration or visit our website.



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C. Vernon Cole, Team Leader
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Court upholds law protecting prisoners' religious practices

SAN FRANCISCO (ABP)—The same federal appeals court that last year declared the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional has upheld a law designed to protect religious freedom from state interference.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, which offers some protection against government actions—such as zoning laws and prison rules—that can be used to restrict religious practice.

The Dec. 27 ruling turned back a challenge from the state of California. A group of Muslim inmates at Solano State Prison for Men in Vacaville sued state officials in 1996 because they prohibited the men from growing beards or attending Friday prayer services.

The prisoners, claiming Islam required the beards and worship attendance, sued under the First and 14th Amendments to the Constitution, saying their rights to free exercise of religion were being unfairly infringed.

After Congress passed the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act in 2000, the inmates added a RLUIPA claim to their ongoing case.

The act encourages states and municipalities to refrain from imposing "substantial" burdens on any religious practice of individuals or groups unless the government has a significant reason for doing so.

A lower court ruled the state of California could not prohibit the men from growing beards or attending Friday prayer services. State officials appealed to the 9th Circuit.

The opinion accompanying the 9th Circuit's decision, written by Judge Dorothy Nelson, rejected the state's claim that the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act violates the First Amendment. Instead, the court said, the statute does just the opposite by extending the First Amendment's protections.

Ruling lets Texas deny funds for abortions

AUSTIN, Texas (BP)—The Texas Supreme Court has ruled that the state can refuse to fund abortions for low-income women.

In its 8-0 opinion announced Dec. 31, the Texas Supreme Court said the ban on funding abortions for Medicaid-eligible women does not violate the state constitution's Equal Rights Amendment and demonstrates a legitimate government interest of preferring childbirth over abortion. The Houston Chronicle reported.

"Whatever one might think of the legislative policy choice that the Texas Medical Assistance Program funding scheme embodies, plaintiffs have simply failed to demonstrate that it reflects a purpose to discriminate because of sex," Justice Harriet O'Neill wrote in the court's opinion.

Abortion doctors and clinics had sued the Texas Department of Health, arguing the state should pay for abortions for poor women who have heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, epilepsy or other illnesses that could present health risks during a pregnancy.

In its opinion, the state Supreme Court said the restriction is not overtly gender-based, since Texas funds all other medically necessary care for pregnant women. "The classification here is not so much directed at women as a class as it is abortion as a medical treatment, which, because it involves a potential life, has no parallel as a treatment method," Justice O'Neill wrote.

"This was an attempt by abortion

Judge: 'Choose Life' tags unconstitutional

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ABP)—A federal judge ruled a South Carolina program that offers license plates with an anti-abortion message is unconstitutional because it does not allow pro-abortion-rights groups to present their message on license plates.

U.S. District Judge William Bertelsman said the "Choose Life" license plate program was an unconstitutional government facilitation of private anti-abortion-rights speech without a corresponding facilitation of other views.

The state's Planned Parenthood affiliate had challenged the law shortly after it took effect last year. The law allowed South Carolina motorists to buy the special tags for \$70.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently declined to hear a similar case on appeal from abortion-rights supporters in Louisiana who sued to end a "Choose Life" license plate program in their state. In that case, a federal court ruled in favor of the program.

In the South Carolina case, attorneys for the state had argued that the speech protected in the program was not private speech but rather government speech expressing the state's preference for live births over abortion. Therefore, the state argued, other viewpoints did not need to be considered.

But Judge Bertelsman disagreed, saying the pro-life messages constituted private speech because motorists chose to have the plates.

advocates to subvert the will of the people of Texas," said Denise Burke, staff counsel of Americans United for Life, according to the Internet news service Pro-life Infonet. "Texas' decision to use taxpayer money to fund only limited types of abortions is in direct compliance with federal requirements, principally the Hyde Amendment."

The policy is patterned after the federal Hyde Amendment, which prohibits public funding of abortion except in cases of rape, incest or a threat to the life of the mother.

The opinion overturned a decision

from Austin's Third Court of Appeals, which ruled the Equal Rights Amendment prohibits the state from refusing money to low-income women whose physical or mental health could be adversely affected by pregnancy.

Catherine Mauzy, an Austin lawyer for the doctors and clinics, said they hoped the court would find the ERA in the Texas Constitution provides more protection than the U.S. Constitution. "This ruling elevates the state's interest in protecting potential life over the state's interest in ensuring a living woman's continued health," Mauzy told the Chronicle.

Register now for summer camp

It's only early January, but *now* is the time for your church to be making decisions on youth and children's camping for the coming summer. I know we've just finished the holiday season, but trust me. If you are taking your youth or children to camp at Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek today. If you're not able to get in this summer, we've already set the schedule and we're booking for 2004.

We are blessed to be able to offer a variety of camping experiences for our kids in Kentucky. At Cedarmore, we have great camps for girls and boys run by Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The boys camp operates at RABRO; the girls camp is at Cedar Crest. Information on these camps is available from the KBC or online. The Discovery Camps for Youth already have mailed promotional materials, and registration opens this very week. Many of the top weeks fill up quickly, so if you are planning to bring your youth to a Discovery Week, *now* is the time to make a decision.

