



WESTERN RECORDER

February 18, 2003
Vol. 177, No. 7**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**FamilyNet rethinking plan to become a for-profit business. *Page 2.***Kentucky**Church leaders urged to reject "business as usual." *Page 3.***Financial Forum**Retirement offers creative ways to make an impact. *Page 4.***Editorial**Jibla shooting survivor has gripping testimony. *Page 5.***Nation**New group courts diverse Christian denominations for unified voice. *Page 6.***Issues**Christianity Today's editor discusses religious journalism. *Page 8.***Schools**Washington issues new guidelines for prayer and other religious activity in schools. *Page 9.*

Donations drop forces Focus on the Family to lay off workers

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS)—Focus on the Family, one of the nation's most influential evangelical Christian groups, has laid off 34 employees and eliminated an additional 66 positions as a result of a drop in donations.

The media and broadcast ministry says it will cut \$5 million from its \$130 million budget in response to a 3 percent decrease in giving that stretches back to fall 1999.

The layoffs are the first in the 26-year history of the organization, which child psychologist James Dobson founded. The layoffs amount to 2.6 percent of the ministry's Colorado Springs work force.

Focus on the Family relies entirely on donations for its budget. It avoids taking on debt and has no reserve fund. Dobson said that fits into a philosophy: "If the money doesn't come, we simply do less."

In addition to the budget cut, Focus on the Family will reduce average merit pay increases, cut its flagship magazine from 10 to eight issues per year, close a cafeteria, curtail travel, cancel an employee picnic and make other cuts, the memo says.

Nationally, donations to many Christian nonprofits are down and some are up, said Paul Nelson, president of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Child-sponsorship or mission groups, which forge long-term relationships with donors, are more likely to weather recessions than groups such as Focus on the Family that count on people to buy books and tapes, Nelson said.

Facing the fear factor

Faith is essential ingredient when coping with fear, counselors agree

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—While St. Matthews Baptist Church is used to dealing with vague threats, this one sounded more ominous.

"I'm a Muslim," the caller said. "Tell your pastor I'm going to nail him to a cross."

The man called a second time—and a third, the final message coming less than two months before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that shocked America.

That last call included an accusation that Pastor Leslie Hollon was intolerant toward Muslims. His secretary asked for a phone number so Hollon could return the call, but it proved to be phony.

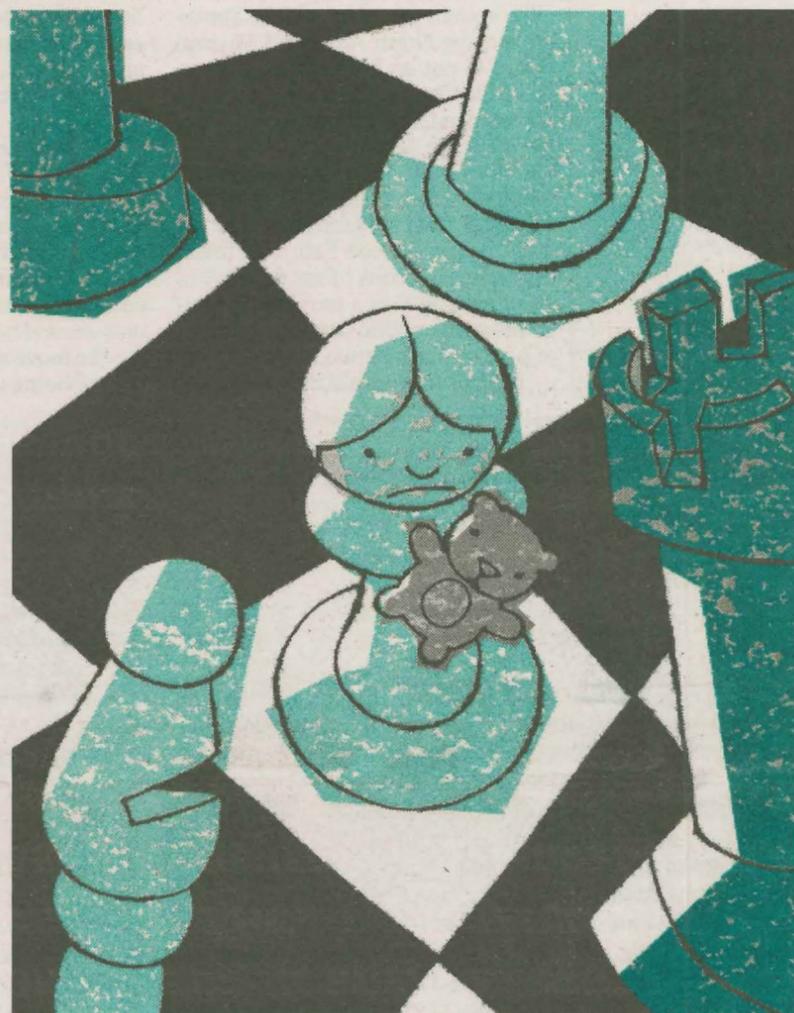
Ironically, Hollon had welcomed participation by other faiths as a leader for 1999's National Day of Prayer, the event that apparently sparked the caller's rage. While he never followed through on tracking down the caller, Hollon found himself battling fear.

The Louisville pastor said he worked through several stages in facing his fear, including wondering why the man felt threatened and how seriously to take his warnings.

"Finally, I said, 'I'm at peace with this,'" Hollon recalled. "I felt good about the leadership I gave and am at peace with it."

"This challenged me to not be intimidated," he said. "I've evaluated the stands I've taken for religious liberty and believe a person has a right to be positively committed to the Christian faith. I can do that because I'm not forcing it on someone else."

Fear. In an age of terrorist attacks and the threat of war with Iraq, pas-



tors and Christian counselors say it's on the increase. Anxiety disorders affect more than 19 million Americans annually, according to "Freedom From Fear," a New York-based advocacy group.

In a survey taken last year by researcher George Barna, 52 percent of respondents identified terrorism and war as their top national-issue concerns. Secondary concerns were the economy, moral decline, jobs and national security.

Ed Young Jr., author of a new book on fear, believes many people are paralyzed by "scenario sickness," won-

dering what they will do if a disaster strikes.

Young, whose "Know Fear" was released recently by Broadman & Holman, said preoccupation with "what if?" scenarios plague people from all income and social levels.

"I was talking to a stockbroker friend of mine recently and he was telling me about the fear he faces," said Young, pastor of Fellowship Church in suburban Dallas. "He's afraid of flying and of something tragic happening to his family. I think it's very, very real."

□ See *Faith plays vital role ...*, page 3

Church leaders can halt negative growth trends, author says

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—Gene Wood is convinced America's churches are in trouble, but he's equally confident pastors are capable of reversing that decline.

Wood, the author of "Leading Turnaround Churches," was the keynote speaker for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's deacon-pastor-spouse retreat Feb. 7-8 at the Cave City Convention Center. The retreat drew a capacity crowd of 230, with a waiting list of more than 100 others.

Wood, who serves as pastor of a Baptist church in Southern California, encouraged leaders to take bold steps to build consensus in their churches and establish a vision for the future.

Such efforts are vital to halting an

unhealthy trend in the nation's Protestant churches, he said. Research shows that between 70 and 85 percent of Protestant churches are plateaued or declining, he added.

"I grew up in a pastor's home and I hope to die being a pastor," emphasized Wood, pastor of Grace Church in Glendora, Calif.

"I believe the local church is God's program for reaching the world. But the way I read it, we've got about 50 years and we're out of business. We're in danger of being on our watch when the church in the U.S. goes belly up."

Wood previously was pastor of churches in Oregon, Pennsylvania and suburban Cincinnati, each of which experienced positive turnarounds. He sees strong pastoral leadership as the key to churches' resurgence.

While he understands that labeling

the pastor as the functional leader is controversial, Wood said one reason for that concern is a fundamental misunderstanding of healthy church life.

Noting that 95 percent of church problems stem from power struggles, Wood attributes that to Americans' love of power and a belief that governmental checks and balances apply to the spiritual realm.

"Many think if a pastor and deacon board are working together, they need to have someone to balance them at the business meeting," Wood said. "That shows a deplorable lack of understanding of democracy and church life."

Proper congregational decision making uses veto power to restrain abusive leaders and abuses of power, Wood said. At Grace Church, members govern via votes on several ma-

major decisions:

■ The call and dismissal of the senior pastor.

■ Approving the constitution and bylaws.

■ Sale and acquisition of property.

■ Approving the deacon board and budget.

Once policies are set, the day-to-day decisions rest in the hands of staff entrusted to carry them out, Wood said.

He noted, however, that exercising pastoral leadership and implementing change likely will provoke conflict.

Wood encouraged pastors and deacons not to fear such turmoil, pointing to one study that traced revived churches to some kind of fight.

Turnaround is synonymous with unrest, he added.

□ See *Wood: Pastors can ...*, page 3

BAPTISTS

FamilyNet satellite access puts for-profit plan on hold

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—An opportunity to place FamilyNet programming in an additional 7 million households on the DISH Network satellite system has prompted the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to put on hold earlier plans to make the Christian television network an independent for-profit subsidiary.

While the agency is moving ahead with a reorganization that will make FamilyNet more independent of the current NAMB organizational structure, trustees agreed Feb. 5 to retain the nonprofit status of the network in order to qualify as a provider of non-commercial, public-service programming for DISH Network.

NAMB trustees also heard a report

on 43 new missionaries appointed since their last meeting and learned that 29 chaplains had been endorsed by the board's Chaplains Commission.

FamilyNet, operated by NAMB, currently is available in about 8 million homes 24 hours a day through cable outlets, local affiliate stations and a limited number of direct broadcast satellite customers of the DISH Network.

Under the new agreement, the current FamilyNet feed—supported largely by commercial sponsorship—would continue to be provided to the cable and affiliate outlets. But the DISH Network also would be provided similar FamilyNet programming on a second non-commercial feed.

The move would increase the number of homes receiving FamilyNet

programming 24 hours a day to about 15 million, said NAMB Executive Vice President Randy Singer.

NAMB trustees had voted last August to pursue a plan to make FamilyNet a for-profit entity in order to increase the network's impact nationally. A primary goal was to allow the agency to secure outside investors who could have funded expansion of programming, marketing and distribution.

Singer said the new development—which could be in place within the next few months—might allow NAMB to pursue those same objectives.

"Those 8 million additional homes on Echostar are so valuable that we may now be able to achieve these goals without having to convert to a for-profit," Singer told trustees.

In other business, trustees responded to five motions referred from the Southern Baptist Convention.

"These are things that have been handled in one way or another in prior meetings of our trustees, so the recommendations on each of them is to remain true to prior actions of the trustees," Singer said. "We believe the policies and procedures in each case are adequate to respond to these concerns."

The motions sought revisions to NAMB's policy regarding the endorsement of female chaplains, changes to the "Eternal Life" evangelism tract, evangelism strategies for reaching people with disabilities and the changes in a policy on affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Mainstream Baptists pursue mission networks

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—Participants at the second national convocation of the Mainstream Baptist Network looked beyond nearly a quarter century of Baptist theological and political strife to a vision for missions networking in the 21st century.

