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 Vol. 177, No. 11

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
 Slain missionary buried in Iowa. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
 Missions commitment leads to lost weight, gained wife. *Page 3.*

Editorial
 Effective church growth requires reaping and keeping. *Page 5.*

Iraq
 Religious leaders call for prayer and fasting in possible showdown. *Page 6.*

People
 Angler Bill Dance loses tournament points for not wearing beer patch. *Page 9.*

Baptisms up, key church programs down in Kentucky Baptist churches

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptists' 2002 Annual Church Profile report produced a mixed statistical picture, with eight of 12 categories showing growth during the previous church year.

Among those eight, however, only three recorded growth higher than 1.5 percent.

The three areas of greatest growth include churches' total undesignated receipts (up 6.3 percent), baptisms (up 5.9 percent) and worship attendance (up 4.9 percent).

The two areas of sharpest decline are Brotherhood enrollment (down 10.2 percent) and Woman's Missionary Union enrollment (down 4.4 percent). But leaders of both those organizations voiced concerns about the accuracy of the report.

The overall statistical survey indicates "we're running pretty steady," said Steve Thompson, Kentucky Baptist Convention associate executive director.

He added, however, that the bulk of the statistics "reflect that many of our churches are plateaued. In far too many cases, that's where we find ourselves as Kentucky Baptists."

Citing the need to "look at more effective ways to reach people," Thompson said, "I think the work of the Mission Study Committee is directed at that very thing: How do we minister more effectively in the 21st century?"

The 15-member committee, established last year by the KBC Mission Board, is scheduled to present its proposals to the full board in May.

Among key statistics for the 2002 church year, undesignated receipts increased by more than \$15.4 million to \$261,933,531.

Based on those totals, Kentucky Baptist churches' overall income "is pretty healthy," Thompson said. "The economy is not reflected yet in those figures."

"What does concern me," he added, "is that the Cooperative Program is receiving a smaller and smaller percentage of those undesignated receipts."

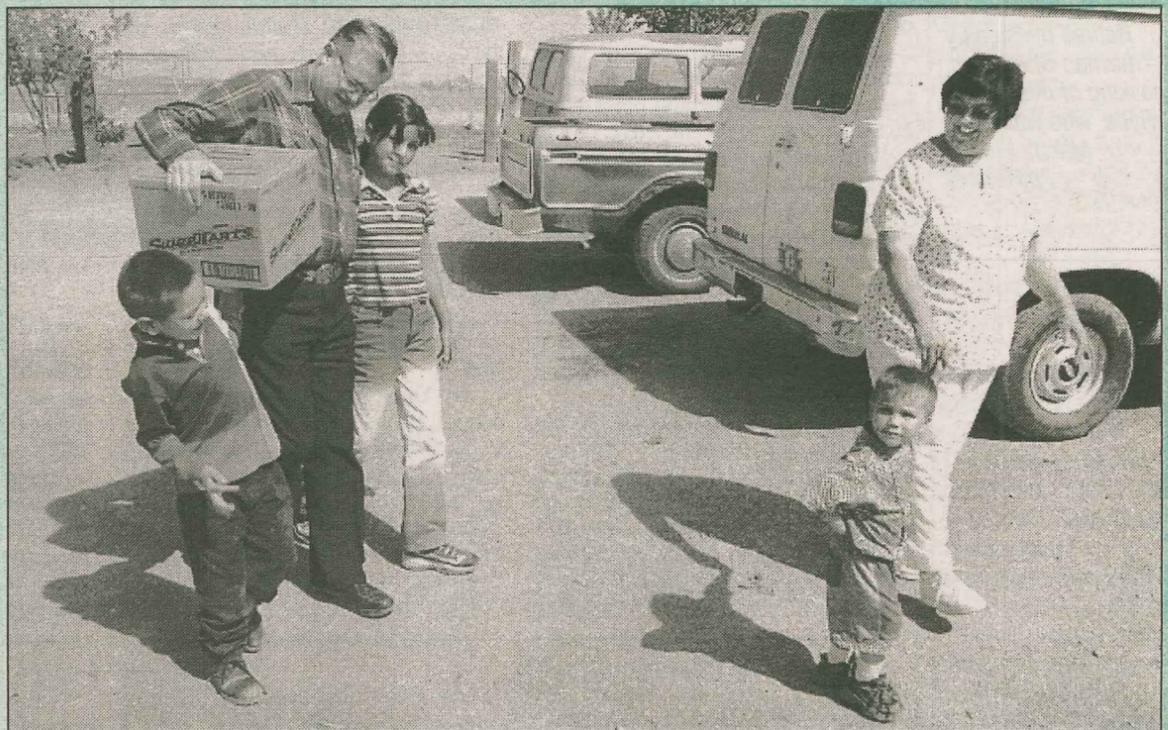
Based on KBC records, the percent of churches' undesignated receipts given through CP during the past five years has declined from 10.1 percent in 1997 to 8.28 percent last year. The decrease includes a drop of 0.5 percent from 2001 to 2002.

The total number of baptisms, one of the highlights of the 2002 ACP report, remains an area of concern, according to Dan Garland, leader of the KBC evangelism growth team.

The 2002 total of 17,524 baptisms is an increase of 981 over the previous year. But the total remains below the 1999 and 2000 totals of 17,928

□ See *Baptisms up*; *page 3*

Looking after orphans



ORPHANAGE VISIT North American missionaries Tommy and Elizabeth Stevens visit an orphanage in Naco, Mexico. Stevens is director for Cochise Baptist Association in Tombstone, Ariz., which helps support the orphanage. Stevens is one of 169 Southern Baptist missionaries appointed as associational directors of missions and supported through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The offering goal is \$53 million. (NAMB photo by James Dotson)

Stanford Baptists back Christian teen club

By **Ken Walker**
State Correspondent

STANFORD—Former youth minister Mike Bastin's longtime dream of a teen center for Lincoln County recently came true.

J.C.'s Powerhouse opened in November in a former county highway department garage in downtown Stanford.

Renovated by volunteers, it now holds a cornucopia of recreational equipment and other attractions.

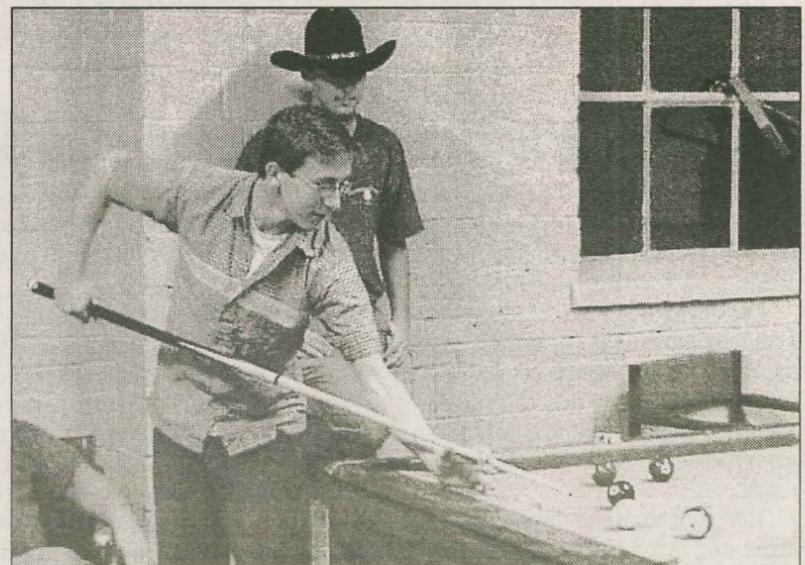
About 75 students in grades 7 through 12 gather there Saturday evenings. A dozen or more adult volunteers act as chaperones, counselors and refreshment servers.

"It's been a dream of mine for years," said Bastin, one of the organizers and a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Waynesburg. "Our ministry goal is to provide a safe environment with Christian values, where teenagers can come in and fellowship. We want to reach non-church kids, too."

"I get a blessing from kids having a safe haven," said Keith Kirkpatrick, a member of Freedom Baptist Church. "I wish I had a place like this to go to when I was a teenager."

After several years of planning, Powerhouse became a reality when the building's owner, First Southern National Bank, agreed to lease the space to organizers for \$1 a year.

Eric Wooldridge, chairman of the J.C.'s board, estimates the yearlong renovation was worth \$50,000, with most materials donated. The free help



J.C.'s POWERHOUSE Several Baptist churches in Lincoln County are supporting a teen center with games, refreshments and activities. "Our ministry goal is to provide a safe environment with Christian values, where teenagers can come in and fellowship," said Mike Bastin, one of the organizers.

that went into the labor-intensive project would double that value, he added.

The facility features a large kitchen and deli area where volunteers sell pizza, hot dogs, chips, nachos and candy bars for a modest price.

Other amenities include pool, bumper pool, Ping-Pong and foosball tables, an area with small tables for board games, an open fireplace and wrap-around couch, stereo equipment and a 16-by-10-foot screen hooked to both television and video equipment.

At the site's Super Bowl party, a

young man prayed to receive Jesus as his personal Savior after a halftime talk by a college football player.

That was the first conversion registered, and adults who help run the center look for more in the future.