Registration is different for Crossings at the Creek at Jonathan Creek. As most of you know by now, Crossings is our youth camp for grades 7-12. We have a rolling

registration system for Crossings. We already have more than 3,500 campers preregistered for 2003, with some weeks still available. But it's filling fast. If you have interest in Crossings, you should call Jonathan Creek today. If you're not able to get in this summer, we've already set the schedule and we're booking for 2004.

It is amazing what God does in the lives of youth at camp. Contemporary Christian artist Michael W. Smith has said, "Camp, by its very nature, is a place apart from the everyday routines of our lives. It's a place to think, to grow up, to meet new friends and to discover more of who we really are. Through camps in which God is honored in all activities, I've seen thousands of kids radically touched by the Lord and their lives changed forever."

Pray that God will impact the more than 6,000 children and youth who attend camps at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek this summer. Pray. And pray some more. With 90-96 percent of this generation unchurched, they desperately need an encounter with Christ.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



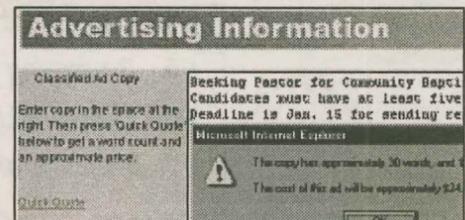
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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERNRECORDER

The Grammy Awards ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 23 at Madison Square Garden

P.O.D. Though they were not nominated for a gospel music Grammy, P.O.D. was nominated for best hard rock performance and best metal performance.



Gospel Grammy Award nominees announced

NEW YORK (RNS)—The Christian band P.O.D. and Brentwood Records, a Christian music label specializing in children's products, have garnered Grammy nominations outside the usual gospel categories.

P.O.D., which also received a non-gospel Grammy nomination last year, was nominated in two categories. The group's song "Youth of the Nation," from the album "Satellite," was among the nominees for best hard rock performance. Another track from that album, "Portrait," was nominated for best metal performance.

"Big Songs for Little Kids—I Feel Like Praising," a recording by various artists from Brentwood Records, was nominated for best musical album for children.

The nominees in the traditional gospel categories were:

■ **Best rock gospel album:**
Lift by Audio Adrenaline.
The Art of Translation by Grits.
The Way I Am by Jennifer Knapp.
Come Together by Third Day.
Momentum by tobyMac.

■ **Best pop/contemporary gospel album:**
New Map of the World by Paul Colman Trio.
The Eleventh Hour by Jars of Clay.
The Christmas Shoes by NewSong.
The Heart of Me by Kathy Troccoli.
See the Light by True Vibe.

■ **Best gospel choir or chorus album:**
Be Glad by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.
Family Affair II Live at Radio City Music Hall by Hezekiah Walker & the Love Fellowship Choir.
Go Get Your Life Back by the Tri-City Singers.
Mighty in the Spirit by Victory in Praise Mass Choir.
Soul Interpretations by Excelsior.

■ **Best traditional soul gospel album:**
Higher Ground by the Blind Boys of Alabama.
Walking by Faith by the Canton Spirituals.
Live in Charlotte by Twinkie Clark & Friends.
Live at Home by Dorothy Norwood.
Bishop T.D. Jakes Presents Woman Thou Art Loosed—Worship 2002 by various artists.



BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA The group's "Higher Ground" recording was nominated for best traditional soul gospel album.

■ **Best Southern, country or bluegrass gospel album:**
How Sweet the Sound: 25 Favorite Hymns and Gospel Greats by the Charlie Daniels Band.
Everything Good by Gaither Vocal Band.
We Called Him Mr. Gospel Music: The James Blackwood Tribute Album by the Jordanaires, Larry Ford and the Light Crust Doughboys.
An Inconvenient Christmas by the Oak Ridge Boys.

■ **Best contemporary soul gospel album:**
The Commissioned Reunion Live by Commissioned.
Sidebars by Eartha.
Lost and Found by Deitrick Haddon.
Speak Those Things: POL Chapter 3 by Fred Hammond.
Live and Up Close by BeBe Winans.

VeggieTales company reduces staff a second time

LOMBARD, Ill. (RNS)—Big Idea Productions, which recently premiered the first VeggieTales movie in theaters across the country, has reduced its staff for the second time since September.

The company announced last month that restructuring has led to the reduction of staff by about 35. It previously laid off 30 employees during the last week of September.

The staff size is now about 140 people, said Kris Fuhr, vice president for theatrical marketing and public relations.

"It's the nature of our industry ... that staffing is adjusted based on production schedules," Fuhr said. "It's not the way we like to do things, but unfortunately it's the reality of the industry."

The company hopes to augment its staff at a later date, she added. The September layoffs came just as the company finished production of "Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie."

Fuhr said the movie, which made more than \$25 million, exceeded the company's business expectations but created gaps in the production schedule. The company released fewer new VeggieTales titles due to its focus on the full-length movie.

A great way to start the new year!

Christmas 2002 is now just a memory as we press forward to make 2003 a good year. Our students went home for a two-week Christmas break. Those two weeks can be difficult because campus is without life or purpose when they are gone. By the end of the first week I long for their return.

It is also challenging because the break gives me time to reflect on some things that did not go as well as they could have during the first semester. What can we do to motivate students who have not been as successful as they could be? Now, we only have four months of this school year left to make positive changes and improvements.

