



# WESTERN RECORDER

February 25, 2003  
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## Partnership Missions

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### FOR THE RECORD

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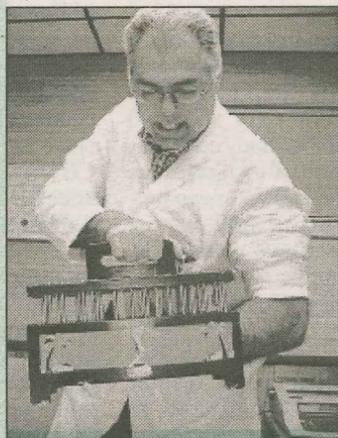


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**TRICK OF THE TRADE** Magician Jerry Burgess of Whitley City uses a variety of illusions, such as driving nails through his arm, to share spiritual truths. (BP photo)

## Whitley City doc uses illusions to share his faith

By Jason Reagan  
*Baptist Press*

WHITLEY CITY (BP)—When professional magician Jerry Burgess performs his illusions, the tricks are fake but his message is real.

Burgess, a physician and pharmacy owner in Whitley City, has ministered both as a hometown family doctor and as a gospel illusionist on five continents using his talents to draw people to the message of Christ.

"I sense that I have been called to be a literal fulfillment of Paul's exhortation that we must be all things to all men that by all means we might win some," Burgess said. "We're using all means."

As head of Divine Design Ministries, Burgess has combined evangelistic preaching with illusions such as levitation, hidden coins and even nails through his arm as a means to spread the gospel.

Burgess, who grew up in Whitley City, said he doesn't remember when he became enthralled with illusions, but one of his older patients does.

"A lady told me when I was just in diapers, I crawled up in her lap and told her I was going to be a 'gician,'" he said.

As a child, Burgess rarely missed a television magic show and checked out every book available on the subject.

"I always thought magic was the most entertaining art there was," he said.

In 1969, Burgess enrolled at the University of Kentucky in Lexington as a pre-med student. While studying medicine, Burgess met a faculty member who shared his love of illusions. The duo began a mentoring relationship that led Burgess to a second career as a professional magician.

□ See *Kentucky magician* ..., page 7

## Warm reception



**STORM-RELATED MINISTRY** From feeding to chainsaw crews, Kentucky Baptists were out in force recently after ice storms hit much of northeast Kentucky. **Above:** Charles Taylor, a member of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg, cuts down limbs into a portable size in a yard in Lawrenceburg. Volunteers had more than 90 requests for such help in that town (Photo by David Winfrey). **Below:** (From left) Herberta Matthews, Carolyn Matthews, Roger Cowan, Sue Wheaton and Edgar Matthews pray at the fellowship center of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington. The church hosted 75 residents after the storm. (Photo by Micki Robison)

## Kentucky Baptists minister after ice storm

By David Winfrey  
*News Director*

LEXINGTON—Kentucky Baptists ran chainsaws, generators and kitchens to help people affected by the ice storms that cut off power for Kentuckians from Lawrenceburg to Grayson.

This past weekend, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers were assembled in Lawrenceburg, Vanceburg and Grayson.

In Lexington, at least two Kentucky Baptist congregations opened their doors as shelters for residents whose homes had no power.

□ See *Kentucky Baptists* ..., page 8



## True Love Waits

### Youth ministers: Media helps and hurts in fighting teen sex

By Keith Todd  
*State Correspondent*

CALVERT CITY—Television has become both an enemy and ally in the battle against teen premarital sex, according to several Western Kentucky youth ministers who attended a recent True Love Waits rally in Calvert City.

"Public service announcements on TV have been helpful in telling teenagers that one in five Americans who are sexually active have a sexually transmitted disease and that condoms fail about 15 percent of the time," noted Michael Cruce, youth pastor at Pathway Baptist Church in Calvert City.

"This so-called safe sex is just not

safe," Cruce said. "That's reality."

"The media's message is helping scare kids into not having premarital sex," added Greg Northcutt, youth minister at First Baptist Church of Calvert City.

But TV and other media still offer a mixed message, Cruce said.

"On the one hand, television programs glorify sex and fail to show the consequences of sex before marriage, then they turn around and show teenagers the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases in public service announcements," he said.

"The media send (teens) a really different message other than what the truth is. Television and movies make everything look fun, like there's no consequences," Cruce said. "We have

to teach teenagers there are consequences. You reap what you sow."

Approximately 130 teenagers from half a dozen churches heard that message during the True Love Waits rally. The Feb. 12 event at the Calvert City Civic Center featured personal testimonies, skits and a message on the True Love Waits theme.

Northcutt said the True Love Waits message combines both health-oriented and God-oriented perspectives.

"It's very valuable because the world has kids focused on sex," he said.

The True Love Waits program encourages teenagers to sign commitment cards promising to abstain from sex until marriage.

□ See *Youth ministers* ..., page 10

## BWA's Lotz 'saddened' by proposed SBC funding cut

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

CAMPBELLSVILLE—The proposal by Southern Baptist Convention leaders to reduce funding to the Baptist World Alliance "could not come at a worse time in world history," declared Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary.

Lotz, who was in Kentucky last week to speak at Campbellsville University, told the Western Recorder he is "really sad and disappointed" by the SBC Executive Committee action since BWA leaders "have bent over backwards to accommodate the concerns of our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters."

The SBC proposal to redirect \$125,000 from BWA to a new Southern Baptist international initiative with "like-minded Christian bodies" comes amid disagreement over the BWA's consideration of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for membership.

While the SBC report acknowledges the membership issue "rests solely with the BWA," it adds that the SBC "has much more than a passing interest in the ultimate decision to be made by the BWA."

As SBC leaders evaluate the denomination's future involvement in BWA, Lotz said, "We have included SBC leaders in our top leadership positions and decision-making bodies," including SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman who serves as a BWA vice president.

Noting that one of the roles of BWA officers is raising funds for the alliance, Lotz said he is disappointed that Southern Baptist leaders are directing the effort to decrease BWA's funding.

"In partially defunding the BWA, this SBC decision actually is reducing funding for our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering from religious persecution, lack of human rights and generally all the prejudices of a minority movement in a clash of civilizations," he emphasized.

Lotz said he fears the message being sent by SBC leaders to Baptists around the world is: "We do not need you. We will do it on our own and form our own alliances and networking."

Citing the SBC proposal to strengthen relationships with "like-minded Christians," Lotz asked, "If Baptists in the Baptist World Alliance are not like-minded Christians, who are we then? Who are Baptists in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, India, Brazil, Australia, Japan, Korea? Are we not all like-minded Christians?"

Despite the funding proposal, "we love Southern Baptists and want them to participate in all of the life of the Baptist World Alliance," Lotz said.

## SBC proposal cuts BWA funds 30 percent

By Philip Poole and Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Southern Baptist Convention leaders have proposed cutting the SBC's contribution to the Baptist World Alliance by 30 percent to begin its own international emphasis in cooperation with "like-minded Christian bodies."

Although the SBC plans to remain a member of the Baptist World Alliance for now, it will begin developing a "new concept" for worldwide relationships, under a plan approved by the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 17-18.

The action stems from Southern Baptist leaders' opposition to the BWA's move toward granting membership to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The Southern Baptist Executive Committee asked a task force to explore a new emphasis, tentatively called "Kingdom Relationships," to "look toward strengthening relationships with other like-minded Christian bodies" worldwide. The effort will become part of Empowering Kingdom Growth, an evangelism initiative launched at the 2002 SBC annual meeting.

The recommendation was made by a nine-member study committee reactivated in September 2002 to consider the SBC's membership in BWA. The committee includes such high-profile SBC leaders as Chapman, LifeWay Christian Resources President Jimmy Draper, former SBC President Tom Elliff, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson, retired judge Paul Pressler and International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

The committee's recommendation was approved Feb. 17 with no dissenting votes and with virtually no discussion.

### Budget plan redirects \$125,000

One day later, the Executive Committee approved a \$182 million SBC budget for 2003-04 that reduces its current \$425,000 annual funding for BWA by \$125,000 and redirects those

funds to the new initiative. The budget proposal will be presented for messenger action at the SBC annual meeting in June.

The SBC is the largest contributor to BWA, which has an annual budget of \$1.8 million. The SBC's \$425,000 contribution accounts for about 80 percent of the member-body contributions and 24 percent of total revenue.

Founded in 1905, BWA is an umbrella organization of 200 Baptist unions and conventions worldwide, representing 43 million baptized believers in 193,000 churches.

The background report provided to Executive Committee members said the study committee is not recommending withdrawal from BWA "at the present time" despite concerns by some Southern Baptist leaders about the possibility that BWA will approve a membership request from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The written report and comments by Executive Committee President Morris Chapman focused on the CBF membership application. The report said the SBC study committee was "offering no statement on the issue of the (CBF's) membership in the BWA" but noted that the SBC has "much more than a passing interest" in BWA's decision.

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said he was saddened by the SBC leaders' proposal.

"This is a sad day for the BWA," he noted, "especially when we remember that it was SBC leadership that contributed greatly to the initial drive to start the BWA in 1905."

CBF leaders declined to comment on the SBC action. "We are in due diligence in our application process with the BWA," said CBF spokesman Ben McDade. "When we hear from that body, we will have a response."

Chapman said it is "not the place" of the SBC to tell BWA how to act on the membership question but that Southern Baptists are "grappling with the question of whether the Baptist World Alliance or the Southern Baptist Convention is the best representative of Southern Baptists around the

world."

Chapman later told reporters he was "deeply disappointed" in the procedure used by the BWA membership committee in considering the CBF request. In July 2002 the membership committee reported to the BWA Executive Committee that it would consider approval of the request if the CBF would distinguish itself as "separate" from the SBC, which the CBF did last September.

Chapman said the usual procedure for membership was not followed during the July discussion. The membership committee "seemed determined to report their recommendation before they made a formal recommendation," he said. That action made the "300-member body a membership committee of the whole" and seemed to turn the process "on its head," he added.

### 'Spinning our wheels'

"For the first time in my 12 years of involvement with the BWA, I felt disappointment," Chapman said. "It caused us to stop and rethink that maybe we'd been spinning our wheels rather than making progress" in relationships with BWA.

He also expressed concern about who would monitor whether the membership conditions are followed. If CBF is separate from the SBC, "does that mean that from now on they will build churches from the historical perspective of starting new churches rather than soliciting funding and manpower from Southern Baptist churches?" Chapman asked.

He told reporters the new SBC-led worldwide emphasis "won't be a duplication of the BWA." Initiatives might include Bible conferences and church-growth conferences that would involve "primarily Southern Baptist entities" around the world.

"The committee is looking at the whole matter one step at a time," Chapman said. "We just don't know what will happen to our Southern Baptist relationship to the Baptist World Alliance."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

## Budget plan seeks to enhance CP education at SBC seminaries

By Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—An added focus on Cooperative Program education has been incorporated into the proposed Southern Baptist Convention budget for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

The SBC Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-18, approved a recommendation that \$250,000 be used "to fund the enhancement of CP education at the six (SBC) seminaries" if the SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget exceeds its goal of \$182,323,110.

The proposal, presented by a 10-member SBC Funding Study Committee, noted that Executive Committee staff and seminary leaders "have explored ways to include Cooperative Program education more intentionally and more intensively in

the curriculum."

Recommending "a regular course of study on the Cooperative Program as a required part of the basic degrees offered at the seminaries," the proposal calls for such courses "to challenge the students to become effective proponents of the purposes and the programs of the SBC."

The overall budget will be presented to messengers for consideration during the June 2003 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

The budget, as recommended by the Executive Committee, will continue to allocate:

- 50 percent of receipts to the International Mission Board.
- 22.79 percent to the North American Mission Board.
- 21.4 percent to the seminaries.
- 1.49 percent to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.
- 3.32 percent to the Executive

Committee, including costs for the SBC annual meeting.

■ 0.76 percent to the Annuity Board for its ministry to retired ministers whose annuities were underfunded.

■ 0.24 percent for the SBC Historical Library and Archives.

In other Executive Committee business:

■ Jim Williams, chairman of the business and finance subcommittee, reported that first quarter Cooperative Program receipts were 2.32 percent below the first quarter of the previous fiscal year. Noting that funds from five state conventions were not received by the end of the quarter, he said the decrease "was merely because of the timing of some receipts coming in."

■ Robert Record, president of the North American Mission Board, reported that NAMB was withdrawing

its request to restructure the FamilyNet cable TV network as a for-profit entity. FamilyNet has received a channel on the EchoStar satellite network on a nonprofit basis, giving FamilyNet an added potential audience of 8 million viewers.

■ Committee members affirmed the stance by Executive Committee leaders against proposed sexual orientation protections in Nashville. A proposal to include homosexuals as a protected class was withdrawn Feb. 4 by a member of the Nashville Metro Council.

■ A 2.3 percent increase was approved for the Executive Committee staff salary structure, effective Oct. 1.

■ Notice was given that Barry McCarty will again serve as chief parliamentarian during the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix at a cost of \$9,500.

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

## KBC recognizes top Cooperative Program supporters

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

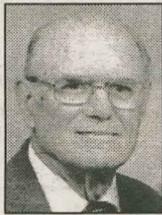
LEXINGTON—Two “missions giants” are being recognized by Kentucky Baptists for their support of the Cooperative Program, the unified giving plan through which Southern Baptists support mission work around the world.

J. Chester Badgett and Verlin Kruschwitz were each recognized Monday for lifetime achievement in supporting the Cooperative Program. They and others were honored at a luncheon held in Lexington just before the start of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism Conference.

“Both of these men have just stood as giants in their commitment and love and passion for missions,” said Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church and a past president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. “Both churches were great missions congregations. (Badgett and Kruschwitz) taught their congregations how to love missions work.”

Badgett, an 88-year-old native of Casey County, served as pastor of several Kentucky Baptist churches before beginning his 30-year pastorate at Campbellsville Baptist Church in 1950.

After Campbellsville's sanctuary was destroyed by fire in 1962, Badgett took the unusual action of convincing the church to increase its Cooperative Program giving by 2 percent.