Meeting Feb. 8-9 in Birmingham, Ala., the group also honored 10 new inductees into Mainstream's Hall of Fame. Among the inductees were Wilmer C. Fields, retired vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press for the SBC Executive Committee; R.G. Puckett, retired editor of the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina's state Baptist newsjournal; and Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Convocation speakers focused on the mission networks around the world that they say have emerged from years of pain and exclusion felt by many Baptists.

"Exclusion" is the meanest word in the English language," retired pastor Ralph Langley of Huntsville, Ala., told more than 200 Mainstream leaders from 15 states. He urged them to demonstrate inclusion as they move ahead with their "passion for missions."

"We at this meeting are familiar with pain," added Fred Loper of Oklahoma City, a medical doctor and former missionary of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

"There's agony over what has happened to

Southern Baptists over the last 20-plus years," said Loper, now associate executive director of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, an independent missions group based in Oklahoma City. "There is even pain about what all this has done to missions. But it's not all bad. Pain serves as a warning of danger and has caused us to change for the better."

Mainstream participants gave a standing ovation to Loper, who left NAMB rather than affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Loper received financial assistance from a Texas Baptist transition fund for missionaries who refuse to sign the statement.

Clay and Debbie Porter, who resigned from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board for the same reason after 12 years of service in Macao and Hong Kong, also were welcomed with a standing ovation. The Porters are missionaries in residence at Samford University in Birmingham.

The executives of two Baptist state conventions—Wade of Texas and John Upton of the Baptist General Association of Virginia—outlined approaches to missions in their two states. Both conventions will seek to include any Baptists who want to network in the cause of world missions.

"Our missions network is not just for Texas Baptists," Wade said. "This is a world missions network that won't tell people what they can't do, but we will try to help people work together to do what God has called and gifted them to do."

LifeWay projects revenue increase despite \$18 million budget shortfall

NASVILLE (BP)—LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention stands to see a 3.4 percent increase in overall revenue for 2003, providing employees continue to perform well in a bleak economy, Ted Warren told trustees Feb. 10.

Warren, LifeWay's executive vice president and chief operating officer, said revenues would still fall more than \$18 million short of the budget for the fiscal year of Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, with revenues down due to the sluggish national economy. Still, he said, each division has controlled expenses well so far this fiscal year.

The international department has been especially hard hit, with revenues deeply affected by the continuing economic crises throughout many countries in South America, Warren said.

The market value of LifeWay's retirement trust fund also has dipped below its future payout obligation, Warren said, but LifeWay plans to designate reserve funds to make up the current deficit.

"With an improved stock market, we anticipate the retirement trust fund returning to an over-funded position in the coming years," he added.

Trustees approved an increase in the price of all dated and undated Sunday school curriculum by as much as

3.7 percent, effective in the spring of 2004.

Gene Mims, vice president of the church resources division, cited increased production costs and unit declines as the reasons for a possible rate increase.

Mims reported several highlights from 2002, including:

■ Vacation Bible school growth in sales and impact.

■ Success with a new Beth Moore Internet study, with 32,000 people from more than 50 countries involved in the online Bible study, "Believing God."

■ The inclusion of Scripture from the Holman Christian Standard Bible in all Sunday school curriculum by the fall of 2003. The King James Version still will be available in selected curriculum lines.

■ The ongoing expansion of the FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy.

Ken Stephens, vice president of Broadman & Holman Publishing, told trustees the Holman Christian Standard Bible is progressing on schedule.

"The entire Old Testament is all the way through the third and final draft, and the final manuscript is due July 1," he said. "The completed Bible will be available in April 2004."

BAPTIST DIGEST

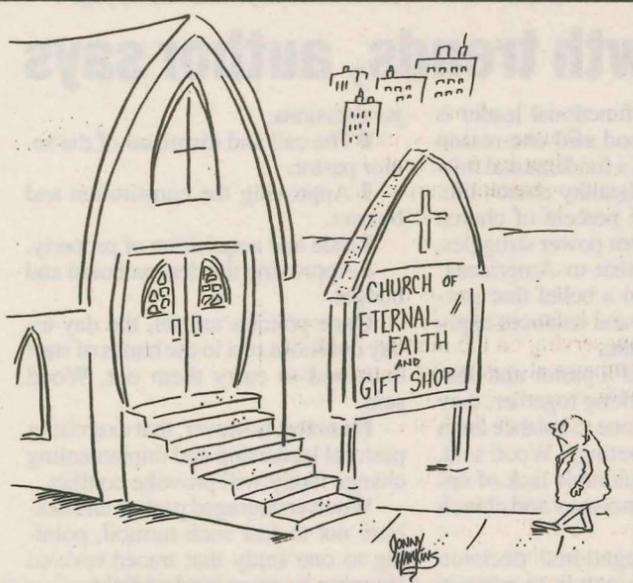
■ **Hall returns to Howard Payne.** Lanny Hall, chancellor and former president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, has been named president of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. Hall served as executive vice president and chief academic officer at Howard Payne from 1986-89. Prior to serving at Hardin-Simmons, he was president of Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, from 1989-91.

■ **Casey to direct WMU center.** Carol Casey has been named director of the missions resource center for Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. Casey, who joined

the national WMU staff in 1986, most recently was editorial department director.

■ **TruthQuest earns award.** "TruthQuest: California," a teen reality series produced by several Southern Baptist Convention entities, received a first-place People's Choice Award from the National Religious Broadcasters TV Committee. The 13-week series, which debuted last October, was jointly sponsored by Baptist Press, FamilyNet and LifeWay Christian Resources. The series featured 12 Christian teens applying their faith in various settings throughout California.

■ **Letter urges direct SBC support.** In a letter mailed to thousands of Texas Baptist pastors and lay leaders, Morris Chapman uses the death of three missionaries in Yemen as a rallying call for greater giving to the Southern Baptist Convention and reduced giving to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. This is the third year Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, has written to pastors, deacon chairs and other local church leaders in a direct appeal for giving. A similar letter in 2001 was believed to be the first time an SBC official made a direct appeal for Cooperative Program giving to Texas churches while bypassing the state convention.



Pastors & deacons urged to reject 'business as usual'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—Gene Wood admires Christian researcher George Barna, but he doesn't always agree with him.

One area of disagreement inspired Wood to write the book, "Leading Turnaround Churches," released two years ago. The book's success added 140,000 miles to Wood's travel itinerary last year.

Released two years ago, "Leading Turnaround Churches," which focuses on the role of pastors, is now in its second printing. Wood is planning a follow-up, "Leading Turnaround Teams," to address the role of other leaders in the effort to revitalize churches.

Wood, a Conservative Baptist pastor, was one of 30 pastors Barna interviewed for his 1997 book, "Turnaround Churches."

Wood found the book's tone too negative. He said the book wrote that a pastor could accomplish only one turnaround, couldn't succeed if he was older than 45 and should quit if he hadn't turned a church around within three years.

"I love his research and I admire him deeply, but I was squeamish about some of his conclusions," Wood told the Western Recorder in an interview after the Kentucky Baptist Convention's recent deacon-pastor-spouse retreat. "We can train a generation of turnaround leaders, but it can't be business as usual."

The 11-chapter book reviews the characteristics of turnaround leaders and some obstacles they face. It devotes one chapter to the 95 percent theory, which says that virtually all the problems in a church stem from power struggles.

Wood is convinced that setting firm direction for a church and uniting members can overcome such problems. He has the track record to prove it, leading four churches to experience numerical growth ranging from 60 to 140 percent.

That doesn't mean he hasn't traveled dusty roads. During the retreat, he recalled a stodgy patriarch who opposed compiling a church directory by saying "I just can't picture the early church doing this."

Although a combination of peer pressure and determination overrode the man's objections, Wood has faced other trials, including disputes over differing music styles.

When interviewing for the position at his current church, people often asked whether he favored traditional or contemporary worship. He replied, "No. I'm not going to play that game. We're going to find out what God wants to do in this church and then do it."

Still, resolving the question called for compromise. Today, Grace Church in Glendora, Calif., has three Sunday morning services, including one traditional and two variations of contemporary worship. The evening service blends all three.

"There are many down sides to it," Wood acknowledged. "It's very expensive to get the staff you need. We have a pastor of worship and three part-timers to lead each service, a total of six part-time music people. But that was the way we addressed it."

Wood's message appears to be crossing cultural and geographical barriers. The week before coming to Kentucky, he led a citywide training event in Manila and taught at the International School of Theology in the Philippines.

Wood: Pastors can help reverse decline

Continued from page 1

"If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you've always got."

Besides facing explosive issues, Wood said leaders should understand that congregations go through a natural lifecycle.

He displayed a curve that showed purpose, objectives and goals on one side, leading toward growth and ministry. On the declining side was an emphasis on nostalgia, followed by polarization and members dropping out of church.

There is nothing necessarily wrong with a church dying, since the body of Christ will continue, Wood noted. But he said those who want their church to continue must reinvent themselves to experience renewal.

"Here's the thesis: 'Yes, you can!'" Wood said. "When I say you can do it, I believe it. Size is not everything; health is. We have to get our eyes off the mega-church and look at current reality."

Two primary keys to moving forward are the 80-20 rule and an annual "ownership meeting," Wood said.

The 80-20 rule notes that 20 percent of the people in a congregation do 80 percent of the work and give 80 percent of donations.

Conversely, 20 percent of the people often cause 80 percent of the problems.

Instead of spending most of his time dealing with difficult people, Wood said he decided to focus his attention on members who want to take positive steps.

Wood also suggested scheduling an annual ownership meeting at an off-campus location to discuss the work of ministry.

Schedule the session several months in advance and open it to the entire congregation, he said. Small group discussions at the meeting can help stimulate fresh thinking and create a vision for where the church will be in 10 years, he added.

Many people are likely to think nothing will change from this kind of event, Wood said. To "throw them a curve," he advised putting the group's master plan into the governing minutes to help drive budgeting decisions.

Wood also encouraged pastors to work on achieving consensus by discussing plans first and determining issues that have support before pressing for change.

"No man lives unto himself," Wood said. "What you do in Kentucky affects the church in California. We need you to win. The issue is too serious. As we get older, it's our turn to step up and cast a vision for what can happen in Kentucky."

"Leading Turnaround Churches" also has been released in the Philippines and South Korea.

He also recently released a curriculum kit, which includes a workbook, cassette tapes, instructional CD and other material.

While he can't point to specific churches that have experienced turnarounds after using his material, Wood hopes to establish a Web site to collect testimonials.

He also hopes to train others in his approach to spread the message that

church decline doesn't have to be inevitable.

"I've heard it said that eventually the ants will eat an elephant. As I view the body of Christ, I'm one of the ants. I can't eat the elephant, but I can do my part."

"The elephant in the living room today is that our churches are declining and nobody wants to admit how bad it is," he added. "We need leaders, humble with regards to ourselves and tenacious with regard to our call to ministry."

Faith plays vital role in coping with fear, counselors agree

Continued from page 1

While many Americans are particularly alarmed over increased security at airports and other public facilities, the director of St. Matthews Baptist's counseling center said it might help to realize that such measures have existed elsewhere in the world for years.