"Our goal is to build a relationship with these kids so we have a right to talk to them about Jesus Christ," said Kirkpatrick, one of eight directors. "We know some seeds are being sown on some kids."

While the center has been a drawing card for church youth groups in

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 19

IMB missionary memorialized in home state of Iowa

"This guy took what we were doing and multiplied it 10-fold, maybe 100-fold."

Retired missionary Thurman Braughton, speaking of missionary Bill Hyde, who was killed March 4 in the Philippines

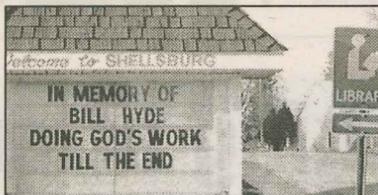
By Bill Bangham
SBC International Mission Board

SHELLSBURG, Iowa—The motorcade carrying Bill Hyde's body for burial through the Iowa countryside northwest of Cedar Rapids carved a route under a spent sky trailing wisps of cloud.

In the fields, there is still snow caught in the stubble from last fall's harvest. The cool air and black earth at the cemetery on the edge of the town where he was born are a sharp contrast to the tropical heat and green jungle in the Philippines where Hyde lived and worked for the past 25 years.

The 59-year-old missionary was killed March 4 in a bomb blast at the airport in Davao City, on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. At least 21 people were killed and 148 injured in the attack.

On March 13, the day of Hyde's burial in his hometown, family, friends—many who knew him from childhood—missionary colleagues and young adults who had him as a teacher gathered from across the globe to celebrate his life. One week earlier, an overflow crowd gathered at Im-



HOMETOWN HERO Shellsburg, Iowa, the hometown of Bill Hyde, paid tribute on its welcome sign to the IMB missionary who was killed March 4 in a bomb blast in the Philippines. (Photo by Richard Nations)

manuel Baptist Church in Davao City for a similar time of grief and celebration.

"The journey he took wasn't an easy one," said Dick Hyde, Bill's older brother. "The Lord had something in mind for Bill long before he was born."

By the time Hyde was in high school, his talent as a musician began to be noticed. In a household of musicians, "He had the voice in our family," said Dick Hyde, "a deep bass like Tennessee Ernie Ford. He even had offers to be a professional musician." But there were other things stirring inside him.

He served in Vietnam. He married Lyn, the woman who was to be his wife for 37 years. And after earning bachelor and master degrees in music at the University of Iowa, he taught music in schools in Iowa.

But still things stirred within him. "He could have had a quiet life, a happy life, (teaching school) and touched lots of lives," said David Miller, pastor of Northbrook Baptist Church in Cedar Falls. But he and his wife chose the frontlines of battle, "or rather, were chosen would be more appropriate," Miller added. In 1978, they were appointed missionaries to the Philippines by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

At first he taught missionary kids at Faith Academy in Manila.

But he had another passion—church planting—and during the latter years of his ministry in the Philippines, the Hydys moved to Mindanao and focused on that passion.

Hyde planted at least 600 churches. In January, he hosted a Pioneer Evangelism conference. With 3,700 participants, it probably was the largest such conference ever held. There is a possibility that more than 3,000

churches will result from that conference.

"This was a remarkable man," said Thurman Braughton, a recently retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked with Hyde. "This guy took what we were doing and multiplied it 10-fold, maybe 100-fold."

"Where we were adding, he was multiplying," Braughton said.

Hyde did that by training pastors and laypeople, equipping others to plant churches, rather than have those efforts depend on him and a few others. Out of the January conference, 1,086 new church planting teams were formed. It is expected each team will plant three churches.

Hyde had plans for training 150 Filipinos as trainers next year. And through them, training another 7,000 laypeople in church planting.

"It is a tragedy that Bill was killed," said IMB President Jerry Rankin. "But the real tragedy would have been if Bill had not given his life to Jesus Christ. We praise God that his life—and his death—will bear much fruit."

"Gathered around the throne of grace will be the peoples of the Philippines because Bill was there."



"In my church we dismiss the children before taking the offering for this very reason."

Seminary trio explore unmapped mission field

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The old joke about the small town that's "not on the map" recently took on new meaning for three Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students.

Knowing little of the language and even less about the region, they spent two weeks exploring an Asian country, specifically looking for villages that were not on any map. The goal was to help Southern Baptist International Mission Board personnel know the location of every family in the region.

The students hiked through rain, fog and snow, and in the end found only one unmapped location—a small village with a handful of families.

The trip served as a sampling of ministry possibilities for the students, all of whom are considering full-time missionary service.

"I hope to go back," said one of the students, who could not be identified because of security concerns.

The students toiled backpacks weighing about 40 pounds over hills and mountains. At each village, they plotted its coordinates with a handheld Global Positioning Satellite system so that future missionaries could find its location. They also took a photo of each village's entrance.

They had tents but used them only once. At

nearly every stop, someone took them in, providing meals and a place to sleep. The men had carried little food—only a handful of "energy" bars.

"We were depending on the Lord for that—for (lodging) and meals," said another student. "The Lord just kept providing."

As the men discovered, searching for unmapped locations isn't easy. They often would come to a fork in the road, not knowing which trail to take.

"We had no idea which one went to a village and which one went to a rice patty," one of the students said.

One morning they woke up and discovered about eight inches of snow on the ground. They were dreading the hike in the wintry mix but soon learned it could be beneficial.

"It was sent by the Lord," the student noted. "Because with snow, you can see your tracks. We were able to look at the snow and say, 'Hey, there are a lot of tracks here, so there's probably something down there.' It actually served as a guide."

The three students said the trip gave them a greater burden for unsaved people, even though they already had been prayerfully considering full-time service on the mission field.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Two mission volunteers die.

Two Georgia Baptist mission volunteers have died from injuries sustained in an accident in Honduras. T.J. Lathe, 59, and Chuck Brattain, 72, were among several volunteers who fell into a ravine when a wooden swinging bridge they were on flipped over Feb. 22. Lathe, who fell about 30 feet, died at the scene. Brattain, who was life-flighted to a hospital in Houston, died from complications March 12. Brattain was deacon co-chairman at Glover Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga., which co-sponsored the trip.

21 missionary families aided.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas missionary transition fund has supported 21 missionary families who resigned or were terminated after refusing to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, according to BGCT officials. The BGCT has dispersed \$415,300 in financial assistance to missionaries since starting the fund in February 2002. Pledges and gifts to the fund total more than \$1.3 million. As of last month, 139 career missionaries had contacted a BGCT transition team to voice concern about requirements that all Southern Baptist International Mission Board and North American Mission Board missionaries affirm the revised faith statement.

Seminary protests foundation.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees voted unanimously March 10 to remove about \$877,000 in funds from the Missouri Baptist Foundation. Trustees voted last October to pursue removal of the funds from the foundation

because it is one of five Missouri Baptist Convention entities whose trustee boards voted to become self-perpetuating. The funds will be invested through the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma. Trustees left open the possibility of moving the funds back to the Missouri foundation if it becomes affiliated with the MBC again. The school reportedly incurred an estimated cost of \$1,800 to transfer the funds.

Church faces ouster for lesbian.

A Baptist church in Nashville faces possible ouster from its association because members called a lesbian minister. Glendale Baptist Church called April Baker, a professed lesbian, as associate pastor for children and families last May. The executive board of Nashville Baptist Association voted to recommend withdrawing fellowship from the congregation if Glendale fails to reverse its action by September when the association holds its annual meeting. Glendale leaders, who said Baker was the most qualified candidate for the job, denied that hiring her constituted an endorsement of her lifestyle, according to associational director of missions Jim Freedman.

College sells satellite campus.

Truett-McConnell College, affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention, has sold its satellite campus facilities in Watkinsville, Ga., to the state's university system for use by Gainesville College. Truett-McConnell, based in Cleveland, Ga., reportedly has suffered financially from unsuccessful extension programs at Watkinsville and other sites. Twenty-four full-time faculty members in Watkinsville lost their jobs as a result of the sale.

Dreaming pays off for Christian teen center in Lincoln County

Continued from page 1

Lincoln County, Bastin said they are seeing new faces every weekend, "which tells us the word is getting out."

Some of those faces belong to young people who like to wear black clothing, chains and spiked hair, according to Wooldridge, a member of Hebron Free Methodist Church in Crab Orchard.

"Kids who draw attention to themselves wouldn't normally feel comfortable being associated with something called 'Christian,'" Wooldridge said. "That touches me."

Although inter-denominational, the center has a strong Kentucky Baptist presence.

In addition to Bastin and Kirkpatrick, others on the board of directors include Barb Andrew, Josh Jacobs and teen member Lauren McDaniel, all from Pleasant View; and Cassandra Peek of Locust Grove Baptist Church.

Kirkpatrick's son, Ryan, serves as a technical advisor, handling music and multimedia operations each Saturday.

Pleasant View has pledged \$100 a month to operations. The young adult Sunday school class at Freedom Baptist church collects monthly offerings.

"A lot of people want to see it go," Kirkpatrick said.

The project drew inspiration from two sources. A few years ago, Wooldridge regularly transported youth from his church to a teen coffee house near Cumberland College in Williamsburg.

And for several years, Stanford Baptist church hosted "Fifth Quarter" parties after high school football games. The parties drew up to 150 young people.