Badgett



Kruschwitz

### KBC churches with CP gifts totalling more than \$1 million

**\$8 million**  
Severns Valley, Elizabethtown

**\$6 million**  
Paducah First Baptist

**\$5 million**  
Immanuel, Lexington  
Owensboro First Baptist  
Somerset First Baptist

**\$4 million**  
Porter Memorial, Lexington

**\$3 million**  
Campbellsville Baptist  
Central Baptist, Winchester  
Hopkinsville Second Baptist  
Madisonville First Baptist  
Murray First Baptist  
Owensboro Third Baptist  
Walnut Street, Louisville

**\$2 million**  
Ashland First Baptist  
Beaver Dam Baptist  
Bowling Green First Baptist  
Briensburg Baptist, Benton  
Calvary Baptist, Lexington  
Central Baptist, Corbin  
Erlanger Baptist

Harrodsburg Baptist  
Henderson First Baptist  
Hopkinsville First Baptist  
Hurstbourne Baptist, Louisville  
Lawrenceburg First Baptist  
Living Hope, Bowling Green  
Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah  
Mayfield First Baptist  
Shelbyville First Baptist

**\$1 million**  
Barbourville First Baptist  
Bardstow Baptist  
Beacon Hill Baptist, Somerset  
Beechmont Baptist, Louisville  
Bellevue Baptist, Owensboro  
Berea Baptist  
Broadway Baptist, Louisville  
Bruners Chapel, Harrodsburg  
Buena Vista Baptist, Owensboro  
Burgin Baptist  
Burlington Baptist  
Cadiz Baptist  
Central City First Baptist  
Crescent Hill Baptist, Louisville  
Crestwood Baptist, Crestwood  
Cynthiana Baptist

Danville First Baptist  
Deer Park Baptist, Louisville  
DeHaven Memorial Baptist,  
LaGrange  
Earlington First Baptist  
Eastwood Baptist Bowling Green  
Florence Baptist  
Franklin First Baptist  
Fulton First Baptist  
Gardenside Baptist, Lexington  
Georgetown Baptist  
Glasgow Baptist  
Greensburg Baptist  
Greenville First Baptist  
Greenville Second Baptist  
Hall Street Baptist, Owensboro  
Harlan Baptist  
Henderson Memorial Baptist,  
Hopkinsville  
High Point Baptist, Mayfield  
Highview Baptist, Louisville  
Horse Creek Baptist, Manchester  
Immanuel Baptist, Paducah  
Lancaster Baptist  
Latonia Baptist, Covington  
Leitchfield First Baptist

London First Baptist  
Marion Baptist  
Mount Pisgah Baptist, Bremen  
Mount Washington First Baptist  
Oaklawn Baptist, Paducah  
Olivet Baptist, Paducah  
Owenton First Baptist  
Paris First Baptist  
Pikeville First Baptist  
Pleasant Hill Baptist, Campbellsville  
Pleasant Hill Baptist, Somerset  
Princeton First Baptist  
Ralph Avenue Baptist, Louisville  
Richmond First Baptist  
Russellville First Baptist  
Sand Spring Baptist, Lawrenceburg  
Scottsville Baptist  
Shively Baptist, Louisville  
St Matthews Baptist, Louisville  
Sturgis First Baptist  
Unity Baptist, Ashland  
Valley View Baptist, Louisville  
Versailles Baptist  
Westport Road Baptist, Louisville  
Winchester First Baptist  
Yellow Creek Baptist, Owensboro

“He said that the church needed the presence and the power of God to accomplish the task of rebuilding,” recalled Anna Mary Byrdwell, a former member of the church and the presenter of the award.

By 1980, when Badgett retired, Campbellsville Baptist Church was giving 27.5 percent of total undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. The church ranked 18th in the state in total CP giving for 2001-2002, and has given more than \$3 million to the Cooperative Program throughout its history.

Verlin Kruschwitz, who served as pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown from 1952 until 1980, inherited his love of missions from his father, a German Methodist minister, and his father's sister,

a Salvation Army missionary who served in Borneo and Java.

From 1956 to 1968, Kruschwitz led Severns Valley Baptist to increase its giving from 10 to 20 percent. In 1969, the church took the dramatic step of giving 43 percent of undesignated gifts to CP.

Severns Valley has contributed the most to the Cooperative Program of any Kentucky Baptist church, giving more than \$8 million over the course of its history. The church remains a top giver today—recognized during the past fiscal year as seventh in total giving and 48th in per capita giving.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention also recognized other top-giving churches for their total and per capita gifts for the fiscal 2001-2002 year.

Porter Memorial Baptist Church in

Lexington was recognized as the top church in total giving to the Cooperative Program, while Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton was recognized as the top church in per capita giving. Bill Henard is pastor of Porter Memorial, and C.C. Brasher is pastor at Briensburg.

More than 90 churches also were recognized for cumulative gifts totaling more than \$1 million each.

Several associations also were recognized for outstanding giving in the past year, based upon the giving of their member churches. The Long Run, Elkhorn and Daviess-McLean associations were recognized for total dollars given through the Cooperative Program, while Christian County, Anderson and Owen County were honored for per capita giving.

## Lotz encourages global Baptist unity, ministry

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

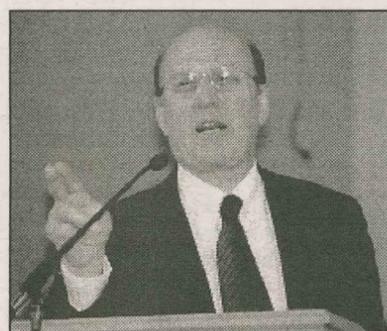
CAMPBELLVILLE—Emphasizing that “there has to be more than just coming to church on Sunday,” Denton Lotz said, “We have to be involved in the mission of Jesus.”

Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance since 1988, spoke Feb. 19 at convocation services at Campbellsville University. BWA, the international organization of Baptists, represents more than 43 million baptized believers in 200 nations.

Although “the word ‘mission’ has many bad connotations to people outside the faith,” Lotz added, “You’ll never understand who Jesus is unless you’re involved in the mission of Jesus.”

As he travels around the world, Lotz said three questions he frequently hears are: Where is God in the world? Who will fill our empty souls? There are many ways to God; why only Jesus?

Answers about God's presence are found in the Bible, Lotz noted. “We need to read the Bible because God speaks to us through Scripture. God of the Bible is the God who searches



**MISSION CHALLENGE** Denton Lotz, head of the Baptist World Alliance, urges Campbellsville students to be “involved in the mission of Jesus.”

for us on the highways and byways of life.”

People with empty souls will find satisfaction only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Lotz said.

“You and I were made for God and without God we are empty,” he added. “Only Christ can fill our empty souls.”

Though it might not sound politically correct, Jesus remains the only way to God, Lotz said. “Christ is the center of our lives and the world

doesn't want to hear that.”

Lotz said he also sometimes hears the questions: Where are the Baptists? Where are the believers?

“All over the world, the church is growing because it's a praying church,” he responded. Citing examples of Christian growth in such settings as Bulgaria, China and Myanmar, he said, “All over the world the Holy Spirit is moving.”

Noting that “the Christian faith is not European or American,” Lotz said Christians today must share their faith with compassion and love.

“Take seriously your walk with Christ,” he urged. “As the Father has made Jesus a missionary, He wants to make you a missionary.”

During a luncheon at Campbellsville, Lotz said one of BWA's primary roles is “to show the essential unity of Baptists in Jesus Christ. ... We're not an American organization. We're not a NATO organization. We're a world organization.”

“We are on a mission to lift up Christ, not to lift up culture or Western imperialism,” he added. “I believe the BWA of the 21st century has more responsibility in uniting Baptists around the world than ever before.”

## Georgetown College plans to trim next year's budget by \$2.5 million

GEORGETOWN—A drop in donations and the school's endowment will force Georgetown College to trim next year's budget by approximately \$2.5 million, according to President Bill Crouch.

“We face all of the same challenges Kentucky's state institutions face, and many others that are unique to private institutions of higher education,” Crouch said. “At the core of this challenge is the fact that a soft economy, and concerns about a possible war in the Middle East, have led to endowment investment losses and the inability of many of our donors to continue to give at their previous levels.”

The cuts represent approximately 7 percent of this year's budget.

“It's difficult raising money in today's economy,” said Michael Dawahare, vice president for institutional advancement. “Many have seen their investment portfolio shrink dramatically over the past eighteen months. As a result, the number of gifts we receive is holding steady, but the size of those gifts is down.”

No specific areas to cut have been identified, but Crouch said leaders hope to achieve the cuts without adversely affecting students' educational opportunities. Financial aid to students will not be affected, he added.

“Having said that, these cuts are going to hurt the College community because they will result in positions being eliminated,” Crouch added. The Georgetown College board of trustees will meet to vote on the budget in late April.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Non-cooperation?

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted in its Feb. 17-18 meeting to delete about 30 percent of SBC funding for the Baptist World Alliance next year. In sharp contrast, the preamble to the original 1905 BWA constitution noted: "The time has come when it seems fitting more fully to manifest the essential oneness in the Lord Jesus Christ, as their God and Saviour, of the churches of the Baptist order and faith throughout the world, and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service and cooperation among them."

Does the Executive Committee's action mean the time has come for it to publicly declare that because of SBC superiority "churches of the Baptist order and faith throughout the world" can no longer operate on equal terms and that this action conveys an intention to promote a spirit of arrogance, disservice and non-cooperation among Baptists of the world? Of course it does.

This action is just one more step in the 25-year efforts to lead the SBC to adopt a theology of purification by exclusion—to purify itself by separating from Baptist missionaries who refuse to sign a creed, editors who tell the truth, women who are ordained as pastors, a Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs that believes in real separation of church and state, seminary presidents who opt for academic freedom, ad infinitum.

By the time the Executive Committee completes its self-appointed task of separating locally, regionally, nationally and internationally from everything and everybody who differs from its precise wishes, what will be left and who will care?

*Charles Deweese, executive director  
Baptist History and Heritage Society  
Nashville*

## Offer clean slate

I have been a member of three Southern Baptist churches over the past 20 years—all 20 of which have been as a formerly married adult. I consistently have found that the same degree of outreach and support is not delivered to formerly married and single people as to widows and widowers. There are church ministries to those who have lost someone they loved due to death while those of us who have suffered loss as well as rejection continue to feel the same from our brothers and sisters in Christ. This includes churches with singles ministries that have special classes for newly divorced people.

While a singles ministry is a step in the right direction, it does little to integrate the singles into full acceptance in the church body. This suggests they are out of fellowship when really they are out of acceptance. Left separate, members of the flock most apt to stray are those who never were fully included.

Fellowship among believers should not end on Sunday afternoon. How many single or formerly married adults have you gotten acquainted with in your church? Do some sit in a pew alone? Many times I sat alone with my children while other pews were filled. Still I raised my children in God's house, and they too have accepted Christ. I thank God for a wonderful pastor who, with his wife, consistently reached out to us during the hardest times.

Another attitude that needs changing concerns career missions. A divorced person cannot be a career Southern Baptist missionary according to SBC rules. It is long overdue that Baptist leaders do some serious soul-searching and afford each believer the same approval and clean slate

that Christ Himself would do. In conclusion, I am thankful for grace and that Christ (who was a single adult) forgives and accepts unconditionally.

*Pam Baker  
Lexington*

## Avoid SBC's fate

Please keep up your excellent objective coverage of the continuing controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. Trennis Henderson's thoughtful Jan. 28 and Feb. 4 editorials were right on the mark.

Are Kentucky Baptists wise enough to avoid the fate of the Southern Baptist Convention and so many other state conventions? I hope so.

*William E. Ellis  
Richmond*

## Spread the message

In reference to the letter written by Jan Fee in the Jan. 28 issue of the Western Recorder concerning other sheep that God has to bring into His flock:

Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Isaiah 9:6-7 is the message of Jesus being God with us, and He says in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man comes unto the Father except by Me."

We find in John 3:16 that God so loved the world that He have His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus tells us in John 10:11 that He is the Good Shepherd who is willing to lay down His life for the sheep. In John 10:9, we find He is the gate to the sheepfold, and in John 10:16, He has other sheep not of this fold. The same price was paid for those other sheep—His life on Calvary—and Matthew 28:19-20 tells us to give this message to the whole world.

*Jeannette Teems  
Salt Lick*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### The priority of evangelism

Many words can be used to describe types of evangelism—relational, incarnational, servant, contagious, etc. But in every case the goal is to help someone come to faith in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

In order for an unchurched person to observe God transforming a life, a known believer must be involved in an intimate walk with Jesus as revealed through the Word of God.

In observing a few churches recently, it has become obvious to me that members of a growing church are experiencing exciting spiritual growth that has touched unchurched individuals. This could be called incarnational evangelism. Inconvenience is never too great to cause members of these churches to fail to meet the needs of the people around them even though those individuals might not join or attend their church.

Evangelism may have many expressions in the local church but there

must be an intentional, scheduled and relevant focus on reaching people for Christ. The church must have a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all people, especially prospects, at all services.

New member orientation and assimilation into the life of the congregation is necessary. Every effort should be made to reach the new convert's family and friends while those relationships are still in place.

Assimilation into a ministry or Bible study group also is essential for spiritual growth and the development of future leaders. New believers must become passionate about the truth of God's Word.

It is the pastor's role to lead the way in creating the atmosphere and strategic plans for evangelism in a local church. Through preaching, personal example and witness training, the pastor creates a strong example by his leadership.

In most Kentucky Baptist churches, the Sunday school class provides the best system for ministry, fellow-

ship, outreach and Bible study. Consequently, it is an opportunity for the pastor to lead the Sunday school in establishing new units, training new teachers (apprentices), enrolling prospects and sharing the gospel.

Winn Arn, founder of the American Church Growth Institute, said that unless a pastor reads at least one book per month on evangelism and growth and attends at least two major conferences per year, he will be drawn into congregational maintenance at the expense of growth.

In thinking about evangelism, let me share with you about an exciting evangelism event that recently bore great fruit at Eastern Kentucky University. The Baptist Student Union, Campus Crusade and Fellowship of Christian Athletes jointly sponsored "After Dark." More than 1,000 students attended and 141 made decisions for Christ, including 61 professions of faith.

Please join me in thanking God for each of these new believers and praying for those who are providing follow up!

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## CHURCH

### Take initiative to help build healthy stewardship roles

By Doug Strader

What does a healthy stewardship church look like? How does your church compare to other Baptist churches in your area in per capita giving? How can you help your church members become more committed in their giving habits?

Many Christian financial gurus have been saying for the last several years that as many as 50 percent of resident church members never give anything to God through their church each year.

I recently have been meeting with groups of pastors across the state to discuss how they can help their members be more responsible stewards of their resources. One pastor shared that only 38 percent of his congregation's resident members contributed any money through their church last year.

Ways to encourage healthy stewardship in your church include:

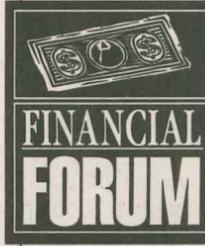
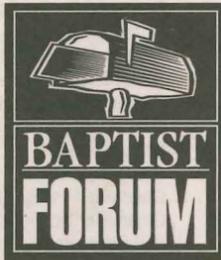
■ Ask your church treasurer or financial secretary to compile the number of families who could give if they so desired, and how many actually gave to God through your church last year to determine what percent of potential givers actually gave last year.

■ Talk with some fellow pastors and/or church members, encourage them to go through the same exercise for their church and then compare notes. See if they are doing financial stewardship differently in their church. Or perhaps your church is doing some things that could benefit others.

■ Ask the person who handles the finances in your church to figure what percentage of the total income was given by the top 10 giving families or individuals last year. One pastor discovered that the top 10 giving units in his church gave nearly 60 percent of the church's total income. What would happen to that church financially if one or more of those families moved away or stopped giving?

How can you cultivate more members to become more committed to giving at least a tithe (10 percent) of their income to God's work? The pastor could preach on financial stewardship, the church could have a special Sunday school lesson on giving and tithing or you could invite testimonies from some of your most faithful givers.

*Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department*



Bill Mackey

## Flexibility, boundaries can help relieve social anxiety

**Q: I have a lot of social anxiety when I go to parties, so I generally just avoid social invitations as much as possible. Any suggestions?**

Personal leadership coach Martha Beck advises people to deal with situations using your "gut feelings" and to give yourself permission to say "yes" or "no" based on what your body is telling you. Suggestions for dealing with social invitations based on her work include:

■ *Give yourself permission to turn down some of the invitations you receive.*

You might have preferred ways to celebrate certain events. For example, you might need more of a Sabbath rest than a festive time of frivolity as you see a time of celebration approaching. Give yourself the latitude to say "no" occasionally.

■ *Give yourself flexibility and boundaries about length of stay.* If you promise yourself that you can leave a social engagement after a half hour or so, it will give you a set amount of time you can enjoy, rather than dreading spending hours somewhere that is emotionally draining for you.

■ *Go to the event with a friend.* If you call someone with whom you already feel comfortable and go to the party together, you can already be having a good time when you get there.

■ *Before you get to the party, think about what conversation you can use as icebreakers.* Any sports news, international or business news, latest turns in the weather, etc., can help conversations get off to a good start.