Wade Rowatt recalls armed guards nearby when he led missionary workshops in South Korea in the 1980s, and tight security on a visit to Trinidad in the 1990s.

Still, he realizes that doesn't allay the fears of those whose image of a safe nation evaporated after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Business is up," Rowatt said. "Over the last five years we've more than doubled the number of clients."

Despite its decline in recent national headlines, another concern for young people is the fear of school violence, he said.

High-profile kidnappings in recent times also have made teens wary of such threats, while many women fear being raped.

"I think adults try to mask their fears like they try to mask their emo-

tions," Rowatt said. "I think men are more ashamed about it and try to hide their fears. The other day I learned a man had purchased a gun, but initially didn't say why. It was because he was afraid of break-ins and a terrorist attack."

Lexington counselor Rick Landon doesn't hear people fretting over another World Trade Center-style disaster. Yet, he knows many people are anxious about the potential hazards of flying, especially to overseas destinations.

Then there was the young couple who expressed concern about terrorists striking victims on America's streets if war erupts in Iraq.

But that is only one of many fears that bring more than 100 clients a month to the Interfaith Samaritan Counseling Center at Calvary Baptist Church.

"A lot come because they're fearful of a deteriorating marriage," said Landon, the center's director. "Many have general anxieties about life, whether aging, jobs or kids. They're fearful of something happening."

Those worries include investment accounts suffering declines that par-

allel the stock market plunge. One widow was alarmed over the possibility she would wind up losing her home and depending on her son for support.

Considering the woman's \$500,000 nest egg, her fears were irrational, Landon said.

"We suggested she talk with her financial adviser," he said. "She did and got some pretty good news. It's not as bad as she thought."

Generally, when people face fear they either fight it, run away from it or do nothing because they are paralyzed by it, Landon said.

He recommends naming the fear out loud to make it easier to face the truth, looking at it realistically and taking whatever steps are possible to combat it.

But the most important action is prayer, Landon said.

"I ask clients to pray about the things they can do and the things they can't do," he said. "I use that to remind them that God probably hasn't asked for their advice. Once they realize that prayer is not a list of telling God things He should do, prayer becomes very intimate sharing with God."

Rowatt reminds people of the comfort in Psalm 23 and passages such as Matthew 6:28-29, where Jesus spoke of His Father even clothing the lilies of the field.

"The healthy way to respond is through faith," he said. "It gives us the resources to protect ourselves."

Hollon believes Christians need to strengthen their faith, both individually and collectively, during fearful times.

Instead of pulling back after Sept. 11, St. Matthews Baptist increased its 2002 budget by 6 percent. Not only did the congregation surpass that goal, he said, but Sunday attendance last year increased about 10 percent.

A couple from the church recently went to the Ukraine as missionaries; they are among 44 church members now serving on the mission field. St. Matthews also is active in racial reconciliation efforts and local mission projects such as Habitat for Humanity.

"We live in an age where we must be bold," Hollon said. "Without boldness we will decline and diminish. Trying to play it safe for the sake of playing it safe isn't safe anymore."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN
Partnership Editions
Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seek ways to unite

I would like to comment on the article in the Jan. 28 issue of the Western Recorder titled "Pastor: Church leaders should be risk takers." Part of the article quoted Dick Lincoln, whom I do not know personally, but I have heard him preach and greatly admired and appreciated his preaching.

The article seemed to indicate that one key to a growing church today would be to do away with the democratic government of the church, reduce deacons to the role of being flunkies and do away with any input from the congregation. Lincoln stated, "With the democratic model, we think people are wise and all-knowing and we really aren't. God is all-wise and knows all things."

I agree wholeheartedly that God is the source of all knowledge. But doesn't God use those who know Christ as agents through whom He dispenses that knowledge? Or does God just use the "leaders" or "pastors" of the church? That seems to be the trend in some churches—which speaks of making them autocratic leaders—and I have not found that in Scripture.

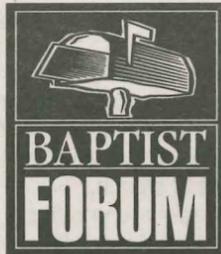
Perhaps someone can enlighten me about the stance of our Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention regarding the biblical model of church government. Is it autocratic, democratic, laissez-faire or what have you? If only an autocratic type of church government is the panacea for reaching people today, let's let every church know it. If not, then let's not give the implication that it is.

My God is a God of peace. He doesn't look for ways to upset people but ways to unite people. There is no joy in anyone being upset, whether for the sake of change or for

the sake of tradition. I hope and pray our convention leaders would encourage church leaders to become people who have the gift of uniting.

Bob Lawrence
Hopkinsville

Editor's Note: In response to your questions about church government, the SBC's 2000 Baptist Faith and Message states, "Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord." The KBC Constitution specifies that the state convention "has no jurisdiction over the local churches or the district associations, and shall exercise no authority over them."



Baptist democracy

I find it highly disappointing that in a time when career Baptist missionaries are losing their financial support for supporting the wrong Baptist confession of faith, that the Kentucky Baptist Convention leadership would invite a person who denied the clear teachings of both confessions to lead and model ministry for KBC pastors and spouses.

The appearance of Dick Lincoln before the Shepherding the Shepherd conference where he clearly, and apparently without any objection, presented his attack on Baptist church democracy is unacceptable. In this time when democracy is being attacked from all sides, we need to present proudly this historic Baptist position—not run from it.

In both our recent confessions, and in countless historic documents, Baptists have affirmed congregational polity based on democratic principles. To do otherwise, contra-

dicts not only our heritage, but the Protestant notion of priesthood of all believers as Baptists have always understood that teaching. It further denied the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of every believer. I hope that our leaders and others will be reminded that our Baptist democracy embraces many important theological ideas.

Larry Smith
Louisville

Examine priorities

Thank you for many interesting articles helping to keep me better informed on our Southern Baptist work. I look forward to each issue of the Western Recorder.

I have read with great interest the articles relating to the Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board and those missionaries yet to sign the revised faith statement as outlined in the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Your Jan. 28 article, "Pressure mounts on IMB workers who won't affirm BF&M," is no exception. The Western Recorder is my only source of information on this matter, and so my conclusions are drawn from a somewhat distant viewpoint.

After reading the above-mentioned article, I immediately was reminded of an essay by C.S. Lewis titled "First and Second Things." Lewis, a great lay teacher, makes many points, not the least of which is the danger of misplaced priorities. It seems to me there are those who could benefit greatly from reading this essay and heeding its warning.

Our dedicated home and international missionaries, whether they have signed the revised faith statement or not, need not read Lewis. They already know and understand priorities for they have been taught by the Master Teacher.

Stewart H. Bland
Trenton

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Religious persecution is real

I recently heard the testimony of Don and Teri Caswell, missionaries to Yemen. Don was the pharmacist at Jibla Baptist Hospital who was wounded on Dec. 30 when a gunman attacked the facility and killed three other Southern Baptist mission workers.

Don was in the hospital pharmacy when he heard shots that day. Because he was accustomed to hearing gunfire, he was not surprised but he did notice that it sounded very close. When he entered the hallway, the gunman was headed his way. A dialogue with God gave him great peace as the gunman fired. Don said he remembers the burning sensation as the bullet pierced his right side. Everything then began to blur and he fell forward. A second bullet hit his other side.

Don and his family have received counseling and are now recovering near family in Texas. He believes

God has spared him for a purpose. The trained marksman had shot the other victims in the head or chest.

Part of this amazing story is that Don and Teri were able to visit the Jibla hospital and friends before returning to Texas. They both are open to God's leadership for missions in the future and are open to the possibility of God leading their children to serve as missionaries.



Bill Mackey

A local Yemeni newspaper carried a news article about the shooting at the hospital. Don said a part of the statement declared that "these Americans were our friends." Local people were shocked and grieved at the deaths of long-term medical personnel who had served thousands of people.

It is obvious that Christians are severely persecuted in many countries around the world. Believers are afraid to identify themselves even to fellow workers for fear of what will happen to them or members of their

families. Believers are tutored secretly in Bible study in many places. I've heard testimonies of how new believers yearn for and dream of worshipping with other believers, of being blessed to give, of studying the Bible openly and of sharing their faith publicly.

How do you respond to the freedom that God has given you to worship, give, study and share? Could a day come when you would not have that freedom? Let's be faithful daily.

I am grateful that Kentucky Baptists have been faithful in supporting missions through the Cooperative Program. As of Jan. 31, 2003, we were \$305,203 ahead of last year, but still behind the budget by \$249,785.

God is calling young men and women to missions and ministry in unprecedented numbers. That means God has a plan for the future and we want to support His plan locally and around the world.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Find creative ways to make an impact during retirement

By Jeremy White

One of my recent columns evoked more comments than usual. I had written that the typical American notion of retirement had no biblical basis.

Many people think

when reaching the arbitrary age of 55, 62 or 65 they are done, that they can park it. I believe they are going to be accountable to God. Many people have made enough money to stop working; they can afford to quit and play. But some are not doing much useful for God or others. They tip God to keep Him off their back, but they are not effective for Kingdom purposes.

If you desire to quit what you've been doing and do something else, that's fine. If you have enough money to be able to quit, that's great. Praise God for that. But then volunteer, work part-time, travel on short-term mission trips or help your church.

Many people are living out this new view of retirement. Let me share a few examples:

■ Dave, a former water utility employee, travels the world. He tests and treats water in Third World countries with various missionary organizations during short-term mission projects.

■ Matt sold his environmental consulting firm and entered seminary at age 55. By taking occasional consulting jobs, he paid for his seminary tuition, kept his skills up to date and accepted a lower-paying position at a struggling inner-city church.

■ Linda, a former management professor, works with her church's state organization to assist churches with growth plans, strategy planning and human resource issues.

■ Tom didn't get much of a chance to work with his hands as an accountant, but he always loved working with tools. After retiring the first time, he now works with tools daily at Home Depot, receives health insurance and gets off work at 1 p.m. daily to care for his aged parents.

■ Grant, a retired pastor of 40 years, lends his experience to smaller churches as an interim pastor. He also serves as a volunteer chaplain at a federal job training camp. He can minister to hundreds of young people from all over the nation as they seek to learn life skills many miles from their homes.

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



'Couch potatoes' can benefit from regular physical activity

Q: My daughter says I am a couch potato because I prefer to stay indoors and watch television instead of exercising. I am in pretty good health for a 75-year-old woman and never exercised before; I just kept busy with my chores. Why should I start exercising now?

Older adults should stay as physically active as possible. This requires doing exercise that is appropriate for one's age and physical condition. Exercise can prevent some of the health problems that keep folks from certain everyday tasks.

A sedentary lifestyle causes older adults to lose ground in strength, flexibility, balance and endurance. Recent studies show that physical activity of any type done on a regular basis helps protect your body. The exercise does not have to be vigorous to be effective.