"This affirmed to us that once J.C.'s Powerhouse was open kids would come," Bastin said.

The facility has room to grow, with a basement available and space outside. Bastin said directors are discussing adding a deck for warm-weather activities and basketball and volleyball courts.

Directors said it will take financial support to make those dreams come true, but they are counting on the center to generate enthusiasm.

Jeff Godbey of Fairview Baptist persuaded his Sunday school class to take up monthly offerings, and is talking to other classes at his church.

"I told people this is a golden opportunity to see where their money's going," Godbey said. "With foreign missions, I told them, they don't always know. But with this they can see. Just walk in the door."

More information about J.C.'s Powerhouse is available at the group's Web site: www.jc-s.com.

Missions leads to gained wife, lost weight

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—In a few months, Dwayne Doyle will return to the international mission field. But this time, there will be two big differences.

Since Doyle ended his two-year missionary term in 1999, he has gained Melissa as his wife and ministry partner and he's lost 65 pounds.

The Doyles took part in a Southern Baptist International Mission Board appointment service last weekend near Knoxville, Tenn. The two will serve as volunteer coordinators and church planters in Slovenia.

But before Doyle could go overseas, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 295-pound missions education specialist had to meet the IMB's health standards for career missionaries.

In a year's time, he slimmed down to a svelte 230 pounds. "I heard a co-worker say that areas of sin in our lives are areas of legitimate need that we try to fill up in illegitimate ways," he said. "I was

being disobedient with my body."

Doyle said he first sensed a call to missions when he was 12 years old. His parents were accepted as missionaries when Doyle was in college.

He was accepted as a Journeyman to Bosnia after graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Doyle said he chose to serve through the two-year Journeyman route, in part, because the weight requirements were not as stringent, but he knew he eventually would have to deal with his weight if he was to fulfill his call.



Doyles

When he returned from Bosnia in 1999, he went to work at the KBC.

A match made in missions

Key to Doyle's physical transformation was his wife, Melissa. The two met in December 1999 when Doyle spoke at her church, Jeffersonton Baptist. "It was an instant connection," she recalled.

They had one big thing in common: a passion for missions. Mrs. Doyle said she sensed a call to missions in college.

After college, she served a two-

year term in home missions before going to seminary. Several overseas mission trips convinced her that she was called to international missions.

She had applied, been accepted, and was at the point of choosing her place of service when she met Doyle.

By January 2000, the two were dating and by February they were engaged. After marrying in August, 2000, they explored their calling.

"It was always understood that we would be overseas one day, we just didn't know the when or where or how," Mrs. Doyle explained.

A December 2001 trip to visit Doyle's missionary parents convinced them they should start pursuing a career in missions.

When the couple returned home, they tackled the weight issue together, making lifestyle changes.

Giving up sugary, salty food and getting on an exercise regimen has not been easy, but mutual support and the pursuit of God's will for their lives has been a real motivator, they said.

"Missions is a lifestyle, not a location," Doyle said, echoing a message he has preached for years in missions education. "Obedience is the issue. When you are seeking to be where He has called you to be, God is going to equip you."

Baptisms up, programs down in state churches

Continued from page 1
and 18,143, respectively.

"I think it's a positive thing that we were up across the board as far as the number of children, youth and adults baptized goes," Garland said.

"I think it's disappointing when you look at the number of churches we have," he added. "We ought to be running over 20,000" baptisms each year.

Noting that annual statistics indicate "about one-third of our churches generally report no baptisms," Garland said the statewide total "is really poor as far as baptisms go."

In addition to baptisms, churches gained 16,030 members through other additions, including members transferring from other congregations.

Worship attendance up

Worship attendance increased by 11,621 to 248,836 after three years of virtually no growth.

"It is good to see that worship attendance is going up," said Vernon Cole, leader of the KBC church growth team. "I think it is indicating there is more attention being given to worship overall."

Cole added, however, that "the big question is: What are these leaders doing to connect these people to the rest of the church? Otherwise, all you've got is an audience. The bigger issue is assimilation—getting them into Sunday school or choir or other groups where they are going to be nurtured."

Among areas of decline, Brotherhood enrollment decreased by 1,767 to 15,568 and WMU enrollment dropped 1,728 to 37,515. Both organizations recorded enrollment growth the previous year.

"It's all in the reporting," said Randy Foster, KBC Brotherhood depart-

Kentucky Annual Church Profile statistics

Category	2002	2001	Increase/Decrease	Percent Change
Total Membership	781,726	773,184	8,542	1.1%
Resident Membership	560,106	557,574	2,532	0.5%
Total Baptisms	17,524	16,543	981	5.9%
Other Additions	16,030	16,019	11	0.1%
Sunday School Enrollment	324,884	328,646	-3,762	-1.1%
Sunday School Attendance	174,645	172,410	2,235	1.3%
Worship Attendance	248,836	237,215	11,621	4.9%
Discipleship Training	73,451	72,554	897	1.2%
Music Enrollment	69,210	69,986	-776	-1.1%
Woman's Missionary Union	37,515	39,243	-1,728	-4.4%
Brotherhood Enrollment	15,568	17,335	-1,767	-10.2%
Undesignated Receipts (*in millions)	\$261.9	\$246.5	\$15.4	6.3%

ment director. He said churches often fail to report Brotherhood involvement in such areas as mission trips, disaster relief and construction.

"We can't depend on any figures other than the ones we deal with directly and those are healthy and increasing," he noted. As examples, he said Brotherhood leaders had trained more than 600 disaster relief volunteers since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and Baptist Builders are on track to double the number of construction projects over previous years.

"Our goal is that every believer in Kentucky will be an on-mission Christian," Foster explained. "There's no place to get those numbers but it's happening and people are getting plugged into mission work."

Citing "a general decline in some of our church programs across the

board," Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton acknowledged that "the numbers are going down."

She emphasized, however, that "we know there are mission groups that are not being counted and we know there are new WMU age-level organizations being started all the time. Kentucky WMU is going to make an effort to work with WMU directors to help increase the accuracy of ACP statistics for the coming year."

Pledging to seek "the best vehicle in today's church for delivering missions education," Bolton added, "I haven't quit believing in the need for missions education. We know we need to expand the work of WMU in the churches, not to build a big organization but because of the outcome of WMU work felt around the world."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ Anne Graham Lotz will lead a two-day "Just Give Me Jesus" women's revival April 25-26 at Rupp Arena in Lexington. Lotz, founder and president of AnGel Ministries, is the daughter of evangelist Billy Graham. Conference sessions will begin at 7 p.m., April 25, and 8:30 a.m., April 26. Admission is free. For more information, call (859) 278-2552 or e-mail Jesuslexky@aol.com.

■ Campbellsville University will host a leadership seminar "The Effective Keys to Leadership," April 17 at the school's technology training center. Registration costs \$69. The event will offer ideas on how to implement a leadership development program within an organization. For more information, call (270) 789-5400 or e-mail classes@cuttc.com.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Can we really prepare for disaster?

By Dale Hanson Bourke

WASHINGTON (RNS)—My teenager wanted a gas mask for Valentine's Day.

He was joking—sort of.

Like the rest of the family, he's torn between taking the warnings about bioterrorism seriously and staying in denial.

I ask my husband if he wants me to stop at the hardware store for some extra duct tape to help make the house airtight and he explains the facts. Our 60-year-old house leaks in so many places we'd have to wrap the entire outside in tape and plastic. And even then it wouldn't filter out microorganisms or radiation.

A three-day supply of water and food? What good would that do? Am I supposed to stock up on camping food or should we just assume we could live for three days on the Pop Tarts stacked up in our pantry?

I feel frustrated by the uncertainty and my self-imposed passivity until I think of disaster situations I have known. Bosnia. Mozambique. Congo. People in each of these places were warned to prepare for war, flooding and a volcano. But how do you prepare without stopping life altogether?

Disasters rarely go as predicted and preparations often seem futile in retrospect. Visiting Sarajevo at different times during the war showed me that people simply kept adapting to the new realities. First they cut down trees for firewood. By the next visit they were stoking fires with precious books and furniture.

Months later they had started pulling off flooring and doors.

The people in Mozambique who had picked out trees to climb to escape rising water probably hadn't counted on snakes climbing along with them. And who in Congo could have realized that the flow of volcanic rock would wipe out hundreds of houses and then split to move around one house, leaving it untouched in a simmering lava field?

In fact, had we been prepared for disaster in September 2001, could any of us foresee that still unbelievable impact of airplane and skyscraper? Would we have been stockpiling food and seeking airtight spaces while a jetliner hurled toward the World Trade Center?

I work for an organization that deals with the aftermath of disasters, natural and man-made. Last year we dealt with the effects of lava, storms,

fire and war. While each event was very different, the people's responses were surprisingly similar.

People often become very generous in times of adversity. They share meager resources with others even if they have less for their own family. Once they have assured survival, they try to make things as normal as possible for their children.

How will we deal with disaster? If it comes, I hope we will handle it half as well as so many people I have seen around the world. I pray it will bring out the best in us, not the worst.

I run through a mental checklist of my block and think of those most vulnerable: the newborn baby across the street, the elderly woman who lives alone, the woman who has suffered a stroke. What could we do to help these families in case of disaster?

