



WESTERN RECORDER

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KENTUCKY NOTES



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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

Some Baptist leaders say war with Iraq is justified, but another leader warns of its impact on missions. *Page 2.*

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Poll: Two-thirds of Americans think devil exists

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—A full 68 percent of Americans believe in the devil, while 20 percent do not and 12 percent are unsure, according to a Gallup poll taken in 2001 but released last week.

In 1999, 85.5 percent of Americans told Gallup they believe in God.

"Religion has ceded its civil authority, and religiosity has declined somewhat in American society. So we might expect belief in the devil to have largely evaporated," said Gallup contributing editor Jennifer Robinson. "It hasn't. Regardless of political belief, religious inclination, education or region, most Americans believe that the devil exists."

Seventy percent of Catholics believe in the devil, compared to 79 percent of Protestants and 83 percent of self-identified members of the religious right.

Regionally, Southerners are the most likely to believe, at 79 percent, followed by Westerners at 69 percent, Midwesterners at 64 percent and East Coast residents at 56 percent.

Politically, Republicans, at 79 percent, are the most likely to believe in the devil, compared with 67 percent of Democrats and 59 percent of independents.

Across age and education, belief in the devil varies less. Seventy percent of adults ages 30-64 said the devil is real, along with 66 percent of adults ages 18-19.

Similarly, 70 percent of high school graduates say the devil is real, along with 68 percent of college graduates. Fifty-five percent of people with postgraduate degrees also believe.

Annie in action



PRAYER WARRIORS Missionaries Debbie and Norm Cannada pray for an 86-year-old woman who had fallen and broken her leg. The Cannadas are church-planting missionaries in inner-city Charleston, W.Va. They are among the missionaries profiled during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions. This year's goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$53 million. (Photo by Ken Touchton)

Missionary couple plant churches in Appalachia

By Debbie Moore
SBC North American Mission Board

CHARLESTON, W.Va.—As a sports journalist and editor for 10 years, Norm Cannada had no idea a few years ago that he would wind up living and ministering in the struggling inner-city of Charleston, W.Va. But he and his wife, Debbie, were serving on a mission trip in New York City when they realized God was calling them to live and minister among people many others had forgotten.

"I believe for the most part the church ignores the inner city," said

Cannada, a church planter strategist in Charleston. "But as far as living day to day, living among the people, there are not a lot of people who are willing to do that. I just fell in love with the whole concept of touching lives. If we lived somewhere else, we would never be part of the community."

The Cannadas are among the missionaries featured during the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 2-9. The week is part of Southern Baptists' season of North American missions. The relat-

ed Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions has a national goal of \$53 million.

Coincidentally, the Cannadas credit fellow Week of Prayer missionaries Taylor and Susan Field for helping them ignite a passion for the city.

After being called by God to leave his job and enter the ministry in

1994, Cannada was serving on a church staff in Statesville, N.C., when he and his wife had the opportunity to



See Missionaries plant ..., page 6

Speaker: Christianity more vibrant as movement than as institution

By David Winfrey
and Trennis Henderson
News Director and Editor

LEXINGTON—The Christian church, its disciples and its mission look different when they are part of a movement of God than when they are part of an institution, according to Erwin McManus.

"The Kingdom of God advances more as a revolution than it does as a program," said McManus, pastor of Mosaic Church in Los Angeles. "Many of us have been preaching the Jesus of institution."

Speaking last week at the annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, McManus told pastors and church leaders that being part of a movement offers both risks and rewards that cannot be experienced in an institutional faith.

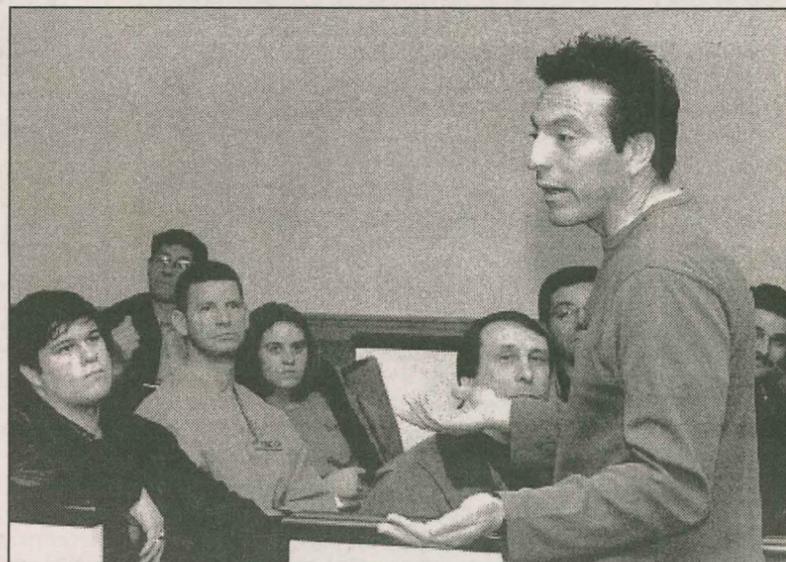
The Feb. 24-25 conference, held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, attracted an estimated 1,400 participants, according to conference organizers.

Highlighting the theme, "Unleash the Power," Kentucky Baptist evangelism director Dan Garland said, "I hope there was some power unleashed in people's lives through what God is seeking to do. It's not about methods, programs or style. It's about passion."

McManus noted that when he became a Christian at age 20 he immediately believed that all Christians shared their faith, memorized scripture daily and had vibrant prayer lives.

"In my view, this was the church of Jesus Christ," he said. "It was a rude awakening as I began experiencing the church abroad. ... Twenty-five years later, I don't want to let go of

See McManus: Christianity ..., page 8



QUESTION & ANSWER Erwin McManus, pastor of Mosaic Church in Los Angeles, was among approximately two dozen speakers and conference leaders at the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference, Feb. 24-25 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 5

Unleash the Power
KBC Evangelism Conference

Seminary panelists agree war is justified

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Is war with Iraq justified? That was the focus of a Feb. 26 panel discussion among four Southern Baptist ethicists Feb. 26 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

The consensus among the panelists was that war with Iraq would be morally justified, though the participants differed about why a potential conflict would meet traditional "just war" doctrine.

Panelists included Daniel Heimbach, professor of ethics at Southeastern; Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; Mark Liederbach, an assistant professor of ethics at Southeastern; and David Jones, also a Southeastern assistant professor of ethics.

Heimbach cited such biblical passages as Romans 14:19, Proverbs 2:7-9 and Romans 13 to describe why war, in some cases, can be justified and legitimized by the Bible.

"We cannot ask if it is justifiable to go to war," he said. "We must ask when is it moral to go to war, and how do you fight a war morally?"

Heimbach, who was a member of President George H.W. Bush's administration, drafted a memo that the

president used as a moral platform for the 1991 Gulf War. Heimbach said he believes any current conflict with Iraq would be justified as a continuation of the previous conflict because Iraq never fully complied with the terms of the 1991 surrender agreement.

Heimbach said he believes the just war principle of last resort—has every diplomatic channel been exhausted?—has long ago been passed.

"You can send inspectors back over ... but if there's no deadline, then you have turned just war into pacifism," he said. "War with Iraq is justified."

Land, who already is on record as supporting possible war with Iraq, disagreed with Heimbach on one point. Land argued that a regime change in Iraq would be morally justified, whereas Heimbach said that if the only reason the United States attacked was to overthrow Saddam Hussein, it would not be justified.

"I think just cause can be a just cause of war if the regime is evil enough," Land said.

Land said the Bush administration also has the just war requirement of legitimate authority.

"The legitimate authority for committing American soldiers, sailors and airmen to war is the Congress of the

United States, not the United Nations General Assembly and not the United Nations Security Council, period," Land said, eliciting applause from the audience.

Southeastern President Paige Patterson, who moderated the discussion, posed a question he said many Christians struggle with: If God is sovereign, shouldn't Christians let God deal with the ramifications of evil?

Heimbach said Romans 13 clearly states that human government has been given authority to execute justice in God's stead on the earth.

"It's not a limitation of God, it's that God wants to use us," Heimbach said. "He could do it Himself, but He wants us to do it."

Liederbach asked about the implications of the gospel on just war. Using the analogy of a parent disciplining a child, he pointed out that governments have a responsibility to bring those who do evil back into compliance with accepted laws. But the responsibility for Christians extends to not only forcing evil regimes like Iraq to comply, but also praying that the leaders of those regimes come to faith in Christ.

"That's what we need to be praying for," Liederbach said. "That's how a Christian wages spiritual warfare."

Merritt calls on Promise Keepers to help produce 'unified church'

PHOENIX (BP)—God cannot help a church that is not unified in heart and spirit, former Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt told a group of 9,000 ministers and Christian leaders gathered for a recent Promise Keepers' pastors conference in Phoenix.

Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., said unity is something God desires for and demands from His people, and it's the one thing that Satan fears and works day and night to undo.

"It is something for which Jesus Himself prayed just before He went to the cross," Merritt said. "It is the one thing that the Bible says will convince people that the church has something the world does not."

Unity differs from union because union is when people are bonded without a particular common bond, Merritt said, and it differs from uniformity because that's when everyone looks alike, sounds alike and thinks alike. And unity differs from unanimity because in unity people still can have differing opinions. By unity, Merritt said, he meant a oneness of heart, a similarity of purpose and an agreement on the basics of Bible doctrine and truth.

Unity offers protection

"Satan cannot defeat a unified church because there is no place where he can attack the body," Merritt told the crowd. "Every flank is covered; every side is protected. Even the gates of hell cannot prevail against a church united in its love for the Lord Jesus Christ and its love for one another. But one by one, divided against each other, any of us and all of us can be picked off by his fiery darts."

Among the other speakers at the Promise Keepers conference:

■ Moody Bible Institute President Joe Stowell acknowledged the racial challenges facing the nation and the Christian church worldwide. "Are you ready to face the risks?" he asked. "You are going to have to embrace someone who is not like you in order to win your city."

■ Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, said, "Don't let your culture get in the way of your message. Spiritual truth must take precedence over cultural differences."

■ Bruce Wilkinson, author of the best-selling book "The Prayer of Jabez," returned from his new home in Johannesburg, South Africa, to remind Christians in the United States of the AIDS pandemic sweeping the African continent. "Will you go this year to Africa to see for yourself how to help?" he asked.

BWA leader: War with Iraq would hurt missions

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, has added his voice to those of other religious leaders opposed to a possible U.S.-led war in Iraq, saying it could negatively affect mission work in the region.

"One of the tragic consequences of war ... would be the devastating effect it would have upon the Christian mission, not only in the Middle East, but among Muslim people worldwide," Lotz said.

He warned that Muslims' views of Christians will be influenced by military action in the region.

"Unfortunately, perception is often greater than reality, and Muslims everywhere may well see any war with Iraq as a war of Christians against Muslims," he said.

Lotz estimated more than 600,000 Christians live in Iraq, which has a population of 22 million. "This sizable minority needs our prayers and support," he said.

CBF cuts budget 10 percent amid giving decline

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, facing a shortfall in contributions, will reduce spending 10 percent this fiscal year and use up to \$1 million from reserves to stave off deeper cuts.

Members of the CBF Coordinating Council, meeting in Atlanta Feb. 20-22, dealt with those budget cuts and adopted a less ambitious budget for its next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Philip Wise, chairman of the group's finance committee, told the council \$1.8 million has been cut from the organization's \$18 million budget for 2002-03. Most of those reductions

were from within the organization—including \$888,000 from its missions program—with another \$638,000 coming from CBF's ministry partners.

The budget to be recommended for the next fiscal year is \$17.9 million—9 percent less than the original 2002-03 budget but still 7 percent more than the reduced budget.

The proposed budget will be considered by the CBF general assembly in June. It will retain many of the spending reductions imposed this year. Total funding for CBF's ministry partners, such as divinity schools, is projected to remain about the

same—\$1.68 million in 2002-03 and \$1.71 million in 2003-04.

In other business, the council approved a national church-planting partnership between CBF and the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas and Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio. Among the project's goals are to start 400 Hispanic congregations and train 400 new Hispanic pastors by 2010.

Council members were told CBF has endorsed 295 chaplains since it began its chaplaincy program five years ago. CBF is on pace to endorse 100 to 150 new chaplains a year.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Medical-dental group to honor Myers.** Members of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship will remember Martha Myers in a memorial service during their annual meeting March 27-30 in Birmingham, Ala. Myers, a physician and a member of the Medical-Dental Fellowship, was one of three Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers killed by a gunman Dec. 30 at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen. The meeting will include addresses by IMB President Jerry Rankin, national Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee and Calvin Miller, professor of preaching at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham. For information, call (888) 275-8485.

■ **Canadian Baptist president dies.** Perley MacNeill, president of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, died Feb. 19. He was the second layman elected president in the convention's 18-year history. MacNeill, 60, was an educator who served as vice principal of a school in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

■ **NAMB team wins Telly Awards.** The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's electronic media team has won eight Telly Awards for its video products, including three "Silver Telly" awards for its "E-ssentials for the On Mission Church" video series. Tellys recognize outstanding non-network and cable TV video productions.



Speaker: Are you hearing teens' screams?

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LEXINGTON—A Calvin Klein jeans ad, hard rock record covers, a Rolling Stone cover story about the 1994 suicide of Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain.

The graphics Walt Mueller used during his message at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference weren't the typical fare for such a setting. But they weren't intended to be.

Mueller, president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding in Elizabethtown, Pa., said major pressures faced by teens today include looks, grades for getting into the right college, alcohol, sex and the drive to be popular.

"In this world today, we hear cries coming from our teenagers, children and young adults," Mueller said. "This is a picture of the youth culture that you and I have been called to minister to; the youth culture that desperately needs to hear the good news of Jesus Christ."

Mueller said seven messages "literally being screamed by our teenagers, children and young people in our rapidly changing world" include:

My world is different. "This is a fact we need to grasp," he said. "As we start to peel back the layers of the pressures they feel, it is not the same world. They face a different world with new challenges, new pressures, new choices and new expectations."

I am hurting. "There's bitterness, there's brokenness, there's pain and it's taking a toll," Mueller warned. "Young people today have experienced the effects of sin and the fall in their lives in very significant ways."

"Ask them what they're listening to and listen to their music," he urged.

Unleash the Power
KBC
Evangelism
Conference

Mueller: Youth need missionaries

LEXINGTON—Ministry to young people today should be prophetic, preventive and redemptive, Walt Mueller told participants at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

"It's easy from a Christian perspective to react and sometimes overreact rather than respond," said Mueller, president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. "We need to sit and listen and then respond. It's a process."

Leading a breakout session on "Reaching the Millennials," Mueller described today's culture as "sort of the soup that our students swim in every day. We need to be constantly stirring it up and looking at the ladle and saying, 'What's in there?'"

"I think the music clearly says that our young people are hurting."

I know that I'm hungry. "This is a self-awareness of their spiritual hunger," Mueller said. "Young people are really aware of the spiritual part of their lives. They realize they are spiritual beings."

"Unfortunately," he added, "Christianity typically doesn't even get a look. Young people today are finding neo-pagan religions exciting because they are finding the power in them they haven't found anywhere else."

Noting that young people "are crying out to the church, 'Come over and help us,'" Mueller asked, "Shouldn't we be listening and answering their cries?"

Please listen and understand. "The greatest complaint we hear over and over from young people about adults is they don't listen and they don't understand."

Cultural influences include such elements as art, music, film, television, books, magazines, values, beliefs, habits and rules, he said.

While "many of us in the church see the culture as evil," he added, "We need to use the culture to our advantage."

"Because it teaches, I want to know the culture. I want to know what that stuff out there is teaching my kids. If we don't know the culture, we've opened the door to the culture being more powerful."

Describing youth ministry as a mission field, Mueller said, "We are missionaries. We must see any work with students as cross-cultural work. ... It's that whole idea of being in the world, but not of the world."

