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FOR THE RECORD

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Owensboro
pastor shares
ideas for turning
around churches

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

LEXINGTON—Church turn-
 arounds are rare, but they are possible
 with a lot of hard work and God's
 blessing, an Owensboro pastor recent-
 ly told Kentucky Baptist church lead-
 ers.

Joe Kitchens, pastor of Hall
 Street Baptist Church, was among
 the breakout session speakers at the
 recent Kentucky Baptist Convention
 Evangelism Conference in Lexing-
 ton.

His breakout session, "From De-
 cline to Growth—How to Turn Your
 Church Around," offered a case
 study from his own experience over
 the past three years.

Kitchens, who has been pastor
 of Hall Street Baptist since 2000,
 said the church "went through al-
 most two decades of decline" in the
 1980s and '90s.

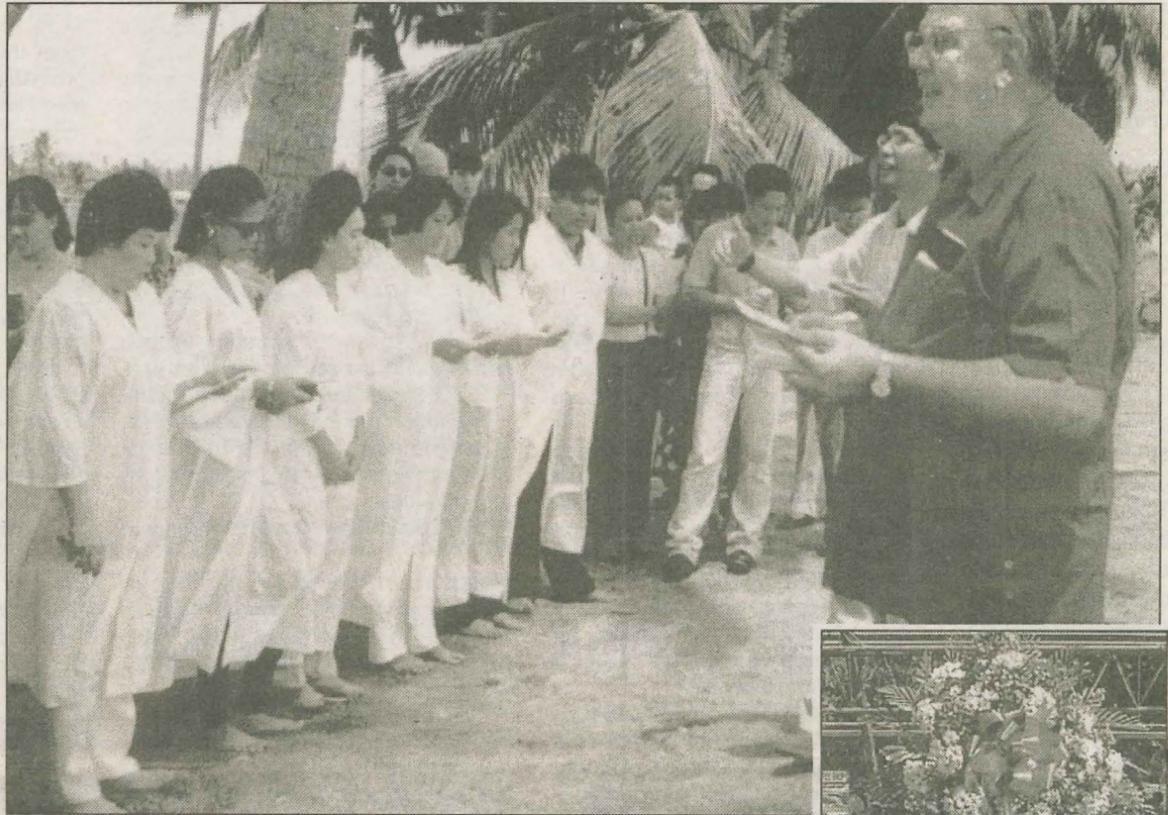
On the first Wednesday night he
 was pastor, "there were four chil-
 dren in church—and they were all
 four mine," he recalled. "Most of the
 people there thought the church was
 on its last leg."

But in the past three years the
 church's Wednesday night chil-
 dren's program has grown to 50 par-
 ticipants, Sunday morning worship
 attendance has increased from few-
 er than 100 people to 350, and the
 congregation has built a new gym
 and recreation facility.

"The Lord has blessed and the
 church has got a wonderful spirit,"
 Kitchens declared. He said 10 keys
 to church growth include:

■ Personally be in the will of God.
 "It's got to start there. We can't get
 past that," he said. "You can't expect
 □ See Owensboro pastor ..., page 3

Another missionary killed



Airport terrorist bombing also injures missionary family with ties to Kentucky

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—Southern Baptist missionary Bill Hyde (above, right) was killed and a missionary with ties to Kentucky and her two children were injured when a bomb exploded March 4 at the airport in Davao City, Philippines.

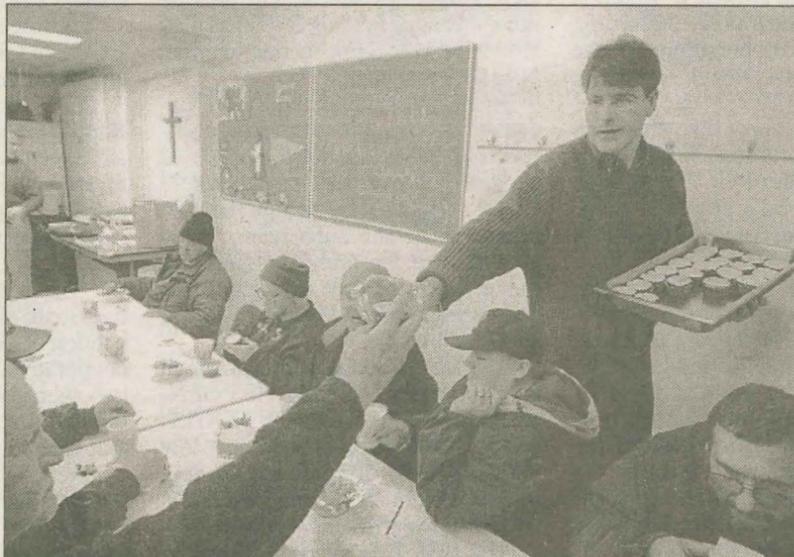
Hyde, 59, became the fourth Southern Baptist missionary killed in less than three months.

Barbara Wallis Stevens, 33, a former member of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, was slightly injured. Her 10-month-old son, Nathan, was hit by shrapnel in the liver. Husband Mark Stevens was uninjured in the blast, and daughter, Sarah, 4, was treated and released for minor injuries.

A memorial at the bomb site sponsored by Hyde's family reads: "From the family of Bill Hyde and Americans who love Filipinos and know that they are worth dying for." (Stories on page 6)



Couple making mark on New York City through 'Graffiti' center



HAND-TO-HAND MINISTRY Taylor Field hands out cupcakes during a regular meal held before midweek services at Graffiti Baptist Center. Field has been ministering in Manhattan's Lower East Side for 17 years. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

By **Lee Weeks**
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW YORK—You might say Taylor and Susan Field's commitment to inner-city missions was sealed with a kiss 23 years ago.

That's when the couple got married—just a year after both served as summer missionaries in New York.

Taylor, then a seminary student at neighboring Princeton Theological Seminary, served at a Baptist ministry center in Harlem. Susan, a junior at Emory University in Atlanta, led children's day camps in nearby Queens.

About a year into their marriage, the Fields moved to Hong Kong where they served two years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, teaching at a Baptist college. Then it was back to the U.S., this time

on the west coast, where the Fields again served in inner-city missions in San Francisco while he earned a doctorate in biblical studies at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Missions, to me, is just another word for getting where God wants you to be," Mrs. Field said.

And for the Fields and their two teenage sons, Freeman and Owen, that has meant being on mission with God in Manhattan's Lower East Side for the past 17 years—worlds apart from Taylor and Susan's respective hometowns in Oklahoma and North Carolina.

The Fields were among the North American Mission Board missionaries featured during the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 2-9. The related Annie Arm-
 □ See Couple making mark ..., page 7



Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 12

Baptist entities to host national seminars on Islam

NASHVILLE (BP)—Two Southern Baptist entities are teaming up to offer a pair of conferences on Islam for pastors, church leaders and interested laypeople.

LifeWay Christian Resources and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board will sponsor the conferences Aug. 15-17 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina and Sept. 19-21 at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

"In light of everything happening in the world, Islam has been pushed to the forefront of religious debate in the United States," said Rudy Gonzalez, who works in NAMB's interfaith evangelism department.

The two conferences are designed to inform pastors and church members about Islam, its practices, theology and beliefs. Sessions will include keynote addresses by Carl Ellis, president of Project Joseph, at Ridgecrest and Samy Tanagho, a former Muslim, at Glorieta.

The registration fee is \$61. For more information, call Ron Pratt at (615) 251-2065 or visit www.lifeway.com.

BWA launches effort to offset proposed SBC budget cut

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

WASHINGTON—Calling it a matter of "the survival of the Baptist World Alliance," BWA administrator Alan Stanford has announced the launch of a "Make Up the Difference" fund-raising campaign.

The emphasis will seek to offset the anticipated annual loss of \$125,000 from the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a March 3 letter to BWA supporters around the world, Stanford said the campaign "is not an ordinary fund-raising appeal."

Stanford, the BWA's regional secretary for North America, said the international Baptist organization "is facing a crisis as a result of the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention along with the challenge we face with today's economic downturn."

"Because of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's pending application for membership in the Baptist World Alliance, the Southern Baptist Convention's leadership has determined that they will reduce their current \$425,000 annual contribution by 30 percent," he wrote. "This is very unfortunate because the BWA wants to work with all Baptists."

Action on CBF's membership application is expected to take place in July during the BWA's General Council meeting in Seoul, Korea.

Citing a current operating deficit of more than \$600,000 as well as the proposed SBC cut, Stanford told the Western Recorder, "It is a very critical situation. We're talking about the survival of the Baptist World Alliance."

"We don't want to do anything to inflame the situation" with SBC leaders, he added. "At the same time, we feel like it would be irresponsible to not ask people to make up the difference."

The BWA Executive Committee, meeting March 3-5 in Washington, also approved a 20 percent cut in this year's budget, reducing planned ex-

BWA leaders trim budget 20 percent

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance

WASHINGTON—The Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee adopted a revised budget last week to address a current deficit of more than \$600,000.

Committee members, meeting March 3-5 at BWA headquarters in suburban Washington, also reaffirmed the process of the membership committee handling the application of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and expressed regret at the hurt Southern Baptists leaders have voiced about the way that process was handled.

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said causes of the organization's budget deficit include a declining stock market, decreased membership support and a shift in local church giving from institutions to individuals.

"The alliance cannot continue to

function in a deficit situation continually using its reserves," Lotz said. "Drastic situations require drastic measures."

The BWA Executive Committee adopted a revised 2003 budget of \$1.69 million, a 20 percent decrease from the \$2.11 million budget approved last July. The cuts mean staff travel and BWA publications will be reduced and staff will receive no salary increases.

The revised budget includes the anticipated cut of \$125,000 from the SBC's annual contribution. The proposal, approved during last month's SBC Executive Committee meeting, will be addressed at the SBC annual meeting in June.

In an effort to generate additional income, BWA proposals include an annual BWA offering and an expanded BWA membership to include associate membership for individuals, churches and institutions.

In other membership matters, Ian

Hawley, chairman of the BWA membership committee, reported the application by the CBF will be considered at the BWA General Council meeting in Seoul, Korea, in July.

While the committee reaffirmed its process which has been criticized by SBC leaders, Hawley apologized to SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman "and the SBC for any hurt and we give this apology without qualification."

BWA President Billy Kim urged members of the global Baptist family to "love each other and appreciate each other."

Noting that BWA officials "need" and "love" the SBC, Kim added that if the CBF meets BWA's membership requirements, "they ought to come in."

"We have not succeeded in bringing both groups together, but I still have hope," Kim said. "We need to let the world know we love one another and we care for each other."

penditures from \$2.11 million to \$1.69 million. The annual budget funds BWA's work among 206 Baptist conventions and unions around the world.

The proposal to reduce the SBC's financial support of BWA came during last month's SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville. The recommendation, which will be presented for action by SBC messengers in June, calls for the SBC to reallocate \$125,000 from BWA support to "Kingdom Relationships"—a proposed SBC international emphasis in cooperation with "like-minded Christian bodies."

Emphasizing that the BWA "is the original and only recognized Baptist world fellowship," Stanton's letter noted, "Many of the Baptist conventions and unions it represents are persecuted minorities in their homelands who depend on the strength of the united Baptist world family to be their

voice for religious freedom and human rights."

In addition to seeking one-time gifts from individuals and churches, the effort includes a focus on enlisting "BWA Global Impact Churches" to provide ongoing financial support.

Stanford, who also serves as BWA's director for global impact, said BWA leaders have "formulated a strategy of beginning a network of mission-minded churches around the globe to be directly involved in the ministry and support of the BWA."

"This is not anything new," he added. "We've always had supporting churches. We're just trying to have more churches support us."

Churches that pledge to contribute at least \$1,000 annually will be designated Global Impact Churches and churches that give at least \$5,000 annually will be "William Carey Global Impact Churches."

BWA General Secretary Denton

Lotz said his goal is to enlist 1,000 Global Impact Churches to undergird BWA's long-term financial stability. "The Baptists in the Third World love the Baptist World Alliance," he added, "but they are currency restricted."

If SBC messengers approve the plan to reduce BWA funding, Lotz said, "I would hope that thousands of Southern Baptist churches and millions of Southern Baptist believers will accept the challenge of supporting the Baptist World Alliance in other ways."