Even those who are very old and weak can increase muscle strength, balance and walking ability. Simple activities such as housework, gardening and walking help keep you limber. Aerobic activities such as walking, dancing and hiking improve the fitness of the heart and lungs. Weight training helps muscles grow in size and strength as well as boosting energy and endurance. Physical activity also causes the release of brain chemicals that fight depression.

Studies have shown that regular exercise reduces some complications of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis and osteoporosis. Exercise also improves balance and strength, and helps prevent falls that can lead to fractures and immobility. You might check first with your doctor about how hard you can exercise safely if you have any type of heart condition.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: Our 18-year-old daughter has been dating a young man for more than a year and is beginning to talk about marriage. She wants our opinion about both the timing of a wedding and what type of premarital counseling they should receive. What do you think?

Current research suggests that one of the critical factors that correlates with risk for divorce is couples who marry under the age of 20. While we all can cite examples of couples who married early and made it work, there are many who did not. I would encourage your daughter to wait, allow for growth and maturing in the relationship and in herself.

Regardless of her decision about timing, encourage her to pursue premarital preparation. This might be done as a group setting with a Christian counselor or it might be done in a couple setting. I recommend a combination of the two. Couples attend classes in a group setting before sitting down with a counselor for some individual attention. Our eight 45-minute classes address the following issues:

- A biblical understanding of marriage.
- Nurturing spirituality in marriage.
- Understanding the marital life cycle.
- Intimacy and the languages of love.
- Christian financial management.
- Goals, financial decision-making in marriage.
- Conflict management: rules for a fair fight.
- Celebrating sex in your marriage.

In addition to the group education, individual counseling may address specific concerns. These typically would include such things as helping couples understand how their families-of-origin affect their approach to marriage; understanding how differences and similarities in personality types impact their relationship; working with issues unique to couples; and personal and spiritual concerns related to the eight topics taught in the classes.—*Scott Wigginton*

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 Campbellsville University; 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.



Jibla shooting survivor gives glory to God

Reading news accounts of the tragic murders of three mission workers at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen undoubtedly has been a riveting, emotional experience for thousands of Southern Baptist in recent weeks. The deadly attack is a stark reminder of the ultimate sacrifice our missionaries are willing to make in an effort to share the gospel of Jesus Christ even in remote, sometimes hostile settings.

Equally gripping for me was the recent opportunity to hear shooting survivor Don Caswell and wife, Teri, recount their personal experiences in the midst of that chaotic, frightening day.

The Caswells were three-fourths of the way through a two-year International Service Corps assignment with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board when the gunman abruptly interrupted their lives Dec. 30. After a few weeks of rest, recuperation and counseling, the couple recently returned to the States and spoke to Baptist paper editors during this month's Association of State Baptist Papers annual meeting in Charleston, S.C.

One of the most captivating aspects of the Caswells' testimony was their genuine sense of Christian concern and forgiveness for the Muslim extremist who shot Caswell twice at close range after killing three of his colleagues.

Mrs. Caswell, who had dropped her husband off at the hospital only a couple of hours earlier, raced back to the hospital after receiving word that he has been injured. Visiting briefly with her husband as he was being whisked into surgery, Mrs. Caswell first found out that he had been shot and three of their close friends had been killed.

"I knew this wasn't a bad dream; this was really happening," Mrs. Caswell told the editors. Wiping

tears from her eyes, she added, "Inside I was asking the Lord, 'How can this be? How can this be?'"

Rather than dwelling on the shock and grief, however, Mrs. Caswell said, "I prayed right then, 'Lord, don't let a root of bitterness grow in my heart toward these people because of what one man has done.'"

As God began to give her a sense of forgiveness, she was even able to pray for her husband's attacker. "I'm still praying that before it's too late, he will know the Savior," Mrs. Caswell shared.

Despite his close brush with death, Caswell said he and his wife remain willing to go anywhere God calls them. "The best thing to do is to follow what God wants to do in your life," he emphasized. "He says He wants the whole world to know about His saving grace and salvation. God wants everyone to be saved; it's up to us to obey the call He has for us."

Acknowledging the challenges of seeking in an Arab culture, Caswell said, "For us, it's not so much that it's the safest place physically, but to be in God's will is the best place you can be, especially spiritually."

While "Teri and I are still searching God's will for our lives from this point," he added, "Beyond a shadow of a doubt, He wants us to tell what He has done in our lives so He can get the glory."

Kentucky Baptists will have the opportunity to hear the Caswells' testimony at next week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. They are scheduled to speak Monday evening, Feb. 24, during the conference at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. If your schedule permits, come and hear firsthand how God is at work in the lives of these two dedicated mission workers.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Is it safe to serve overseas?

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The question came up over breakfast with a friend.

He's dedicated to supporting and participating in international missions. But as war looms, attacks on missionaries increase and threats against Americans multiply, he's concerned. And he's thinking hard about how to express his missions commitment in the immediate future.

Is it safe, he asked, for American Christian workers to continue serving overseas?

It's a fair question, and my friend is far from the only one asking it.

The short answer: Yes. Statistically speaking, virtually all of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who travel, live and work abroad do so safely. The few who do encounter danger or death, even in this age of terrorism, usually find it in the form of road accidents and local criminals.

But perception trumps statistics. And the wrenching experience over the last year of American Christian workers attacked, kidnapped or killed in the Philippines, Pakistan, Lebanon, Yemen, India and other places has taken a psychological toll even on committed mission supporters.

As the probability of war in Iraq grows, the U.S. State Department has "strongly urged" American citizens living in the Persian Gulf region to consider leaving. In late January the department advised Americans residing anywhere abroad to make basic "precautionary" preparations for quick evacuation "given the violence, terrorism, or anti-American demonstrations."

"We are monitoring the situation, and we have contingency plans for various eventualities," says Clyde Meador of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, who helps administer the work of more than 5,400 missionaries. "We plan our response to certain events before those events happen."

This comes amid a climate of increased anti-Americanism, exacerbated by the move toward war with Iraq. A Pew Research Center survey of public attitudes in 44 nations late last year found growing resentment about American actions and policies.

Missionaries abroad, however, usually find that local people make distinctions between American government policies and individual Americans—particularly Americans who come to serve and befriend them.

"It's all so iffy," says one Southern Baptist worker with long experience living in the Middle East. "It's hard to predict who's going to react in what way. (Mission workers have) to be on tentative alert, but they're going about their daily lives normally. It doesn't loom over them quite as much as it does" in America with its near-hysterical, 24-hour news cycle.

Bottom line: Mission work remains far less life-threatening than it was a century ago. But there are no "safety guarantees" in serving God—never have been, never will be. The Lord promised to go with us to the end of the age, but He doesn't promise a safe return in this life. Missionaries know that before they go, and they accept it willingly.

"You do not go because Southern Baptists enlisted you, your church selected you or the International Mission Board has deployed you, but because God has called you," IMB President Jerry Rankin told 52 newly appointed mission workers last month.

"Though you go to places of risk and danger, though you encounter trials, illness, misfortune and even threats, do not fear the people or their words, but trust in God. He is your strength, your refuge, your stronghold. You go in His power, His protection and His provision."

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

'Churches Uniting in Christ' fosters ecumenical efforts

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (RNS)—One year after its inauguration, the Churches Uniting in Christ ecumenical effort is taking shape with occasional gatherings across denominational lines.

Bertrice Wood, director of the collaboration, said she has received calls and e-mails about local gatherings that fulfill CUIC's goals of bringing together 10 Protestant denominations to foster understanding and work on racial justice.

The inaugural activities for the movement took place in Memphis, Tenn., in January 2002. There was talk of small gatherings, such as ice cream socials, to start joint efforts by local churches of participating denominations.

"We hope that nobody has ice cream and stops," said Wood, a United Church of Christ minister. "We've made commitments around ... celebration of worship, celebrating the sacraments together."

Beyond work on joint activities and racial justice, CUIC leaders have set a 2007 date for recognition and reconciliation of the ministries of its member denominations. A draft document to move toward that goal is being developed.

The members of Churches Uniting in Christ are the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a "partner in mission and dialogue" with CUIC.

"Obviously we're dealing with a long history of separation among churches and we've all developed theologically and culturally different patterns of ministry," Wood said. She added, however, that "I'm convinced that all of the churches have the will to do it."

Alliance pursues diverse Christian groups

PASADENA, Calif. (RNS)—A new organization that hopes to unite Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians could be in place within two years under a plan adopted by more than 30 church groups at a meeting in Pasadena, Calif.

The new group, Christian Churches Together in the USA, would be the broadest-ever U.S. church alliance and would bring together some denominations that have long been suspicious of each other.

"The new thing here is breadth," said Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church in America. "We're not reaching everyone, but we're reaching a much wider expression ... of what American church life is really like."

Under a draft framework adopted during the Jan. 27-29 meeting at Fuller Theological Seminary, the organization officially would launch once 25 denominations formally agree to participate.

CCTUSA will be loosely organized into five "families" of churches: Roman Catholic, evangelical/Pentecostal, historic (mainline) Protestant, Orthodox and historic racial/ethnic churches. Each "family" will nominate three representatives to serve on the organization's steering committee.

The group also will include representatives of national Christian organizations that span denominational lines, such as the anti-poverty

group Call to Renewal, Evangelicals for Social Action, the Salvation Army and World Vision.

Initially, member churches had hoped to speak with a single voice on such issues as poverty or the environment. That eventually might happen, but leaders took pains to lower expectations on sweeping policy or social statements from the group.

"We cannot act together until we pray and walk together and understand each other better," the draft guidelines say.

Indeed, political and theological differences often have kept the churches at arm's length from each other. The largest church umbrella group, the National Council of Churches, does not include either evangelicals or Catholics.

While the new group seems to have sparked the interest of more evangelical churches, it still is unclear whether the Southern Baptist Convention—the nation's largest Protestant denomination—will participate.

Barrett Duke, vice president for research with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, attended the meeting as an observer. Noting that he appreciated the

group's "desire to be inclusive and obvious respect for differences," he said he could not speculate on whether the SBC would participate.

"Historically, Southern Baptists haven't been joiners," Duke said. "It certainly would be quite out of the ordinary for Southern Baptists to join any organization, even one we might agree with."

Organizers acknowledged "different histories and convictions on some key issues" and said some touchy subjects, such as abortion, homosexuality, women's ordination or the literal truth of the Bible will never be touched.

Ron Sider, director of Evangelicals for Social Action, said the group will be bound by "historic, Christian beliefs about God and the person of Christ," which would exclude groups such as the Mormons. He said the group hopes to find a version of evangelism that is palatable to everyone.

"We don't have one agreed-upon definition, but everyone agrees that the reality of Jesus Christ coming among us and living a model life and dying for the sins of the world and rising on the third day is central," Sider said. "And we want to invite people to accept that wonderful truth and make it the center of their lives."

What is a planned gift?

You may ask, "What is a planned gift?" or "How is a planned gift different from other gifts?" Although it often entails an immediate transfer of money or property to the recipient organization, the recipient organization's benefit most often is deferred. The passage of time is your lifetime and that of your family members, if they are involved in the gift benefits. Furthermore, a planned gift usually involves the assistance of a professional adviser to complete the gift.