■ *Give yourself permission to spend time with the host's children or pets if the conversation gets too tedious with the adults.* It provides an opportunity to show you are interested in those most important to the host.

These suggestions can arm you with confidence as you remember the admonition, "He that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24).—James Stillwell

**Q: How important is play in the life of a child?**

Developmental experts tell us that play is a child's work. Children are born to play and they go about it with the same energy and intensity that adults apply to work. Beyond simply being fun, play accomplishes important purposes in the life of a child.

■ *Play teaches social and communication skills.* It provides a context in which children can learn how to get along and how to work together.

■ *Play relieves stress, anger and hurt.* When pressures are beginning to mount, play enables a child to let off some steam. Feelings, emotions, beliefs and values all come to the forefront through the dynamics of play. Playing with others inevitably produces conflict, but it also underscores the necessity of learning how to handle conflict.

■ *Play also contributes significantly to faith development.* Because children learn and identify with abstract concepts (forgiveness, faith, love, etc.) by experiencing them, playing a game often can be the best way to learn a truth. Activity-oriented learning (play) always will be a key component of a solid, sound education philosophy for children.

Today's child knows how to play with toys, but often does not know how to play with others or alone. In the midst of busy schedules, parents need to make sure children have those opportunities. For their part, churches should be sure play (as opposed to entertainment) remains a cornerstone of ministry to children. Creating opportunities for children and parents simply to play together can be one of the greatest forms of ministry to the family.—David Garrard

*Family Forum writers are Suzanne Coyle, director of Cornerstone Counseling for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at 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.*



## BWA and SBC can achieve more together

Once more with feeling: The Baptist World Alliance and the millions of Baptists it represents around the globe need the resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in order to accomplish the BWA's ambitious ministry goals. At the same time, the SBC needs the work, witness and fellowship of BWA in order to achieve a truly global perspective—and response—to urgent needs around the world.

It was less than a month ago, in anticipation of BWA Sunday, that I emphasized "it would be tragic for political turmoil in Southern Baptist life to rupture the historic relationship between the SBC and BWA" that has existed since BWA's founding in 1905.

Just last week, however, SBC Executive Committee members voted to recommend a 2003-04 Cooperative Program budget that cuts BWA's annual allocation by 30 percent. Why? Southern Baptist leaders are offended by BWA's consideration of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for membership.

A nine-member study committee headed by Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, reported that it was "offering no statement on the issue of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's membership in the Baptist World Alliance, believing this decision rests with the Baptist World Alliance." The report added, however, that the SBC "has much more than a passing interest in the ultimate decision to be made by the BWA."

Seeking to put a positive spin on the BWA funding cut, the study committee proposed developing "a new concept for building stronger relationships with like-minded Christians around the world." The new concept, tentatively called "Kingdom Relationships," will become the international arm of the SBC's "Empowering Kingdom Growth" emphasis.

Where will SBC leaders find the funding for such an initiative? From the SBC's BWA allocation.

In recent years, the SBC has provided \$425,000 a year to BWA—nearly one-fourth of the alliance's annual budget. If SBC messengers approve the proposed Cooperative Program budget in June, the SBC's gifts to BWA will drop to \$300,000, with the additional \$125,000 earmarked for "Kingdom Relationships."

Why should the SBC continue to fund the BWA for at least \$425,000 annually? A significant number of BWA's member bodies are from Third World countries and other impoverished regions unable to fund international ministry efforts. BWA's proven track record in such areas as defending human rights, protecting religious freedom and providing hunger relief deserves both applause and financial support.

Just as large churches with ample resources often provide assistance to smaller congregations through partnerships on the associational level, the SBC has the opportunity to model the same ministry spirit through BWA on the global level.

Even if "Kingdom Relationships" becomes an SBC priority, there are other sources of potential income beyond the BWA line item. Executive Committee members approved an SBC operating budget of \$7.84 million. Expenditures in the current budget include \$1.9 million for Executive Committee administration, \$850,000 for annual meeting expenses and more than \$800,000 for convention operations. Why not find creative ways to trim those line items rather than take the entire \$125,000 from programs benefiting fellow believers in such needy areas as Belarus, Chechnya, Liberia and Nepal?

Southern Baptists definitely should be committed to building Kingdom relationships with Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world. The best way to do that continues to be through the effective leadership of Baptist World Alliance.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Keep state out of church

By Marv Knox

Congress has convened, President Bush is promoting his budget and, once again, religious liberty is in peril.

The Bush administration has proposed a plan that would channel public funds to building projects for religious organizations that engage in social work. It would allow government financing of construction or renovation of so-called "dual-use" buildings. The sections of the buildings to be used for religious purposes could not be financed with public money. But the parts of the building that would be used for non-religious social work could be funded publicly.

The administration's 2004 federal budget likewise comingles church and state. It would fund at least two voucher programs that could be used to purchase social services from religious organizations. It would ante up \$600 million to fund treatment programs, including those operated by religious organizations, for up to 300,000 drug addicts and alcoholics.

In addition, Congress is setting its sights on action that would breach the "wall of separation" between church and state. Proposed legislation runs the gamut from voucher plans for religious schools to bills that would allow churches to endorse political can-

didates.

Anyone who has observed American culture in recent years can understand the president's inclination and lawmakers' desire to go along with him. In many places, religious institutions are succeeding where secular organizations have failed. The success rates of many faith-based drug- and alcohol-abuse programs have surpassed those that do not involve a faith dimension. Numerous schools in inner-city neighborhoods are failing to educate their students, while nearby private and parochial schools are passing. What person of goodwill cannot appreciate the unique strength religious faith brings to healing society's ills?

President Bush understands this. In a not-so-subtle choice of words, the president said, "There is power, wonder-working power, in the goodness and idealism and faith of the American people." Millions of evangelical Christians instinctively recognized the first words of that line as the beginning of the chorus of "Power in the Blood," a hymn that exalts Jesus' ability to redeem sinners.

But Bush is not the pastor of the United States. And we are a country of diverse peoples, not a church of like-minded believers. The intentions of the president and Congress may be honorable, but a union of church and state in our country would not serve

the state and could kill the church.

The Founding Fathers who framed the Bill of Rights carefully delineated separation between church and state. History has demonstrated their brilliance. Although our country has its share of problems, its vibrancy of faith far exceeds all other developed countries. For illustrations of atrophied faith, look to Western European countries where taxes buttress the church; worship attendance is almost nil, secularism triumphs. More tragically, look to nations where the government identifies with one religion; religious persecution runs rampant and the blood of martyrs runs in the street.

Ironically, people who consistently back government support for religion and faith-based organizations are among those who tend to desire smaller and less-intrusive government. They, of all people, should know that what government supports it soon regulates and eventually controls. And they lie to themselves if they believe religious organizations will remain vibrant when they grow dependent upon the government dole.

Yes, let the administration and lawmakers support faith-based initiatives. Let the president use his "bully pulpit" to urge Americans of all faiths and no faith to give generously to faith-based and social-service agencies. Let Congress provide generous tax incentives for doing so. But keep the state from meddling with the church.

Marv Knox is editor of the Texas Baptist Standard

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST DIGEST

### ■ SBC extends through Wednesday night.

A Wednesday evening session will be reintroduced at this year's SBC annual meeting in Phoenix. The June 17-18 meeting will conclude with a Wednesday evening session that will include a Southern Baptist International Mission Board presentation and a message by motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. In recent years, the SBC has concluded with a Wednesday afternoon session. Churches also will be able to register their messengers online this year at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) effective March 1.

### ■ Texas church receives \$800,000 grant.

Wilshire Baptist Church of Dallas has received an \$800,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment for a pastoral residency program. Wilshire, one of 15 congregations nationwide to receive grants for the program, is the only Baptist church in the southwestern United States to receive funding. Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, N.Y., is the only other Baptist church in the program. Wilshire's grant will fund seven recent seminary graduates who will work in two-year cycles as ministry residents at the church.

### ■ Churches worship together—after 138 years.

For the first time in 138 years, two Baptist churches divided since the Civil War worshipped together under the same roof. Members of Beulah

Baptist Institutional Church, founded by former slaves, attended a joint worship service Feb. 9 at First Baptist Church of Tampa, Fla. James Favorite, pastor of Beulah Baptist, said he was reviewing some historic documents last year when he discovered First Baptist provided financial assistance to start the African-American church in 1865. The two congregations agreed to worship together to celebrate Black History Month.

### ■ Texas Baptist Men expand relationships.

The Executive Board of Texas Baptist Men has adopted a resolution reaffirming the organization's unique relationship with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and agreeing to "officially work" with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the state's newer conservative convention. The board unanimously passed the resolution and faith statement by secret ballot Feb. 15. Although Texas Baptist Men is a self-governing missions affiliate of the BGCT, it is housed in BGCT facilities and depends heavily on the BGCT for funding.

■ **Foust joins BP staff.** Michael Foust has been named assistant editor of Baptist Press effective March 1. Foust has been director of news and information since July 2000 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

## CBF mid-year church contributions down 6 percent from previous year

ATLANTA (ABP)—Midway through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's fiscal year, contributions from churches and individuals are down 6 percent from the same period last year.

Contributions from churches and individuals, the largest portion of CBF's budget, totaled \$6.3 million during the six-month period, which is 16 percent behind the budget projection. The CBF's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Total revenue during the period reached \$8.5 million, however, an increase of 24.5 percent compared to the same period last year. The boost came from an increase in designated giving, most notably a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to fund CBF's Initiative for Ministerial Excellence. Subtracting the Lilly grant, total CBF revenue for the period is down 4.7 percent.

The CBF's Offering for Global Missions also increased. So far this year, the offering has brought in \$1.35 million, a 9.4 percent increase over the \$1.23 million collected during the same period last year. In total, designated contributions are up 78 percent over 2001-02.

The number of churches contributing directly to CBF declined slightly for the first six months, while the number of individuals contributing increased.

More than 1,385 churches made contributions by mid-year, compared to 1,409 churches during the same period in fiscal year 2001-02. A total of 2,238 individuals made contributions during the period, compared to 2,168 individuals a year ago.

"When we approved the budget for this year at the general assembly in Fort Worth, we knew it was an ambitious budget," said Jim Strawn, chief financial officer for CBF. "We were prepared to make adjustments as necessary. We have been making internal adjustments. We also have been contacting our partners to inform them of the changes we have had to make."

Partner ministries have been told to expect reductions of up to 15 percent in CBF funding.

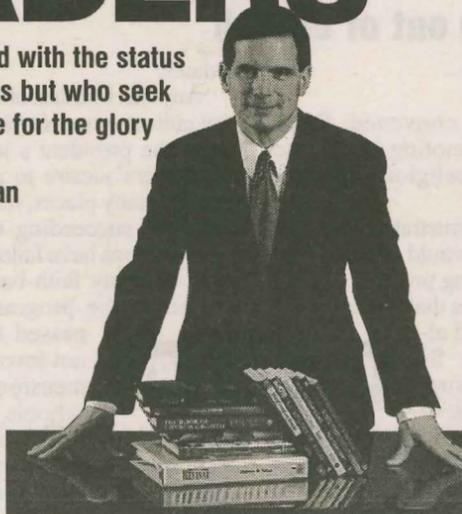
"We took a bold position last summer in Fort Worth when we set this budget," said Daniel Vestal, CBF coordinator. "Planning, responsible spending, fiscal restraint and God's grace are helping us cope with a bad economy."

## Evangelism and Church Growth D.Min.

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— Thom Rainer, Dean



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Sponsored by the Creative Ministries Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



## Kentucky magician uses tricks to share faith

Continued from page 1

"Within six months, I was one of the busiest entertainers in Kentucky," he said of bookings at business conventions, fraternity events and school assemblies.

Raised in a Christian home, Burgess became a Christian at age 7 and recalls maturing in his faith. His parents were active in Whitley City's First Baptist Church—his father as a deacon; his mother as a Sunday school teacher. Passing on Christian values seemed to come naturally in the Burgess home.

"My parents had a remarkable knack for being able to relate everything to scriptures," Burgess said. "They used every event in our lives to illustrate some truth out of the Word of God."

### Connecting magic & the gospel

As a college student, Burgess soon learned how to meld his newfound skills as an illusionist with evangelism when Campus Crusade for Christ speaker and illusionist Andre Cole performed in Lexington in 1970. Burgess saw hundreds of people convert to Christianity that night, leaving an indelible mark on his plans for life.

"I went home and told my room-

mate, 'Tonight I found out why God made me a magician,'" he said.

Despite the rigors of medical school, Burgess found time to follow Cole's lead. He first performed a gospel illusions program at White Oak Baptist Church in Hixson, Tenn., in 1970, leading to a steady flow of word-of-mouth invitations.

In 1974, Burgess graduated from medical school. After serving in a residency program in Orlando, Fla., Burgess returned to his hometown of Whitley City in 1975, establishing a family practice that continues today. Burgess and his wife, Janie, have three children: Jerad, 27; Jill, 24; and Julie, 23.

As Burgess refined his ministry style, it began to multiply. He often performed a church show on a Saturday night and was asked to stay the following morning to preach. Over time, the weekend combination grew into week-long revival services.

In his messages, Burgess usually performs a few tricks culminating in a final performance at the end of the series. "I'll preach four messages for every gospel magic program I do. Yet, I'll see five times more people come to Christ during the magic shows than I'll see come during all the preaching services combined," he said.

Burgess points out that his act consists only of sleight-of-hand tricks. He encourages his audience to avoid the occult and demonology.

### Invitations around the world

Since 1984, preaching and gospel magic invitations have taken Burgess around the world, including venues in Russia, England, Brazil, Kenya and Malaysia. Since 1990, he has performed on network television in 39 countries on five continents and on national television in the United States 18 times.

Between medical appointments and ministry events, Burgess also has found time to keep up with other gospel illusionists. Since 1983, he has served three times as president of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians. He also is a friend of famed magician (and fellow Kentucky native) Lance Burton.

Today, Burgess maintains his Whitley City medical practice but still thinks about the ministry's future.

"If I had my own way, I would like to go into evangelism fulltime. So far God has made it clear He wants me to be a bivocational evangelist," he said, adding the nature of his current ministry allows him to perform where he is needed, sometimes at no cost.

## Proposed bills would legalize slot machines at racetracks

FRANKFORT—In a flurry of activity, three bills were introduced last week seeking to legalize slot machines at Kentucky racetracks. The bills were proposed Feb. 18—the final day for bills to be filed in the Kentucky General Assembly's current legislative session.

Leaders of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, the Kentucky Baptist Public Affairs Committee and other groups opposed to expanded gambling had expressed hope that gambling legislation would not be introduced in the six-week session.

The Kentucky League issued an "action alert" on its Web site ([www.kentuckyleague.org](http://www.kentuckyleague.org)), urging concerned citizens to call the Kentucky Legislature's toll-free message line—(800) 372-7181—to voice opposition to House bills 536, 537 and 559.

"Kentucky does not need slot machines nor politicians that are so easily swayed by the racetrack interest," the action alert stated. It called on voters to tell legislators "you do not want to see slot machines come to Kentucky."

Gambling supporters, including House Democratic Floor Leader Greg Stumbo, are promoting the gambling proposal as a way to address the state's current budget problems. Expanded gambling "is not a moral issue," Stumbo said. "It's simply a business issue."

Robert Reeves, KBC communications director and a spokesman for the KBC Public Affairs Committee, said it is "very important for Kentucky Baptists to make their individual opinions known to their legislators now" by phone or e-mail.

### upcoming evangelism training event march 17-20, 2003



richard jackson

President, The Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement, Brownsville, Texas

Dr. Richard Jackson will be sharing about the personal witnessing tool, *The Covenant of God's Love*. Make your plans now to attend one of these training sessions and learn how to use this excellent evangelistic resource.