I begin to think of calling each one just to stay in touch. And then it occurs to me that perhaps that's how we should all be spending our time, reaching out to each other instead of barricading ourselves into our houses.

I'm not sure there is anything we can really do to prepare for disaster. But I do know that reaching out to those who are even more vulnerable might be the best way to live, disaster or not.

Dale Hanson Bourke is senior vice president of Christian aid group World Relief

FIRST PERSON

What 'en-smallment'?

What is to be "the fate of the Southern Baptist Convention"? Did someone say "en-smallment"?

The Yearbook of American Churches for last year lists the three largest religious groups in North America, in order: Roman Catholics, 65 million (including children); Southern Baptists, 16 million (excluding small children); and United Methodists, 8 million (including children).

The International Mission Board continues to report new record num-

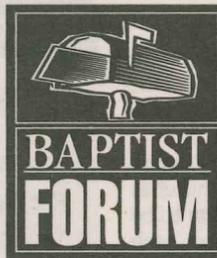
bers around the world. The North American Mission Board reports over 5,000 missionaries, 2,500 chaplains and untold thousands of volunteers. The Annie Armstrong offering set another record last year, up more than \$6 million over the 2000 figure.

Meanwhile, United Methodists have frozen recruiting of new missionaries and eliminated 19 overseas workers, cut 94 staff slots and reduced their missions budget by

over \$7 million; some "para-church" groups are cutting staff; overall charitable giving is down; good and needed work is going undone in many places because of lack of funds. Can any of these drops be blamed on some sort of "conservative takeover" (real or imagined) in the groups involved?

Did someone say "en-smallment"?

R. Charles Blair
Clinton



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Reaching Kentucky and North America

As we approach Easter, many of us are focusing our prayers on the work of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. I think it's important to note that reaching North America for Christ begins in the communities of every Kentucky Baptist church.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention works very closely with NAMB in a variety of ways both here in Kentucky and across the continent. In our own state, we partner in starting new churches and in other evangelism efforts to reach every person in Kentucky for Christ.

There are a number of NAMB missionaries who serve in Kentucky associations and other ministries. At least 120 of these are Mission Service Corps missionaries who minister in prisons, resorts, Job Corps training centers, food and clothing distribution ministries, church and community ministries and economic development ministries.

NAMB also sends funds to Kentucky to help with church starts and special missions projects. In addition, NAMB provides assistance to churches, associations and state conventions

in witness training, interfaith witness training and church and community ministries. All total, more than 5,000 missionaries and 2,500 chaplains serve through NAMB in seeking to help churches reach 220 million unbelievers in the United States and Canada.

Church planting is an important NAMB task all across North America with many of the organization's missionaries in the United States, Canada and U.S. territories charged with the task of starting new churches. In 2003, Southern Baptists have set a goal of starting 2,300 churches.

NAMB has five key priorities: impacting major cities, growing ethnic congregations, evangelizing students, mobilizing volunteers for missions and reaching Canada for Christ.

Working to achieve the first prior-

ity has led to an effort known as Strategic Focus Cities. Since 1998, NAMB has focused on Chicago, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Boston, Seattle and Philadelphia. The Strategic Focus Cities for 2003-2005 are Miami and New York City.

I personally have been impacted by this effort because a new church was started just north of Philadelphia three years ago. When my daughter and her husband moved to the area two years ago, North Point, a church plant, was the only Southern Baptist church in the area.

I thank God that somebody had a vision, and was obedient. My son-in-law was baptized there last spring and has become very active. He now serves on the personnel committee and my daughter has served as volunteer children's minister. I am very grateful for this church because it is the church home for my grandson, John William Nepa, born Dec. 18, 2002!

Make a special effort to pray for our nation this week. Reaching the world for Christ starts at home.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

FAMILY

Widow's example of faith & action offers hope today

By Jeremy White

Will I outlive my money? This has long been an overriding fear for many people as they grow older.

A widow once had the same fear. Her creditors were about to take her sons

as slaves to pay off her debts. Her assets were exhausted except for a jar of oil.

Her husband had been employed by Elisha, a prophet of God. So the widow met with Elisha for help. Elisha didn't offer fringe benefits or a retirement plan, but he did offer a plan of provision.

Elisha instructed her, "Go around and ask your neighbors for empty jars. Then, behind closed doors, start pouring your oil into the jars."

She did as Elisha instructed and the oil kept flowing. It filled all the jars she had gathered—a pretty good return on her initial investment of oil.

Elisha told her to sell the oil and pay her debts. Then, he said, her family could live on what was left.

What did the widow do for her wealth to last? Some of her own actions, some faith and God's provision. As one preacher said, "Work like it depends on you; pray like it depends on God." Among her actions:

■ *She knew her current situation.* She was aware of her debts and aware of her limited assets.

■ *She sought answers and help.* Rather than simply worry, she took action.

■ *She went to the right source for help.* Instead of listening to all the other worrying widows at the well, she went to Elisha for godly counsel.

■ *She obeyed.* The prophet's unusual advice didn't sound so profitable. This was not how her mother or grandmother had done it. But she obeyed and benefited.

■ *She participated in the economy.* Although her story is mainly one of God's miraculous provision, she still had to acquire jars, advertise the oil, sell the oil, collect the money, pay off the debtors and allocate the rest of the proceeds.

You likely have more assets available than a jar of oil. But the fear of those assets lasting remains relevant. God is our ultimate Sustainer and Provider. But like the widow, you will need to do your part as God provides.

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



Activities can help children understand & celebrate Lent

Q: How can I help my child understand and celebrate Lent?

Many Protestant children have been exposed to Advent as a time of getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. However, most Baptist children would be confused by the question, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

Celebrating Lent provides an opportunity to focus a child's attention on Easter, and to help communicate the importance of Jesus' resurrection. If your child is familiar with Advent, you can begin by comparing the two observances. Explain that Lent consists of the 40 days leading up to Easter, and prepares us to celebrate Easter just as Advent prepares us to celebrate Christmas.

Lent centers around the ideas of sacrifice, fasting and prayer. We give up certain things in order to have more time to pray and think about God. A child might want to give up a TV show or a favorite food or drink as a way of showing his or her love for God. Another child might want to earn or give extra money to missions.

Be sure to tell the stories of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, and to participate in worship services together. Serving a simple meal of soup and bread can be a way of emphasizing Lent's themes of simplicity and self-denial. One pastor suggests that children might want to use the period of Lent simply as a time to practice being nice to each other. Kind deeds done for God can be tracked by placing pennies in a box, which can be decorated by the child. The money can then be put in the offering on Easter Sunday.

Most children love pretzels and will enjoy learning that pretzels were invented by a monk who was preparing unleavened bread for Lent. The story of pretzels along with a simple recipe can be found at www.geocities.com/joelle109/Lenten_Pretzels.html.—David Garrard

Q: I don't seem to have any self-control or discipline in my life at all. Any suggestions?

One recent study turned up three suggestions for individuals facing such a dilemma:

First, it has been found that simply getting enough sleep can make a big difference in turning down temptation. For many people, a primary reason they are less than they can be is simply sleep deprivation. This seemed to be the case for Peter, James and John. When Jesus asked them to be with Him in the garden as He prayed, they fell asleep.

The second thing the study found was the need for more positive emotional experiences. What are some healthy outlets available to you for having fun such as an enjoyable pastime or hobby? What healthy forms of recreation with others would interest you? How might you be able to take mini-Sabbaths at work? How can you improve your relationships with others in order to make spending time with them more fun? You won't be thinking about being deprived of something bad if you are able to enjoy the goodness that God has placed at your disposal.

The third suggestion is self-regulated exercises. For example, if your problem is with food, keep a food journal. If you want to slouch less, do self-monitoring of your posture.

Our culture is so packed with activity that we often are tempted to try to do 50 things at once. Mindful practice in your everyday moments can be even more powerful when you bring Jesus into the picture. Visualize that He is with you constantly, every minute of every day. Remember that living in His name is not just a performance. His presence also includes His power (Acts 1:8). It is a partnership.—James Stillwell

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



Church growth requires reaping & keeping

It's been said that statistics can be used to prove just about anything. Assuming that is true, Kentucky Baptists' 2002 Annual Church Profile report clearly proves that Kentucky Baptist churches are growing, declining and plateaued.

How can the same report be used to support all three conclusions? Consider the total number of baptisms as an example. 2002 ACP statistics show an increase of 981 baptisms over the previous year. That's growth. Yet the 2002 baptism total is 619 below the total reported in 2000. That's decline. Since 1999, the average annual increase in baptisms has been less than 0.6 percent. That's a plateau.

This certainly isn't an effort to pick on church baptisms, however. In fact, with a 5.9 percent increase in baptisms over 2001, Kentucky Baptists' 2002 baptism rate is one of the high points in the past year's statistical summary.

Additionally, as KBC Associate Executive Director Steve Thompson pointed out, "With baptisms (as opposed to ongoing church program enrollment figures), you have to start from zero every year; you're starting from scratch."

"In that sense," Thompson added, the total number of baptisms reported "is significant. Those are real numbers—more than 17,500 people were baptized last year" in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Yet it was Dan Garland, leader of the KBC evangelism growth team, who cautioned that the total number of baptisms "is disappointing when you look at the number of churches we have."