Examples of planned gift instruments are: a bequest in your will or revocable living trust, a life insurance policy, a retirement plan/IRA survivor benefit, a charitable gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust and a charitable lead trust.

A planned gift is over and above your regular giving. It is typically, but not always, directed for some specific use, perhaps through the establishment of a perpetual endowment fund that allows you to keep on giving beyond your lifetime.

A wide variety of assets can be used to make planned gifts. Some examples are: cash, stocks and bonds, real estate properties, life insurance and retirement/IRA survivor benefits. Using long-term

capital gain appreciated assets to make planned gifts provides multiple advantages, such as a current income tax deduction based on the current market value of the asset and avoidance of all or a portion of the capital gains tax that would be incurred if you sold the asset.

For more information about how you can make a planned gift for the

benefit of your church and other charitable causes, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me. If you would like to arrange a seminar for your church or a group about the advantages of planned gifts, just call us toll-free. It would be a privilege for Laurie and me to lead such a seminar. There is no cost for our private consultation service or the seminar. In

fact, you and your church already have paid for the services by your gifts through the Kentucky Baptist Convention. A portion of those gifts provides an operating subsidy to the Foundation. Call today!

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

2003 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference is proud to feature the Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference

UNLEASH the POWER ...set free to Soar

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Centenary United Methodist Church

2800 Bates Creek Road / Lexington

(directly across from Immanuel Baptist Church, site of the State Evangelism Conference)

general session / beginning 8:30 am (doors open at 7:45 am)

breakout sessions* following general session

*choose two 1-hour conferences or Dr. Stamford's 2.5-hour weight management conference

SESSIONS and leaders

The Personality Difference - betsy ringer

Marriage Enrichment - dr. hershael & tanya york

Sensible Approaches to Weight Management - bryant stamford

Expressive Worship - pam krejci

Eternal Impact through an Ordinary Life - jill hanes

I'm Not Your Typical Minister's Wife - brenda smith

featured speaker



dr. lois evans

Conference cost \$10 / payable at the door

Lunch cost \$6 / served at 12:30 pm

enjoy the antics of Kay Dekalb Smith with paid lunch ticket**

unreserved lunches will be sold at the door only while supplies last

**if lunches sell out, tickets to Kay Dekalb Smith's performance will still be available for \$6 each



praise and worship leader

starla harbin



for more information, contact Women's Evangelism Area Kentucky Baptist Convention

(502) 254-4737 / Toll Free 1-(888) 254-5722 (in KY) www.kybaptist.org/evangelismconference



This conference is made possible by the Cooperative Program.

SMILE

Receiving a blessing

When you began the pilgrimage to follow Jesus, you never could predict the many blessings He would bestow upon you along the way.

One of the many wonderful blessings I have been privileged to receive came during the Christmas season.

We had purchased a building in Owensboro to house our Cornerstone Counseling center and offices serving the many programs for children and families in Western Kentucky. A capital campaign was organized and many individuals, churches and businesses made financial sacrifices to see this campaign succeed.

However, we were short of our goal and needed approximately \$109,000 to complete the campaign. What a thrill to receive a phone call from a strong supporter stating that the deficit would be covered and the outstanding balance on the building would be paid in full with a single donation.

Words simply are inadequate to express my appreciation to the donor and to the Lord Himself for allowing me to participate in this blessing!

When the Lord is at work, it is such a joy to be able to witness His

glory in prompting His people to be faithful to His commands.

The ministry of KBHC depends on the faithfulness of the Lord's people to respond physically and financially to His proddings.

We serve the Lord by ministering to children and families in crisis throughout the commonwealth of Kentucky and consider all who join us in this effort to be an integral part of the team.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the children and families we serve and the staff who labors faithfully to see the mission accomplished.

Thank you for listening to the Lord and responding obediently. Thank you for allowing us to participate in all these blessings.

As the saying goes, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, or the sort of house I lived in or the kind of car I drove ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Tom Townsend

Tom Townsend is KBHC vice president for development and communications

Etter serves in Haiti

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College junior Melinda Etter, daughter of David and Teresa Etter of Williamsburg, spent the summer of 2002 in Haiti working in two orphanages. Cumberland College senior Paige Kolok had told Etter about the orphanages and helped Etter and her sister Sharon make the arrangements for their summer of ministry.

During their first week in Haiti, Etter and her sister worked in the Precious in His Sight Orphanage. The orphanage cares for abandoned children. They played with the children, washed dishes and cleaned.

For the remainder of the summer the Etter sisters worked in the Notre Maison Orphanage where their help was desperately needed. Notre Maison ministers to children with disabilities. The age of the children ranges from infants through age 17.

At Notre Maison the Etters changed diapers on children, fed children by hand and assisted with physical therapy. During the afternoons, they took the children who were more active outside for additional exercise and play.

Most of the children came to the orphanage from hospitals where

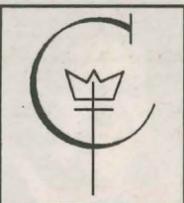
they had been brought by their parents and then abandoned. In most cases, the children do not know how old they are nor are they aware of their complete medical condition. The orphanage staff has to estimate each child's age and care for them without a complete diagnosis.

Etter remembers a 6-year-old boy named Gus who was so tiny he was kept in the same room as the infants. Suffering from physical and mental disabilities, he had not learned to move or walk. The Etters worked with him and by the end of the summer he could walk 20 steps on his own. Now he is running.

As Etter reflects on her summer, she describes her time in Haiti as exhausting but rewarding. Etter, a Cumberland College theater major, feels called to missions but is uncertain about what specific type of service. We know God will lead her and we know she will follow.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 Pronoun
- 4 Essential
- 9 Genetic inits.
- 12 Wrath
- 13 ___ the Netophathite (Jeremiah 40)
- 14 "having Bethel on the west, and ___ on the east" (Genesis 12:8)
- 15 "let thy cattle gender with a ___ kind" (Leviticus 19:19)
- 17 "Let us ___ before the Lord our maker" (Psalm 95:6)
- 19 "take thine ___, eat, drink, and be merry" (Luke 12:19)
- 20 Component of teen's "uniform" (pl.)
- 21 "The street" on the Left Bank
- 23 Evangelist's family
- 26 Prophet who interceded for Judah (2 Chronicles 28)
- 27 "Claudius commanded all Jews to depart from ___" (Acts 18:2)
- 28 Saturate in liquid
- 29 Brit. isl. off Normandy
- 30 Tumors (KJV)
- 33 Cathode (abbr.)
- 34 Santa ___
- 36 Slave
- 37 Layer
- 39 "his meat was ___ and wild honey" (Matthew 3:4)
- 41 Belonging to Shakespeare (with "the")
- 42 Actress Peggy
- 43 "Jubal, father of all such as handle the ___ and organ" (Genesis 4:21)
- 44 "Otello" is one
- 46 Those who bring about
- 49 "the Lord shall ___ the bough" (Isaiah 10:33)
- 50 "O ___, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)
- 52 Sup
- 53 Fine point (abbr.)
- 54 "___ into his gates" (Psalm 100:4)
- 55 Former Ford model

Down

- 1 "Your life is ___ with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3)
- 2 A son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7)
- 3 Extreme
- 4 Usually a sentence from a Bible chapter
- 5 ___ dixit

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

- 6 Article
- 7 Twelve-step group (abbr.)
- 8 "who ... can be ___ unto the Lord?" (Psalm 89:6)
- 9 Belonging to the son of Zorobabel (Luke 3)
- 10 Negative vote (var.)
- 11 Bother
- 16 Escape
- 18 Masculine name
- 20 Bodily swelling

- 21 Of a limited area
- 22 Chief of David's captains (2 Samuel 23)
- 23 "Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of ___" (Luke 16:20)
- 24 "Be ye not unequally ___" (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- 25 Boxes
- 27 Retires
- 31 Sermon
- 32 "I will exalt my throne above the ___" (Isaiah 14:13)
- 35 "my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I ___" (Job 42:8)
- 38 A city of Benjamin (Joshua 18)
- 40 Middle East. rep.
- 41 Brand well known to hockey players
- 43 "___ mercy upon me, O Lord" (Psalm 6:2)
- 44 "For if God ... spared not the ___ world" (2 Peter 2:4-5)
- 45 American author
- 46 Siamese
- 47 Tattle, with "on"
- 48 Reg.
- 51 TLC giver

Last week's solution

A	R	E		C	A	B		V	E	N	O	S				
H	O	L	D		O	D	E		N	E	N	E				
A	B	I	A		A	I	S		D	E	C	A				
				M	U	L	T		I	T	U	D	E	S		
				M	O	S	E	S		E	V	E				
				B	A	B	E	L		A	G	A		A	B	A
				A	R	A	L		R	T	E		A	S	I	A
				D	A	D		S	E	T		O	S	H	E	A
								A	I	M		E	N	T	E	R
				W	H	O	M	S		O	E	V	E	R		
				H	O	L	A		V	I	I		A	L	M	A
				A	M	O	S		A	R	C		Y	E	A	R
				T	E	R	A		L	E	T		A	N	T	

© 1997 Barbour Publishing

Editor details vital role of a free press

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Describing journalism as “fundamentally a moral enterprise,” David Neff said a key role of Christian journalism is to “equip people to be good citizens of God’s kingdom.”

Neff, editor of Christianity Today, was the keynote speaker at the Association of State Baptist Papers annual meeting Feb. 4-7 in Charleston, S.C.

Exploring the issue of “Why a Religious Denomination Needs a Free Press,” Neff told Baptist editors, “Everybody likes the sound of an independent press until it comes to certain kinds of stories and certain kinds of editorials.”

“Why should a Christian magazine report bad things about fellow believers?” he asked. Because such reporting “can help keep people honest” and “can help protect people from those who would take advantage of them.”

Citing such examples as fraudulent investment schemes and immoral behavior of influential leaders, he explained, “It’s important to report on these kinds of things to warn people away from such things.”

An independent religious press “can give those in the movement a sense of the big picture,” Neff added. “God’s agenda is not just local and personal; it is regional and national and global.”

Heightened public awareness of such issues as international religious persecution and the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic church is the result of an unfettered press pursuing stories of concern to readers, he emphasized.

“Remember that the basic purpose of journalism is to equip people to be good citizens, to be informed citizens, to be responsible citizens,” Neff said.

Journalists “have to make value judgments all the time,” he added. “I don’t see journalism divorced from basic questions about the health of the community.”

Neff said publications should have clear policies to address the ethical and news judgments that are likely to arise. Among those issues: the use of anonymous sources and off-the-record information, how to handle corrections, the kinds of advertising it will accept and the line between news and editorial opinion.

Offering advice on how to handle controversial topics, he said readers will tolerate negative news if a publication offers enough news that celebrates the good. Then a publication has to judge if covering a controversial topic is worth investing the time, supplanting other news and inviting potential criticism.

To make that decision, Christianity Today filters all such articles through a list of criteria to determine if it is newsworthy, Neff said. Among the questions asked: Does the average Christian leader need this information to be well informed? Can we provide information not available in other national Christian media? Can we provide accurate reporting on this topic?

