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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, April 2

Should pastors' salaries be set by free market?

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

DURHAM, N.C. (ABP)—A free-market economy drives pastors of many churches, including Baptist congregations, to climb a career ladder in order to maintain a decent standard of living, according to a new study from Duke University.

This pattern imperils the health of smaller congregations that cannot afford to pay a middle-class salary and threatens the prophetic role of ministers who are trapped by climbing the ladder, conclude the authors, Becky McMillan and Matthew Price.

"How Much Should We Pay the Pastor?" is the title of the report produced by the Pulpit & Pew research unit of Duke Divinity School. The study was funded by the Lilly Endowment.

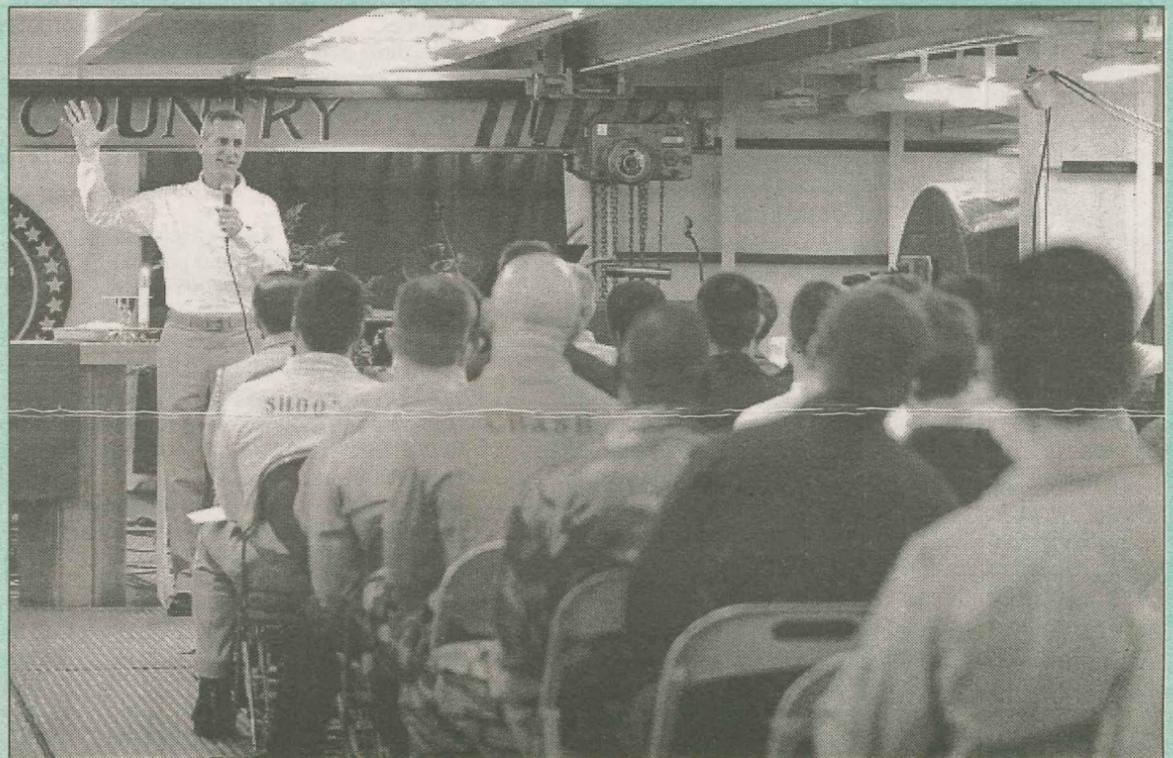
"While pastors may feel called to serve small or poor congregations, the costs of doing so might be considerable," the authors note. "In order to accumulate savings and pay off educational debt, they need to progress to larger congregations with correspondingly larger salaries."

"The salary structure is such that clergy wishing to maintain a middle-class lifestyle must take on a 'career' as opposed to a 'calling' mentality. Local congregations, rather than focusing on their mission to the world around them, must focus inordinately on 'church growth' strategies in order to increase their market power to attract good clergy."

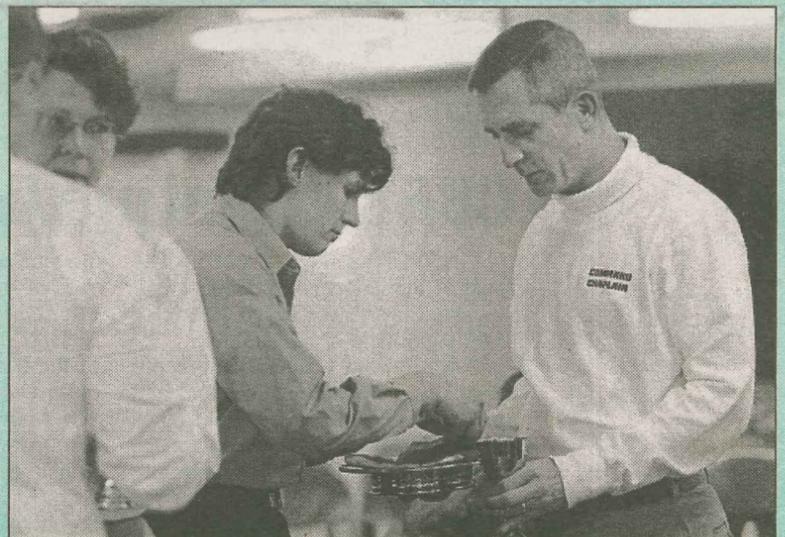
The study compares clergy compensation among three types of churches—Catholics, "connectional" Protestants and congregational Protestants. Connectional Protestants, such as Methodists, allow a denominational structure to play a major role

□ See Study: Free market ..., page 12

A chaplain's story



Cmdr. Doyle Dunn, a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, is the command chaplain for the USS Harry S Truman, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, currently deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Dunn is responsible for overseeing the spiritual health of the 5,500 sailors, aviators and Marines on board. He said the best way to share Christ with others is to reflect Christ in everything he does. "Look how Jesus won people to Him in the Bible," he said. "He touched them where they need to be touched." Story on page 8.



Mayfield pastor catches chaplaincy for Giants' spring training

By Keith Todd
State Correspondent

MAYFIELD—Bob Swift has three passions: God, people and baseball; specifically the San Francisco Giants.

Those three loves converged a few years ago when the pastor of Mayfield's First Baptist Church started vacationing in Arizona at the Giants' spring training camp and eventually became a volunteer camp chaplain for minor league players.

"With a hundred or more players in camp, there are always lives being affected by something where a chaplain is needed," Swift said. "They have doctors and trainers and they are well-fed, but they need the emotional and spiritual support of a chaplain."

Swift recently completed his latest two-week stint at the Scottsdale, Ariz., training facility. He said the camp has

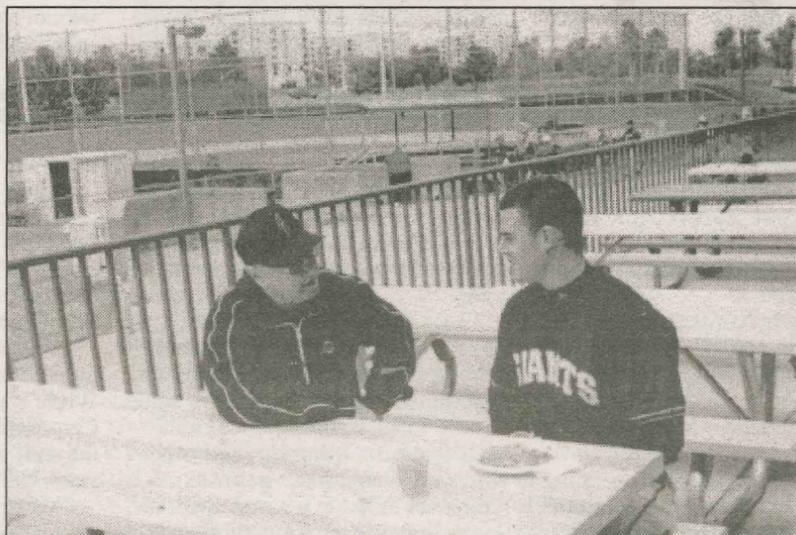
become something of a working vacation. He typically arrives at camp around 9 a.m., and then will come and go throughout day as needed.

"We're there to provide one-on-one mentoring and Bible study," Swift said during an interview from Arizona.

"I just make myself available to speak with players privately before workouts in the morning, during lunch or at their request. I pray with players about concerns they have back home, sick family members, that type of thing," he added. "Yesterday, I met with, encouraged and prayed with six players who had been released and were being sent home."

On March 16, more than 50 minor league players attended a chapel service led by Swift. "Last Sunday we had a player saved after chapel when he requested to speak with me privately."

□ See Mayfield pastor ..., page 7



PLAY BALL Bob Swift (left), pastor of Mayfield First Baptist Church, talks with Noah Lowery, a pitcher at the San Francisco Giants minor league complex in Scottsdale, Ariz. Swift has spent part of his vacation for the last five years serving as a chaplain to Giants minor leaguers.