The beginning of the second semester is also a time for new students to enroll in our school. Their needs vary dramatically. The youngest of our new students is a sixth grader and the oldest is a junior. This is a great time for new students to enroll because the vast majority of our other students are over their homesickness and have begun to settle into a positive routine. Our teachers can focus on the new students and help them in the areas of their greatest needs.

Before the students returned, our faculty and houseparents had an all-day meeting. We spent the day discussing students in all grade levels to determine who most deserved various awards. We will have another meeting in April to decide who will be the recipients of other awards. The meetings always inspire me, and they give me additional insight into some of our students.

When we were discussing students who were being considered for the Most Studious Award, two students in particular stood out in my mind. The first young man came to us a year ago with terrible grades. When we received his transcript,

one grade was a 30 and another was 41. This young man had limited academic abilities. We were not even sure if we could help him. He had low motivation, and his peer group did not have a positive influence on him.

In the past year, we have seen a remarkable change in this young man, including his dedication to detail. He puts forth great effort to do his work to the very best of his ability. He now has a 2.79 grade point average for the first semester.

The second young man was a lot like the first. His transcript had one A, one B, one C, one D and one F. However, this young man had tremendous academic potential. During the enrollment interview he admitted to not doing his homework and being disorganized. He acknowledged that his parents were convinced he could do much better, but he indicated that was their problem, not his. He did tell me that his goals at Oneida were to do his homework, to be better organized and to "not be so stubborn."

You will be happy to know that this young man is on the honor roll with a perfect 4.0 for the second quarter.

As we prepare to meet the needs of the 19 new students who just enrolled, we hope to have some wonderful success stories about them to share with you in the future. One of the most exciting aspects of our ministry is seeing young people reclaim a positive outlook on life. We thank our many friends who make all that we do possible.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

A heart for missions

Students like Jimmy Shaw help Clear Creek keep a heart for missions. Jimmy, a native of Glasgow, has made four mission trips to Brazil and will go again in June with a team of 10 volunteers.

Some of the team will come from Jimmy's home church in Glasgow, Coral Hill Baptist, and others will come from his local congregation, Pump Springs Baptist in Harrogate, Tenn.

The team will work as counselors and do home follow-up after a Florida Strength Team does evangelistic presentations in the Boa Vista area, about 12 hours north of the Amazon River. Sixty percent of Brazilians are high school and college age, and they will respond well to the Strength Team demonstrations of weight lifting and tearing phone books apart. A door for the gospel will open.

Last summer, Jimmy went with 10 Clear Creek students and 10 youth from Coral Hill to do evangelism and follow-up on the Amazon River near Manaus. "It was my first experience as a team leader," Jimmy said. "It was definitely a learning experience. The Lord showed team members what He could do. It was the first overseas

mission trip for some of the team, and they were saying, 'I can't do this.' As long as we put Jesus first and let Him lead, there's nothing we can't do."

Volunteer teams to Brazil in the summer of 2002 saw 2,000 professions of faith. The Manaus team had 130 decisions for Christ; each of these received a follow-up. Team

members presented a Bible and a Portuguese discipleship booklet. Many of the visits were "boat-to-house." Sam Dickenson, a May graduate from Virginia; fell in the river as he traversed a walkway. Southern Baptist missionary Ken Frederick is the local contact for volunteers; he and his family live in Manaus. The mission has a boat operated by missionary Gwen Olmstead. "The

country's openness to the gospel is sometimes a hindrance," Jimmy said, "because they will often accept the first thing that comes along."

In May, Shaw heads for Southwestern Seminary to study for a master's degree in missiology. The apprentice in missions program will enable him to complete his last year on the field in Brazil.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Suspense novels make waves in Christian fiction market

By Chris Meehan
Religion News Service

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (RNS)—After breaking a world cave-diving record of 1,300 feet in dangerous waters, Mike Bryant starts up for fresh air.

When the tough-guy hero of "Yucatan Deep," a new Christian suspense novel, reaches the 400-foot mark, he stops for a few minutes to decompress.

In secular thrillers, protagonists at this anti-climactic point might start daydreaming of cold beer and warm female embraces.

But in Tom Morrissey's book—a good example of an increasingly popular brand of Bible-based fiction—the real conclusion is yet to come. Having just been miraculously spared from death in the murky depths below, the cave-diving agnostic has an important faith decision to make.

And that decision is in many ways what this emerging genre of fast-paced Christian fiction is all about.

"I'm trying to talk to people about the Christian experience in a way that is culturally understandable to them," said Morrissey, 50, who lives south of Jackson, Mich., with his wife and daughter.

"I'm hoping to reach people who like the outdoors and go-faster sports, who tend by and large to be spiritual people, but are not Christian."

Offering no-sex, cuss-free plots and a minimum of graphic violence, new Christian thrillers such as "Yucatan Deep" are starting to find a market among both men and women readers.

Filled with thrills and spills, exotic locales and characters who like pushing the limits, these books are packing the racks of Christian bookstores and in many cases driving up sales in spectacular ways.

Formerly "fluffy"

"Christian fiction in the past was largely the fluffy, inspirational romance," said Karen Van Valkenburg, publicist at Baker Books in Grand Rapids. "People have been starving for a little more action, but they want it without the gore and with a Christian message."