BWA President Billy Kim, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Suwon, Korea, noted that the SBC "has been a vital part" of the BWA's ministry since its founding in 1905.

With the pending SBC vote on reduced funding, however, "now is the time for Baptist conventions, unions and fellowships all over the world to join together in support for the Baptist World Alliance," Kim said.

SBC childcare registration opens

PHOENIX (BP)—Registration is open on a first-come, first-served basis for families wishing to enroll their children in childcare services at the Southern Baptist Convention June 15-18 in Phoenix.

Childcare services for infants through kindergarten will be available during the Sunday and Monday sessions of the SBC Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting as well as the Kingdom Family Rally on Monday evening. Childcare services will continue through the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions of the SBC annual meeting.

A nonrefundable \$10 registration fee is charged for each child. For each session, a \$5 per child fee is charged, with a maximum charge of \$40 per family for the full four days of childcare. Lunch will be available for the children on Monday and Tuesday for a cost of \$5 per lunch.

Registration information is available by e-mail at sndyosbrn@aol.com; by phone at (636) 227-7850; at the Web site www.sbcannualmeeting.org; or by writing to SBC Childcare, Sandy Osborne, Ballwin Baptist Church, 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO 63011.

The postmark deadline for childcare registration is May 30. On-site registration will be on a space-available basis.

NAMB, Texas remain at odds over agreement

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—Language in a cooperative missions agreement approved by the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board is "regretful and frustrating," according to Bob Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Reccord and Terry Fox, chairman of NAMB's board, responded March 7 to action by the BGCT Executive Board March 4 on a proposed cooperative agreement between the BGCT and NAMB.

Negotiations on the document have been under way for more than a year, and both sides at various points have rejected changes made by the other. The sticking point is NAMB's requirement that jointly funded missionaries sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

The Southern Baptist Convention's revised faith statement has not been embraced by the BGCT, although BGCT officials have said they

are willing to work jointly with NAMB in supporting missionaries who are comfortable signing it. The BGCT also has said it will provide other means of funding for Texas missionaries who choose not to meet NAMB's mandate.

In the latest action, the BGCT Executive Board approved a change proposed by NAMB and then added one sentence above the space where BGCT officials were to sign the document. That sentence reads: "Approved with the understanding that this indicates neither affirmation nor endorsement of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

The BGCT addition falls under an all-capitals heading "BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS" and is distinct from a section below where NAMB officials are to sign, also labeled in all capitals, "NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD."

The BGCT accepted a rewording required by NAMB officials else-

where in the document that notes "NAMB's requirement" for jointly funded personnel "to conform to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

Yet Reccord and Fox accused the BGCT of failing to approve the cooperative agreement.

"I'm very disappointed that the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Executive Board has again failed to affirm the proposed cooperative agreement approved by trustees of the North American Mission Board," Fox said.

"This second failure of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas to affirm a proposed cooperative agreement between our two agencies is regretful and frustrating and places at risk the possibility that we could once again work cooperatively to reach Texas and North America for Christ," Reccord added.

A formal response to the BGCT is expected when NAMB trustees meet May 7.

Kentucky WMU hosting 100th annual meeting in Winchester

WINCHESTER—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will host its 100th annual meeting April 4-5 at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. The event will highlight 125 years of ministry, which began in 1878 with the founding of the Kentucky Central Committee.

Exploring the theme "The Legacy Continues ... Let's Celebrate," the two-day program will focus on ways the missions legacy continues through WMU in the state, nation and world.

Calling the meeting "a special celebration," Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton said, "Not only are we returning to Winchester where our first state meeting was held in 1903, but it is a celebration of the work that began in 1878."

Speakers include Wanda Lee, executive director of national WMU, and Dee Gilliland, retired executive director of Kentucky WMU. Missionary speakers include three "Last Frontier" missionaries, as well as David Aker, Kentucky Baptist Convention mountain missions director for Eastern Kentucky; Lonnie and Belinda Riley, directors of Meridzo Ministry Center in Lynch; and Randy Record, KBC youth evangelism consultant.

Kentucky WMU President Cathy Chinn will lead a panel of volunteers as they share testimonies about their missions involvement through WMU in partnership missions, Christian Women's Job Corps, MissionsFEST and restorative justice.

The annual meeting will begin April 4 at 9:45 a.m. Participants will have the opportunity to have lunch with a program guest on Friday at noon. A Heritage Fund Tea and Hat Party will follow the afternoon session.

The Saturday morning session will focus on the future work of Kentucky WMU and will include an emphasis on children and youth. Acteens and Youth on Mission members and leaders are invited to participate in the session and stay for a youth pizza party at noon. Nurses are invited to attend the Baptist Nursing Fellowship luncheon at First Baptist Church Saturday at noon.

Saturday morning also will include a missions event for children, grades 1-6, and their leaders. A program fee of \$2 per person is payable at the event.

Preregistration is required for preschool child care, interpretation for the deaf, Friday box lunch and dinners for the Executive Board, Acteens/Youth on Mission and Baptist Nursing Fellowship. Contact Kentucky WMU at (502) 244-6485 or toll-free at (888) 254-5726.

New seminary holds opening convocation

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

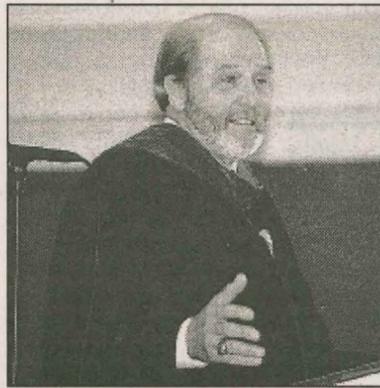
LEXINGTON—Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, which launched its first year of classes last fall, held an inaugural convocation March 9 at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

Greg Earwood, elected seminary president in 2001, told a crowd of more than 400 people at the convocation that factors driving the creation of the school included "students seeking ministry preparation and churches seeking prepared ministers."

Emphasizing that "we affirm our Baptist heritage as a treasured gift from those who have preceded us," Earwood said, "The seminary is founded on historically held Baptist principles: the authority of the Scriptures, the priesthood of all believers, the separation of church and state, local church autonomy, freedom of conscience under the Lordship of Christ and an affirmation of both the sovereignty of God and the free will of humankind."

Keynote speaker William Turner, former pastor of Central Baptist Church in Lexington, shared a series of "convictional incentives that helped birth this dream (of a new seminary) and now help sustain it."

Those incentives, he said, include a history worth remembering, a heritage worth preserving, a task worth



KEYNOTE SPEAKER William Turner challenges leaders and supporters of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky to go forward "with deep, deep trust and great, great joy."

doing and a community worth gathering.

"Ours is a heritage which affirms the authority of Scripture alongside the obligation to be responsible interpreters of Scripture," said Turner, retired pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

Affirming such historic Baptist principles as religious freedom and church-state separation, he added, "We fully understand that words like 'faith' and 'forced' don't belong in the same sentence."

Citing concerns over "recent Southern Baptist history" that have sparked the creation of several mod-

erate seminaries in recent years, Turner declared, "We've watched a cadre of self-proclaimed 'godly men' work to turn theological education into indoctrination. ... Thank God for a place like Baptist Seminary of Kentucky where academic freedom lives so that spiritual and intellectual integrity might live and thrive as well."

Earwood explained last year that the school was established to help provide "more moderate, progressive opportunities" for seminary education in the region.

The seminary, which opened with 14 students, remains "in the infancy stage," Earwood told the Western Recorder, "but we have a solid base of support that is growing."

The seminary, housed at Calvary Baptist Church, lists 24 "charter churches" across the state that provide various levels of support.

The convocation included delegates from 15 seminaries and colleges, including Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College. Among Baptist organizations represented at the event were Elkhorn Baptist Association, Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Calling the school's first academic year "a solid beginning on which we can build," Earwood said, "We want to appeal to the center of who Baptists are in this region."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Georgetown College** recently received a \$1 million grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville. The money was added to the existing James Graham Brown Scholarship, established in the early 1980s. This is Georgetown's largest named scholarship fund, currently providing awards to approximately 40 students per year.

■ **Marc Whitt** has resigned as vice president for communications and marketing at Campbellsville University to join Eastern Kentucky University as associate vice president for public relations and marketing. Whitt, an 11-year veteran at Campbellsville, also worked earlier at Georgetown and Cumberland colleges.

Owensboro pastor offers ideas for turning churches around

Continued from page 1

to turn anything around or anything be successful outside the will of God."

■ **Empower the positive majority.** "God wants to bless the church, God wants the church to be empowered and God wants to work through the people," Kitchens noted. "A lot of the problems in churches are not caused by the majority; they're caused by a very vocal minority."

"If you're there because God has led you there, don't run," he advised. "It's not about doing what you want, but it is about encouraging the majority."

■ **Provide leadership.** "A lot of pastors have gotten to the point where they supervise, where they oversee, where they delegate. We need to work," Kitchens urged. "It's extremely important that people see that. We need to provide leadership."

■ **Worship is for worship.** Rather than spending time on announcements, birthday recognitions or hospital reports, "on Sunday morning we worship God," Kitchens said.

The worship service is "not a bully pulpit, it's not for me to air our differences," he added. "Our people know that when they come to church on Sunday morning, it's about worship."

■ **Encourage the workers.** "Sometimes we don't do a very good job of encouraging people," Kitchens noted. "Try to lift the people up, try to build the people up. If we encourage the workers, they will do more. If they do more, the church will grow."

■ **Sermons should be biblical,**

practical and fun. Warning that "most preachers overestimate their giftedness," Kitchens said, "I work really hard on my sermons. I try to keep it interesting. I keep it short. I think a 25-minute sermon is plenty long."

■ **Be careful how and what you change.** "The changes we have made have been in method and style, not in doctrine or the core beliefs of the church," he explained. "If you need to change the doctrine of the church, you're at the wrong church."

■ **Do the work every church should do.** While "it's great to dream, plan and have visions," Kitchens said, "In the midst of that, you still need to be a church and be working and serving."

"Sometimes churches forget to do the stuff that makes us a church," he added. "We need to be serving and ministering; we need to be witnessing to people."

■ **Make the things you do as good as you can.** "If you can't do something about the music, work on the Sunday school," Kitchens suggested. "The programs we do have, we try to make them as absolutely as good as we can."

■ **Be confident of your calling.** "At some point, we've got to say this: 'God knows what He's doing.' You have to be confident of your calling."

Noting that Hall Street Church has grown into "a very healthy, alive church," Kitchens said, "Hall Street got to the point where they were totally dependent on God. It's about God."

KBC Mission Study Committee 'on track' for report to board

LOUISVILLE—The Kentucky Baptist Mission Study Committee remains on track to present its recommendations May 5-6 to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board, according to committee chairman Scott Kilgore.

Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, said the 15-member study committee is "still hoping to have a complete report in May." The group has meetings scheduled in March and April in preparation for the May board meeting.

The committee, established last May, is responsible for recommending "any changes that are needed in order for the ministries of the KBC to be more effective in the 21st century."

Kilgore said the committee is seeking to determine "what we can do to poise the convention to be most effective in these changing times" as well as how to be most responsive to local churches and work with related entities "for our mutual effectiveness in the Kingdom work."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, who has been meeting with the study committee, said the group has "identified big objectives they want to address."

"They're now in the process of refining those objectives, getting input about some of the conclusions they've drawn and identifying a few significant goals they feel can really make a difference over the next five years."

Mackey said he sees the work of the committee "helping sharpen the focus of our work" as a state convention.

"It's really all about the Great Commission," he added. "They're just shaping and framing what that means for Kentucky Baptists at this time in history."

He said the group has been "very intentional about working with partners in that process, including churches, associations, institutions and agencies."

Kilgore noted that committee members "continue to covet the prayers and support of our brothers and sisters in the Kentucky Baptist Convention" as the group completes its work.

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

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Shelter in the storm

In the Western Recorder's Feb. 25 article about Trinity Baptist Church's shelter ministry during the ice storm in Lexington, I'm afraid the church and I could have been misunderstood.

Sunday morning, Feb. 16, my husband, Jay, our church's pastor, found that the church was the only building in the neighborhood with power. Our family and thousands of others were without power and heat. During lunch I suggested that we open our church as a shelter. Trinity's purpose is to "Love Like Christ." What would Jesus do if He had heat and those around Him were at risk? When Jay called our deacon chair, his response was, "Absolutely!" Within three hours we were activated as a city shelter.

From Sunday until Saturday we served as home and family for more than 170 people. Forty-five volunteers

helped provide 235 total nights of lodging and more than 1,000 meals. Our guests included two hospice patients, other medically fragile persons and three pregnant women. One of them delivered on Thursday.

Some went to work each day. Others were retired or unemployed. Jay and I stayed at the church with our two children and 12 other church members. By Tuesday most of us had not bathed for three days, including volunteers! So we shuttled folks to Emmanuel and Calvary Baptist churches for showers.

One by one, we hugged people goodbye as they returned home with power restored. It became a tremendous outreach opportunity, faith journey and spiritual adventure for our church. And it was an experience of God's love and community for all who came, as they became part of the Trinity family. Read our journal at

www.yourtrinity.com. Nine guests have joined us for worship since the storm. A Survivors' Celebration party is planned for March 16. We are thankful for all God has done in our midst during these days!

Micki Davis Robison
Lexington

What God says

Many years ago the question "WWJD?" was frequently asked on bracelets worn, stickers displayed, etc. One obvious answer is WTBS—What the Bible Says.

Another equivalent answer to "What Would Jesus Do?" is WGS—What God Says. Where do we find what God says? In the Bible.

This is to suggest that when we read from the Bible, we think of introducing our reading by announcing, "Let us turn to John 3:16 and read what God says," in lieu of saying, "... what the Bible says."

Quentin Gaskin
Harrodsburg



STEWARDSHIP

Does Christianity affect how you handle finances?