#### dates/times/locations

Monday, **March 17** / 10 am-Noon  
Northern Kentucky Association (Lunch)

Monday, **March 17** / 5:30- 9 pm  
Greenup Association, Ashland (Dinner)

Tuesday, **March 18** / 8:30-11 am  
Elkhorn Association, Lexington  
(Continental breakfast)

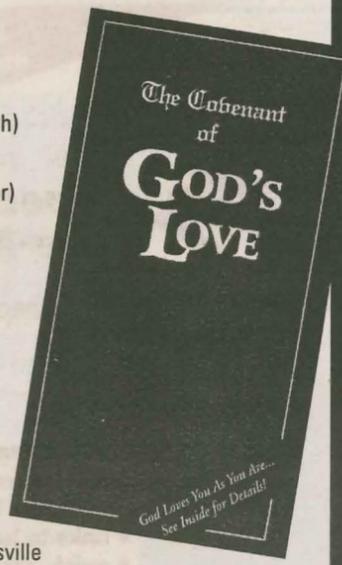
Tuesday, **March 18** / 12:30-3 pm  
Severns Valley Association,  
Elizabethtown (Lunch)

Tuesday, **March 18** / 6-9 pm  
Warren Association,  
Bowling Green (Dinner)

Wednesday, **March 19** / 8:30-11 am  
Christian County Association, Hopkinsville  
(Continental Breakfast)

Wednesday, **March 19** / 12:30-3 pm  
Green Valley Association, Henderson (Lunch)

Thursday, **March 20** / 10 am-Noon  
Long Run Association, Louisville (Lunch)



Cost per session is \$5, and includes a copy of *The Covenant of God's Love*, and a meal.

This event is made possible by the Cooperative Program.



Register by calling the Evangelism Growth Team at 502.254.4737 or 888.254.5722 or by contacting one of the hosting associations.

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

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1:30 pm Friday – 5:30 pm Saturday  
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- Develop a vision for personal ministry
- Learn how to use their SHAPE in ministry
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- 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 502-245-4101 ext. 397 or [www.kybaptist.org/msc](http://www.kybaptist.org/msc)

**Basic Training is a time of Information and Inspiration!**

# KENTUCKY

## Kentucky Baptists break out chain saws, love after storm

**"We'll have to clean the carpet and there may be a smell for a while, but nobody's worried about that."**

*Micki Robison of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington*

*Continued from page 1*

Workers were expected to be needed for at least another week in Vanceburg, where a kitchen was set up in the Lewis County High School parking lot.

Volunteers were called Saturday to Vanceburg by the American Red Cross to continue work that local residents had been organizing, according to Larry Koch, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief coordinator. Within one day, Baptist volunteers already had served approximately 4,000 meals Koch said.

In Grayson, approximately 20 workers went house to house with chainsaws and generators. Volunteers used the saws to cut downed limbs into portable size while other workers carried the limbs to the side of the street to be cleared by the county.

The portable generators were offered to residents for one- or two-hour shifts to help prevent freezers from thawing.

### Lawrenceburg volunteers get wet

In Lawrenceburg, where more than 90 families had requested help, some volunteers were taking part in their first disaster relief project.

Michael Ray, a member of First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, said he trained to do disaster relief work shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He was scheduled to work in New York City, but the Kentucky team came home before his group was to go.

"Our county is in the process of getting a chainsaw trailer together," he added. The trailer will hold chainsaws and other equipment for team members to travel quickly to any area needing their services.

Charles Taylor, a member of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg, recently returned from a mission trip to Haiti when the storm cut power to approximately 90 percent of Anderson County residents.

"I came back from improvising in the super hot weather to having to improvise in the super cold weather," he said.

As he cut and carried limbs from the seventh house of the day, Taylor described the impact of the ministry, in which volunteers offer to pray with homeowners before they leave.

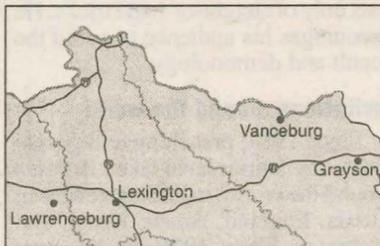
"I just like to be able to help and getting to meet new people," he said.

Rodney Howe, a member of Knoxville Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, brought his 13-year-old son, Timothy, to help. Drenched from the Saturday rainstorms, they continued to rake and haul limbs from yards.

Angie Gibson, a member of Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Falmouth, had been interested in disaster relief since workers came to her town in the 1997 flood.

"This is the first trip that I've had an opportunity to come," she said. She and her 13-year-old daughter, Brittany, drove 90 minutes to work with other volunteers clearing debris from residents' yards.

"This has been a blessing for me," Gibson said. Asked what the hardest part was, she replied, "I don't think



**LIMB LUGGERS** Volunteers worked through rain Saturday to remove limbs in Lawrenceburg yards. **Right:** Rodney (left) and Tomothy Howe of Dry Ridge fill a wheelbarrow to take to the side of the street. **Left:** Michael Ray, a member of First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, said local churches are equipping a disaster-relief trailer so volunteers can be more helpful in other cities that have such incidents.

any of this is hard. When you're doing God's work, it isn't hard at all."

Bernard Randall, who was supervising Baptist volunteers in Lawrenceburg, said he expected the number of requests for help to climb as more people learned about the services being offered.

He recalled a disaster relief trip to North Carolina. "I went down one street to do one house and wound up doing 36," said Randall, a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monticello.

### Opening the church doors

In Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church and Trinity Baptist Church both hosted local residents whose homes or apartments were without power.

Larry Cranfill, missions minister at Porter Memorial, said most of the 42

people they hosted were residents at a nearby retirement high-rise.

"Many of those folks didn't have anywhere to go," he explained. "We just geared up real quickly. ... We couldn't not do it, and are being blessed by doing it, of course."

Approximately 75 church volunteers pitched in, preparing meals, serving and cleaning up, he said, adding that the project has educated more members about ministry opportunities.

"We think of something like this as a huge boost to our emphasis to getting people involved in real hands-on ministry."

Trinity Church recognized quickly after the storm that many people in and outside the church needed somewhere warm to go, said Micki Robison, whose husband, Jay, is pastor.

"Folks in their 90s who are here at

the church are saying they've never seen anything like this," Robison said of the storm.

Despite initial security concerns, the effort ran relatively smoothly, she added.

"We'll have to clean the carpet and there may be a smell for a while, but nobody's worried about that," she said. "We've had the whole spectrum of society and we haven't had any of the problems you might expect if you open your doors to strangers."

Approximately 75 people stayed at the church at least one night, she said, adding that only a dozen or so were church members.

Robison added that the storm provided an unanticipated opportunity for outreach. Many residents who wouldn't otherwise be in church are "being cared for in God's house by God's people."

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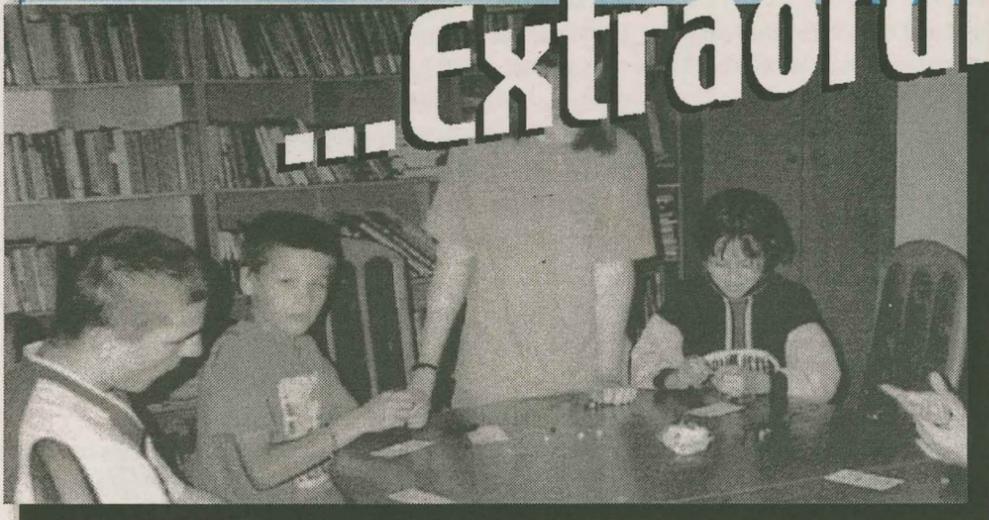
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# Familiar Faces ...Extraordinary Places



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

*Hundreds of Kentucky Baptists from all walks of life—pastors, Sunday School teachers, college students, lay people—have participated in Partnership Missions projects. In this special section of the Western Recorder, you'll learn more about some very special Kentuckians who have answered God's call to participate in Partnership Missions. You'll also learn more about how you can answer that call, too!*

## PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

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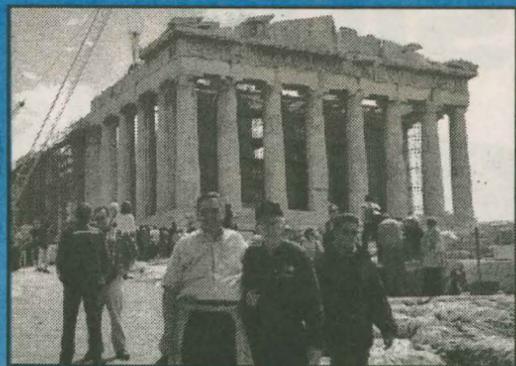
# The Gift of Friendship

**A letter from  
Ross Bauscher,  
Partnership  
Missions Director**

Doesn't it give you a good feeling inside to hear from and recognize the voice of a friend who calls you by name? It makes you feel special when you see the smiles of familiar faces. Friends who accept us for who we are and not because of what we can do for them give us feelings of joy, comfort, trust and love. The bonds of friendship are truly a blessed gift from God. The Bible says, "A friend loves at all times..." (*Proverbs 17:17, NKJV*)

Within these pages you will see pictures and read stories of Kentucky partnership volunteers who offered the gift of friendship by becoming a familiar face of God's love in an extraordinary place. Max Lucado helped me understand that we are a gift from God to others when he said, "...you aren't an accident or an incident; you are a gift to the world, a divine work of art, signed by God. We are His works of art. We are created in His image to do good deeds. We are significant, not because of what we do, but because of Whose we are." (*Grace, p. 219.*)

Is God calling you to be a familiar face of friendship to someone in an extraordinary place? There is a place for you to join partnership volunteers as you share God's gift of yourself with others around the world.



# Familiar Faces...

*For 19-year-old Student, Summer In The 'Eagles Nest' Was A Mountaintop Experience*

*By Ken Walker*

WILLIAMSBURG - While Mandy Webb envisions one day teaching English at a university or seminary overseas, at the moment she has to complete her college education.

Still, the 19-year-old sophomore at Cumberland College has seen how God can use ordinary people to touch others' lives in a profound way.

Despite not having a translator, Webb managed to help 30 children in a Polish orphanage learn basic English last summer. She also taught them about Christ by weaving Bible stories into her lessons over a three-week period.

"The trip was more wonderful than I had anticipated; many times I felt like I was the one being blessed," said Webb, who went to Poland through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions program. "I grew so attached to every one of the children at the orphanage. They had the sweetest hearts and smiles."

Last summer marked her second trip to the European nation. In the summer of 2001, she went to Warsaw with her home church, First Baptist of Monticello. Working in English-language camps and adult English classes helped prepare her for last summer.

Webb and another summer missionary worked at "Orle Gniazdo," or Eagle's Nest, in Marwica, a rural village in northern Poland. A renovated three-story mansion, the grounds include a garden, soccer field and swimming pond, and a playground built by Kentucky Baptists.

Most of the children staying there aren't orphans, but come from bad home situations where abuse or neglect is common, much of it fueled by alcoholism. Some of the older children now struggle with alcohol problems.

Besides the culture shock of staying in a place so small it didn't have a grocery store, Webb and another summer missionary had to adjust to language barriers. Although they thought the children had learned English in school, in reality only a few could speak it.

With the help of the home's director and a staff member who both knew English - and a Polish-English dictionary - the two instructors made the best of it.

Often, Webb felt the children learned more outside the classroom by talking with them as they interacted in recreation and other activities. It amazed her how much English they could pick up simply from conversation.

Still, the language barrier posed problems sharing spiritual aspects of their lives. However, by incorporating Bible stories with their lessons, by the end of their visit every child had an opportunity to know who Jesus was and of his love for them.

Equally important was the opportunity for the missionaries to show love. Many of the children had never experienced affection before coming to the orphanage, Webb said. Even the children who could barely communicate were always ready for a hug or to hold hands.

"One young man who was very difficult to work with came up to me on the last day and gave me a hug and asked if I would please write to him," she said.

"One of the younger girls had been around me almost constantly since the day I arrived. The last night she brought me a picture she had colored for me, laid down in my lap and cried, and asked me not to go. I'm only 19, but I almost felt like a mother to her."

Such touching encounters convince the Monticello resident that she accomplished a lot just by being there. She also had an opportunity to talk about Christ with a staff member and several of the children, and to encourage some teenage girls who want to attend the local Baptist church more often, but have difficulty finding transportation.

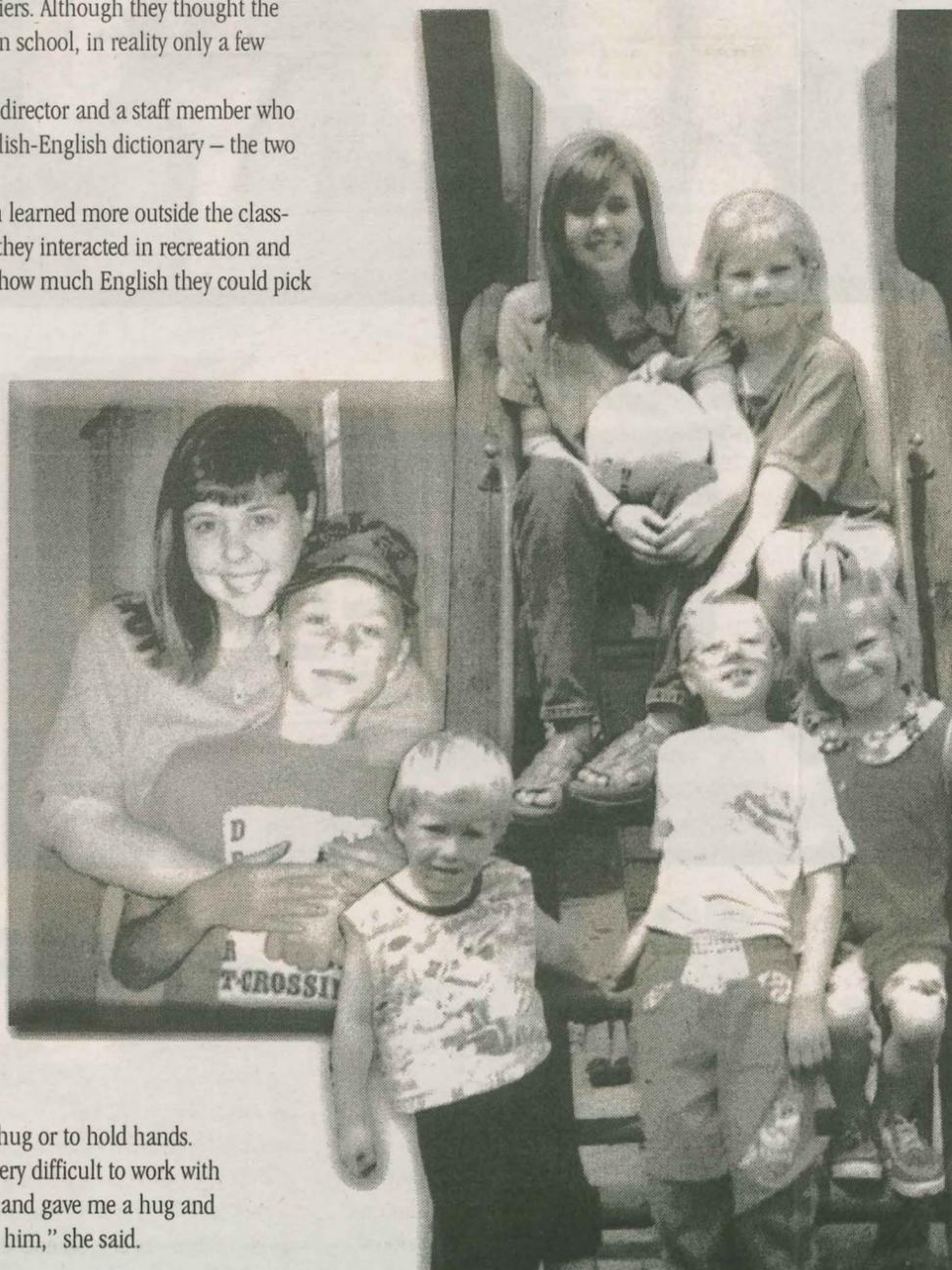
In addition, she is following up on a contact she made in Warsaw, prior to arriving at the orphanage. An English woman who learned why the two missionaries were there asked questions about God.