Novels such as Baker's "Riptide" by Lorena McCourtney and Tyndale House Publisher's "They Shall See God" by Athol Dickson are examples.

So is the new best seller "Mission Compromised," a military suspense novel written by Oliver North, the Marine officer who figured prominently in the Iran-Contra scandal in the 1980s. North's book features a U.S. Marine whose job is to track down and kill terrorists in the Middle East.

The "Left Behind" series pub-

lishing phenomenon by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins has played a big role in fueling the growth in Christian suspense fiction.

With overall sales of more than 34 million copies, the series plays off people's interest in—and in some cases fear of—the world coming to an end. Inspired by biblical visions of the end times, these novels have topped best-seller lists in both Christian and secular markets.

Pleased that the Christian suspense genre is growing and aware of a handful of novelists who "deserve to have their stuff explode into best sellers," Jenkins nonetheless says the quality of the work being published needs improvement.

"Too many Christian publishing houses publish fiction because it's fiction, and fiction is supposed to be hot now," he said. "That can create a glut where the market is very wide but very shallow."

From nonexistent to top-selling

While it is still mostly sold to a Christian audience, Christian suspense fiction is starting to carve a successful niche.

"Christian suspense fiction is ... the fastest growing area of Christian fiction in the past year," said Tim Way, senior buyer for Grand Rapids-based Family Christian Stores, which has 330 outlets.

Basically, it has gone from a nonexistent form a few years ago to one of the chain's top-selling fiction-category products. The reason for the growth, said Way, is that "there are a number of new, outstanding authors that are writing in this area right now."

Many contemporary issues, such as abortion, cloning and the clash between Christianity and Islam, are being addressed by Christian suspense writers.

In the recently published "The Face of God," author Bill Myers offers a tale replete with dust storms, truck chases and a fully rendered portrait of an Islamic terrorist.

Although most Christian fiction readers are women, Myers and others are increasingly presenting main characters who are rugged, tough-minded men of faith.

Reaching out to male readers, in fact, is a focus at Tyndale House, which just came out with "Shaiton's Fire," a book by Jake Thoene about an FBI agent combating terrorism.

Dave Lambert, an editor for Zondervan publishers, says Christian thrillers uphold and affirm the Christian faith in writing that is reminiscent of such powerhouse authors as John Grisham, Tom Clancy and Clive Cussler.

"We want a character's faith to matter. We want it to be a factor in how they act and make decisions," Lambert said.



The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For? Rick Warren. Zondervan, 2002. 334 pages. \$19.99. ♦♦♦ (out of five)

This book is written by the founding pastor of one of the largest churches in America, Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. His previous books include "The Purpose Driven Church," which was selected as one of the 100 Christian books that changed the 20th century.

Through other "Purpose Driven" books and conferences, Warren and his staff have addressed tens of thousands of pastors and staff ministers. It seemed inevitable that Warren would then turn his attention to applying the purpose driven idea to one's individual Christian walk.

The book is organized with short chapters designed to be used as a 40-day spiritual journey. Warren's five purposes of life are knowing that you were planned for God's pleasure, formed for God's family, created to become like Christ, shaped for serving God and made for a mission.

Each chapter ends with a point to remember, a scripture passage and a question for further thought.

Warren packs a lot into the pages of this book. The sheer range of what he attempts to cover in the pages allotted means that he cannot go into great depth at any point. It is not so much that anything he says is wrong, it is just that there is more to the discussion than what he says.

While a mature Christian hopefully will fill in the blanks, a new Christian will have a too simplistic understanding. The book also suffers from the almost complete lack of illustrative material. The chapters are filled with scripture references (nearly 1,000), but the book lacks connection to the real life of the individual. The use of stories would greatly enhance the benefit for new Christians. The best use of the book would be as a group study so that the personal stories of the participants will fill in the gaps.

I would like to see Warren take each purpose and expand on it in book length. Then, he may approach the level of contribution to individual spiritual growth that he has achieved in church ministry. *Wayne Hager*

Heaven for a Dime: Memoir of a Small Town Preacher. Dwight Moody. iUniverse Inc., 2002. 345 pages. \$23.95. ♦♦♦

Dwight Moody is a braver man than I am, because I am not at all sure I could have written this book.

"Heaven for a Dime" is an unvarnished, if not at times one-sided, look at the life of a pastor, his family and the church in whose stream they swam for almost seven years.

Moody blends narratives about the religious history of Owensboro, the chronicle of Third Baptist Owensboro's early life, and the ups and downs of his experience with the church and community into a fascinating, and sometimes painful, tapes-

try. Like many Kentucky communities, Owensboro's early religious life was influenced by a flamboyant, brash, near-offensive preacher imported from out of state to hold a protracted meeting in the city. It was this man's preaching and influence that eventually led to a split in First Baptist Church, with the majority marching from the sanctuary to form Third Baptist while those remaining sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." Moody also contends that Southern Baptists can thank Third Baptist for the conversion of J. Frank Norris, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, to his firebrand fundamentalism.