By Don Spencer

The answer is quite simple. Being a Christian should change the way you approach everything in life, including handling finances. How we handle money reflects our life's priorities. I believe that's why the Scripture places so much emphasis on stewardship issues.

Every week this column deals with various financial issues. As Christians, we need to be reminded from time to time of the different perspective we should have in dealing with these issues.

I briefly offer five perspectives regarding money that we should reflect as Christians. Note that I emphasize "reflect." It is one thing to say we believe them. It is another to put them in practice in such a way that others see the difference and it becomes a testimony of our relationship with God.

■ *Our possessions are temporal.* We all agree that you "can't take it with you." Do people see in us an attitude toward our possessions that reflects that belief? (2 Peter 3:10; Luke 12:15b).

■ *Our possessions are not a source for pride, power, prestige or conceit.* This is the world's attitude toward money and possessions. We are to be different (1 Timothy 6:17).

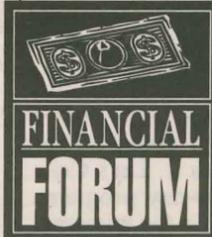
■ *God owns it all.* We are stewards. We should approach our possessions as managers of something that belongs to someone else, not as owners (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:16-21).

■ *Concern for family financial support is scriptural.* 1 Timothy 5:8 states, "If anyone does not provide for his family, especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." To do that in today's world requires a healthy concern about money. As Jonathan Swift put it, "Every man ought to have money on his mind. No man ought to have money on his heart."

■ *Our stewardship is an outward, visible indicator of an inner spiritual condition.* Show me how individuals handle their money and it tells me volumes about their relationship with God.

Christianity doesn't just provide answers for 10 percent of our money any more than it provides a way to live only on Sunday morning.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department



Strong family foundations are vital

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—In such times as these in our nation, many sensitive and sincere believers, even our president, are turning to God.

Many are seeking wisdom. Others, discernment, especially for significant decisions that must be made. Still others are turning to a new level and intensity in prayer. Others are seeking wise counselors.

But others are before God pleading for revival in God's people and the nation. Certainly this is an appropriate call for a time such as this. Some have been in this painful mode before God for some time, even years.

In all of this seeking before God, there is a crucial element often overlooked. That vital element is the condition of our families and our family

life. From creation God made the family the foundation block for society.

Nothing affects a nation any more dramatically than the condition of family life. From experience alone, we are aware that if a marriage is in turmoil, neither the husband nor the wife can properly seek

God, or even think effectively. That is why the apostle Paul admonishes husbands to live with their wives with understanding, so that "your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).

Distress in the most sacred and sensitive relationship in life will affect every other relationship. Even major industry is seeking chaplains and counselors for marriages and families, because they experience major downturns in production and effective work habits when marriages are hurting.

COMMENTARY

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Faithful service to Kentucky Baptists

Upper Cumberland Association recently honored John Lambert, the recently retired pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Loyall, for 15 years of faithful service on the Executive Board (now Mission Board) of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He served with four executive directors at various times between 1956 and 2002.

During five terms on the Executive Board, Rev. Lambert missed only one meeting. That could be a record for years of service on the Executive Board and for faithful attendance.

After 45 years of service as a pastor in Upper Cumberland Association, he retired at age 80. He was pastor of his last church, Calvary Baptist Church, for 37 years. During his term of service in that church, Rev. Lambert preached 374 funerals, served as evangelist in 75 revivals, conducted 271 weddings and baptized 372 converts. In addition, 414 members were added by letter or statement, for a to-

tal of 786 additions during his tenure.

Rev. Lambert preached on some 1,924 Sundays during that time. If you add in the Sunday and Wednesday night services at which he preached, the number of sermons truly becomes awesome!

Rev. Lambert was in his mid-30s when he felt God's call to preach. He gave up his coal-mining job in which he supervised more than 200 men to become a bivocational pastor. In addition to serving as a pastor, he worked as a building and painting contractor.

With his building skills, Rev. Lambert helped start Camp Howard, the associational camp, and built the first two cabins in 1962-63. Both are still in use today.

Ernest Boggs, director of missions for Upper Cumberland Association, invited me to participate in the recognition service and to make a presentation to Rev. Lambert commending him for his years of service.

Rev. Lambert represents many in-



Bill Mackey

Positive changes in life can produce high levels of stress

Q: I just got the job of my dreams and my relationships are going well. Yet I am filled with anxiety about all the changes that have taken place. What does a person do who is stressed by the good things of life?

Living life "one day at a time" is not just good advice for people experiencing terrible life crises. It's also good advice for those experiencing good things. God promises us strength for each day and each moment. God's peace is available whether your anxiety comes from bad things or from change brought about by the good.

Find someone with whom you can talk through your feelings. Sometimes a pastoral counselor or spiritual director can help you sort out your feelings in the context of your spiritual journey. The end result of such a process can be a settled peace about what God is doing in your life.

Take an honest assessment of where you've been. See if you can give yourself permission to celebrate the victories that have been achieved, especially if you have been seeking the Kingdom and glory of God (Matthew 6:33).

The vocabulary you use can make a big difference. "Change" can be a loaded word. Try to think of how your recent good fortune can be seen as opportunities to help you minister more effectively to others. Map out a strategy to give you more of a sense of control of your life. You can deal with things better when you can visualize a plan.

Gather around you people who can support your journey. It's not just in bad times that you need someone with the gift of encouragement. It can give you a sense of accountability and grounding that can be valuable in the future when more difficult times arrive.—James Stillwell

Q: My wife, who is in her 70s, has constant hip pain that causes her to be irritable from not getting enough sleep. There doesn't seem to be an explanation for what is causing her physical pain and mood swings. What should we do?

Our knowledge of chronic pain in the elderly, its frequent association with depression and how to treat both appropriately has grown in recent years. If it is determined that your wife is dealing with depression as well as pain, that can help determine the most effective way to provide assistance.

Physicians have discovered that elderly individuals with pain and depression respond to treatment as well as younger patients and that they also respond well to non-medication approaches. Much less is known about the assessment and treatment of elderly pain patients in long-term care. This will continue to be an important issue as our population lives for longer periods of time in home care and nursing home care.

Two factors seem to be of particular importance when treating an elderly patient with depression and chronic pain: increasing the patient's perceived sense of control over his or her life and increasing the individual's activity level.

Given the existence of potential coexisting medical problems that can restrict physical activity in elderly patients, it is important to remember that cognitive and social activity often can be emphasized as a vital part of caring for them. Successful treatment of pain often can result in a decrease in depressive symptoms as well, but only if the individual is able to engage in activities that help provide a sense of pleasure. The combination of medication and non-medication approaches often is the most effective way to address such a complex health issue.—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.



Hyde's life & death: a faithful testimony

There is no question that we live in an incredibly dangerous moment in world history.

A number of events last week offered a grim reminder of that reality: On Tuesday, 21 people—including a Southern Baptist international missionary—were killed by a terrorist bomb at an airport in the Philippines. On Wednesday, 15 people—including nine teenagers—were killed in a suicide bus bombing in Israel. On Thursday, President Bush reiterated his commitment to use military force against Iraq if diplomatic efforts fail.

The death of longtime International Mission Board worker Bill Hyde adds a personal sense of grief for countless Southern Baptists. More than just a name on a naming list of terrorism victims, Hyde was among the thousands of Southern Baptist missionaries supported by the prayers and offerings of fellow Baptists.

With Hyde's death last week, terrorists have killed four Southern Baptist mission workers in just over two months. By contrast, prior to the murder of three IMB workers Dec. 30 at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen, only 16 Southern Baptist international missionaries had been killed in violent circumstances during the IMB's first 157 years of ministry.

While each life is deeply significant, the average of one missionary per decade being the victim of a fatal attack is far less than expected—especially in a denomination that currently has more than 5,400 career and short-term workers serving around the globe. Four deaths in nine weeks is emotionally overwhelming.

Another troubling factor in Hyde's death was the fact that he simply was going about his daily routine, picking up a fellow missionary family at the Davao City airport when he was killed by a terrorist bomb. Such a random act of violence can rupture any lingering sense

of security for missionaries serving in hostile settings around the globe.

Yet our missionaries continue to serve in the face of life-threatening circumstances. And Bill Hyde, who served as an IMB missionary for 25 years, was a shining example of that ministry commitment.

In an August 2000 newsletter to family and friends, Hyde and his wife, Lyn, wrote: "Kidnappings, bombings, burning of villages, ambushes, killings, injuries, threats, evacuations and other forms of terrorist activity have become the norm for people living on our island of Mindanao." But that was not a deterrent to their mission calling.

Explaining that they took precautions and "feel quite safe," Hyde wrote in another newsletter, "It's always an adventure being on mission with God!"

As a result of Hyde's work to train Filipino pastors and church planters, more than 300 churches were planted in the Philippines in recent years.

"It's not danger that drives them to go, or danger that compels them," said Wendy Norvell, the IMB's associate vice president for mobilization. "They go to share the love of Christ."

"No location can guarantee safety and security," noted IMB President Jerry Rankin. "Missionaries will not be deterred from planting their lives in places of danger in order to take the gospel to those who need it most desperately. Many, like Bill Hyde, are willing to give their lives because the Lord of their lives, Jesus Christ, gave His life to bring salvation to the nations."

As our world continues to experience escalating danger and violence, Bill Hyde's life and ministry remain a vibrant testimony to the impact of one person sincerely seeking God's will—no matter what the cost.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

What does your church do with visitors?

By Joe McKeever

KENNER, La. (BP)—The couple came in after the worship service started. They seemed ill at ease, like they were not sure what to do next.

The congregation was in the middle of a chorus that was printed inside the worship bulletin they had been given. I stepped back to where they stood and showed the man where we were in the chorus. After church, I discovered they were relatives of a deacon who had invited them.

I remember what it was like as a college student dropping in on a new church—not knowing a soul and wondering whether I would fit in with this congregation. I am the product of a great church that opened its arms and loved me to Jesus.

When we served churches in the Carolinas, my wife and I loved to drive through the Smokies above Asheville on our day off. Once, we spotted a quaint little church on a hillside and decided to check it out. We drove up and down the highway several times, but could never find a turn-off to the church.

Eventually, we gave up and drove on. A couple of miles up the road, we stopped at a country store for gas and asked about that church. "Oh, it went out of business some years ago," the clerk said. I think I know why: No-

body could get to it.

That worries the stew out of me, that people will finally get up the courage to come to our church and once they get there, they can't figure out how to get in or when we start or maybe no one will speak to them.

Criticizing church is the easiest thing on the planet to do. We send out cards to visitors actually inviting it, so you would think we would know how to handle rejection. But it makes a preacher want to beat his head against a wall when the cards come back in saying, "We couldn't find how to get into the sanctuary" (We have doors on every side and the sanctuary is the only thing in the building!) or "You sang old, tired songs" (We also sing the new ones and get beat up for that, too!).

I have come to five conclusions that I hereby share with everyone who has ever visited a church in which no one spoke to them:

■ You might have been sitting near other visitors and all of you waited around for the other to speak up and you came to the wrong conclusions about the church.

■ Don't criticize my people for not being friendly to you if you do not seek out newcomers in your church back home and welcome them.

■ True, the Bible tells God's people they are to welcome the strangers among them (Leviticus 19), but no-

where are we exempted from doing the will of God because someone was not friendly to us. Some of the most influential Christians I know joined a church where no one spoke to them for the simple reason that they knew God was leading them there.

■ Be careful about telling other people that a church is unfriendly. You could be guilty of slandering the Bride of Christ. What if someone who overhears your attack is unsaved and has been invited to attend that church where he might have come to know Christ? What if your negative words influenced him not to attend, and no one ever reaches him?

■ Learn a lesson from this and become a roving greeter in your home church. Look around for new faces and give them a smile and a handshake. Offer to introduce them to the pastor. Make sure they filled out the visitors' information card so the office will have their address.

One of the most common mistakes of church members is thinking their church is friendly when they are friendly only with each other. We call that a clique or a club. The family of Christ, on the other hand, is a fellowship of love in which the members treasure each other and minister to one another, but are always reaching out to welcome the stranger whom the Father is adding to the household.

"I was a stranger and you took Me in" (Matthew 25:35).

Joe McKeever, a Christian cartoonist, is pastor of First Baptist Church, Kenner, La.

Fourth Baptist missionary killed in three months

Injured family has ties to state

"I grabbed my daughter and picked her up and ran away. I was afraid there could be more bombs."

*Missionary
Brenda Stevens*

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—Southern Baptist missionary Bill Hyde was killed and a missionary with ties to Kentucky and her two children were injured when a bomb exploded March 4 at the airport in Davao City, Philippines.

Bill Hyde, 59, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died in surgery from severe head and leg injuries. Barbara Wallis Stevens, 33, a former member of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, was slightly injured.

Her 10-month-old son, Nathan, was hit by shrapnel in the liver. He was removed from intensive care March 5. Husband Mark Stevens was uninjured in the blast, and daughter, Sarah, 4, was treated for minor injuries and released.

Mrs. Stevens told Associated Press in a telephone interview from the hospital that her family had just arrived from Manila when the bomb went off.

"I just heard it explode to my side," she said. "I was carrying my infant son, so I grabbed my daughter and picked her up and ran away. I was afraid there could be more bombs."

Hyde had met the Stevens family at the airport as they returned from a family trip. He becomes the fourth Southern Baptist missionary to be killed during the past three months. Three workers were killed by a gunman in a Yemen hospital in late December.

Bill Hyde a 25-year veteran

Hyde, who served in the Philippines since 1978, was an extra uncle to many of the missionary kids in the Philippines, according to Karl Babb, who served there with the Hydés for 12 years.