Blackaby urges commitment to prayer for Bush & troops

NASHVILLE (BP)—As the United States military and its coalition partners battle in Iraq, Henry Blackaby is calling American believers to pray for their country, walk closely with God, love their enemies and trust God's sovereignty.

This is a "crucial time for God's people and the nation," said Blackaby, author of the "Experiencing God" discipleship materials.

After attending a March 12-13 White House briefing, Blackaby said he believes God has placed "incredible believing people" in the U.S. government, including a president who sets aside time with God each morning.

Christians should pray that President Bush will not be distracted from his quiet time with God and that perfect peace will result, Blackaby said. At the president's request, he also asked believers to pray that God would protect Bush's wife and children from those who would seek to harm them.

The military, the president and more than 400,000 Iraqi Christians need a "much stronger commitment in prayer and holiness" from American believers, Blackaby said. Southern Baptists should pray for their missionaries, too, asking God to show them what is right and give them the courage to follow His will, he added.

Blackaby noted that God wants every Muslim to have a saving relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

"If we consider them an enemy, God has told us what to do: Pray for them, do good to them, bless them and feed them," he said. "It's a command of our Lord, not a suggestion."

Blackaby urged Southern Baptists not to assume that war came from the enemy.

"The war may be from God," he said. "In the Bible, He has often used war for His purposes—to punish evildoers or draw His people back to Himself."

"We need to watch very carefully to see how He unfolds His purposes and be ready to be in the middle of them."

Professors evaluate 'aggressive Calvinism'

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

GRAPEVINE, Texas (ABP)—The best antidote for "aggressive Calvinism" is a good dose of Calvin and a bigger dose of the Bible, a trio of Baptist religion professors told their colleagues.

The three men examined how Calvinism is impacting college and seminary students. The Southwest chapter of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion sponsored their discussion during its annual meeting March 14.

Panel moderator Randy Hatchett, professor of Christianity and philosophy at Houston Baptist University, noted Calvinism has emerged in church youth settings in his area.

"It has a militant nature, especially around the issue of worship," Hatchett observed. "Calvinists imply non-Calvinists can't worship as well as Calvinists."

John Calvin was a 16th-century Reformer and theologian. Although his famous "Institutes of the Christian Religion" covers a range of theological issues, his teaching often is summed up in the acrostic TULIP: Total depravity of humanity, Unconditional election by God, Limited atonement or salvation, Irresistible grace of God, and Perseverance of the saints.

Although Calvinism has been represented in Baptist theology for almost four centuries, it has enjoyed a recent resurgence. The Founders' Conference actively promotes Calvinism—or "doctrines of grace," as they pre-

fer—with a journal and an annual meeting. And the faculty at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville has collected a cohort of Calvinists.

Thousands of students have been influenced by the Calvinistic teachings of John Piper, a pastor and former professor from Minneapolis. He speaks at numerous student gatherings, such as Southern Baptist seminaries, Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center and the popular youth conferences led by Louie Giglio.

Resurgence on campuses?

Hatchett asked the panelists if they had seen a resurgence of Calvinism among students.

"There's an aggressive movement of Calvinism at many colleges, and it's even reached into our youth groups and into parachurch youth groups," said Roger Olson, professor of theology at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas. "I have nothing but against garden-variety Calvinism, but aggressive Calvinism is another matter."

Preban Vang, professor of theology at Ouachita Baptist University, said Calvinism has been "no problem" on the campus in Arkadelphia, Ark.

In fact, some students have reacted against the aggressive push by some Calvinists, he added. "I have had to stand up in class and defend Calvin, or he would be trashed like some kind of telegenic evangelist."

Warren McWilliams, professor of Bible at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, said Calvinism there "never has been strong, but it hasn't

gone away either."

"Resurgence' isn't a word I would use for Calvinism, but it's definitely there," McWilliams said.

Hatchett asked the panelists how to present a constructive Baptist response to Calvinism.

Olson and McWilliams advised urging students to actually read what Calvin wrote. Vang noted all theological systems should be read and compared alongside the Bible.

"I just ask Calvinist students, 'Have you actually read Calvin?'" McWilliams said. "They usually answer no. They've read someone's interpretation of Calvinism."

Respect diverse views

"One of the best responses we can make" is to encourage students to read Calvin and other church-shaping theologians, Olson said. "The best we can do is educate our students. We can help them see there aren't just two answers—right and wrong. Theology is a spectrum."

For example, he noted, in addition to Calvin's teachings, Baptists have been shaped by the teachings of Jacobus Arminius, a 16th-century theologian. Like Calvin, Arminius affirmed God's sovereignty, grace and ability to protect the saints, but he also taught that God honors human free will.

"Baptists always have had two strains, Arminian and Calvinist," Olson said. "Neither is heresy. We must be respectful."

"We teach that we are bound to Scripture. Scripture is our authority," Vang added. "If you read something, read it alongside the (biblical) text."

CBF's Vestal predicts demise of moderate political efforts

GASTONIA, N.C. (ABP)—The head of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship doesn't see much future for Baptist political organizations.

Asked about CBF's relationship with Texas Baptists Committed and the Mainstream Baptist Network, Daniel Vestal said CBF has no formal relationship with the two moderate Baptist groups, though many of the people in those organizations are also CBF supporters.

"I don't see a future for the Mainstream organization," said Vestal, CBF coordinator, in a breakout session during the general assembly of the CBF of North Carolina. "Its primary purpose has been political. They

have helped Baptists. But people are tired of fighting fundamentalists, and I don't see a future" in it.

Bob Stephenson, national co-chair of the Mainstream Baptist Network, disagreed with Vestal's assessment. The Mainstream movement is more about informing laypeople about the principles at stake in Baptist life than winning denominational elections, Stephenson told Associated Baptist Press.

"As long as there is one uninformed Baptist, there will be a need for Mainstream," said Stephenson, a layman from Norman, Okla. "And there still are millions of uninformed Baptists."

He said Mainstream can be a transitional stop for Baptists dissatisfied with the SBC but not ready to join CBF. In places like Oklahoma and Texas, Stephenson said, many moderate Baptists don't yet trust CBF because of "fundamentalist propaganda" about the group.

Vestal said CBF's future will depend on how faithful it is in fulfilling its mission. "The more they see who we are, the more they will be attracted to us," he said. "The more we are committed to that vision, the more we can say, 'Come and join us.'"

"Let's hold our heads up and be part of a movement, a righteous movement," Vestal said. "We are surround-

ed by a powerful juggernaut of fundamentalism. But it's our time."

Asked about the status of CBF's application for membership in the Baptist World Alliance, Vestal said, "I will be surprised and disappointed if we don't get in." The BWA membership committee probably will not make an announcement prior to the July meeting in Seoul, Korea, he said, but the SBC's planned reduction in giving to BWA "is a sign that they think we will get in."

"If we are admitted we want to be a good member, and we don't want the SBC to leave," Vestal said. "I hope we can work together in BWA as fellow Baptists and fellow Christians."

Camp Ridgecrest celebrates 75 years of ministry

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—In the summer of 1929, just months before the onset of the Great Depression, Southern Baptists banded together to offer a new kind of ministry—Camp Ridgecrest.

The camp in North Carolina celebrates its 75th summer this year, including a celebration weekend in late July sponsored by Camp Ridgecrest Alumni and Friends. More than 200 alumni are expected to attend.

"Camp Ridgecrest began operating in 1929 as a two-week trial session," said camp director Ron Springs. "It was so successful that they immediately began planning for the 1930 sea-

son."

Chris Shirley, associate pastor at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, is a former camper, staffer and associate director of the camp.

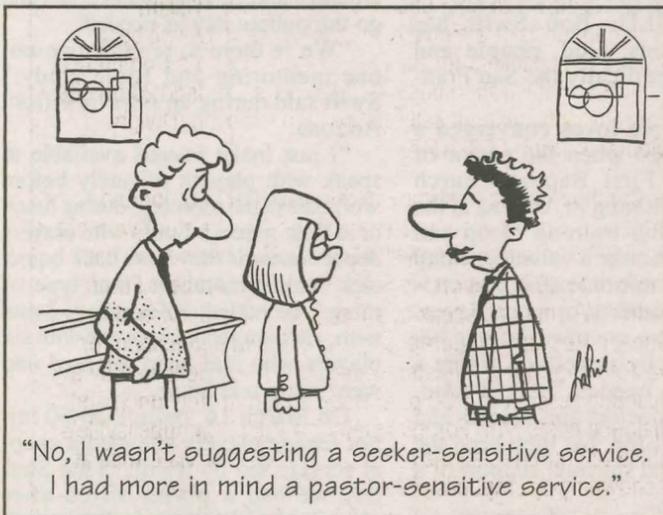
"I was at the 50th and 60th anniversary celebrations, and I remember just listening to all the memories and experiences others share," he said. "These folks were the doctors, lawyers, teachers, ministers and others who were shaping our generations. I remember thinking what an awesome privilege it was to be a part of a place where God was molding the lives of not only present generations, but those

to come."