With more than 2,400 Kentucky Baptist congregations, Garland suggested that "we ought to be running over 20,000" baptisms per year.

Describing the baptisms as "more of a systemic thing," Garland explained, "I think there has

seeped into our churches a universalism thought that it doesn't really matter what you believe as long as you're sincere about it. It's one thing to be a pluralistic society, but it's another thing to let that seep into your theology. If we don't believe Jesus is the only way to heaven, the edge is taken off on evangelism."

Garland said one concern is that churches "are trying to reap a harvest in an unseeded generation."

Voicing confidence, however, that "the pendulum is swinging" among many of today's Christian young people, Garland said he believes there is "a new generation of leaders who are emerging who are not satisfied with the status quo."

But even with some churches experiencing numerical growth, another concern is the number of people who fall through the cracks in church involvement. While ACP records show 17,524 baptisms and 16,030 other additions for a total gain of more than 33,500 church members last year, Kentucky Baptists' total resident membership increased a mere 2,532.

Where are the other 31,000 new members? Or perhaps a more realistic question is: What happened to 31,000 existing members while we were reaching 33,500 others? Obviously, much of the transfer growth simultaneously includes increases for some Kentucky Baptist churches and decreases for others. But that still leaves thousands of members unaccounted for.

As Kentucky Baptist churches continue to grow, decline and plateau, seeking ways to reap more souls for Christ remains an urgent priority. But it must come with a twofold emphasis of effectively reaping and keeping those individuals to whom our churches minister.

That's the only sure way to move from decline to long-term growth. But don't just take my word for it. I've got statistics to prove it.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

When can a war be considered just?

By Tony Cartledge and Robert Marus

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—The concept of "just war" is sometimes identified with fourth-century Christian theologians, but the principle originated in Greek thought and is reflected in the writings of Plato and Aristotle in the fourth and fifth centuries B.C., according to Daniel Heimbach, professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Christian theologians such as Augustine (fourth-fifth century), Thomas Aquinas (13th century) and Martin Luther and John Calvin (16th century) elaborated on the theory.

During the prelude to the 1991 Persian Gulf War, a detailed memo from Heimbach—then working as an advisor to President George H.W. Bush—led to Bush's articulation of just war principles in assembling a coalition to wage war against Iraq.

As the potential for another war with Iraq unfolds, President George W. Bush has again employed just war terminology. But critics, including former President Jimmy Carter, say the current conflict does not meet just war criteria.

The outline for just war principles enumerates the following essentials for going to war:

■ **Just cause.** Just causes for war may include the vindication of justice, the restoration of a just international order that has been violated, the protection of innocent human life or the restoration of human rights, but not the imposition of the victor's ideals.

■ **Competent authority.** Only those who are invested with proper authority and responsibility can initiate a just war.

■ **Comparative justice.** The moral merit on "our" side must clearly outweigh the moral merit of the other.

■ **Right intention.** The purpose of a just war must be limited to obtaining or restoring a just peace. Desires to punish or humiliate the enemy are not proper intentions.

■ **Last resort.** All non-violent alternatives must be exhausted before resorting to war, with lethal force being seen as a tragic necessity when other approaches have failed.

■ **Probability of success.** No matter how just the cause, war is justified only if there is a good prospect of success.

■ **Proportionality of expected results.** The anticipated good to result from the war must be greater than the expected costs of the war.

■ **Right spirit.** Even when judged to be necessary, war should be regarded as a tragic and regrettable means for obtaining or restoring a just peace. Heimbach also listed several prin-

ciples for the conduct of a just war:

■ **Proportionality in the use of force.** Deadly force should be used only to the extent needed to obtain a just objective, and no more.

■ **Discrimination.** A distinction must be maintained between combatants and non-combatants.

■ **Avoidance of evil means.** No matter how just the cause, the use of "evil means" is prohibited. These include actions such as executing prisoners, taking hostages, desecrating holy places and slaughtering non-combatants.

■ **Good faith.** As much as possible, the enemy must be treated in good faith to keep open the possibility of reconciliation.

Heimbach said he believes the case against Iraq meets all the classical criteria for a just war.

Carter, however, wrote in a March 8 essay in *The New York Times*, "As a Christian and as a president who was severely provoked by international crises, I became thoroughly familiar with the principles of a just war, and it is clear that a substantially unilateral attack on Iraq does not meet these standards."

"In the case of Iraq, it is obvious that clear alternatives to war exist," Carter wrote, including a beefed-up weapons inspection regime.

As the countdown to possible war continues, so does the debate.

Tony Cartledge is editor of the *North Carolina Biblical Recorder* and Robert Marus is Washington bureau chief for *Associated Baptist Press*.

Open letter urges prayer and fasting for Iraq crisis

WASHINGTON (BP)—A dozen Christian leaders issued a call March 5 for prayer and fasting that a war with Iraq might be averted.

Though the signers acknowledge many of them believe a conflict with Iraq would be justified, they said in an open letter "no one wants to go to war."

"Fasting and prayer are the Christian response to this perilous hour," they wrote. "God in His providence may yet spare us from war. We must ask Him to intervene. Pray that, by God's mercy, there will be no reason to go to war. Pray for wisdom for our leaders and for God's mercy on Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people."

Among the signatories are Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries; Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.; Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse; Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; Richard John Neuhaus, a Roman Catholic priest and president of the Institute on Religion and Public Life; Sandy Rios, president of Concerned Women for America; and Pat Robertson, chief executive officer of the Christian Broadcasting Network.

The letter called for Christians and churches of all traditions to pray if war does occur that "it will be short and that God will spare civilians."

Pray too for the protection of those in uniform and that our leaders will be wise and merciful."

Christian leaders draft proposal to remove Saddam without war

WASHINGTON (ABP)—In a last-ditch effort to prevent war, a diverse group of Christian leaders opposed to President Bush's plan to attack Iraq has put forth an alternative plan.

The leaders, representing several Protestant groups, issued a six-point plan March 7 for disarming Iraq without resorting to war. They say their proposal avoids pitfalls on both sides of the war debate.

"The delegation hopes that by presenting this six-point religious initiative, the world may avoid a war that could cause significant casualties, further destabilization of the Middle East and possibly fuel additional acts of terrorism," said a statement accompanying the plan. "While at the same time, we hope to bring a tyrant to justice, provide aid to the Iraqi people and bring lasting peace to the region."

The plan's drafters claim their proposal creates a "third way" between anti-war pacifism and hawkishness on Iraq by endorsing one of Bush's primary goals—the removal of Saddam Hussein from power—without risking thousands of Iraqi lives.

The plan was developed after national leaders of mainline and evangelical Protestant groups met with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Feb. 18. Blair, Bush's chief international ally in proposing a war to disarm Saddam, discussed the theological implications of war with the leaders.

Signatories to the plan include Dan Weiss, the recently retired general secretary of the American Baptist Churches; Jim Wallis, editor of the evangelical journal Sojourners; John Chane, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington; Clifton Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and Melvin Talbert, ecumenical officer for the United Methodist Council of Bishops. Bush so far has declined to meet with the group.

The plan's six points are:

- Remove Saddam Hussein and his Ba'ath political party from power by establishing a United Nations tribunal that would indict Saddam for past "war crimes and crimes against humanity."

- Institute a beefed-up United Nations inspection regime of "coercive disarmament." This would increase the number of inspectors and back them up with military force.

- Foster a democratic "post-Saddam Iraq governed temporarily by the UN and backed if necessary by international armed forces, rather than a U.S. military occupation."

- Provide humanitarian relief to the people of Iraq now rather than waiting until after a war.

- Recommit to an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan that includes a call for a Palestinian state to be in place by 2005.

- Reinvigorate the international war against terror aimed at al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden.

Following in the footsteps

If you and your family are considering ways to honor a loved one, consider giving someone else the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of your loved one.

The way to do that is to establish a scholarship fund as a tribute. It is a fitting way both to honor your loved one and to make education opportunities available to future students. If your loved one is a teacher, you might prioritize students in education; if a physician, then prioritize pre-med students; if a church staff minister, then prioritize ministerial students. You can prioritize students preparing for whatever area of life in which your loved one has made a mark.

Awarding scholarships to Kentucky Baptist students is one of the most gratifying aspects of the foundation's ministry. Each year, the foundation awards approximately \$200,000 to students attending Campbellsville, Cumberland, Georgetown, Clear Creek, Mid-Continent, Southern Seminary and Boyce. In addition, approximately \$75,000 is awarded to first-year students from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Scholarship Fund. The foundation also manages scholarship funds for a number of churches.

All of these scholarships were established by people who loved young people, who believed in the abilities of our Baptist educational institutions to prepare students effectively to live in the world and to follow in the footsteps of the loved ones for whom the scholarships were named, and who trusted the foundation to administer the scholarships until Jesus comes again.

Some of these scholarship endowments were established by outright gifts of cash or appreciated assets. Some were established by bequests in wills. Some have been established by a combination of gifts during one's lifetime and then additions at death by bequests. Perhaps you are not in a position to give up the income you receive from a particular asset, but you would like to go ahead and make the gift. In that case, a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust would be worth considering.

Call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me to assist you in establishing a way for future students to follow in the footsteps of your loved one.