“There are times you need to do very aggressive reporting,” Neff said. “We are called to act in the public interest.”

With additional reporting by Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press

The Kentucky Baptist Convention in cooperation with the North American Mission Board presents

MSC Basic Training & Orientation March 14-15 in Louisville

1:30 pm Friday – 5:30 pm Saturday
Kentucky Baptist Convention building



Basic Training is for mission minded adults seeking greater fulfillment in ministry and Mission Service Corps missionaries and candidates.

Participants will

- Experience personal and spiritual growth
- Gain greater awareness of ministry opportunities
- Develop a vision for personal ministry
- Learn how to use their SHAPE in ministry
- Meet new friends with a shared passion for missions
- Understand Mission Service Corps and its role in missions

Cost is \$10 and includes materials, lunch, and evening meal. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, March 5th at 502-245-4101 ext. 397 or www.kybaptist.org/msc

Basic Training is a time of Information and Inspiration!

It’s time to think about a spring trip to Oneida

The days are still cool, the nights are downright cold and there is still snow on the ground, but we are just weeks away from better weather, which means it would be a good time to visit Oneida. Last-minute plans often are hectic. Needless complications can be avoided with a little advance planning.

Several groups already have plans to visit. I can’t tell you just when the dogwood and redbud will bloom, but a trip to the mountains in April or May nearly always will be rewarded with a splendid array of beautiful colors. The arrival of spring flowers can brighten the day of the weariest soul.

Often the biggest obstacle is a lack of planning. Everyone is busy and retirement gives no assurance of doing what you want when you want. A simple one-day trip needs to be planned now, not days prior to your desired visit. By planning now, all who would enjoy a visit to Oneida can mark their calendars.

Many groups like to come on a weekday. Arriving about 10:30 a.m. is best. This gives everyone time to use the restroom before the 11 a.m. chapel service. Nearly every group enjoys seeing our students and faculty assemble in the middle of our school day for a brief but needed time of worship. After chapel you will tour the campus, including our newly remodeled Baker Hall. You will be treated to a free lunch in our dining room before continuing your tour and visiting our craft shop. Nearly all of the items there have been handmade and their sale helps provide scholarships for some students.

The approximate travel time from Lexington is two and one-half hours, not counting rest stops. From Bowling Green or Ashland the trip takes

about three and one-half hours plus rest stops. Groups usually depart between 2 and 3 p.m.

Some groups need to spend the night. That normally can be arranged. We have overnight accommodations for up to 40 guests. We never charge for meals or lodging; the fellowship you provide is full payment. Overnight lodging requires ample notice so we can reserve the necessary housing. We use the same housing for the hundreds of volunteers who help us each year.

Several weeks already are reserved for volunteers.

Other guests prefer a Saturday tour. There is not much difference in a Saturday visit except there is no chapel service. If you arrive between 10 and 11 a.m., we will begin the tour and eat lunch in the dining room. The tour will be completed with a visit to the craft shop. While everyone is welcome to see our farm operation, often the men in the group would rather visit with the farm staff than tour the craft shop.

We will do all in our power to make your trip worthwhile and interesting. Your group may be a Sunday school class or Woman’s Missionary Union group, or it can be a group for all of those in the church who are interested in seeing their mission dollars at work. Remember to make plans as early as possible. While overnight lodging always requires reservations, we would really appreciate knowing about any visit prior to your arrival. Just call (606) 847-4111, ext. 248, and tell the operator that you want to schedule a visit. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

From Myanmar to Clear Creek

American missionaries sowed the gospel in Burma a century ago, and Clear Creek now shares part of the harvest. Do Khan Khup of Myanmar (formerly Burma) enrolled in the fall of 2000, sponsored by a California friend.

John (his Christian name) tells his testimony: “I attended a spiritual crusade at our church for the whole month of December 1994 under the topic, ‘Jesus Is Coming Soon.’ Though I was brought up in good spiritual and Christian environment, I did not have the assurance of salvation as much as I should know. I thought that I was not worse than others and did not do any sin which could cause me to separate from God. In this crusade, I fully understood no matter how

sick soul, but every soul does not need the same medicine,” Khup said. The mountainous and infertile Chin state, Khup’s homeland, is more than 95 percent Christian because American missionaries worked there from 1899-1966. Political changes resulted in the door closing to missionaries.

for the invaluable saving grace of Jesus Christ.”

In 1930 Khup’s grandfather was the first person in his village to convert from animism. His grandfather encountered persecution but now the village is full of Christians. Difficulties with land and harvest took the family to another area, the founding of a new village and a church where his grandfather served as pastor until his death in 1967. Khup’s parents are deacon and deaconess for the church, and before coming to America Khup taught a Sunday school class. He took correspondence courses from several international ministries and often translated materials for friends who did not understand English. “There is medicine in the Bible for every

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Administration issues guidelines on religion in schools

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Department of Education has issued new guidelines on prayer in schools, drawing a mixed reaction from legal groups that keep a close eye on church-state issues.

Education Secretary Rod Paige said the new guidelines meet a requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

"Public schools should not be hostile to the religious rights of their students and their families," Paige said in a Feb. 7 letter to public elementary and secondary schools accompanying the new document.

The seven-page document declares that schools with policies preventing "constitutionally protected prayer in public schools" run the risk of losing funding received under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The guidelines review Supreme Court decisions relating to religion and schools and discuss the First Amendment's ban on government-sponsored religious activity.

"For example, teachers and other public school officials may not lead their classes in prayer, devotional reading from the Bible or other religious activities," the document reads.

But it also discusses instances where religious activity is considered permissible within school walls.

"Among other things, students may read their Bibles or other scriptures, say grace before meals and pray or study religious materials with fel-

low students during recess, the lunch hour or other noninstructional time to the same extent that they may engage in nonreligious activities," the guidelines read.

It also permits students to form religious clubs, prayer groups and gatherings such as the "See You at the Pole" events that take place across the country each September. Such activities are permitted "to the same extent" as other noncurricular activities by student groups.

The guidelines also address the role of teachers, administrators and other school employees. While they are not permitted to encourage or discourage prayer in their official capacities, they can take part in unofficial religious activities.

"Before school or during lunch, for example, teachers may meet with other teachers for prayer or Bible study to the same extent that they may engage in other conversation or nonreligious activities," the document says.

Moments of silence

It also addresses the sometimes-controversial matter of moments of silence, saying "students are free to pray silently or not to pray, during these periods of times."

The document says religious expression is permitted in some class assignments. If a student is assigned to write a poem and he or she chooses to submit a prayer, such as a psalm, it should be "neither penalized nor re-

warded on account of its religious content."

It notes that students selected on a neutral basis to speak at assemblies or neutrally selected graduation speakers may not be restricted in expressing religious beliefs. School officials may clarify through disclaimers the school is not endorsing those beliefs.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State questioned the legal interpretations included in the guidance.

"Federal courts have split over the legality of some religious activities in public schools, such as so-called 'student initiated prayer,' at public school events," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United. "Yet these guidelines flatly state that such activities are legal."

Other groups responded favorably to the document.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, applauded Paige and President Bush "for clarifying and re-emphasizing the freedom of students to express their religious beliefs and convictions while on public school property. We need to consistently remind school administrators and rabid secularists that the Supreme Court has made it clear ... that students do not leave their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, assembly and worship at the boundaries of public school property."

Nathan Diament, public policy di-

rector of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, called the guidelines "a useful tool in promoting religious liberty for America's student population."

Mixed feelings

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs expressed mixed feelings about the guidelines.

"Many of these guidelines are consistent with what the Baptist Joint Committee has advocated for decades," BJCPA Executive Director Brent Walker said in a written statement. "But in some areas, the new guidelines create more room for abuse and state-sponsored religion."

"The guidelines arguably would allow a student speaker at a school assembly to launch into a hateful hellfire-and-damnation sermon complete with an altar call," Walker said. "Is that what we want for captive audiences in public schools?"

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which recently settled a lawsuit on behalf of an elementary school student who wanted to read from his "Beginner's Bible" in class, hailed the new guidelines.

"This is a great moment for students in public schools all across America," Becket Fund President Kevin Hasson said. "At last, we finally have 'teeth' in the guidelines that supposedly have governed school policies since the Clinton administration."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

"Public schools should not be hostile to the religious rights of their students and their families."

U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige

Bush issues call for 'armies of compassion'

NASHVILLE (RNS)—President Bush appealed to religious broadcasters Feb. 10 to help "rally the armies of compassion" to aid the poor and the disadvantaged and overcome "artificial divisions" of race and economics.

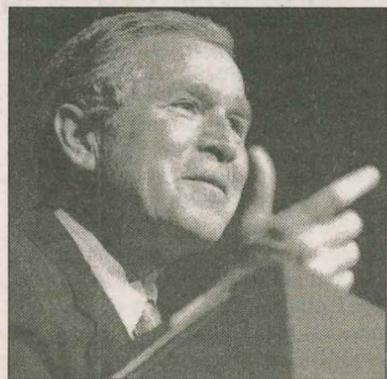
Speaking to the National Religious Broadcasters convention in Nashville, Bush urged support for his stalled faith-based initiative that would help religious charities access government funds.

"I ask our religious broadcasters, those who reach into every corner of America, to rally the armies of compassion so that we can change America one heart, one soul at a time," Bush said.

Two years after Bush introduced his plan to help private groups gain access to federal funds, Congress has failed to pass the measure. A scaled-back compromise crafted by Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., and Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., recently passed the Senate Finance Committee.

A stronger bill, which would allow religious groups to discriminate in hiring and directly receive government dollars, passed the House in 2001 but died when Senate Democrats blocked the bill last year. Bush, frustrated by the delay, has implemented many elements of his plan by executive order.

With a Republican-controlled Congress, Bush has tried to revive the measure. He told the broadcasters that "government must not and will not endorse a religious creed or directly fund religious worship," but said "the days of discriminating against religious groups just because they are re-



PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE President Bush addresses the National Religious Broadcasters convention in Nashville, emphasizing the need for rich and poor churches to join together to help Americans in need. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

ligious are coming to an end."

Bush, using deeply religious language, noted that "11 a.m. on Sunday has been called the most segregated hour in America."

"We all have a responsibility to break down the barriers that divide us," he added. "In Scripture, God commands us to reach out to those who are different, to reconcile with each other, to lay down our lives in services to others."

Calling for urban and suburban churches to partner in helping the disadvantaged and overcoming racism, Bush noted, "The poor and suffering are the responsibility of the whole church, even when they are not members of any church."

Bush also turned his sights toward

Iraq, saying Saddam Hussein has scorned the international community and remains a threat that must be disarmed, with or without United Nations approval.

"Saddam Hussein is a threat. He's a threat to the United States of America, he's a threat to some of our closest friends and allies. We don't accept this threat," Bush said to loud applause.

Bush blasted Hussein for using civilians as military shields, saying they are "entirely expendable when their suffering serves his purposes. America views the Iraqi people as human beings who have suffered long enough under this tyrant."

Glenn Plummer, chairman and CEO of the broadcasters group, said Bush "electrified" the audience but the president's remarks on Iraq were not meant for a friendly audience alone.