The Cumberland student got her e-mail address and has been corresponding with her ever since and answering more questions of a spiritual nature.

"So, hopefully one day we'll see her become a believer," Webb said. "I have a new view on life as a result of this trip. I'm much more grateful for the situations I've been in, and am looking for more opportunities to share my faith."

The longtime resident recommends other Kentuckians consider getting involved in partnership missions, which can return unexpected rewards.

There are so many wonderful experiences you can have when you go seeking God's will, Webb said: "This was such a rewarding trip. There is such a need over there. You could see it in their eyes. They know about God, but they don't know his love. They need to know Jesus and his love."



# Soldier Accepts A Different Kind of Mission

By Ken Walker

SCOTTSVILLE - A Christian since age 10, Michael Arterburn didn't catch a vision for missions until his late 30s. Ironically, it happened overseas, after his National Guard unit was activated during the Persian Gulf War.

Suddenly, the longtime member of Scottsville Baptist Church had numerous opportunities to tell others about Christ.

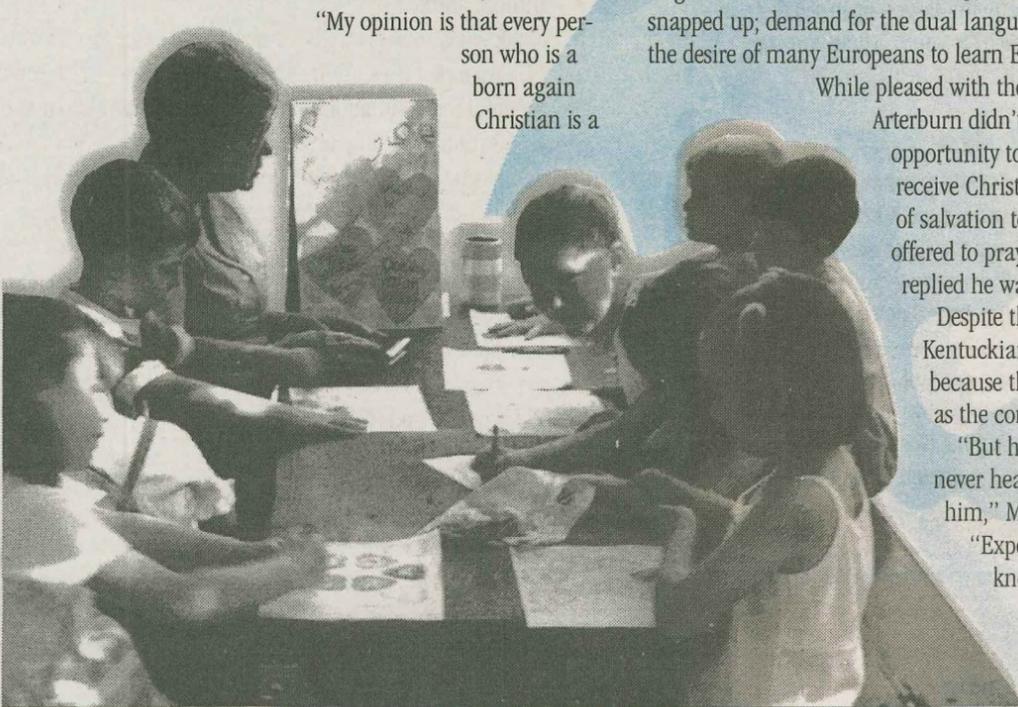
"I was with a heavy artillery unit in the thick of battle," he said. "A lot of people got to thinking about what would happen if they died and we got to do a lot of witnessing. I thought, 'This is something I can do. I can travel and tell people about the Lord.'"

While several years passed before he went on a mission trip, since 1995 he has been to Russia twice, the Czech Republic, Poland twice, Guatemala, Switzerland and Germany.

With this experience and his position as Brotherhood director of the Allen Baptist Association, some look to Arterburn as a spiritual leader. But the engineering technician for Tri-County Electric doesn't see anything special about himself.

"It's taught me anyone can be used," he said of his travels. "I don't consider myself a great speaker or a great witness for the Lord. But he can use us."

"My opinion is that every person who is a born again Christian is a



missionary. We're all supposed to tell people about the good news of Jesus Christ, wherever we go."

His most recent partnership mission trip came last June, when he led a 14-member team from the Allen and Monroe associations to Heidelberg, Germany.

During their two-week stay, they conducted backyard Bible clubs, did prayerwalks and participated in Sunday school and worship services at Grace International Baptist Church.

Dividing into two groups, in the morning they did Bible clubs at an American military base and a park near the home of a couple from Grace.

In the afternoon, six people led a Bible club at another park. The rest prayerwalked at various locations, such as outside a Moslem worship center, hospitals, schools, and a university.

Four children accepted Jesus as their Savior during the backyard Bible clubs. Arterburn was also encouraged by the enthusiastic acceptance of the Bibles his team distributed at various locations.

The team purchased 140 English language Scriptures and 70 English-German versions. All but 35 of the English Bibles were snapped up; demand for the dual language volumes came from the desire of many Europeans to learn English, he said.

While pleased with the four conversions,

Arterburn didn't personally have the opportunity to pray with anyone to receive Christ. He explained the plan of salvation to a young teenager and offered to pray with him, but the youth replied he wasn't ready.

Despite that rebuff, the Kentuckian was encouraged because the boy had a reputation as the community bully.

"But he wanted a Bible and I never heard a cross word from him," Michael recalled.

"Experiences like that let me know that it's worth it.

"The way I look at it is I'm just doing my part. When I'm passing out

a Bible or witnessing to someone, I never know what will happen. They may recall that conversation six months later. If we don't see a great

response right away, God works in his own time."

The team also made a good impression at Grace Church, where they left the 35 remaining Bibles for distribution later. Thanks to donations from Kentucky churches, they also provided the host families with a dinner and gave a couple more than \$1,000 for an upcoming mission trip to Ethiopia.

While not all Germans were as receptive to the gospel as other nations Arterburn has visited, generally people overseas are more open than Americans, he said, especially in Russia, the first trip he took and the one that whetted his appetite for international missions.

"It was wonderful," he said. "Words are hard to describe it. We loved people so much and they had so much need. We found people in a former Communist country anxious to hear about Christ. It seems like here you have to hit them over the head with a two-by-four to get them to go to church."

He observed similar eagerness in Guatemala, where he was part of a team that showed the "Jesus" film, translated into the native tongue. People walked for miles to get the chance to watch it, with some standing throughout the movie in packed viewing rooms.

This kind of response is one reason Michael and his wife take two weeks of vacation time every summer to go on mission trips. Seeing such hunger let him know that not everyone has ready access to Bibles and other gospel literature.

"America is a wonderful place but we have so much and are so blessed people don't put God in the front," he said. "You go to a lot of these countries and you get back to basics, witnessing and telling others about Christ."



# WMU Leader On Mission At Home and Abroad

By Ken Walker

STANTON - Encouraging American military families at bases overseas may not fit the image of an international mission trip. But last September, Cathy Chinn saw how encouraging lonely spouses of soldiers often called to dangerous duty stations could be miraculous.

The woman who put in the request with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership office didn't believe that 14 Kentuckians would travel to Germany to conduct a pair of weekend retreats.

When that took place, it impressed more than the women who attended. At a mid-week service, some single Army men got tears in their eyes when they said they couldn't believe seminar leaders would pay their own way to Germany to serve others.

"We're hoping we planted seeds of encouragement so the people there will reach out more and get involved in missions," said Chinn, state president of Woman's Missionary Union.

"One of the churches wanted to start a Women on Mission group, which they were very excited about. We got an e-mail from them saying they had their first meeting in November."

While now a statewide leader, when she attended her first WMU meeting Chinn was a young housewife who had grown up in a different denomination. In her first year at Hartford Baptist Church, she sensed God's call to missions.

Besides starting a young women's group, over the years she led Acteens on various trips and developed a love for missions.

After taking early retirement from her job as a social worker — her husband was formerly a math teacher and school administrator — the Chinns moved to eastern Kentucky. Now Mission

Service Corps volunteers, they direct the Wendell Belew Appalachian Training Center.

Despite her background, Cathy says she doesn't have any special talents, just a willingness to serve.

"It's nothing that somebody else couldn't do," she said. "God doesn't need our ability, he needs our availability. So many missionaries told us they were called to missions as Acteens, or on a mission trip. If we don't volunteer to lead these (young people's) groups, how are they going to hear the call to go on missions?"

The retreats were held at Trinity Baptist Church in Metterich, where an Air Force base is located; and the Kitzingen-Wurtzburg English Speaking Church in Kitzingen, home to an Army base. Starting with a Friday night supper, the sessions ran for several hours and resumed all day Saturday.

The classes included instruction in sewing, cooking, Christian parenting, mentoring, Gary Chapman's "Five Love Languages," decorating, organizing your home, and nutrition.

Meanwhile, team members pooled their vacation Bible school resources to enable Chinn and five other women to lead a Bible club for the children, many of them preschoolers or infants.

"We did extra crafts, took walks outside and I dressed like a clown and did tricks and things," Cathy said. "The woman who requested this wanted to be sure there was child care so if husbands got deployed they could still come."

With 30 to 40 women attending and eight workshops offered, many classes were small. That allowed more individual discussion time and was of great encouragement to the wives, Chinn

added.

With many in their early 20s and young children to care for, the participants also appreciated the presence of many gray-haired Kentuckians. At 51, Chinn was the second-youngest member of the team.

"A lot said it was like having their mom or grandma coming to visit," she said, chuckling. "It was a shot in the arm for someone to stay in their home and spend time with them. We took them special gifts, Christian bookmarks, poems and (instructional) handouts."

Bringing happiness to women who often battle loneliness and depression because of being so far away from home was evidence to her of God at work.

Cathy also rejoiced in the way the two churches came together to stage the retreats, providing lodging for the missionaries, food for the retreats, and hosting a family picnic for their guests.

In addition, the team leader received an education in the pressures and obligations faced by military families overseas.

"I got to be on base and see how tight security is and what they have to go through," Chinn said. "It was an eye opener. I have more appreciation for military families and things they have to live with every day."



# ...Extraordinary Places



## European Baptist Convention

The European Baptist Convention is a fellowship of 65 English language churches and missions scattered across Europe and the Middle East.

Kentucky Baptist volunteers, through a wide variety of partnership projects, can play a vital role in helping these churches grow and minister to the people in their communities. *Approximate Cost: \$1,000 - \$2,000*



## Poland

Though Polish Baptists number only 4,300 members in 72 churches, they have a bold vision, and Kentucky Baptists can be part of it! From prayer walks to youth camps to teaching English, Kentucky

Baptists have dozens of great opportunities in 2003 to encourage Polish Baptists and share the Good News.

*Approximate Cost: \$1,600*



## New England

Since 1996, Kentucky Baptists have partnered with New England Baptists in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. The six states

together are just over half again as large as Kentucky, with a total population of more than 13,000,000. With 199 churches in the convention, that translates to one congregation for every 65,000 people, more than 75 percent of whom do not know Christ. The harvest is waiting, and Kentucky Baptists have an invitation to help. Does God have a place for you in New England?



## Greece 2003-04

Is God calling you to Greece? In the year leading up to the 2004 Olympics and during the Olympic year itself, Kentucky Baptists are being called on to minister not only to the Greek people, but to tourists

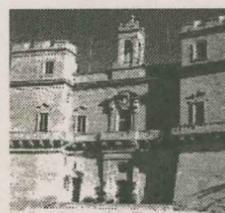
from around the world and to countless refugees who have fled to Greece from troubled parts of the world. Projects will include prayer walking, refugee ministries, sports ministry and more! *Approximate Cost: \$1,500 - 2,500*



## Northern Brazil

Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to assist in a number of important projects designed to further the cause of Christ in the largest nation in South America. From working with children in pre-school education

to participating in an evangelistic mission to thousands of fishermen who operate along the largest open sea delta in the hemisphere, there is a place for you! *Approximate Cost: \$2,000 - 2,500*



## Malta 2003

How would you like to follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul by sharing the Good News on the Mediterranean island nation of Malta? Acts 28 describes how the Apostle Paul was shipwrecked on

the island of Malta (located just south of Italy and Sicily) on his way to Rome. Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to follow in his footsteps by sharing the Gospel there today. Teams are needed for children's outreach, prayer and special evangelism.

## See For Yourself!

Call (888) 254-5724 toll free in Kentucky to request your free copy of:



**Kentucky Baptists Touching the World: Europe**

**Kentucky Baptists Touching the World: Poland**



## Volunteer Requirements

To be a partnership missions volunteer, you must:

- Be a member of a Southern Baptist church.
- Demonstrate Christian values and conduct, including abstaining from the use of tobacco and alcohol.
- Be able to share your faith verbally.
- Be physically able to perform the duties of your project, including walking reasonable distances and carrying your own baggage.
- Be between the ages of 16 and 69 if participating in an international trip. If you are older than 69, you must have medical clearance from you physician.
- Be flexible! Situations and assignments can change without notice.
- Apply to be a Partnership Missions volunteer. You can download the simple, 2-page application now at [www.kybaptist.org/partnership](http://www.kybaptist.org/partnership) or call (888) 254-5724 toll free in Kentucky to request an application by mail or fax.
- Participate in a Partnership Missions orientation scheduled by the Partnership Missions office.