Noting that the apostle Paul sought to listen and understand in order to share the gospel with people in need, Mueller said adults need to practice dual listening. "We listen to the Word and to the world," he said. "We need to cross over into their culture" in order to understand their concerns and earn the right to be heard.

Please see me as Jesus sees me. Encouraging adults to pray for today's young people, Mueller said, "It will radically change the way you see young people. Not one of them is unredeemable, not one."

Please be there for me. "Our young people today want to enter into relationships marked by vulnerability and time with someone who will stand with them and love them."

Please show me Jesus. "There's nothing that the enemy would love more than to see this generation suffer in a difficult culture and see us just stand by and watch," Mueller emphasized. "Listen to the cry and connect with them and show them Jesus."

Nasser: Are you committed to lifestyle of prayer?

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Prayer is a gift, not a duty, but too few Christians are taking advantage of the opportunity, David Nasser said.

"We should be men and women devoted to prayer, not just to be examples, but because it's a gift," Nasser told the audience at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Evangelism Conference. "Not to earn the favor of God, but because we already have it."

Nasser admitted failing at this in his own life. "I'm looking back and I'm beginning to realize that I've been in a season of sin," he said.

"I've been disobedient to Colossians 4," he said, referring to Paul's call to be devoted to prayer. "I celebrate the idea of it, but I have not submitted to it."

Quoting from the Lord's Prayer, Nasser outlined several lessons about prayer, including:

Assumption of prayer. Jesus began His instructions about prayer assuming that His followers would pray.



DAVID NASSER The youth evangelist said he's recognized his own shortcomings in being dedicated to prayer. "I celebrate the idea of it, but I have not submitted to it."

"It's not 'If you pray.' It's 'When you pray,'" Nasser noted.

Attitude of prayer. Nasser pointed out Jesus' criticism of people who pray to impress other people.

"How low are we shooting there?" he asked. "When you do what you do, make sure you do what you do for the right reason, for the glory of God."

Object of prayer. Nasser said non-Christians don't have the privilege of calling God, "Our Father."

Christians shouldn't simply babble a list of requests, he added.

"Just because He granted it to Ja-

bez, doesn't mean He owes it to you," he said, referring to Jabez' request that God enlarge his territory. "If you're going to start treating God like a waiter, start tithing 15 percent because that's what they make at the local Outback."

Humility of prayer. Jesus tells His disciples to ask for "daily bread," but Nasser admitted he often wants more than one day's provisions. "If You (God) give me tomorrow, then I might not find myself so dependent on You, on my knees."

Accessibility of prayer. Nasser said he originally read the stories about George Mueller and other prayer warriors thinking they were amazing people of God and that's why they prayed so much.

"That's a lie," Nasser said. "It's not that amazingly godly people pray. It's that people who pray become amazingly godly people."

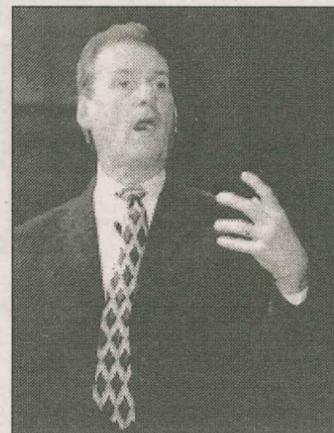
Nasser encouraged Christians to recognize they are as godly as they need to be in order to develop a prayer life that can change their lives. "We don't need to pray so that we'll become more godly. We already are."

David Ring: 'I've got cerebral palsy. What's your problem?'

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Being a champion in life has more to do with trusting in God than in trusting one's own power or background, according to an evangelist with cerebral palsy.

David Ring mixed self-deprecating humor and Scripture to tell Kentucky Baptists through slurred speech that God's



Ring

power and love transcend even the worst of personal circumstances.

"Do you know God never says 'Oops,'" asked Ring, who lives in Brentwood, Tenn., and has been an evangelist since 1973.

"I don't understand what you've been through," he admitted. "But I understand one thing: When life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

Ring said he had three strikes against him by age 14, but God still made him a champion.

Born with complications that left him with cerebral palsy, Ring's father died when Ring was 11 and his mother died when he was 14.

"Strike three," he said. "I told my family, 'Give up on me,' and they did."

But one stubborn sister insisted that he continue going to school and start going to church, he added.

At age 16, he walked the aisle to become a Christian, he said.

"I still walk funny and I still talk funny, but oh the joy that floods my soul," he said. "I found that God does love me and has a wonderful plan for my life. For the first time in my life I found out that even though I'm not OK, that's OK. God loves me anyway."

God didn't just change his spiritual condition for the afterlife, Ring said, but also changed his attitude for this life.

"By the way, what's wrong with walking with a limp?" he asked. "It's not a handicap. It's a privilege to talk funny. Every time I'm in public, every time I open my mouth, people look. Can you do that?"

Ring said he now identifies with Philippians 4, in which Paul says he's learned to be content regardless of his circumstances and that he can do anything through Christ, who gives him strength.

"A champion never says 'I can't.' A champion always says 'I can and I will,'" he said. "I have cerebral palsy. Now what's your problem?"

Having the attitude of a champion has allowed him to ignore people who would discourage him, Ring added.

Told he never would get married, he now has a wife and four children, he said. The former "momma's boy" lost his momma but now has five people in his life "who love me just the way I am."

"They told me I would never make it in evangelism. ... I've only been doing it 30 years," he told a laughing audience. "Last year alone I received about 800 invitations. When I get a little bit more invitations, I'm going to go full time."

Ring urged Christians to quit whining and start shining.

"Don't you think it's about time to get the lead out and put the Lord in?" he asked. "If God can use me, look at what God can do with you."

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN
Partnership Editions
Editor

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

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False promises

My wife and I attended our first Baptist World Alliance gathering in 1965 and have been active ever since, either on one of its committees or simply as participants.

Friends from our years in the Middle East, such as Lebanese Mona Khowli, Israeli Arab Fuad Haddad and Egyptian Sidiq Girges became BWA representatives or officers for their respective Baptist entities, all of them friends with various Southern Baptist missionaries.

When, during our years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board staff, human needs arose in areas in which we had no missionaries, it was the BWA who "brokered" our contributions and assistance to these distressed areas. They still offer this service.

It was the solid relationship with Russian Baptists with the BWA that helped bring the initial trust to our Kentucky Baptist-Russia partnership. It was BWA representative George Boltnew who translated for Russian Baptist presidents Logvenynko and Konolvachik and the Russian Baptist musical ensemble at a Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The BWA always has operated on a shoestring. I blush to know the modest salaries of their Secretary General Denton Lotz and the tiny cadre of paid staff.

The SBC's cut of \$125,000 (30 percent) annually will hurt deeply. Though many of us will attempt to recover the amount through increased or new support (just as we did when the SBC cut all financial support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs), the BWA will have been wounded.

That the SBC Executive Committee has reallocated this cut to a

newly created program "to begin its own international network of like-minded Christians" once again demonstrates its intention to continue the march toward "en-smallment" and drags along with it lots of Baptists whose eyes have been closed by the false prophets' promise of a purified Southern Baptist Convention.

Bill Marshall
Louisville

Noble purpose

The editorial in the Jan. 28 issue made a good case for a Baptist World Alliance in common mission. As the editor pointed out, a part of the worldwide witness is "in defense of human rights and religious freedom."

A diversity of persuasions among many Baptist groups has prevailed and is not to be discounted. But differences on points of doctrine and on issues often are put aside for the sake of noble purpose.

The resentment by the Southern Baptist Convention leadership of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's potential acceptance in the BWA amounts to "I'll take my marbles and go home." This metaphor springs from an earlier day when some miffed marble player failed to boss the whole game. The application of this metaphor is that denominational control is more important to the SBC than noble missions.

As the Western Recorder editorial implied, this pulling out of the BWA would be a shame.

Don Cassiday
Premium

Seek second opinion

With regard to medical care or automotive work, I always have been counseled to get a second opinion.

Kevin B. Hash
Bowling Green

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

CP Missions giving heroes

The apostle Paul recognized the churches of Macedonia for their liberality in giving and challenged the Christians at Corinth to "abound in this grace also" (2 Corinthians 8:7). There were afflictions and poverty among the Macedonians but they gave themselves to God and God granted to them the grace of giving.

At a Cooperative Program recognition luncheon held just ahead of the start of last week's Evangelism Conference, the Kentucky Baptist Convention recognized current and historic CP Missions leaders. More than 90 churches had cumulative CP Missions gifts exceeding \$1 million each. Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown has given more than \$8 million to CP since 1925.

It is amazing what can happen over a period of time as God's people give faithfully. Giving is a great statement of faith because we are trusting God to use those gifts through His church and mission ministries.

These CP recognitions are a very limited way of saying "thank you" to all Kentucky Baptists and every church for their gifts to missions and ministries locally, in Kentucky and around the world. During the Evangelism Conference, a pastor of a smaller membership church said his church could never support a missionary alone, but that his congregation is so pleased to be able to join with other churches in supporting missions.

There are many laypeople and pastors who are distinguished leaders of missions in their local churches. Some participate in local, national and international partnerships. Others work hard in their careers and then promote and give passionately to support missions. I wish it were possible for me to thank every Kentucky Baptist personally for his or her generous support of missions and ministries.

At the CP luncheon, Dr. Verlin Kruschwitz and Dr. Chester Badgett received the Cooperative Program

Not getting a second opinion can be costly and often leads to trouble. Getting a second opinion is particularly sound advice when it comes to how and from whom we receive our news.

In a Feb. 18 letter to the editor, a writer thanked the Western Recorder for keeping him better informed on Southern Baptist Convention work. In the next paragraph he said, "The Western Recorder is my only source of information on this matter." I'm thankful for people that desire information on SBC work; unfortunately at the Western Recorder we hear more about SBC politics than Kingdom-building SBC work.

Regardless of political disposition, be they moderate or conservative, reporters and editors cannot feed you news in a vacuum. We rarely receive information completely untainted by some agenda. Sometimes it's intentional and sometimes it's subconscious.

That is why it is reasonable counsel for everyone to "get a second opinion" with regard to information concerning the SBC. It doesn't take much effort to find a wealth of information from a variety of sources on this subject.

I would like to recommend to all readers that they supplement the reporting of the Western Recorder by consulting www.baptistpress.com, www.imb.org or www.baptist2baptist.com.

I also suggest subscribing to a magazine like SBC Life. A subscription to the Western Recorder comes free to all members of my church and our members are grateful for the good reporting of work done in Kentucky.

We have, however, made SBC Life available. Why? Because in seeking to be completely informed we cannot and should not limit our information to one source.

Distinguished Leadership Award. These two pastors have been missions-giving pioneers and have served as role models for so many pastors and leaders. I remember that as a young pastor in Eastern Kentucky, I looked to these pastors as great leaders among Kentucky Baptists. They have provided a powerful legacy of passion and sacrificial giving to missions.

I know many other deserving individuals and there are thousands who I do not know. My own father comes to mind as I remember how he stepped forward in our rural church to take a stand for missions. People like him are all mission legends to those who know them in their families, churches and associations.

Not unlike the Macedonian churches, churches today are facing many challenges to meet local needs. It is an opportunity for members to remain faithful so local, state and world mission ministries can remain strong. I am so grateful to be a Kentucky Baptist because of the passion for missions!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Charitable giving can reach beyond donor's lifetime

By Laurie Valentine

There are a variety of ways to make gifts to Baptist causes at your death.



The most common way is to include a bequest to your church or other Baptist cause in your will or living trust. Bequests can take the form of a gift of a specific amount or asset, or a gift of all or a portion of the residue of your estate.

Naming your church or other Baptist cause as beneficiary of a life insurance policy on your life is another way to make a charitable gift at your death. If you own the policy at the time of your death, the value of the life insurance will be included in your taxable estate, but your estate will be entitled to charitable estate tax deduction. If you transfer ownership of the policy to the charitable cause at least three years before you die, the value of the policy is not included in your estate in determining death tax liabilities.

You also can make charitable gifts at your death that will provide benefits both to your family and Baptist causes. One way to do that is to make a bequest to charity directing that a charitable gift annuity be established for your spouse, child or some other individual. This type of gift provides the non-charitable beneficiary (your spouse, child, etc.) with an annuity for life. The annuity amount will depend on the age of the annuitant at the time of your death.

Bequests establishing charitable remainder trusts or charitable lead trusts are other ways to use a single gift at death to benefit both non-charitable and charitable beneficiaries. Charitable remainder trusts provide a designated stream of income to one or more non-charitable beneficiaries for life or a term of years, with the remainder passing to your church and/or other charitable causes when the non-charitable beneficiaries' interests end.

Charitable lead trusts provide an income stream to charity, with the remainder then passing to non-charitable beneficiaries. Accomplish God's purposes for distribution of your possessions at death by including a gift to one or more Baptist causes in your estate plan.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Respect, sensitivity enhance children's interfaith dialogue

Q: My daughter is telling her Jewish friends they are going to hell. What should I do?

In a world that wants us to think it really doesn't matter what you believe because all roads lead to heaven, be encouraged by the fact that your daughter understands the uniqueness of Christianity and the difference in belief systems. She simply needs to learn that forcefully telling non-believers (Jewish or otherwise) that they are going to hell probably does more harm than good.

Your daughter sees the differences, but has not yet learned how to champion her own beliefs in a way that is respectful of others who see things differently. This situation raises the larger question of how we hold fast to our own beliefs and ideas while respectfully disagreeing with people of other faiths. From a developmental standpoint, the issue involves learning how to be sensitive toward other people, especially in what we say.

Affirm your daughter's understanding. At the same time, explain that her words can come across as judgmental and might hurt feelings and ruin relationships. Jesus was direct, but He also was kind and loving. Soften her feelings and attitude by showing her the common ground between what she believes and what her Jewish friends believe.

Read Romans 10:1 together and talk about the concern Paul had for his Jewish friends. Guide your daughter in praying for her Jewish friends. Ask God to help them come to understand that Jesus is the promised Messiah. Ask God to help her know how to be a good friend, how to be sensitive to the feelings of others and how to talk about what she believes in ways that will be helpful, not hurtful.—*David Garrard*

Q: I think there are more resources within my family for dealing with life circumstances now that we are older, but the world we live in doesn't seem to support that idea. How should I respond?

There has been a myth in our times that most Americans abandon their elderly parents, callously storing them away in nursing homes, never to be seen again. This is a minority experience that is declining. Many families are doing much better at drawing on family strengths and viewing the later years as positive and valuable.

In traditional family development, developmental tasks have centered on the nuclear family and child rearing. Families, however, also encounter positive developmental tasks in later life. Establishing a mutually satisfying parent-child relationship in later years includes addressing the issue of dependency, a normal and important family process.

Dealing constructively with issues of dependency involves both a realistic acceptance of older adult strengths and limitations and the ability of the child to accept the care-giving role. The adult child also must recognize strengths and limitations in his or her capacity to carry out that role if it becomes necessary to do so.

More families are caring for elderly members today than ever before—and often for many more years. The four- or five-generation family is fairly common. This suggests there are many older adults with the strengths and ability to live their later years with dignity and confidence.

We need to be reminded that these are elderly people who have led full lives and have developed the wisdom and perspective that come with many years of experience. Elderly adults are fascinating, enriching individuals who can enlighten us as well as use their skills in many helpful ways.—*Jon Rainbow*

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.



Believers challenged to 'Unleash Power'

Do Kentucky Baptists truly want the Holy Spirit of God to unleash His power in our lives, families and churches? Undoubtedly, the vast majority of us would answer a resounding "Yes!"

The more challenging question is not whether we desire such power but how we can prepare our hearts and minds to receive it.

Last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference explored the theme, "Unleash the Power." It was a timely reminder of the importance of seeking, accepting and releasing God's spiritual power in our lives.

"The power is not only in the gospel, but the call of God upon the people of God to share the truth of God," emphasized conference coordinator Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist evangelism growth team. "It's not about methods, programs or style. It's about passion."