"As you think about them as a couple, they lived out what it meant to be an aunt and an uncle to the other MKs," said Babb, who now serves as family ministries director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"There will be a tremendous impact on the lives of MKs," he added.

"Bill loved people. ... Very comforting in his connections with folks," Babb recalled. "And very committed



Brenda & Mark Stevens

to the Lord. That was very evident all the way along."

Hyde and his wife, Lyn, have helped train nationals in evangelism, discipleship and church planting, according to a biography on the Web site for Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas. The church is linked as "missionary partners" with the Hydés, according to the site.

Hyde was establishing church planting teams throughout the island of Mindanao, according to the biography. Lyn is the prayer coordinator for all the ministry being conducted throughout Mindanao and the Visayan Islands.

The pair also have led Bible studies in homes and taught Bible classes in churches and the Southern Philippines Baptist Theological Seminary in Davao City.

An August 2000 newsletter from the Hydés listed multiple hazards on Mindanao Island:

"Kidnappings, bombing, burning of villages, ambushes, killings, injuries, threats, evacuations and other forms of terrorist activity have become the norm for people living on our island of Mindanao," they wrote.

The newsletter went on to explain that the primary reason for hostilities were Muslim militants who want the island to be independent, functioning under Islamic control rather than the Philippine government.

"Although there have been a few small bombs and a lot of bomb threats in the city where we live, we feel quite safe," they added. "We pay attention to news reports and are cautious in moving about. Traveling in the province is restricted at times,

but the Lord's work continues."

Analysis: Hyde epitomized servant spirit

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Bill Hyde was known for driving to the airport to welcome arriving missionaries. He was even better-known for driving Filipino pastors into the countryside to start churches.

Both activities involved the veteran Southern Baptist missionary's truck—and his servant's heart.

Hyde, 59, of Iowa, was the fourth Southern Baptist worker to die violently in the last three months.

Medical workers Martha Myers, Bill Koehn and Kathy Garity were killed by a Muslim extremist in Yemen Dec. 30.

Some will focus on their tragic deaths—and the increasing threats to American Christians abroad—and neglect the lives these workers lived. That's a shame, because Hyde's life, like the Yemen workers' lives, should be celebrated—and imitated.

"Bill was involved in church planting movements before we knew what to call them," remembers Linda Phelps, a former missionary to the Philippines who now directs the children's school at Southern Baptists' Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. "He was so passionate about church planting in the Philippines and mobilizing Filipinos to do it."

Hyde's 25-year missionary career included seminary teaching and a variety of other assignments. But

he loved nothing so much as helping Filipino believers spread the gospel.

"Bill went out to the hard-to-reach places to train Filipinos to start churches," says former missionary Don Phelps

(Linda's husband), now missions minister at a church in Richmond, Va. "There was no place that was beyond the reach of God's Spirit—and Bill's truck. He would load it up with Filipino pastors and lay leaders and take them out to start churches in tribal and rural areas. There were hundreds of churches planted."

Hyde's two priorities, Phelps adds, were Filipinos coming to know Christ and then taking the Great Commission as their personal responsibility.

"God multiplied church plants because of Bill's passion for the Filipinos to reach their own people and start churches. He was very humble about it. He was behind the scenes. He did not seek credit, but he was very faithful to do the things he knew God wanted him to do, and trust ministry to the Filipinos."

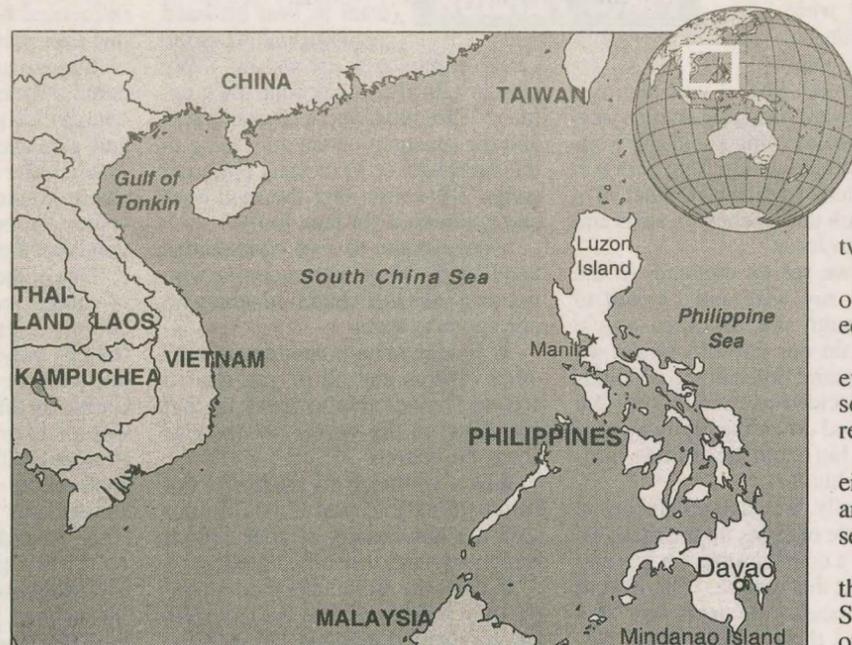
That's not just solid mission strategy. It's servanthood. Someone said that God does not judge greatness by how many people serve you, but by how many people you serve.

By that measure, Bill Hyde achieved greatness.

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



Bill & Lyn Hyde



Stevens have ties to Kentucky

The Stevenses joined Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church when they arrived in Louisville to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, according to pastor Charlie Davis.

"They considered this church to be their home church," Davis said, adding that the Stevenses were back at the church for a visit two years ago.

"Actually I was supposed to go over there this summer," Davis noted. "We e-mail them regularly."

Mark Stevens has a passion for evangelism that has been lived out in seeking to take the gospel to unreached people groups, Davis said.

"He'll hike sometimes for six to eight hours to get to where these tribes are, and then he'll stay with them for several days," Davis explained.

The Stevenses were appointed by the IMB in September 2000. Mrs. Stevens serves as a church and home outreach worker.

They were the first students from Southern Seminary to enroll in IMB's "2 plus 2" program. The program combines two years of classroom work with two years of service as a missionary apprentice. After graduation, the IMB appointed the Stevenses as career missionaries.

"Our hearts go out to these families and their coworkers," said Larry Cox, a spokesman for the IMB in Richmond, Va. "We are moving quickly to assist the missionaries affected by this tragedy. We ask Christians everywhere to pray that God would show Himself strong for these families, their coworkers and the other members of the Southern Baptist missionary family."

21 killed, more than 100 injured

At least 21 people were killed and 100 injured in the attack, which occurred outside the arrival terminal of the Davao airport in the Philippines' second largest city.

The blast ripped through a shelter outside the terminal in which scores of people were huddled to escape a downpour.

Compiled from reports by Mark Kelly of the International Mission Board, Erin Curry of Baptist Press and News Director David Winfrey

MISSIONS

Couple making mark at New York City 'Graffiti' ministry

Continued from page 1

strong Easter Offering for North American Missions has a national goal this year of \$53 million.

Early in their marriage, while questioning God's call to serve in New York City, the couple said they meditated on Isaiah 61:4, a passage of Scripture God used to speak to them when they first met as summer missionaries: "They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations."

"It's an adventure to me," Mrs. Field said of serving in New York City. "I could never live in suburbia. God is good. That's all I can say."

The Fields say they are privileged to share God's goodness in small ways in a city that often seems larger than life. "Our motto has been the ministry of small things," Field said. "You don't have to do great things for God, just small things with great love."

As director of East Seventh Baptist Ministry, also called Graffiti, a ministry of Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Field oversees nearly 30 ministries aimed at meeting the physical and spiritual needs of families on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

A campus as large as New York City

Meanwhile, three days a week Mrs. Field takes a 40-minute subway ride northeast of the family's small Manhattan apartment to Columbia University, where she serves as the school's Baptist chaplain. One day a week she also leads the Baptist campus ministry at neighboring New York University and Barnard College.

Whether it's ministering to the homeless and poor through Graffiti Baptist Center or mentoring some of the brightest minds on the campuses of the premiere academic institutions in the country, the Fields say they have learned that "weakness is the envelope for God's power."

Both have written books about their missions experiences to testify of God's faithfulness over the years, as

well as inspire others to be on mission for God in their lives.

"The greatest challenge in my work here is that evangelical Christianity is a small minority group in the culture," Mrs. Field said.

She enjoys sharing her faith in Christ during a monthly meeting with other chaplains on campus, but the most fulfilling aspect of her ministry is the one-on-one interaction that she has with students during Bible study or over a cup of coffee.

"Knowing that campus ministry has made a difference in someone's relationship with God, especially when

they have let this change influence major life decisions," makes the effort worthwhile, she said. "My calling is to be a shepherd."

Field said their ministry goal is to focus attention on individuals.

"We say the bigger the city, the more personal we need to become," he said. And that's a God-sized task in a metropolitan area brimming with 18 million inhabitants.

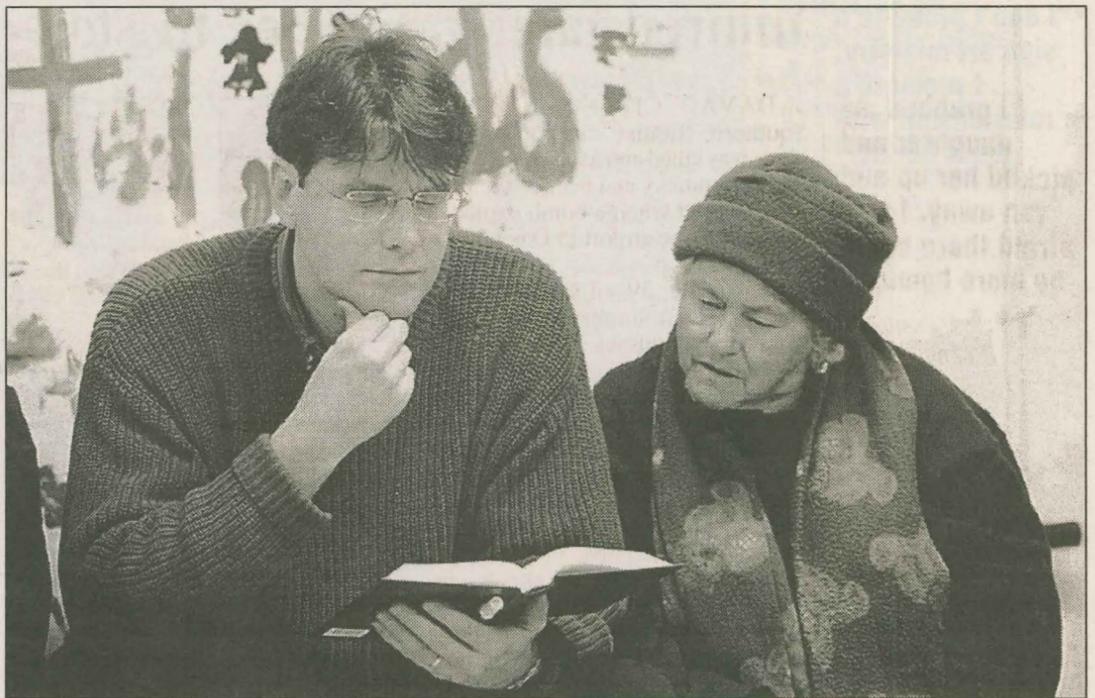
"When you talk about a dehumanizing institution, I think New York can be a prime example of that in terms of public assistance. You're just a number."

But that's not the case for those who visit Graffiti's storefront on East Seventh Avenue. The ministry center, which has operated in lower Manhattan since 1974, was appropriately named after repeated efforts to remove the graffiti from the storefront proved to be no match for the local artists.

Ministry after Sept. 11

The center became a spiritual safe-haven for its neighbors in the wake of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. In the weeks after the destruction of the World Trade Center towers 30 blocks away, Field and his 17-member staff helped feed, counsel and console hundreds of people who felt helpless and hopeless.

Field said he shared the same message of hope after the terrorist attacks that he's been sharing since he became director of the ministry center 17 years ago.



"Every experience can either drive you away from God or bring you closer to God," he said. "Let's let this bring us closer to God. What was meant to fragment is unifying. What was meant to bring fear is bringing peace in God."

Yet long before the terrorist attacks in New York City, Field was helping rebuild lives in The Big Apple—one heart at a time. And the results are evident.

More than 60 teenagers have become Christians through the center's ministry, and consequently more kids are graduating from high school. Field also is pastor for a congregation of mostly former drug addicts, prostitutes and people who used to be homeless. About 50 children, in grades one through six, participate in Graffiti's after-school program.

Field will be the first to admit that inner-city missions can get messy. Several times he's been physically attacked or threatened by drug addicts. Once he was jailed for participating in a non-violent protest against a city-imposed eviction of the homeless from a local park. Through it all, he said, prayer has been his refuge.

"God has provided every step, so I'm just resting in Him," he said.

A new facility

And across the street from the old Graffiti storefront stands a powerful symbol of God's faithfulness. There, a new four-story, 13,000-square-foot building scheduled to open by fall 2003 will house East Seventh Baptist Ministries' new headquarters. The center includes a daycare, kitchen, worship center, offices, multipurpose rooms and two apartments.

"To see God do this in our area has been a miracle and a great joy," Field said. "Here we tangibly get to be a part of rebuilding the city. When they started laying the foundation on the building, people were just standing on the sidewalk crying."

"A storefront is all we had, and to have this is such a dramatic change," he said. "We want it to be a springboard, not a sofa. We want it to be a launching pad for a lot of different ministries."

Currently, East Seventh Baptist Ministries has about 20 different groups worshipping in various locations on the Lower East Side, and Field's goal is to start 50 multi-ethnic church-type missions throughout the area.