Camp Ridgecrest for Boys and its sister camp, Camp Crestridge for Girls, are designed to provide campers ages 7 to 16 with a safe, fun-filled atmosphere that glorifies Christ, Springs said.

Approximately 1,200 campers participate in the camps each summer. While sports and fun are part of the Camp Ridgecrest agenda, Springs said the staff's top priority throughout the years has been to share the gospel.

"Our goal," he noted, "is to show our campers that you can live a Christian life and have fun at the same time."



"No, I wasn't suggesting a seeker-sensitive service. I had more in mind a pastor-sensitive service."

Kentucky CP giving ahead of last year but behind budget

Kentucky Baptists' gifts to the Cooperative Program are up slightly but still behind budget at the midpoint of the fiscal year.

Kentucky Baptists have contributed nearly \$11 million to the Cooperative Program between September and February, a 1.7 percent increase compared to the same period last year, Lowell Ashby told the administrative committee of the KBC Mission Board last week.

The Cooperative Program is the unified spending plan for church contributions to Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist ministries, institutions and agencies.

Despite the increase, gifts are 5.3 percent below the \$11.6 million CP budget for the first six months, said Ashby, the KBC's business services team leader.

"I think we're seeing the impact of the missed Sunday in February," he said, referring to a snow storm that forced many churches to cancel services one weekend.

Ashby's office is projecting the convention will end the year with CP gifts totaling 96 percent of the KBC's \$23.2 million Cooperative Program budget. That would be a shortfall of approximately \$1 million.

To prepare for the deficit, all KBC departments have been asked to implement a 90 percent spending limit, he said.

Ashby said he recently returned from a meeting of business leaders for state Baptist conventions and Kentucky's situation isn't unique.

A combination of the bad winter weather and an economy that's weaker compared to recent years has many state conventions below budget, he said.

He noted that gifts limited to use in Kentucky increased during the past six months. Money contributed to the "restricted Kentucky only" fund totaled \$240,208, a 3.8 percent increase compared to fiscal 2001-2002.

Ashby noted that recent studies have found that Kentucky Baptist churches have decreased the percentage of their undesignated funds going to the Cooperative Program at the same time that the total amount of their undesignated funds have increased.

Also during the administrative committee report, committee member Scott Kilgore reported that the KBC's ad hoc Mission Study Committee continues to progress in its work.

The committee has collected lots of information about ministries, demographics and projections of future trends, he said, and is on schedule to share its findings and goals in May.

Vote keeps First Ashland in association

By John Cannon
The Ashland Daily Independent

ASHLAND—First Baptist Church of Ashland still is a member in good standing of the Greenup Association of Baptists, but just barely.

Sixty-eight percent of the 365 messengers attending the association's March 17 semiannual meeting supported a resolution to "withdraw fellowship" with the downtown Ashland church, but the resolution failed to get the 75 percent of the votes required to oust a church.

Controversy surrounding First Baptist of Ashland dates to 1999 when it became the first Kentucky Baptist church in the association to ordain a female deacon. Since then, three other women have been ordained deacons by the church.

When the church's first female deacon was ordained, an effort was made by some in the association to "withdraw fellowship" with First Baptist, but it never came to a vote. The issue has continued to come up at association activities since then, culminating in the vote this month at First Baptist Church of Flatwoods.

Greenup Baptist Association is an organization of about 50 Southern Baptist churches in Northeastern Kentucky. Individual churches send voting messengers to the association's semiannual meetings based on the size of their membership.

Different interpretations

Many Southern Baptist churches base their opposition to women serving as deacons on the Apostle Paul's

instructions to Timothy on the qualifications for the church office, including that deacons be "the husband of but one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2).

Other Baptist churches also have complained about First Baptist's association with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Baptist moderates that has split from the Southern Baptist Convention.

Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church and moderator of Greenup association, said the real issue is over the inspiration of Scripture.

"We believe Scripture to be the holy, inerrant, infallible Word of God," Paris said, adding that he doesn't think the CBF believes that.

Edwin Talley, pastor of First Baptist of Ashland, said he thinks the real issue is one of freedom.

"We believe an individual can make their own interpretation of what the Bible says with the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Talley said Southern Baptist churches have a history of women serving as deacons and whether that is biblical is "a matter of interpretation."

Talley said First Baptist is not a CBF church, but it has "allowed our people to choose to support that fellowship." The CBF does mission work and "some of our more conservative brethren think that takes away from the (SBC) cooperative work."

"I just see it as another way for God to do mission work," Talley said. "The bottom line is that our church would stand to recognize that there is strength in diversity."

There is also the issue of the au-

tonomy of the local Baptist church, Talley said. "When a church feels led to do something that is not traditional, do you place rigid standards on it or do you allow the Spirit to lead it?" he asked.

"Agree to disagree"

Kenneth Gowin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Russell, called the issue concerning the Ashland church "a controversy where people agree to disagree."

"I really don't see this as a negative," Gowin said. "I see it as a healthy thing. It causes people to check their values and to read their Bibles to discover how they really stand. That's a positive."

Ric Frazier, pastor of First Baptist Church of Louisa, said he believes the March 17 vote will bring an end to the controversy. He said a number of individuals told him that they wanted to know where the association stood on this issue. Now that there has been a vote, it is finished.

"The real question was whether we were going to stand by a church that has traditionally been faithful and cooperative with the association," Frazier said.

Paris is not as confident that the issue has been settled. "It has been an issue and it will continue to be an issue."

Talley said he hopes the churches can get beyond it. "Some would magnify our differences, but we have a lot more in common than we do in our differences," he said.

This story originally appeared in *The Daily Independent* and is reprinted with permission

Son of Kentuckians killed serving in Guatemala

By David Winfrey
News Director

MT. VERNON—A missionary in Central America whose parents were Southern Baptist workers in Israel was shot and killed March 28.

Todd Fields, 41, had been a missionary for 13 years with Global Outreach International of Tupelo, Miss., according to Norm Lytle, a former Southern Baptist missionary in Israel and Russia and a friend of Fields' parents, Bob and Edwina Fields.

Bob and Edwina Fields now live in Mt. Vernon, where they lead cleftRock retreat, a Christian retreat center which they founded.

Todd Fields, who was serving as a missionary in Honduras, was driving middle and high school students to a retreat in Guatemala when a group of robbers shot Fields to force the van to stop, Lytle said.

"Todd saw the guns and realized what was happening," Lytle said, based on reports from those in the van. "They tried to force him off the road, and he resisted."

Struck twice, Fields was able to pull over without wrecking, Lytle said. The five robbers pushed Fields into the aisle between the front seats and drove the van into a wooded area where they tied and robbed those in the van and told them to lie face down on the floor for an hour and a half.

In addition to his parents, Fields is

survived by his wife, Lynell, and daughters Savannah, 14 and Sophia, 10. Fields graduated from Rockcastle County High School and Eastern Kentucky University, where he studied fish management.

He initially went to Central America with the Peace Corps and later returned as a missionary with Global Outreach. Fields' work included helping local residents develop fisheries to grow tilapia fish for food and market. He also was involved in public health issues, church starting and the development of a camp, Lytle said.

Bob and Edwina Fields were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the predecessor of the International Mission Board, from 1962-1972.

They returned to Kentucky in 1972, where they served two years as campus ministers at Georgetown College and began working to establish cleftRock in Mt. Vernon with help from other missionaries.

Bob Fields also helped establish some Cornerstone Counseling Centers with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and started his own counseling center, "Roots and Wings," in London, Lytle said.

They were reappointed as missionaries from 1987-1994, assisting the area director for all missionaries to the Middle East and North Africa.

With their backgrounds in counseling, Bob and Eddie Fields were

among those requested by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to help counsel missionaries after the December shooting at a Yemen hospital, Lytle said.

"To kind of paraphrase Paul's words, they're now needing to be comforted by the same comfort which they have given to so many," said Lytle, a member of cleftRock's board of directors.

The funeral will be handled by Cox Funeral Home in Mt. Vernon, but no details were available as of Monday.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Georgetown to host pastor's conference.** William Willimon, dean of the chapel at Duke University, will be among the speakers for the Georgetown Pastor's Conference, April 7-9. Registration costs \$100 in advance or \$120 on site. For more information, call Georgetown chaplain, Dwight Moody at (502) 863-7047.

■ **Campbellsville hosting worship speaker.** Author and professor Robert Webber will speak on 21st century worship, April 9-10 at Campbellsville University. Webber has written more than 40 books on worship, including "Ancient-Future Faith." Webber will speak at a 7 p.m. worship service at Gheens Recital Hall. Campbellsville will host a luncheon for pastors and music ministers April 10 at noon, followed by a dialogue session at 1:30 p.m. Registration for the lunch and dialogue costs \$15. For information, contact Campbellsville's office of church relations at (270) 789-5520 or via e-mail at jechowning@campbellsville.edu.