## Partnership Missions Orientations

March 8, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16

Project Location	Project Date	Project Type
<b>MALTA</b>		
Mosta and Floriana	June 19 - July 2	Prayer & Children's Outreach
Mosta and Floriana	Aug. 18 - 29	Evangelism
<b>GREECE</b>		
Thessaloniki	Spring Break	Several possibilities
Various Locations	May	Biblical Vision Tour
Various Locations	June 12-25	Bible/Missions Ministry
Thessaloniki	June	Baseball Clinic for Kids
Volos	June	VBS
Thessaloniki	July	Youth Camp
Thessaloniki	June	Evangelistic Rock Concert
Volos	July 15-30	Prayer Walk, City Clean-up
Thessaloniki	August	Beach Evangelism & cultural immersion with host families
Volos	August	Prayer Walk, City Clean-up
Katerina	TBA	Develop baseball parks & Youth
Athens	TBA	1st Greek Evangelical Church
Thessaloniki	September	Prayer Walk, City Clean-up
Various Locations	October	Biblical Vision Tour
<b>BRAZIL</b>		
Teresina	Spring-Summer	Evangelistic Pre-school (VBS)
Parnaiba Delta/Canary Island	May, June, July, Sept	Evangelistic Mission to the Fishermen (MEAP)
Imperatriz	Various	Operation Parrot's Beak
Teresina	Spring-Summer	High Rise Apt. Ministry
	Various	Choir Tour or Worship Seminary
Maranhao (Sao Luis)	Various	100 Yr. Celebration - Maranhao
<b>POLAND</b>		
Bialystok	Jan 29-Feb 11	Day Camp for Children
Malbork	May 7-20	Construction
Swietajno	May 7-20	Construction
Glogow	May 17-30	Evangelism
Torun	May 28-June 10	Construction/Evangelism
Glogow	June 4-17	TBA
Dolnoslaskie	June 11-24	Music
Warsaw Seminary	June 18-July 1	Senior Adult Camp
Wisla	June 25-July 8	Construction/Evangelism
Krakow	June 25-July 8	English/VBS/Coffee House
Warsaw	June 26-29	College Team Orientation
Ustka	June 30-July 9	Ustka Camp
Wroclaw	July 9-22	Const/Evangelism
	July 13-20	Lublin/Eblong Church
Lakeland of N. Poland	July 16-29	Outdoor/Kayaking Youth Camp
Malopolska	July 16-29	English Camp/Evangelism
Malbork/Stezyca	July 16-29	English Camp/Evangelism
Wisla	July 21-26	Wisla Camp
Katowice	July 23-Aug 5	Evangelism/Discipleship
Przemysl	July 23-Aug 5	English Language/Evangelism
Zielona Gora	July 30-Aug 12	Evangelism
Wroclaw	Aug 6-19	Construction/Evangelism
Olsztyn	Aug 6-19	Evangelism/Prayer/walk/Student Ministry
Warsaw Seminary	Sept 17-30	Medical Conference
TBA	Sept 24-Oct 7	Women's Conference
TBA	Oct. 1-14	Evangelism
<b>EUROPE</b>		
Bulgaria	Jan. 16-Apr. 16	Interim Pastor
England	Apr 4-14	Religious Education
Germany	Apr 4-14	Religious Education
Germany	May or June	Construction
Switzerland	July 2-13	Extended Teaching Care
Germany	July 16-29	VBS, witnessing, preaching, leadership training, construction
Netherlands	July 26-Aug 3	VBS
Germany	Sept 5-15	Religious Education
Germany and Austria	Sept 5-15	Religious Education
Germany	Spring -Fall	Construction
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>		
Norwalk, Connecticut	Summer	Train Ministry
Norwalk, Connecticut	Summer	VBS/Backyard: Great Kingdom
Danbury, Connecticut	Spring, Summer	Construction
Danbury, Connecticut	Anytime	Donations
Danbury, Connecticut	Anytime	Technical Help, Computer
Belfast, Maine	June-August	Summer Worker, Youth Programs
Belfast, Maine	May-June	Leadership Development, Deacon Ministry, Sunday School & Outreach/Evangelism
Berwick, Maine	Summer	Missionary Work with Youth
New Hampshire	Anytime	Construction and Camp
New Hampshire	June or July	VBS
Washington, Vermont	Summer	Children's Camp
Washington, Vermont	Anytime	Soup Kitchen, Homeless Min.
Bapt. Fellowship of Randolph	July -August	Construction
Brattleboro, Vermont	Anytime	Donations
Green Mtn. Bapt. Vermont	Anytime	Creative Ministries, Prayerwalks, Concerts, Sports Camps, Youth Rallies, and others



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This publication is made possible by the Cooperative Program.

# RESOURCES

## State missionary outlines keys to reaching Hispanics

By Ken Camp  
Baptist General Convention of Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas (ABP)—Anglo Christians must understand one thing if they want to reach Hispanics with the gospel, according to Kentucky missionary Gus Reyes.

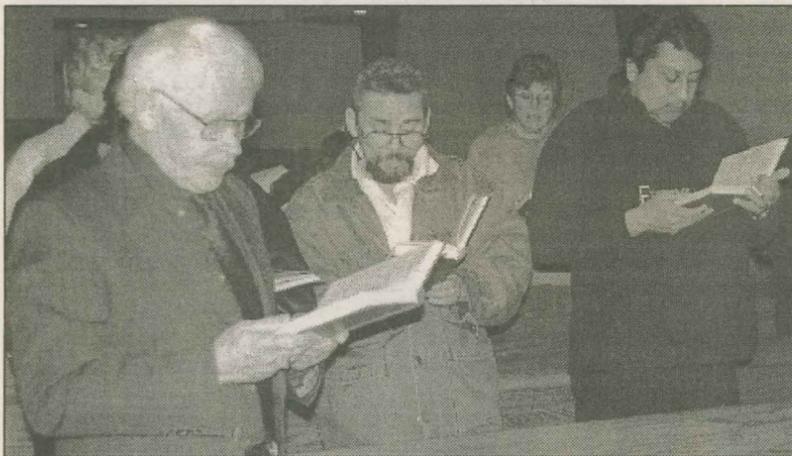
It's spelled R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

"Saving face is a huge issue in the Hispanic culture," Reyes told a recent seminar audience at the Texas Evangelism Conference Jan. 27-28.

"Never challenge a Hispanic person in public—never," said Reyes, a Hispanic leadership training specialist working in Central Kentucky. "When we embarrass someone publicly, we're telling them they are not important."

Reyes identified four distinct Hispanic cultures in the United States:

- First-generation immigrants.
- Bicultural people with "one foot in and one foot out" of their culture of origin.
- Individuals who have been assimilated into mainstream Anglo culture.
- An "emerging culture" that has been assimilated but is deciding which elements of Hispanic culture and



**HISPANIC MINISTRY** Worshipers sing during a recent service at New Life Baptist Church in Bowling Green. The Hispanic congregation meets on Sunday afternoons in the sanctuary of Forest Park Baptist Church. (KBC photo by Larry Brannin)

which elements of mainstream Anglo culture it wants to claim as its own.

While the distinctive traits of Hispanic culture are most evident among first-generation immigrants, they also are present even among the most assimilated individuals, he noted.

Hispanic culture values hierarchy, titles and formality, while mainstream Anglo culture in the U.S. is more egalitarian and informal, Reyes said.

A pastor visiting an Anglo family might dress informally, call members of the host family by their first names and invite them to address him by his first name, thinking that would be an effective way to remove barriers and make everyone feel at ease, he noted.

But a Hispanic family would interpret the lack of formality as a lack of respect, and they would feel ill at ease calling a minister by his first name.

Hispanics tend to communicate indirectly rather than directly in order to avoid embarrassing themselves or anyone else, Reyes explained. "More is said than is actually said."

Unlike the "get to the point," "don't waste my time" mainstream American culture, Hispanics value context and relationships above time and tasks. First-generation Hispanics, in particular, "see Anglos as being slaves to time," and they want no part of that bondage, he said.

"The Hispanic person won't say it, but he's thinking, 'Don't look at your watch when you visit me. If you are in a hurry, you don't have time for me. Don't even bother,'" Reyes said.

"Be flexible. Relationships are more important than starting on time. The party begins when we get there, and it usually lasts longer than you expect."

While mainstream Anglo culture values individualism and independence, Hispanic culture is "one for all and all for one," he said.

The appropriate question to ask in greeting an Anglo might be, "How are you?" But Reyes said the right question to ask a Hispanic is "How is your family?" And in the Hispanic culture, that means the extended family.

**"He's thinking, 'Don't look at your watch when you visit me.'"**

Hispanic leadership training missionary  
Gus Reyes

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Sponsored by the Creative Ministries Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



## Youth ministers: Media sends mixed message on teen sex

**"What I hope True Love Waits does is not to tell kids what not to do, but to tell them what to do."**

*Greg Northcutt, youth minister at First Baptist Church of Calvert City*

*Continued from page 1*

The cards read: "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate and my future children to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

Sabrina Titsworth, a youth leader at Zions Cause Baptist Church in Benton, said she remembers the night when her youth began discussing True Love Waits.

"The middle schoolers didn't say much, but the high schoolers were talking about how much peer pressure is out there," she said. "If you're not sexually active, then you're labeled as strange. And of course, TV shows promote it and make it look like it's normal to be having sex, and for girls to be dressing provocatively."

"We talked about how that's not right and went through the scriptures that talk about the importance of avoiding it," Titsworth said. "It's pretty tough to have the kids exposed to that all week, and then only have them a couple of hours a week. It's tough to try to overcome that."

Northcutt said the only way to overcome daily peer and media pressure is to keep teens focused on God and the good things He wants for His children.

"In my almost 30 years of being a youth director ... my experience and walk tells me that we are better off if we focus on walking in the light and not in the dark," he said. "We need to



**TRUE LOVE WAITS** Youth and leaders at Zion's Cause Baptist Church in Paducah talk during a recent True Love Waits rally in Calvert City. (Photo by Keith Todd)

put our eyes on God rather than on sin."

Public service announcements have little spiritual significance even if they promote abstinence, Northcutt added.

"There is a large segment of the secular world that promotes abstinence. Why? Because it is the most effective method of promoting health, controlling the expansion of population and improving cultural standards. That doesn't have anything to do with God. That's just cultural improvement. But, from God's perspective, what I hope True Love Waits does is not to tell kids what not to do, but to

tell them what to do."

Northcutt said True Love Waits provides an opportunity to move beyond scare tactics to convince teenagers to wait, but it requires youth leaders to keep their kids focused on God.

"God gave Adam one rule. He only had one," Northcutt said. "If your intention is to not walk with God, then

### 5 commitments

True Love Waits has five scripture-based commitments:

**To God** "Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'" (Matthew 22:37).

**To Yourself** "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:39).

**To Family** "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5).

**To Friends** "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

**To Future Mate and Children** "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22).

it doesn't matter whether your behavior involves sex, or football or academic excellence. It's all empty and worthless and destructive. If you walk with God, then your behaviors are a function of Him, and they are all good. That needs to be the message of True Love Waits."

### Institution or revolution?

Erwin McManus, one of the scheduled speakers at this week's KBC Evangelism Conference in Lexington, wrote "An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind."

The book is invaluable for both ministers and laity. McManus deals with many challenges that churches face today. As I read the book, there were many principles that apply not only to churches, but to our camp and conference ministries as well.

One of the issues McManus addresses is our willingness to change. He notes, "Change isn't new. There has always been change. What's new is how fast and how dramatically things are changing. The pace of change is simply different. In many ways the church was unprepared for the acceleration that has hit us. As the church was building on values that affirmed stability, security, predictability and standardization, the era of change seemed to catch us by surprise. This is ironic when you consider that the church was intended to be a revolution—a movement, not an institution."

What a statement: that the church was meant to be a revolution rather than an institution! It

seems, however, that most ministries are more institutional than revolutionary. To move from institution to revolution requires great change. It is human nature to resist most changes. Most of us just don't like change. In many cases, change brings stress.

At Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, we've had to examine our role in ministry to you, Kentucky Baptists. I was reminded this week of the challenges we faced when we sought to lead Jonathan Creek in a new direction, bringing change that was understandably resisted. When we launched the Crossings summer camp program three years ago, there were more than a few who didn't think Crossings would work. It

was so different, so much more in cost. It was a change from the way we always had done camp.

But now, as we move toward our fourth summer, we have more than 3,600 reservations and we are virtually sold out for this summer.

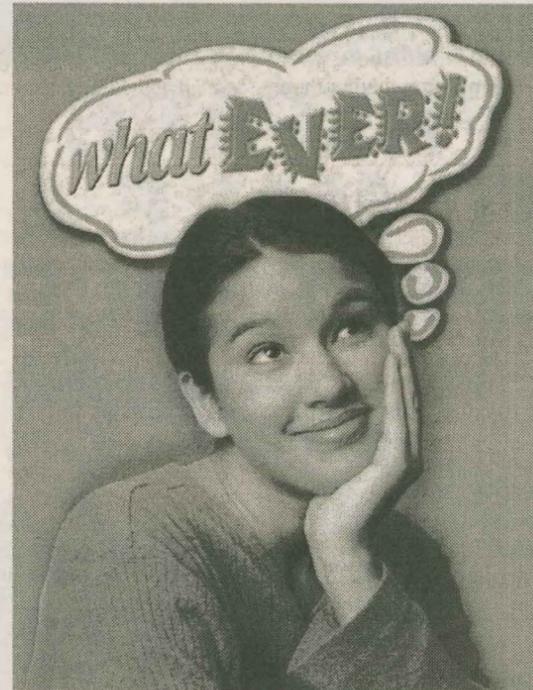
Where do we go from here? We must continue to be willing to examine all we are, all we do, and commit ourselves to a revolution to

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

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**Rusty Ellison**



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# SMILE

## Ministry to children makes a difference

Ministry matters to children. Too often, we might take that for granted. But recent reports from the Southern Baptist Convention indicate that a person's best chance for salvation comes as a child.

Nearly nine out of 10 Southern Baptist worshipers made a profession of faith in Christ before they were 12 years old.

And according to a 2002 study from Barna Research Group, children ages 5 to 13 have a 32 percent probability of accepting Jesus as savior. That likelihood drops to 4 percent for those between ages 14 and 18, the ages Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children most often serves. We're thankful that we're able to buck that trend, with an average of 10 kids in KBHC's care each month making professions of faith. That's a number we celebrate, and you should, too.

The staff and volunteers at KBHC didn't need such statistics to point out the obvious. This organization has long been ministering to children in the hopes of healing wounds, opening hearts and sharing Christ.

Your prayers and dollars help us build relationships with these troubled kids and families, whether they

be on our campuses, in foster homes or in any number of our non-residential programs.

We're quick to point out, of course, that the most important relationship is with Jesus Christ.

If you want to be more involved in helping us reach these kids at such critical times, call us at (800) 456-1386. We have a place for you to serve in this great mission field.

You can start with prayer for the children placed in our care and for KBHC staff who become their surrogate families.

Kids come to us with high expectations, hanging their hopes on our ability to make a difference in their lives.

They deserve our best when it comes to ministry. So does Jesus.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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

## Returning to Haiti

By Robert Dunston

Early in January, Cumberland College student Melinda Etter returned to serve in the Notre Maison Orphanage in Haiti. After Etter's experience in Haiti during the summer of 2002, she was anxious to return.

Cumberland students Addie Chmura, Erin Clouse, Woods Nash, Matt Rasure and Rachel Tharp accompanied Etter on the January trip.

Notre Maison Orphanage ministers to disabled children of all ages. The team members helped with food preparation, bathing of the children, physical therapy and purchasing groceries.

On both Saturdays of the team's visit, they took the children to a park, using a covered truck for transport. The drive each way proved to be quite unnerving, as their driver swerved to avoid both potholes and oncoming trucks. When the truck hit a pothole, the passengers all bounced around, causing the children to squeal with delight.

One day the team met Baptist missionary Wallace Turnbull who serves at Haiti Baptist Mission. He gave the students a tour of the mis-

sion and spoke with them at length about Baptist work there. The mission oversees 330 churches and ministers to more than 60,000 children through schools the mission has established.

Nash and Tharp felt overwhelmed by the poverty and suffering they saw. Nash stated that "the children were our teachers too. To serve them as we serve Jesus—to learn of God's care for us through their dependence on our care for them" was a great lesson.

Rasure, Clouse and Etter would love to return. Clouse, who is majoring in social work and works in a home in Williamsburg that provides care for severely disabled

adults, felt her call from God confirmed by the mission trip. The commitment of the missionaries in Haiti impressed Rasure. He saw the great need and felt he "could be used in a service capacity."