The Fields said they have been amazed by what God has used to transform their community over the years—small things like blankets, toothbrushes and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

You'd be surprised, Field said, how God can use a simple act of kindness to change someone's life for eternity. One Saturday afternoon, for instance, a prison escapee was so impacted by a free sandwich East Seventh Baptist Ministries provided at a local park that he became a Christian and then voluntarily returned to jail. While back in prison, the man led several other inmates to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.

"It all started with giving a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, saying a kind word to him, and looking him in the eye," Field said.

The Fields believe God is doing a special work in New York City, and they are excited for the future. Southern Baptists' support of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has contributed greatly to the spiritual transformation currently under way in Manhattan, the Fields said.

"Southern Baptists have made a commitment for us long-term here," Field said. Mrs. Field agrees. "Our whole family has benefited from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering because it enables us to bring the message of who Christ is to New York City in ways God is leading us."

And despite the terrorist attacks of 2001, both said they are convinced—now more than ever—that God has called them to serve Him in New York City.

"What's God's treasure?" Field asked. "God's treasure is people. And so if that's true, this must be a very precious place to God. To be a part of what He is doing here is such a privilege. ... God's agenda is the mending of the universe. I sense His great pleasure in mending a city."

BIBLE STUDY Taylor Field (left) reads Scripture with long-time member Adele Kiran during a midweek Bible study at Graffiti Baptist Center in New York City. Field and his wife, Susan, are among the missionaries whose work was highlighted during the recent Week of Prayer for North American Missions. (Photo by Gibbs Frazeur)



CAMPUS MINISTRY Susan Field (right), a campus minister in New York City, meets at a donut shop with Courtney Johnson, a former US/C-2 missionary with whom she has a mentoring relationship. Part of Field's campus ministry involves fostering similar relationships with students at Columbia University and two other New York City schools. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

Creative movement of God

Lawrenceburg sign artist seeking to be 'walking billboard that says Christ'

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Tyra Lokey stands before the crowd assembled for worship. As the music begins, worshippers join in, moving their lips to the words of the song. Lokey, a sign art evangelist, begins to worship, too.

She spreads her arms wide, reaching up and out, fingers stretching toward heaven before they swoop around, twisting into another shape. Her eyes close, then open, and her brow furrows just before her face breaks wide open in an expression of intense joy.

Soon, the intensity of Lokey's worship begins to be reflected on the faces of the crowd of worshippers. As they see the words to the song they are singing expressed through Lokey's hands, arms, body and face, their faces begin to mirror hers.

Even if the worshippers do not understand the signs themselves, there is no mistaking the message or the passion.

Lokey has introduced another group of worshippers to another level of worship through sign art.

For nearly a decade, the 30-year-old Louisville native has traveled around the world leading and teaching others to worship God through sign art, a combination of interpretive movement, mime, dance and drama built around sign language.

Lokey is a frequent presenter at Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored events, and shared her testimony at the KBC's Women of Worth/Lifestyle Evangelism Conference in Lexington. She also led sign art workshops at the KBC's Creative Ministries Festival last weekend at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Using Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg as a base, Lokey travels widely, speaking and teaching at as many as five churches or conferences per month. She has traveled full time since 2001. To date, she has trained more than 100 teams to share the gospel through sign art ministry, and in October 2002 was joined in her ministry by Derek Drury, a 21-year-old from Lawrenceburg. She also has produced a line of instructional videos.

Promoting Christ, not sign language

But Lokey says teaching sign art is not the heart of the purpose of her ministry. Teaching the love of Christ is.

"I don't promote a sign art ministry," she said. "I promote a relationship with Jesus Christ. Many people don't come to my classes to learn sign art, they come to experience Christ. I try to be a walking billboard that says 'Christ.'"

Lokey was first introduced to sign language while a member of the Baptist Student Union at Murray State University. She and other BSU students helped build a church for deaf people in Puerto Rico.

During a worship time at the church, Lokey was captivated by a woman interpreting the service.

"I looked at her, and I thought about God," Lokey said. "I thought, 'God, they would not be able to know Your Word without her hands. God, that's what I want.'"

Lokey began to pick up on sign language at what she calls a "miraculous" pace.

"It was definitely a touch from God," she explained.

The following summer break, Lokey said, God opened a door for her to travel with a deaf drama and music ministry. She stumbled across the ministry while aimlessly flipping through a phone book during a moment of sheer boredom.

"I didn't have anywhere to go and anything to do, so I just prayed and said, 'God I don't know what to do or where to go,'" she said.

Lokey spent the summer of 1992 as the only hearing person in the traveling group. The experience taught her to appreciate silence and value her hearing, but more importantly she was immersed in deaf language and culture. Performing with the group also taught her how to bring out the art in sign language.

"When I saw them doing music and dance, it wasn't just the little woman in the corner of the television set," Lokey explained. The troupe's performances fused sign language, creative movement and drama.

Sensing call at an early age

For Lokey, finding sign art ministry was the fulfillment of a call she



TYRA LOKEY The sign artist from Lawrenceburg performs during the recent Women of Worth Conference in Lexington. For the past decade, she has traveled around the world, teaching and helping others worship. (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

sensed from God at the age of 12, when she professed her faith in Christ.

"It started the moment I asked Jesus Christ to come into my heart," Lokey said. She grew up in a broken home and was neglected. On Sundays, Lokey watched her friends get on a bus and head off to church, returning later with candy. With nothing to do and no one really caring where she went, Lokey decided one day to get on the bus, too, so she could get some candy.

"I got something so much sweeter than candy—Jesus Christ," Lokey said. "It boggled my mind. I couldn't image how someone could love so much that they would die for me."

Since that time Lokey has made a daily practice of dying to herself so she can live more fully for Christ.

"I want people to be well aware that I am just Tyra," Lokey said. "No lights, no confetti, just Tyra serving a great God. He does not need me, but I do want to be available."

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MINISTRY

Festival showcases creative ministry opportunities

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—From drama to juggling and interpretive movement to sleight of hand, hundreds of Baptists from Kentucky and beyond were in Louisville last weekend to explore creative ministry ideas at the annual Creative Ministries Festival.

The sold-out event at St. Matthews Baptist Church drew approximately 2,100 people from 165 churches, showing a growing interest in creative ministry throughout the commonwealth, according to coordinator Tom Smoot.

"These young people and adults see this as an opportunity to share the gospel in some other way than in a church-related vocation," said Smoot, creative ministries director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Smoot said youth leaders tell him creative ministry is an excellent way to build their youth ministry programs, both numerically and in terms of doing more ministry.

"We are such a visual culture right now," Smoot explained. "We have an opportunity to not just tell the gospel. We have an opportunity to show the gospel."

Margaret Anderson agreed. About 10 years ago, she helped the youth group at Kirksville Baptist Church in Richmond launch a puppet team.

Today, in a church that averages 100 people in Sunday school, the puppet team performs twice a month there and at other churches, she said.

"It keeps our teenagers in church," she said, adding that the team's alumni include two Baptist Student Union presidents and several others who have gone into vocational ministry. "I don't think we would have had this many ministers and seminary students out of such a small church if they weren't given the opportunity to learn to minister."

The Creative Ministries Festival ranks among the top-attended annual conferences hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. By comparison, approximately 1,400 church leaders attended last month's Evangelism Conference in Lexington, and 1,545 people attended the KBC annual meeting last November in Williamsburg.

Charles and Rebecca McCoy-Reese have watched the festival grow. It was the first event they worked at after forming the drama ministry Re-Creations.

"Churches are more open than they were 10 years ago," said Mrs. McCoy-Reese. She and her husband are artists-in-residence at Bluefield College in Virginia.

Reese added: "We've rarely had people who say, 'Well, we tried that drama stuff, and we didn't like it.'"

Leadership is one of the keys to successful creative ministries, Smoot said.

"The main thing is the leader," he said. "If any adult would just step out of the pew and say they would be willing to work with this, I think the youth would just jump at it."

Practice is another key, Reese added. "It's not something you can just throw together and do well."



INTERPRETIVE MOVEMENT Action Ministries, a team based in Tennessee, with performers from as far away as Philadelphia, present a musical interpretive movement during the opening session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries Festival. The annual event, held last weekend in Louisville, attracted approximately 2,100 people. (Photos by David Winfrey)



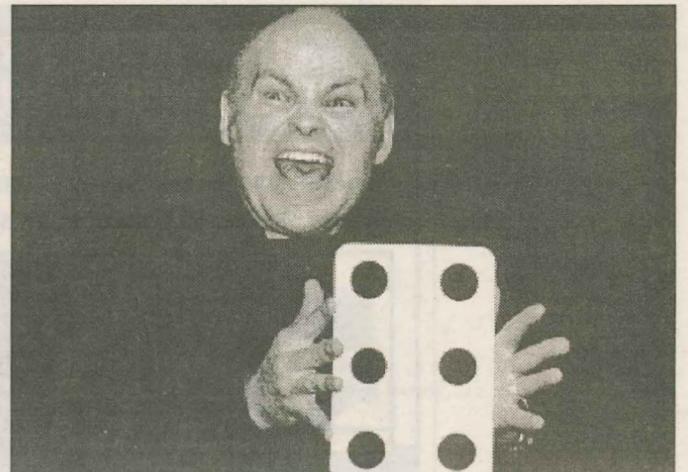
LITTLE HANDS Taylor Dunlap, 10, performs with her team from Adairville Baptist Church. More than 40 churches performed at this year's festival.



JUGGLING LESSONS Terry Kelley (left) a member of Okolona Baptist Church in Louisville, teaches people how to juggle in one of the 60 workshops offered at the festival. More than 100 people were in the workshop, learning to juggle balls and other objects.



PUPPETS The puppet team from Kirksville Baptist Church in Richmond performs. Several members have gone on to continue in vocational ministry, according to Margaret Anderson, who helped launch the team.



MAGIC Barry Mitchell, a magician from Sevierville, Tenn., was both a performer and teacher at the festival.

"We have an opportunity to not just tell the gospel. We have an opportunity to show the gospel."

Tom Smoot, KBC creative ministries director

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Massachusetts high court considers same-sex marriage.** Massachusetts' highest court heard oral arguments March 4 in a case that some observers believe could lead to the nation's first legalization of homosexual "marriages." The Supreme Judicial Court heard arguments from a lawyer representing seven gay and lesbian couples, The Boston Globe reported. Two years ago Vermont recognized same-sex "unions," giving homosexual couples many of the rights of heterosexual couples without using the term "marriage." The Massachusetts plaintiffs want the high court to take the next step.

■ **Wheaton to allow dancing, faculty drinking.** Wheaton College, an evangelical school in Wheaton, Ill., will allow students to dance and permit faculty to drink alcohol and use tobacco products off campus according to its new "community covenant." The change in alcohol policy came after officials evaluated a 1991 state law prohibiting discrimination against employees who use "lawful products," such as alcoholic beverages and tobacco, during nonworking hours as long as they do not impair job performance. College functions will remain alcohol-free and tobacco-free and undergraduates are barred from using such products.

■ **New York lawmaker: Prison chaplain hiring flawed.** A New York senator last week called for an immediate investigation of all 42 Muslim clerics working for the state Department of Correctional Services. State Sen. Michael Nozzolio said the arrest on federal charges of Osama Al Wahaidy of Fayetteville, N.Y., a Muslim chaplain at the Auburn Correctional Facility, is an embarrassment. Al Wahaidy, a Jordanian working in the United States, has been charged with helping to send aid to Iraq through a charity in violation of U.N. sanctions.

■ **Moody folds magazine, restructures.** Moody Bible Institute, a Chicago-based evangelical organization, has announced it will stop publishing Moody magazine and make other business changes in light of the difficult economy. The magazine will end publication within six months and Moody's devotional guide, "Today in the Word," will become the institute's primary periodical. Also, Moody will leave the retail business and begin a search for a buyer for its bookstores in Indianapolis and Chatham Ridge, Ill.

■ **Effect of pledge ruling delayed.** A federal appeals court has postponed enforcement of its decision outlawing the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued March 4 a 90-day stay of its own ruling against recitation of the pledge. The court had announced Feb. 28 it would not reconsider a June decision in which a three-judge panel ruled the pledge's inclusion of "under God" is a violation of the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion. The stay was granted at the request of the Elk Grove Unified School District, which plans to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit opinion by the end of April.

Military chaplains see spiritual interest swell

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptist military chaplains in the Middle East are reporting a swell of spiritual interest among troops preparing for war.

Capacity crowds at chapel services and numerous professions of faith are a familiar pattern in times of impending crisis, one that chaplains say they welcome.

"Now is a golden opportunity to reach soldiers for Christ. I am witnessing all the time, and it is the soldiers who want to talk about God and their faith," said Maj. Keith Kilgore, a Southern Baptist U.S. Army chaplain currently based in Kuwait.

"We worship in chapel, but the real evangelism takes place everywhere—in the laundry, the mess hall, and the barbershop, the motor pool and sleep tent," he said. "All I have to do is show up, and someone wants to talk to me about Jesus."

In e-mail reports to friends and prayer partners, Kilgore reported five individuals accepted Christ as their personal Savior one Sunday.

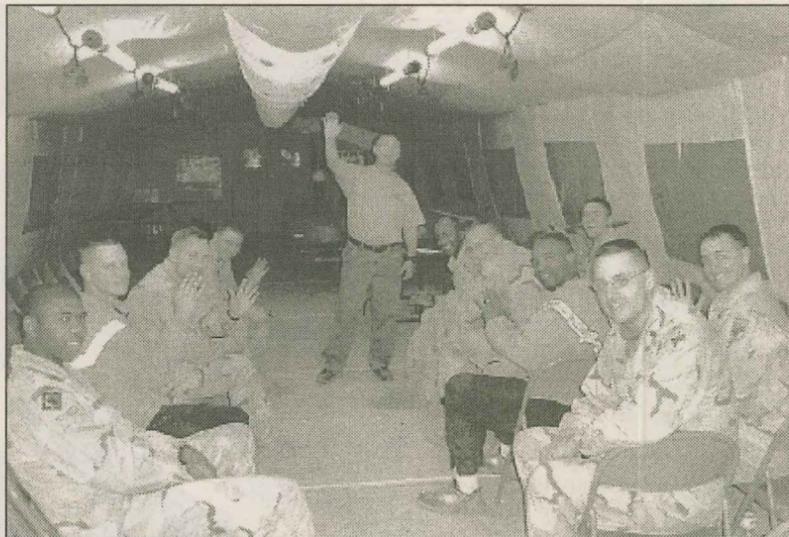
Other e-mail reports from Southern Baptist chaplains describe as many as 19 soldiers accepting Christ during one chapel service.