That call to impassioned Christianity was evident among the conference's featured speakers. While fleeting sound bites aren't the answer to spiritual renewal, they do offer words of insight, challenge and hope for our daily spiritual journey. Among those nuggets of truth shared during the Feb. 24-25 event were:

■ **Erwin McManus**, pastor of Mosaic Church in Los Angeles: "If you're a follower of Jesus Christ, the church is not here for you. You *are* the church and you are here for the world." McManus, whose church ministers to 50 diverse ethnic groups, noted that effective church leaders "have to surrender your vision for God's vision of the church."

■ **David Ring**, an evangelist from Brentwood, Tenn.: "God never says, 'Oops!'" Ring, born with

cerebral palsy, has been an evangelist for 30 years, challenging fellow believers to abandon excuses for failing to serve God.

■ **Walt Mueller**, president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding in Elizabethtown, Pa.: "There's nothing that the enemy would love more than to see this generation suffer in a difficult culture and see us just stand by and watch. ... Listen to the cry and connect with them and show them Jesus." Citing struggles today's youth face in such areas as looks, grades, alcohol, sex and peer pressure, Mueller said when adults show young people genuine love and concern, "they will love you back and they will listen to you."

■ **David Nasser**, a youth evangelist from Birmingham, Ala.: "Prayer is not about getting from God; prayer is about getting with God." Urging Christians to "be men and women devoted to prayer," he added, "I think prayer is the most important thing I can do."

■ **Louis Patterson**, pastor of Sims Chapel Baptist Church in Garland, Texas: "There's nobody like Jesus. He's the Beginning who began to be before beginning began."

■ **Paul Badgett**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville: "We need to seek to be on mission with God. ... If you are ever going to do anything for Jesus, don't you think it ought to be right now?"

Take time to reflect on these truths and seek God's guidance in applying them in your daily walk and witness. It could provide an incredible opportunity for Him to "Unleash the Power" in your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tennis Henderson

War and the character of a nation

By David Gushee

JACKSON, Tenn. (RNS)—The rich traditions of ethical reflection provide many tools for evaluating the morality of an action. Often, however, when war is being considered, the only tool brought out of the toolbox is the just war theory.

As we stand poised on the brink of war with Iraq, I want to try a broader ethical analysis, one that considers consequences, choices and character.

Opponents of war with Iraq tend to argue it will cost many lives, both American and Iraqi. They claim a cornered and desperate Saddam Hussein will use whatever weapons he still has, perhaps igniting a regional war if he attacks Israel. They argue war with Iraq will radicalize the Arab world, inciting a new generation of terrorists.

Supporters acknowledge war costs lives but claim inaction eventually will cost more. They think Saddam Hussein's ties to terrorist groups already are sufficient to threaten our security right now; if his regime is not destroyed, his biological, chemical and perhaps nuclear weapons will end up in the hands of al-Qaida or a like group. Or, given his past history, he might just use them himself. And they argue that most in the Arab world will quietly thank us for eliminating Hussein and creating the possibility of a democratic Iraq.

While most ethical theories make

a place for considering consequences, the fact is that no one other than God knows what the consequences will be of specific actions or omissions.

We tend to be on surer moral ground when we apply moral choice tests to particular actions. When it comes to war, the most commonly used moral rule test is the just war theory.

My analysis of the publicly available documents leads me to conclude a preemptive attack on Iraq would clearly meet several of that theory's criteria but probably would fail others. The two key criteria that remain in question are just cause and last resort.

The combination of Saddam's prior behavior, his likely weapons caches, his lack of substantive cooperation with United Nations inspections and his long-term violation of the human rights of his own people make the justice of the cause much more of a toss-up than it was six months ago. If it can be demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt that Saddam is hiding usable weapons of mass destruction and has active ties to international terrorist organizations, I will have to conclude a preemptive effort to remove him from power meets the criterion of just cause.

Whether war truly would be the last resort, however, would remain in question. Certainly no peacemaking efforts have been attempted, which is

a key component of the last resort test.

A third dimension of ethical theory concerns the issue of character. My sense is that the nation's uneasiness about an Iraq war relates most directly to this issue.

Character is what kind of people we are. It transcends particular decisions and yet is tested and revealed by such decisions. It also is revealed by the way we carry ourselves and the kinds of words we use.

In a memorable moment during a 2000 presidential debate, George W. Bush offered a vision of ours as a humble nation, one that promotes its values abroad but does so with a respectful spirit—a nation that avoids unnecessary foreign entanglements.

My view is that the events of Sept. 11 led to a kind of moral whiplash for Bush in which this attractively modest international vision was displaced by a much more aggressive one.

Perhaps it was inevitable that a president who led a bruised nation through a trauma like the Sept. 11 attacks would be transformed. But the question is whether that transformation has led him to position our nation as a kind of angry global bully, a stance that does not fit with who we really are or want to be.

If claims about consequences are a wash, and the moral choice tests make for an agonizing judgment call, what remains is the shape of our national character. This is the real question of the hour.

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

NAMB: Mission, facts & figures

The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board was formed in 1997, and is the successor organization of the Home Mission Board which began in 1845. National offices are located near Atlanta and in Fort Worth, Texas. NAMB's primary responsibility is to assist Southern Baptist churches in reaching the United States, Canada and U.S. territories with the gospel. Here are some facts about how that is done:

- More than 40 percent of NAMB's budget comes from the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. One hundred percent of the offering directly supports missionaries and their ministries.

- Most North American Mission Board missions personnel are jointly funded with state Baptist conventions and receive support from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

- NAMB provides assistance to churches, associations and Baptist state conventions in church planting and evangelism, including soul-winning training, interfaith witness and church and community ministries.

- Five key NAMB priorities include impacting major cities, growing ethnic congregations, evangelizing students, mobilizing volunteers for missions and reaching Canada.

- More than 5,000 missionaries; 2,500 chaplains serve in the military, institutions such as prisons and hospitals and in corporate settings; and thousands of mission volunteers who serve through World Changers and as Mission Service Corps volunteers.

- NAMB provides leadership in church starting. Mission pastors serve English-speaking and language churches in rural and urban settings. Southern Baptists in North America worship in 217 languages among 112 language groups in more than 7,000 ethnic congregations.

- Church and community ministries such as Alternatives for Life, Baptist center work, week day ministries, and immigration and hunger ministries result in more than 17,000 professions of faith each year.

- Since 1998, NAMB has selected cities each year to be designated as Strategic Focus Cities. For 2003-2005, the cities are Miami and New York City. Previous SFC efforts have focused on Chicago, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Boston, Seattle and Philadelphia. Through intentional evangelistic in the first four cities more than 30,000 professions of faith have been recorded; more than 23,000 volunteers have participated in evangelistic events and 174 churches have been planted.

- Through the Nehemiah Project, NAMB in partnership with the six Southern Baptist seminaries in the United States and the Canadian Southern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to mobilize and train new church planters. To date, almost 550 church planter interns have served in summer, semester and full-time capacities.

- More than 23,000 youth and adults participated in 87 World Changers projects, leading more than 1,300 people to make decisions for Christ in 2002. World Changers are middle school, high school and college student volunteers who rehabilitate substandard housing and share the gospel as well. More than 1,700 were appointed to summer/semester missions.

- More than 20,000 people are trained as Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers. In partnership with Baptist state conventions, more than 1 million meals are served annually to victims of disasters.

- In 1999, Southern Baptists gave \$43,549,861 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. In 2000, Southern Baptists gave \$48.5 million to the offering. In 2001, the offering was \$48,320,018. In 2002, the offering was a record \$49.25 million. The 2003 goal is \$53 million.

—Adapted from the 2003 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Promotion Guide



Missionaries plant churches in Appalachia

Continued from page 1
work with the Fields on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

"It was during that time that we knew God's call to the city. We just knew that that's where we were supposed to be, with inner-city people," Mrs. Cannada said.

An inner city in West Virginia?

While in seminary, the Cannadas contacted 42 state conventions to discover what inner-city ministry opportunities were available. But they never imagined West Virginia would be much of a candidate.

"Everybody knows there's no inner city in West Virginia," Mrs. Cannada said of their preconceptions.

But after a visit to Charleston just before Cannada's graduation, "we knew immediately that this was where God was calling us to be," she said. They moved that June, intent on starting a multi-racial church in a unique environment where Cannada says "rural Appalachia meets the inner city."

"God led us to an area that was considered the worst corner in Charleston," he said. "There would be 15 to 20 drug dealers there all the time."

They established West Charleston Baptist Church in their own home. Rather than taking the usual approach of first reaching out to the people with ministries then beginning a church from that base, Cannada decided to start a church that would minister to the community.

The congregation started with Cannada's family and four new friends. Soon they had 49 regulars, and they moved into a former convenience store.

Servant evangelism

Along with such traditional ministry tools as backyard Bible clubs, vacation Bible schools and a food pantry, Cannada has led his congregation to reach out to their community through a combination of church-based ministry and proactive "servant evangelism."

Everything is done "in the name of Jesus first, but under the name West Charleston Baptist Church," Cannada said, realizing most people in the community were familiar with a traditional church. "The church seemed to give (the ministries) more credibility."

The servant evangelism happens when church members take their ministry out into the community. They clean toilets for store owners in Charleston's Town Center Mall. They serve free hot coffee, juice and doughnuts to people waiting in lines at the local welfare office. They hand out free cold drinks and doughnuts to weary travelers at the bus station and on Westside streets.

Cannada has taught volunteers to tell recipients of the ministry, "We want to serve you to show you God's love in a practical way."

The neighborhood residents also are used to seeing Cannada walking their streets, and now they're familiar with why he is there. They know he's praying for God's angels to come into the neighborhood, and they know they can stop him to ask for prayer.

"We have gotten the reputation for



CHILD CARE Norm Cannada, a church-planting missionary and pastor of West Charleston Baptist Church, cares for children while their parents attend a new members class for the church. (NAMB photo by Ken Touchton)

being people who care, and that's a pretty neat thing," Cannada said.

Risqué move

Living Hope Baptist Church is Cannada's newest endeavor. The thriving baby congregation is located in the building most recently known

as Café Risqué, right in the middle of Charleston's infamous Badlands area. Several years ago the city designated this mile-long stretch of Route 60 as its relatively out-of-sight destination for strip clubs and porn shops, but Cannada targeted the area in 2001 as a prime location for the gospel.

He started off by meeting some basic needs of the women and children in the neighborhood: after-school care and Bible studies and, of course, a prayer walk.

In 2002 Cannada obtained a local pastor for the fledgling congregation, James Fitzwater, a church planter intern through NAMB's Nehemiah Project. Cannada also obtained an option to buy the former building of Café Risqué, whose sign is now long gone from the main drag.

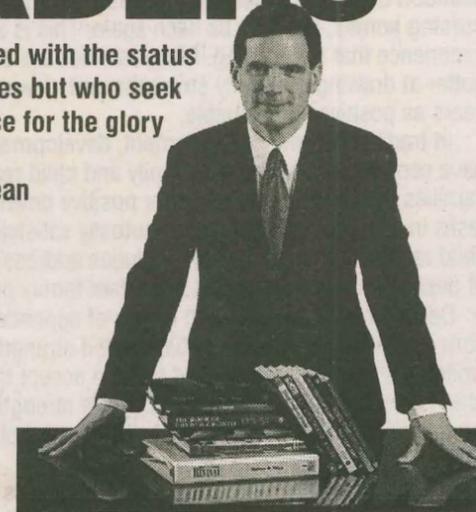
The Cannadas said they also look forward to being the focus of prayers during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions. "We figure if there's going to be this many people around the world praying for us, then we want to do something to reach our community that day (March 4)," Cannada said. The most important thing, he said, in his and other inner-city ministries, is "praying against hopelessness, praying for hope."

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Annie Armstrong: Who is woman behind offering?

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—If Annie Armstrong was alive today, she might be amazed at how her vision of raising several thousand dollars for home mission causes in 1895 has turned into an annual offering that raises millions to support evangelism efforts in North America.

Since its inception, more than \$900 million has been given to the offering named after this woman who lived and loved missions.

Armstrong's mission heart was nurtured in her home church in Baltimore, where she learned the gospel and felt the urgency to help those truths be shared with others.

She urged women to get involved in mission action—in praying, giving and going to meet both physical and spiritual needs on the mission field of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Armstrong was instrumental in starting Woman's Missionary Union. She served as first corresponding secretary for WMU. She spent a great amount of time typing and handwriting letters to Southern Baptist Convention leaders in support of missions.

In 1893 alone, she wrote almost 18,000 letters. When Annie Armstrong died on Dec. 12, 1938, she left a legacy of mission involvement that is a model for Baptists today.

One hundred percent of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering directly support Southern Baptist missionaries in North America and their ministries.

Most of these missionaries start Southern Baptist churches—more than 1,700 new missions each year. Others share the gospel by ministering to people's needs in church and community settings, through such avenues as Baptist centers. Many serve Southern Baptist associations as associational missionaries or other mission staff, and some missionaries serve in a volunteer capacity, giving more than two years and providing a majority of their own funding although they receive some NAMB support.

Easter offering donations are budgeted to be distributed for:

- Missionary appointment and support (71 percent). The largest distribution is for missionary salaries, health insurance and ongoing training.

- Church planting (18 percent). NAMB has a goal for Southern Baptists to start 2,300 churches in 2003.

- Evangelism (11 percent). Projects include Scripture distribution, special evangelism events and media campaigns.

From the North American Mission Board's 2003 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering promotion guide

On-campus challenge

College minister takes Christ to future leaders

By Joe Westbury
SBC North American Mission Board

BOULDER, Colo.—When Bobby Pruett strolls across the sprawling campus of Colorado University in Boulder, he has his thoughts on what kind of values North America will treasure in 10 years.

He also wonders how government leaders will be shaping the laws and what mothers and fathers will be teaching their children—and how many believers are attending area churches.

As director of campus ministries at this 26,000-student university, Pruett knows that the answers to many of those questions will be determined by the leaders of tomorrow who now share the same sidewalks with him. That's why he has devoted the past 15 years to bringing Christ to this international campus.

Pruett and his wife, Gayle, are among the North American Mission Board missionaries featured during the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 2-9.

The campus mission field

In many ways, Pruett is searching for diamonds in the rough, students who are seeking answers to life questions and who can be mentored in the Christian faith. Once a relationship is established, it easily can stretch into regular discipleship sessions throughout a student's four years on campus.

"A majority of our students have very little in the way of a Christian background that would provide a stimulus to make them want to explore or develop their spiritual side," Pruett said. "Add that to the fact that there is a strong New Age presence throughout the community—not just on campus—and that the nation's only accredited Buddhist university is located in Boulder, and you have the deck stacked against any community support of Christianity."

"The university campus, whether in Boulder or elsewhere, is the greatest mission field and the greatest



opportunity we have to influence our future culture in North America," he explained.

As director of Christian Challenge, a Baptist campus ministry, the Colorado native oversees a variety of Bible studies scattered throughout the week. Add that to the responsibility of raising his own financial support as a Mission Service Corps missionary and Pruett's job is more than full time.

Pruett's dual approach

Pruett has a dual approach to student ministry: "We are striving to mentor and disciple those who already have a foundation and introduce those to Christ who do not know Him. That's why we call ourselves Christian Challenge—because we want the students to know that we want to challenge them to take their faith seriously."

That's what attracted students like sophomore Brent Young. He's not sure why he attended his first Christian Challenge meeting, but is confident "it must have been God tugging at my heart."

Young arrived on campus confused and confounded about spiritual matters. With a Jewish mother, a father who is a nominal Christian and a

grandmother who is Jehovah's Witness, he didn't know what to believe.

After a time of being mentored, Young became visibly disturbed during a Sunday church service and later that afternoon accepted Christ as his savior. "Now I know that God has a purpose for my life and I don't have to worry about my future anymore."

More than a social club

Jenny Stage, who has been active in Christian Challenge her entire four years at CU, said the organization helped her strip the legalism away from her faith and taught her how to relate to Christ on a personal basis.