Equally fascinating, if not somewhat disconcerting, were the accounts of the history of Moody's interactions as pastor of Third Baptist. He lets us in on the inner life of Third Baptist, warts and all. He even names names! At times I found myself getting uncomfortable with the personal detail that he includes about himself and those around him—both supporters and antagonists. However, most pastors and church members will see themselves in one or more of the stories. *Jim Holladay*

He lets us in on the inner life of Third Baptist, warts and all. He even names names! At times I found myself getting uncomfortable with the personal detail that he includes about himself and those around him—both supporters and antagonists. However, most pastors and church members will see themselves in one or more of the stories. *Jim Holladay*

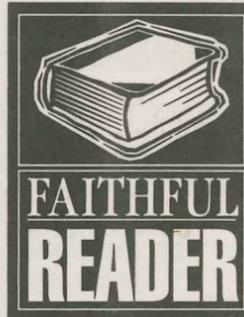
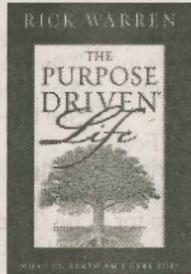
Paul and Jesus: The True Story. David Wenham. Eerdmans Publishing, 2002. 195 pages. \$20. ♦♦♦

One of the ongoing debates in New Testament scholarship, as well as the history of Christian theology, centers around the effect Paul had on the development of Christianity. On one end of the continuum are those who contend that Paul simply took the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. In so doing, he remained faithful to the preaching and mission of Jesus to proclaim the nearness of the Kingdom of God. On the other end are those who argue that Paul took the preaching of Jesus and turned it into a religion with Jesus at the center, i.e. Paul invented Christianity.

"Paul and Jesus" places itself in the first position. David Wenham, who has

written more extensively on the subject in a more academic presentation titled "Paul: Follower of Jesus or Founder of Christianity," writes this book as a resource for pastors, teachers and lay leaders in the church. His primary purpose is to help church people to have some familiarity with the ongoing argument, but more especially to equip them to feel comfortable with Paul as a faithful proclaimer of the gospel preached by Jesus.

On one hand, the continual need to tie everything Paul wrote to some saying or parable of Jesus got tiresome. On the other hand, Wenham's approach of taking a chronological view of Paul's life and writings provides background and contextual information for the study of any of Paul's letters. Beyond his primary purpose, I found the information he provides about the context of each letter, the basic issues and situations being addressed, and Paul's attempts to address them with the gospel to be the book's real strength. *Jim Holladay*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; and Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: jwhager@surry.net, or docholladay01@aol.com

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Praise God that the Belgian government has voted to recognize evangelical groups.

■ Praise God for the way He is opening doors for missionaries in Khabarovsk, Russia, to meet Russian believers and unbelievers.

■ Praise God for new opportunities to spread the gospel that are opening in Lower Silesia, Poland. These include a Christian rock music festival and a "blossoming" radio ministry, missionaries write.

■ A discipleship class for young women in Lanzarote, Canary Islands.

■ Follow up to a music and worship conference in Pascani, Romania, in early January. "Please pray that God will continue to bring renewal to churches throughout Romania as people learn how to worship Him in spirit and in truth," missionaries request.

■ Sean and Lydia Stevenson and their three daughters who recently arrived in Poland as career missionaries.

■ The International Evangelical Church in Strasbourg, France, as the group seeks to reach people in the area who speak English.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BEAVER DAM**—Beaver Dam Church recently ordained **Garrett Addington** and **Robbie Ayer** as deacons. **Glenn Armstrong** is pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Brodhead Church called **Jason Whicker** as youth director. **Mark Whicker** is pastor.

■ **DEXTER**—Dexter Church called **Randy McClure** as pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—**Jeff Devine** resigned as pastor of New Bethel Church to become pastor of First Church of Corrigan, Texas.

■ **HAGERHILL**—Liberty Church called **Charles Milam** as interim pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Airline Church called **Nathan Whisnant** as pastor.

■ **KEVIL**—**Stephen Williams** resigned as pastor of Kevil Church to become dean of curriculum advancement at Trinity College in Newburgh, Ind.

■ **LIVINGSTON**—Pleasant Run Church called **Wayne Henson** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—West Broadway

Longtime Baptist minister earns seventh degree at age 73

LOUISVILLE (BP)—At age 73, Charles Williams remains committed to lifelong learning.

The Monticello, Fla., native graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary last month, receiving a doctor of ministry degree in church consultation. He now holds seven degrees in addition to more than 40 years of ministry.

Citing Winston Churchill's "never surrender" speech delivered during the darkest hours of World War II, Williams noted, "I adopted Churchill's advice a long time ago. And that is to never give up. I think the secret to success is not necessarily intelligence but perseverance."

Williams, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, has lived a life of perseverance and accomplishment. He has been pastor of eight churches in Kentucky, Georgia and Florida; attended six colleges, re-

ceiving degrees from five of them; and held seven different positions in Christian education.

The veteran minister now holds the honor of being the oldest person to receive a degree through Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

"When I first asked at the Graham School if I was too old to enroll in the program, their reply was the only way that my enrollment would be a problem is if I were too young and inexperienced," Williams said. "So I went into the program with 40-plus years experience."

Williams began his educational pilgrimage in 1961 and by 1978 had earned six degrees. His decision to add a seventh from Southern Seminary came as a result of a new direction in ministry.