"He understood the platform he was speaking to," Plummer said. "He wasn't just talking to a room full of evangelicals. ... When he was speaking, he was speaking to the nation, and even the world."

Issuing a reminder from his State of the Union address, Bush concluded, "Liberty is not America's gift to the world. Liberty is God's gift to every human being in the world."

"We're called to extend the promise of this country into the lives of every citizen who lives here. We're called to defend our nation and to lead the world to peace, and we will meet both challenges with courage and with confidence."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

U.S. House panel approves comprehensive cloning ban

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee has forwarded legislation prohibiting all cloning of human beings to the full House for consideration.

Voting along party lines, Republicans prevailed in a 19-12 vote Feb. 12 in favor of the Human Cloning Prohibition Act, H.R. 534. The measure will move to the floor, where it is expected to be taken up when the House reconvenes Feb. 25 after the President's Day recess.

It is likely the House will easily approve the bill. In the last congressional session, representatives passed a similar proposal by more than 100 votes. Its future in the Senate is much more doubtful. The Senate failed to act on the House-approved measure last year.

Reps. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., and Bart Stupak, D-Mich., are the lead House sponsors of the legislation. Sens. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Mary Landrieu, D-La., are sponsoring similar legislation in the Senate.

A competing Senate bill, sponsored by Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, would allow "therapeutic cloning" for scientific research but would ban reproductive cloning.

The House committee rejected attempts to amend the bill to permit the cloning of human embryos in order to do research. Opponents of cloning for both reproductive and research purposes affirmed the committee action.

Noting that "the cloning issue marks a clear fork in the road for our culture," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said he was "very pleased" with the committee vote.

Douglas Johnson of the National Right to Life Committee called the vote "a step toward preventing cloned human embryo farms from opening for business."

President Bush has promised to sign a bill that imposes a comprehensive ban on all human cloning.

With additional reporting by Religion News Service

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ A new effort by deaf believers in the Czech Republic to reach other deaf Czechs. They have rented a meeting room in the downtown area of a major city and hope to begin a church there.

■ Wisdom for missionaries in Rome, as they seek an ideal location to begin a coffee house/storefront ministry.

■ Ministry among young people in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. Missionaries hope to begin a Bible storying group with young adults who have been attending English and computer classes.

■ Missionaries in Warsaw, Poland, as they ask God to give them 20 Polish Christians to begin 20 new cell groups.

■ Efforts under way in Moscow to assist Russian church leaders in developing healthy Sunday schools and small-group Bible studies.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Kawai 5'2" concert grand piano. Perfect condition; black ebony finish; attached dehumidifier included. \$10,000 (priced new at \$17,000-\$21,000). (502) 589-6658 or 479-0306.

FOR SALE: 1989 Ford 29-passenger bus. 54,000 miles. Good shape. \$15,000. First Baptist Sellersburg; (812) 246-2563 or 246-9607.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Turner Ridge Baptist Church. Strong, mission-minded church located in Northern Kentucky and affiliated with Crittenden Baptist Association. Send resumé to: Terry Sowder, 421 Straightshoot Road, Falmouth, KY 41040.

SEEKING: An exciting, energetic minister of music, worship and praise. Growing church in the Bowling Green suburbs seeks a dedicated, highly motivated, bivocational music minister. The successful applicant will be comfortable with a blended style of music accompanied by a worship band. If you are a flexible, versatile individual who loves the Lord and are prayerfully seeking a way to serve God, please submit a resumé to: Music Minister Search Team, Meadow Land Baptist Church, 1188 Detour Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Video and audio tapes are welcome, but cannot be returned.

SEEKING: Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C., is currently accepting applications for a senior pastor. Snyder maintains a diverse congregation with a cosmopolitan atmosphere influenced by its military-related membership. Although it is not a young church (52 years old), it is not tradition-bound, making it attractive to young couples. Membership is approximately 2,200 with a steady turnover due to the military influence keeping the congregation "fresh." It has both traditional and contemporary worship services led each Sunday morning by the senior pastor. The church maintains ties to the Southern Baptist Convention and is strongly connected to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. It offers a quality approach to church programming and continues to maintain a very strong missions emphasis. The senior pastor will serve with seven full-time staff members—six ministerial and one layperson. Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, 2516 Huntington Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28303-5248, Attn: Wayne Byrd.

SEEKING: The dynamic fellowship at First Baptist Church, LaCenter, seeks an energetic and dedicated worship leader for its blended contemporary/traditional music programs, and to coordinate our expanding senior and single adult ministries as we press on toward the high calling of the gospel. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, PO Box 239, LaCenter, KY 42056.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to children for Thornhill Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky. Requires managing and leading a viable children's ministry. Experience teaching and working with children preferred. Interested parties should fax resumé c/o John Gilbert at (859) 543-9868, or e-mail to john.gilbert@freedomlender.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music to lead blended worship and fully-graded choirs for Oakland Baptist Church (12 miles north of Bowling Green). PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159; (270) 563-4011. Dr. Tom Stokes, pastor.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to youth/pastoral assistant for Thornhill Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky. Requires managing and leading a viable youth ministry in addition to assisting the pastor. Experience as youth minister preferred; college/seminary degree a plus. Interested parties should fax resumé c/o John Gilbert at (859) 543-9868, or e-mail to john.gilbert@freedomlender.com. A full job description is available at <http://users.dcr.net/~thbchurch/>.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader. Must live on field. Harlan Baptist Church, Harlan, Ky. Contact Keenan Braden, (606) 573-4904.

SEEKING: West Union Baptist Association, affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, is seeking candidates for the position of director of missions. West Union is composed of 48 churches and one mission located in Ballard and McCracken counties of Western Kentucky. The churches of the association minister in both rural and urban settings. The congregations of the association vary in size from multi-staff churches to bivocational churches. In recent years, the association has been committed to partnership missions. The association also directs a Hispanic ministry to seasonal migrant farm workers. The director of missions is assisted by a full-time secretary and a part-time secretary. Resumes from prospective candidates will be received until March 15, 2003. Please send resumes and/or inquiries to: Director of Missions Search Committee, West Union Baptist Association, 2541 Olivet Church Road, Paducah, KY 42001

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth for Faith Baptist Church. Duties include: minister to youth in spiritual, personal and educational growth through Bible study, mentoring, spiritual leadership, community service and evangelism; work with youth and nominating committees to implement youth ministry. Special qualifications: love of time spent with youth; openness to creative approaches in ministry; basic understanding of group dynamics; team-player as staff person; organizationally functional. Requirements: completion of seminary degree; theologically and denominationally moderate; supportive of CBF and KBF. Send resumé and cover letter to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Faith Baptist Church, 116 Pochontas Trail, Georgetown, KY 40324.

SEEKING: Broadway Baptist Church, a CBF affiliate in Louisville, Ky., is seeking an experienced minister of adult education and discipleship with an emphasis in developing small-group ministries and outreach. For more information, go to www.broadwaybaptist.org/search.htm, or write to the church c/o Education Search Committee, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207.

SEEKING: Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, is seeking a full-time minister of education and discipleship. Broadway is an ecumenically-minded, CBF-affiliated congregation with a commitment to inner-city ministry. We worship in the liturgical tradition. Send resumé or recommendations to Cindy Johnson, chair, Education Search Committee, 305 W Broadway, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Pioneer Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Morning services run between 60 and 80. Send resumé to: Jackie Major, 315 Robb Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330, or e-mail: jmajor@direcway.com. For more information, call (859) 865-4447.

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. Resumes welcome until April 27, 2003. Call (606) 436-4716 or 439-3928 for more information.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for South Side Baptist Church in Covington, Ky. We are a mission-minded inner-city church, with both inner-city and suburban members. We utilize our facility (gymnasium, cafeteria and large classrooms) to operate a variety of weekday inner-city programs. Our childcare program, inner-city ministry and new community center (each with staff in place) would require a pastor who possesses strong administrative and leadership abilities. Pastor needs to be someone who has a love for and ability to minister to all people. College and seminary degrees and pastoral experience is preferred. We are affiliated with the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, KBC and SBC. Northern Kentucky is located minutes from Cincinnati, which is an exciting place to live, having professional sports, the arts, international airport, several colleges, good secondary schools, etc. Send resumé before April 1 to: Search Committee, South Side Baptist Church, 1501 Holman Ave., Covington, KY 41011.

SEEKING: Minister of youth and recreation. Needed immediately to provide comprehensive youth ministry program (6th-12th grades). Also possible involvement with potential college program, as well as church-wide recreation program. 1,100-member Southern Baptist church with community-wide focus/outreach. Prefer seminary graduate (MRE or comparable). Competitive salary based on experience, plus excellent medical/dental insurance, plus SBC annuity. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, West Lynchburg Baptist Church, 3031 Memorial Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501, or e-mail office@WestLynchburgBaptist.org.

SEEKING: Prayfully considering resumes and references for two full-time ministers: minister of students and minister of education. Interested applicants, please forward correspondence to: Personnel Committee Chair, First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065.

SEEKING: Pastor for English-language Baptist church in Germany (predominantly military). Send resumes and referrals to: Faith Baptist Church, Lichtenbrucherstrasse 17, D-67661 Kaiserslautern, Germany, or e-mail: pastorsearch@faithbaptistchurch.de. Web site: www.faithbaptistchurch.de.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth for Audubon Baptist Church. Approximately 15 to 20 hours per week. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217.

SEEKING: Care pastor to develop a lay and professional counseling network, build a dynamic prayer ministry and give guidance to gender-based, family life and support group ministries of the church. Requirements: MDiv degree; extensive experience in pastoral care, ministry leadership and spiritual development; minimum of 10 years effective ministry experience. Please send resumé with references to: Dr. Scott Kilgore, Living Hope Baptist Church, 1805 Westen Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104, or via e-mail to: skilgore@livinghopebaptistchurch.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to lead youth and oversee new activities center for Hall Street Baptist Church in Owensboro. Please send your resumé to: Hall Street Baptist Church, 1102 Hall St., Owensboro, KY 42303, Attn: Larry Render.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music to lead a blended worship service and direct adult and children's choirs. Interested candidates should submit resumes and references to: Chevy Chase Baptist Church, 200 Colony Blvd., Lexington, KY 40502, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time director of preschool for Sunshine Korner Nursery School of Greenview Baptist Church, Florence, Ky. Candidate must meet all state guidelines for preschool education and/or training. \$16,000 annual salary for Monday-Friday. Send resumé to: Greenview Baptist Church, 1050 Burlington Pike, Florence, KY 41042, Attn: Pastor Robert Golden. Training will be provided by current director. For more information you may call the pastor at (859) 525-6004.

SEEKING: Minister to single adults, Lexington/Midlands of South Carolina. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Lexington Baptist Church, 308 E Main St., Lexington, SC 29072.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for church located in a growing community. Send resumé to: Fairlane Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 5913 Herring Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

WANTED: Mid-sized central Kentucky church wants to buy a good used baby grand piano. Contact (606) 365-2116.

PEOPLE

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ BELFRY—First Church called **Bill and Teresa Rogers** to serve as youth directors. **Mark Helton** is pastor.