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

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Barry Allen

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An Authentic Heart Spring Banquet for Women Featuring Ann Kiemel Anderson



Tuesday, April 1, 2003

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Shelbyville

Cost: \$15

Ann Kiemel Anderson began her adult life with a bang. Known for her enthusiastic evangelism, she wrote *I'm Out to Change My World* in her early twenties and became a popular author. Change, her life certainly did. Major life disappointments, but most of all, an addiction to approval, tried to tear her world apart. Ann will share from her experience of brokenness how God He can restore your world when it falls apart.

Join us for this evening which offers a delicious dinner, delightful fellowship and music, and a message that will impact your life. To reserve a seat, make your check to First Baptist Church for \$15 per person attending, and mail to FBC Women's Event, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, Ky., 40065. We will mail you tickets and a map. Please include your name, full mailing address, and phone number in your request. For more information, call (502) 633-1317 or (502) 633-0671.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Senate passes "partial birth abortion" ban.** For the first time since it returned to Republican control earlier this year, the Senate passed legislation March 13 to ban late-term abortion procedures labeled by critics as "partial-birth abortion." The vote was 64 to 33, with 16 Democrats joining the majority. Three Republicans and one independent voted against the legislation. Supporters expect the bill to sail through the House by the end of April and for Bush to sign it into law shortly thereafter. But opponents say the bill is virtually identical to a law overturned by the Supreme Court three years ago.

■ **Tips offered for Bush AIDS policy.** More than a dozen conservative Christian leaders have applauded President Bush's global HIV/AIDS initiative and proposed principles for future policy addressing the disease. Leaders such as Prison Fellowship Chairman Chuck Colson and Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, outlined their own principles for global AIDS legislation that reflect their stands for abstinence and against abortion. They urged that prevention techniques use the "ABC" model that has been successful in Uganda—focusing on abstinence first, then being faithful to a monogamous partner, and condoms.

■ **Group: List of religious freedom violators falls short.** The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom says the State Department left out major violators of religious freedoms when it singled out six countries earlier this month. The State Department named Burma, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea and Sudan to be "Countries of Particular Concern." The commission said it also had recommended India, Laos, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Vietnam—countries that "even the State Department's own religious freedom reports" document as severe violators.

mark your calendars for the upcoming ...

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Sharing the Biblical Jesus with People of Other Beliefs

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Hickory Grove Baptist Church / Independence

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

First Baptist Church / Morehead

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

Mid-Continent Bible College / Mayfield

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

Second Baptist Church / Hopkinsville

March Instructors:

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

Mormonism - Arthur Sido / New Age Spirituality - Don Metcalf

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

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

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Meet some in the class of 2003

Last week I told you about a young man who I described as "a diamond in the rough." The student I want to tell you about today was a lot like him except there was no diamond, just rough!

"Charlotte" (not her real name) came to Oneida Baptist Institute two years ago. Her single-parent father was overwhelmed with her behavior. Charlotte was more than a little out of control. She did not like restrictions of any kind. Family conflicts quickly flowed over into her school life.

When we received her school records prior to enrollment, we were concerned with the long history of poor choices she had made. Charlotte normally would admit to her wrong deeds, but seemingly had little desire to change. She often misbehaved in school, resulting in detentions, which she normally never showed up to serve. In class she was disruptive, liked to talk all the time and made it very difficult for the teacher to have an environment where students could learn. She even had called teachers and peers names. Charlotte had taken cigarettes to school on numerous occasions. Suspensions had little or no effect on her behavior.

Problems at home included running away, which resulted in spending time in a crisis center. Back talking and arguing about the rules kept the household in turmoil. We weren't sure that Oneida was the best place for her, but we decided to give her a chance.

From nearly the first day, we encountered the same negative behavior. She questioned and challenged every rule. But we did not find her quick to admit her mistakes. She often would deny or minimize her bad behavior. There have been plenty of opportunities for us to expel her, and many

of our staff would have been greatly relieved if we had done so. Fortunately, the person who makes those decisions had a forgiving heart.

Recently the seniors wrote essays about their Oneida experience. Here is part of what Charlotte wrote: "Before I came to Oneida, my relationship with my father was bad, my grades were poor and I was hanging out with the wrong crowd. Since I have been here, ... my relationship with my whole family has improved. My grades have gone from D's and F's to A's, B's and C's. ... I have been on the honor roll some of the time."

"What I like most about Oneida is the staff. They care so much about each and every one of us. They must really enjoy their jobs to have to put up with some of the things students do. ... It took me just about getting kicked out three or four times to realize how badly I wanted and needed to stay."

Charlotte has come a long way, and she still has more to go. She still likes to talk, especially when she should be quiet. Part of her success can be attributed to her involvement in our FFA program. She also has worked in our daycare, which has given her an opportunity to act more responsibly. Tutoring younger students has given her a sense of pride and accomplishment as well.

When Charlotte enrolled, she said her two primary goals were to control her "smart mouth" and to have a much better attitude. It has been an uphill struggle, but with God's grace and a loving and supportive staff, Charlotte has made a lot of progress.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Home school student involved in missions

Clear Creek has about 40 children of students involved in home schooling. Gayle Griggs teaches Amanda, 16; Wesley, 14; and Brandon, 10; while their dad, Jeffery, completes his work at Clear Creek.

The family is from Corydon. "I enjoy home school very much," Amanda said. "I know for some it doesn't work because the kids don't get along with their parents very well. Mom does a great job; she trusts us not to cheat and seek her for help."

Clear Creek has a home school co-op group for parent support and shared extracurricular activities. "We do extra science experiments and art projects. We also use the college library for research and reports," Amanda said.

Preparing to move to Clear Creek, Amanda wasn't sure she would make many friends, thinking there were not many teenagers on campus. "I met someone soon after we came. We occasionally go swimming, exercise and enjoy skating together," she said. "It is lots of fun in the snow; this winter all the kids built a really big snow man."

Amanda is thankful for good experiences on mission trips. "In Charleston, S.C., we did beach min-

istry. We walked on the beach and gave away sunscreen and bottles of water and asked for prayer requests," Amanda said. "The team also helped a church conduct a backyard Bible club."

In September 2002 she journeyed to Russia with Virginia Mission of Hope. "We went to orphanages and distributed medication, Bibles, toys and other children's needs. It was an amazing experience. I was only 15 at the time and unsure about being away from home for two weeks," Amanda said. "I have a great aunt who has done many mission trips. She went on this trip and helped me so much. She is known in Corydon as 'the bread lady' because she sells bread to get money for her trips. She paid my way. I'd love to go back."

A special memory from Russia motivates her desire for more missions involvement. "One day we went to get some souvenirs to bring home and met this man. He began talking with our tour guide, and we witnessed to him and prayed with him," Amanda stated. "He became a Christian."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

The lonely pacifist

Hauerwas rejects assumptions about 'just war'

By Jason White
Religion News Service

DURHAM, N.C. (RNS)—Less than two years after Time magazine named him America's best theologian, Stanley Hauerwas may well be the nation's loneliest.

Hauerwas, you see, is a pacifist, a rare breed in today's world. As such, Hauerwas believes that the only proper Christian response to aggression, even terrorism, is a nonviolent one.

In a season of renewed threats of war and orange alerts, that is no small claim. For where Hauerwas' pacifism was once considered quirky or even quaint, it is now, in a post-9/11 world, thought by some to be dangerous. A few even call it immoral.

So why persist? Why, in the face of weapons of mass destruction and trenchant criticism, does Hauerwas remain a pacifist?

"I am a pacifist because I cannot imagine being anything other than a pacifist in light of the gospel of Christ," said Hauerwas, a professor of theology at Duke University.

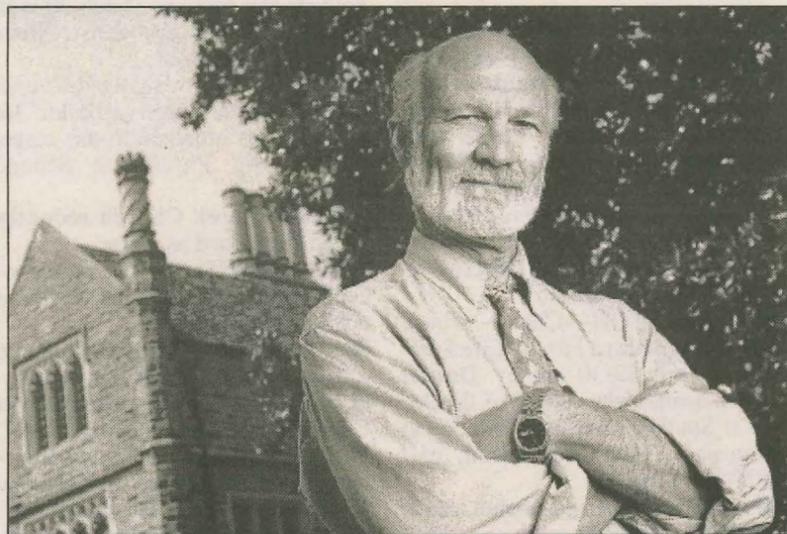
Hauerwas draws his pacifism from the life and teachings of Jesus. The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' clearest expression of a pacifist ethic, is one resource. Another is the example Jesus set on the cross, where He chose to undermine evil by giving up His life.

