

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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Activists find ultrasounds a persuasive tool against abortion

By Mark O'Keefe  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Pregnant and distressed, 23-year-old Rebekah Nancarrow walked into a faith-based pregnancy center in Dallas "95 percent certain I was going to have an abortion."

What turned her around was seeing an ultrasound. "She was kicking, she had legs," said Nancarrow, who said she promised on the spot, "I will take care of you."

Such dramatic decisions thrill anti-abortion activists, who see detailed ultrasound images as a high-tech way to change minds about abortion.

But abortion rights groups oppose the practice, arguing that the ultrasound becomes a manipulative weapon when put in the hands of religious activists trying to persuade pregnant, vulnerable women.

The two sides are clashing over a \$3 million bill, backed mostly by Republicans, that would provide up to half the cost of ultrasound equipment, which ranges from \$20,000 to more than \$100,000. The money would go only to nonprofit centers that do not charge for services. The vast majority of pregnancy centers that fit this description oppose abortion.

A similar bill went nowhere last year, but its chances are somewhat improved by Republicans controlling Congress.

Even without the funding, about 350 of an estimated 2,500 anti-abortion pregnancy centers around the country have ultrasound equipment. It appears to be working as intended, according to officials at several centers, who report many changes among "abortion-minded" women once they see ultrasounds of their fetuses.

Dr. Dolores Pretorius, a professor of radiology at the University of California, San Diego, is a pioneer in developing the latest generation of ultrasound technology, which can provide moving pictures of small details such as an ear or chin.

Pretorius, who says she is "pro-choice," has been fascinated by the impact the images seem to have. She plans to conduct a study that quantifies the impact, but says her "gut feeling" is that the images do affect women's abortion decisions. Pretorius called the use of ultrasound to persuade women "not great"

□ See *Activists using ...*, page 8

Spiritual support



**BAPTISM SERVICE** A Baptist chaplain baptizes U.S. Marine Albert Martinez of Sunnyvale, Calif., after a worship service March 16 in a base in northern Kuwait close to the Iraqi border. The baptismal pool was built from sandbags and plastic sheeting. Fellow soldiers cheered as the newly baptized soldiers raised their soaked heads. (RNS/Reuters photo by Damir Sagolj)

Chaplains, churches minister to soldiers, families

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

HOPKINSVILLE—Before the first missiles fell on Baghdad, Kentucky Baptists already were mobilizing spiritual support for American troops.

Church leaders and chaplains said they are seeing numerous opportunities to minister to soldiers and families affected by war, as well as increased receptivity to prayer and Bible discussions.

The effort includes "Operation Eagle Care," formed by Baptist churches closest to Fort Campbell, the commonwealth's largest military installation.

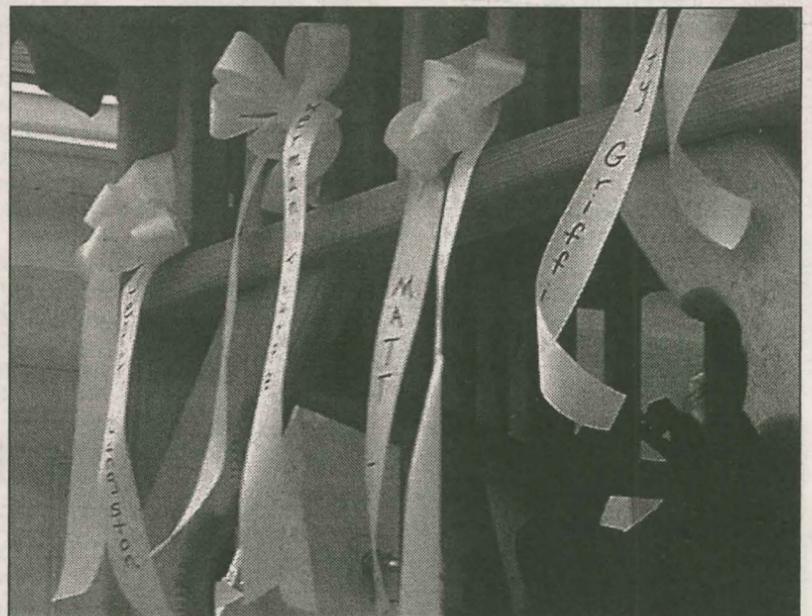
With a strong military presence among its 41 churches, the local Christian County Baptist Association is offering support for families affected by the recent deployment of the 101st Airborne division.

Suggested activities include prayer, volunteering to take soldiers' children to ballgames and other events, and delivering goodies such as cakes and pies to express appreciation for their sacrifice.

"Almost all are trying to deal with the areas of prayer or relationships," said Director of Missions Larry Baker.

He said such churches as Hillcrest Baptist, First Baptist of Hopkinsville, Olivet Baptist and Casky Baptist are among those offering support.

The association maintains a ministry center near Fort Campbell that has been home to several ethnic missions, a new Cornerstone Counseling center and a food and clothing bank.



**PRAYER RIBBONS** Youth at First Baptist Church of Oak Grove wrote the names of servicemen and women deployed overseas and hung them on the gazebo of the church's prayer garden.

The latter is operated by First Baptist Church of Oak Grove, another supporter of military ministry.

In late February, before several dozen members departed for the Middle East, the church sponsored "Shield of Prayer," with a fellowship meal preceding a service of prayer and Scripture readings. Soldiers were asked for prayer requests, and members promised to pray daily for those requests.

First Baptist's ministry includes many practical steps. In recent weeks it has:

■ Aided an Hispanic woman with

food and clothing after a fire damaged her home on base.

■ Repaired a dryer for the Korean mother of a newborn. A member also helped her learn to use the Internet so she could contact her husband.

■ Taken two families out for dinner.

■ Visited a bedridden, pregnant mother struggling to care for two young boys.

■ Started a free weekly childcare program so parents can run personal errands.

■ "There's plenty of hands-on min-"  
□ See *Chaplains & churches ...*, page 6

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 26

# BAPTISTS

## Missionary widow underscores love for Filipino people

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (BP)—The terrorists responsible for Bill Hyde's death are "not a representation of the Filipino people who my husband, sons and I dearly love," Hyde's widow, Lyn, said in a written statement.

Bill Hyde, a 59-year-old Southern Baptist international missionary, was killed March 4 in a bomb blast in the Philippines.

"I want to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support from around the world through your prayers," Mrs. Hyde wrote. "For almost 25 years, my husband, Bill, and I have been Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines. This once-foreign land has become our home where we have planted our lives, where we raised our two sons, and where my husband, Bill, was killed by a terrorist's bomb."

Mrs. Hyde said the "willing investment" of their lives in the Philippines was a result of their relationship with Jesus as the way, the truth and the life as stated in John 14:6.

"God believed that the Filipinos were and are worth dying for," she wrote. "My husband, Bill, believed that too. No one took his life. Bill gave his life. He was where God wanted him."

## IMB trustees encourage 'prayer for the peoples of Iraq'

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A resolution on prayer for Iraq and reports of the gospel multiplying around the world highlighted a March 13-15 meeting of Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees in Knoxville, Tenn.

The trustees also appointed 98 missionaries—the second-largest group in board history—during a service at First Baptist Concord in Knoxville.

The resolution on prayer for Iraq called on Southern Baptists "to join in fervent prayer" that the peoples of Iraq "might experience God's mercy and love." It also challenged Baptists to concerted prayer for their missionaries, President George Bush and the country's military personnel during "this time of heightened international tension."

The resolution affirmed God's love for people of all nations and noted that followers of Jesus are commanded to love both neighbors and enemies and to pray for those in authority over them.

"I hope we make this a matter of fervent prayer," said trustee chairman Bob Claytor of Fair Play, S.C. "If you've talked with any of our personnel, especially those who are going to be directly affected if war breaks out, you know how important it is for us to pray."

"We have seen an increase in martyrdom. That never is going to be easy... but we can pray to the Father that He do His greatest work during a time of unrest," Claytor added. "We believe that, as with Afghanistan, this will be true in Iraq, if we pray, if we call the Father to action."

Southern Baptists' overseas mission efforts are driven by a vision of "all God's people multiplying churches among all peoples," Avery Willis, senior vice president for overseas operations, told trustees during a strategy briefing.

When missionaries take the gospel of Christ to people groups and urban centers that have never heard it, the result can be a church planting movement—a spontaneous explosion of the

## NAMB radio messages address war

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—What should Christians think about the United States' involvement in war in Iraq? How can they support the military families left behind? Does God bless nations when their people honor Him?

A series of radio programs released March 20 by Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President Robert Reccord via NAMB's weekly radio broadcast "Strength for Living" addresses these and other questions related to the use of military force in Iraq.

Strength for Living is produced by FamilyNet, NAMB's broadcast subsidiary.

The series of four sermons was produced in anticipation of war in Iraq, and the series was shipped March 19 for overnight delivery to the show's 468 radio station clients.

The series begins with a discus-

sion of "just war" ethics principles, a popular topic among Christians when the United States goes to war.

"For centuries, people on both sides of these debates, for and against war, have used the Bible to make their case," Reccord says in his message. "But we should not base our opinion on such important matters on which side has the most persuasive argument. Instead, we need to look at some of the key principles that can help you and me judge not so much if war should be pursued, but whether it is no longer avoidable."

The root cause is sin, Reccord notes. Mankind's prevailing self-interest has made war a constant for almost all of human history. The struggle for Christians, he says, has been to balance their need to defend against evil and oppression with the mandate to respect and value all human life—even one's enemies.

"The Christian must walk in a line between honoring decisions our

government makes regarding war and loving those who are considered our enemy," he notes. "We must realize that the greater purposes of God are at work even in the conflict human beings initiate against each other."

The second program deals with the spiritual element of how God can bless a nation when its people repent.

The third program includes interviews with U.S. Army Col. Frank Bragg, who shares how churches and individuals can pray for and care for the soldiers and their families. Reccord also interviews Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, for further discussion of what the Bible says about war.

In the concluding message, Reccord addresses the role of Christians during wartime. He repeats a call for prayer for everyone involved, and exhorts Christians to "seek to be a bridge-builder"—doing things that lead to furthering God's Kingdom.

gospel that results in rapid multiplication of believers and churches, Willis said.

He cited two examples from Asia: In one country, excitement over hearing the gospel for the first time resulted in 28 churches multiplying into 4,300 churches with more than 240,000 believers in just 11 years.

In another country, a Southern Baptist team reported last year that 1,700 churches had been started and 41,000 people baptized in just 14 months. That team now reports the number of baptisms has jumped to more than 150,000.

Such gospel movements explode when ordinary Christians begin to see themselves as God's instruments to plant churches and train others to plant churches, Willis said.

Trustees also appointed 98 long-term workers, the second-largest group in Southern Baptist history. The largest group—124—was appointed in November 2001, just weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The decision to obey God's call to overseas service is not made on the basis of comfort and security, IMB President Jerry Rankin told the new missionaries during a March 15 appointment service.

"God has placed your people in your heart. Jesus died for them and they will never know unless someone goes to tell them," Rankin said. "You are the one."

"What is it that compels you to go? It is a deep conviction that God has called you. You have the privilege of being the one to carry the gospel to those who need it so desperately."

Among business items during the meeting, IMB trustees:

■ Adopted a resolution of appreciation for Bill Hyde, the missionary killed in a March 4 bombing at the airport in Davao City, Philippines. Citing Hyde's willingness to give his life "in loving witness and ministry to the people of the Philippines," trustees expressed "deepest gratitude for his faithful service to God through this

board and pledges special prayer support for the family during the days ahead." Trustees also pledged "to continue the effort to express the love of God and the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to the people of the Philippines he loved so much."

■ Voted to extend the Mobilization Assistance Program to July 2005 to give more Southern Baptists an opportunity to participate in the program. MAP provides financial assistance for Southern Baptist pastors who want to participate in an overseas missions project for the first time. The program draws on \$3 million set aside in 1998. It was due to expire this June, but unused funds remain available. Information about the program is available by e-mailing [globalpriority@imb.org](mailto:globalpriority@imb.org).

■ Allocated \$4 million from a global capital fund to provide housing and vehicles for missionaries around the world. The money is replenished as other property is sold and the proceeds are channeled back into the fund.

## Baptist leaders issue call for prayer amid war

WASHINGTON—The day after U.S. forces initiated bomb and missile attacks on Iraqi targets last week, Baptists leaders across the nation issued calls to prayer and offered mixed assessments of the war effort.

Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham declared that "removing Saddam Hussein from power is a just and necessary action after 12 years of lies and deceptions."

"I believe it is the responsibility of America to lead in the desire for freedom and peace around the world," said Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. "For this reason, I, along with millions of Southern Baptists, support our President's decision."

Graham called on Southern Bap-

tists to "pray for peace and the possibility of a better world where tyranny and terrorism are eliminated."

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, called for "a speedy end to the war" and for a worldwide commitment to a post-war rebuilding that helps create a democratic and peaceful Middle East.

"Jesus is still weeping over Jerusalem and the death and destruction that has so permeated that part of the world," Lotz said. Noting that Christians throughout the Middle East are a minority, he added, "Pray for the 600,000 Christians in Iraq and all other innocent people who are suffering."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, reiterated his support of the war effort. "America and the coalition of the will-

ing have been waiting 12 years for Saddam Hussein to abide by the civilized world's demand that he dispose himself of his weapons of mass destruction," Land said. He affirmed action to "disarm Saddam Hussein and liberate the Iraqi people."

Daniel Vestal, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, said, "As people who believe in a loving God and as followers of the One who is called the Prince of Peace, we confess our loud lament in the midst of this war and the circumstances that have caused it."

"We continue to pray for peace, protection for lives at risk, for leaders around the world and for a quick resolution to this conflict. May God have mercy on those in harm's way."

Based on reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press



"I knew last Sunday's sermon was going to be controversial, so I stayed away. I guess you could call me a 'heat-seeking misser.'"

## Ellison resigns as assemblies head to accept call as pastor

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist Assemblies President Rusty Ellison has announced he will resign in May to become pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Ellison became the agency's first president in October 1997, after messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annually meeting voted to make Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies a separate agency from the convention.

"Our first objective when we inherited the responsibility 5 1/2 years ago was to give all our effort to saving Cedarmore," Ellison said. "When we took over ... we believed that more than anything else God wasn't through with Cedarmore and that He wanted it to prosper."

After attendance grew at the Shelby County facility, KBA was able to make improvements to the campus' Boone Lodge and Birdwell Conference Center, he added.

"Many improvements have yet to be made and we still face challenges every day with a declining plant, but we feel like we're on the right track," he said.