Being around the Pruett family gave her a positive role model of what a Christian family looked like, Stage added.

"Gayle (Pruett) is just amazing as an example of a Christian wife and mother," Stage said. "I grew up in a loving home but not a Christian home, and Bobby and Gayle have shown me how faith comes together in their relationship with each other and with their children."

Mrs. Pruett said she and her husband are serious about being good family role models to the students.

"We try to teach the importance of dating the right people who will make good spouses. It's never too early to begin thinking about what kind of family environment you want five or 10 years down the road," she said.

"When Bobby sees a student, he doesn't just see a biology major or communications major; he sees them as future husbands and wives. They are only students for a very short time, just four brief years, but they will be spouses for a lifetime."

Those many facets of Bible study, mentoring and counseling about dating and family values are why students like Brian Adler stay involved with Christian Challenge.

"It's more than just a social club, though you do meet new students and make friends for life. Christian Challenge is all about knowing Christ and learning how to glorify God through your life."

PRAYER MEETING Bobby Pruett (second from left) and Zach Meese (left), director and assistant director of the Christian Challenge Baptist campus ministry at the University of Colorado, pray with Brian Adler (second from right) a volunteer staff member of Christian Challenge, and student Justin Hunter. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazier)



STUDENT CHAT Bobby Pruett, a Baptist campus minister in Boulder, Colo., talks with student Erin Gray in the University of Colorado student center. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazier)

EVANGELISM

McManus: Christianity is revolution, not institution

"We took the job, we accepted the paycheck and then we settled for so much less than what Jesus died for."

Erwin McManus, pastor of Mosaic Church in Los Angeles, talking to pastors

Continued from page 1 that (original) ideal."

People kept telling McManus his enthusiasm for Jesus would decline, he added.

"I heard it over and over again: 'When he grows up, he'll get over it.' And I have to tell you that I think a lot of us got over Jesus way too quick," McManus said. "We took the job, we accepted the paycheck and then we settled for so much less than what Jesus died for."

In an institutional Christianity, followers are too focused on salaries and safety instead of advancing the Kingdom of God regardless of the cost, he said.

McManus said he wants to destroy the cliché that the safest place to be is in the center of God's will.

"Isn't that beautiful? Isn't that comforting? It's just so unbiblical," he said, noting that John the Baptist lost his head for following God and Paul was constantly on the move for his safety because of his devotion to Jesus.

"I think we've stepped so far out of the center of the will of God that we don't even know what it looks like," he said. Christians who fear losing their jobs or reputation "will never be able to go where Jesus calls you."

John the Baptist modeled such devotion, McManus noted.

"How far would John make it in a Baptist institution? He wouldn't make it at all," he said. "He was a bad dresser and he had horrible eating habits. This guy wandered around in the desert. Today he would be medicated. He would be bipolar."

"Disciples look different when you're on movement," he added. "They're a mess."

McManus noted that he often is introduced to speak as "Dr. McManus" even though he doesn't have a doctorate. He joked that it's probably an effort to justify why the audience should listen to him.

"We validate each other through education and reputation and not by revolution," he said. "I don't have any right to speak if I'm not willing to lay my life down for the sake of Christ."

Preaching from Matthew 11, McManus called it "curious" that John would send his disciples to Jesus asking if He is "the One" or whether they should look for another. "If anyone should have been sure that Jesus was the one, it should have been John."

But John was about to be martyred, "and Jesus had not detoured to help him," McManus added. "See, if you're going to lose your head over God, you want to reinforce that He's the One."

Too many church leaders have bought into the view that Jesus is there for them instead of vice versa. "Jesus didn't show up for John," he said. "When things don't go the way we think they should, ... that's when we begin to discover whether we're genuinely followers of Jesus Christ."

Likewise, many preachers have lost their kids from the faith because they isolated them from the risk associated with Christianity, he added.



GOSPEL MUSIC A bluegrass gospel band performed on the closing night of the KBC Evangelism Conference, Feb. 24-25 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Approximately 1,400 people attended the event.

"I am absolutely convinced that when you push your kids to live on the edge of the Kingdom, the adventure, the risk will be so magnetic that your confession will finally make sense to them," he said. "If the measure of the church is movement, how many of us are moving and following?"

David Fleming, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., emphasized that "life has to be about a mission and a purpose bigger than ourselves."

"When you're driven with a passion," he added, "you'll stop at nothing to fulfill your mission in life."

Preaching from Mark 1:16-17, Fleming said Jesus invited Simon and Andrew to be on mission with Him.

Noting that Jesus brought them in, trained them up and led them out, Fleming said that remains the model

of effective evangelism discipleship.

"The goal of evangelism is not a decision. The goal of evangelism is not a baptism," he emphasized. "The goal of evangelism is a disciple."

"Evangelism is discipleship and discipleship is evangelism," he added. "We're not just going after decisions or just going after disciples; we're going after disciple-makers."

Noting that "laypeople will do a whole lot more than we think they will," Fleming urged pastors, "Don't miss the opportunity to teach them to share Christ."

Texas pastor **Louis Patterson** compared the role of church leaders with the character of a popular TV commercial for cell phones asking "Can you hear me now?"

"We as ministers on Sunday morning in the pulpit, every other day of our lives, should be hollering the same thing: 'Can you hear me now?'"

Preaching from Mark 10, Patterson

compares non-Christians today with blind Bartimaeus who called out for Jesus to heal him. "Why did Bartimaeus holler out? He'd heard what Jesus had done in the nine earlier chapters of Mark," he said.

"If a Bartimaeus in your life could just hear about what Jesus has already done in the previous nine chapters of your life, it may cause them to holler," he added. "How many Bartimaeuses in our own individual lives, in our jobs, in our interpersonal relationships, dare I say in our church, never hear that Jesus is passing by?"

Paul Badgett, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, delivered the conference's closing message. Urging pastors to "Unleash the Power ... in the Message," he said the power of the gospel is available through the message of regeneration, reconciliation and redemption.

"The gospel message is the power of God," said Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville. "If we desperately desire the power to change, there is only one place we can go—we must go to God."

The gospel is both dynamite and dynamic, he said. "The gospel is a destructive power; it's able to take an old sinful life and tear it down completely. At the same time it is very constructive because the gospel is able to build up a brand new life in Christ Jesus."

"God in heaven has committed to us the wonderful ministry of reconciliation," he added. "We need a few more preachers to stand in the pulpit and preach the gospel and cry out, 'Be reconciled to God.'"

Reminding Christians that "your life is but a vapor and it's passing by," Badgett said, "If you are ever going to do anything for Jesus, don't you think it ought to be right now?"

Unleash the Power

KBC Evangelism Conference

Georgetown College Pastors Conference

Georgetown College Pastors Conference

Monday – Wednesday, April 7-9, 2003

Conference and Training Center

Honoring Bob and Eddie Fields

With the third annual Ken Chafin Award for courage and creativity in ministry.

Banquet: Tuesday Evening, April 8, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker: Johnny Pierce, Editor of Baptist Today
(Tickets available for Tuesday evening only \$25.00)



Other Conference speakers include Will Willimon, Dean of the Chapel at Duke University; Robert Parham of Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville; Richard Gaines, Pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky and Dwight Moody, Dean of the Chapel at Georgetown College.

Cost is \$100 with special rates for students, retirees and ministers new to our state.

Please remit payment to: **Pastors Conference, Georgetown College, 400 East College Street, Box 177, Georgetown, KY 40324; or contact Robbi Barber at 502-863-7047 or robbi_barber@georgetowncollege.edu. Please make check payable to Georgetown College.**



KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 244-6485 • Toll-free: (888) 254-5726
Supplement to Western Recorder

Funding for this publication made possible through contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

2003 Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering for
North American Missions

Theme: Partners in Purpose
Offering Goal: \$53 million

Kentucky Baptist churches gave
\$1,667,357 to the 2001-2002
Offering for North American
Missions, more than 7.6 percent
over the previous year.

Will we do it again?

Spring 2003

The Legacy Continues ... Let's Celebrate!

A Personal Word

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

Central Baptist Church, Winchester
April 4-5

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Friday Morning, 9:45 a.m. (Eastern Time)

Music for Worship Susan & Ken Anderson
Theme Interpretation Dee Gilliland
Parade of Flags
The Legacy Continues Around the World
Mark & Jodi Smith
Missionary Prayer Time Brenda Hazell
The Legacy Continues in Kentucky WMU Staff
The Legacy Continues Through You Wanda Lee

Friday Noon

Lunch with a Program Guest
(Pre-registration required)
Luncheon for Career Missionaries, Emeritus
Missionaries, Missionary Parents.. (By invitation)

Friday Afternoon, 1:15 p.m.

Music for Worship Susan & Ken Anderson
Theme Interpretation Dee Gilliland
KY WMU Business Session & Election of Officers
Invitation to Heritage Fund Tea Sally Deen

Friday Afternoon, 2:45 p.m.

Heritage Fund Tea & Hat Party
WMU History Displays

Friday, 5 p.m.

Executive Board Reunion Dinner—First Baptist Church
(For all former and current Executive Board members)

Meals, preschool childcare and interpretation for the deaf will be available during the Annual Meeting by reservation only. To make reservations, use the form on page 4 of this *Kentucky Notes* or call Kentucky WMU toll free at (888) 254-5726 or (502) 244-6485.

Friday Evening, 6:30 p.m.

Music for Worship Central Baptist Chancel Choir
Theme Interpretation Dee Gilliland
The Legacy Continues in Kentucky David Aker,
Lonnie & Belinda Riley
Kentucky Missionaries Christmas Gift Offering
The Legacy Continues Through WMU Volunteers
Cathy Chinn & Panel

Saturday Morning, 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Music for Worship Susan & Ken Anderson
Missions Testimonies Acteens Panelists
The Legacy Continues in North America.. Randy Record
Special Music Oneida Choir
Kentucky Missionary Kids Offering
The Legacy Continues Through WMU Wanda Lee
The Future of Missions: Our Children
The Legacy Continues Through Us Cathy Chinn

GA/Children in Action Missions Event Gymnasium, 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Saturday Noon—Luncheons

Acteens / Youth on Mission Pizza Party
Central Baptist Church
Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon
First Baptist Church

WMU has a rich heritage of missions leadership, support, education and hands-on ministry. It is a legacy that continues and that we celebrate. We invite you to join us for our 100th annual meeting because "The Legacy Continues ... Let's Celebrate!" We also will be celebrating 125 years of work that began in 1878 with the formation of the Kentucky Central Committee. It was representatives from the state central committees who went to Richmond, Va., and voted to form our national WMU.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

A color poster and a four-page informational brochure was mailed to WMU directors in February. If you need a copy, please contact our office. Please note that reservations are required for meals, preschool child-care, interpretation for the deaf and WMU history displays. You may use the form on page 4 of this issue of *Kentucky Notes*. Please note the session highlights listed on this page.

A special feature of our 100th Annual Meeting will be the Heritage Fund Tea and Hat Party. We will honor our heritage with a grand tradition from the past—hats. Dig out one from your closet or start a new tradition. Bring a display of WMU history in your church or association to share during the tea.

Most importantly, the 100th Annual Meeting will honor our heritage but will close with a focus on the future. Acteens and Youth on Mission members and leaders are encouraged to join us for the Saturday morning session. One of our Saturday speakers is Randy Record, a North American missionary in youth evangelism. Concurrent with our Saturday morning Annual Meeting session will be our GA/Children in Action Missions Event. Children and leaders are invited to a special morning with our missionaries. The children will join us for a special closing feature.

Come and hear from your Kentucky WMU staff as they introduce Missions LINK, our new Kentucky WMU expansion plan. Learn about Operation Missions LINK, a simultaneous missions ministry day, which will be the launch event for this plan for reaching new people for missions involvement.

The Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting is the gathering place for everyone who cares about missions. Bring a carload and join us for a special celebration!

DIRECTIONS TO ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES:

Central Baptist Church—All Annual Meeting sessions, Heritage Fund Tea, WMU Displays, Acteens/Youth on Mission Luncheon, GA/Children in Action Missions Event

Central Baptist Church, 101 West Lexington Ave.
Winchester, KY 40391
Church phone: (859) 744-4328

From I-64, take exit 96. Turn on to Paris Road (KY-627) which becomes Maple Street. Central Baptist Church is located at the corner of Maple and Lexington Avenue.

First Baptist Church—Executive Board Reunion Dinner, Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon

First Baptist Church, 113 E. Lexington Ave.
Winchester, KY 40392

First Baptist Church is located just a block and a half from Central Baptist Church.

Adopt one of 150 summer missionaries from Kentucky!

Calling all WMU organizations: Sign up now for your summer missionary.

What's involved?

1. *Today:* Contact LaRaine Dail to "reserve" your summer missionary.
2. *In March:* You'll be matched with a summer missionary.
3. *In the spring:* Send KY WMU \$10 for a commissioning gift.
4. *Throughout the summer:* Pray for and write your summer missionary.



Information for WMU Directors



Second annual meeting for Spanish-speaking women: March 15

The 2003 meeting of women from Spanish-language congregations will be held at Bloomfield Baptist Church on Saturday, March 15. All Spanish-speaking women are invited for a day of fellowship, worship and interaction with women from other parts of the state. Lunch and childcare will be provided, but **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE** to plan for the correct number. Information will be mailed to all Spanish groups for whom we have an address, but we ask churches that work with Spanish groups to call our toll-free number, (888) 254-5726, for additional information. The Hispanic population of Kentucky has grown tremendously in recent years, and we want to use every opportunity to encourage their commitment to God and the efforts to reach all for Christ.

WMU leadership team in YOUR church

Tampa Bay would not have won the Super Bowl if the quarterback had tried to play all the positions himself. Everyone on the team had to do his part. The successful WMU leadership team plans and works together, each supporting and encouraging the other, and each carrying out her responsibility. Do you function as a team, or is one person trying to do everything? Now is the time to look for ways that your team can be stronger the rest of this year and into the 2003-2004 year. Check now to see which leaders will continue to serve into next year, and make plans to attend *World Missions Unlimited* training in July in Lexington or Beaver Dam.

Operation Missions LINK

Watch for more information regarding this exciting emphasis. One of the early events will be a day designated for each church across the state to be involved in a missions project. The suggested day is either Saturday, Sept. 6 or 13, the Saturdays near the State Missions Season of Prayer emphasis. The EBO theme for this year is *Many Ministries—One Mission*. How many people can be involved from your church to make a difference in the lives of others during this time? Activities suitable for all ages will be suggested. You will hear more about *Operation Missions Links*.

Goodbye to Mrs. Gunther

In January, we said "Goodbye" to one of the leaders of Kentucky WMU during the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s. Virginia Gunther died at age 97. She had served in many capacities, including mission study leader, assistant recording secretary and as Woman's Missionary Society director on the Kentucky WMU staff from 1965-71. She had made her home with her niece, Diane Queen, in Cleveland, Tenn., in recent years. Her creativeness, commitment to missions and sense of humor were an inspiration to everyone who knew her. She was one of my mentors, and I shall always be grateful for her encouragement. Kentucky WMU presented a gift to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund in her memory.

Associational Missions Emphasis—MAY is the month

As a WMU leader in your church, you have an influence as to how your church supports and encourages your associational leaders. If you collect a special offering, be sure envelopes and information are distributed in your church. Do something special for your associational WMU leadership team and those who work in your associational office during May. Let them know you support them.

Former WMU Executive Board dinner—April 4

If you or someone you know has served on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board in the past, we invite you to be a part of this special event at the 2003 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting. Call us toll free at (888) 254-5726 so we can send you the information.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Adults

Last November we rejoiced with Tonya Williams on her marriage to Steve Heartsill, editor of *Dimension* magazine. But her departure to Birmingham, Ala., has left us with a significant staff vacancy. Our personnel committee is in the process of evaluating our long-term staffing needs and felt the need to give this process more time. However, our work goes on. So, to help us plan and lead our Adult WMU work (Women on Mission and Adults on Mission) for the coming year, our personnel committee decided to enlist an interim adult consultant. We are delighted to welcome Jennifer Martin of Richmond to this position. Read more about Jennifer on page 4.