All followers of Jesus must live this way too, Hauerwas said. Christians, in other words, should be more ready to die than to kill.

Taking Jesus seriously enough?

The fact that most Christians think this claim is crazy, that most would rather kill than be killed, is for Hauerwas a sign that they may not take following Jesus seriously enough.

"I fear that one of the reasons non-violence isn't given the time of day is because so many American Christians think they can have a relationship with



STANLEY HAUERWAS The Duke University theologian said he recognizes that he has his work cut out for him to convince Christians of the need for non-violence, even in the face of terrorism. (RNS photos)

Jesus that doesn't have immediate implications for their lives," he said.

For a nation threatened by a shadowy network of terrorists, these are fighting words. In some cases they've served to marginalize Hauerwas, even imperiling longstanding friendships.

One such strained friendship is with Richard John Neuhaus, a Catholic priest and editor of First Things, a journal of religion and public life. Hauerwas was a member of the journal's editorial board. But when First Things took an increasingly hard-line stance in the war on terrorism, Hauerwas felt his beliefs were no longer respected. So he resigned.

"I admire much of what they stand for, but I found their position about the war so antithetical to anything that I could even begin to identify with, I just finally thought I should resign," Hauerwas said.

Neuhaus said he wished Hauerwas had stayed on.

"It was his decision, not mine. Stanley's a good friend and we've argued these things for many, many years," Neuhaus said.

As a just war theorist, Neuhaus disagrees with Hauerwas over whether Christians should ever fight in a war. Neuhaus thinks they can, and that in the case of the United States' war on

terrorism, they should.

Peace loving, but not soft headed

Neuhaus said he does, however, respect Hauerwas' pacifist stance for its toughness. He said that unlike the humanistic pacifism that informs the anti-war statements of the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church and even the secular peace movement, Hauerwas' nonviolence is grounded in a realistic and skeptical view of human nature.

"Stanley's not a utopian. He's not a sentimentalist. He doesn't believe that going over and hugging Saddam Hussein is going to resolve this crisis," Neuhaus said.

Raised the son of a bricklayer in Pleasant Grove, Texas, Hauerwas is as feisty and combative as intellectuals come. This bald and bearded professor has the mindset of an NFL cornerback, with ever-alert eyes and hard-hitting tackles. He curses like a sailor—even in the classroom. Little about him suggests the meekness so often associated with pacifism.

William Cavanaugh, a friend and fellow theologian, has this to say about Hauerwas' tough nature: "Indeed, of all the great Christian pacifists over the centuries—Hippolytus, Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther King—Stanley Hauerwas is the one I would want on my side in a bar fight."

Hauerwas himself says one reason he so loudly proclaims his nonviolent ethic is so that his listeners might keep him from killing someone.

Despite an obvious passion for debating these issues, Hauerwas is a reluctant activist. At heart, he's an intellectual, more comfortable discussing St. Augustine's "The City of God" than he is President Bush's foreign policy. Yet an activist is exactly what Hauerwas has become.

A hectic speaking schedule pulls Hauerwas away from wife and home once a week. This past Valentine's Day, Hauerwas was in Washington, D.C., speaking about Christian pacifism to more than a hundred people.

"A lot of people don't think worshipping Jesus requires nonviolence," he said during a break. "I understand that, and that's the reason why I recognize that this is a long-haul business."

Angler Houston: Refusal of beer patch costs tournament points

By Jerry Pierce
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—America's most famous fisherman won't be hooking any year-end honors in 2003 because he won't carry a beer label's decal on his boat or clothes.



Houston

Jimmy Houston, host of the ESPN2 television series "Jimmy Houston Outdoors," refused to wear a Busch beer apparel patch and add a Busch decal to his boat at three recent Bass Angler Sportsman Society professional events.

Consequently, Houston said he has had to forfeit points needed to qualify for the prestigious BASS Master's Classic tournament and a potential Angler of the Year prize worth \$100,000.

Of 182 BASS anglers, Houston has been the only one to refuse the Busch logos.

BASS signed Busch as an official sponsor last summer. Houston said he learned of the requirement to carry Busch apparel and decals last fall and knew immediately he could not comply for "ethical, moral and scriptural reasons."

Twice honored as Angler of the Year and a BASS competitor since 1968—and the most veteran among active pros—Houston said BASS is a good organization but is trying to increase visibility and revenue by aligning with a sponsor inappropriate with its family-friendly history.

Ironically, BASS participants are prohibited from consuming alcohol on days preceding and during BASS events, said Houston, a deacon at First Southern Baptist Church of Keys, Okla.

Houston was instrumental in developing a Fellowship of Christian Anglers group and counts many of those complying with the rule as Christian brothers and friends.

In addition to Houston, Georgia angler Paul Hanley and Mark Rose of Arkansas also have forfeited Busch BASS Angler of the Year points for not donning the Busch logo.

Lendell Martin chose not to compete in any BASS events in 2003. Martin said he withdrew his entry fee and is trying to earn qualification on the Wal-Mart FLW Tour.

Houston and others who compete but don't wear the Busch patch are eligible for prize money at each event, but cannot accumulate BASS points for honors or for re-qualification for next year's tour.

To compete next year, they'll have to qualify through other means.

Houston has qualified for 15 BASS Master Classics—the granddaddy of fishing tournaments—and is an inductee into the Fishing Hall of Fame, Hall of Legendary Anglers and the Pro Bass Angler Association Hall of Fame.

"He's basically on the outside looking in because of his Christian testimony," said Andy Bowman, Houston's pastor and collaborator with Houston on two books, "The Reel Line" and "Hooked for Life."

But Houston said God has validated his decision.

"I had to leave my truck and boat with a Chevrolet dealer in Tallahassee, Fla., for 10 days last month while I flew to Los Angeles. During that time, he moved my boat into the showroom for everyone to see. Can you imagine people seeing a Busch beer decal on my boat and thinking Jimmy Houston is endorsing Busch beer? What message would that send?"

Standing on principle is a faith exercise, Houston noted.

"It feels like a kick in the head. That's what it feels like. I've been through this a thousand times in business. But thankfully, I'm not running things—God is."

Comments about BASS' decision can be sent to the organization by e-mail at customerservice@bassmaster.com; or by phone, (334) 272-9530, or fax, (334) 279-7148.



ON THE OTHER HAND Paul Makohn, a former Michigan National Guardsman, is distributing signs in support of the United States. "The peace signs don't seem to give people any choice. I don't want a war, but my country comes first," he said.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Give thanks for four believers in Warsaw, Poland, who recently were commissioned to start Bible study cell groups in other parts of Poland. Missionaries write that this is a direct answer to prayer.
- 500 prayer warriors needed to pray May 12-19 for Budapest, Hungary. E-mail renwalder@juno.com if you will pray.

■ International Service Corps workers Fritz and Karyn Koehring as they explore the possibility of starting a Bible study among the deaf in Breclav, Czech Republic.

■ The Baptist church in Morsang, France, as the congregation strives to become financially self sufficient.

■ Opportunities for missionaries in Spain to minister to Europeans who vacation in Spain.

■ Baptists in Russia as they must deal with governmental authorities unsympathetic to evangelicals.

■ Follow-up to suicide prevention workshops led by Baptist representatives in Khabarovsk, Russia, this month.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BENTON**—First Church will host an evangelism rally March 20, 7 p.m., with **Harold Hunter** as evangelist.

■ **BÉREA**—Galilee Church called **Larry Harris** as interim pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church recently called **Larry Rowell** as minister of education. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Hebron Church called **Joe Farless** as interim pastor.

■ **FISHERVILLE**—Parkland Hills Church will host **The McKendrees** in concert March 23, 11 a.m. **Mark Swan** is pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—First Church called **Gary Frizzell** as interim pastor.

■ **GRAVEL SWITCH**—Beech Fork Church ordained **W.E. Taylor Jr.**, as a deacon March 2. **Lee Arnold** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Bethel Church ordained **Mark Gray**, **Tim Gray** and **Spencer Tatum** as deacons March 9. Bethel will hold revival services March 23-28 with **Richard Easterling**, pastor of Hopewell Church, Harrodsburg, as evangelist. **David Culp** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Eastview Church called **Barry Proctor** as pastor effective March 9.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Chevy Chase Church will host a Family Life Seminar March 29-30 led by **Daniel Akin**, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. For information, call (859) 266-2601.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church recently began a year-long celebration of its 75th anniversary. **Don Rogers** is pastor.

■ **MACKVILLE**—Mackville Church called **Mark Stewart** as pastor Feb. 2.

■ **ONEIDA**—Oneida Church will hold revival services March 30 with **Dennis Rush** as evangelist. **Steve Crumpler** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Highland Church called **Patrick Yates** as pastor. He recently was ordained to the gospel ministry by Providence Second Church.

Sugar Creek Church recently called **Dale Ford** as pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—First Church recently called **John Ward** as senior adult director.

■ **SYMSONIA**—Symsonia Church ordained **Robert Davis** as a deacon.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Main Street Church called **Bill Wright** as pastor. He previously was pastor and minister of music of churches in Kentucky and North Carolina. The church will host a reception for Wright March 30, 2 to 4 p.m., at Cumberland Inn in Williamsburg.