At Jonathan Creek, the greatest change was the creation of Crossings at the Creek, a new summer camp that saw attendance mushroom.

"We have seen the attendance at Crossings grow from 1,300 in the first summer of 2000 and we're expecting 3,600 students this summer," Ellison said. "And we're anticipating literally hundreds of life-changing decisions out of those 3,600 students."

The first year KBA ran the assemblies, operating income totaled approximately \$700,000, he added. "This year our income from operations will exceed \$2,250,000."

The camp's success has led to nearly \$2 million in improvements at the Marshall County campus, including three new housing units and a \$1.1 million worship and recreation center.

Ellison said he and his wife, Pam, have considered KBA a joint ministry.

"This has been the most challenging and satisfying time of my ministry career," he said. "God has allowed us to be right in the middle of the life-changing activity that He brings every summer to both Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore. The hard part is leaving that behind."

A search for a new president will begin soon, he said, predicting that his departure will have minimal impact on the agency or this summer's camps.

## Jackson: Witnessing 'ain't rocket science'

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Personal evangelism still works. That was the message Richard Jackson sought to drive home last week during a series of evangelism training seminars across Kentucky.

Jackson, president of the Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement in Brownwood, Texas, distributed copies of a New Testament titled "The Covenant of God's Love" that features marked passages to help lead people to faith in Christ.

Speaking at eight associations across the state in four days, Jackson told participants how to use the witnessing tool in personal evangelism opportunities. The seminars, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team, were hosted by Christian County, Elkhorn, Greenup, Green Valley, Long Run, Northern Kentucky, Severns Valley and Warren associations.

Jackson, longtime pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, baptized more than 20,000 people during his 25 years there.

Drawing from his personal ministry experience, Jackson told pastors attending the training sessions, "The first thing you need to do as a pastor and a leader of a church is to make sure you're a Great Commission leader. If I'm going to lead my people to be witnesses, I've got to be a witness. You start with yourself."

The next step, he said, is to "help your people know that they too can be used to lead people to Jesus."

"You hear all kinds of things in our

day and time about 'You can't do it that way anymore,'" Jackson warned. "Nothing has changed about what the Great Commission is. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

"Evangelism is not a spiritual gift, witnessing is not a spiritual gift," he explained. "Evangelism is a command, not a gift. None of us is exempt.

"All of you can ask somebody to come to church with you," he added. "All of you can tell somebody what Jesus has done in your life. That's the heartbeat of a soul-winning, evangelistic church—you get everybody involved."

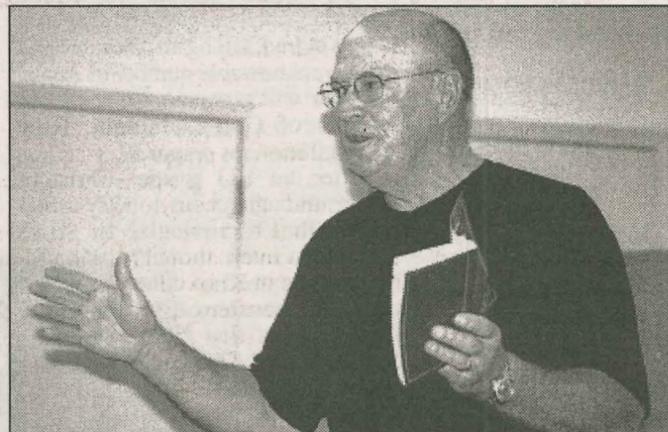
Jackson said "The Covenant of God's Love" is "written in such a way that a Christian can share it very easily with a lost person."

"Please do not think this is the best or the ultimate or the only witnessing tool," he added. "This is just one little tool among many others."

Emphasizing that Christian witnessing "ain't rocket science," Jackson said, "It's a lot more important that that, but not that tough.

"There is a world of people around you and all of them believe in God," he declared. "The hardest thing in the world is not believing in God. Their problem is they think God is mad at them. We get to go to them and say, 'Have I got news for you? God loves you.'"

"Evangelism in the church is not a program you promote, it's an atmosphere created by the Holy Spirit," Jackson said. "Let the Holy Spirit create a spirit of evangelism and expectancy in your church. Pray about people being saved and talk about people being saved. Make much of how God



is using His people in the task."

Richard Carver, pastor of Ovesen Heights Baptist Church in Hodgenville, said the seminar gave him "a renewed zeal" for personal witnessing.

Carver, who was among participants at the Severns Valley Association workshop, added, "It gave me a very useful and easy-to-use tool that we can teach in one service."

John Walker, director of missions for Severns Valley Association, said the training provided church leaders "something they could take home and immediately use in their churches."

Citing the need "to get our churches to refocus on the Great Commission," Walker added, "We need to take the Great Commission as our mission statement and get to work doing it."

For information about "The Covenant of God's Love" witnessing tool, contact Jackson by phone at (915) 643-4092 or by e-mail at [jcenter@web-access.net](mailto:jcenter@web-access.net).

**PERSONAL EVANGELISM**  
Richard Jackson, president of the Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement, led eight regional seminars last week teaching Kentucky Baptists how to use "The Covenant of God's Love" witnessing tool to help lead people to faith in Christ.

## 'Mainstream' leaders endorse political efforts

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

FRANKFORT—A small group of Kentucky Baptists gathered March 20 for Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky's third annual meeting.

The group, organized two years ago, is seeking to provide "information to loyal Kentucky Baptists who do not want fundamentalist tactics controlling the Kentucky Baptist Convention," said Billy Shoulta, the group's newly elected chairman.

But "it's not just about fundamentalist politics," he added. "We want all Kentucky Baptists to have a voice. We want our tent to be as large as possible."

The meeting at First Baptist Church of Frankfort attracted fewer than 25 people, less than half the number who gathered in February 2001 for the group's organizational meeting.

Noting that "we'd like to have a larger number," Shoulta said the group "needs to find a means of communicating more effectively."

Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Church in Louisville, has served the past two years as co-chairman. He succeeds Herb Booth, a member of Burlington Baptist Church, who served two years as chairman.

Emphasizing that Mainstream Baptists is "a political group," Shoulta told participants, "I've had many

people say, 'Thank you for saying that unapologetically.' Part of the reason our Southern Baptist Convention was taken over is because many of us hid our heads in the sand because we didn't want people to see us as political."

"We are not about pushing a particular agenda or theological agenda," Shoulta emphasized. "We are not about excluding individuals or churches from participation in Kentucky Baptist life."

While Mainstream participants "are not opposed to change," he added, "We are still trying to keep who Kentucky Baptists have been throughout history as an honest representation of who we are today. That is our call. That is our shared task."

Les Hill, a retired Southern Baptist international missionary, presented a keynote address on "Creedalism and Missions."

Hill, who is now teaching missions and evangelism at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky in Lexington, voiced concern about a move from confessionalism to creedalism in Southern Baptist life.

Quoting Baptist historian Leon McBeth, Hill said, "A confession designates what people do believe; a creed what they must believe. A confession is voluntary and serves to inform, educate and inspire; a creed is required and serves to discipline and exclude."

Prior to his retirement from the Southern Baptist International Mission board in December 2001, Hill informed his regional director he could not sign a statement affirming the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message because of his concerns about giving a convention statement higher authority than Scripture.

He said other concerns included his view that "American Southern Baptist cultural expressions cannot really serve people of other cultures" and his openness to women pastors and "equal submission within the marriage relationship."

Affirming Scripture "as our final authority as enlightened by the Holy Spirit," Hill added, "To remain mainstream, we have to look to biblical authority enlightened by Christ and led by the Holy Spirit for our direction."

"We need to be people who pray, 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,'" he noted. "To be Mainstream Baptists is to keep our focus that God might accomplish this through us most effectively."

In his final charge as chairman, Booth called on Mainstream members to "organize, energize, mobilize and capitalize."

"If we do that," he said, "we will be successful in protecting the castle, the fortress of our heritage and not let it be taken over as it was in the Southern Baptist Convention."



**"To remain mainstream, we have to look to biblical authority ... for our direction."**

Les Hill, professor of missions and evangelism, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

## 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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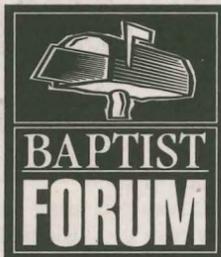
## Apologize to Iraqis

The war has begun. Our armed forces launched unprovoked attacks at targets in Iraq, killing an unknown and maybe unknowable number of Iraqis. The war will continue, reducing the number of God's children. How should Christians respond?

After the 9/11 attacks, Christian leaders throughout our country called on Muslims to apologize for those atrocities, even though those leaders had no connection to those terrorists. If we expect that from Muslims, then Christians ought to take that advice at this critical time in human history. To expect less of ourselves is unacceptable. I ask all Christians to do what many advocated, issue an apology.

To the people of Iraq, I offer my sincere apology for the behavior of my government. They have left the One we call the Prince of Peace to dance behind the demons of war. May God bless you in this time of need.

Larry Smith  
Louisville



## Untapped resources

These thoughts are prayerfully directed to the many denominational leaders who work and live in the Louisville metro area (several of whom I personally know and admire).

Being a teacher or administrator at a seminary, a state convention leader or an associational servant are full-time ministry roles within themselves. And these specially gifted individuals are reasonably expected to occasionally fill a pulpit to share their expertise. However, I would like to ask you to search your heart from now on about saying "no" when asked to serve as an interim pastor.

There are many pastors without churches (myself included) in the area who have voluntarily left a difficult church or even been forcibly terminated by vote of a church. Because of the necessity of a period of "healing," we find ourselves out of the ministry for a time. Some never return—nor seek to—for fear of another such situation of "failure."

But I find most of us work to return because our sense of calling from God is strong enough to overcome our fears. And the perfect re-entry point for some might just be in the role of interim pastor since the expectations and pressures of responsibility are greatly reduced.

Therefore, those in the positions I previously mentioned may unintentionally be preventing God's re-use and rebuilding of many of His still willing servants when you entertain a call as interim pastor.

It is my opinion that most churches will not consider someone in our situation when they instead can call a person whose "name" or "position" is widely known.

Won't you pray about this and work (individually or as a group) to persuade churches who are between pastors that there is a great, untapped resource available through which they can both be ministered to and minister at the same time?

Name withheld

## Seminary accolades

After nearly 10 years of persistent prayers and plans, the inaugural convocation for the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky on March 9 at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington was a tremendous experience of both promise and consummation.

With a choir of more than 90 members; representatives from significant Baptist colleges, seminaries and agencies; leaders from other ecumenical organizations and specific denominational bodies; a stellar list of trustees, professors and students; and an impressive congregation of more than 600 supporters and patrons, BSK is firmly in place as a healthy and viable institution providing men and women called of God with a regional theological education option that honors excellence, integrity and openness alongside historic Baptist values and principles.

I would like to offer my personal gratitude for all contributions both great and small to every person who has dreamed and worked over the years and helped make this day a reality. Undoubtedly, many more great days will follow and many more who live in our state and around the world will be changed forever by God's abiding grace through the faithful work of the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky.

Mark Johnson, program chair  
Baptist Seminary of Kentucky  
Inaugural Convocation

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Celebrating 200 years of ministry

Bellevue Baptist Church in Burlington has a full slate of events planned to celebrate its 200th anniversary this year. Activities include Founder's Day, Old Fashioned Revival, Greatest Sunday in 200 Years (a high attendance day set for Easter), Old Fashioned VBS and July 4th Celebration, Return to Middle Creek (the church's place of origin), Homecoming Weekend, Community-wide Thanksgiving and Old-Fashioned Christmas.

But don't be fooled into thinking this church is focused only on the past. In fact, the congregation is looking to the future with plans for a new sanctuary adjacent to the current facilities that will seat 450 to 650 people.

The church has celebrated significant growth during the past decade under the creative and inspirational leadership of Pastor Steve Alford. The church has used "interactive" VBS, "Survivor" Sunday school campaigns, a bus ministry and a missions conference to help excite people with the gospel.

Missions education and involve-

ment has expanded through the church's participation in Kentucky disaster relief, World Changers, and national and international missions partnerships. These partnerships have enabled church members to minister in such places as Brazil, Thailand, Russia, Tanzania and Eastern Kentucky.



Bill Mackey

At the same time, the Bellevue congregation has continued its financial support of mission organizations and efforts through the Cooperative Program and mission offerings. The church gives about 11 percent of its undesignated receipts through CP.

In 1995, church membership reached 539 (an all-time high), Sunday school attendance reached 200 and morning worship was crowded with added chairs. The church added an associate administrator and education director in 2002 to relieve the pressure on the pastor in a rapidly growing congregation.

Also in 2002, the church voted to conduct two Sunday morning worship services in order to accommodate all

of the people who wished to attend. That led worship attendance to exceed 500 on one Sunday.

At its current growth rate, the church's membership is projected to be 800 by the end of 2003. A majority of the members drive from 20 to 40 miles round trip to attend.

The church has documented its great history by publishing a book, "A Narrative History of Bellevue Baptist Church, 1803-2003," by Michael Capek. The book has many special features, photos and charts and marks special church highlights such as Bellevue serving as the sponsoring church for Big Bone Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Burlington.

"From the beginning the congregation was charmed and delighted by Brother Alford's down-to-earth, good-natured personality and nurturing pastoral style," Capek writes of the church's current pastor. "They admired his family values, his creative, Christ-centered messages and his strong communication skills."

Bellevue has much to celebrate and a great vision for the future. And so does every church where Jesus is Lord!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## CHURCH

### True stewardship includes seven non-negotiables

By Doug Strader

I recently ran across an article by Kirk Nowery in a publication of INJOY Stewardship Services called "Stewardship Strategies." In the article Nowery states there are seven non-negotiables of Christian stewardship. I would like to share them with you because I find them to be true and applicable to our day:

■ *God owns everything.* Almost everything I read about financial stewardship today begins at this point. It seems that God's people would understand this fact, but obviously that is not the case. The Psalmist said it centuries ago in Psalms 24:1.

■ *God's work must be supported by God's people.* When statisticians tell us that 20 percent of the people give 80 percent of the money to God's work, it is obvious that all Christians do not believe this principle.

■ *God holds every person accountable.* In 1 Corinthians 4:2 Paul wrote, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

■ *God's will is that we give wisely and generously.* Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse." 2 Corinthians 9:6 reminds us, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

■ *God desires equal commitment, not equal contribution.* The tithe is 10 percent of what one earns whether it is \$10 or \$100.

■ *God holds more responsible those to whom more is given.* Look at King David's example in 1 Chronicles 29:3. David was the leader and he responded to the needs of building the Temple, then the other leaders responded accordingly.