After serving as a pastor and Chris-

tian educator for many years, Williams is now offering consulting services for churches that are in decline both spiritually and numerically. Williams currently is working with eight rural churches that are in decline. He recently bought a motor home that he and his wife, Georgia, use to travel for consultation visits to these small churches. "Since I have this motor home we are able to park at the church, so the churches do not have to pay for a place for us to stay," he said. "Many of these areas are somewhat remote and don't have hotels or motels." At the outset of his ministry, Williams' goal was to spend the remainder of his life as pastor of a rural church. But while attending Luther Rice Seminary, then located in Jacksonville, Fla., in the mid-1960s and serving as pastor of a church there, Williams realized God also had called

■ **SOMERSET**—**Ricky Teal**, minister of recreation outreach at First Church, recently was ordained to the gospel ministry by his home church of First Church, Powder Springs, Ga.

Mount Pleasant Church recently called **Jack Stallworth** as pastor.

■ **UTICA**—**Barnett Creek Church** called **Andy Gowins** as pastor.

What's going on?

Send your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@ntr.net.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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HEALTHCARE: Pre-existing conditions accepted. Non-insurance solution. Hospitals, doctors, dentist, prescriptions, accidental injury, vision, hearing, etc. \$64.95/month per family. Representatives needed; unlimited income. (866) 524-7685; (502) 493-1383; steph@metrol.org. ceo8761

SEEKING: Accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. All resumés should be sent to Giles Baptist Association, PO Box 404, Pulaski, TN 38478. The deadline for receiving resumés is Feb. 21, 2003.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Petrey Memorial Baptist Church. Send resumé and video/audio tape to: Pastor Search Committee, Petrey Memorial Baptist Church, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701. Resumés welcome until April 27, 2003. Call (606) 436-4716 or 439-3928 for more information.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and education for Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky. Send resumés 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: Pastor. Send resumés to: Eastview Baptist Church, 1017 Earl St., Henderson, KY 42420. Phone: (270) 521-7120.

SEEKING: Associate director of communications. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the state's largest residential child care provider, has an immediate job opportunity for the right candidate who will be responsible for promoting KBHC through print and electronic media, writing news and feature articles, producing quarterly newsletter and weekly internal newsletter, and assisting KBHC programs in developing and carrying out their approved individual communications plans. High degree of skill in non-verbal, oral and written communications; ability to identify, define and explain day-to-day problems and solutions. Bachelor's degree in journalism, public relations, marketing or related field, and two to five years of job-related experience required. Experience in Quark Xpress, PageMaker and PhotoShop a plus. We offer flexible hours, a competitive salary, an excellent benefits package and up to 35 paid days off per year. Apply in person, fax resumé to (502) 244-3249 or mail resumé—indicating position applying for and salary requirements—to: Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10200 Linn Station Road, Suite 200, Louisville, KY 40223. EOE/Females and minorities encouraged to apply.

SEEKING: Office secretary for the Kentucky Convention, Church Music department. Position requires secretarial experience and computer application skills. The full-time position offers competitive salary and benefit package. Contact the Administrative Services department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Leonardtown Baptist Church in southern Maryland is accepting resumés for a full-time youth pastor. Ministry description available at www.leonardtownbaptist.org. Send resumés to: Leonardtown Baptist Church, PO Box 1757, Leonardtown, MD 20650, Attn: Youth Pastor Search Committee, or e-mail to: search@leonardtownbaptist.org.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Coeburn, Va., is seeking a full-time pastor. First Baptist Church of Coeburn is a Southern Baptist church; a Southern Baptist seminary degree is required. Please send resumé and video or audio tape if possible to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 336, Coeburn, VA 24230.

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.

him to work in Christian education.

In the years since, he has served as a teacher, dean and executive vice president for Luther Rice. In 1981 he organized the Southern Baptist School for Biblical Studies in Jacksonville, which he still serves president.

Williams said he hopes his decision to pursue an additional degree later in life will serve as encouragement and inspiration for fellow ministers.

"If I can use this to encourage and inspire others, that will be great," he said.

Thom Rainer, dean of Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School, said Williams' vast knowledge will be of great use to local churches.

"Charles has vast experience in the local church," Rainer said. "He will be able to apply his experience and training to help churches all over America."

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

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

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

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

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.

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The source of terrorism?

Author: Saudi Arabia's Wahhabism behind most Muslim terrorist attacks

By Ira Rifkin
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Writer and activist Stephen Schwartz lost no time seeking to identify the religious ideology behind the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In a barbed essay in Britain's *The Spectator* published just days after the attacks, Schwartz asked of the al-Qaida hijackers, "What made these men into the monsters they are? What has so galvanized violent tendencies in the world's second-largest religion?"

The answer, he declared, was Wahhabism, Saudi Arabia's austere and rigid interpretation of Islam.

"It is violent, it is intolerant and it is fanatical beyond measure," Schwartz wrote. "Not all Muslims are suicide bombers, but all Muslim suicide bombers are Wahhabis."

At the time, few Westerners knew anything about Wahhabism. Today, the air is thick with observers who blame Saudi Arabia's official brand of Islam for influencing much of the extremism evident in the Muslim world from North Africa to the Philippines.

Schwartz—a 54-year-old with an extraordinarily varied past (left-wing radical, punk band manager, newspaper labor union official, activist on behalf of Albanian Catholics and Bosnian Jews, convert to Islam's mystical Sufi branch)—has expanded his harsh critique of Wahhabism in a new book, "The Two Faces of Islam: The House of Saud From Tradition to Terror."