Hays, longtime KBC staffer, dies

LOUISVILLE—Douglas Hays, a longtime Kentucky Baptist Convention staff member, died March 13 after an extended illness. He was 69.

Hays served more than 30 years on the KBC staff, including his role as director of the computer services department, a position he held from 1985 until his retirement in 1998. After his retirement, Hays was a consultant for the KBC information services department.

"I'm going to see Jesus face to face," Hays told friends last week, inviting them to gather around his hospital bed and sing favorite hymns. His memorial service was held March 14 at Hazelwood Baptist Church in Louisville.

A lifelong Baptist, Hays was a member of Davis Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville. He played piano and organ for several churches.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Broken Vessel Ministries, a young adult team with a heart for Jesus, is available to your church for youth retreats, revivals, DiscipleNOW classes, worship events, etc. Call (859) 356-3222; or e-mail: piner@eos.net.

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

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

SEEKING: 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: Farmdale Baptist Church prayerfully seeks part-time minister of music/worship leader. If interested, please send resumé to: Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Highway 127 South, Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Personnel.

SEEKING: Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., is seeking a minister of music. Immanuel is a progressive Baptist congregation in Western Kentucky affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Southern Baptist Convention and West Union Baptist Association. The church is a diverse congregation of more than 800 members. The worship of the church may be characterized by a warm formality, and the seasons of Advent, Lent and Holy Week are significant times of worship. The church has a strong tradition of excellence in church music. The person interested in this position should be a classically trained musician with at least a master's degree and an authentic appreciation for a wide range of musical styles for worship. He or she should be able to conduct major classical works with orchestral accompaniment. The minister of music will direct, coordinate and supervise a full music ministry that presently includes sanctuary choir, church orchestra, graded choir program, youth choir, quartet, ensembles, handbells and chimes. The minister of music also coordinates and conducts a dramatic musical presentation each December titled "The Life of Christ In Living Pictures." This presentation now enters its 20th year. He or she also will be expected to assume other ministerial responsibilities. The minister of music will serve with three other full-time ministers: senior minister, minister of education and minister to students. He or she will receive secretarial support from the church secretary/receptionist who also provides support for two other staff members. The music staff includes a part-time organist, part-time pianist, part-time orchestra director and a large number of volunteers. The church has a newly renovated 3-manual, 35-rank pipe organ. Please send letters of inquiry and/or resumé to: Personnel Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 3465 Buckner Lane, Paducah, KY 42001. Applications/resumé will be accepted through May 1, 2003.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Boones Creek Baptist Church. Send resumé and video or audio tape to: Pastor Search Committee, Boones Creek Baptist Church, 185 N Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40509-9485.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director. Growing youth group of 25 needs part-time youth director to lead in Bible-based training and growth. Requirements include one week per summer for youth mission trip, two youth involvement events per month and weekly Wednesday night Bible training. If interested, please mail resumé to: Poplar Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 29, Corbin, KY 40701, Attn: Youth Director Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to children for Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky. Please send resumé to Belinda Berry, PO Box 130, Elizabethtown, Ky 42702, or call (270) 765-7822 for more information.

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: Part-time youth minister for Sulphur Spring 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: 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: Minister to single adults, Lexington/Midlands of South Carolina. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Lexington Baptist Church, 308 E Main St., Lexington, SC 29072.

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

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

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time 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.

TOURS: Phoenix convention; Grand Canyon Motorcoach tours. Family/golf resort accommodations and hotel packages; ideal location; shuttle; discount airfares. Christian Travelers (800) 972-8952. www.christiantravelers.com.

Creative Ministries Festival

LOUISVILLE—Students from throughout the commonwealth were in Louisville March 7-8 for the annual Creative Ministries Festival, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The sold-out event at St. Matthews Baptist Church drew approximately 2,100 people from 165 churches. Workshops ranged from drama and interpretive movement to juggling and puppetry.

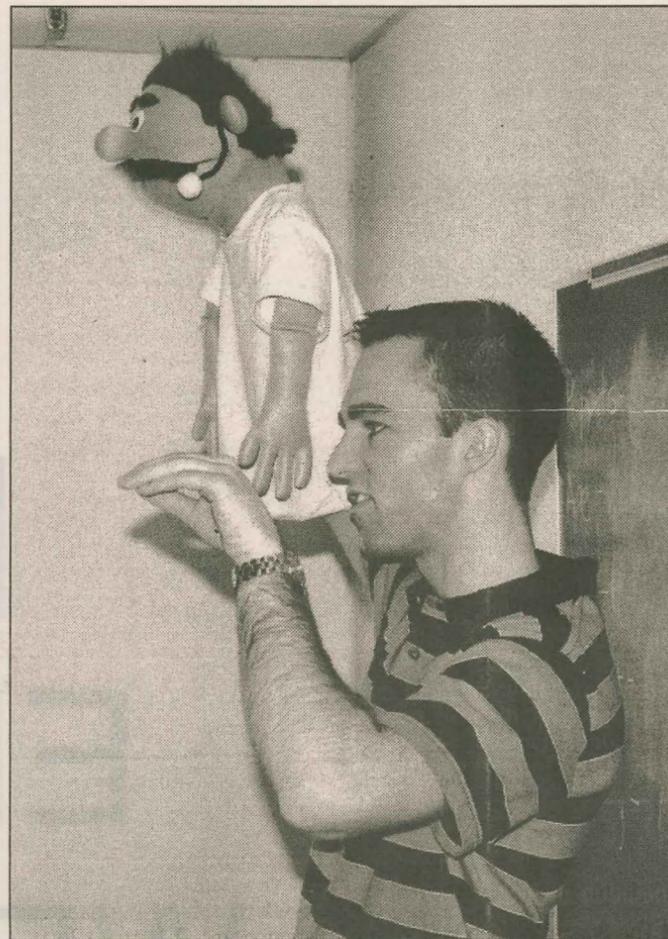
In addition, 42 churches offered a variety of performances.

Tom Smoot, director of the KBC creative ministries department, said performance ministries allow even the shiest of church members to take part in team presentations that share the Christian faith.

"It's a matter of churches stepping out of their four walls, offering an outreach to other churches."



STICKS & TONES Teens from Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg perform an interpretive movement to the song "Arise My Love." (Photos by John Heinrich)



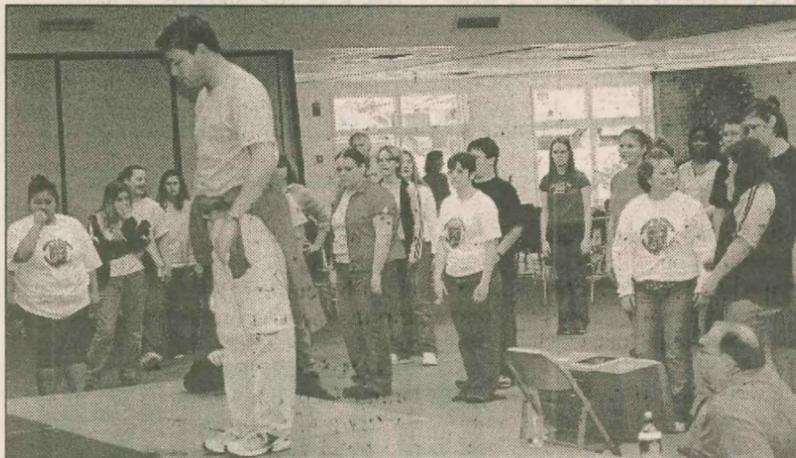
PUPPET POWER Bill Noe, a campus ministry intern at the University of Louisville and student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, teaches a puppet workshop.



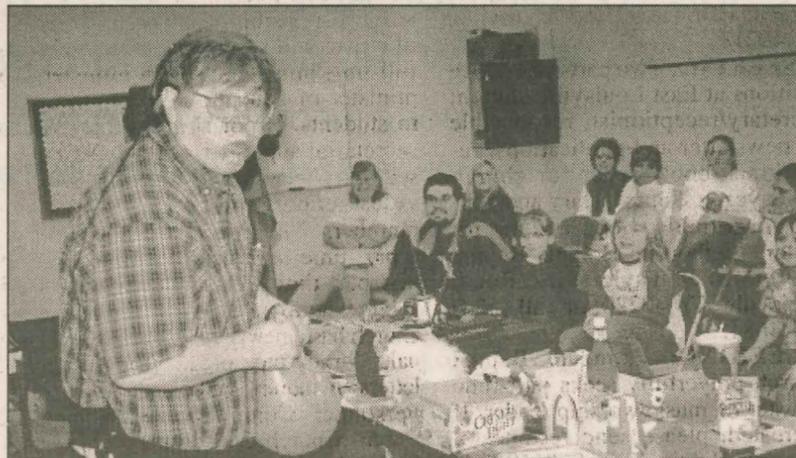
CLOWNING AROUND Members of Northside Baptist Church in Morganfield perform a sketch involving a clown.



AIRING IT OUT A workshop participant shows off the handiwork from a "Beginning Balloons" class.



MOVE IT Greg Cagle of First Baptist Church of Pikeville teaches an interpretive movement workshop.



OBJECT LESSONS Keith Pound teaches a workshop on using balloons and other visual aids for teaching children.

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