■ *God blesses the giver in proportionate measure.* In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

The greatest privilege we have been given is the privilege to be Christians by grace through faith. The next greatest privilege is to be allowed to be on mission with God in this world. Yet another great privilege is to be able to partner with God by giving back to Him our tithes and offerings.

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



## Counseling can help couples address ongoing differences

**Q: It seems that every time I discuss a family issue or world event with my husband, he always is on the opposite side from me. I don't expect him to agree with me on everything, but it seems that I never have any opinion that he supports. I feel very misunderstood. How should I respond?**

Several possible scenarios emerge from your description:

It might be that you need to form some friendships outside your marriage. While marriage is a primary source of support, we all need to have some support from outside the marriage. This support can come through other family members and close friends. Examining

your own support network is a great beginning to having a strong sense of self. By doing this, it's possible that you won't feel as fragile when your husband disagrees with you.

It also is possible that your husband might be too critical of your views. While some disagreement is normal, your husband might have a need to align with people he imbues with authority. Another possibility is that by disagreeing with you, he is able to distance himself from you. This, in turn, would enable him to avoid true closeness which might be uncomfortable to him.

Your concern is one of those couple issues that might best be resolved through a consultation with your pastor, a pastoral counselor or a Christian counselor. The dynamics of power in a couple relationship is explored through direct interaction and not armchair comments. I would encourage you and your husband to explore ways to mutually support each other.—*Suzanne Coyle*

**Q: What is sexual addiction and do you ever see this in teenagers?**

Many people who struggle with compulsive sexual behavior begin the process in late childhood or adolescence. According to Patrick Carnes, "Addiction is a relationship—a pathological relationship—in which sexual obsession replaces people." Men and women use sexual thoughts and behaviors as mood-altering substances in order to cope with relational pain and struggle.

Compulsive sexual behavior often begins in the teenage years with the use of pornography. According to Archibald Hart in "The Sexual Man: Masculinity Without Guilt," young males often are exposed to pornography around age 13. Some 90 percent of men and 77 percent of women with compulsive sexual behavior said pornography was significant to their eventual addiction.

Behavior is characterized as sexually addictive if it is secret, abusive to self or others, used to avoid or is the source of painful feelings, and empty of a caring, committed marital relationship. Regardless of whether we use the term "addiction" or choose to describe this as sinful, willful behavior that has become unmanageable, one must understand the cycle as moving from fantasy to ritual to acting out to despair and back to fantasy.

It is significant to note that over time more and more "sexual high." While pornography, often via the Internet, is the gateway, it frequently leads to other behaviors that ultimately result in consequences that are social, emotional, physical, vocational and spiritual in nature.

Recovery from this devastating cycle must emphasize personal responsibility, surrender and total dependence on God, confession of sin, forgiveness of self and others and restitution to victims.—*Scott Wigginton*

*Family Forum writers are Suzanne Coyle, director of Cornerstone Counseling for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Campbellsville University; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; and Scott Wigginton, director of LifeCare Counseling at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.*



## Make prayer for peace a personal priority

As U.S.-led forces began bombing Iraq last week, religious leaders throughout the nation and world issued calls for prayer. But not everyone's prayer requests were the same.

For some, it was a call for support of the Bush administration and a swift, decisive victory by American troops. For others, it was a call for repentance and limited military action.

Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham called on "all Americans to band together as brothers and sisters in support of our nation, our Commander in Chief, George W. Bush, and our military forces." He urged prayer "for peace and the possibility of a better world where tyranny and terrorism are eliminated."

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, cautioned that war "is always a failure of humanity to achieve God's will of peace and thus is always a great sin."

Voicing concern for "our brothers and sisters in the Middle East," Lotz encouraged prayer "for the 600,000 Christians in Iraq and all other innocent people who are suffering."

Regardless of one's personal views about the current war efforts, prayer is an essential response. While we sometimes treat it as a last resort, prayer should be a first priority in the lives of Christians.

"Be anxious for nothing," Philippians 4:6 counsels, "but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Among specific prayer requests during the war, Christians should make a commitment to pray for:

■ *The safety of our soldiers who are risking their lives in combat and support roles.* As the death toll mounts during the first few days of war, it is a somber reminder of the willingness of brave servicemen and

women to make the ultimate sacrifice in serving our nation.

■ *The protection of innocent civilians.* President Bush has made it clear that this war is aimed at Iraqi leadership, not the Iraqi people as a whole. Pray earnestly for those whose lives are being disrupted and jeopardized through no fault of their own.

■ *Wisdom for our nation's governmental and military leaders.* 1 Timothy 2:1-2 urges "that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." Our leaders face many difficult and agonizing choices in the days ahead. Pray that those choices can be used by God to move our nation and world toward peace.

■ *A spiritual miracle in the lives of Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders.* In addition to Jesus' instruction in Matthew 5:44

to "love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you," James 5:16 reminds us that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." To even voice hope for Saddam's salvation seems virtually impossible from a human perspective, yet we can claim with confidence that "with God all things are possible."

As we await the conclusion of "Operation: Iraqi Freedom," the Western Recorder is launching "Operation: Prayer Warriors" on our Web site, [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org). We invite families of deployed soldiers to submit the name, rank, branch of service and hometown of their loved ones to deployed@kybaptist.org for inclusion in this prayer list.

Together, we can unleash the powerful weapon of prayer as we seek spiritual victory for the Kingdom of God.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## What is troubling America?

By Tim Clark

Who or what is most troubling America? Prioritize the following according to seriousness: war, terrorist threats, a bear market and a soft economy combined with increasing unemployment, 401K portfolios losing 50 percent, rampant corporate dishonesty and executive corruption, protestors and peace

marches, the threat of nuclear violence from North Korea or the aggressive advances of Islam. Which is the most critical? To whom can America turn for security? Where are our friends?

Politicians are divided over the direction the Bush administration is heading in the "war on terrorism." A new federal agency is charged with promoting homeland security. One group feels this is too defensive. Some suggest the United States needs to step up the pursuit of Osama bin Laden and ignore Iraq. Consistent with the nature of modern journalism, we hear much criticism of the government's color-coded warning system. Could an administration from another party really stop the awful actions by terrorists?

Talk show hosts make a living by fueling the debate. Listen just a little and you will hear statements such as, "It is the economy ..." suggesting the administration is not focusing on the

right problem. They say the president is not doing enough to create jobs, stimulate the market and save Social Security. Would an administration headed by leadership from another party create jobs and stimulate the economy?

What is a believer to do in the present condition of the world? Answer the following question: If the embattled world was at peace, the American economy were to heat up and unemployment dropped to near zero, all governments abandoned nuclear and biological weapons and the terrorists were brought to justice, would you be comfortable and content? Where does it say Christians are to pursue personal comfort and contentment? I would suggest America and the world still would be troubled.

Americans express conflicted positions when engaged in the emotional debate on any of these topics. Christians get caught in the overflow of issues and miss the glorious opportunity to live in peace and offer peace to the troubled world.

I would suggest that God may be using the issues of the day to trouble humanity. God's offer of personal peace is not inclusive of a world at peace but the opposite: "And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of

Wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end" (Matthew 24:6). The Bible declares that one who trusts in God alone can live without fear though the news carries war stories.

How many people, in fear, turned to duct tape and plastic for security under the most recent threats and following the advice of Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge? In ancient times the Bible spoke of that type of living: "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).

As a Christian, is your trust in the Lord? In the present generation, are we Christians using the troubles of the day and night to declare to a troubled world the peace that passes all understanding?

Where is the Christian influence? Who is giving hope to a hopeless world? Is not our Christ the Prince of Peace? God is greater than the adversary and He is giving us this glorious opportunity to tell our troubled friends how to find peace in Christ. He also gives this generation a chance to declare Him to our enemies.

The world waits to hear. God waits for us to speak. Who—or what—is troubling America? Is it not our silence?

*Tim Clark is executive director of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention*

## Ministry ranges from toilets to lawns

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

HOPKINSVILLE—For some, it's as simple as fixing a broken toilet or lawn mower. For others, it's holding a monthly dinner where spouses can take a break and share feelings. Or calling them regularly to offer words of comfort and encouragement.

But when Hillcrest Baptist Church formed its outreach to military families last August, former chairwoman Lillie Dearman didn't know it would take such a personal twist.

Her husband, Eddie, left Fort Campbell March 1 for the Middle East with thousands of other soldiers.

Left with two teenage daughters to care for and plans of retirement on hold, Mrs. Dearman finds herself in the toughest struggle of her husband's Army career.

"We're just now getting out of the shock phase of deployment," said Mrs. Dearman, who also serves as Hillcrest Baptist's secretary. "This is the hardest time I've ever had. I don't know if it's because the girls are older, or because we were getting ready

to retire, or because of Desert Storm and the fears are higher.

"I think it's a combination of things," she continued. "I talked to two other wives, and their feelings are the same. I empathize with younger wives because I know what they're going through."

Though she originally directed the church's ministry to military families, Mrs. Dearman stepped aside recently. Retired Navy Seaman Darwin Marshall now chairs the ministry, known as "SOSaf," an acronym for Support Our Service members and families.

The effort received a boost March 16 when a Sunday school class raised \$300 in a special offering. Among other things, it helped pay for repairing a military wife's toilet a few days earlier.

"I thought God is awesome because we needed money to fix that lady's toilet," Mrs. Dearman said.

Though taking a lower profile, Mrs. Dearman still takes part in the ministry. Each week, she calls at least three spouses from among the 30 military families involved at Hillcrest.

Once a month, she is on the receiving end of a deacon program that treats each military family to a restaurant meal.

Besides such practical steps, Mrs. Dearman lists prayer as the leading priority for Kentucky Baptist churches that want to support America's troops.

Hillcrest does that through prayer groups that meet on Monday and Saturday mornings. On March 12, members devoted their entire midweek service to praying for soldiers.

Beyond that, Mrs. Dearman gathers support from a church in Birmingham, Ala., where her brother is minister of music.

Her husband's name was one of 50 placed on the stars in the American flag there, with members committing to pray daily for the soldiers.

Mrs. Dearman said she senses that intercession each morning as she prays for her husband.

"I don't think there's words to say what it means," she said. "I can almost feel that others have his name and someone else is praying for him. It's a powerful thing."



**WEDDING SERVICE** Kentucky Air National Guard Chaplain Tom Curry performs a wedding ceremony for an airman and his bride just days before the airman was deployed to the Middle East.

## Kentucky Air National Guard chaplain meets variety of needs

LOUISVILLE—After serving two weeks as a chaplain with the Air National Guard, Tom Curry is back in the pulpit at Parkland Baptist Church.

But the Louisville pastor said he knows his recent stint will be felt halfway around the world in coming weeks.

The 17-year veteran was called to the Louisville base March 3-18 to serve as a chaplain for trainees before they departed for the Middle East.

Many of the 300-plus Air Force crew who trained for the war left with New Testaments provided by the Gideons and Scripture-based encouragement cards prepared by a women's group at Parkland Baptist.

Led by Wilma Price, the group usually prepares the cards—using construction paper and used greeting cards—for local hospital patients.

"I call them a free ticket to heaven," Curry said. "As they were walking out the door, many of them would open their pocket and say, 'Look, pastor, I've got my free ticket to heaven.'"

"It opens the door for further ministry," he said. "If you can get 'em to read the Scripture, they may sit down and read that green Bible in their pocket. So our local church has input into soldiers who are deployed to the Middle East."

The Kentucky pastor said many soldiers were open to a variety of spiritual overtures as they prepared to ship out overseas.

Curry said he prayed regularly with enlistees and family members. Encounters often involved lots of handholding, tears and hugs as relatives "let go" of loved ones, he added.

"The spiritual quest goes up early out here," Curry said. "Ten airplane flights left the last two weeks, and my commander asked me to pray every time one left. We had a battle staff meeting once or twice a day, and he asked me to pray before every one of them."

Curry also was called upon to comfort the family of a serviceperson who committed suicide three days after Curry arrived.

The night President Bush addressed the nation and issued his 48-hour ultimatum to Saddam Hussein, Curry visited a member of his church.

Curry and a deacon went to visit a family whose son, a Marine, is stationed on the front lines in Kuwait.

"The mother was emotional and crying," Curry said. "She needed a hug and a prayer. We've got to remember our own church members who have relatives deployed, as well as the Guard. This is involving a lot of people. We've never had this many people deployed in any kind of conflict, ever."

Ken Walker

## Chaplains & churches serve soldiers, families

Continued from page 1

istry opportunities," Pastor Todd Gray said. "This is a great chance for the church to minister, whether it's mowing yards, changing oil in cars or taking kids out for pizza or to a baseball game."

Their assistance also includes prayer. In addition to several services, children at a recent Sunday school wrote the names of 54 soldiers on yellow ribbons and hung them in the church's prayer garden.

With most chaplains from the base now serving in the Middle East, congregations have an opportunity to make their presence felt, Gray said.

"It's an opportunity for churches to respond to these needs and for Fort Campbell authorities to call on us to give them some help," the pastor said. "A church that's willing to be used can find doors that weren't open six months ago."

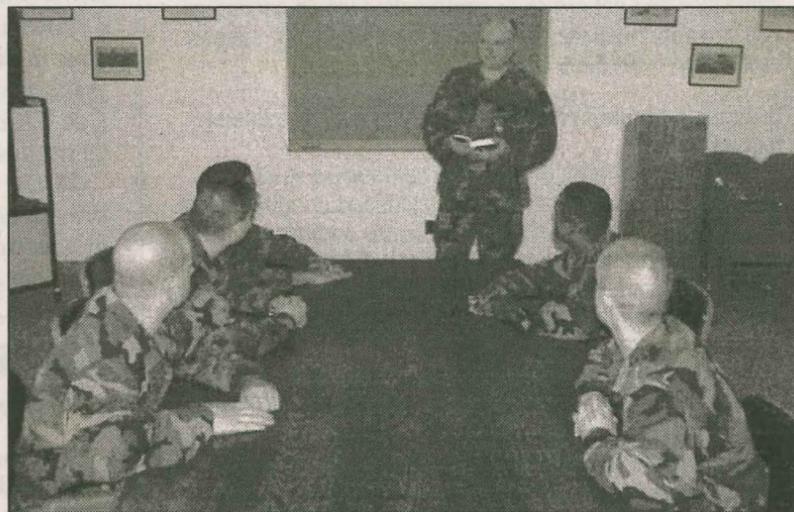
Fort Knox is a training center, so few units are deployed directly from that base. But it still is a fertile area for wartime ministry, according to a former Kentucky Baptist pastor who is now a chaplain there.