Baptist Nursing Fellowship is one of the important ministries of WMU. We have an active chapter here in Kentucky. Wally Hinton of Maysville is the current Kentucky BNF president. BNF has sev-

eral special events coming up this spring. The first is the national BNF meeting, March 27-30 at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Ala. The BNF meeting is held each year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship. The \$125 registration fee provides for your workshop for CEU credit, BNF luncheon and attendance at the BM-DF meeting. For registration information, e-mail BNF @wmu.org.

All nurses and others interested in the work of BNF are invited to a special Kentucky BNF luncheon on Saturday, April 5, at the conclusion of our Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting in Winchester. (Annual Meeting sessions will be held at Central Baptist Church, and the BNF luncheon will be held at First Baptist Church, just a block and half away.) Wanda Lee, a nurse who is now the executive director of WMU, SBC, will be the speaker. Use the form on page 4 to make your luncheon reservations.

For more information about Kentucky BNF, contact Wally Hinton at (606) 564-5939 or e-mail her at khinton@maysvilleky.net.

BNF also is always a part of our **Fall Women on Mission Retreats**. Watch for more information to be mailed this spring about the fall retreats. Please note that due to the increased capacity at Jonathan Creek as a result of remodeling and building projects, we have decided to hold just one retreat at Jonathan Creek this fall. The Jonathan Creek retreat will be Oct. 10-11 with Stuart Calvert, author of *God's Plan, My Part*, as the guest speaker. Two retreats will be held at Cedarmore, Sept. 19-20 and Sept. 26-27. A registration form and information about the Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore retreats will be included in the retreat brochure.

—Joy Bolton



Youth

WhatEver! Exalt 2003 is coming on March 21-22 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. You won't want to miss Exalt this year. Holly Henson, sports missionary to Russia, and Nadia Arkhipova, Russian "missionary" to Alabama will be our speakers. Flyfaith will lead our worship (www.flyfaith.com). And Joy Williams will present a concert just for us on Friday night (www.joywilliams.net). She has just been nominated for three Dove Awards including **Female Artist of the Year!**

The weekend will examine the thought that whatever we do, we should do it for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). If God calls us to farming, missions, law or motherhood, we should do it for His glory. Women

from all walks of life will join us on Saturday to explore this concept more fully.

Applications for the 2003-2004 **Acteens Advisory Panel** are due **April 15**. Applications have been sent to all Acteens advisors. This year's panel will host a seminar about the panel at Exalt to answer any questions.



Mission Adventure Camp and Acteens Splash will be here before you know it. There is more information on page 4 of this insert, and we will be glad to send you information.



On the heels of our mission camping programs is **SyncroNations**, the Na-

tional Acteens Convention in Nashville. By now, you should have received information about Kentucky plans. Be sure to let me know if your groups are attending. There is one change in our plans that I am excited to announce. The Kentucky Party will not take place at the Best Western. Instead, it will be at the **Hard Rock Café** on Tuesday night from 10-11!! The restaurant will shut down at 8 p.m. to set up for us. We will have an appetizer buffet, unlimited soft drinks and a stage set up so we can perform for each other. The cost is \$25 per person. Include this expense in your fundraising. Information will be sent to those Kentucky groups who are attending.

—LaRaine Dail

Preschool

Has your Mission Friends class survived the winter? Let your church know it is alive and growing into spring by involving more preschoolers in missions education. Your Mission Friends class cannot grow without a continuous, intentional effort. Use a variety of methods to show your continuing interest in a prospect. Try these ideas:

- Send the child a colorful card addressed just to him or her.
- Visit the child and parents in the home.
- Take along some homemade cookies to share with the family. Explain the Mission Friends organization and give them a copy of *Share*.
- Make a spring bulletin board display. Cut flowers from bright-colored paper. Place the name or picture of each child on a flower. Mount flowers as in a garden on the board. Cut grass from strips of colored paper, and add the caption: Garden of Mission Friends.



Children In Action

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF GIRLS IN ACTION AND CHILDREN IN ACTION! You are invited to the 125th birthday celebration of Kentucky WMU! The **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** is scheduled on Saturday, April 5 at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. Because both Girls in Action (girls, grades 1-6) and Children in



Action (boys and girls, grades 1-6) are a part of WMU, this special event is planned during the WMU Annual Meeting.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around 12 noon (EST). As the general meeting is in session for everyone else, the children and leaders will be having their own event with opportunities for meeting missionaries, singing and having all kinds of fun! The event will be held in the gymnasium of the church. Watch for signs to direct you to the gym entrance. See directions to the church on page 1 of this insert.

No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$2 per person attending, to be paid on arrival.

Children and leaders attending the event can be involved in a ministry project for the **MK Re-entry Retreat** that will be held in Kentucky in August. Those attending are encouraged to bring one of the following items: glue stick, mechanical pencil, pen, eraser, marker, tape or ruler. The items collected will be distributed to the college-age missionary kids (MKs) attending the retreat.



Don't forget camp! Two state camps, Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore) and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for all girls. Girls in Action members, as well as girls who are not members of GA, can attend. Inform your girls and their parents about the dates and cost of camp. The *2003 Children & Youth Mission Camp Opportunities* booklet was mailed to church GA, Children in Action and WMU directors in January.

—Brenda Price



President's Perspective

As I begin writing my column, I have just left the national WMU January board meeting and TEL training for state leadership in Alabama. All week, I have been reminded just what an honor it is to represent you as your Kentucky WMU state president. What a special blessing it has been to me these past months, and please keep sending up those prayers for me—I depend on you to do that.



Cathy Chinn
Kentucky
WMU
president

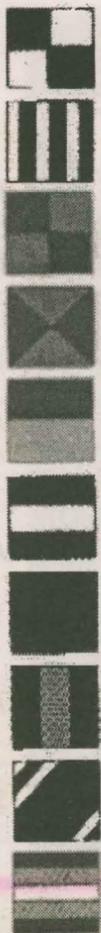
I am looking forward to being in many of your churches during the late winter and spring, and I thank you for those special invitations. It is such a joy to visit a church that loves WMU and believes in our purposes. Hopefully, since we have just had Focus on WMU, we have reviewed our five strategic principles, which are our reasons for having WMU in the church. They are (1) pray for and give to missions, (2) do missions, (3) learn about missions, (4) develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle, and (5) participate in the work of the church and the denomination.

With our current emphasis on "God's Plan—My Part," I am constantly seeing reminders of how God speaks to us and gives us means to explore what He has in mind for us. God has a purpose and a plan for each one of us, and He invites us to become a part of His plan. What a joy it is to find our part in God's plan, and we need to remember that God's invitation to join Him continues throughout our lives. A couple of Bible studies that are helping point me to God's plan for my life are "Becoming A Vessel God Can Use" by Donna Partow and "A Woman's Guide to Servant Leadership" by Rhonda Kelley.

If you haven't already done so, make your plans to attend our Kentucky WMU Annual meeting in Winchester on April 4-5. What a celebration we are going to have as we celebrate 125 years of WMU in Kentucky and our 100th Annual Meeting. The very first one also was held in Winchester! Many special events have been planned as well as an outstanding program of missionary speakers and special music. You won't want to miss it! Check your WMU mail and this issue of Kentucky Notes for more details. WMU directors have received information about lodging and details on the Annual Meeting.

The Lord has sent us a part-time interim Women/Adults on Mission consultant and part-time camp consultant. We are so thankful for them both. Bethann Ayers is our camp consultant and Jennifer Martin is our Women/Adults on Mission consultant. I have not had the pleasure of meeting Bethann yet, but look forward to it. I did get to room with Jennifer at TEL training in Birmingham. She brings a real excitement for Women on Mission that we hope will rub off on all of us! Make sure you get to know these new members of our staff and make them welcome. Add them to your prayer lists as they tackle God's new plan for their lives at this time!

See you in Winchester!!
Cathy Chinn



WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2003

→ Training
→ Motivation

→ Inspiration
→ Fellowship

July 11-12 Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington
July 18-19 Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Beaver Dam

Friday, 6:30-9 p.m.
(Associational Leaders Only)

Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
(Associational & Church Leaders)

How can YOU become a better missions leader? Attend conferences for basic training or advanced leadership skills at World Missions Unlimited. Conferences for church and associational leaders of all WMU organizations and Brotherhood organizations will be provided. Special interest conferences also will be offered.

Cost: \$15 if registered by June 20; \$20 after June 20
(Includes: Saturday lunch and resources*)

Registration materials will be mailed to all church/ associational WMU leaders in early April. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU.

*Those attending WMU conferences will receive a WMU Year Book. Participants in Brotherhood conferences will receive Brotherhood-related resources.



Calendar

March

- 2-9 Season of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 15 Spanish Women's meeting, Bloomfield
- 21-22 Exalt, State Acteens Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

April

- 3 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Central Baptist Church, Winchester
- 4-5 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting & 125th Anniversary Celebration, Central Baptist Church, Winchester
- 5 GA/Children in Action Missions Event, Central Baptist Church, Winchester
- 20 Easter

May

- 13 Senior Adult Celebration, First Baptist Church, Paducah
- 15 Senior Adult Celebration, Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, Cecilia
- 16-17 WMU Resource Team Training, Cedarmore
- 20 Senior Adult Celebration, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset
- 22 Senior Adult Celebration, First Baptist Church, Paintsville

June

- 9-15 Missions Adventure Camp Staff Training, Cedar Crest
- 15-16 National WMU Annual Meeting, Phoenix
- 17-18 Southern Baptist Convention, Phoenix
- 16-20 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Grades 4-6, Cedar Crest
- 20-21 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 23-27 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Grades 4-10, Cedar Crest
- 27-28 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek
- GA Overnight, Jonathan Creek
- Acteen Splash, Jonathan Creek
- Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 30-7/4 Missions Adventure Camp for Girls, Grades 4-10 Cedar Crest

Heritage Fund

The Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund is an endowment fund that provides funds to promote, develop and sustain the work of Kentucky WMU. We invite you to make special gifts to the Heritage Fund or donations in memory of or in honor of a WMU leader, loved one, or special friend. You also may include Kentucky WMU in your will and/or request that gifts to Kentucky WMU be made in your memory. We have a great heritage through Kentucky WMU. Be a part of sustaining our work into the future.

Heritage Fund donors from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, 2002, include:

Donor: Mrs. R. C. Johnson	In Honor Of: Tonya Williams Heartsill
Mrs. Irma L. Woodrow	Tonya and Steve Heartsill
Mercer Baptist WMU Association Mrs. Jessie Boyd	Anna Mary Byrdwell Tonya Williams Heartsill
Mrs. R. C. Johnson Mrs. Irma L. Woodrow Bell County WMU Association Mr. Donald B. White	Germany Mission Team Lincoln County WMU Eva Goodman Anna White
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Bruce G. Walzer	In Memory Of: Merrill and Kay Aldridge
Mrs. Bonnie P. Cecil Mrs. Ann E. Moffett Nelson Baptist Association WMU Mrs. Virginia Drake Walnut Street Baptist Church WMU	Mrs. Hazel Halbrook Elnora Carpenter Mrs. Hazel Halbrook Mrs. Hazel Halbrook Nancy Haydon



Welcome Bethann Ayers and Jennifer Martin

Kentucky WMU is pleased to introduce two new staff members.

Bethann Ayers is our camp director. Bethann served on camp staff at Cedar Crest in the '80s. She has a law degree and currently is working on a degree at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore.

Jennifer Martin is our interim adult consultant. Jennifer is the mother of three children. She resides in Waco near Richmond. She has served as the WMU director in her church, is vitally involved in Women on Mission and serves as the Mission Friends consultant in her association.

These two women have a great deal to offer, and we are excited to have them as members of our team.



Bethann Ayers



Jennifer Martin

Project HELP: Restorative Justice

Plans are being made for a group to meet in the Louisville area on Saturday, April 12, to learn more about prison ministry. If desired, on that day men can visit the Luther Lockett Correctional Institute and women can visit the Kentucky Correctional Institute for Women. This will be under the leadership of Prison Fellowship and promoted by KY WMU and Brotherhood and the KBC Restorative Justice Committee. If you are interested in being a part of this group, call the KY WMU office toll free at (888) 254-5726 by March 3.

Please let us know about your activities relating to Restorative Justice. If you need a report form, call or e-mail us.

We are pleased that Kentucky WMU President Cathy Chinn is chairman of the national committee for the 2004-2006 Project HELP: Poverty. Please be in prayer for her and the committee as they lay the foundation for this next Project HELP emphasis.

Answer His Call to Inspire Your Church to Radical Missions Involvement.

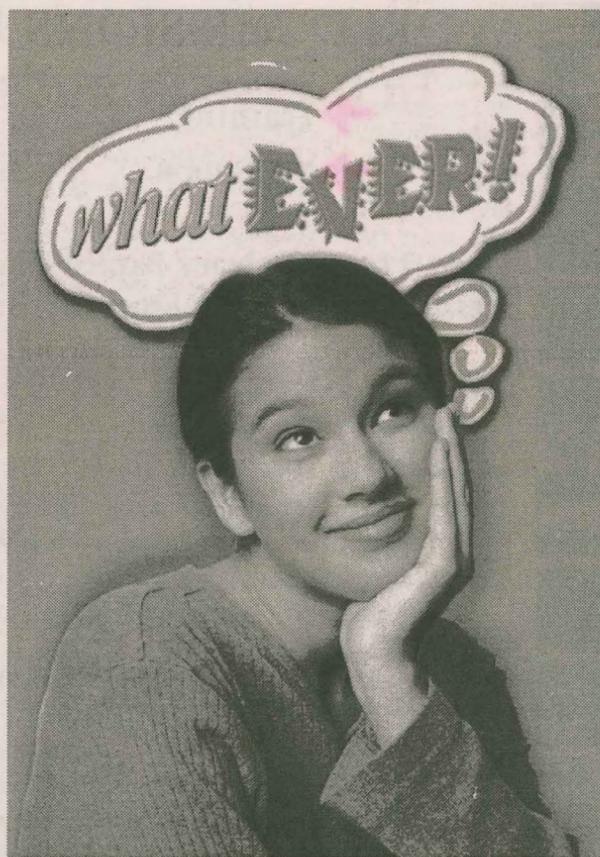
Join the celebration with powerful worship and teaching; leadership development workshops for all age levels; inspiring testimonies from the missions field; and more!

WMU* Missions Celebration 2003

A can't-miss event for missions leaders and anyone interested in missions. Admission is free. No pre-registration necessary. Child care is provided.

Phoenix, Arizona, Phoenix Civic Plaza Ballroom, 111 North Third Street
For Information visit www.wmu.com/annualmeeting

Discover the Joy of Missions™.
Join us June 15-16, 2003.



WhatEVER! Exalt 2003

March 21 - 22
Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" 1 Corinthians 10:31

Holly Henson—Sports missionary
Nadia Arkhipova—Multi-housing missionary

Joy Williams—Concert
Joy has been nominated for three 2003 Dove Awards, including Female Artist of the Year.

Flyfaith—All-girl praise band:
Worship leaders

\$20 per person: Includes concert, t-shirt and gift

RESERVATION FORM 2003 KENTUCKY WMU ANNUAL MEETING

Reservations for meals, child care, interpretation for the deaf, and WMU History Displays.
Please keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Church: _____

Please complete all applicable information and enclose payment for meals:

___ **Lunch with a Program Guest** (Box Lunch- Fri. noon, CBC)
___ # of meals requested @ \$6.00 each Total: _____

___ **Executive Board Reunion Dinner** (Fri., 5 p.m., FBC)
___ # meals requested @ \$12.00 each Total: _____
(For former KY WMU Executive Board members only)
Name of former Board member(s) / Years served on the Board

___ **Acteens / Youth on Mission Pizza Party** (Sat. noon, CBC)
___ # persons (members/leaders) @ \$3.00 each Total: _____

___ **Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon** (Sat. noon, FBC)
___ # meals requested @ \$5.00 each Total: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please make checks payable to Kentucky WMU
Meal reservations are due by March 25
Tickets will be available for pick up at the Annual Meeting

OTHER RESERVATIONS:

___ **Preschool Child Care**
___ # Children Ages: _____
Child care needed for:
___ Friday morning ___ Friday evening
___ Friday afternoon ___ Saturday morn

___ **Interpretation for the Deaf**
Sessions needed:
___ Friday morning ___ Friday evening
___ Friday afternoon ___ Saturday morn.