These six Cumberland College students found God at work in Haiti and experienced the joy of working with Him. We know God will continue to use them in His service.

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 A king of Judah (1 Kings 15)
- 4 Shoshonean
- 7 Aviv
- 10 Equal to absorption of 100 ergs of energy per gram of material
- 11 Tribe of prophetess Anna (Luke 2)
- 12 Contributed
- 13 "they laid her in an upper \_\_\_\_" (Acts 9:37)
- 15 "\_\_\_\_ came I out of my mother's womb" (Job 1:21)
- 16 Unruly crowds
- 17 Signal
- 18 One of the sons of Hothan (1 Chronicles 11)
- 20 One who prophesies
- 23 First name in fairy tales
- 24 "so he bringeth them into their desired \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 107:30)
- 25 CA metro.
- 26 Sierra Club concern (abbr., var.)
- 27 "Let us solace ourselves with \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 7:18)
- 28 N.T. bk.
- 29 Artificial language
- 30 Belonging to an Indonesian island
- 31 Descartes
- 32 Eli's grandson and Phinehas's son (1 Samuel 4)
- 34 Heights
- 35 Israeli statesman
- 36 What to say to a horse
- 37 "slay me, that men say not ... A \_\_\_\_ slew him" (Judges 9:54)
- 39 To walk in a clumsy way
- 42 "neither \_\_\_\_ you up a standing image" (Leviticus 26:1)

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11				12		
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32		33						34		
		35					36			
37	38				39				40	41
42					43				44	
45					46				47	

- 43 "\_\_\_\_ Girl," once-popular sitcom
- 44 Ever (poet.)
- 45 At a distance (arch.)
- 46 Grain
- 47 To be situated

### Down

- 1 Circle part
- 2 Czech distance measure
- 3 "they made their hearts as an \_\_\_\_ stone" (Zechariah 7:12)
- 4 "learn to maintain good works for necessary \_\_\_\_" (Titus 3:14)
- 5 Area adjacent to a house (abbr.)
- 6 Eldest son of Judah (Genesis 38)
- 7 "She shall be called woman ... she was \_\_\_\_ out of man" (Genesis 2:23)
- 8 She played opposite Gale in "Our Miss Brooks"
- 9 "To him which \_\_\_\_ his people through the wilderness" (Psalm 136:16)
- 11 Father (as God)
- 12 Actor Macleod
- 14 Parents
- 15 Parts of churches

- 17 "Ye \_\_\_\_ of Lamech, hearken unto my speech" (Genesis 4:23)
- 18 Feminine name
- 19 Destruction
- 20 Grandson of Obed
- 21 Feminine Hispanic name, perhaps
- 22 "Who provideth for the \_\_\_\_ for his food?" (Job 38:41)
- 24 City of the tribe of Judah (Joshua 15:51)
- 27 Rebekah's brother (Genesis 24)
- 28 Give a new name
- 30 Fictional elephant
- 31 "I have prepared the house and \_\_\_\_ for the camels" (Genesis 24:31)
- 33 Son of Joel (1 Chronicles 6)
- 34 Coastal range of India
- 36 Journalist's query
- 37 Dryly humorous
- 38 Economic org.
- 39 \_\_\_\_-Na-Na (singing group)
- 40 Given on May Day in Maui
- 41 Before (poet.)
- 43 Preposition

## Last week's solution

H	I	S	V	I	T	A	L	R	N	A	
I	R	E	P	H	A	I	H	A	I		
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O	D	E	D	R	O	M	E	S	O	P	
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A	N	A	E	S	E	R	T	I	E	R	
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S	D	E	T	E	N	T	E	R	L	T	D

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## 'Xtreme teams' offer rugged missions challenge

### Want more info?

For more information, call toll-free (866) 281-8955 or e-mail team coordinator Chris Ammons at goXtreme@imb.org.

The teams' Web site also is recruiting prayer team volunteers.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is looking for a few good men.

The board currently is recruiting fit 20-somethings for "Xtreme teams" to hike, climb and carry the gospel into some of South America's more remote destinations.

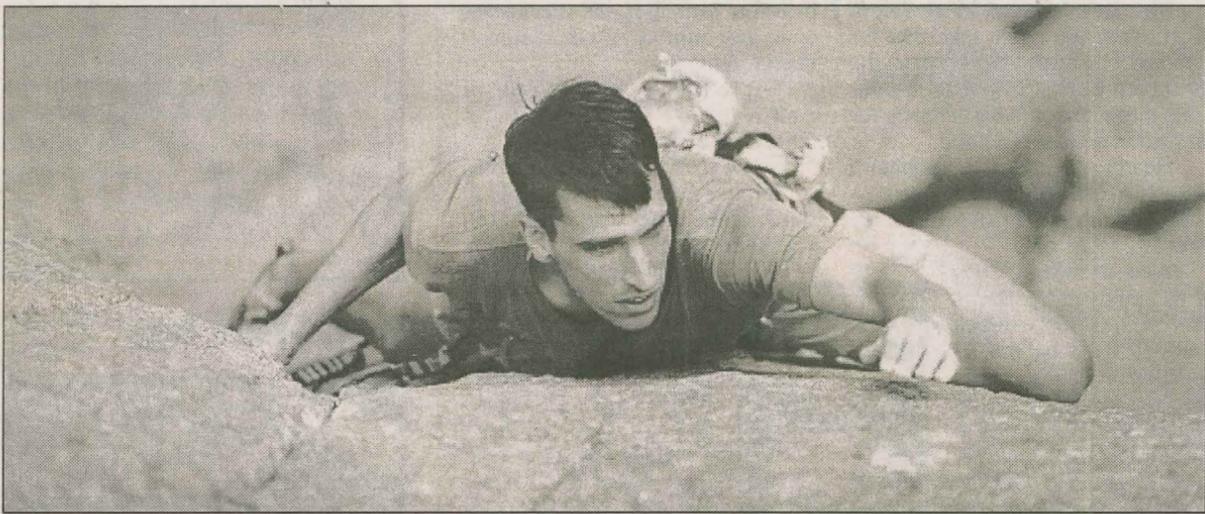
Armed with a hip Web site, the program combines spiritual maturity with "Tough Enough?" attitude.

Those chosen will travel in groups called "Xtreme teams" to remote areas of western South America to help start church-planting movements among the 76 people groups there that never have been exposed to the gospel. Believers from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru also will be members of the teams.

Each group of six teams also will have a "base camp" "where you will occasionally visit, see civilization again, check e-mail, relax and recharge," according to the recruiting Web site, [www.thextremeteam.org](http://www.thextremeteam.org). "Since there will be no electricity, there will be no bills. There will also be little else to buy other than food."

"The teams will locate unevangelized groups, do basic evangelism and saturate an area with the gospel using radio, cassettes and other available outlets," Xtreme team coordinator Chris Ammons said.

The assignment, which would consist of a two- to three-year commitment, requires that workers be between the ages of 21 and 30. Workers must be able to endure hu-



**"XTREME" CLIMBING** Young Southern Baptist men are being encouraged to join "Xtreme" teams as part of the International Mission Board's effort to locate and evangelize unreached people groups in western South America. Physical stamina is a requirement, as tasks could include vigorous climbing and hiking in humid jungles. (BP photo)

mid jungles, long hikes and high altitudes of 17,000 feet above sea level in the Andes Mountains.

"These young people will be more likely to have the physical stamina and ability to go into areas with challenging terrain," Ammons said.

The teams will seek out people groups living in areas that are difficult to access and have a population of 25,000 or less. Xtreme teams will be able to reach areas that career missionaries are not currently engaging, said Debbie Floyd, stateside advocacy coordinator for the region.

"To take the gospel to these peo-

ple will require extreme strategies so the missionary task can be finished in western South America," she said.

Workers will receive training in language study, chronological Bible storying, rescue, survival skills and how to handle hostage situations.

Teams will live in areas with various people groups for about six months at a time. The team's goal will involve producing spiritual leaders in an area before moving to the next area.

The first "Xtremers" will be limited to single young men but that eventually will change, Floyd said.

"Future teams will include wom-

en," she said. "The reasoning for young men in the first wave has to do with areas where these men will travel. Safety is certainly a concern in areas where Americans are seldom if ever seen."

The deadline for application to the team is late April. Teams will train from September through October at the board's Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, Va., and then at a training camp outside Lima, Peru.

The teams will travel to Bolivia and Peru the first year and into Ecuador the second year to locate unreached people groups in these regions.

### 'How can we help?'

It will not surprise those who regularly read this column to hear that our friends often inquire about ways they can help support the Oneida ministry. While monetary support is the most obvious and important need, there are other ways our friends can help.

For eight years we have encouraged our friends to save Campbell's soup labels and related Campbell's products labels. We have redeemed the labels for hundreds of things, including items for the school's kitchen, TVs for the dormitories, athletic equipment and dozens of classroom items. If you would like a list of the Campbell's products that have redeemable labels, just let us know.

I often have written about the hundreds of volunteers who help us each year. Our volunteer network includes friends from as far away as California as well as nearly every state east of the Mississippi River, with Kentucky supplying the greatest number. Volunteers bring a variety of skills and are highly motivated to accomplish as much as possible while they are here.

From time to time our friends offer other innovative and interesting suggestions to help fund our ministry needs. Recently I was invited to speak at South Jefferson Baptist Church in Louisville. I knew the church was considering the possibility of providing an annual scholarship for a student who needed financial assistance.

After worship, I joined the deacons for lunch followed by an open discussion about the scholarship. Their desire was to provide a scholarship in honor of a former pastor, Donald F. Coleman. Coleman was their pastor for 20 years before retiring in 1993. Coleman has a special connection with Oneida; he is a 1955 graduate. Coleman grad-

uated from Georgetown College in 1959. He returned to Oneida and taught for two years. Feeling a call to enter the ministry, Coleman enrolled at Southern Seminary in Louisville and graduated in 1965.

The folks at South Jefferson know they might not be financially able to provide a full scholarship each year. But they can foresee a time when that could be possible. South Jefferson and Oneida Baptist Institute have agreed to work together until they can fund a full scholarship.

#### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

They invite anyone who knows Coleman or who is interested in helping to provide a scholarship for a needy student to contribute. You may send your gift to Oneida and designate it for the Donald F. Coleman Scholarship Fund.

Our friends at South Jefferson asked that I use this column to invite others to consider providing a similar scholarship in honor of a beloved pastor, deacon or faithful church member. The scholarship could be set up with our business office and can be funded with monthly, quarterly or annual contributions. While we understand this is a serious finan-

cial commitment, South Jefferson hopes that their action will encourage others to establish a similar fund.

Whether your support is financial, through volunteer efforts, collecting soup labels, sending us used vehicles and clothing, or through your daily prayers, we are grateful for the thousands of faithful friends who make our ministry possible. Knowing that so many people care is a tremendous blessing to us!

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### Following the calling of the Lord

Why in the world would a man 52 years of age want to leave a successful business and start to college?

"God has laid it on my heart to preach the word. All I can say is it is in God's will," Brad Caudill stated. In January the Versailles resident began a weekly commute to campus for Tuesday and Wednesday classes.

At Hillsborough Baptist Church, Caudill serves with Pastor Bob Belen, a 2002 graduate, and Anna White, a Clear Creek trustee. Don White received confirmation of his call to ministry at Clear Creek in the old Alice Rains auditorium.

Caudill was ordained as a deacon eight years ago. When the church searched for a pastor, he preached several weeks during the interim. The church turned to Caudill as vacation Bible school director.

"I grew up in an Old Regular Baptist church, and they don't believe in teaching children and Sunday school," Caudill stated. "The VBS job was one of the most uplifting assignments I've ever had. I also taught a class, and some came to know the Lord." Caudill has helped other adults find Christ. "By sharing my testimony, they know

we're never too old to follow Christ," Caudill said.

Caudill's father is an Old Regular Baptist pastor. "It was hard for me to share with him about coming to Clear Creek. He smiled and said, 'If it's the calling of the Lord, I'm behind you.' Dad retired from IBM and really went to work for the Lord. He is 78 years of age; my mother is also a dedicated Christian," Caudill said.

Brad's wife, Janet, handles the books for their business and has helped some employees come to Christ. She witnessed to one man for three years and counseled him with marriage problems. After he moved to Somerset he called and told them he had trusted the Lord. After they sell the business, Janet plans to enroll in classes.

"The Lord laid it on my heart about evangelism and missions. I don't know if it will be here or overseas. There is a big field here in America."

#### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## God & generals



**FAITH AND WAR** "Gods and Generals" which opened last weekend, is being praised for its portrayal of how faith influenced the Civil War's leaders. (Warner Bros. photo)

### Movie and book explore faith of Civil War's leaders

By Martin King  
North American Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—A prominent Christian media critic is urging evangelicals to support "Gods and Generals," a new Civil War movie that opened last weekend.

"The entire future of this incredible, faith-filled movie rests on how well it does in the first few weeks," Ted Baehr told those attending a screening of the movie in Atlanta in January.

Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission, writes a syndicated column about entertainment based on biblical values. He is also the co-author of a book about the film, titled "Faith in God and Generals," published by the Broadman & Holman division of LifeWay Christian Resources.

The epic "is filled with the passion, drama, life and death of our nation's darkest hour, wonderfully acted by Hollywood's finest talent," Baehr said. "Most importantly, it captures the triumph of faith and love in the midst of tragedy—a message we need to hear as the world continues to struggle with war and division."

Based on a novel by the same title by Jeff Shaara, "Gods and Generals" begins in early 1861 and continues through 1863, climaxing with the Battle of Chancellorsville.

It is actually a prequel to the 1993 film "Gettysburg," intended to be the first in a trilogy. "Gettysburg" would be the second film of the three, and "The Last Full Measure," covering the last two years of the war, would be the finale.

The film's \$60 million production budget was four times larger than the budget for "Gettysburg." Much of "Gods and Generals" was shot on location in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, with 158 speaking roles and thousands of Civil War re-enactors.

The film largely focuses on Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson,

portrayed by Stephen Lang, and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, played by Robert Duvall. The strong Christian faith of both men is unapologetically portrayed in the film.

Opinions about the film—expressed on various movie and Civil War Web sites—run the gamut. Some people have described the movie as too long (three-and-a-half hours) and inaccurate, while others praise it as "the surprise movie of the year ... a must see."

Many of those attending the Atlanta screening appreciated the accurate representation of the strong faith of those on both sides of the war and its faithfulness to the Shaara book. Most agreed the film was long, but several people who had read Shaara's books said the length was not a negative. The film is rated PG-13 due to sustained battle sequences.

Baehr said both the movie and the book "Faith in God and Generals" juxtapose the tragedy of lost dreams and brutal battles—when friends and family members often fought against each other—with the impressive faith and patriotism of those who hoped to build a better world through the struggle.

"We tried to present history as accurately as possible," he said. This is pretty strong stuff. But I hope people will see how important faith was to those who have gone before them and think about how important faith is today."

Co-author Susan Wales said the faith of those who fought on both sides of the conflict is a great example to Americans today.

"They were confident of eternal life and a better place and looked forward to their death despite the outcome of the war," she said. "They were willing to die for what they believed in, right or wrong, and trusted that they would find their answers in heaven."

With additional reporting by Witney Von Lake Hopler for Baptist Press

**Hearing God's Voice.** Henry and Richard Blackaby. Broadman & Holman, 2002. 274 pages. \$17.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Does God still speak to people today? How does one hear the voice of God? How can people be sure they are hearing God's voice and not the voice of their own desires? These and other questions were the motivation behind Henry and Richard Blackaby's "Hearing God's Voice."