Since last May, Brian Curry has registered 300 professions of faith and 145 baptisms at the Protestant chapel where he preaches to male recruits between ages 18 and 30. Sunday services are packed, with some soldiers seated on folding chairs or in the choir loft, he said.

A Sunday school he started in January with 33 men has ballooned to 150. Four volunteers from his home church, Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, took over the teaching duties earlier this month.

Curry attributes the increasing interest in spiritual matters more to the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks than to tensions with Iraq.

"Some of the soldiers who enlisted last year enlisted after 9-11 because of their love of country," said Curry,



**BAPTISM CLASS** Chaplain Brian Curry leads a class on baptism at Fort Knox. Curry, who has seen 300 professions of faith and 145 baptisms in the past year, said he requires all soldiers wanting to be baptized to attend the class first.

formerly senior pastor of Munfordville Baptist Church. "They want to know about quality of life."

"This is the second generation of non-church-goers. They come in saying, 'I've never been to church.' A lot come in here (spiritually) hungry. We've seen professions of faith increasing the last four months."

Several churches have reached out to trainees, sponsoring combination fellowship dinners and services where the Christian faith is presented.

Kentucky Baptist churches taking part in these events include Mill Creek Baptist Church in Radcliff and St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Curry said ministry opportunities are available to any church near a military installation that's willing to reach out.

"Look at being a welcoming church," he said. "Embrace families for a short while, but continue to have contact with them after they leave."

Congregations that aren't close to

a military base also have opportunities to show love and concern, said Col. Hugh Dukes, installation chaplain at Fort Knox.

Dukes said churches can meet the needs of family members of National Guard and Reserve units located throughout the commonwealth.

"Some of these communities don't have a supportive atmosphere like Fort Knox," he said. "Obviously, prayer for individuals and families is needed. There's always needs soldiers have in times of crisis, too. If there are family members in a community who have soldiers deployed, they may give (soldiers') addresses that people can write."

To Wayne Lipscomb, pastor of Radcliff's Stithton Baptist Church, where more than a fourth of the congregation has military ties, the call is clear.

"This is a time for the church to get on our knees and intercede," he said. "I think that's how we can help and be most productive."

## U.S. soldiers prepare spiritually for physical battle

By Wayne Woolley  
Religion News Service

CAMP GUAM, Kuwait (RNS)—Twice each Sunday, Alan Lenz strides to a creaky wooden lectern and removes his flak jacket and gas mask to start worship services here.

Then the U.S. Navy chaplain looks out on his camouflage-clad parishioners, their M-16 rifles within arm's reach, and offers prayers to ease the anxieties of Marines and soldiers who are preparing to enter combat.

Some of the faces Lenz sees regularly belong to soldiers and Marines who were not in the habit of going to church before they were deployed for an invasion of Iraq.

"There are a good number who have a better sense of their spirituality because of what they are facing," Lenz said. "In another place, they may have felt they had other things to be doing."

Even for Marines and soldiers who attended church regularly at home, the opportunity for worship here takes on added significance.

"I've always been in touch with God," Lance Cpl. Chris Bergen, 20, of Brick, N.J., said in a makeshift chapel. "I don't miss home during the week. But when I'm here, I miss it."

For the troops, anything that re-

minds them of home is greatly appreciated.

Mail service is sporadic and the once-a-week satellite phone calls to home ended weeks ago.

"Coming to church is what I've got to do; it's like my job and it's like home," said Army Spec. Darrell Wright, 37, a member of the Army Reserve 319th Transportation Company in Augusta, Ga.

Wright, a devout Baptist who responded to the Bible verses read at services Sunday with murmurs of "Amen" and "That's right," said he felt at home even at a service led by a Navy chaplain on a base full of Marines.

"No matter where you go, God's everywhere," he said. "Air Force, Marines, Navy, it's all the same God."

In the weeks before war began, more than 150 troops attended Protestant and Catholic services at the camp in any given week.

For some who attended the services, the hour they spent in the makeshift dining tent on this remote desert outpost was both a refuge from the seemingly endless grind of preparing for war as well as a spiritual experience.

"Coming to church just takes a load off your head," said Lance Cpl. Chris Pena, 20, of Lubbock, Texas. "It

reminds me God understands what I'm going through."

In the weeks before fighting started, Lenz, an evangelical minister who holds the rank of lieutenant, tended to the spiritual needs of roughly 1,700 Marines and soldiers in his camp by leading Protestant services and coordinating worship for other faiths.

"I'm the chaplain for the entire camp," Lenz said. "If I can't directly minister to a Marine's spiritual needs, it's my job to get him someone who can."

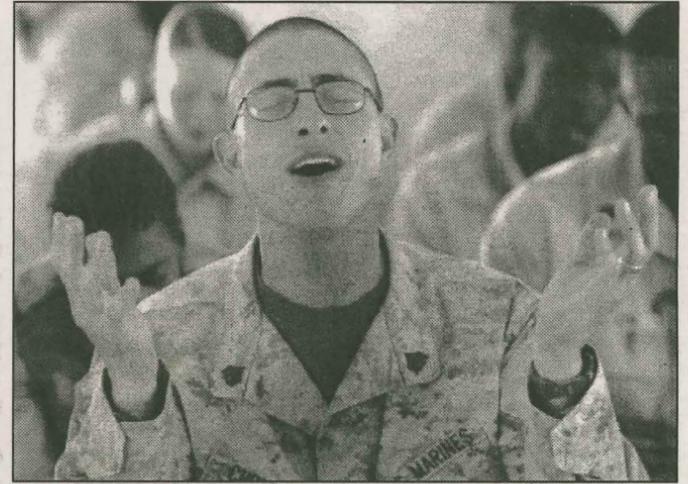
For Lenz, 43, that means bringing a Roman Catholic chaplain to camp each Sunday and on Fridays arranging for transportation to allow soldiers and Marines of Jewish or Islamic faiths to worship at nearby camps.

In both the worship services and individual counseling sessions, Lenz said he encountered troops struggling with fears of dying on the battlefield.

"God determines the day of my birth and the day of my death," he told them. "That's not fatalism. That's an understanding that whatever comes to me comes through God's hand."

Others, Lenz said, struggled with the spiritual implications of taking life.

"Occasionally I do talk to a Marine who wonders what God thinks about what they may have to do," said Lenz, who served as a Navy surface



warfare officer before attending seminary.

When such questions come, Lenz said he highlights Scripture passages that say warfare will be inevitable until the resurrection of Jesus and that armed conflict is an analogy for the tension between good and evil.

Despite assurances, some Marines say they struggle to square religious teachings that hold life sacred with the horrors of war.

"I don't want to kill anybody," said Lance Cpl. Danian Philbert, 22, of Old Bridge, N.J. "But I'm going to do what I have to do to survive."

**WORSHIPPING WARRIOR**  
A U.S. Marine sings during a worship service in a military camp in the Kuwaiti desert near Iraq's border on March 16. Chaplains reported increased spiritual interest as war neared. (RNS/Reuters photo by Oleg Popov)

## IMB volunteers sought for relief work near Iraq

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Baptist workers in Jordan have begun ministering to refugees who are fleeing hostilities in Iraq.

Working in cooperation with the Baptist Society of Jordan, Southern Baptist workers on March 19 distributed 30,000 diapers, formula for 1,000 babies and blankets in camps set up along the Iraq/Jordan border.

The Southern Baptist workers also plan to address hunger, nutritional and medical needs as the situation continues to unfold, said an International Mission Board leader in the region, who asked not to be identified for security reasons.

"We don't know what all the needs are yet," he said. "But we intend to meet needs as opportunities unfold. We also hope to conduct mobile min-

istries to people in Iraqi villages who are trying to stay with their homes.

"But the needs have begun to emerge, and we want Southern Baptists to know what we need."

In addition to money to purchase relief supplies, the team is seeking volunteers, the worker said.

"We will certainly need medical people, but we also want other volunteers. We have tremendous opportunities to share a cup of cold water in the name of Christ," he said. "Now is the time for Southern Baptists to respond. We must not have a time lag. We must be able to respond when opportunities open."

Responding to the needs of Iraq's people reflects God's love for them, IMB spokeswoman Wendy Norvelle said.

"God loves the people of Iraq—like He loves all peoples—with all His heart, and we share that love," Norvelle said. "Our hearts are with the people of Iraq, the Arab majority as well as minorities like the Kurds."

Norvell asked Southern Baptists to pray and donate money to assist refugees and other needs in the region.

"We also call on them to give themselves for work in the region—as living examples of God's love for the Iraqi people—when those opportunities arise."

Checks made payable to the IMB and designated "Iraq Response" can be mailed to: Iraq Response, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767. Medical professionals can request volunteer information by e-mail from sragland@imb.org; general volunteer information is available by e-mail from eyeatts@imb.org.

## LifeWay offers resources for ministering to soldiers' families

NASHVILLE (BP)—LifeWay Christian Resources recently added resources to its Web page to help families amid the challenge and struggles of the current deployment to the Middle East.

The Web site, [www.lifeway.com/conflict](http://www.lifeway.com/conflict), includes resources and information focused toward pastors, churches, laity, teachers and parents.

"Loneliness and fear of the expected but unexpected loss haunts most spouses at home, and the daily routine of the week is upset," said David Mullis, military chaplaincy associate with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, who contributed to the site.

"Chaplains will be alert to the deployed service members. But who will take up the care of the families at home?"

Mullis suggests that churches develop activities along with support and care groups. Preparation for homecoming also is important to think about.

Other suggestions for churches to consider when ministering to those with deployed family members:

■ **Know your members.** Who is affiliated with the military? What branch of service is the church member a part of?

■ **Accentuate the positive.** Support groups should be focused on positive, encouraging, sharing activities.

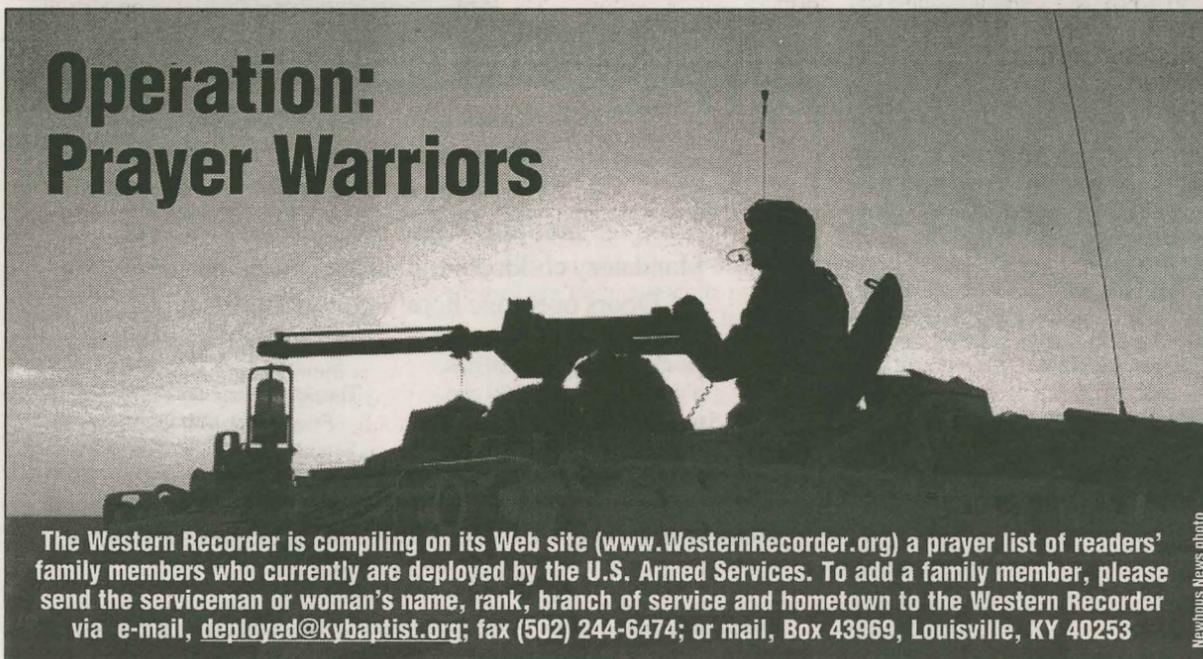
■ **Out for repairs.** The joking phrase among military families is that as soon as the unit deploys the car or washing machine will break. Churches can link families to people who can provide dependable or low-cost repairs.

■ **Money is always in style.** Financial assistance is needed in some cases, but remember that cash donations aren't always the answer. A financial counselor who not only helps organize the finances but can intervene with creditors can prove helpful.

■ **Adopt a family.** Prayer support, phone calls, childcare, carpooling, cards, yard and house maintenance are meaningful avenues of outreach.

■ **Show you care.** Churches must not forget the service members who are gone. Care packages from their home church will speak loudly to their buddies in the unit. Cards and drawings from children are meaningful.

## Operation: Prayer Warriors



The Western Recorder is compiling on its Web site ([www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org)) a prayer list of readers' family members who currently are deployed by the U.S. Armed Services. To add a family member, please send the serviceman or woman's name, rank, branch of service and hometown to the Western Recorder via e-mail, [deployed@kybaptist.org](mailto:deployed@kybaptist.org); fax (502) 244-6474; or mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253

NEWSPHOTO

## Activists using ultrasounds to discourage abortion

**"By the end of this decade, we want to have 1,000 pregnancy centers becoming medical centers with ultrasound."**

*Tom Glessner, president of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates*

*Continued from page 1*

because "it's a difficult decision." On the other hand, she said, "What is it. Women do have a right to know what their fetuses look like."

When used by faith-based pregnancy centers opposing abortion, ultrasound "isn't a matter of providing more knowledge, but an attempt to manipulate women," said Susanne Martinez, Planned Parenthood's vice president for public policy in Washington.

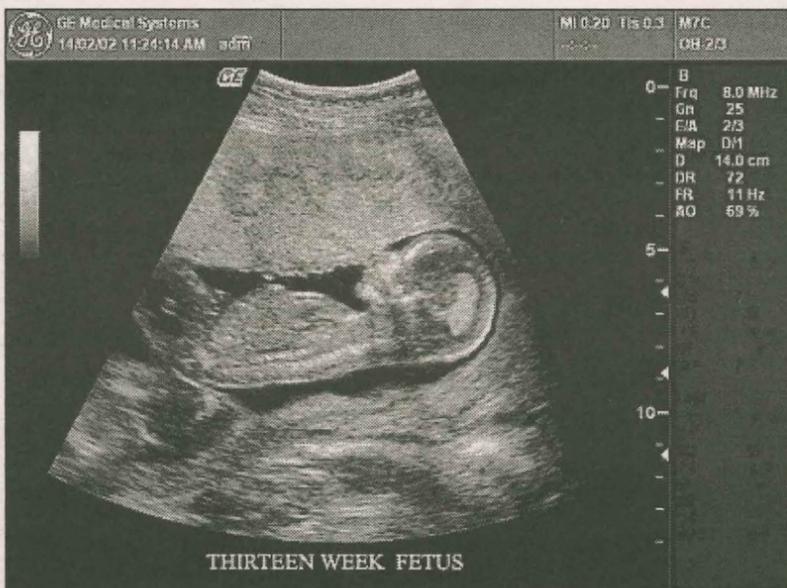
Planned Parenthood, which also sometimes provides ultrasounds and gets federal family planning funds for poor people, would not be eligible for assistance under the bill because it charges for ultrasound and other services.