Correction: A Feb. 25 story on evangelism among Hispanics incorrectly identified the speaker as Gus Reyes, a Mission Service Corps missionary in Bowling Green. The speaker was Reyes' son, Gus Reyes Jr., an evangelism consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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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Support just war

Why is it that so many people oppose the war in Iraq so vehemently? Maybe they haven't heard of how the Iraqi soldiers and terrorists are using innocent women and children as human shields, even pushing them out into firefights in the streets to raise the number of civilian casualties. Maybe they didn't hear the cries of the thousands of Kurdish men, women and children who suffered agonizing deaths when Saddam Hussein attacked them with chemical weapons. Maybe they didn't see the segment of the former Iraqi general who tearfully recounted the haunting screams of Iraqi dissidents who were fed feet-first into industrial wood-chippers. Maybe they have turned a deaf ear to the cries of hundreds of Iraqi girls who have been brutally tortured and raped by Saddam's barbaric son. Maybe they haven't considered the millions of Israeli or American voices that would be silenced whenever Saddam decides to utilize the nuclear weapons he has acquired.

War is horrible, and I truly wish we could have prevented this one. However, we live in a world with men so evil that the only language they understand is that of brut force. In Romans 13, Paul reminds us that governments do not bear the sword for nothing; the sword of authority "is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil."

America has the moral obligation to use its might to protect the innocents of Iraq and abolish Saddam's Hitler-like regime. We do indeed owe the Iraqi people an apology—an apology for not freeing them from their oppression in 1991. Many Americans also owe our soldiers an apology for not honoring their valor and sacrifice as they represent us in what is obviously a just war.

Shawn Merithew
Louisville

Disappointing letter

I am very disappointed in you printing the March 25 letter by Larry Smith with the title, "Apologize to Iraqis."

This letter was a direct attack against our government, our president and every true-blooded American. It is a direct attack against every man and woman who is fighting in Iraq, and everyone who wears the uniform representing our nation. It is a direct attack against Christianity.

Our president and leader and every man or woman wearing our uniform is trying to help the Iraqi people by delivering them from a brutal dictator and a satanic force.

Letters printed by our editor ought to represent what Southern Baptists stand for and not letters undermining our nation, president and military forces, or the work of Southern Baptists in Kentucky or anywhere else.

Vestal R. Meece
Somerset

Editor's Note: Letters published in Baptist Forum are the personal opinions of the individual writers. In an effort to affirm free speech and open dialogue, we will continue to publish letters that express both minority and majority views.

Ashamed of event

Having just completed a study of Islam in the Sunday school class that

I teach, I was excited to learn that our church would be hosting the "Conference on Understanding Other Beliefs" in which Islam would be discussed.

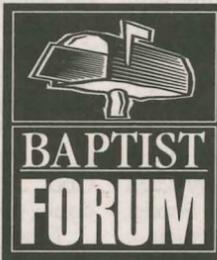
I urged class members to attend the conference, thinking that it would provide additional understanding of Islam. Thankfully, few followed my advice! After an hour of indoctrination concerning the "lies promoted by Islam," I left the conference, ashamed that my church was hosting the event.

If this conference is representative of what the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board or the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team is about these days, I fear that they have badly misunderstood the gospel of Christ and I wonder what kind of faith they are evangelizing people to!

I have never felt called to be a missionary, but both at home and during the three and a half years that I have lived and worked in foreign countries, I have tried to share my faith in Christ. I have discussed religion with Muslims, Buddhists, Jews and atheists, but always in a spirit of mutual respect.

The presentation that I heard at the Conference on Understanding Other Beliefs was disrespectful of the religion presented, and it did nothing to promote understanding of that religion. I am utterly ashamed to be identified with the organizations that are sponsoring this conference.

J. Dudley Herron
Morehead



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

WMU hosts 100th annual meeting

Although Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will be celebrating more than a century of history when Baptist women from around the state gather this weekend for the organization's annual meeting, the focus of the event will be sharply on the future—especially during the concluding service on Saturday morning.

The annual meeting will be held April 4-5 at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. It will be the 100th annual meeting and will mark 125 years of service by Kentucky Baptist women.

Special program guests Saturday morning will be the Baptist Student Union praise team; Randy Record, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth evangelism strategies expert; the Oneida Baptist Institute Choir; and Amanda Kidd, an Acteen from Hartford. Dee Gilliland, former Kentucky WMU executive director; and Wanda Lee, national WMU executive director, also will be on hand.

Leaders are encouraged to bring

their youth to this session of inspiration and challenge and to remain for an Acteens pizza party. A special effort also has been made to give Girls in Action and Children in Action participants an opportunity to spend creative time with missionaries Saturday morning.

The Friday evening session will be inspirational as well with music featuring the outstanding chancel choir of Central Baptist Church. Featured on the program will be KBC President Paul Badgett; KBC Mountain Missions Director David Aker; Mission Service Corps volunteers Lonnie and Belinda Riley; and various WMU volunteers. I also will be sharing during that service.

WMU history displays will be available during the meeting, starting with the Heritage Fund Tea on Friday afternoon.

Please join with me in praying for this very special anniversary celebration of missions education, prayer sup-

port, promotion, giving for missions and missions participation. Pray for Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU, and the WMU staff as they host participants, and for Cathy Chinn, our state WMU president, as she presides.

As we gather to celebrate missions, we also are reminded to pray for our world situation and the safety of our missionaries. Also we must pray for the safety of our military and their families and the swift resolution of the conflict in order to stop the loss of lives.

In describing the "end times" in Matthew 24, Jesus said that we should not be frightened when we hear of wars and rumors of wars. He also reminded us to not be led astray by false prophets and to be faithful to the end, continuing to love and preach the gospel. He said the end time would come when the gospel has been preached to all nations. Only God can turn seemingly impossible circumstances into a means to share the gospel with the nations!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

GIVING

Using flexible gift annuities benefit retirees, charities

By Laurie Valentine

Are the "minimum distribution rules" requiring you to take out more from your IRA than you currently need for living expenses? Do you have an interest in establishing a

charitable gift plan that ultimately will provide a significant gift to one or more charitable causes, while allowing you to tap in to an income stream at a later age?

A flexible deferred charitable gift annuity can provide a solution to your problem and a way to accomplish your charitable giving objectives.

A deferred charitable gift annuity is an arrangement in which a charity agrees, in exchange for a gift of cash, appreciated securities or real estate, to make fixed payments to the giver and/or one other person for their lifetimes beginning at least one year and one day after the gift is made.

A flexible deferred charitable gift annuity offers a new twist. Instead of designating a specific, unchangeable starting date for the annuity payments, under a flexible gift annuity contract the giver reserves the right to postpone the decision about the exact starting date for the annuity payments.

Here's an example: Mr. Jones, 71, is required to take \$10,000 a year from his IRA. He currently has no need for that income. He withdraws the required \$10,000, plus another \$2,000 to cover the taxes. He gives charity the \$10,000 and enters into a deferred gift annuity contract that states annuity payments will begin at age 76, unless he elects to begin payments earlier or later.

The results? Jones is entitled to a charitable income tax deduction of \$3,830 that, with the \$2,000 additional withdrawal, should cover the taxes on the IRA distribution, and he has set up a \$10,000 irrevocable fund with the charity from which he can begin to take annuity payments whenever he chooses. The annuity payout rates available to Jones at various ages and the payment amounts are: 9.6 percent (\$960 per year) if payments start at age 76; 11.1 percent (\$1,110 per year) if payments start at age 78; 13.1 percent (\$1,310 per year) if payments start at age 80. Additionally, assuming Jones lives out his full life expectancy, there will be almost \$12,900 left for charity if the fund earns an average annual return of 7.8 percent.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Effective communication can help strengthen relationships

Q: My fiancé and I seem to be stuck in poor communication patterns. What are some important communication skills that might help us achieve a breakthrough in our relationship?

It sounds like you could benefit greatly from a program of premarital counseling. Contact churches and counseling centers in your area to find a good pastoral counselor or marriage and family therapist who is trained in premarital counseling. Helpful programs such as PREPARE-ENRICH, FOCUS or RELATE feature useful relationship inventories and ways a counselor or mentor can help you learn and practice good communication and conflict resolution skills.

Besides helping you learn new skills, the advantage of using a counselor or mentor is to have an objective point of reference to help you hear one another. Marital researchers at the University of Colorado have found that at least 70 percent of conflicts dissipate when healthy communication patterns are practiced.

Healthy communication includes three steps:

- The "speaker" succinctly speaks for himself or herself and then stops. This is practicing assertiveness.

- The "listener" gives focused attention to the words, meanings and feelings of the speaker without interruption or rebuttal. The listener then gives feedback to the speaker to discover if the message received was the one intended.

- The feedback is then registered concerning what the speaker meant or clarification is made. This completes the communication cycle. Switch roles of speaker and listener so both parties have the opportunity to speak and to be heard.