■ CADIZ—Liberty Point Church ordained **Norman Cotton** as minister of youth Feb. 16.

■ DRY RIDGE—Sherman Church will host a marriage retreat March 22, 10 a.m. For information, call (859) 428-2695.

■ EARLINGTON—**David Simpson** resigned as pastor at First Church.

■ ERLANGER—Erlanger Church will host "A Day of Renewal" women's conference March 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., with guest speaker **Sylvia Harney**. For information, call (859) 727-2588.

■ GRAND RIVERS—**Gordon Holland** recently resigned as pastor of Sugar Creek Church.

■ HAZARD—**Alan Dodson** resigned as pastor of First Church to accept the call as pastor of Lakota Hills Church in West Chester, Ohio.

■ HENDERSON—Zion Church will host "My Heart, Your Home" women's conference Feb. 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Henderson Fine Art Center. For information, call (270) 826-4952.

■ HOLMES MILL—Huff Settlement Church ordained **Chris Peace** as a deacon Feb. 16.

■ HOPKINSVILLE—Calvary Memorial Church dedicated its new sanctuary Feb. 2. **Larry Combs** is pastor.

■ JEFFERSONVILLE—Jeffersonville Church called **Marion Brewer** as interim pastor.

■ KEVIL—Kevil Church called **Don Phippen** as interim pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Minors Lane Church will hold revival services Feb. 23, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Feb. 24-26, 7 p.m., with **David Livingston** as evangelist. **Kevin Nethery** is pastor.

The Louisville Orchestra and St. Matthews Church Sanctuary Choir will present a concert of classical and sacred selections March 21, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 896-8882.

■ MADISONVILLE—Immanuel Church recently called **Eric McDonnell** as pastor.

■ MONTICELLO—Mount Zion Church recently called **Keith McKim** as pastor.

■ MORTONS GAP—Freedom Church will celebrate homecoming Feb. 22. **Bobby Davis** is pastor.

■ MOUTH CARD—**John Mauldin** resigned as pastor of First Victory Mission.

■ PADUCAH—Immanuel Church called **Lisa Holm** as interim minis-

ter of music. **Jamie Broome** is pastor.

Bryan Powell resigned as minister of youth and activities at Olivet Church, to become pastor of First Church, Linden, Tenn.

West End Church honored Pastor **Terry Sills** Dec. 29 for 50 years of service.

■ REGINA—Faith First Church called **Nick Damron** as interim pastor.

■ TAYLORSVILLE—Plum Creek Church will hold dedication services for its educational/fellowship building Feb. 23, 11 a.m. **Todd Robertson**, missions strategist for Long Run Association, will be guest speaker. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service.

■ UNIONTOWN—Calvary Church will host **Bill Mackey**, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as guest speaker March 2, 11 a.m. **Jim Adams** is pastor.

Shuttle astronaut, Christian singer shared spiritual bond

By Todd Starnes
Baptist Press

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (BP)—It seemed, at first, to be an unlikely friendship.

He was a contemporary Christian musician. The man standing in line waiting for his autograph was an astronaut.

The musician was Steve Green. The astronaut was Rick Husband. But after that chance encounter, the pair became close friends and spiritual confidants.

Husband was commander of the space shuttle Columbia. He and six other astronauts were killed Feb. 1 when their ship disintegrated upon reentering the earth's atmosphere after a 16-day mission. Investigators have yet to determine what caused NASA's oldest space orbiter to crash.

One week after the disaster Green told Baptist Press he will remember Husband as a man who answered the call of God to be an astronaut.

"Rick recognized his calling absolutely to be an astronaut," Green said during a phone interview from his home in Franklin, Tenn. "Rick was a shining example of someone who understood his calling. He had been gifted and called into an arena of service as an astronaut. He did it with everything inside of him. He was the best he could possibly be and he did it to the glory of God."

A national hero

Hailed by President Bush as an American hero, Husband was a Christian who sang in a church choir and took time out of his relentless schedule to videotape daily devotionals for his children.

A married father of two, Husband, 45, was a colonel in the U.S. Air Force who already had been to space once, aboard space shuttle Discovery in 1999, and he was an experienced pilot who had logged more than 3,800 hours of flight time in more than 40 types of aircraft.

After graduating from Texas Tech University in 1980, Husband went immediately into the Air Force, where he was trained on the F-4 fighter



RICK HUSBAND The commander of the space shuttle Columbia posed for a photo prior to the Feb. 1 disaster that claimed the lives of the crew. (NASA photo)

plane. He became a flight instructor and then a test pilot, testing the F-4 and all five models of the F-15.

Husband later became an F-15 aerial demonstration pilot and went on an exchange with the Royal Air Force in Boscombe Down, England.

Aboard Columbia, Husband carried with him a ball cap from Focus on the Family, a ministry founded by Christian psychologist James Dodson.

Following their 1999 encounter at a concert in Houston, Green accepted an invitation to watch Husband blast into space aboard Discovery.

"The launch was amazing," Green said. "I had watched them on television but there's nothing quite like being there in person and watching the amazing display of power. Not only was it visually stunning, there was just the sheer energy of the event."

Green laughed as he remembered meeting Husband for the first time. "His wife told me that he was an astronaut and I turned back into a little boy almost immediately," Green said. "I told everyone in line to get my autograph that Rick was an astronaut and people instantly started gravitating toward him."

The initial bond between the two men was based on careers. "Every boy dreams of being able to fly," Green said. "And mine was to go into space. Initially I was fascinated with his job and what he got to do. As time went

on, the awe of that began to fade and I began to appreciate Rick as a person. I have a real affection for a guy who loved the Lord and lived out his faith in Christ in a very real way and in an inspiring way."

While the friendship remained long distance, Green in Tennessee and Husband in Houston, the pair stayed in touch through the years. Green said it was the way Husband handled his fame that impressed him the most.

"One of the reasons I was drawn to Rick was the way he exemplified what I wanted to be. You have a job that thrusts you into the public eye but you don't really think of it as that. You think of it as your calling. It isn't something you hold on to or parade around town. Rick quietly went about his business. He didn't wear a patch on his sleeve that said, 'Look at me. I'm an astronaut.'"

Green said Husband's personal testimony wasn't flamboyant. "He was never shy or timid about expressing his faith in natural or simple ways."

Practical faith

Green recounted the day Columbia was set to lift off as an example of Husband's genuine faith.

"About a minute before liftoff, Mission Control said it was a great day. There Rick is perched atop the shuttle about to go into space and his response was, 'The Lord has given us a great day.'"

"That statement came out of the overflow of his heart," Green said. "It is a witness that none of this is by chance. There is a sovereign Lord who rules the affairs of men. It was a statement acknowledging God's providence. It was a strong statement and I don't believe it went unnoticed."

Green said Husband wasn't obnoxious when he shared his testimony, noting that he never shied away from an opportunity to share Jesus.

"How many times are we concerned that it's not appropriate to say something to a non-believer?" Green asked. "It is always appropriate to say something about Christ."

Green said he also was impressed with Husband's commitment to his family. "When you are an astronaut,

your life is not your own. Your days are mapped out and it is extremely demanding. But out of the busyness of life he took time to disciple his own kids. It is a great reminder to us dads who could easily neglect that primary calling."

The calling on Husband's life to be an astronaut was confusing to some, Green said.

"A secular society has difficulty reconciling how a Christian can be a scientist," Green said. "They believe that creation denies an interest in science. It doesn't. They believe a Christian is someone who talks about heaven so they are worthless here on earth. Rick was a Christian and held to a Christian hope of a better place—heaven. Yet he spent his life trying to make earth a better place."

Husband, Green said, was anxious that the shuttle mission succeed. "Rick wanted the science experiments on board to benefit people's lives," he said. "That is a thoroughly Christian principle. It is the same as someone in the medical field having an earnest desire to help improve the quality of life by providing medicine to the less fortunate."

There is a lesson in Husband's life for children, Green added. "God gives kids dreams," he said. "Rick had a dream when he was 4 years old. He wanted to be a pilot and maybe an astronaut. The message is that God puts dreams in people. If you have a dream, there are two things to understand. First, go for it because God gives you dreams. Second, as a child of God, the overarching call on your life is the summons to belong to God."

"God places His children in every possible corner of society with great diversity of gifts and callings," Green said. "And He gives us great joy in that. Rick really loved what he was doing and what he did, he did for the glory of God."

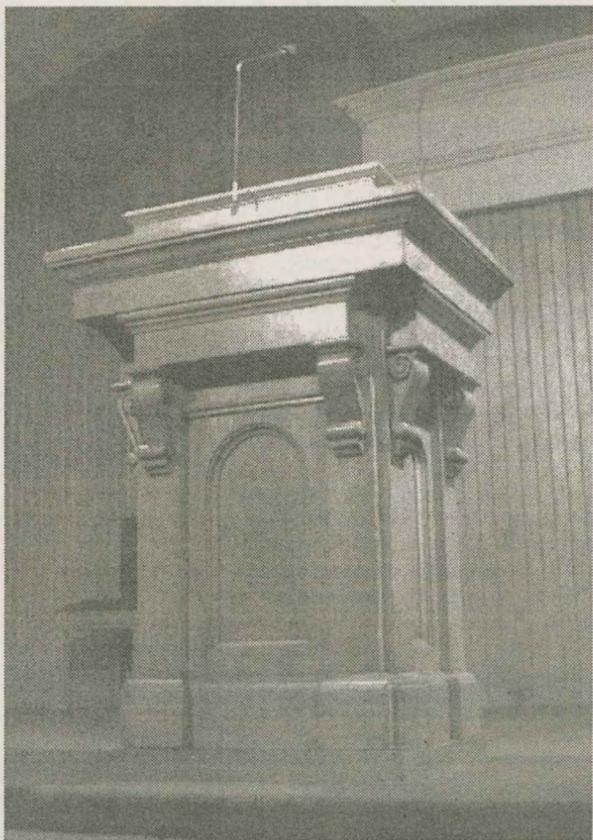
While Green will mourn the loss of a friend, his fascination with space remains strong.

"We are a nation of explorers and inventors," Green said. "We continue to push back the limits. It's part of the nature of our society and our country. And space travel must go on."

"Rick (Husband) really loved what he was doing and what he did, he did for the glory of God."

Christian singer
Steve Green

It's a BIG responsibility!



How are you going to prepare for it?

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE has been preparing adults for ministry since 1926. We offer solid, Bible based education that stands on the ageless Word of God, but reaches out to meet contemporary ministry needs.

In addition to our standard Bachelor of Arts in Ministry degree, we now offer an Associate of Arts degree that you can earn with evening classes alone. You can even take part in online classes, without leaving your home or church office!

If God has called you into His service, consider Clear Creek for your training. After all, it is a big responsibility.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College exists to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service.

A.A.B.C. and S.A.C.S. accredited



CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

300 Clear Creek Road

Pineville, Kentucky 40977-9754

Bill D. Whittaker, President

Phone: 606-337-3196 Fax: 606-337-2372

Internet: www.ccbbc.edu

E-Mail: ccbhc@ccbhc.edu