"They don't want women to go to Planned Parenthood, where they'll get their full range of options," said Alison Herwitz, director of government relations for NARAL Pro-Choice America in Washington. "They just want them to go to crisis pregnancy centers, where women will be exposed to this weapon at taxpayers' expense."

Said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla.: "If we can get it into a woman's mind, regardless of her age, that it's standard medical procedure to have an ultrasound when you're pregnant, that in itself will change the debate on abortion in this country. Information is knowledge and knowledge is power and that's why this is a threat to Planned Parenthood."

Even if the bill fails, the movement to expose pregnant women to ultrasounds will continue, said Tom Glessner, president of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, an organization in Fredericksburg, Va., that provides legal advice and arranges medical training for pregnancy centers wanting to provide ultrasounds.

"I'm not a prophet," said Glessner, who helped write the bill, "but I do have an educated feel for this thing and the bottom line is this: By the end



**ULTRASOUND** An ultrasound image captures many features of a 13-week fetus, but it can't compare to the details provided by next-generation equipment that allows for a variety of angles and closeups of body parts.

of this decade, we want to have 1,000 pregnancy centers becoming medical centers with ultrasound. If those 1,000 medical centers provide, on the average, 1,500 ultrasounds for abortion-minded women per year, we will see the number of abortions in this country plummeting to 500,000 a year, compared to the current 1.3 million," a figure that has been dropping over the last several years.

In most states, the main requirement for providing ultrasounds is having a physician who oversees what's happening, though some states have more stringent requirements.

After offering free ultrasound exams, some anti-abortion pregnancy center officials say they have seen an increase in the number of women seeking help, especially those they deem "abortion vulnerable."

Take, for example, Collier Pregnancy Center of Naples, Fla., which began offering ultrasound in July. Director Beth Chase said the anti-abor-

tion center saw an average of 80 women a month before ultrasound. Ten percent were identified as abortion vulnerable, and of that group, only 4 percent carried their babies to term.

After ultrasound was offered, the number of women visiting jumped to 105 per month, of which 80 percent were labeled abortion vulnerable. Of that group, 95 percent said they decided to carry to term after seeing an ultrasound.

"What we've come down to is this: If we build it, they will come," said Chase. "I think we've hit on something that women are so hungry for and talking to other women about."

Nancarrow, whose baby girl was born last spring, said in a telephone interview that she first went to Planned Parenthood in fall 2001 when she discovered she was pregnant. Her boyfriend had told her he was not ready to be a father and would leave her if she didn't abort.

She received an \$80 ultrasound at Planned Parenthood, she said, but was told she couldn't see the results because "that will only make it harder on you."

Nancarrow, upset and ambivalent, visited the Dallas Pregnancy Resource Center, where she remembers saying, "I'm only here to give you one shot to get another view on this."

"I honestly have to say that had I not had the sonogram (ultrasound), I would have had the abortion. But that sonogram just confirmed 100 percent to me that this was a life within me, not a tissue or a glob."

### ULTRASOUND SESSION

Dr. Rhonda Kendrick (left), sonographer Kathy Lewandoski (center) and nurse Anne Michael of the Rockville Pregnancy Center in Rockville, Md., conduct an ultrasound exam while a patient reviews images of fetuses similar in age to the one she is carrying. (RNS photos by Susanna Raab)



*The Lexington*

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## Group insists prison ministry's rehab program unconstitutional

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Should a state continue funding a prison rehabilitation program that gives special benefits to inmates who agree to study a conversion-based Christian curriculum?

A Washington religious-freedom group doesn't think so. Last month, Americans United for Separation of Church and State filed two lawsuits against the InnerChange program at Iowa's Newton Correctional Facility.

The case could have significant implications for President Bush's faith-based initiatives because it deals with a program Bush has touted as a model of cooperation between government agencies and religious social-service providers.

The suits—one on behalf of a Mormon inmate and the other on behalf of family members of other inmates—accuse Iowa state officials and InnerChange of a host of First-Amendment violations.

Among the charges, the plaintiffs allege that InnerChange illegally uses government funds to support religious indoctrination and that InnerChange and prison officials illegally give preferential treatment to inmates who agree to be part of its program.

InnerChange is run by Prison Fellowship, the Virginia-based charity headed by popular Christian author and former Watergate figure Charles Colson. Prison Fellowship officials said last month that the suit is off-base.

"The InnerChange Freedom Initiative in operation in Iowa in no way violates the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution," the release said. "In fact, federal law allows a state to include religious organizations as social-service providers."

They also pointed to studies that suggest the program is better at rehabilitating offenders than other programs, calling it "the nation's most successful program for reducing prisoner recidivism."

But the program's success might be irrelevant if it does not pass constitutional muster.

Americans United's complaint alleges that the program uses government money to pay for the program's religious teachings, in violation of the U.S. Constitution. "According to InnerChange's own promotional materials, 'Biblical principles are integrated into the entire course curriculum of IFI, rather than being compartmentalized in specific classes.' ... It is therefore impossible to separate the sectarian aspects of the InnerChange program from the non-sectarian."

## The next Graham

West Point senior marches to beat of different drummer

By Marcia Davis  
Religion News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. (RNS)—Three decades ago, West Point awarded Billy Graham its highest civilian honor—the Sylvanus Thayer Award.

Today, the evangelist's grandson, Edward Graham, looks forward to his West Point graduation and a military commission for active duty at a time when war could still be raging.

In an interview with Religion News Service, the third son of evangelist Franklin Graham and grandson of the legendary Billy Graham said he wears his family stripes as proudly as he wears the West Point grays.

His earnest conversation reflects confidence tempered with a pronounced humility, strong convictions and a deep faith in God.

The cadet said walking in and around the Graham footsteps is a compelling challenge that keeps him accountable as he marches to a slightly different drum. In May, he will be the first of his family to graduate from West Point and pursue a military career.

"The Lord has called me to the military—the greatest mission field. Right now I know I am, without a shadow of a doubt, where the Lord wants me," the 23-year-old cadet said.

"I feel the Lord has given me an unbelievable opportunity to lead troops and to profess His name throughout the world and that is an opportunity I do not want to waste."

### Heading to active service

With his next five years committed to military service, the cadet eyes the international unrest intently and with concern and resolve.

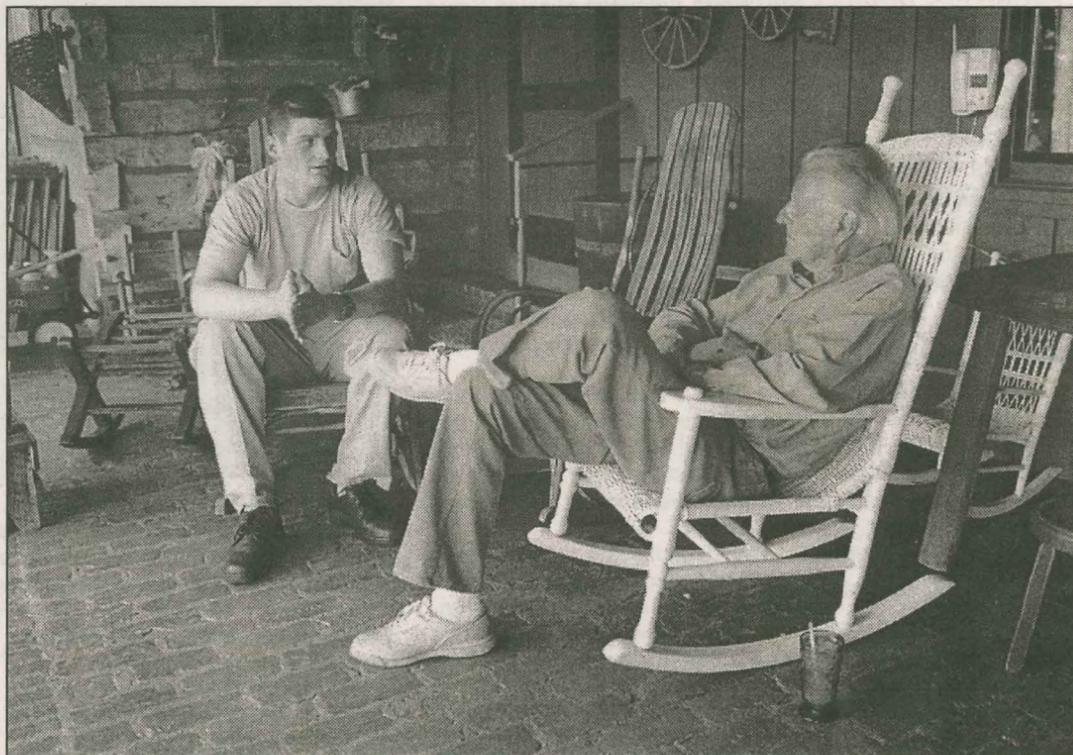
Graham said he believes President Bush is leading the country in the right direction. He said his faith and the prayer support of family and friends bolster him in the face of it.

Upon graduation, Graham will receive a commission as a second lieutenant and after a 60-day leave report to Fort Sill, Okla., for training. He said he had requested to serve in the infantry but will be assigned to serve as a field artillery officer, instead. He hopes ultimately to join the army's Special Forces.

Graham said he doesn't see wartime military duty posing a conflict with his religious beliefs. "The Lord blessed soldiers in combat in the Bible. Look at David and Joshua," he said. "If I am called tomorrow, I would go gladly."

Often teased by his father about going into politics because of his degree major—international relations—he said he isn't sure he would ever run for office because of the hardship on families. But he added that he's interested in politics in an advisory capacity.

The cadet said his role models in-



clude Dwight Eisenhower, whom he described as a good friend of his grandfather's and a man of faith.

"I admire President Bush and that he is so open about his faith. My father and he were sued, you know, because he let my father pray at the inaugural, 'in Jesus' name.' I consider it a blessing that my commander-in-chief will put everything at the cross, and, before he puts my life in question, he is asking God for guidance," he said. "The fact that he is criticized pains me, but at the same time, it gives me strength and hope."

### Growing up Graham

The cadet reflected on his childhood.

"Growing up, I knew my grandfather was famous, but I didn't know why. While other Christian leaders have fallen by the wayside, my grandfather is so respected. It's hard to live up to, but something worth living up to. The Lord blessed me with such a wonderful grandfather, and same with my dad. I'm very proud of my father," Graham said. "As a kid, I was often called names because of who my family is, but I have never been ashamed."

He described his father as "firm in his beliefs." He said he often is asked to comment on his father's words and actions, like when Franklin Graham's quoted statements regarding Islam drew public outcry last year.

"My father is a preacher, not a politician and he's not really expected to be politically correct," he said. "I expect anyone of religious faith to preach what they believe."

As a soldier, the cadet said, he would be serving alongside Muslim soldiers.

"It is not my place to criticize them," he said. "I have never had a hard time with them, never met a cadet that hates Islam or Muslims or the Islamic faith. A lot of hatred and intolerance stems from the Middle East toward Americans," Graham said. "If we start speaking from hatred about the Middle East, we are just as guilty. My father loves a person of Islamic

faith as much as he loves a Christian, and will work for both of them. My father doesn't choose sides when working with people, but in faith he does," he said.

When life gets difficult, Graham said he turns to the biblical book of James for encouragement, especially James 1:5-6, which speaks of seeking wisdom from God. "My mother often gave me this verse my plebe (freshman) year when I thought I was going to fail out. I often had to ask God for help when I had reached my own limitations, and every time the Lord delivered me."

Graham decided to apply to West Point after he accompanied his father to a Bible presentation at the academy.

"The Lord put a thing in my heart to challenge myself. I prayed about it. My math scores were low, I was late in applying and I needed a congressional nomination," Graham said. "The Lord kept opening doors. I promised Him I'd come if He'd get me accepted."

### A Sept. 11 birthday

Born Sept. 11, 1979, Graham said he would always hold the remembrance of that day in 2001 as a reminder of why he has chosen a military career. "I pray to God that I never have to go to war, but 9/11 made me, like I think most Americans, willing to do so."

For Graham, the world and West Point changed dramatically with that Sept. 11.

"I entered West Point upon terms of a peacekeeping mission. Cadets entering now know they most likely will be called to combat," he said. "Now we look at the small hot points around the world where we might be called on to fight the war on terrorism, and discuss moral and ethical dilemmas like: 'Should you shoot a terrorist site this close to a hospital?'"

"For the first time in years," he said, "there is an enemy out there, though we don't really know who the enemy is."

**FAMILY VISIT** Edward Graham visits with his famous grandfather at Billy Graham's home in North Carolina. "As a kid, I was often called names because of who my family is," the younger Graham said. "But I have never been ashamed." (Photo courtesy of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

## Missionaries reach internationals with seamen's work

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board



**SEAMAN'S MINISTRY** Aias De Souza (right), director of the International Seamen's Center in Mobile, Ala., talks with a Peruvian ship captain. DeSouza often visits men on the ships, as well as giving them rides to the center where they have opportunities for relaxation, recreation and exposure to the gospel of Jesus Christ. (NAMB photo by David Jackson)

### The big picture

■ Aias De Souza is one of six North American Mission Board career missionaries working with seafarers. There are also about 100 Mission Service Corps missionaries and Campers on Mission volunteers.

■ Southern Baptists operate 14 international seafarer's centers around the United States, Canada and U.S. territories. The North American Mission Board has missionaries and/or chaplains at another 20 centers that are not owned by Southern Baptists.

■ For more information on the International Seamen's Center in Mobile, visit [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org).

MOBILE, Ala.—The International Seamen's Center buzzes with activity every evening when ships are in port. But for Director Aias De Souza, the focal point of the evening comes as everyone gathers in the chapel.

During one such service, De Souza asked representatives of four nationalities—as well as one of the teenagers volunteering that night—to read John 3:16 in their native languages.

"I wish I had a better message than that one, but I have been in this place for the past 22 and a half years and tell that story every day," he said as he began yet another presentation of the gospel.