Good communication patterns are the lifeblood of a healthy relationship. By utilizing the help of a trained professional, you can achieve a relationship that includes a smooth flow of good communication.—James Stillwell

Q: Is competition bad for children?

Trying to remove every aspect of competition from a child's life would not only be a mistake, it would be impossible. Real life contains a competitive dimension, and children need to learn to deal with it without becoming discouraged and frustrated. Children need to learn that their best might not always be the best—and that's OK. Losing a game does not make you a loser in life.

When presented in a healthy context, competition provides an opportunity for children to learn important lessons:

- Competition can help children learn the distinctively Christian truth that our ultimate sense of identity, self-worth and value are not defined by winning and losing. God made us, God loves us, and that's what makes us special—not what we do or how well we do it.

- Competition can help a child learn the importance of working to improve his or her own performance and skills.

- Competition can teach a child how to be gracious toward an opponent and to appreciate and respect another's skill and success.

- Competition can help children develop the ability to enjoy the game regardless of the outcome. This does not mean that sometimes there will not be real disappointment. However, sensitive parents and coaches can help children make it through these times with their self-esteem intact.

With the right kinds of examples and attitudes on the part of parents, teachers and coaches, competition can be enjoyed without getting out of hand, and can be a tremendous tool for building character and strength.—David Garrard

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



Oates' legacy promotes lifelong learning

Longtime Kentucky Baptist Wayne Oates was renowned for his groundbreaking work in the areas of pastoral care and counseling. He earned international recognition as a pioneer in the field of psychology of religion.

A professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for more than 25 years, Oates was the author of nearly 60 books, including "The Christian Pastor," "When Religion Gets Sick" and "The Presence of God in Pastoral Counseling." He also taught several years at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

After Oates' death in 1999 at age 82, his pastor, Leslie Hollon, reflected, "Wayne was a local and global Christian. Through his pioneer work in pastoral care, he became known around the world as a creative and faithful biblical theologian through the practice and ministry of pastoral care."

In keeping with Oates' ministry legacy, the Wayne E. Oates Institute was founded a decade ago in Louisville. Committed to "advancing spirituality, health and healing," the organization seeks "to provide integrative educational opportunities for medical, religious, nursing, social work and therapeutic professionals."

The Oates Institute hosts frequent forums on such issues as "Conflict Transformation" and "Hope as a Dynamic for Healing." In an effort to share resources around the globe, many of the conferences are conducted on the Internet.

I participated in a recent Oates Institute seminar on "Leading Congregations: Managing Change Toward a Common Vision." The event was coordinated by Vicki Hollon, executive director of the Oates Institute, and Chris Hammon, Internet project developer.

Among the perspectives shared in on-site, on-line and written presentations were:

- **Leslie Hollon**, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Noting that today's world is char-

acterized by change, Hollon said, "God has released tremendous energy in the 21st century. Our challenge is: How do we pull it together?"

Among principles of a healthy church, Hollon said, are empowered leadership, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, need-oriented evangelism and loving relationships. "People hunger to be in communication with God," he said, encouraging leaders to help individuals discover how they can use their gifts in ministry.

- **Cassidy Dale**, a futurist consultant based in Raleigh, N.C. "Static churches do not change. Static churches thus cannot change the world," he warned. "Only those transformed churches can transform their settings."

- "Esoteric religions are passionate about the awe of God while exoteric religions are passionate about the law of God," Dale said. Urging a balance, he said, "Without spirituality, dogma creates a rigid legalism."

- **John Westerhoff**, director of the Institute for Pastoral Studies in Atlanta. Highlighting the role of leadership in a transitional century, Westerhoff said Christian leaders "must

first have a clear future vision and be able to name accurately the historical, social and cultural context in which we live before we can imagine any relevant action in the present."

Emphasizing that churches "need leaders who have deep and healthy spiritual lives," he added, "Church leaders need to stop worrying about being successful and focus only on being faithful."

Such insights provide a reminder of the importance of Christian leaders pursuing continuing education, whether through organizations such as the Oates Institute, seminary extension, convention-sponsored workshops or other opportunities. In pursuing such ventures, leaders can build on Oates' legacy of lifelong learning.

For more information about the work of the Oates Institute, visit the Web site www.oates.org.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Heart disease has no religious affiliation

By Branda Polk

NASHVILLE (BP)—What is the greatest health risk in our society today? The clear answer is heart disease—the No. 1 killer of Americans.

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute estimates that the lifetime risk for developing coronary heart disease is extremely high. The institute's research indicates that "one out of every two men and one out of every three women age 40 and under will develop CHD" within their lifetimes. This alarming statistic has no regard for race, color or religious affiliation, Christian or otherwise. If you are not aware of the risk factors and do not properly care for your body, you are at risk.

The American Heart Association has divided the primary risk factors for CHD into two categories: uncontrollable and controllable. Uncontrollable risk factors are ones that cannot be changed:

- **Increasing age.** Approximately 85 percent of people who die with CHD are age 65 or older.
- **Male gender.** Men are at a higher risk for CHD and die with the disease younger than women.
- **Heredity.** CHD tendencies can be passed to the next generation. African Americans are genetically at greater

risk for high blood pressure and therefore at a greater risk for CHD than other races.

Controllable risk factors are lifestyle patterns that can be altered or controlled through healthy choices or medication to reduce your risk of CHD. These include smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, obesity or overweight and physical inactivity.

The more risk factors you have, the higher your chances of having CHD in your lifetime.

So, does all of this really matter to Christians? 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "Therefore honor God with your body." It is difficult for a body with clogged arteries, high blood pressure, excess weight and weak muscles to honor God. Christians can honor God by caring for their bodies.

Consider reducing your risk of heart disease by implementing these healthier habits:

- **If you smoke, quit.** Smoking pollutes your lungs and puts small tears in your arteries, trapping blood cholesterol and leading to clogged arteries.
- **Check your blood pressure regularly.** Manage high blood pressure by reducing the amount of sodium (salt and salty foods) in your diet, exercising at least 20 to 30 minutes each day,

and taking any medications prescribed by your physician.

- **Know your cholesterol numbers.** Your doctor can check your cholesterol during your annual physical. Have your doctor break down the total cholesterol number into the good (HDL) and bad cholesterol (LDL) ratio. Manage high cholesterol by reducing the fat and increasing the fruits and vegetables in your diet, exercising and taking any prescribed medication.

- **Keep your body weight within a healthful range.** Ask your doctor to check your Body Mass Index. BMI is a good indicator of a healthy weight. A BMI over 25 is considered overweight. A BMI over 30 is considered obese. If your weight is too high, take steps to bring it down by eating a low-fat, healthful diet. Increase your activity level to burn calories. Get at least 20 to 30 minutes of exercise every day.

- **Stay active with exercise.** Even if your weight is in a normal range, inactivity is just as harmful to your body. Exercise is not just for weight loss. Exercise has many benefits, including strengthening your muscles, bones and heart, increasing your energy, maintaining your weight and lowering blood pressure and cholesterol.

For more information about heart disease prevention and treatment, visit the American Heart Association Web site at www.heart.org.

Branda Polk is a certified fitness instructor, wellness coach and author

Acteens 2003: Whatever

ELIZABETHTOWN—More than 300 girls from throughout Kentucky were in Elizabethtown March 21-22 for the state conference for Acteens and other missions-minded girls.

The theme "Whatever" was based on 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God."

Youth took part in prayer walks, worship, small-group seminars and mission projects.

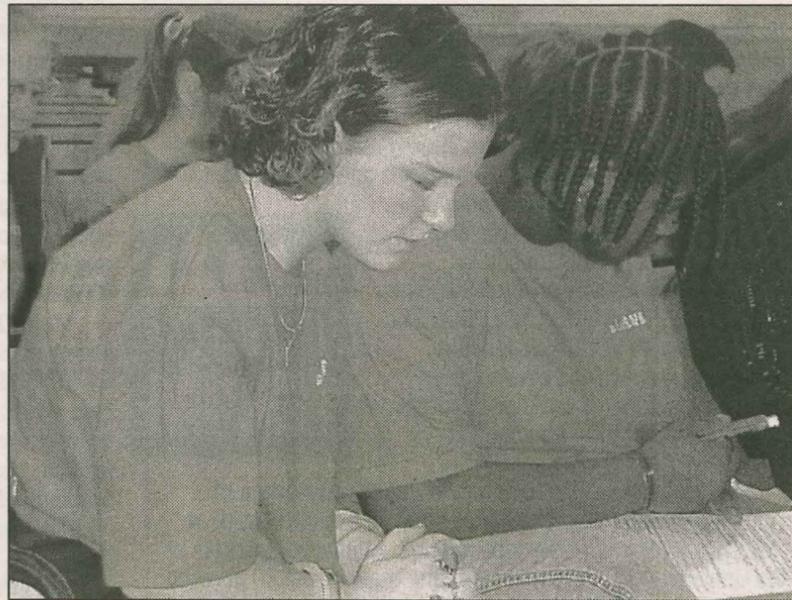
Speakers included Holly Henson, a former two-year missionary to Moscow, who shared her experiences of starting a sports ministry there.