Though their argument would not be proof positive to a hardened skeptic, their first chapter makes plausible the argument that God actively speaks to individuals as actively as He did in Bible times.

From that point and throughout the bulk of the book, the Blackabys review the principle from Henry's "Experiencing God" Bible study that God speaks through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church. Each chapter contains a thorough treatment of the topic, along with personal illustrations from the lives of the authors and others.

"Hearing God's Voice" returns to a key contention of the "Experiencing God" material, and not only challenges us to be aware of the ways God is speaking, but offers helpful insight into how we can hear the voice of God. I was struck by both the simplicity and depth of the presentation.

For example, in their discussion on prayer, the Blackabys observe: "To ask something 'in Jesus' name' is not simply to tack on that phrase at the end of a prayer. It is asking God to accomplish His heart's desire." Simple enough on the surface, but ponder the last sentence and the direction of most of our praying would be transformed radically.

That type of simple, yet profound insight jumped out at me over and over again. "Hearing God's Voice" is a solid resource for individuals and groups seeking an openness to God's calling in their lives. *Jim Holladay*

**Giving Good Gifts: The Spiritual Journey of Parenthood.** George Conway. Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. 167 pages. \$16.95. ♦♦♦♦

There are hundreds of books on parenting available for the Christian parent. This book approaches the subject from a somewhat different angle.

The tried and true giving of advice is here, but the advice is not about discipline but about developing the spiritual gifts in children.

Conway contends that it is these spiritual gifts that will give our children the resources they need to grow up in the faith. Spiritual gifts also are the resource needed to be faithful people out in the world.

Conway suggests seven spiritual gifts that are needed. My favorite gifts include honor, freedom to doubt, companionship of God and a transcendent perspective. He then endeavors to help parents act in ways in which these spiritual gifts are developed and nurtured in our children.

He concludes each chapter with 10 suggestions to nurture the gift. Conway's suggestions are practical and biblically based.

A theme that runs through Conway's book is that parenting is not only a spiritual journey for the child but also for the parent. Parenting that gives good gifts not only nurtures the child but also the parent. Conway actually contends that parenting can draw us closer to God, to our children and to the best parts of ourselves. Sign me up for that experience in parenting.

This book obviously would be helpful for an individual study. Better yet, would be when parents gather for a group study. The questions at the end of each chapter would serve nicely as conversation starters. The additional stories and experiences that would be shared would only enhance the potential impact of the book.

Thanks to Conway for providing a fresh road map for one of life's most important relationships. *Wayne Hager*

**The Church of Irresistible Influence: Bridge-Building Stories to Help Reach Your Community.** Robert Lewis with Rob Wilkins. Zondervan, 2001. 221 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦

Robert Lewis is pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Ark. In his first 10 years as pastor, the congregation grew "from a mere handful of people to over 2,500."

The future looked bright. People seemed excited and happy. Success was written all over the face of the congregation. But Lewis sensed that something was wrong:

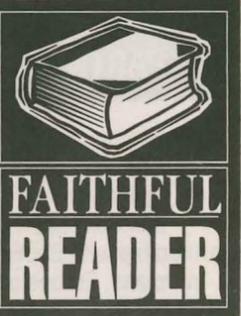
"Even with all our advances over 10 years, we were still little more than a stranger to our community. ... It would be hard to imagine that this was the design Jesus had in mind when He dreamed of His church."

I must admit that when I first picked up this book, I assumed it was another in the marketing-the-church genre. Lewis's reflection on the state of his growing church, however, piqued my interest and curiosity. How many times, in the midst of success and growth, do any of us stop and ask, "Are we doing the right thing?"

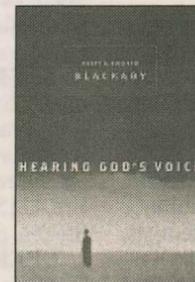
Even more rare, perhaps, is the realization that, truth be told, we are on the wrong track.

Using bridge design, function and engineering as his guiding metaphor, Lewis describes the process of turning his congregation's definition of success on its ear. He challenged them to see that the fundamental call of the church is to be salt and light in its community. In order to accomplish this mission, the congregation not only needed to re-focus its understanding of its call, it needed to radically overhaul its structures.

Though his desire was for his church to become an irresistible influence in its community, I was impressed that his focus remained on drawing people to Christ and His kingdom, not to Fellowship Bible Church. *Jim Holladay*



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



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Follow-up to the efforts of churches in Bucharest, Romania, last fall to reach non-Christians by distributing bags containing a loaf of bread, tracts and New Testaments.

- Two "Alpha" seeker Bible study groups recently begun in Sofia, Bulgaria. Missionaries request prayer that the young people in the groups will learn to trust each other and be faithful to attend the studies.

- For Bible studies to begin among teachers working in 27 Russian schools in the Marina region of Moscow.

- Four Russian women who attend a weekly Bible study in the home of Baptist representative Janet Terrell in Khabarovsk, Russia. Work schedules and other commitments are making it difficult for the women to be faithful in attending the group.

- Baptist representatives in Silesia, Poland, who have been asked to teach a religion class in a local secondary school. Usually a priest or a nun teach such classes. Administrators are giving the Baptists the freedom to teach what they want.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Bivocational seeks position as associate pastor with emphasis on outreach and evangelism. Please send correspondence to 8000 Kelly Green Way, Louisville, KY 40291.

**FOR SALE:** Charming starter home; 2-bedroom; 2-bath. 12608 Westport Ridge Way, Louisville (near Ford truck plant). Immediate possession. \$87,500. Lally Company Realtors. (502) 456-5230.

**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:** Part-time minister of music—knowledgeable in congregation worship, choral and ensemble music. Send resumé to: Music Search Committee, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 5664 Highway 56, Owensboro, KY 42301.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, is prayerfully receiving and reviewing resúmes and applications for two full-time ministry positions. Interested and qualified individuals applying for either minister of students or minister of education should send inquiries and/or resúmes to the church c/o the Personnel Committee chair at 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065. A copy of the job description for either position can be mailed upon written request.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for North Fork Baptist Church. Please send resumé and references to: Search Committee, 46A South Webb Ave., Whitesburg, KY 41858.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor for youth and children for progressive Southern Baptist church with average attendance of 500 in blended worship services. Seminary training and/or experience preferred. Send resumé to: Berea Baptist Church, 310 Chestnut St., Berea, KY 40403. For more information, call (859) 986-9391.

**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:** International Baptist Church Berlin, a growing, English-speaking, international congregation of Christians in Germany's capital, seeks a pastor to begin in July 2003. We are looking for a godly man who has: prayerful, personal relationship with Christ; the gifts of preaching and teaching God's word; belief in the infallibility of the Scriptures; strong love for missions; cross-cultural experience; fluent command of English; degree from a theological seminary. Interested applicants may send applications to: International Baptist Church Berlin, Rothenburgstr. 12a-13, 12165 Berlin, c/o Dr. Klaus Ziegler, Pastor Search Committee. For more information about our congregation, see [www.abcberlin.org](http://www.abcberlin.org).

**SEEKING:** Energetic director of marketing for Baptist Life Communities. Must have a marketing degree and at least three years experience in marketing or related services. If interested and have compassion for senior adults, fax resumé with salary requirements to (859) 581-0190, Attn: H.R.

**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:** 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:** 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 resúmes or recommendations to Cindy Johnson, chair, Education Search Committee, 305 W Broadway, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

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

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

**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 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](mailto:john.gilbert@freedomlender.com). A full job description is available at <http://users.dcr.net/~thbchurch/>.

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

**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 Pocahontas Trail, Georgetown, KY 40324.

**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:** Frenchburg Baptist Church in Frenchburg, Ky., prayerfully seeks a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 4, Frenchburg, KY 40322.

**SEEKING:** Experienced long-term care accountant for Baptist Life Communities. Four-year accounting degree preferred; at least two years nursing home accounts receivable, Medicare, Medicaid and insurance experience required. Collection of past due accounts and analysis will be a major part of this position. If interested, please fax resumé with salary requirements to (859) 581-0190, Attn: H.R.

**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](http://www.broadwaybaptist.org/search.htm), or write to the church c/o Education Search Committee, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207.

**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](mailto:john.gilbert@freedomlender.com).

**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:** Full-time director of preschool for Sunshine Komer 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:** Full-time pastor for church located in a growing community. Send resumé to: Fairlane Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 5913 Herringer Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

**SERVICE:** Lower your phone bill. Blessed Hope has 4.9 cents/minute (24/7); no fees; 6-second billing; no fine print; and 250,000 happy customers. Free message at (866) 736-7869 or info at [www.covenantphone.com](http://www.covenantphone.com). Home agents needed.

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



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**WESTERNRECORDER**

# PEOPLE

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BEREA**—Calvary Church called **Josh Scott** as pastor. He was ordained Feb. 2 by First Church, Belfry.

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church will host the Easter musical "Let All Heaven Rejoice" April 12-14, directed by **Jim Casson**, minister of music and religious education. For information, call (859) 689-4080.

■ **CADIZ**—Locust Grove Church will hold revival services March 10-14 with **Darren Gaddis** as evangelist.

Oak Grove Church will hold revival services March 9-12 with **Paul**

**Cannon**, pastor of Canton Church, as evangelist.

■ **CAMPBELLSBURG**—**Doug Boyd** recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor of Providence Church.

■ **CORYDON**—Corydon Missionary Church called **Kelly Davis** as youth director.

■ **HENDERSON**—Bellfield Church called **Brodie Ambrose** as interim pastor.

Cash Creek Church called **D.T. Fulkerson** as pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—South Fork

Church will host a "One Night Rally" March 3, 7 p.m. with evangelist **David Ring**. **Norman Brock** is pastor. For information, call (270) 325-3626.

■ **LA CENTER**—Antioch Church recently honored **Robert Bickford** for 15 years as pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—Woodlawn Church will hold revival services April 6-11. **Bill Saye**, a former drug dealer-turned-evangelist, will be guest speaker. **Ed Amundson** is pastor. For information, call (270) 692-4825.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Audubon Church honored **Zora Stafford** on her 101th birthday Feb. 16.

■ **PENDLETON**—Sligo Church recently ordained **Jerry Rankin** as a deacon.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville

Church called **Tom Patterson** as pastor.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Dover Church recently called **Lee Bean** as pastor.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church called **Whitney Blackburn** as youth minister. **Lynn Traylor** is pastor.

■ **WHITESBURG**—**David Robinson** resigned as pastor of North Fork Church to become principal of Fleming-Neon High School.

### What's going on?

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

## The 'soul-winning evangelist'

Collection details history of Southern Baptists' hardest working evangelist

By Erin Curry  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—A unique collection offering a personal look at Eddie Martin, one of the most popular and successful evangelists of the 20th century, recently became public at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

"This collection is significant for us because we don't have anything else like it," said Bill Sumners, director of the library and archives, located in Nashville.

The collection, available to researchers and interested observers alike, features Martin's correspondence, promotional materials, sermons, photographs, motion pictures and audio and video recordings.

"It tells a story about a segment of Southern Baptist life, of what revival means, of what city-wide crusades meant," Sumners said. "This collection is so good because it documents an element of Baptist life not just in text format but visually through photographs, motion picture film and recordings."

The papers span the period from 1938 to 1997 and represent more than 50 years of Martin's evangelistic ministry both in the United States and South America.

The collection contains hundreds of photographs and recordings in different formats, from paper and Mylar tape to reel-to-reel tape and audiocassette, 16mm film and videocassette tape, said Howard Gallimore, archival assistant at the archives.

The photographs illustrate the cru-

sades, revivals and soul-winning campaigns conducted by Martin primarily in the South and Southwest, and the film and sound recordings illuminate the holdings with action and sound from crusade meetings at assembly halls, football fields, stadiums and tents.

Martin was born in Lancaster, Pa., in 1915 to a non-Christian family. Martin's mother became a Christian through the witness of a woman visitor.

As a rebellious teenager, Martin showed no interest in Christianity, though his mother prayed for his conversion and left gospel tracts for him to find under his pillow or cereal bowl. At about age 16, Martin professed faith in Christ.

After graduating from high school, Martin became a successful businessman in rock wool, which was pumped into walls before modern-day insulation was invented.

### The influence of D.L. Moody

In his early 20s, Martin heard a message by evangelist Porter Barington and decided God was calling him to become an evangelist. Martin attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in the late 1930s. There, he read a biography of D.L. Moody that influenced him.

Martin read that Moody would not go to bed at night until he had shared the gospel with at least one lost person that day. Martin decided to make a similar commitment but to increase the number to three lost people per day. Throughout his ministry, Martin credited his practice of personal evangelism with keeping him constantly focused on the needs of lost souls. During every crusade and revival he preached, he devoted the hours from 4 p.m. until the time of the service, usually 7 p.m., to personal visitation and sharing the Christian faith.

Gallimore described Martin as a handsome, athletic man who made a good first impression because of his striking dress and businessman demeanor.

Martin packed coliseums and stadiums and spoke to football teams, in schools, prisons and factories and at



coal mining towns. During World War II he spoke to black Army regiments when other preachers overlooked them.

"He was a hard worker for evangelism," Gallimore said. "He was a showman and would employ any technique he could find to get people's attention. He was very animated."

Known as the "Soul-Winning Evangelist," Martin worked with more than 1,250 pastors in 1,500 crusades across the United States and published a widely used four-booklet evangelistic series called "The Law of the Harvest."

### Attention turns to El Salvador

During the 1960s, Martin developed an interest in Central America and South America, particularly El Salvador.

Gallimore said Martin once mentioned to someone that people in the United States had become disinterested in the gospel, so he was taking it elsewhere. He made many trips to El Salvador to lead revivals and evangelistic meetings.

Through the Eddie Martin Evangelistic Association and his own personal funds, he established and supported churches and preaching stations and built churches, schools and houses for pastors in El Salvador.

Martin died of cancer in 1997 at age 81 at his home in Lancaster, Pa. Not long after, the Eddie Martin Papers were given to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives by his widow, Evelyn Martin. Sumners said significant time was needed for the archivists to inventory the collection and make it available to the public.

"His collection was the hardest for us to develop of any I have worked on because he wrote on scraps," Gallimore noted. "He wrote on napkins at the dinner table, he wrote on ticket stubs from airlines. The worst one was he wrote on a plastic bag in a motel that you put your dry cleaning in and send it out. He wrote on shirt cards. And he didn't say the title is this, the date is this and so forth, he just started writing his sermons."

The extensive photographs tell a visual story of what revivals used to mean when city-wide crusades would last for weeks and many people would become Christians, Sumners said.

Something else that makes the collection so valuable, Sumners said, is that Martin collected sermons on tape from other noted evangelists such as W.A. Criswell, R.G. Lee, Billy Graham, Freddie Gage and Gypsy Smith.

"We might not have those sermons otherwise."

**COAL MINERS MEETING**  
Eddie Martin searched for audiences where other evangelists were less likely to visit, such as this coal mining site. (Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives photos)



**FOR ALL RACES** During World War II, Eddie Martin spoke to military troops, including black regiments that often were overlooked.

# It was her <sup>best</sup> Spring Break ever...

Amy spent a week in Miami, Florida with some close friends and a few new faces from Campbellsville University—but they weren't there to party. They were there to serve the less fortunate on a special mission trip.

It was amazing how many lives Amy touched in just one week. She helped rebuild decaying homes. She witnessed to college students from other schools. She served hot meals to the area's homeless. In the course of helping others, she learned about the plan God has for her life.

Campbellsville is filled with ways to strengthen your faith and make your spiritual journey exciting. To schedule a campus visit or more information, contact the Office of Admissions at **1.800.264.6014** or at **270.789.5220** or **www.campbellsville.edu**.

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