And because the seamen have seen God's love reflected in the ministry of De Souza and other volunteers, they often respond. It is that concept that drives the entire ministry.

"Our welcome is to the center," he said, "but most important, it is a welcome to unite with the family of God."

De Souza and his wife, Gecina, were featured missionaries during the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

Their path to Mobile began in the late 1970s when De Souza—a seminary professor in Brazil—was com-

pleting his education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He planned to stay at the seamen's center for two years before returning to Brazil, but decided to stay after realizing the opportunities it provided him for impacting the world with the gospel.

He often visits seafarers on their ships, giving them Bibles and inviting them to the center. There the men can make phone calls home, watch television, play soccer or baseball or simply relax in a family environment

with volunteers and other seafarers.

When the conversation turns to Christ, the seamen tend to listen. On average, more than 10 people each month make professions of faith.

De Souza recalled a man from El Salvador who accepted Christ, and later came back seeking baptism. But he suggested the man be baptized in

his own country as a witness to his family. The last time the man visited the center, De Souza said, six of his seven children and his wife had all made commitments to Christ.

But the motivation is not only the seafarers themselves. The ministry also gives local volunteers international missions experiences on a regular basis that awaken them to the needs of the world.

"I came to the conclusion that if I was here just to present the gospel to seamen, I was going to go crazy," De Souza said. "I keep this in mind: I'm doing this to proclaim the gospel to the lost, and to provide a mission opportunity for the churches."

Churches agree to sponsor specific nights at the center, often one night each month. Mrs. De Souza coordinates the refreshments provided by each. They interact with the seafarers, and they learn about how they can play a part in proclaiming the gospel around the world.

"We tell them the ministry center is a lab, especially for the children and the teenagers," she said. "We have seen people leave from here and go to serve as a missionary, go to seminary or serve in missions trips just because they grow up seeing what we're doing with internationals."



### A farewell with mixed emotions

It is with mixed emotions that I leave my ministry with Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. My wife, Pam, and I have seen Kentucky Baptist Assemblies as a ministry partnership for five and one-half great years. We have both enjoyed celebrating the many victories that God has allowed us to witness during these years. However, over the last few weeks it has become clear to both Pam and me that God was leading us in a new direction. So it is that we will conclude our ministry with KBA right after our May KBC Mission Board meeting at Cedarmore. Later in May, I will begin as pastor of Walnut Street Church in Louisville.

In many ways it is so very hard to leave. We have faced difficult challenges at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. But these challenges have been worth facing as we have seen wonderful growth and expansion of our ministries at both places. Pam and I have been so blessed to be a part of this work.

Each summer for the last five years we have moved to one of the two places to help out through the "camp season." While we serve all ages at both places, "camp season" is like Christmas for our ministry. Summer is the season when both

locations are overrun with energetic students.

To be allowed the blessing of seeing God change so many hundreds of lives each summer has been an experience that we will never forget. Oh that each of you who reads this would have such a joyous privilege! As a matter of fact, every one of you who cares enough to read this column ought to visit one or both conference centers this summer to see what I am talking about. If you were to do so, your prayerful support of both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek would increase. It is just amazing to experience the unleashed spiritual energy of hundreds of students each week of the summer.

I cannot begin to thank the many of you who have made this ministry possible. In the next few columns, as I wrap things up, I'll try to do so. But understand and trust completely that if it is God's will that Pam and I go to Walnut Street, it is also God's will that the ministries at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek grow in the years ahead. As I have written so many times, to God be the glory!

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison



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- New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville (Atlanta), Ga.—July 30-August 2
- Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M.—Sept. 24-27

Connection 2003 offers a variety of workshops designed to help your church to be healthy, to grow, and to reproduce.

Connection 2003 speakers will include Charles Lyons, John Avant, Claude Thomas, Jack Graham, and Bob Reccord. Steve Carroll will be the worship leader, and Grant and Jennifer Medford will provide theme interpretations during worship. Please check the Web site for which speakers will be at each location.

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# SMILE

## Hope can overcome horror of child abuse

Child abuse has a face. Visit any of the kids served by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, and you'll see it.

If you saw these boys and girls on the street, you might never know the hardships they've endured at home. Once you see them in our care, though—when their walls come down—it's quite a different story.

No one wants to think about the horrors a child faces. Stories of neglect or physical, emotional and sexual abuse trouble us. It's easy to look the other way, hoping someone else is there to clean up the mess. KBHC is here for just that, but we also have a responsibility to share the realities of those messes with you.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month, also known as Blue Ribbon Month. Make it more than a blue-ribbon occasion: Take this opportunity to share with your churches and civic organizations the signs of child abuse and how we can all play a part in preventing it.

Know that most often the abuser is someone the child knows, such as a parent, neighbor or relative. And according to Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, child

abuse usually happens in the child's home. Nearly 3 million reports of suspected abuse are filed in the United States each year, and many more never get reported.

The numbers are shocking enough, but we can share with you the stories behind those numbers. We also can share the many, many happy endings we enjoy with kids coming out of KBHC's care.

Call us today at (800) 456-1386 and schedule someone from KBHC's Speakers Bureau to speak at your church, Rotary Club or other civic organization.

You also can call us to request blue ribbons, fliers and other information regarding Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Thanks for partnering with us to share the hope that can overcome these horrors.

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

## A summer of building

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College student Mike Townsend, son of Mike Townsend and Becky Townsend of Lexington, spent his summer of 2002 serving as the student coordinator for Cumberland's Mountain Outreach program. He has continued to serve in this position throughout the 2002-2003 academic year.

Townsend chose John 15:13 as his theme verse for the summer. The verse states, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." During the summer, Townsend said, he believes he and his fellow team members willingly and joyfully gave up part of themselves for the families with whom they worked.

The high point of Townsend's summer was the dedication of Mountain Outreach's 100th home. On the final day of work before the dedication, much work remained to be done on the house. The team members worked from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., even working while they ate their meals. Despite the fatigue, no one became frustrated.

Just before stopping work for the night, three team members began an impromptu mud fight. Townsend

said the playtime was exactly what the team needed. In their exhaustion and joy, the team members could feel the sustaining presence and strength of God.

Townsend was impressed by the father of the family for whom Mountain Outreach was building the 100th home. The father worked 10 hours each day as a logger.

When he arrived home from his long day, he immediately went to work helping those who were helping him and his family.

Following graduation, Townsend, a Cumberland junior with majors in religion and social work, wants to serve God in a ministry like Mountain Outreach. He has been accepted for another mission service opportunity this summer and is looking into the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's US-2 program. Townsend wants to help churches and communities in building physical and spiritual ties.

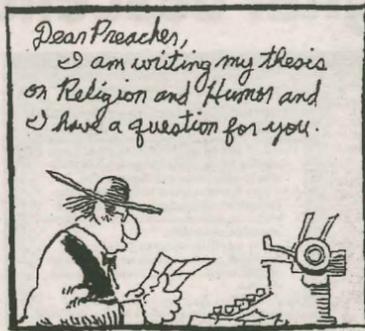
We thank Townsend and other Cumberland College students for their commitment to serving Christ. We know they will continue to build with God.

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

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

## Bible Crossword

### Across

- 1 Fowl that is unclean (Deuteronomy 14)
- 4 Baby food
- 7 "faith, \_\_\_\_\_, and charity" (1 Corinthians 13:13)
- 11 College grad
- 13 Patriotic initials.
- 14 Zest
- 15 "casting all your \_\_\_\_\_ upon him" (1 Peter 5:7)
- 16 Kin (abbr.)
- 17 Dodecanese island
- 18 "Fear God. Honour the \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Peter 2:17)
- 19 "The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be \_\_\_\_\_ unto thee" (Numbers 6:25)
- 21 Wrath
- 23 West. state
- 24 "let thy servant \_\_\_\_\_ instead of the lad" (Genesis 44:33)
- 27 Abraham's second wife (Genesis 25)
- 32 Kept from falling
- 33 \_\_\_\_\_-a-vis
- 34 Blue \_\_\_\_\_
- 35 "we were \_\_\_\_\_ of God to be put in trust with the gospel" (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
- 37 "and \_\_\_\_\_ the anger of the Lord ..." (2 Samuel 24:1)
- 38 Article
- 39 Aunt's mate in Matanzas
- 40 "they will not endure sound \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Timothy 4:3)
- 45 Dew \_\_\_\_\_
- 49 "next to them builded Zaccur, the son of \_\_\_\_\_" (Nehemiah 3:2)
- 50 Weep
- 51 Feminine name

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
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40	41	42	43			44			45	46	47	48
49						50				51		
52						53				54		
55						56					57	

- 52 "The earth shall \_\_\_\_\_ to and fro" (Isaiah 24:20)
- 53 \_\_\_\_\_ limb
- 54 Tale
- 55 "be like a \_\_\_\_\_ planted by the rivers of waters" (Psalm 1:3)
- 56 He follows Ezra (abbr.)
- 57 King \_\_\_\_\_, Clavell work

- 26 "Love worketh no \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 13:10)
- 27 Leather
- 28 "the floods of \_\_\_\_\_ men made me afraid" (2 Samuel 22:5)
- 29 Stream
- 30 Feminine nickname
- 31 "as a \_\_\_\_\_ gathereth her chicks" (Matthew 23:37)
- 33 Prepared by Esau (Genesis 25)
- 36 "And there was \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven" (Revelation 12:7)
- 37 Achan's sin caused defeat at this city (Joshua 7)
- 39 Son of Nahor and Reumah (Genesis 22)
- 40 Bane of Mr. Clean
- 41 "according to his eating, an \_\_\_\_\_ for every man" (Exodus 16:16)
- 42 Canadian Indian tribe
- 43 Playing piece
- 44 "\_\_\_\_\_ other name under heaven" (Acts 4:12)
- 46 "the young lions \_\_\_\_\_ after their prey" (Psalm 104:21)
- 47 Extra (Scot.)
- 48 "that \_\_\_\_\_ after the dust of the earth" (Amos 2:7)

## Last week's solution

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

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## Gutenberg's digital descendant spreads Word via Web

**"Every day, users download more than 2,000 copies of the base program."**

*Rick Meyers, author of the e-Sword Bible study computer program*

By Tony Cartledge  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Before Johann Gutenberg built his printing press and started publishing books in 1450, Bibles were painstakingly copied by hand. Only a privileged few had access to Scripture, most of them priests.

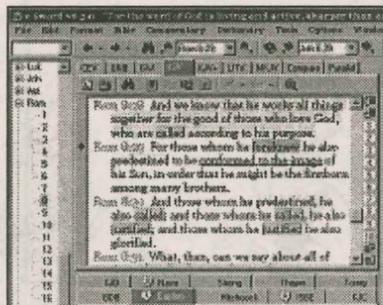
One of Gutenberg's goals for the printing press was to make the Bible available "by a machine which never wears to every soul which enters life."

More than 500 years later, a spiritual descendant of Gutenberg is doing his part to distribute Scripture more cheaply and widely, this time via a Bible study software program distributed freely over the Internet.

Dissatisfied with commercial Bible study programs, Rick Meyers decided in 2000 to write his own. He started writing computer code in January 2000 and completed version 1.0 of e-Sword three months later. He immediately posted it on the Internet.

Users soon discovered the program, creating such a demand that Meyers had to find greater bandwidth for his server. Favorable reviews drove more traffic to the site. By June 2001 more than 100,000 users had downloaded the program from [www.e-sword.net](http://www.e-sword.net).

E-Sword allows users to choose which Bible translations and study resources they want. Since the program is free, most of the translations and study materials offered are in the



**E-SWORD** The free, downloadable software offers Bible study resources in 40 Bible translations in 14 languages.

public domain, and many popular translations are unavailable. Still, users can choose from more than 40 Bible translations in 14 languages, including versions in Chinese, Russian and Ukrainian.

The King James Version is available with Strong's reference numbers, which key the text to dictionary references showing the underlying Hebrew or Greek word. Potential add-ons include multiple commentaries and Bible dictionaries, an atlas, charts and artwork related to the Bible.

As demand continued to grow, Meyers found a series of supportive friends to donate server space and bandwidth, ultimately moving to Fiber Network Solutions.

In November of 2001, the company for which Meyers worked went bankrupt and Meyers, who lives in Nashville, began working on e-Sword full-time. He still offers the program at no cost, though users are invited to

make donations to a non-profit organization he founded to support the ministry.

Meyers continued to add features through 2002—now up to version 6.5—with downloads growing. "Every day, users download more than 2,000 copies of the base program, and about 700,000 additional files are downloaded each month," he said.

A built-in word processor allows users to import text, add notes, highlight key passages and print.

Meyers is glad to provide e-Sword as a free alternative to commercial Bible study programs, which can cost hundreds of dollars. But he is even more excited about the accessibility of

e-Sword in countries that normally frown on Bible distribution.

Since the program requires only a PC and an Internet connection, people who once took their lives in hand to obtain smuggled Bibles now can take their mouse in hand and download Scripture in their own language at no cost and less risk.

For example, Meyers said the Chinese modules were downloaded more than 5,000 times in November 2002, and Russian modules were downloaded more than 2,000 times.

Users from more than 100 countries on six continents have downloaded the program, Meyers said. Total downloads now exceed 800,000.

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## Meet some in the class of 2003, part 3

I often have mixed feelings when I tell about our students. However, I believe it is important for readers to understand who we are and what we seek to accomplish. I hope that by sharing the backgrounds and successes of our students, it might encourage parents, grandparents and others to consider Oneida Baptist Institute for a child they know. I don't want anyone to conclude that OBI is a school only for "problem" children. We extend our ministry to some who have special needs, but not all of our students have similar needs.

"Jill" (not her real name) is an example of a student who came to us with special needs. Jill came to us two years ago as a junior. The information we had been given was not encouraging. There was what we often hear: "She is spending too much time with the wrong peer group" and "She has an attitude." But we also were told that drugs and alcohol were taking over her life. She had no respect for household rules. Her respect for her parents was at a low. When I interviewed Jill, I asked her on a scale of one to 10 how she got along with her parents, 10 being the best-case scenario. Jill said that her father rated a "seven" while her mother rated a "one." Jill insisted that she did not even know she was coming to Oneida until the morning she arrived. That is important to us because we tell parents that the child must agree to be here and should be an equal partner in the decision. If Jill had told us she wanted to go home, I would not have allowed her to stay.

Jill agreed with most of what her parents had said. But she did not agree that she was in the "wrong peer group" and she didn't see the need for discipline in her life.