Worship music was provided by Flyfaith, an all-girl praise band from Nashville. Joy Williams, a Dove Award nominee for Female Artist of the Year, performed in concert.

Next year's event will be April 16-17. The location has not yet been determined.



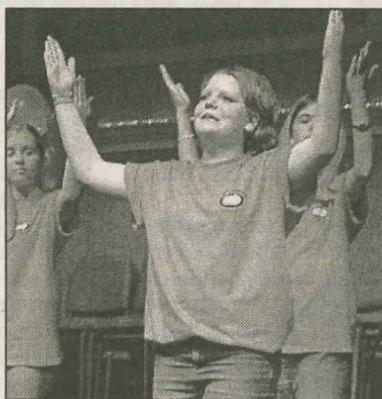
FOREIGN MISSIONS TWIST Russian national Nadia Arkhipova shares her experiences of doing multi-housing ministry in a foreign place: Alabama.



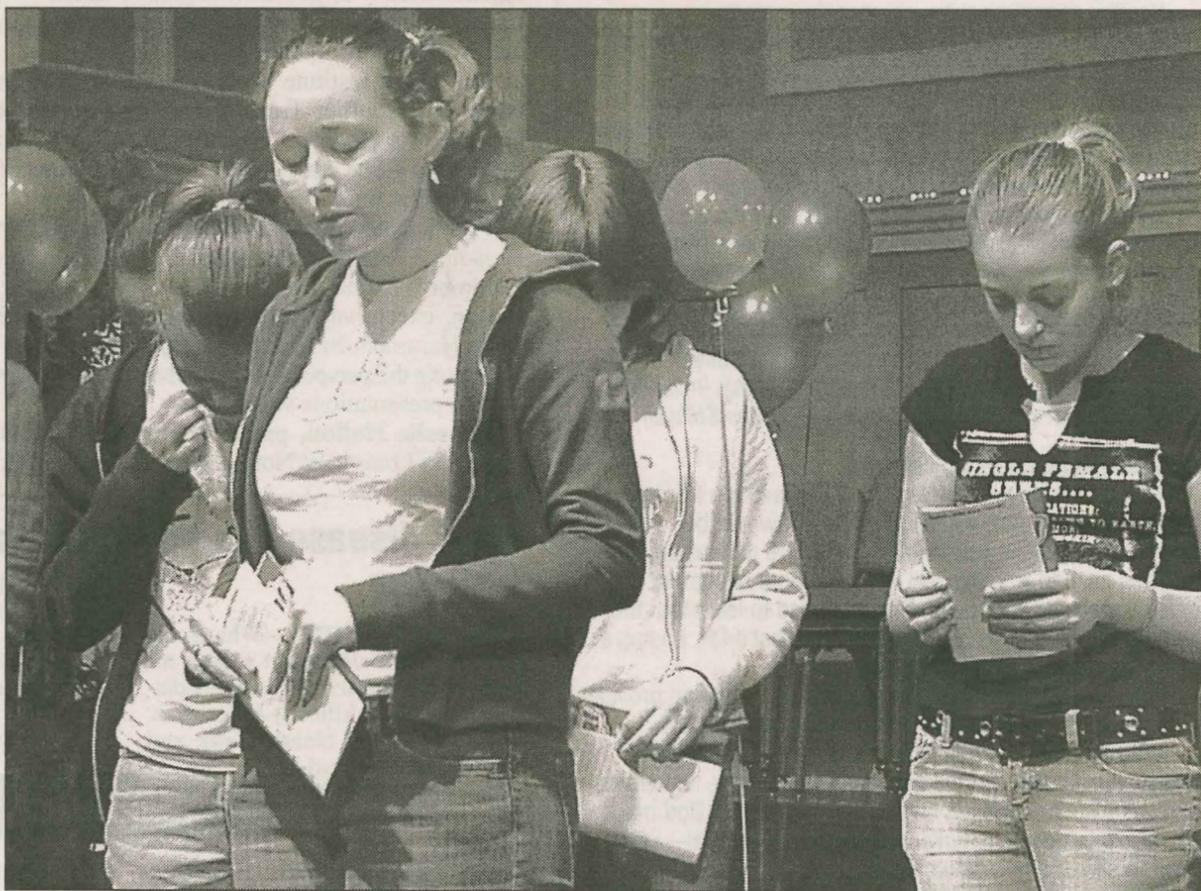
PAUSING FOR PEACE Some girls pause to pray for America, its leaders and the world.



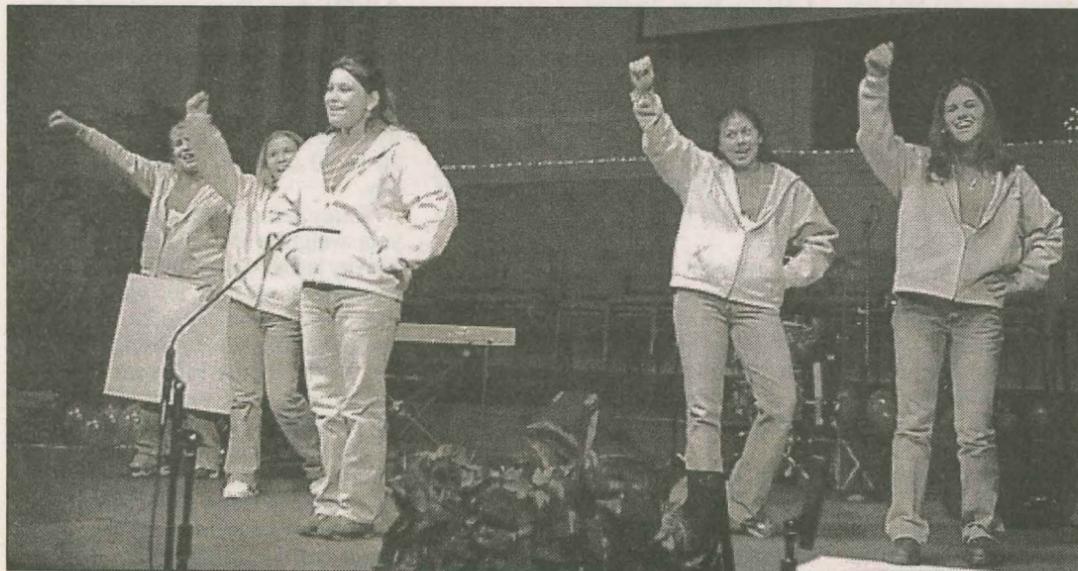
JOY WILLIAMS The 2003 Dove Award nominee for Female Artist of the Year performed in concert on Friday evening. (Photos by LaRaine Dail)



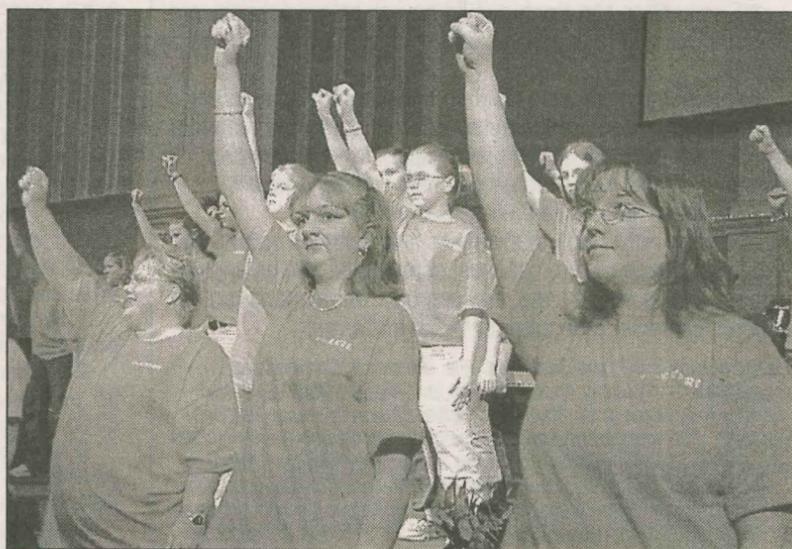
INTERPRETIVE MOVEMENT Acteens from Waco Baptist Church share an interpretive movement on Friday night.



MISSIONS PRAYER Youth from Falls of Rough Baptist Church lead participants in prayer for missionaries and the world.



LEADERS The Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel leads peers in worship, prayer and a cheer.



CITY ON A HILL More than 100 participants learned an interpretive movement to "City on a Hill" by Third Day on Saturday. They then shared the movement during closing worship.

Mayfield pastor catches spring training chaplaincy duties

Continued from page 1

Swift said he was about 7 years old when he started following Willie Mays and the rest of the then New York Giants on radio.