A recent Washington Post article on the upsurge of spiritual interest gives a firsthand report from one of Kilgore's services in the desert. A khaki tent is regularly packed beyond its capacity of 150, the article said, with some worshipers standing outside and listening through canvas walls.

"It's the best ministry I've ever had," Kilgore told the Post. "When soldiers are about to face combat, they start getting spiritual. They want to get right with God."

Navy chaplain Darren Stennett, another Southern Baptist, told The Post he had been carrying around for a year a specially designed plastic liner that can be placed in a hole in the sand to make a temporary baptistry. He now has opportunities to use it.

Maj. Timothy Bedsole, a Southern Baptist Army chaplain also based in Kuwait, relayed a description of a typical chapel service as written by his commander, Col.



KEEPING THE FAITH IN KUWAIT Southern Baptist chaplain Maj. Keith Kilgore shares a light moment during an informal Friday night Bible study on a U.S. Army base in Kuwait. (BP photo)

Mike Biering:

"There was a feeling of sensory overload as the service began amongst the outside sounds of heavy engineer equipment, the sound of helicopter rotor blades and truck traffic moving supplies for the soldiers further north—and oh yes, a starting round of praise music complete with two soldiers playing guitar," Biering wrote. "It was some of the sweetest music I have ever heard. In this strange and far away place, we worshiped our God."

The contrasts are equally striking on board U.S. Navy ships in the re-

gion.

Southern Baptist chaplain Michael Brown, writing from his stateroom aboard the cruiser USS Anzio, said the Holy Spirit is moving "in a dynamic and vibrant life-transforming way."

"Attendance in Bible studies and worship services has increased two-fold," he said. "Perhaps this is due in a large part to the insecurity of not knowing what the future holds, but I'd rather believe that these men and women are coming to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior."

Spring comes to our conference centers

The first spring-like weather of the season has come to Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore this week. After what seems to be a long, cold, snowy winter, the warmth of the week has been welcome. Our activity levels begin to go up as spring comes. Our guest groups come and enjoy the spring beauty of both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

When spring comes, summer campers can't be far behind. This summer promises to be the busiest in our history. With more than 6,000 campers scheduled to attend Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, preparation is already under way.

It is amazing to consider that just a few years ago we had fewer than half the campers we will have this summer. We have enjoyed wonderful growth in our student camp numbers over the last few years. I believe this increase bears testimony to the remarkable way God works in the hearts of the students when they come to camp. When a student gets away at camp for a week or so in a Christ-centered environment, God frequently does a great work in his or her life. It is our privilege to see this movement of God night after night, week after week. It's cause for celebration among our staff members when the

students come to Christ, rededicate their lives or even yield to a call for vocational ministry. Life change in the students is why we do what we do. We're not running water parks or recreation camps. When a student comes to the Discovery Camps at Cedarmore or Crossings at Jonathan Creek, these students are exposed to excellent teaching, life-

changing preaching and outstanding worship.

So bring on summer. Soon the sound of students lifting their voices in praise to our Lord will reverberate across our properties. We're praying each day for our summer staffs, our camp pastors and worship leaders, and the students themselves. We're anticipating our greatest summer yet. You can participate in this ministry with us as you pray daily for this vital ministry. We truly need your prayers. Each year, across the nation, nearly half of all the decisions that students make for Christ are made in camp or retreat environments. Oh, that God would move in mighty ways this summer to change the lives of these young students! To Him be the glory!

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

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Pictures draw heartwarming tale of mission

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children makes a strong impression on those who hear our story.

That was clearly evident during a recent new-employee orientation session. Individuals just joining this ministry were asked to draw pictures that represented what KBHC meant to them. They might not have won any artistic awards, but the message they sent was clear. KBHC is a Christ-centered ministry that focuses on loving kids no matter the circumstances.

Interestingly enough, each picture started with a home. Above the front door on one home was a sign that read: "KBHC — Always Open. All Welcome." How true. No matter the time or the circumstance, this ministry is always open and welcoming to kids in need.

Another picture showed a road leading from a troubled past to KBHC, framed by sunshine and possibilities. Yet another depicted clouds with silver linings.

In the final picture displayed, KBHC again is drawn as a loving home. But this particular drawing hit directly on the agency's mission, showing the home's founda-

tion built on Christ.

The Bible tells us to build our foundation on the rock, Jesus Christ, and it will withstand life's storms: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock" (Matthew 7:24-25, NASB).

The children coming to KBHC have weathered many storms on sinking sand. KBHC pulls them out of that, helping them achieve firm footing through our solid foundation of Christ-centered ministry.

Should you find yourself in church some Sunday singing the words "on Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand," think of the kids at KBHC and know that brighter days are ahead for them.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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

Serving in New Orleans

By Robert Dunston

From Jan. 4 to 11 this year, Cumberland College had a ministry presence in New Orleans. Campus Ministry Intern Rochell Goff led a team consisting of Emily Atchley, Jean Hammons, Courtney Hodges, McKinsey Karr, Sarah Kiffmeyer, Jonathan Lawson, Monica Miller, Kelly Noel, Jessica Perko, Carly Reynolds, Brigette Sowder, Jeremiah Tudor and Elizabeth Whitehouse to serve Christ in the inner city.

Goff had spent two summers and one spring working in the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission and loved her experience. Cumberland College students also had worked at the mission, most recently during winter break missions in 2001.

Rachel Sims Baptist Mission is one of the oldest mission sites in New Orleans. The mission is located in a very poor and dangerous part of town. The team members never left the mission alone and never went out after dark.

Cumberland's team had the responsibility of working with the children. Since school did not dismiss until 3 p.m., the team members spent each morning working. Sometimes they packed grocery

sacks or typed, but typically they organized closets, took up water-damaged carpet, scrubbed floors and walls, cleaned up yards, straightened and cleaned basements and kiln rooms, and performed minor repairs.

The team members wondered if their work could glorify God, but as Perko says, "If we didn't do these jobs, then the people at the center couldn't do the important things at the center."

Cumberland's team loved ministering to the children through tutoring, Bible study and play. The director of the mission showed our team a photograph taken several years ago of 11 boys and told them that eight of the boys were now dead. As the team members got to know and love the children, they wondered what would happen to them.

Kiffmeyer notes how much the children loved to run in the park. She wonders if "they run because they feel like they are going somewhere." We are grateful for our students who brought hope and God's love to children in need of both.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kudzu



Doug Marlette

Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

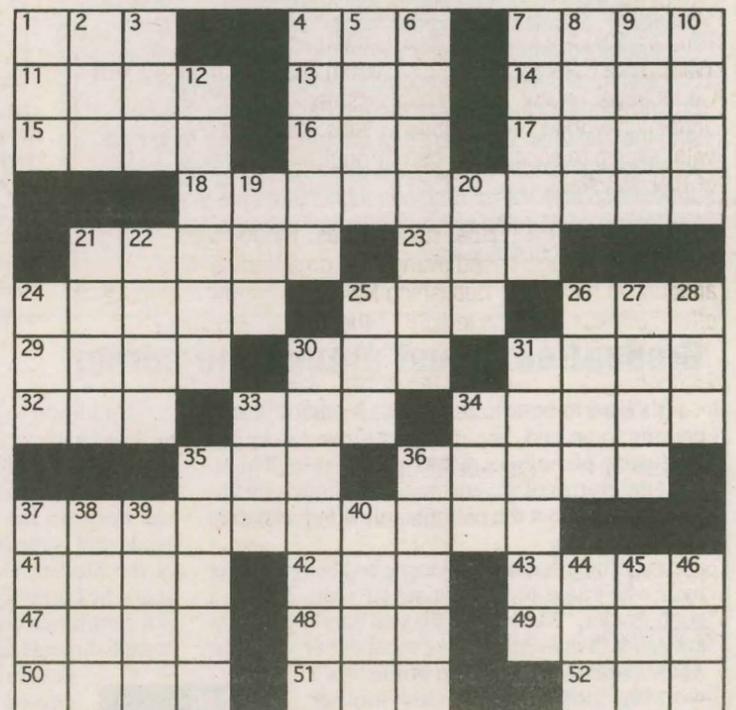
Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 Butter unit
- 4 "with lies ye made the heart of the righteous" (Ezekiel 13:22)
- 7 "Doth he thank that servant ... ? I ___ not" (Luke 17:9)
- 11 Naboth couldn't stand in his way
- 13 Mary Todd's fiance, to friends
- 14 Luzon native
- 15 Worry
- 16 O.T. book
- 17 ___ Hill, "pulpit" of Paul
- 18 A wife of Esau (Genesis 36)
- 21 Fabled bear
- 23 "offer the tenth of a bath out of the ___" (Ezekiel 45:14)
- 24 "he overturneth the mountains by the ___" (Job 28:9)
- 25 Actor Ayres
- 26 FDR program
- 29 Part of cosmetics brand name
- 30 Two (Sp.)
- 31 "Jesus went not with his disciples into the ___" (John 6:22)
- 32 "Arise, take up thy ___" (Matthew 9:6)
- 33 Period
- 34 "___ would see Jesus" (John 12:21)
- 35 Feel poorly
- 36 "I have graven thee upon the ___ of my hands" (Isaiah 49:16)
- 37 He intercedes with King Zedekiah for Jeremiah (Jeremiah 38, 39)
- 41 Where coed "crashes"
- 42 ___ de siecle
- 43 One of Lamech's wives (Genesis 4)
- 47 Operatic solo
- 48 Footed vase
- 49 An unclean "beast" (Leviticus 11)
- 50 Hebrew letter
- 51 "The Son of man hath not where to ___ his head" (Luke 9:58)
- 52 Hoover ___

Down

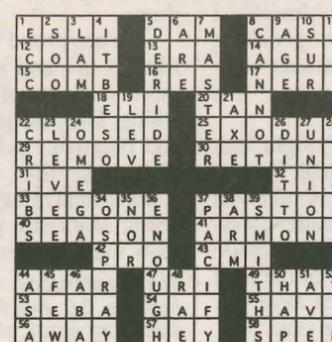
- 1 Type of moccasin
- 2 Exclamation
- 3 ___ adiddle (Brit., a fib)
- 4 Reception hall
- 5 By his action, "he being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4)



- 6 "He disappointeth the ___ of the crafty" (Job 5:12)
- 7 Absalom's sister (2 Samuel 13)
- 8 500 sheets of paper
- 9 Other (Sp.)
- 10 "___ me thoroughly from mine iniquity" (Psalm 51:2)
- 12 "array thyself with glory and ___" (Job 40:10)
- 19 Pronoun
- 20 Early movie star

- 21 Tree trunk
- 22 "Whither have ye made a ___ today?" (1 Samuel 27:10)
- 24 "___ not the poor" (Proverbs 22:22)
- 25 Abraham's nephew
- 26 "Neither was there any ___ therein" (Exodus 16:24)
- 27 Handles clumsily
- 28 Chewed
- 30 "lament with a ___ lamentation" (Micah 2:4)
- 31 Handmaid of Rachel (Genesis 30)
- 33 Poorly lit
- 34 Pouch
- 35 One of the fenced cities of Naphtali (Joshua 19)
- 36 Woman's nickname
- 37 "Israel ... spread his tend beyond the town of ___" (Genesis 35:21)
- 38 "His master shall ___ his ear through" (Exodus 21:6)
- 39 Belonging to the head of the Erites
- 40 What to fork over in Firenze
- 44 Father
- 45 A son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7)
- 46 Search for right word

Last week's solution



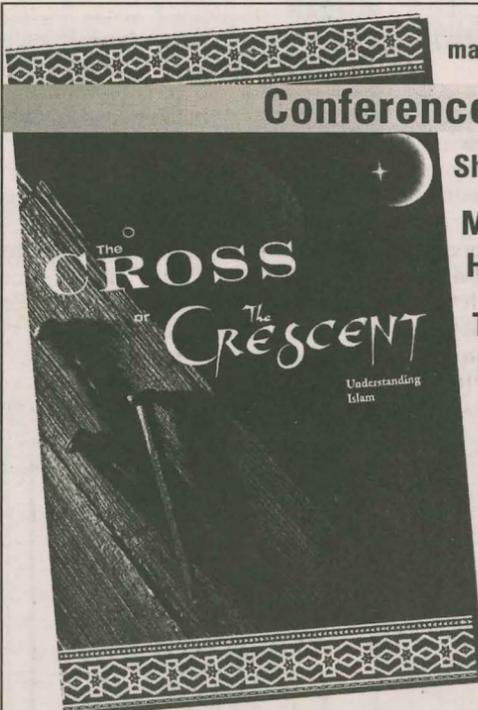
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WORLD VIEW

■ **Anglican video issues 'wake-up call.'** Copies of a 40-minute video are to be distributed to 10,500 Anglican parishes at Easter as a "wake-up call" to try to reverse declining church attendance. The video is aimed at persuading clergy to meet people "where they are" rather than waiting, often in vain, for them to show up in church. "We need to be more of a band of pilgrims on the way than we do a bleak church building with a message, 'Stay out,'" said Archbishop of York David Hope. In Britain, a nation with a population pushing 60 million, only 1.2 million regularly go to church.