Let me share part of her senior essay with you. Two years later, she sees things a little differently. "My mother and I started bumping heads when I was in middle school, and it got worse as my age increased. She didn't approve of my friends and definitely not of my smoking and drinking. When I started skipping school, making my own curfews and not telling my parents where I was going, they knew I needed a change in environment. I knew it too. We fought about everything, and I thought that if I could get away from them, I would be fine. I didn't realize that ... the person I was trying to get away from was myself. I was spiritually bankrupt, lonely, confused and in a destitute state when I came to OBI. ... Here I have received redirection, a high school education, friends and, above all, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I have always been an athlete and started running distance when I was 11. My motivation began to decline at home, but I restored it here. I also broadened my horizons by being part of softball and swimming. ... I did not attend church at home, so it was all new to me, but I found peace through attending chapel here. ... (After graduation) I plan to actively attend church and, most importantly, keep Jesus Christ in my heart."

Jill has been a real blessing to us and has been an honor roll student. She would not have been welcomed in many Christian schools due to her problems, not being a Christian and not having a Christian home. She had serious problems, but with God's help she is learning to overcome them. *W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)*

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## A church reaps the fruit of its labor

Munfordville native Benjamin Benningfield started classes in January.

"I managed a grocery store for five years, and it is a big change. I'm usually the one doing the bossing, and now I'm the one getting told what to do," Ben said.

How is it for a single guy, at a college known for married students?

"Kelly Hall feels like home. When I walked in the door, I knew this was the place where the Lord wanted me," Ben said. "It is like a big family."

Ben trusted Christ at age 8 on Father's Day in Boiling Springs Baptist Church. He was called to preach in November 2001. "Everybody knew it before I did; one man said he had seen the light shine off me and knew it was coming. They've called me Bro. Ben since I was 9 or 10, but it was the Lord's calling." Ben is the church's first youth minister.

His parents divorced when he was age 2, and Ben lived with his grandparents. "They showed me the right values. My grandfather is a deacon in the church. Christian values are what youth lack. In our Sunday and Thursday night meetings we take the Word of

God and apply it to the life of a teenager. They are really growing," Ben said. "Attendance is between 14 to 25; we started out with eight. The greatest result is 10 were saved last year and two this year. My pastor told the church, 'Here is your fruit; the Lord called him and he is leading by the Spirit as best he can.' That really encouraged me."

Two adults assist Ben, and he is grateful for the foundation they prepared. They also direct the Thursday night session while Ben is on campus. He is able to carry a full academic load with classes on Thursday and Friday.

Director of Missions Lonnie Sheets, a 1979 graduate, brought Ben to Clear Creek.

"He wanted to pass down a tradition; a graduate brought him and introduced him to the school," Ben stated. "I hope to do the same some day."

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

## Prodding led Manuel to pen spiritual sleuth books

By Cecile Holmes  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—David Manuel's transformation into a mystery writer came almost as naturally as his advent into the world of book publishing.

Another well-known author, Phyllis Tickle, suggested Paraclete Press should do a faith-based mystery series.

Paraclete, the publishing arm of an ecumenical Christian order on Cape Cod, called Manuel and suggested he try his hand at mysteries. Manuel agreed.

A successful writer with a long list of nonfiction titles to his credit, including "The Light and the Glory" with historian Peter Marshall, Manuel loved the idea of trying a new type of writing.

Years before, in college, he said, he had longed to write the "Great American Novel." But after graduation and a four-year stint in the U.S. Naval Air Force, Manuel realized, "I wasn't going to write the GAN when I was 25 years old."

His conversion to Christianity unfolded gradually. As his faith grew, so did his desire to explore the experimental Christian communities started in the 1960s and 1970s. He joined the Community of Jesus on Cape Cod in 1971 after spending the summer there researching a book project. The order includes families and religious brothers and sisters who live as celibates. Manuel, with his wife and children, has lived there for 31 years.

His journey has been rich and varied, Manuel says. But he admits to being intimidated by writing fiction even though he has authored or ghost-written more than 20 books. "The scary part about doing this is you've got nothing to hang it on," he said.

"Somebody else's autobiography, that provides its own chronology. Ditto, history. When you're doing fiction, you've got nothing. You've got to invent this whole thing. That's when I really learned to pray hard when I was working. Up until then, I felt like I was pretty competent."

He still is. Manuel's main character, Brother Bartholomew, a composite figure based loosely on people within the Community of Jesus, is an insightful, artful sleuth.

He isn't above the occasional temptation to sin. He struggles with God and tries to deepen his faith. But he finds it hard to put up with the younger monks sometimes entrusted to his tutelage. He even argues with his mother, who works at the local coffee shop and wonders why she spent her good money to

send her son to the finest schools.

But the good brother is at his detective best in partnership with his longtime friend, local police chief Dan Burke. When Burke gets a tough case, Bartholomew dives into the action.

He did well in "A Matter of Roses," published in 1999 as the debut title in the Faith Abbey series. He deepened as a character and grew as a detective in "A Matter of Diamonds," the second book. In the third, "A Matter of Time," he reluctantly leaves his religious community for an extended spiritual retreat on the island of Bermuda. By chance, Burke, the police chief, is vacationing on the island. The plot flows from there.

Meanwhile, Brother Bartholomew's creator strives to teach gentle spiritual truths and write engaging fiction.

"The hard part about writing a mystery is I have to be absolutely certain where the story is going and be confident it's going to get there building suspense toward the end," Manuel said. "When I teach writing, I find what people really need is oceans of encouragement. The biggest battle people have to overcome is the idea that 'I can't do this.'"

Manuel understands that sort of fear. When he set to work on "A Matter of Diamonds," he almost panicked at one critical moment in the writing process. Then he prayed.

"In rapid-fire succession came 137 elements," he recalled.

"Tighten the suspense. Arrest the wrong suspect. Have a second murder. Throw suspicion in a different direction. I had these and I said, 'I still don't know what to do!'"

"Put each element on a Post-it note," was his next instruction. Within six days after a blizzard of Post-it notes, he had his book organized into "the outline for the outline."

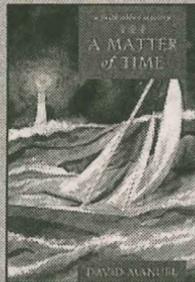
Though he was a serious writer, Manuel saw crafting mysteries as a worthy challenge when he began at age 60. The hunger in American culture for meaning, connection and spiritual relationship lured him to this new genre.

"These books are being read by a mainstream market. So I'll tell you what it is: I think these books have a deep spirituality. With each book, it gets deeper," Manuel said. "Wait until you read the third one when Brother Bartholomew is sent to Bermuda because he is suffering from spiritual burnout. He is told he is on a personal retreat. In other words, until you get reconnected with God, don't come home."

"He basically argues it out with God. Then they come to a resolution."



Manuel



**Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context.** Glen Stassen and David Gushee. InterVarsity Press, 2003. 538 pages. \$30. ♦♦♦♦♦ (Out of five)

"The church confesses that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah ... God incarnate ... the Savior ... Lord of the Church and of the world ... center not only of the Christian faith, but also ... of the universe itself. ... Here is the problem. Christian churches across the theological and confessional spectrum ... are often guilty of evading Jesus, the cornerstone and center of the Christian faith."

With those words, Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, and David Gushee, professor of moral philosophy at Union University, challenge us to reflect on and reform the way we live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Kingdom Ethics" is not a light, how-to approach to making moral decisions. It is a serious look at how Christians have ignored significant parts of the gospel in our leap from Jesus' birth to His death and resurrection. Stassen and Gushee invite us to reflect on the way we make and discuss moral decisions and to examine a pattern that follows Jesus' moral discourse.

The first third of the book deals with a method and approach to Christian ethics based within Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God. The last two-thirds of the book applies this method to contemporary issues.

I found their critique of contemporary Christian moral reasoning insightful and sadly true. Yet, Stassen and Gushee not only show us how we got to a place where we ignore our primary source for living, but they offer us a way out. "Kingdom Ethics" is not an easy read. It challenges us to do the hard work of biblical and contextual interpretation. Nevertheless, no one who takes seriously the task of Christian spiritual formation should bypass this book. *Jim Holladay*

**Three Views on the Origin of the Synoptic Gospels.** Edited by Robert Thomas. Kregel Publications. 400 pages. \$22.99 ♦♦♦♦

Anyone who has read all four Gospels is readily aware that the first three (the synoptic Gospels) take a different approach to the Gospel story than does John. The so-called "Synoptic Problem" addresses the relationship among these three Gospels and seeks to answer questions related to the material that appears, or does not appear, in each Gospel.

This book attempts to present the current state of evangelical scholarship concerning the origins of the first three Gospels: Which came first and how, or if, the Gospel writers used, or were aware of, previous Gospels.

This is a technical book written for the professional minister and the academic. But the editor contends that the answers one accepts has a significant impact on how the story of Jesus is proclaimed. Editor Robert Thomas

lists 24 implications based on the conclusion one reaches.

Each contributor is a conservative scholar and presents a passionate and detailed case for his view. The views are: two/four source, two-Gospel and independence. Each presenter is committed to the inerrancy of Scripture. It is interesting, therefore, to see how many times the tools of "the liberal scholar" are used to prove a case.

The independence view contributor especially plays the "liberal card" in attacking the other views that posit some relationship among the Gospels. The responders hold nothing back in attacking another presenter's view.

The most interesting thing about this book is to see how conservative scholars have come to debate the very issues that previous generations of conservative scholars attacked liberal scholars for even considering: historicity, accuracy of Jesus' words, order of events, consideration of scientific data and objectivity, etc.

I have found the implications for what does and does not divide liberal from conservative to be most interesting. Conservatives are just as divided over some of the same issues that divide conservatives from liberals. Read it and judge for yourself what truly divides us if we would major on the most important part of our faith, the proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. *Wayne Hager*

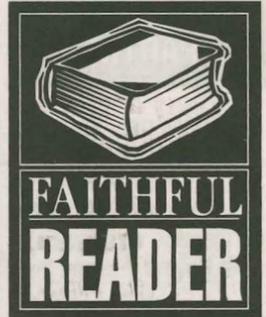
**Street-Smart Ethics: Succeeding in Business Without Selling Your Soul.** Clinton McLemore. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. 186 pages. \$14.95 ♦♦

Clinton McLemore is a "nationally recognized psychologist, speaker and seminar leader," who has consulted with Fortune 500 companies on leadership development, team building and meeting effectiveness. He should have stayed with his day job.

In "Street-Smart Ethics," McLemore intends to offer moral guidance to people in the business world that will help protect them from making Enron or Worldcom-type mistakes. The book of Proverbs becomes his touchstone for this ethical endeavor. It is clear that he prefers this proverbial/adage approach to dealing with ethical behavior, because one of his continuing mantras is how difficult it is to apply broad, abstract principles.

The first part of the book takes a stab at laying a framework for ethical reflection and action. He would have been better served to skip that part and jump right into his ethical guidelines drawn from the book of Proverbs. If the book has any strength it is in that section, where he applies insights from Proverbs to cases business people face daily.

McLemore has little patience with the issue of character, and at some points seems to be an ethical relativist. He does not give adequate weight to the role that a strong and focused character can play in ethical decision making, preferring to lean on a set of ethical guides. *Jim Holladay*



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

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ A Roma/Gypsy high school student in Romania who recently was given her first Bible by Baptist representatives E.C. and Pearl Dearing.

■ A small group Bible study that meets on Saturday evenings on Malta, and especially one family that is attending who seem open to learning about a personal relationship with God through Jesus. Missionaries Earl and Robin Pinkston lead the study.

■ Missionaries in Belgium as they begin house churches, form Bible study cell groups and provide discipleship training for believers.

■ Church-planting efforts among refugees in the Netherlands.

■ Romanian Christians to minister in the more than 1,000 villages in Craiova association that have no evangelical work. Baptist representatives Bob and Diane Wagstaff ask for clear direction about how to reach unbelievers.

■ Michael Dean and Susan Garbiso, missionaries to internationals in Boston, as they visit consulate offices and distribute Bibles.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Bardstown Church will host **David Livingston** in concert March 30, 6:30 p.m. **Warner Smith** is pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church called **Calvin Taylor** as organist/music assistant effective March 4.

■ **BUCKNER**—Beulah Land Church ordained **Danny Jacobs** as a deacon March 2.

■ **CLERMONT**—Vine Hill Church will host **David Livingston** in concert March 29, 7 p.m. **Greg Crenshaw** is pastor.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Adriel Church called **Harold Greenfield**, retired director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association, as interim pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Bethany Church will hold revival services April 13-17, with **Harold Greenfield** as evangelist.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—**Isaac McDonald** resigned as interim pastor of Rineyville Church. He is available for pulpit supply and interim ministry. He may be contacted at PO Box 2072, Elizabethtown,

KY 42701; phone, (270) 737-7731.

Severns Valley Church will host "Donut Man" **Rob Evans** in concert May 2, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 765-7822.

■ **EWING**—Ewing Church will sponsor a youth camp June 23-27 at Bullittsburg Baptist Assemblies Camp with **Troy Doster** as evangelist. For information, contact Pastor **DeWayne Sowell** by April 1 at (606) 267-2503.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Farmdale Church will host a spring prayer conference March 28, 7 p.m., and March 29, 9 a.m.-noon, led by **Nell Bruce**. Revival services will be held March 30-April 2, 7 p.m., with **Gerald Roe** as evangelist and **Roy Mc-Niel** as music director.

■ **FOURMILE**—Riverside Church will dedicate its new sanctuary and educational facility April 13, 10 a.m., during the church's 100th anniversary celebration. Kentucky Baptist Builders helped construct the facility. **Charles Jones** is pastor.

■ **GRAND RIVERS**—Corinth Church called **Rex Jones** as interim

pastor.

■ **HICKMAN**—East Hickman Church will hold revival services April 6-9, 7 p.m., with **Ronnie Stinson** as evangelist. **Ben Stratton** is pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Alton Church will host a "celebration weekend" April 25-27 led by **Duane and Iris Blue**.

Sand Spring Church will host a "Prophecy Crusade" March 29-31 with **Ron Herrod** as guest speaker. The **Heritage Quartet** will present a concert before the service March 30, 6:30 p.m. **Mike Hamrick** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host "Sons of Liberty" in concert April 5, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Thixton Lane Church called **Ricky Lee** as minister of music and worship. **Preston Siler** is pastor.

■ **Fred May** resigned as minister of recreation at West Broadway Church effective March 19 to become associate pastor of Hull's Grove Church in Vale, N.C. Also, **Brian Jones** resigned as minister of youth effective March 26.

■ **MARION**—Lighthouse Church called **Wayne Smith** as pastor.