The book has garnered generally favorable, or at least prominent, reviews in elite publications.

"Islamofascism" of Muslim world

Schwartz contends that Wahhabism (a term Saudis disdain because of its negative connotation in the West) is the "Islamofascism" influence behind Osama bin Laden and the worldwide network of Islamic terrorists. Wahhabism, he says, is the greatest threat to liberal democracy in the world today.

Moreover, he argues, it is no less a threat to the Islamic mainstream.

The Islamic mainstream subscribes to a faith that is moderate, peaceful and "committed to coexist-

ence with the earlier Abrahamic revelations, Judaism and Christianity," said Schwartz, a senior policy analyst in Washington for the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, an anti-terrorism think tank whose directors and advisers include such top-tier American conservatives as Steve Forbes, Jack Kemp and Jeane Kirkpatrick.



Schwartz

Schwartz makes no secret of his animosity for Wahhabism. But his book is broadly sympathetic toward Islam and Islamic culture, a trait that sets him apart from many of his fellow conserva-

tives who have taken to bashing Saudi Arabia in the wake of that nation's reluctance to wholeheartedly support the U.S. war on terrorism.

Schwartz maintained that this sympathy for Islamic society—coupled with his conversion to Islam following years of immersion in Sufism, Islam's mystical teachings—make him suspect among some American conservatives.

"There are issues of bigotry," Schwartz said during a recent interview.

"Neo-cons sometimes think I'm a Trojan horse for Islam because my spiritual practice includes Sufism," Schwartz said. He is the child of a Jewish father and a Protestant mother who both rejected religion for communism. "But I'm no proselytizer for Islam."

A cleric meets a tribal leader

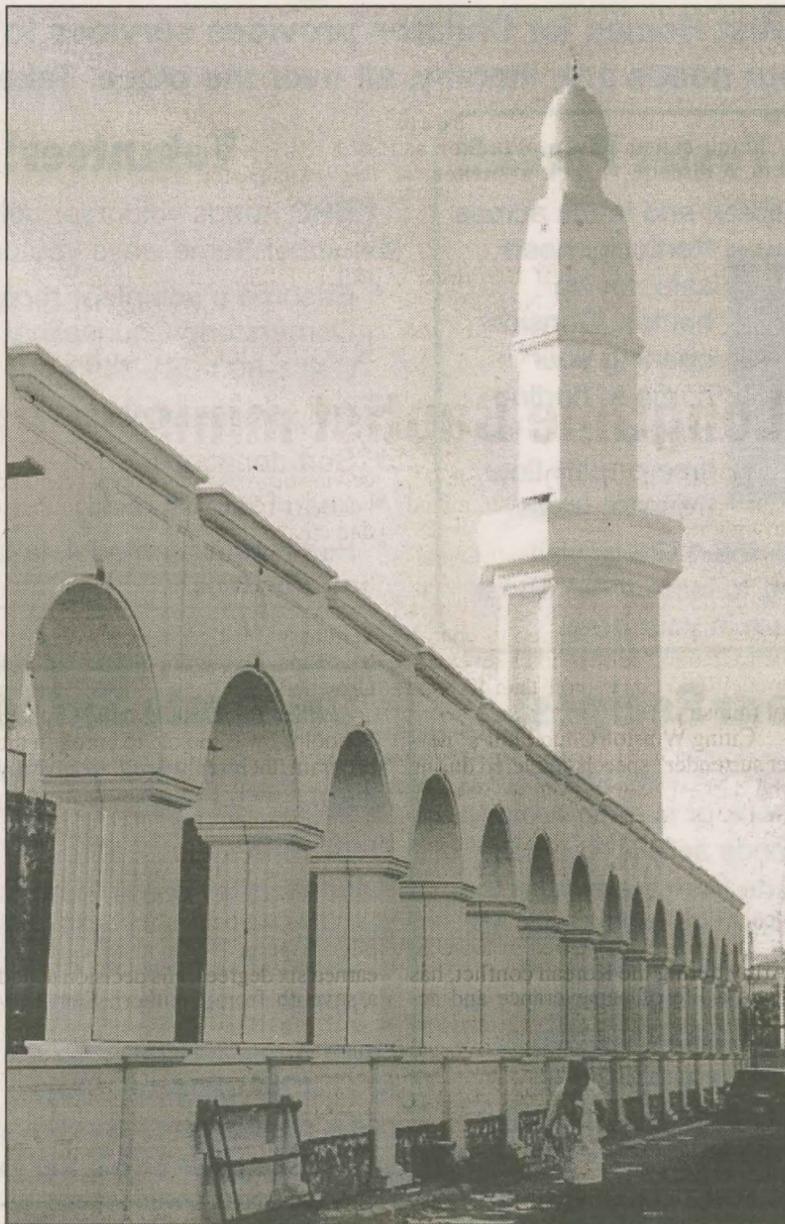
In his book, Schwartz recounts the alliance between the 18th century Muslim cleric Muhammad ibn abd al-Wahhab, after whom Wahhabism is named, and Muhammad ibn Saud, a tribal chieftain. Saud's descendants would come to control Islam's holiest cities, Mecca and Medina, and, perhaps more importantly as far as the West is concerned, the oil-saturated heartland of the Arabian peninsula.