"I don't know how you fall in love with a team or a player, but you do," Swift said. "As an 8-year-old, they asked me where I wanted to play and I headed straight to center field because that's the position Willie played. Later, I played center field for Tilghman High School."

Swift's spiritual version of a baseball fantasy camp began with a visit to San Francisco and his favorite team in 1998.

There, Swift met Bobby Evans, director of minor league administration for the Giants. When Evans learned Swift attended spring training each year, he invited Swift to look him up the following spring. After they got to know each other, Evans invited Swift to lead chapel services one Sunday.

"Obviously, when you speak in front of the players, just being a fan is not necessarily going to be an attraction to them. They're more interested in the fact that you are interested in them as men than as players. It was pretty clear right off the bat that Bob cared more for them as men," Evans

said.

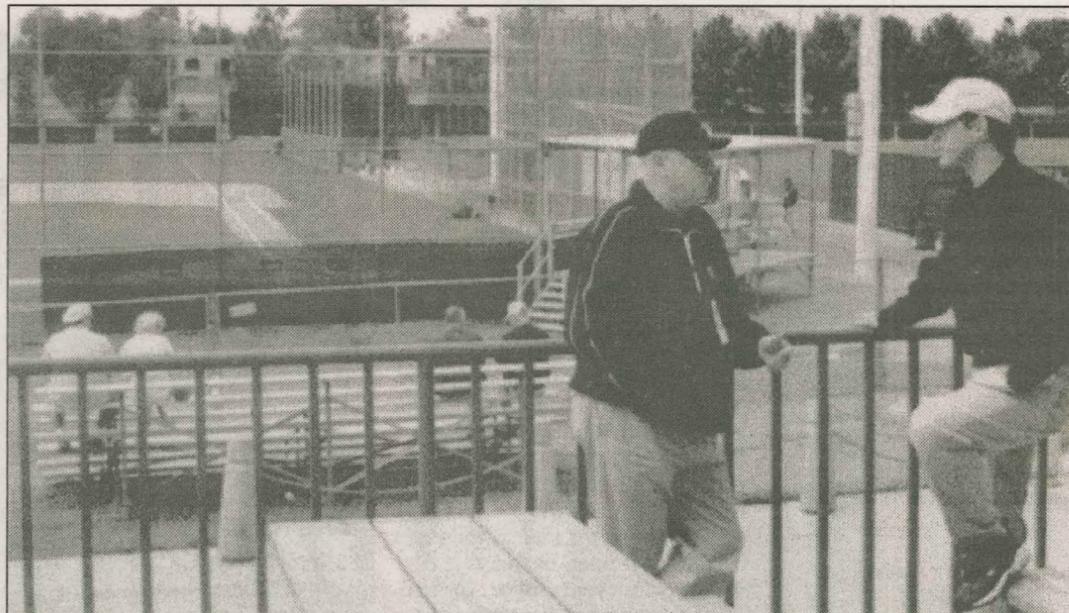
That led Swift into volunteer chaplain duties during the week. That was the spring of 1999. Evans has invited Swift to speak at Sunday chapel and serve as volunteer chaplain each year since.

"Bob is very calm and very good with the guys in the sense that if they want to talk with him they know he'll just sit down and have a conversation or pray with them," Evans said.

Everyday and unique player problems

"These guys are just guys who have girlfriend problems, who have families at home, who have financial problems, who have school problems, who have real world everyday problems," Evans added. "Players obviously have unique problems as well because baseball brings its own challenges. There are lifestyle issues when you're traveling a lot, and the challenges of competition."

Many minor league players are also facing a new culture, Swift added. "There is a tremendous number of 18-, 19- and 20-year-old kids from Latin America and the Caribbean who speak very little or no English. Being away from home for the first time with no family or friends nearby can be tough."



During spring training, Swift normally speaks at Sunday chapel for the minor league players a couple of times. Other speakers come in for Sunday chapel, but Swift is the only one who sticks around during the week to take on chaplain duties.

"Bobby has my cell number if he needs me," Swift noted. "If nothing's going on, if everyone is OK, I go to ball games and hang with the team at the ballpark."

During the services, he added, he always takes advantage of the opportunity to talk about Christ. "Our services are more evangelistic than discipleship because some of them have never heard the gospel."

When he first began his chaplaincy efforts, he was working as a Christian counselor and could spend a whole month in Arizona.

Now that he is a pastor, he can stay only a few weeks.

"I can already see that changing my relationship with the players. I don't have as much time to build relationships," he noted. "When I was there a month, the guys would see me every day. Your face gets familiar when you're in the locker room and on the field. They are more apt to trust you and talk to you."

Making it to the majors

Just like the players, Swift's service in the minor leagues gave him an opportunity to move up to the majors.

He started going to Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco once or twice a year to lead chapel for the major league team during the season.

Swift and former San Francisco Manager Dusty Baker had what turned out to be a prophetic conversation early in the 2002 season before a Giants-Brewers game.

"I told him half-jokingly, 'Man if you guys go to the World Series, I've been a Giants fan for 50 years, I should get to do the chapel service.' He said, 'You got it.' The odds of them ending up in the World Series is like a million to one. What happens? They go to the World Series," Swift said.

On the opening day of the World Series, Swift got to meet his baseball hero.

"Willie Mays came into the clubhouse before the game and Bobby went out of his way to get me through the crowd to meet him," Swift recalled. "Willie knew where Mayfield was from some minor league days when he played ball through western Kentucky."

The chapel service Swift led during the series had a strong turnout, he remembered.

"Our chapel services during the regular season average about eight to 10 players. ... We had 16 to 18 players attend the chapel before the World Series," he said. "Being the World Series, they really wanted to pray."

BASEBALL CHAPLAIN

Bob Swift (left) talks to Bobby Evans at the San Francisco Giants minor league complex in Scottsdale, Ariz. Evans, the director of minor league administration for the Giants, invited Swift to speak at a team chapel service in 1998. Swift, pastor of Mayfield's First Baptist Church and an avid Giants fan, has served ever since as a volunteer chaplain to minor league Giants at spring training.

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A congregation at sea

Clear Creek grad leads spiritual work on aircraft carrier

By Sara Horn
Baptist Press

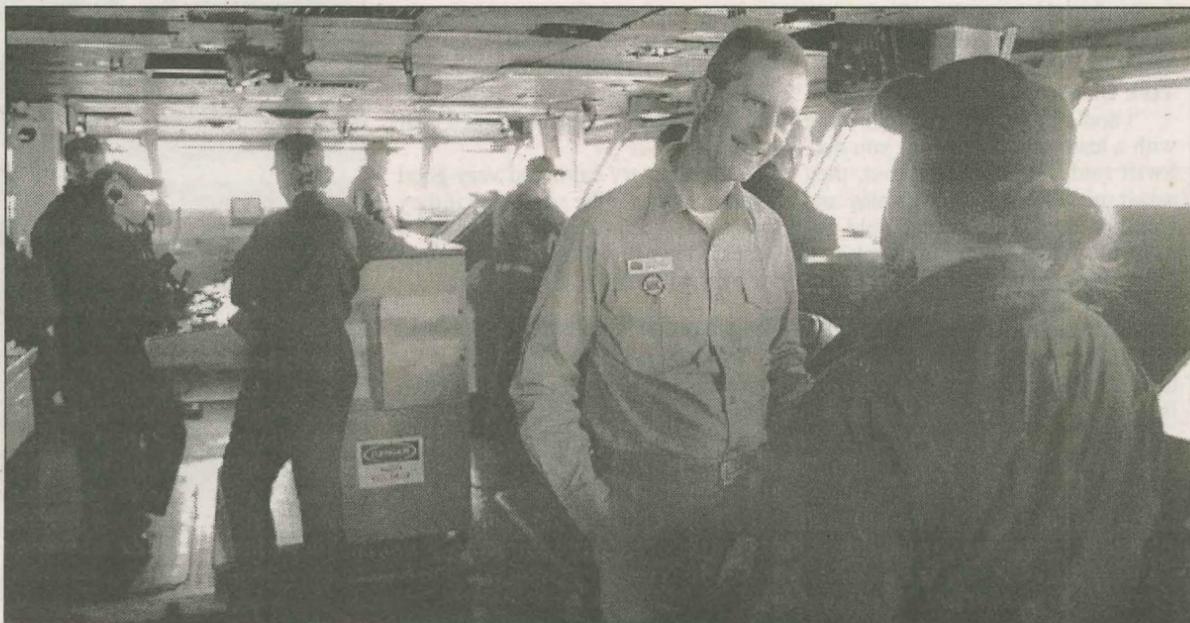
ABOARD THE USS HARRY S TRUMAN, East Mediterranean (BP)—The atmosphere tingles with anticipation.

Ordnance crews on the flight deck of the USS Harry S Truman work quickly and efficiently to load guided munitions into dozens of aircraft, including F/A-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcats.

Hours from now, under cover of darkness, fighter pilots will carry them to final destinations—targets located somewhere in western Iraq. The drills and practice sessions are over. Operation Iraqi Freedom has begun.