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church or-

ained **Rob Chambers** to the gospel ministry March 9.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church recently called **Nathan McLean** as full-time minister of activities and outreach.

■ **PADUCAH**—Olivet Church will hold revival services March 30-April 2, with **Bob White**, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, as evangelist. **Tommy Tucker** is pastor.

■ **PINEVILLE**—**Charles Jolly**, former pastor of Pineville First Church, died March 10 in Federal Way, Wash., where he lived in retirement. His memorial service was held March 15.

■ **ROBARDS**—Robards Church will hold spring revival services April 13-16 with **Bob Morrison** as evangelist and **Hal Branson** as music director.

■ **PRINCETON**—Blue Spring Church will hold revival services April 27-30 with **Matt Wilkins** as evangelist.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Gamaliel Church licensed **Gene Gerald** to the gospel ministry March 9. **Ty Clenney** is interim pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary June 1. **Steve Rice** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Desire ministry position in Louisville area commutable to SBTS. Eight years experience and master's in religious education. Children's ministry, women's ministry or church administration desired. Relocating from ministry in the United Arab Emirates. Contact for resumé or inquiry: Mrs. Joan K. Guest; jguest@emirates.net.ae; Phone: (011-9712) 665-3493; fax: (011-9712) 6658-654.

**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:** Used theological books bought and sold. Contact Brent Cloyd, 25100 Indian Ridge Road, Sterling, IL 61081; cloyd@essex1.com. List sent e-mail only.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister to children for Chevy Chase Baptist Church. Duties include managing and implementing children's ministries. Experience working with children preferred. Send resumé to: Minister to Children, Chevy Chase Baptist Church, 200 Colony Blvd., Lexington, KY 40502.

**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:** Spirit-led contemporary church seeks part-time children's ministry director to lead children's church and coordinate other activities for children 6-12 years old. Send resumé to: New Hope Community Church, 34 Dee Street, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. For more info., call (270) 737-6645.

**SEEKING:** Baptist Life Communities is currently accepting resúmes for the position of chief executive officer. BLC is looking for a Southern Baptist committed Christian with administrative and marketing/ambassador skills. The position will involve overseeing a multi-campus, canopy of care, facilities network that has varying levels of professional health care and services. The ideal candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in business-related or health-related field. Licensed Administrator preferred but not required. Other expectations include substantial experience in hospital and/or long-term care administration with the ability to interact with and market BLC ministries to the community and churches. High integrity, people skills toward staff, residents, their families and compassion for service a must. The CEO must be able and willing to embrace our mission of caring for the frail and elderly and the ministries of Baptist Life Communities. Please forward resumé, salary requirements and references to: Baptist Life Communities CEO Search Committee, c/o Dan Reynolds, chairman, 2 Keating Drive, Cold Spring, KY 41076.

**SEEKING:** Walnut Grove Baptist Church seeks a part-time youth minister that is willing to build the youth ministry through outreach. Please send resumé to: Walnut Grove Baptist Church, 2941 Highland Lick Road, Russellville, KY 42276.

**SEEKING:** Controller. Requires CPA and 15 years experience. Public accounting, nonprofit, auditing, investment experience preferred. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, Attn: Personnel; or personnel@sbts.edu.

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

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

**SEEKING:** 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:** 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:** 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:** Full-time minister of youth and activities director for Christian Life Center at Salem Baptist Church, Salem, Ky. Resúmes 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.

**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.

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

**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.

## Evangelicals in Britain warn of growing 'health & wealth' gospel

LONDON (RNS)—An evangelical organization in Britain warns that thousands of Christians are being taken in by a new style of preaching from a so-called "prosperity gospel" that promises untold wealth to believers.

The study produced by the Evangelical Alliance, an umbrella organization for Britain's evangelical churches, said the teachings in what some critics call the "blab it and grab it gospel" encourage worshippers to pray for material wealth.

The prosperity gospel claims that any money believers give to their preacher will be multiplied by God hundreds of times or more in favor of the giver, according to the report, titled "Faith, Health and Prosperity."

The danger, it said, is that "prosperous, charismatic preachers" could replace Jesus as the object of admiration and adulation.

Ruth Gledhill, religion expert for The Times newspaper in London, said the prosperity gospel "is proving attractive to wealthy Christians in the West, particularly in America, because it assuages their consciences."

"Some preachers teach that material blessings, along with physical wealth, are confirmation from God of a righteous and holy lifestyle," she said.

The Evangelical Alliance's report said the prosperity gospel was born in the United States during World War II. "Lacking the traditional British embarrassment about money," it added, "Americans are more likely to see wealth as something to be invested and exploited."

The study said the movement "has been an unabashed advocate of material prosperity, and this has naturally invited the charge that it promotes a lifestyle and ethos fundamentally at odds with the values of the Kingdom of God."

The report said analyses of the "blab it and grab it" movement "abound with anecdotes about luxury cars and Rolex watches."

Andrew Perriman, author of the alliance's report, said prosperity gospel preachers were using mailings, satellite and cable television and other direct means as well as through the church to reach their audiences.

The Evangelical Alliance said the cited Bible text for the radical teachings is in the Gospel of Mark, where Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you."

## Are religious toys effective?

### Can 'Pray with me Mantis' really improve child's closeness to God?

By Kristen Campbell  
Religion News Service

POMONA, N.J. (RNS)—Perhaps it was only a matter of time.

In January, the "Pray with me Mantis" moved into the marketplace of Christian children's toys.

The plush predatory insect sings and prays when pushed in the heart or squeezed in the sneakers; play with it often enough, the thinking goes, and it could help instill a sense of God's love and acceptance.

Early childhood experts, psychologists and plenty of parents have long proclaimed the importance of nurturing children's spiritual—not to mention physical and emotional—growth. To do this, adults have told children stories, taken them on trips and provided them with games to play.

In 2003, as parents worry about what playthings to give their children, they face a greater number of options than their parents ever did. The American toy industry is overflowing with action figures and trading cards, building sets and sports toys.

Within that \$20.3 billion industry is a small but growing niche of religious toys, from dolls and board games to infant accouterments and preschool play sets.

The market is hardly new.

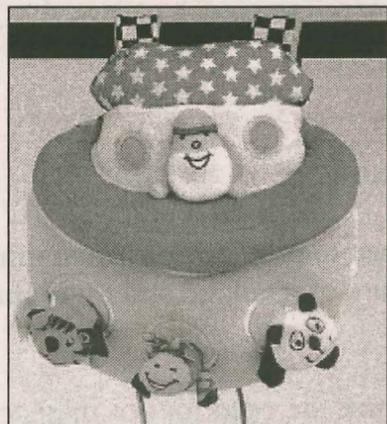
### A history of toys

Miniature replicas of Noah's ark were perhaps the earliest play sets made available to children, said Gary Cross, author of "Kids' Stuff: Toys and the Changing World of American Childhood" and a professor of modern history at Penn State University.

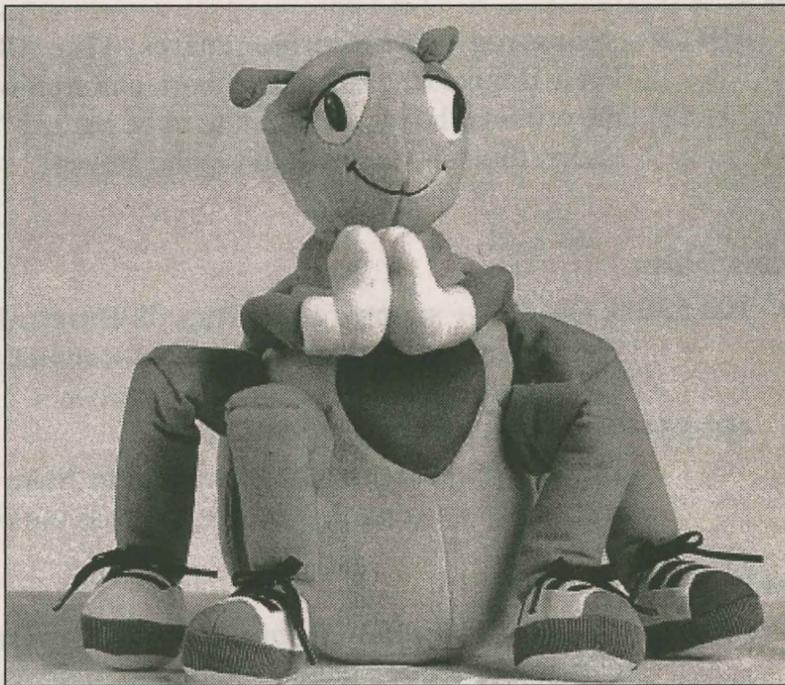
While still beloved today, the toys were particularly popular around the time of the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, Cross said.

"Religious people let their children play with it on Sundays," the traditional day of rest, he said.

Five hundred years later, religious children's toys fill store shelves. But



**CRIB TOY** Noah's ark was among the first religious elements to be used in toys, according to Gary Cross, author of "Kids' Stuff." This crib toy, by Baby Blessings, retails for \$19.99.



**MANTIS** The "Pray with me Mantis" is for sale online for \$34.95. Pressing the toy's red heart will play a bedtime prayer. Four original songs, including "Never Stray" and "Confident Kid," play when the stuffed insect's sneakers are pressed. (RNS photos by G.M. Andrews)

Dan Lynch, vice president of entertainment media for Nashville-based manufacturer Tommy Nelson, wants to see better products.

"There has always been, and continues to be, an absence of high quality toys," Lynch said.

According to Lynch, the Christian retail market never has been able to sell high enough quantities to cover the investment involved in producing toys.

### A praying predator?

Cheryl Stolfo, the 35-year-old creator of the Pray with me Mantis, is well acquainted with the challenges involved in developing a quality Christian toy. She started work on her six-legged, 12-inch-tall toy in 1998; the toy is sold online, not in stores.

"I always wanted my own company," said Stolfo, a fiscal specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration in Pomona, N.J. After a lot of prayer, Stolfo came up with the idea for the Pray with me Mantis, a plaything that simply "is what it is," she said.

Stolfo said she thinks that people are "getting off-track and lost, morally." She said she'd like her toy to help give kids hope during bleak times.

"I think people essentially have gone back to a more spiritual way of life," said Stolfo, who was raised Catholic and now attends a variety of Christian churches. "I think especially after Sept. 11 a lot of people opened their eyes."

Steven Mohler, director of sales and marketing for Indiana-based Dicksons Inc., said the toys his company sells—including the pirate ship popularized in "Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie"—are designed to convey the idea that "God is alive and watching over us. In times like these, people need this message."

The toys also help express the "fun and lively" side of Christianity, he said.

"Those types of things are important to express to kids," he said. "This isn't all the fire and brimstone. ...

There is a softer side here, that Jesus came down and did love (us), and so does God. He's not just here to rap on our knuckles with a ruler."

### Questionable impact

But Barbara Kimes Myers, author of "Young Children and Spirituality," said she's not sure that parents' toy selections make any difference in their children's spiritual development.

"You can go into any toy store and spend a whole lot of money that may not be giving your children what you want them to have," said Myers, who is also a professor of child development and early childhood education at DePaul University in Chicago. "If you want them to have a sense of faith (in) God that you believe and care about, you can't do it with toys. It comes from the relationship that you have with that child."

"When you hold a child and read a book, or when you talk with the child about the beautiful things that you see in the world—or maybe the things that trouble you—those are things that are going to promote faith. What's going to promote faith are parents who hold faith. Toys aren't going to do it."

Regardless of whether a toy is advertised as having religious significance, Myers said parents should question what the toy means to them and to their children.

For example, she said, if a doll is tucked into bed with a child by a caring mother, then the toy might represent love and care to the child. But such religious values are not inherent to the toy itself, she said.

Stolfo said she doesn't want to proclaim that playing with a Pray with me Mantis will singularly stimulate or alter a child's spiritual beliefs. But she hopes it might augment parents' teaching about God.

"If a child gets picked on, maybe this is his little friend," she said. "Whether he's hearing it, he's subliminally getting a message: 'You're loved. You're accepted.' ... I think I can give them another outlook."

"There has always been, and continues to be, an absence of high quality (religious) toys."

Dan Lynch, vice president for Tommy Nelson

# *Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems*

## *2003 Legislative Wrap-Up*

### **Children:**

- **HB 29 – sponsored by 54 Representatives. Also, SB 8**  
Fetal Homicide – includes unborn children within the definition of person for purposes of the criminal homicide. Statute to be named “The Caleb-Haley Act.”  
Sadly, this bill was defeated in the House

### **Gambling Bills:**

- **HB 536 & HB 537 – sponsored by Rep. T. Burch, J. Jenkins, De. Butler, J. Haydon**  
This bill will allow slot machines at Kentucky Race Tracks.  
These bills did not pass out of committee’s.
- **HB 559 – sponsored by Rep. S. Westrom**  
This bill proposes an amendment to the State Constitution that would allow slot machines at the States racetracks. It failed to pass out of committee.

### **Alcohol Bills:**

- **HB 146 – sponsored by Rep. Robin Webb of Grayson.**  
This would require the videotaping of a driver’s refusal to submit to an alcohol test.  
Another good bill, but can’t get it out of Committee
- **HB 139 – sponsored by Rep. Denver Butler of Louisville.**  
To delete language in the current law that permitted minors on the premises of a facility selling alcoholic beverages which were trying to disguise itself as a restaurant.  
Passed both House and Senate
- **HB 365 – sponsored by Rep. Jody Hayden of Bardstown.**  
This act would allow retail drink licenses, such as restaurants and bars, to provide free samples of liquor and wine for their customers. Passed both House and Senate.
- **HB 428 – sponsored by Rep. Joni Jenkins of Louisville.**  
Would allow golf courses to sell distilled spirits and beer from a golf cart. Passed House, Senate did not vote on it.
- **SB 116 – co-sponsored by Sen. Ernesto Scorsone of Lexington, Sen. Joey Pendleton of Hopkinsville and Sen. Larry Saunders of Louisville.**  
This act would allow out of state wineries the right to mail order wine into Kentucky.  
Never voted on in the Senate. Bill died.

### **Sexual Orientation:**

- **HB 14 – co-sponsored by Rep. Stein, Rep. Mazian, Rep. Butler, Rep. Burch, Rep. Meeks, Rep. Palumbo, and Rep. Westrom.**  
This would amend various sections of KRS Chapter 344 to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Bill was never heard in committee and died.

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From its inception, the purpose of the Kentucky League has been to provide a spiritual ministry by extending the work of the church in her concern for the total welfare of mankind and by urging Christian action on moral issues.

Funding is provided by citizens and churches that recognize the need for our ministry.