WMU History Display

Display is for: (check one & give name)
___ church _____
___ association _____
___ I will provide a card table for this display
(Please see instructions page 3)
Contact person for display (if different from above,
please provide name, address, phone)

Please return to: Kentucky WMU - PO Box 436569 - Louisville, KY 40253-6569
Reservations which do not require payment may be sent by phone, fax, or email
502-244-6485 - Toll-free in KY: 1-888-254-5726 - Fax: 502-254-4777 - Email: kywmu@kybaptist.org

EVANGELISM

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)

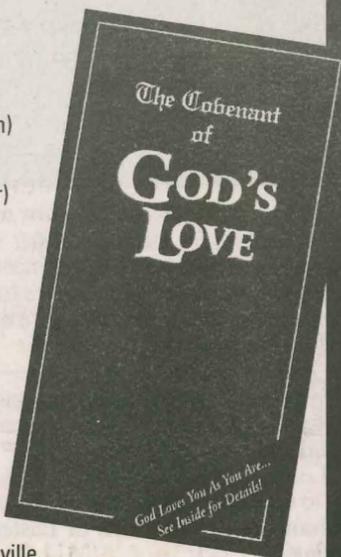
Tuesday, **March 18** / 12:30-3 pm
Severns Valley Association,
Elizabethtown (Lunch)

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.

Women's speaker offers ways to praise in midst of hardship

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Partnership Editions Editor

LEXINGTON—The secret to standing firm and even soaring in the "midnight situations" of life is to remember who you are, according to a Texas pastor's wife.

Being children of the King, "no matter what comes our way, we have power to soar to heights we haven't seen yet," said Lois Evans, senior vice president of The Urban Alternative in Dallas.

That power comes through worship and praising God even in the midst of life's difficulties, she said.

In the midst of difficulty, ask God "to give the ability to push through and praise Him," said Evans, whose husband, Tony, is pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas.

Praise, she contended, transports a person out of the midst of troubles and into the place of God's peace. "There is power in praise."

Evans was the featured speaker for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Feb. 25 at Centenary Methodist Church in Lexington.

The conference coincided with the annual KBC Evangelism Conference at nearby Immanuel Baptist Church.

Evans suggested seven ways to cultivate a spirit of praise in the midst of all life brings:

■ **Read the Psalms.** "Stay in the

Psalms until you learn to praise Him," she said. Then you will begin to see challenges from a heavenly focus, she said. She encouraged people who are prone to complaining to "change what's coming out of your mouth."

■ **Be an overcomer.** "Soar and live higher than what's going on in your life," she said. "When nothing is left but Christ, He is all you need."

■ **Remember the victory already attained in Christ.** Choose to believe, she said. "Whose report will I believe? I shall believe the report of the Lord."

■ **Remain steadfast.** "No matter what comes your way, stand firm," she said. She also recommended surrounding oneself with people who will help keep you strong.

■ **Pray specifically for what you want.**

■ **Don't let bitterness fill your life.** Bitterness, she said, is like drinking poison every day. "Ask God to take the bitterness away."

■ **Be immovable.** Stand firm when distractions and temptations come, Evans recommended. "There are seasons for everything in life," she said. "God knows exactly when to take you out of this season. Learn all you can in this season; God will use it in the next one."

People who are in difficult seasons should remember that God "will join you in the fire," she added.

"This joy you have the world didn't give to you," she said, "And don't you ever let the world take it away."



Evans

Unleash the Power

KBC Evangelism Conference

"When nothing is left but Christ, He is all you need."

Lois Evans, senior vice president of The Urban Alternative

mark your calendars for the upcoming ...

Conference on Understanding Other Beliefs

Sharing the Biblical Jesus with People of Other Beliefs

Monday, March 24, 2003* / 7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

Hickory Grove Baptist Church / Independence

Tuesday, March 25, 2003* / 7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

First Baptist Church / Morehead

Monday, September 8, 2003** / 7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

Mid-Continent Bible College / Mayfield

Tuesday, September 9, 2003** / 7 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

Second Baptist Church / Hopkinsville

March Instructors:

Islam - N. Ravi / Jehovah's Witnesses - Joe Kreisle

Mormonism - Arthur Sido / New Age Spirituality - Don Metcalf

*Topics to be addressed are Islam, New Age Movement, Mormonism, and Jehovah's Witnesses

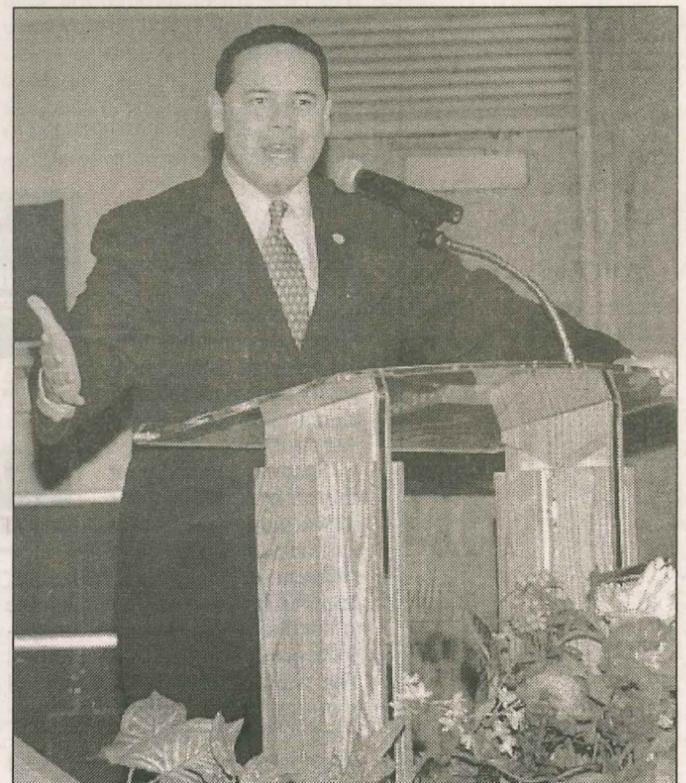
**Topics to be addressed are Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses, New Age Movement and The Occult

This is a free conference funded in part by Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering and the Cooperative Program.



For more information visit:

www.kybaptist.org



HISPANIC CONFERENCE Josh Tapia, staff evangelist at Castle Hills First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, preaches during the Kentucky Baptist Hispanic evangelism conference, Feb. 24 at Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington. Approximately 35 people were on hand for this first-ever Kentucky Baptist event, conducted entirely in Spanish. (KBC photo by Robert Reeves)

EVANGELISM

Conference testimonies pay tribute to gospel's power

"Everywhere we go, we are missionaries."

Amy Chavers, a summer missionary to Pikeville

By **Trennis Henderson and David Winfrey**
Editor and News Director

LEXINGTON—It took Sheila Nagy several months to decide to watch a copy of the "Jesus" video. But when she did, the experience changed her life.

Nagy shared her testimony "to the love and the grace of my Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ" during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Noting that she was an alcoholic who "drank on an everyday basis," Nagy candidly explained, "I was constantly drunk. I was belligerent, bitter."

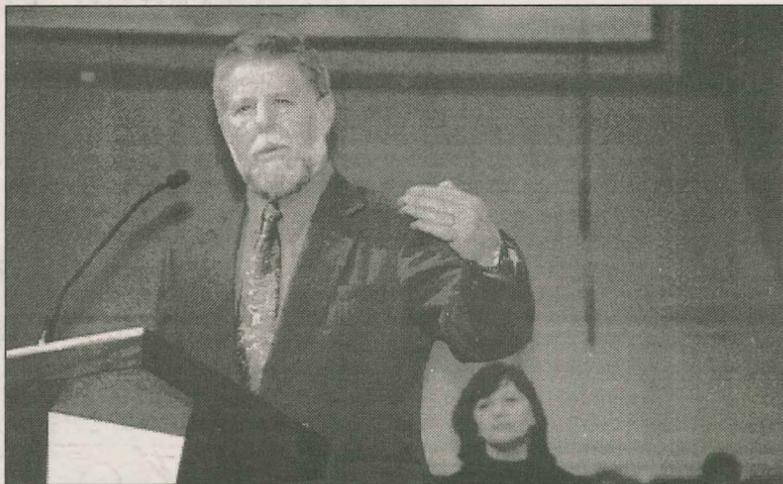
Members of Open Door Community Church in Lexington distributed copies of the "Jesus" video door-to-door a few years. Nagy received one but put it aside without viewing it.

A few months later, "I felt like I was in a dark place like a well," she recalled. "I was desperate. There was no hope in my life."

In addition to her alcoholism and frequent fights with her husband, Nagy said her 18-month-old grandson was murdered by her daughter-in-law's live-in boyfriend.

As she sought to cope with overwhelming grief, "something urged me to grab this video and put it on and I did," she told the conference crowd.

Though "I grew up with not



YEMEN TESTIMONY Don Caswell, a Southern Baptist worker in Yemen, was the only survivor of four Baptist hospital employees shot in December. He and his wife, Teri (in background), were among those sharing testimonies during the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference. "It's hard for me to describe it. I was not afraid," Caswell said of the shooting. "It was like God was beside me and had His arms around me."

Unleash the Power
KBC Evangelism Conference

much knowledge of Jesus Christ" and "I had never heard of a sinner's prayer," Nagy added, "There was a prayer at the end of the video and I prayed it." She said she even rewound the tape and "prayed it twice—I wanted to get it right."

"Jesus Christ came in and pulled me out of that well of despair and set me on the journey I'm on now," she declared. "I've never touched another sip. I've had no withdrawals."

Once she became a Christian, "Jesus told me that same day that I had

to forgive the people I held responsible for my grandson's death," she said. "I did and with that I was set free."

Lonnie Riley described how listening to God changed his life and located him in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

Riley said he went to the Hazard area in 1999 to close out his mother-in-law's estate. There, he and his wife, Belinda, felt called to leave South Haven, Miss., where he was pastor, to move back to Appalachia.

Riley described how, by living by faith, he's networked money and oth-

er resources to those in need, building a network that now includes more than 2,000 volunteers each year who travel to the area to minister.

"We've simply followed what He's done," he said.

In a short time, Riley said, he and others were able to buy a former hospital building to serve as housing for volunteers and a base for the ministries taking place.

The variety of ministries and activities has resulted in 1,400 people becoming Christians, Riley said.

"It's unparalleled in the mountains that I know of," he added. "Should God lay it on your heart, come visit just to have a sense of what God's doing."

Amy Chavers, a summer missionary last year in Pike County Baptist Association, recounted how God used her to lead 149 children and youth to personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Helping lead a dozen vacation Bible schools during the summer, Chavers said she sensed God telling her to offer daily invitations to accept Christ. "I really didn't have a choice," she said. "I had to be faithful."

While some Christians fear offending people by sharing the gospel, she added, "There are going to be a lot of unoffended people in hell if we don't step up."

"Everywhere we go, we are missionaries," she emphasized. "It's a lifetime, everyday, 24-hours-a-day job and it's a privilege. You are a missionary every single day right where you are. I challenge you to live like that."

You've already paid

If you contribute to a church that contributes to the Kentucky Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program or through the state missions budget, you already have paid for some valuable services. Since you have prepaid for these services it is reasonable to conclude you and your church would want to receive the benefits of those services.

First, you have prepaid for estate stewardship consultation services. Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, is available for private consultation in the areas of estate, incapacity and charitable gift planning services. She is just a toll-free call away.

Second, you and your church have prepaid for stewardship education seminars on at least eight different subjects. Laurie Valentine, Jennifer Bippus and I are available to conduct these seminars for specific groups within your church. The topics range from financial planning from a Christian perspective to Christian estate planning basics to long-term care planning. Call us toll-free to schedule one or more of these seminars.

Third, if your church is thinking about the future, and I trust it is, it has prepaid for our planned giving consultation service. As the demo-

graphics of your church change so will the giving trends. Call us toll-free to arrange a time for us to help the church discover solutions to how its mission and ministries will be financed in the future.

Fourth, if you are interested in simplifying the giving process or anonymous giving arrangements, call us toll-free for this prepaid assistance.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Fifth, if you are interested in establishing a scholarship fund for the benefit of college students, or if your child wants to apply for a need-based scholarship to attend a Baptist educational institution in Kentucky, call us toll-free for this prepaid assistance.

Sixth, if your church has received endowment or trust funds, there is a standard of conduct prescribed by law for investing those funds. Call us toll-free for information on how we can assist the church in the management of these funds at a below-market cost and with Christian ethical screening of every investment.

March 8 is the beginning of our 59th year of service. Don't wait! Take advantage of these services.

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

Campbellsville sponsors April conferences

By **John Chowning**

Campbellsville University is sponsoring two conferences in April that are exemplary of the quality Christian higher education experience we seek to provide our students and the greater university community.

The University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy is sponsoring an April 3 "Earth Stewardship" conference, which will focus on how Christians may be more engaged in environmental issues and how interdisciplinary approaches may be applied. The first in a series, the conference will have an underlying theme of reconciliation between business leaders and environmental interests. The session begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Little Auditorium and concludes that evening with William Martin as the featured speaker. Although there is no charge to attend, registration is encouraged.

Robert Webber is the featured speaker at the April 9-10 conference titled, "Worship in the 21st Century Church." Campbellsville's office of church and external relations and schools of theology and music are

sponsoring this conference as part of the Robertson Worship Endowment series. Dr. Webber, founder of the Institute for Worship Studies and Myers professor of ministry at Northern Theological Seminary, will speak in the April 9 convocation, 10 a.m. at Campbellsville Baptist Church and in a 7 p.m. worship service in the Gheens Recital Hall.

CAMPBELLVILLE UNIVERSITY



John Chowning

On April 10, he will participate in a noon luncheon and afternoon dialogue with pastors, music and worship ministers and other interested participants. Registration for the lunch and dialogue session is \$15.

These are only a few of the excellent conferences held throughout the year on the campus of Campbellsville University. Each session is designed to challenge our students and university community to study and discuss important issues and topics from Christian perspectives and to help prepare the next generation of informed Christian servant leaders. You may register for these events by calling (270) 789-5520, or by e-mailing jechowning@campbellsville.edu.

John Chowning is vice president for church and external relations at Campbellsville University.

SMILE

Building in Haiti

By Robert Dunston

During the first week of January, another team from Cumberland College journeyed to Haiti to engage in ministry.

The team consisted of Eleshia Caldwell, Tony Evans, Brad Hawkins, Paige Kolok, Zachary Lynch, Jennifer Wendt, David Wilson and Casey Woods.

The team described their week as laughing in the midst of hard manual labor. Their primary task was building a fence and digging holes for the construction of a school associated with one of the missions in Haiti.

Before the team arrived, the area for the new school had been roped off but no digging had begun. The team dug 32 holes, each 4 feet wide, 4 feet long and 5 feet deep. All the work had to be done using shovels and pick axes. The ground was quite rocky, making the job even more difficult.

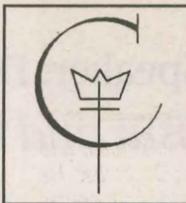
Hawkins worked with a Haitian man for most of the week. The two of them dug 15 of the 32 holes. When Hawkins and the other team members stopped for lunch, the Haitian men continued, putting in 10-12 hours of non-stop work. Team members found the commitment of the Haitian men amazing

and inspiring.