The alliance lent the Saud family, after which Saudi Arabia is named, Islamic credentials, a crucial component for leadership in their staunchly religious desert domain. In return, al-Wahhab's followers gained unchallenged political power, elevating their rigid interpretation of Islam to template status for many Muslims worldwide.

"The essence of Ibn abd al-Wahhab's preaching came down to three points," Schwartz wrote. "First, ritual is superior to intentions. Second, no reverence of the dead is permitted. Third, there can be no intercessory prayer, addressed to God by means of the Prophet (Mohammed) or saints."

"Prayers to God by means of a pious person or even honors to any individual other than God were condemned as idolatry, despite their acceptance by all previous generations of Muslims and the Prophet himself."

The result, Schwartz added, was a faith that was uncompromising in its



SAUDI ARABIA A resident walks past a mosque in Saudi Arabia. Author Stephen Schwartz says Saudi Arabia is home to a strict interpretation of Islam, Wahhabism, that is a threat to both democracy worldwide and mainstream Islam in the Middle East.

vision of monotheistic purity, and unforgiving to those who disagreed.

Schwartz said Saudi attempts to export the Wahhabi "death cult" have met with considerable success from Afghanistan to the United States because of the kingdom's willingness to lavish petro-dollars on the construction of mosques, Islamic schools, Islamic scholarship and Muslim political and charitable institutions.

A lightning rod for critics

Schwartz's provocative personal style, his take-no-prisoners writing and his eyebrow-raising past have made him a lightning rod for criticism.

John Esposito, director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, faulted Schwartz for grouping all Islamic radicals together under the Wahhabi umbrella.

"Schwartz is clearly concerned with putting mainstream Islam into perspective," Esposito said. "But he misses the mark in his understanding of how Islam works internationally. He presents it as a black and white set of categories."

"It used to be that 'fundamentalist' was the catch-all term for Islamic radicalism. Now it's 'Wahhabism,'"

added Esposito, author of "Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam."

"But distinctions need to be made that Schwartz fails to make," Esposito said. "One is that even conforming to an ultra-conservative, anti-pluralistic faith does not necessarily make you a violent individual, and a second is that Saudi Arabian religion is not as monolithic as Schwartz makes it out to be."

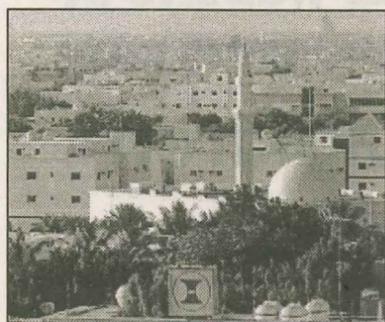
Schwartz is critical of President Bush and many in his administration for past associations with Saudi Arabia. Vice President Dick Cheney, who headed the oil field technology firm Halliburton prior to joining the White House team, comes in for particular criticism.

The West, Schwartz said, must insist that Saudi Arabia provide a full accounting of its citizens' involvement in the Sept. 11 attacks and end its alliance with Wahhabism both inside and outside the kingdom—even if it threatens the government's continued existence. The alternative, he said, is endless terrorism.

"Defending Muslims and Islam means to destroy the terrorists and the Wahhabi extremists who are taking them and the religion down the road to hell," he said.

"Not all Muslims are suicide bombers, but all Muslim suicide bombers are Wahhabis."

Author Stephen Schwartz



CITY SKYLINE A view of the skyline in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

What can you do to help?

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children provides services to hurting families and children statewide. Our locations and our needs are, literally, all over the place. Take a minute to find out how you can help KBHC.

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Hundreds of children and teens across Kentucky need safe, loving homes. Consider opening your home to hurting children on a full-time or part-time (respite) basis.



Call 1-800-456-1386 or visit www.kbhc.org to learn more about foster care in your area.

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KBHC needs volunteer help across the state! Some ways you can help:

- Become a volunteer receptionist for Cornerstone Counseling! Call 1-800-981-7493.
- Help in our offices!
- Sort donations!
- Lead Bible studies!
- Build, paint, remodel, landscape our facilities!

Use us as a resource for young women facing unplanned pregnancies.

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Share your Recipes!

The Spring Meadows Ladies Auxiliary is producing a cookbook of favorite recipes from friends across Kentucky.

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www.kbhc.org or call 1-800-456-1386 to get a recipe form.

Hurry! The deadline is January 31!



Celebrate Birthdays!

There are two ways you can celebrate the birthdays of kids in our care.

Send birthday cards - Look for list of birthdays in the Baptist Children's Messenger or call 1-800-456-1386 for a list.

Have a monthly birthday party at a KBHC program. Take a cake, decorations, cards and spend some time with the kids!



Donate Gift Cards!

Can you imagine how expensive your trips to Wal-Mart would be if you were shopping for 15 teenagers at one time?!

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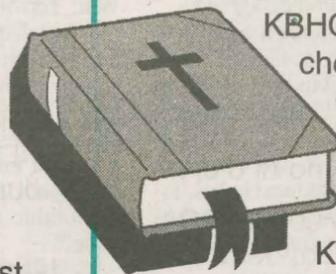
toiletries, personal items, clothing, shoes and groceries. Mail cards to KBHC at the address below. **Please mark on the card the dollar value of it.**



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There are lots of ways to get involved with KBHC! Visit our website at www.kbhc.org for more ideas or call the KBHC program nearest you!



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