■ **Religious freedom monitoring group closes.** The Keston News Service, a religious freedom watchdog known for its loud bark and incisive bite, is no longer operating, leaving a large part of the former Communist world unmonitored. The demise—apparently the result of a policy dispute—of the Oxford, England-based news service came quietly Dec. 18 with the resignation of its director and the three principal reporters who had covered a region stretching from the Balkans to Siberia. The apparent schism over whether the parent Keston Institute should focus on exposing religious persecution through KNS or content itself with maintaining Soviet-era archives eventually widened to the point where eight of the institute's 10 full-time employees resigned.

■ **Canadians warn against changing marriage definition.** Allowing gays to be wed legally soon could lead to legalized polygamy, a Canadian religious leader warned a House of Commons committee. Bruce Cleminger of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, representing several evangelical organizations including Baptists and Pentecostals, teamed with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to launch an attack against broadening the definition of marriage. Justice Minister Martin Cauchon initiated the hearings after an Ontario court ruled last summer that a federal ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional.



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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
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Graduation is just around the corner

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end. We are weeks away from the graduation of the class of 2003. Each spring I highlight the stories of several seniors. I hope you enjoy reading about the part this ministry has had in their successes.

It is fitting that my first story be about a young man who came to Oneida seven years ago as a sixth-grader. "Mark" (not his real name) was slim and taller than average. Like most of our students, Mark came from a broken home. As a working single parent, his mother thought Mark needed a more "structured environment."

One thing Mark's mother told us that I don't believe I ever had heard before, especially about a middle school student, was that Mark preferred to drink only water. How many parents would be elated if their children would drink water instead of soft drinks? We also were told that Mark had a tendency to "put people down." We have not seen much of that. While his circle of friends is a little smaller than some of his peers', Mark seems to get along well with everyone. Recently he wrote this about himself: "I am nice enough to people, and easy to get along with, so I've always been 'popular' or at least well-liked by most of the people who know me." We agree.

We were told that Mark was "very bright" but was seemingly not reaching his potential. He had been diagnosed with ADD, and it was believed that he could function better in our smaller classes. At the end of his sixth-grade year his grade point average was 2.33 and at the end of the next year it was 3.29. Each year his grades have improved. He had a 3.77 GPA his junior year.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

In addition to his academic accomplishments, he has been very involved in a wide variety of other activities. He was the Beta Club vice president his junior year and is president this year. Mark has been on the yearbook staff since the ninth grade and is the co-editor this year. As a member of the Student Government Association for two years, he currently is serving as vice president and is a committee chair. One of his more notable accomplishments has been being part of the cast of several drama presentations. He received the Best Actor Award in the ninth, 10th and 11th grades.

As an athlete, he has been on the wrestling, track and soccer teams. Other accomplishments include serving as a tutor for his peers, Governor's Scholars Program, an Outstanding Worker award in the work program and Outstanding Scholar awards in chemistry, Bible and English IV.

Mark admits to having a special relationship with his mother and says that, "strangely enough," he gets along "peacefully" with his sister. He admits to being less peaceful with their five dogs.

We are proud to have been able to help mold Mark's life and interests. He came to us a diamond in the rough and simply needed a little polishing. His post-graduation plans include college and pharmacy school in order to become a medicinal chemist.

One final thing: Unlike the vast majority of his peers, Mark still prefers to drink plain ol' H₂O. How many students do you know like that?

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

Connecting with teens

The youth ministry at Pump Springs Baptist Church in Harrogate, Tenn., is one of the largest and most well thought of in the Tri-State area.

Associate Pastor Emery Minton Jr. has been meeting the challenge of bringing area teens closer to Christ for more than 15 years. His first opportunity as youth minister was at Midway Baptist Church in Tazewell, Tenn.; he has been at Pump Springs for the past 12 years. He graduated from Clear Creek in 1998.

Minton, affectionately known as Junior by the youth in the church, says the seeds for his future work in youth ministry were sewn while he was a teenager himself.

"My parents were very active in church, they traveled and sang a lot," he said. "While our church didn't have what we'd consider a dynamic youth ministry, there were adults there that worked with us that I remember to this day.

"By age 21 God was really dealing with me, and I felt I had a special calling to work with teenagers," he said. "It is one of the most challenging roles in ministry because the culture changes so

quickly. You have to stay up with them so you can continue to meet their needs."

His secret to success has been a simple one. "I just try to show teens the loving, caring God I know in my heart," he said. "We allow them to see that God is not a boring God. He wants us to have fun and enjoy life."

Teenager Caleb Ayers said, "Junior really cares about us and it shows. When we're in trouble, he's there for us."

Minton stressed youth ministry "exists to aid parents in teaching their children right from wrong, not to provide all of that teaching. It is a God-given responsibility of the parents to teach these things to their children."

His greatest reward is seeing a teenager come to know Christ.

"Two things I would tell any teen and their parents are to accept Jesus Christ as the Lord of their lives, and continue to work and grow in the faith," Minton stated.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Adapted from a story by Jay Compton of the Middlesboro Daily News
 Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977

BOOKS

Ancient Psalms for Contemporary Pilgrims: A Prayer Book. *Jeanie Miley.* Smyth & Helwys, 2003. 277 pages. \$14.40. ◆◆◆◆◆ (out of five)

Based on the ancient practices of divine reading and praying Scripture, Jeanie Miley invites us to experience God anew through the Psalms.

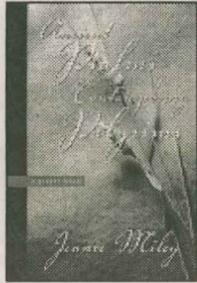
In the ancient prayer book, Miley sees a radical relationship "between the transcendent, holy God and a fallible, ordinary human being." She goes on to say, "If intimacy is the sharing of one's failures and fears, and the revealing of feelings and longings of the heart with another, the book of Psalms reveals a revolutionary depth of communication and closeness with the Almighty, a closeness that could transform one's life from the inside out."

Miley contends that the transforming power of the Psalms cannot be experienced effectively by an a-psalm-a-day approach. To experience the depth of this radical relationship, she advocates staying with a psalm for seven days, reading it and meditating on some portion of it each day, bringing its themes and concerns forward to one's life and then closing out with a prayer based on some aspect of the psalm.

"Ancient Psalms for Contemporary Pilgrims" guides the reader into this process during a 38-week period. She divides the readings into triads of psalms around such topics as "Who is God to me?" "Who am I to God?" and "What do I do with myself?"

The daily exercises focus on specific verses of the psalm for the

week and offer the reader a guided meditation into them. Miley does not offer much commentary on the verses. Rather, she provides a way for one to open oneself to the transforming power of God's presence.



Each day ends with questions for further reflection during the day.

Miley provides anyone interested in a powerful, renewed encounter with God a solid tool for opening the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to confront, convict, transform and heal. *Jim Holladay*

Shaping a Christian Worldview: The Foundations of Christian Higher Education. *Editors David Dockery and Gregory Thornbury.* Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002. 446 pages. \$19.99 ◆◆◆◆◆

What makes a college or university Christian? Is it that most, if not all, of the professors and administrators are Christian? That most of the student body are Christian? That its trustees are all Christian? Or that it is owned by another Christian body?

These are the types of questions that might have motivated the faculty and staff of Union University as they struggled with the issues and developed the content of this book.

David Dockery and the folks at Union University have become convinced that what justifies a college or university calling itself Christian is not simply the number of Christians involved in administration or teaching, the presence of required religion classes or mandatory chapel services, but the permeation of the entire curriculum and administration with a Christian worldview.

Fully realizing the dangers in that affirmation (i.e. that an honest, rigorous and faithful exploration and teaching of truth could be compromised), they nonetheless believe such a stance is essential. In fact, they would argue that such a stance is essential to the faithful pursuit of truth in every area of the academy.

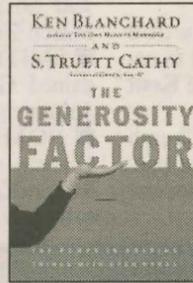
After a thorough overview of the concept and building blocks of a Christian worldview, the book then explores the meaning of this for every aspect of the school. Chapters written by faculty and administrators attempt to demonstrate the impact of this model for their discipline or area.

Warning: This book is not for anyone looking for a simple answer to the question, "What is a Christian worldview?" It is a rigorous examination of the concept and the way it works out in the ongoing life of a university. In true academic fashion, the writers argue for their point of view, while giving evidence that they have faithfully examined positions counter to their own.

Maybe, without realizing it, Dockery and company have given not only schools, but any institution that wants to call itself Christian, a way to measure the depth of that label. *Jim Holladay*

The Generosity Factor: Discover the Joy of Giving Your Time, Talent and Treasure. *Ken Blanchard and Truett Cathy.* Zondervan Publishing, 2002. \$19.99. 124 pages. ◆◆◆

"The Generosity Factor" joins "Jesus, CEO," "Jesus, Inc.," "Teach Your Team to Fish" and "The Bible on Leadership," among others, as recent books on joining faith and busi-



ness. The difference is that Blanchard and Cathy have created a modern-day parable to demonstrate the principle of generosity in business and in life. The living model for the parable is Cathy, the founder of Chick-Fil-A.

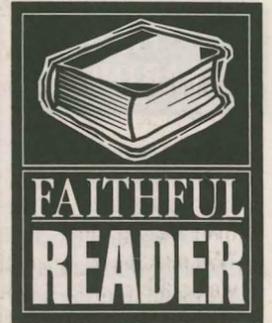
Chick-Fil-A is famous for closing on Sunday. In this not-so-veiled story about Cathy, the reader gets a picture of another principle that guides this man who sacrifices additional profit for the sake of honoring a biblical principle.

The parable has three main characters: The Broker, a young man who made his considerable wealth from his Internet start-up company; The Executive, the wise older man who made his massive wealth in auto repair; and The Driver, an ex-convict who is always on call to drive The Broker's limousine.

The parable unfolds after the Broker reads a newspaper article about The Executive. The Executive seems too good to be true, but The Broker is challenged by the reporter who wrote the article to go and see for himself. What The Broker discovers is a man who lives his life by the Generosity Factor: five principles whose first letters spell HEART.

The book is simple and easily read. I am doubtful, however, of the impact it will have on The Brokers of the world.

I am not sure why Blanchard and Cathy chose to use the parable form. I think they could have better challenged people to live a life of generosity simply by explaining the generosity factor in Cathy's own voice. *Wayne Hager*



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

Evangelical readers identifying with 'Wild at Heart's view of manhood

By **CECILE HOLMES**
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—At first read, one might think that John Eldredge's unusual take on what makes a man would alienate many readers. But the opposite has proven true in certain circles.

His book, sort of a male Christian evangelical alternative to poet Robert Bly's men's movement, articulates Eldredge's vision for a renewed, authentic masculinity. It is an idea that has proven so popular among Christian evangelicals that it has been embraced by everyone from football players to corporate CEOs.

Since its release last year, "Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secrets of a Man's Soul" has sold more than 400,000 copies. The companion volume "The Wild at Heart Field Manual" has sold more than 27,000 copies.

For Eldredge, that means a packed speaking and workshop schedule, and the spawning of what could become a new grass-roots men's movement. He talked about the book, its impact and his ideas

about masculinity at a luncheon earlier this winter in Nashville.

'Nice guys' not the goal

Eldredge says the traditional image that men should be "nice guys" propagated by most churches is ineffective and "soul-killing." Men naturally feel called to be warriors, to know themselves and their God at a deep, intimate level, he said. Only from that place can a man become his true self.



Eldredge

"We've taken away the dreams of a man's heart and told him to play the man," Eldredge writes. "As C.S. Lewis said, 'We castrate the gelding and bid him be fruitful.'"

And, yes, he said, a man might really have to go into the wilderness to find himself.

"A man needs to get away from the world that coddles him and distracts him and emasculates him," Eldredge said. "He needs to get into a lonely place where he has to face his own soul—and his God."

"I'm not part of the 'back to the woods' granola movement, but you've got to consider that every spiritual journey in the Bible takes a man into the wilderness. Jacob did it. So did Elijah, David, John the Baptist

and Jesus. Moses didn't meet God at the mall."

His ideas resonate with men in the pew, in the boardroom and on the football field.

Mike Swider, head football coach at Wheaton College, the well-known evangelical school in Illinois, chose the book for devotionals during football season for his players and his staff. "'Wild at Heart' was extremely popular and was even used as a chant on the field and in the weight room," Swider said.

Bob Blizzard, of Bel Air, Md., the CEO of Blizzard Management Group, sold one of his three staffing companies. Then he handed over routine operations of the two others after reading the book. He now runs marathons and leads a men's group.

"I learned from John Eldredge that life is about being free to be who you are," Blizzard said.

Critics charge 'sexist'

"Wild at Heart" is not without critics, including those who see the book as sexist. Some object to its traditional portrayal of men's and women's desires. The book says:

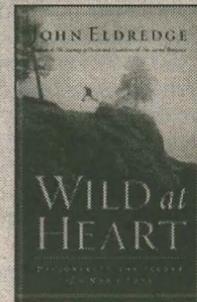
"A man wants to be a hero to the beauty" while "every woman yearns to be fought for" and "wants to have a beauty to unveil."

"Don't those sexist charges sound kind of old and tired?" Eldredge asks in response. He says the culture is ready to acknowledge the difference between men and women and that his ministry team includes women "as equal players."

Four times a year, Eldredge, a family man with longish hair and a goatee, leads special workshops in the mountains of Colorado. He founded Ransomed Heart Ministries—a teaching, counseling and discipling fellowship—because of the book's success.

The workshops serve 350 men at a time and are held at a log cabin in Colorado. Demand is so high, Eldredge said, he has a waiting list of 1,000.