Two mornings during the team's stay, they taught vacation Bible school to the children. The team loved the times when the pastor would come out and lead the children in songs.

Some of the team members worked in a local medical clinic. During their time there, the clinic had more than 500 visitors.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Some of the patients had terrible illnesses that would have resulted in immediate hospitalization if they lived here in America. But due to the lack of facilities and care, the Haitian patients were given a little medicine and sent home.

All of the team members loved the worship service each night. Although they could not understand everything that occurred, they felt that the joy expressed in different languages gave them a foretaste of heaven.

We at Cumberland College are thankful for these students' joy in and commitment to serving Christ.

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

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 Father of Naum (Luke 3:25)
- 5 Female animal parent
- 8 "Hath God ___ away his people?" (Romans 11:1)
- 12 "he armed him with a ___ of mail" (1 Samuel 17:38)
- 13 Historic period
- 14 Author of Proverbs 30
- 15 Hair groomer
- 16 Home (abbr.)
- 17 Son of Melchi (Luke 3:27)
- 18 Father of Hophni and Phineas (1 Samuel 2)
- 20 What Peter's friend Simon would do (Acts 10)
- 22 "For the words are ___ up till the end of time" (Daniel 12:9)
- 25 Book of the Pentateuch
- 29 "But I will ___ far off from the northern army" (Joel 2:20)
- 30 Eye membrane
- 31 Popular contraction
- 32 Muscle spasm
- 33 Scat!
- 37 "I have not hastened from being a ___ to follow you" (Jeremiah 17:16)
- 40 "I cry in the daytime, ... and in the night ___" (Psalm 22:2)
- 41 A son of Rizpah and Saul (2 Samuel 21, var.)
- 42 Salaried player (abbr.)
- 43 Roman 901
- 44 "the promise is to ... all that are ___ off" (Acts 2:39)
- 47 "the Lord hath called ... Bezeleel the son of ___" (Exodus 35:30)
- 49 Pronoun
- 53 "I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and ___" (Isaiah 43:3)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
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			42				43				
44	45	46			47	48		49	50	51	52
53					54			55			
56					57			58			

- 54 Arabic letter
- 55 "Lord, ___ mercy on my son" (Matthew 17:15)
- 56 "ye shall carry up my bones ___ with you" (Exodus 13:19)
- 57 Casual greeting
- 58 Hied

Down

- 1 O.T. book subtitled "The Preacher" (KJV)
- 2 Late actor Jack
- 3 O.T. book
- 4 "If ___ , why am I thus?" (Genesis 25:22)
- 5 "they shall ___ every strong hold" (Habakkuk 1:10)
- 6 Linking verb
- 7 "If I be a ___ , where is my fear?" (Malachi 1:6)
- 8 "the heaven of heavens ___ contain thee" (1 Kings 8:27)
- 9 Era
- 10 Big ___
- 11 ___ glyceride
- 19 Bk. of the Pentateuch
- 21 Tool not heard at the site of Solomon's temple (1 Kings 6)

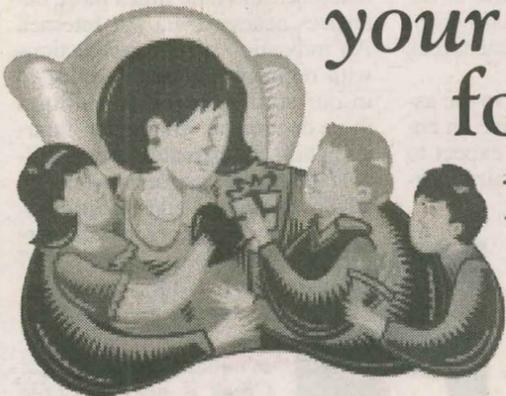
- 22 Mangers
- 23 Quay
- 24 "I am Alpha and ___" (Revelation 1:8)
- 26 Duplicate
- 27 Lincoln's lads
- 28 Holy (Fr.)
- 34 Fowl not to be eaten (Leviticus 11)
- 35 Conjunction
- 36 Sufficient
- 37 "The wrath of a king is as ___ death: but a wise man will ___ it" (Proverbs 16:14)
- 38 "And to whom is the ___ of the Lord revealed?" (Isaiah 53:1)
- 39 "And he carried away all Jerusalem ... all the ___" (2 Kings 24:14)
- 44 Third king of Judah
- 45 Handful
- 46 Judicial junta (abbr.)
- 48 Woman's name
- 50 "her ___ was to light on a ... field belonging to Boaz" (Ruth 2:3)
- 51 Blvd.
- 52 "Nightline" nickname

Last week's solution

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

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Is there room in your heart for one more?



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

needs caring foster families to provide safe and loving homes for children and teens. The young people come from backgrounds of abuse and neglect. They desperately need your love.

Is there room in your heart and home for just one more?

Training, financial assistance and around-the-clock support are provided. Foster parents can be single or married and can foster full or part-time.

To find out more about foster parenting in your area, visit www.kbhc.org and click on Foster Care or call:



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

1-800-456-1386 or (502) 245-2101

www.kbhc.org e-mail: info@kbhc.org

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Pledge case headed to Supreme Court?** The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced Feb. 28 it would not reconsider a June decision in which it ruled the pledge's inclusion of "under God" is a violation of the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion. The court had been asked to rehear the case as an 11-member panel but rejected that option. The ruling will affect public school classrooms in the nine western states of the Ninth Circuit. The only recourse for a reversal of the decision is the Supreme Court.

■ **Bill Bright's condition worsening.** Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright's health condition is worsening, his wife has reported to staff members. Bright, 81, is suffering from pulmonary fibrosis, a life-threatening lung condition. Wife Vonette Bright wrote in a letter to staff, board members and others that a doctor has estimated her husband "might have six months or less to live."

■ **Supreme Court: Anti-abortion groups not RICO violators.** The Supreme Court ruled Feb. 26 that a federal racketeering law was wrongly used to halt abortion opponents such as Operation Rescue. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for an 8-1 majority, said there is no disagreement that protesters interfered with operations at abortion clinics and committed crimes in some cases. But such acts of interference and disruption "did not constitute extortion," he wrote.

■ **Robertson back after prostate cancer surgery.** Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson reappeared as host of "The 700 Club" on his Christian Broadcasting Network on Feb. 24, one week after having surgery for prostate cancer. Robertson, 72, underwent surgery to remove a cancerous prostate on Feb. 17. "I am profoundly grateful and touched by the thousands of prayers and expressions of goodwill that were made on my behalf by people all across the United States," he said, encouraging men over age 50 be screened for the disease.

Third Day, Jars of Clay among gospel Grammy winners

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Third Day, a Christian rock band, won its first Grammy on Feb. 23, joining five other artists in taking home honors in the gospel music categories.

"I know it sounds clichéd, but we've always believed it is a great honor just to be nominated," lead singer Mac Powell told reporters backstage. "And it is—especially to be in the same category with artists who are great friends and remarkable musicians. But right now it sure feels better than losing! We are really going to enjoy this."

Third Day won in the Best Rock Gospel Album category for its "Come Together" album. Other winners in the gospel categories at the New York ceremony were:

Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album: "The Eleventh Hour" by Jars of Clay

Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album: "We Called Him Mr. Gospel Music: The James Blackwood Tribute Album" by the Jordanaires, Larry Ford and the Light Crust Doughboys

Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album: "Higher Ground" by the Blind Boys of Alabama

Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album: "Sidebars" by Eartha

Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album: "Be Glad" by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, directed by Carol Cymbala.

Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, March 20
10 a.m.
First Baptist Church
Frankfort, Kentucky

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Les Hill
"Creedalism and Missions"

Information Update and Officer Election

Remember to renew annual membership fees:
Individual: \$35 ♦ Family: \$50

Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky
PO Box 974
Georgetown, KY 40324

"Continuing the Great Traditions of Kentucky Baptists"

24.9 feet; 26.1 feet; 31.3 feet

The weekend of Feb. 15 was a very difficult time for people in Kentucky and in the northeast. Oneida is surrounded on three sides by water, so we keep a close eye on rainfall amounts. The forecast for the weekend was not good, so we had warning to expect difficult conditions.

The choir trip scheduled for that Sunday was canceled. Predictions of freezing rain prompted the church to postpone it. It was the third time in four weeks that weather prevented us from performing. If my memory is correct, we've had a total of three other cancellations in the past nine years! I wasn't sure the trip needed to be postponed. But when the news began to come in Sunday about ice, I was glad we had.

We didn't have any ice this far south, but we sure had the rain. We have a reasonably good knowledge of what to expect when we have too much rain. We watch the river as it rises, taking into account the amount of rain that has fallen and the rate of rise in the river. Normally, we are able to predict with some accuracy how high the river will get and the approximate time it will crest.

We had reason to depend more heavily on the predictions of the National Weather Service than at any time in the past. I don't blame them for what happened; rain is controlled by a Higher Power. However, their Web page indicated that the crest would be at 24.9 feet. We were a little surprised at this, based on the amount of rain that had fallen and the abundance of moisture still to come.

At 24.9 feet the water will be in three buildings on our lower campus. These buildings were constructed with flooding in mind, so aside from the mess and moving their contents, no real dam-

age normally is incurred. Moving things out of harm's way before water enters a building is one thing; trying to move things higher after water already is in a building is something else!

The projected crest of the river was passed and still rising, so we needed to move things higher. Working in three feet of water, we did our best. A check of the Weather Service Web page indicated a new projected crest of 26.1 feet. Our calculations showed that level already had been exceeded.

Now the water was too high to move anything else. It appeared that we were going to have significant losses because of water damage. We have several buildings in the flood plain, but we normally get things out before any serious damage takes place. It was too late to take the piano out of the choir room, but we moved it up two feet.

In my 19 years at Oneida, I never had seen the river continue to rise so slowly. It just kept coming up. I could not stand the suspense, so my son and I got into a canoe and paddled to the choir room. It was not a good sight. I estimated there was a foot of water on the bottom of the piano.

A crest of 31.3 feet came near midnight on Saturday. The water went down as slowly as it rose. As daybreak came, the damage to fences and other items was obvious. There was more extensive flood damage than in all the floods combined that we had encountered in the past 19 years. As bad as it was, our friends in the northern half of the state had ice damage that was much worse!

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

How do we compare?

The latest statistical report from the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges offers a good benchmark for comparing Clear Creek with similar institutions.

There are 89 colleges in the association and 37 of us have an enrollment under 200. We expect to soon move into the next size category.

While similar schools enroll 57 percent of their applicants, Clear Creek enrolled 86 percent. We also retained 79 percent of the previous class, 15 percent higher than other schools.

Students at Clear Creek have an average grade point average of 2.93, .01 lower than similar schools. Our faculty includes more full-time teaching positions, and 67 percent of them hold an earned doctorate, compared to 35 percent in similar schools. A professor at Clear Creek is compensated at a similar level as other schools, but the base salary for associate and assistant professors is slightly lower.

Clear Creek invested 25 percent more in library resources than similar schools and expended four times more for technology. We have twice the number of computer workstations, three times the

number of locally owned computer databases and nine times more databases accessed via the Internet. An indication of our connections with regional libraries is reflected in our staff securing five times more documents from other libraries. This service really helps faculty/staff and area pastors working on advanced degrees. Our library provided more public service hours. Library staff did five information presentations to 97 individuals. The library resources building space at Clear Creek is nearly double that of similar schools.

Praise the Lord for financial strength indicators! Friends through the years have provided Clear Creek an endowment 10 times larger than schools our size, providing 14 percent of our

yearly income. We have kept tuition low because of our family emphasis. At other schools student tuition is 37 percent of income while we receive only 22 percent. It is good to see a lower debt level on plant and equipment among Bible colleges. Clear Creek owes (for a sewer installation) less than other Bible colleges, and the interest is less than 1 percent.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

The Family Circus

Christianity has significant role in Bil Keane's longstanding cartoon

By Kathi Wolfe
Religion News Service

PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. (RNS)—It's so retro that you might not want your hip friends to know you read it.

But it's an oasis of comfort as war with Iraq looms and anxiety over terrorism increases.

It is "The Family Circus," a comic strip that appears daily in more than 1,500 newspapers in the United States and throughout the world.

The panel revolves around a "typical" American family: Daddy, Mommy, their four children (Billy, 7; Dolly, 5; Jeffy, 3; and PJ, 18 months), their dogs Barfy and Sam, and their cat Kittycat.

This family is no more "typical" than the Cleavers in "Leave It to Beaver." Yet, despite the dysfunction found in many families and the irony that permeates the culture in the age of "The Simpsons," readers love the "Family Circus" gang today as much as they did when the strip began more than 40 years ago.

"Family Circus" inhabits a small corner of American culture that hasn't been infiltrated by cynicism, said Robert Thompson, professor of media and popular culture at Syracuse University in New York.

"Jerry Springer shows you the dark side of the American family," Thompson added. "'The Family Circus' shows you the optimistic side. Most families live between the two."

Characters in "The Family Circus" are "absolutely like members of your family," said Mike Peters, creator of the comic strip "Mother Goose & Grimm."

He added: "Everyone knows the kids, the mom and dad. You're charmed by looking at the world through the kids' eyes." Only a handful of strips are so integral a part of the fabric of America, Peters said.

Art imitates life

Bil Keane, 80, created the strip 43 years ago when "FC" first appeared in just 19 papers. The inspiration for "The Family Circus" came from his own life, Keane said in a telephone interview from his home in Paradise Valley, Ariz. Keane and his wife, Thelma, have five children. Daddy in the strip, like Keane, is a cartoonist.

The religious themes expressed in "FC" grow out of his family's experiences, Keane said. The children in the strip express "the religious questions that I had as a child or that other children have," he said.

But the strip's religious attitudes

are expressed subtly, he added. "It's not done to convert you in airports," Thompson said. "There's a subtlety to the message. It's not Jehovah's Witnesses. It says we should be nice to each other."

When "The Family Circus" does bring in a Christian theme, such as Christmas, he added, "it's to give it (the strip) density—window dressing. Like what the 'Goldbergs' (the radio, TV and comic strip) did with the characters being Jewish."

But faith in "The Family Circus" isn't vacuous. Without being preachy, it delivers a message. When Dolly asks, "Is God white, black, brown, yellow or red?" Mommy simply answers, "Yes."

"It helps to bring in a religious message only occasionally," Keane added. "Or my editor would say he's not buying a religious strip. ... It makes it more special that way."

Keane was born in 1922 in Philadelphia and grew up there. Religion and drawing have been integral to his life since childhood. "Religion was a part of our home life when I was growing up. I attended Catholic school. It was a good education—for the spiritual end, as well as for its discipline," Keane said.