Eldredge, who lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., with his wife, Stasi, and their three sons, was formerly a writer and speaker for Focus on the Family, the ministry founded by conservative author and leader James Dobson.



PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Romanian Baptists as they are beginning to plan for sending missionaries to other countries.

■ A Muslim refugee living in Belgium who recently became a Christian through the ministry of Baptists in an outreach center. He was the first Muslim to become a Christian through the center.

■ Opportunities to open for Bulgarian Christians to talk with the spiritual leaders of the mosques in the Muslim villages of southwestern Bulgaria.

■ The desire of a Baptist representative in Paris, France, to begin work among Koreans.

■ Baptist churches in Russia that are struggling to get documents necessary for registering with the government.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BURLINGTON**—Bellevue Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary March 16. Also, **Kyle Able** recently was called as assistant administrator and director of education.

■ **CENTERTOWN**—Centertown Church will hold revival services April 23-27 with **Troy Richards**, pastor of Concord Church, as evangelist. **Wesley Hanson** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will host a satellite simulcast of the "Real Love in the Real World" marriage conference March 15, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Speakers include **Gary Chapman, Beth Moore, Dennis and Barbara Rainey and Gary Smalley**. For information, call (502) 241-8534.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church recently called **Kim Botto** as minister to children.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church called **Phil Champion** as assistant youth minister. **Wallace Kent** is pastor.

■ **FRANKLIN**—Middleton Church recently called **Butch Morris** as pastor and **Denny Burchett** as associate pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will host the **Georgetown College Chorale** March 27. **Rodney Travis** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Clifty Grove Church recently ordained **Rodney Turner** as a deacon.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Anchoresmen** in concert March 15, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Parkland Church will host a spring banquet March 22, 6 p.m. **The McKendrees** from Benton will be the featured entertainment.

Walnut Street Church recently called **Bruce Wilkes** as minister to students.

■ **MORNING VIEW**—Piner Church will host the **Crossmen Quartet** March 23.

■ **SMITHLAND**—First Church ordained **Garrick Ramage and Gary Joiner** as deacons March 9.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant View Church will hold revival services March 30-April 4 with **James Barleson** as evangelist.



RIBBON-CUTTING Cutting the ribbon for Campbellsville University's Tuggle-Morris Wellness Center are (from left) university trustee David Morris and his wife, Shirley; Jane Tuggle Morris and her husband, Robert; Jerry Bennett, chairman of Campbellsville's board of trustees; Freddie Hilpp of Hilpp Construction; and Campbellsville President Mike Carter. (Campbellsville University photo by Joan McKinney)

University dedicates wellness center

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University officials recently dedicated a 5,500-square-foot campus wellness and athletic training center.

The facility is named in honor of former Campbellsville University board chairman David Morris' parents, Robert and Jane Tuggle Morris, who met while they were both

students at Campbellsville.

The center features a 2,500-square-foot athletic training center, two physical education faculty offices, four coaching offices and a classroom/hospitality room.

Campbellsville President Mike Carter described the facility as "one of the finest such facilities in the NAIA."

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, is prayerfully receiving and reviewing resumés 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 resumés 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 music director. Exceptional professional opportunity for creative, experienced and skilled church musician. Music degree preferred. Send resumé to: Secretary, Minister of Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 508, McMinnville, TN 37110.

SEEKING: Two part-time office positions at East Louisville church: Secretary/receptionist, responsible for newsletter and publications; receptionist/bookkeeper for church and daycare. Hours, salary and benefits negotiable. Send resumé to: Pastor, Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville KY 40220, or call (502) 454-4681.

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: West Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., is seeking a qualified pianist for two Sunday morning worship services and Wednesday choir. Contact: (502) 491-1920.

SEEKING: Samford University seeks a spiritual formation coordinator to be employed through the Theological Exploration of Vocation (TEV) grant from the Lilly Foundation. Term of position will be August 2003 to May 2007, with possible continuation of position through institutional funding. Minimum education: Master of Divinity or Christian Education degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school (doctoral degree preferred but not required). Experience in spiritual formation of students desired. Must minister effectively to students, faculty and staff. Must be able to connect readily and effectively with today's undergraduate students. Must have skills in administration, programming, outreach and public address. Coordinator will work approximately 1/5 time in faculty and staff development, 1/5 time in student programs and 3/5 time in student ministry. Must exhibit strong commitment to the overall TEV program; coordinate spiritual formation and prayer groups; facilitate vocational development of students, faculty and staff through programs that will address the integration of faith and profession; oversee ministerial student placement and ministerial student organization. Qualified applicants should send a resumé with cover letter expressing motivation and suitability for the position to: Dr. James Barnette, Minister to the University, Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229-2215. Samford University is an Equal Opportunity institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability or national or ethnic origin.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky. Applicant must have skills in teaching, organizing and planning; must be able to work with pastor and other staff members in promoting the growth of a developing youth program. Please send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, 309 Glendale Road, Franklin, KY 42134.

SEEKING: Smiths Grove Baptist Church is seeking a part-time worship leader/minister of music. Smiths Grove Baptist seeks to offer God-centered, Bible-saturated, passion-filled worship. Interested? Send resume and info to: Personnel Committee, Smiths Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 99, Smiths Grove, KY 42171, or find us at www.smithsgrovebaptist.org.

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

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

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

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

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Young peddle pushers

Experimental program offering free lessons to new organ recruits

By Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (RNS)—Twelve-year-old Jennifer McPherson lives in southern Maine, where organists are so hard to find that churches sometimes let fine organs sit silent as an Easter congregation sings along to a compact disc.

McPherson would gladly help fix the problem in a few years by expanding her gifted repertoire of piano, violin and ukulele to include the organ, an intriguing instrument for her "because of all the sounds it can make."

There's been just one problem: Organ lessons cost at least \$40 each, and her home-schooling family can't afford them.

But on a brisk Sunday afternoon in February, resonant chords were filling St. John's Episcopal Church, and the player sitting at the helm of the congregation's new, \$710,000 pipe organ was none other than McPherson.

She was taking her fourth lesson, courtesy of a unique program to revitalize church music by making organ instruction free for young, promising musicians.

"When I heard they were giving free lessons, I tried out right away because (lessons) are so pricey," McPherson said. "I've always wanted to play the organ, and now I am."

Lessons for McPherson and six other students under age 17 are equipping a new generation of church organists, thanks to funding from the St. John's-based Young Organists Collaborative. Each student takes eight lessons free of charge as a handful of benefactors pay instructors for their time and expertise. Some teachers are donating extra time, giving students a much-needed boost on a notoriously complex musical instrument.

For the past 20 years, organist groups across the country have offered showcase events for young people to explore the instrument, but none before now has offered free lessons to

promising organists, according to James Thomashauer, executive director of the 20,000-member American Guild of Organists. Because the Portsmouth idea has proved so popular with young musicians, the guild soon will feature the model in its regular publications, he said, with hopes of reproducing it from coast to coast.

"Free music lessons? That's special. That's really terrific," Thomashauer said. "That really stretches the envelope from what's been done before."

A nationwide shortage

Churches nationwide have difficulty finding qualified organists, Thomashauer said, any time pay rates fail to support a comfortable living. A handful of major churches in metropolitan areas attract candidates in droves when they offer in the range of \$100,000 for full-time salary, but most congregations can pay only a part-time wage for an organist's rehearsal and worship time.

Here in southeastern New Hampshire, small churches tend to offer \$50-\$100 for an organist's Sunday services. Such rates mean the market might be filled best by talented youth.

"That's not enough for an adult to live on, but that's a lot of money for a teenager," said Terrie Harman, McPherson's organ instructor at St. John's. And if that person is available for funerals and weddings as well as Sunday worship, Harman says, he or she as an adult will be able to "earn a complete second living."

Despite earning possibilities for hustling organists, young people seem to need fresh incentives to pursue proficiency in the field. In 1986, the nation's music schools reported 728 organ majors among their students. By 2000, that number had dropped to 527.

At the same time, churches—especially in mainline Protestantism—continue to invest in organs as their musical centerpieces. Pipe organ makers reported a backlog of orders in



FREE LESSONS Jennifer McPherson, 12, of Eliot, Maine, has her fourth organ lesson from organist Terrie Harman of Newcastle, N.H., at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, N.H. McPherson is one of the participants in a program of the church that offers free lessons to promising youth. (RNS photos by Julia Malakie)

2002 as congregations moved forward on their visions for the organ to endure as the definitive church sound of the 21st century, just as it was in the 18th century.

"Pipe organs are found almost solely in churches because they're the only places big enough to hold them," said Douglas Theuner, Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire, who gave \$1,000 in seed money to start the collaborative. "That makes the organ the unique sound of the church and something the church can give to a whole community."

'The breath of God'

"A lot of people tell me, 'I hear organ music and I get tears in my eyes,'" Harman said. "It's so primal. They cry, but they don't know why. There's something really connective in hearing organ music. I think it's connective to Spirit. In my own experience, it's the breath of God" blowing through this elaborate wind instrument.

Attracting interested young people has proven easier than expected. Organizers at first thought one or two piano students might jump at organ lessons. Instead, seven signed up. Four more are on a waiting list to begin in the fall.

The main hurdle to addressing the shortage, it seems, may be psychological. The challenge is to enable young people to see themselves on a bench,

filling a church with sound each week.

"They picture a church organist as a large, old, grizzly, stodgy man who they're afraid to approach as a child," said Judy Howard, a member of the collaborative steering committee.

"Or as a little old lady whose feet barely reach the pedals," added Helen Gettelman, also a committee member. What teenagers need, all agreed, is adults to encourage them to step up, pull the stops and work the pedals until the "king of instruments" is singing at their touch.

To date, the Portsmouth collaborative has raised \$2,400 from individuals, businesses and local congregations to sustain their program. Goals include teaching additional interested students and financing more lessons for those, like McPherson, who could not afford to continue otherwise.

In the meantime, Harman said she still suffers a broken heart every time a congregation calls seeking an organist for Sunday and she declines due to a commitment to play elsewhere. But one day soon she hopes to offer them a new name to call.

"People say, 'I wish you could clone yourself to be in two places at once,'" Harman said. "How do I clone myself? I teach."

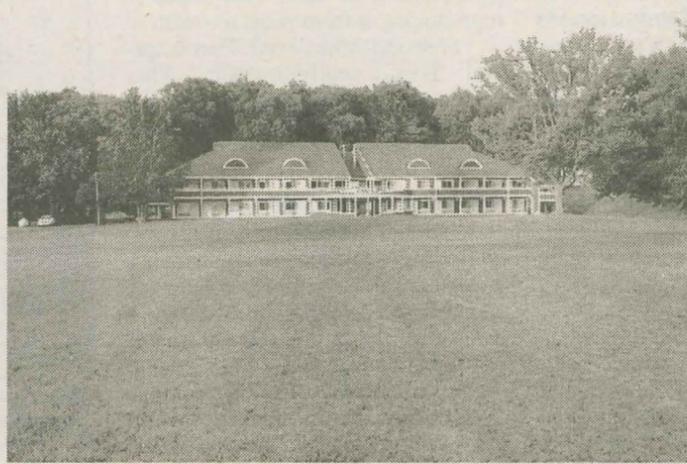
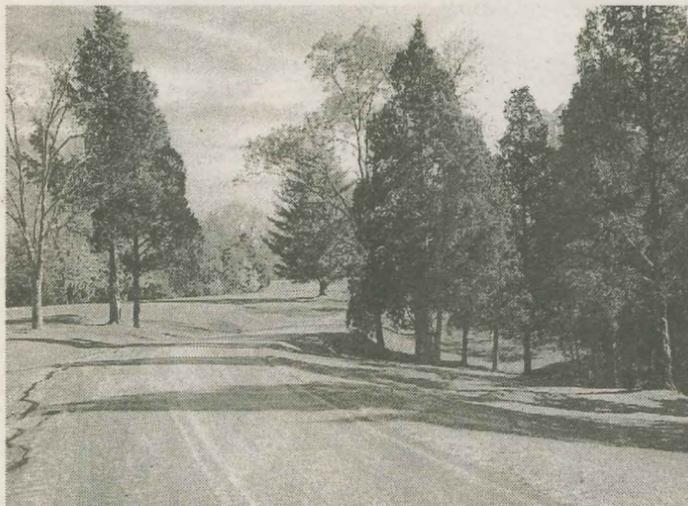
"Any time you play at different places, you get more exposure and opportunities might come up," McPherson said. "Playing in any church, that'd be cool."



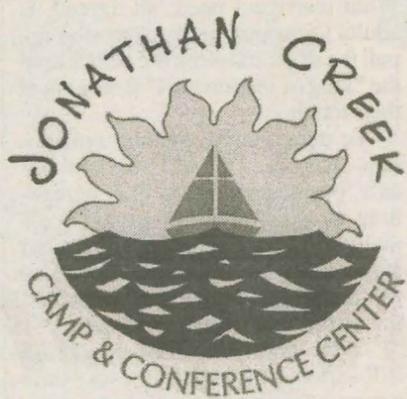
SHORT STUFF Jennifer McPherson's feet barely reach the pedals during her organ lesson at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, N.H. The church hopes the new program will bring a new generation to the thinning ranks of church musicians.

In 1986, music schools had 728 organ majors. By 2000, that number had dropped to 527.

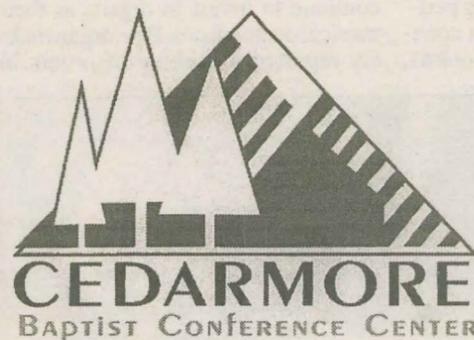
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