Humor & God

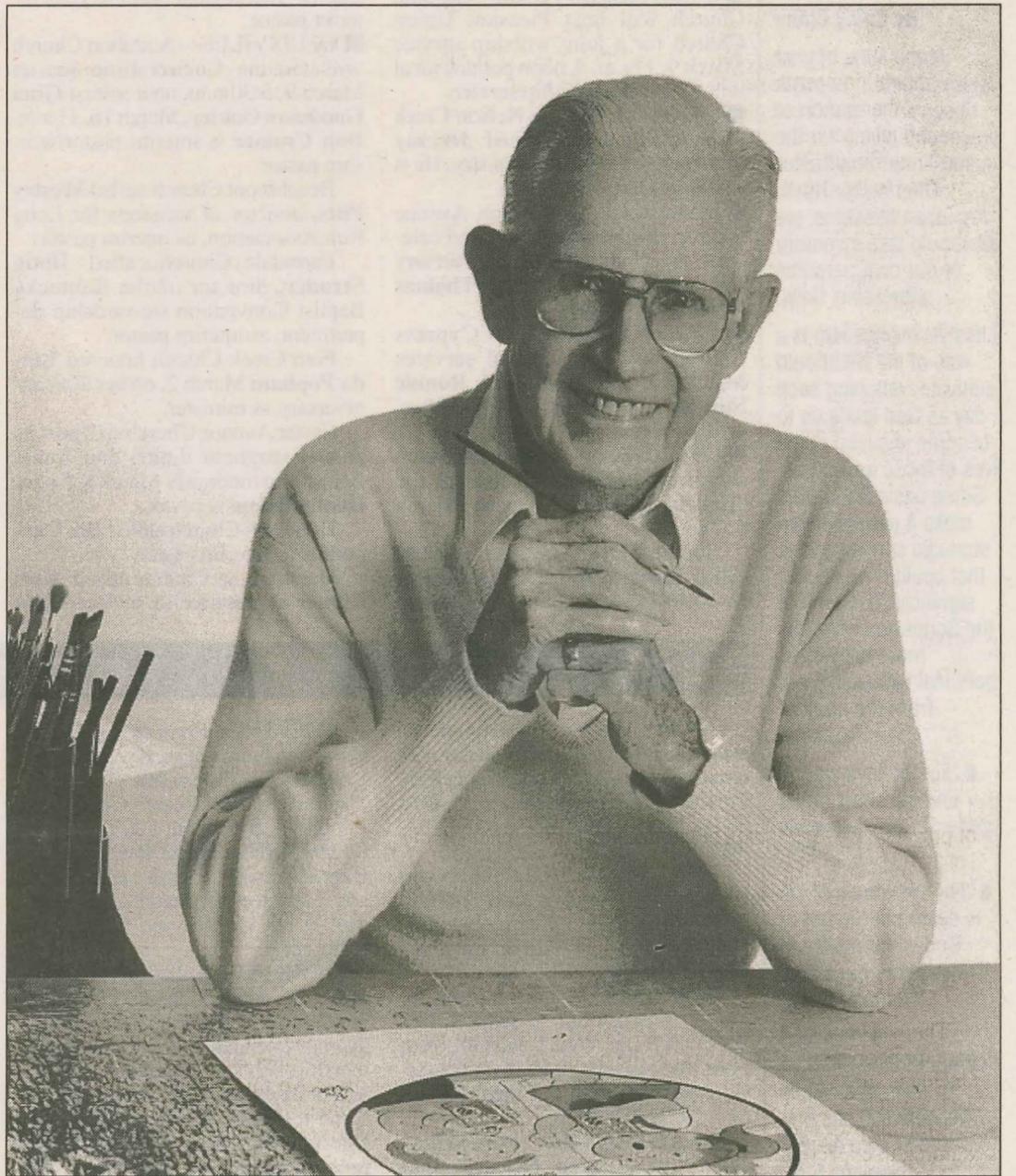
Humor always has been an element of his faith. "Laughter was a part of the church services I attended as a child," he recalled.

Jesus must have had a sense of humor, Keane said. "Churches have made God and Christ on Earth seem solemn. Very seldom do you see a picture of Christ laughing or smiling." But that's not the way Jesus was, Keane said. "I like to think of Him as a guy who got people to listen to Him by leaving them laughing and chuckling with one another."

Keane never formally studied art. In sixth grade, he drew caricatures of the other students and of the teacher, Sister Anne.

"She was a great teacher," he said. "Instead of chastising me for drawing her in a not-too-flattering way, she encouraged me." When he left her class, Keane added, "Sister Anne said, 'I hope someday to see you drawing cartoons.'"

He taught himself to draw while he was a student at Northeast Catholic High School—drawing cartoons for the school newspaper. In the late 1930s, Keane and his friends produced a satirical magazine, "The Sat-



urday Evening Toast."

He stayed up nights copying the cartoons of his idols—New Yorker cartoonists Peter Arno, George Price, Robert Day and Whitney Darrow. "I learned by doing cartoons what was right and what was wrong," he said.

At this time Keane dropped the second "l" in his first name, Bill, "to be distinctive."

His first job after high school was as a messenger for the (now defunct) Philadelphia Bulletin. Keane served in the Army from 1942 to 1945, drawing for Yank magazine and creating the "At Ease With the Japanese" feature for Pacific Stars and Stripes.

After World War II, he returned to the Bulletin. He drew cartoons for the paper and created a Quaker character based on William Penn for "Silly Philly," a Sunday comic strip for the Bulletin. In 1948 Keane married Thelma Carne, an Australian whom he met during the war. The couple lived in Roslyn, Pa., for 10 years before moving to Arizona in 1959.

From 1954 to 1972, Keane drew "Channel Chuckles," a TV humor cartoon that was distributed nationally. He also drew cartoons on a freelance basis for magazines. The income allowed Keane to leave the Bulletin and work from home.

He launched "The Family Circus" in February 1960.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Keane said, he has received mail from readers "who are gratified that there is something in the comic pages that devotes some space to the influence of religion and God."

It gives people hope that things can be the way they used to be, he added. "No one has an explanation for the attacks. But most people believe that guidance from above will help to beat terrorism," Keane said.

Keane jokes that he has no plans to retire other than to go to bed at night. But he knows he won't be able to do "The Family Circus" forever.

When Keane steps down from "FC," his son Jeff will take over the strip. To prepare for this passing of the torch, Jeff does the drawings in ink after Keane provides the ideas and draws the panels in pencil.

"He's warming up in the bullpen," Keane said. "He's doing a beautiful job."

RINGMASTER Bil Keane's "The Family Circus" comic appears in more than 1,500 newspapers. "There's a subtlety to the message," Keane, 80, said of the occasional Christian content. "It says we should be nice to each other." (RNS photos)

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Cathy Chinn

At this time of year when Southern Baptists observe the season of prayer and giving for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, we all should take inventory of our own personal witnessing skills.

Lifestyle evangelism is a way of life we should cultivate, watching each day as God leads us to become involved in the lives of those around us.

Some basic Scriptures make it easy to begin strategic conversations that could have eternal significance. Some of the Scriptures I find the most relevant in personal witnessing are from the book of Romans:

■ "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

■ "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

■ "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

■ "That if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:9-10, 13).

Cathy Chinn, president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, is a Mission Service Corps volunteer at the Wendell Belew Appalachian Training Center in Stanton

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host Pleasant Union Church for a joint worship service March 9, 11 a.m. A noon potluck meal will follow the worship service.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Nelson Creek Church recently ordained **Jeremy Whitney** to the gospel ministry. He is pastor of Dunmor Church.

■ **DANVILLE**—Lexington Avenue Church held services Feb. 2 to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary and rededicate its sanctuary. **Thomas Valentine** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—New Cypress Church will hold revival services March 9-13, 6:30 p.m., with **Ronnie Stinson** as evangelist. **Jeff Noffsinger** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church senior adult choir will present the "Hallelujah Singers Concert" March 6, 7 p.m.

Southern Heights Church recently called **Doug Walker**, vice president for institutional relations at Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary, as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Audubon Church will host the **Cornerstone** quartet March 9, 5:30 p.m., and soloist **Gina Goodman Oakley**, March 16, 11 a.m. **Dan Cromer** is interim pastor/worship pastor.

Beechmont Church called **Wesley Pitts**, director of missions for Long Run Association, as interim pastor.

Farmdale Church called **Doug Strader**, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention stewardship department, as interim pastor.

Fern Creek Church honored **Linda Popham** March 2, on her 20th anniversary as minister.

Foster Avenue Church will host its annual spaghetti dinner and Annie Armstrong fundraiser March 8, 5 p.m. **Danny Payne** is pastor.

Hopewell Church called **Jim Carpenter** as interim pastor.

Hurstbourne Church called **Kris Billiter** as minister to students. **Jon**

Bishop is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church called **Bob Seely** as part-time music minister. He previously served as interim music director. **Don Embry** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—First Church will hold a dedication service for its news facilities March 16, 4 p.m. Tours and a reception will follow the service.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church will host the **Martins** in concert March 9, 6 p.m. For information, call (270) 442-2728

■ **ROCKFIELD**—New Gasper Church recently called **Andy Haley** as pastor.

■ **SOUTH CARROLLTON**—South Carrollton Church ordained **Jerry Bassler** and **William Fortney** as deacons Feb. 9.

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.

Hill, noted Baptist leader, dies at 69

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Influential Baptist leader E.V. Hill, longtime pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, died Feb. 24 at age 69.

Hill was a national leader in the National Baptist Convention, USA, and was active in the civil rights movement. He also served on the board of directors for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

"Dr. E.V. Hill has been a longtime friend of my father's," said BGEA President Franklin Graham. He said Hill's "contribution to evangelism is immeasurable. He has been a source of great strength over the years to all of us."

Hill also was a speaker for Promise Keepers rallies and co-chaired the Baptist World Alliance's 1985 congress in Los Angeles.

"E.V. Hill was a great world Baptist," said BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz. "He had a vision that all of God's children—red, yellow, black and white—belonged together."

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

FOR SALE: 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: Full-time minister of youth and activities director for Christian Life Center at Salem Baptist Church, Salem, Ky., Resumes accepted through March 31. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, PO Box 329, Salem, KY 42078.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, is prayerfully receiving and reviewing resumes 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 resumes 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: 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: 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: 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: 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.ibcberlin.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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: 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.

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

PEOPLE

Christian faith had impact on 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood'

PITTSBURGH (RNS)—Fred Rogers, the popular host of the children's TV program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" and a minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA), died Feb. 27. He was 74.



Rogers

Rogers recently had been diagnosed with stomach cancer, Associated Press reported.

He was a neighbor to the nation's children on the show he produced from 1968 to 2000 at Pittsburgh public television station WQED. The final new episode was taped at the end of 2000 and aired the following August, but PBS affiliates continued to air old episodes.

"I have never really considered myself a TV star," Rogers said in a 1995 interview. "I always thought I was a neighbor who just came in for a visit."

The Emmy Award-winning children's advocate came out of retirement to record public service announcements advising parents on how to help their children cope with the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

His advocacy included setting up a playroom at a state prison in Pittsburgh that could be used by children during family visits.

Rogers, a native of Latrobe, Pa., was ordained in 1962 by the Pittsburgh Presbytery with a charge to continue to minister to children and families through his television work. Prior to his well-known show, he was an unseen puppeteer on a local WQED show.

"He not only served as a neighbor and friend to viewers but was held in great esteem by many members of the Presbyterian Church and a variety of folks in the television industry," Jim Mead, pastor of Pittsburgh Presbytery, said in a statement.

In an interview in the March 1998 issue of *Presbyterians Today* magazine, Rogers spoke about how his faith and work intertwined.

Before taping each show he would pray to God: "Let some word that is said be Yours."

He attended seminary for eight years, taking Bible and theology courses on his lunch breaks.

Rogers told the magazine that he believed Jesus welcomed children and the church should, too: "I think Jesus delighted in the presence of children."

'Gospel Cowboy'

Evangelist uses mechanical bull to share life's story & gospel

By Kristen Campbell
Religion News Service

MOBILE, Ala. (RNS)—About 20 years ago, Gene DeVine saved a mechanical bull. He's been preaching ever since.

It's not exactly what the bow-legged Baptist set out to do. Born in Mobile, DeVine claims he rode horses before he could walk.

"It was part of the deal," said DeVine, who moved to Florida when he was a young boy. "As I got older, I just grew up on 'em. ... I rode 'em here on the farm and run cows."

Now 50, DeVine still rides horses and ropes calves. But the quintessential cowboy's work is no longer confined to a rodeo pen. Since 1984, DeVine has traveled from church to church around the Southeast, sharing his love of his Messiah and a mechanical bull.

"I want to tell you a little bit about how God worked in my life as a cowboy and me trying to live a cowboy life and trying to live a Christian life," said DeVine, warming up a group of singles gathered recently at Mobile's Dayspring Baptist Church. "I walked on both sides pretty good."

Raised in cowboy boots

For as long as he can remember, DeVine has been pure cowboy.

"I never owned a pair of shoes," said DeVine, a resident of Cantonment, Fla. "My first pair of shoes was a pair of boots, and that's all that's been on these feet is boots. I lettered in track wearing boots."

He's not kidding.

For years, his attire set him apart from his fellow Floridians.

Then, in 1980, Paramount Pictures released "Urban Cowboy." Overnight, everybody wanted to wear the hats and boots he'd worn his whole life.

"For once, I was just like everybody else," he said.

DeVine, who had roped calves competitively since he was a teenager, found himself on the mechanical bull bar circuit.

He started slow, just wanting to ride a mechanical bull one time. "The only place I could find one was a nightclub," he remembered. "I said, 'Man, I can't go down there, I'm a Christian man.'"

But in time, his friends told him of a tavern that had a mechanical bull set up in a room separate from the bar.

"I eased on there, three folks in there, paid my two dollars, jumped on that bull," DeVine said. "That thing was fun."

Before he left that night, DeVine asked to have the mechanical bull set to its most difficult level. He rode successfully. "The place went wild."

Then the manager offered him a



free drink. With everyone listening, the man now known as "The Gospel Cowboy" ordered a glass of milk.

"You've been in a situation where you could tell what the world wanted to hear," he said. "It's all about being accepted. ... They'll accept you if you do what they do, but they'll respect you if you tell 'em what's really on your heart. Don't be afraid to say, 'I'll take Jesus. I'll take Jesus.'"

That night, he went home, black, blue and ready to ride again.

"I got caught up in this deal," he said, recalling how he'd ride mechanical bulls on Saturday nights, then hurry home to teach Sunday school the next morning.

Eventually friends who knew of his prowess challenged him to ride a real bull for the regulation eight-second stretch.

Ignoring God's call

Soon a regular on the bull-riding circuit, DeVine found himself too busy to teach Sunday school or participate in his church.

"I wasn't doin' nothin' wrong," DeVine said. "I just wasn't doin' what God wanted."

"God kept saying, 'I want to use you. I want to use you.'" DeVine said he told God to reconsider.

"I was hard-headed." He said he told the Almighty: "'God, you call somebody else. Because I want to be a cowboy and I don't see nowhere you can use a cowboy in church. There ain't nowhere you can use me.'"

The perspective is a common one among Christians, said Charlie Granada, minister to singles at Dayspring Baptist Church.

"Everybody faces a question of significance," Granada said. "For so long, I didn't even think that God could use me."

In 1981, DeVine said, God decided to seize his attention.

DeVine and his dad were rounding up bulls when the young cowboy noticed a stray.

"I walked up there pretty close to him, I just threw my hands up to

shoo him, to turn him, to take him back to the pen. And all of a sudden he charged."

DeVine remembers being thrown straight up in the air.

A quick prayer for help

"As I was goin' up, I realized one thing: I was fixin' to come back down, and that bull was still going to be there. And there wasn't going to be no clown there to get him off of me. ... I knew it was time to pray, but I had to have a short prayer."

He shouted "Help!" three times. "God heard that prayer," DeVine said, and his father came running to distract the bull. DeVine escaped.

Then his father told him to go teach the bull a lesson—with a stick. The bull charged again, and again, DeVine said, he prayed.

This time, his father hopped in a truck and broadsided the bull. "That old bull jumped up, looked at me, looked at the truck, then run off," DeVine said.

That day, DeVine said, he realized that "death was just a breath away." At last, he said, he surrendered himself to God. "God changed the desires of my heart," DeVine said.

"I still cowboied," he said, but he also began to share his testimony. "He took everything that I ran from and turned it around and allowed me to use it for His glory."

In 1980, DeVine bought the first mechanical bull he ever rode—one, he says, that first bucked bar patrons at Gilley's Club in Pasadena, Texas, the club made famous in "Urban Cowboy." Four years later he had a fiberglass hull custom-built for it.

The bull "got a new body, washed white as snow," he told the laughing crowd at Dayspring Baptist. "I want y'all to know my bull is saved now."

"I lived for an eight-second high, folks. Eight seconds, one weekend to the next. I traded that high in for an eternal high that's every day. I live on a high now every day. I look for Jesus every day. I look for something He's going to do every day."

NO BULL Gene DeVine is shown with his mechanical bull. The "Gospel Cowboy," as he calls himself, travels to churches around the Southeast, telling congregations how God has worked in his life. (RNS photo by John David Mercer)

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