Below the flight deck, it looks much different than what is happening above. Sailors walk quickly through the various passages and hatches of the ship, tending to the specific jobs and duties they've been trained to do. Along the way, many of them greet a familiar and often comforting figure aboard ship, Commander Doyle Dunn, command chaplain for the aircraft carrier.

Dunn, a 1983 graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, oversees a staff of three junior chaplains and 15 lay leaders through the ship's religious ministries department for the



A CHAPLAIN'S PRESENCE Chaplain Doyle Dunn, the command chaplain on the USS Harry S Truman, visits with Lt. JG Cynthia Sheridan of Rock Hill, S.C., on the captain's bridge. Dunn is responsible for the spiritual health of 5,500 sailors, airmen and marines on this floating city. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

5,000 sailors and Marines on board.

It is his responsibility to develop religious services and programs for more than two dozen recognized religions. Deployed with a unit of Marines during Desert Shield/Desert Storm in the early 1990s, Dunn admits that his role today is quite different on the Truman, a position he has held for just seven weeks.

A floating city

"The jobs we do on ship are what we do every time this ship moves anywhere," Dunn said. "Cooks cook, supply folks fulfill their responsibilities. With the exception of aviators, when combat starts, it's the same job."

Ministry opportunities on board are as varied as the denominations and religions represented. Numerous church services, Bible studies and even choir practices are available throughout the week. Sunday, in particular, is reserved for worship and rest.

The chaplains on board take their calling seriously. Each has various departments they serve, offering encouragement and keeping a pulse on the sailors' morale.

"I see so many 18- and 19-year-old young men and women who come from broken homes and tough life experiences," Dunn said. "They join the military looking for a sense of purpose. This opens the door to share Jesus Christ with them. Every time I get a chance to see a sparkle of recognition in their eyes—well, that's what I live for."

Chaplain Dunn's ministry has been a tough one. In the Gulf War in 1990-1991, he ministered as part of the ground forces. The next year found him in Somalia, still a Marine, ministering and praying as part of "Operation Restore Hope."

In 2001, he shouldered the responsibility of reading scripture and praying over bodies and portions of human remains that were found and processed after the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon, where he then served as chaplain.

"Every time they took out a bag



SUNDAY SERVICE Dunn leads crewmembers in Sunday morning worship services in the forecabin aboard USS Harry S Truman. (Photo courtesy of US Navy)

and took out the remains a hush fell over the room," Dunn told Baptist Press then. "As I watched it, I began to see that it was a recognition of God, that the person who is no longer breathing is made in the image of God."

When the Truman carrier pulled out of port from Norfolk, Va., just a few months ago, it was as part of a routine deployment. Today it is heavily involved in the war effort.

Hard work all around

The lifestyle for soldiers on board can leave a lot to be desired. The 5,000 sailors and Marines currently on board the Truman don't have a lot of downtime.

The young enlisted men and women typically work seven days a week, 12 hours a day at their various responsibilities and tasks. For officers, it can be 18-hour days, overseeing and managing the enlisted personnel. Many seamen and women look forward to the Sunday services led by the ship's chaplains and the fresh encouragement that will get them through another long, intense week.

Five services are offered throughout any given Sunday. A Protestant liturgical service, a contemporary Protestant worship service, a gospel service and two Catholic masses are offered to minister to sailors of different denominations and faiths. Many take advantage of it.

"My work here is similar to being a senior pastor," Dunn wrote in a re-

cent e-mail to staff at Clear Creek.

"Hardly a week goes by that I don't think back to some moment on campus that continues to influence my ministry," he wrote. Many people at the school remain involved in his ministry through both prayer and encouraging e-mails.

A sermon on faith & courage

A recent contemporary Protestant service, offered at "10-hundred," took place in the forecabin—the bow of the ship just under the ship's flight deck. More than 120 people gathered on that Sunday morning, singing joyfully and enthusiastically with the praise team led by a ship's supply officer.

Many worshipers raised their hands and closed their eyes, seeking one-on-one time with God even as the catapults above launched planes for short mission training flights. The sudden engine roars and bone-crunching thuds offered a not-so-subtle reminder that Sundays aren't days of rest for everyone.

Chaplain Dunn gave the week's sermon. He recalled Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on water with Jesus.

"We've all felt fear and we give it lots of different titles—apprehension, anxiety. There's a lot of fear out there," Dunn said. "Having courage doesn't mean you've conquered every fear, but holding on to fear can keep us frozen in place. It keeps us from doing basic things to survive."

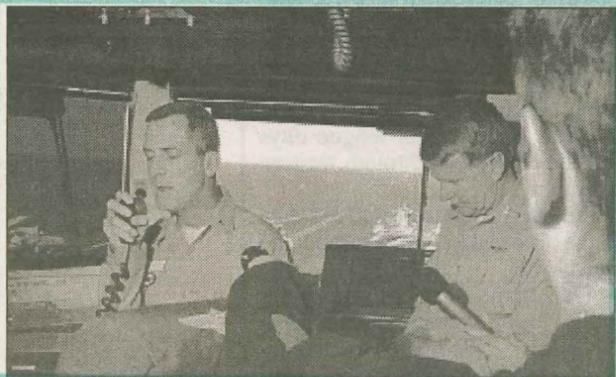
Dunn and the ship's other chaplains and lay leaders—not just in Sunday sermons, but in ministry throughout the week—regularly remind sailors far from home about the courage Christ gives, along with comfort and reassurance.

Courage is taking fear and pushing ahead in spite of it, Dunn noted in his sermon.

"When we turn to Christ for a problem and ask Him for help, He never refuses," he said. "Courage is a discipline—a mental muscle that cuts a path through fear."

With additional reporting by Jay Sulfidge of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

A prayer at war's start



In the first moments of the war with Iraq, Chaplain Doyle Dunn was asked to lead the crew of the USS Harry S Truman in a prayer over the ship's public address system:

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. A time of war, and a time of peace. Lord God, now we enter the season of war. For the United States and the nations that stand alongside us, this is the season to end the dangers posed to the world by Saddam Hussein and the tyranny of his government and his military.

"Now is our season to bring liberty to the people of Iraq, to free them from oppression and to introduce to them the concept of liberty and justice for all.

"We ask, dear Lord, for a deep reservoir of strength and wisdom to carry out our mission of liberation. Help each one of us, in all our various acts, to courageously give our very best. May the actions of our forces at sea, in the air and on land bring about a swift and undeniable victory. May the labor and sacrifice... in these days ahead serve to bring us through the season of war and return us safely to the season of true peace."

Parental guidance

Educators: Adults must monitor how kids process war

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (ABP)—“Daddy, what is war?”

David Bush’s 4-year-old child asked the question after hearing an 8-year-old sibling use a word he didn’t understand.

Bush, minister to children at First Baptist Church in Coppell, Texas, simply said that war means soldiers from one country are fighting soldiers from another country. And he made sure he didn’t try to explain more than he was being asked.

“Some parents tend to overeducate. I think we need to keep our answers short and comforting,” Bush said.

As violent images from Iraq enter American living rooms through 24-hour TV news coverage and as war talk dominates adult conversation, some Christian parents are struggling with how to answer questions and determine what is appropriate for their children.

“We’re seeing the war in real time, as it happens,” said Julie Joiner, minister of childhood education at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. “That means no filter and no perspective about what is appropriate viewing for children, or adults for that matter.”

Adults become kids’ filter

Parents must become that filter and provide that perspective by monitoring and interpreting news about the war for their children, several Baptist educators and counselors agreed.

“Limit exposure to media cover-

age, not because the media is bad, but because a child’s ability to absorb reality is limited and must be carefully monitored,” said Dan McGee, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Counseling and Psychological Services Center.

How much is too much?

When it comes to the question of how much war news is too much, experts said the answer depends upon the child’s age and maturity.

For preschoolers, they agreed that the answer is relatively simple: Turn off the TV.

“Eliminate it entirely for the very young. You must become this child’s media,” McGee said, offering his recommendation to parents.

“Preschoolers live in the world we develop for them,” Bush added. That means creating a home environment where the child feels safe and loved. In part, that involves protecting them from images they are not ready to see.

Likewise, parents should realize that some school-age children are not ready to see and hear some things. Children develop at different paces, and parents should understand that.

“A child’s developmental stage, not necessarily his age, determines his view of the grown-up’s world,” McGee said.

Parents should seek to understand where the child is developmentally in order to understand how he views events around him. “Remember how tall the world appears to a little person,” McGee observed.

While school-age children inevitably will be exposed to some infor-

mation about war, parents can limit the exposure in the home and provide a context for understanding issues, educators and counselors said.

“We need to help them understand that what happens is the result of bad people who want to do bad things,” Joiner said. She advised parents of young children to remember the advice of Fred Rogers, recently deceased host of “Mister Roger’s Neighborhood” on public television. “Point to the people who are helping others,” she said, echoing Rogers’ theme. “Remember the relief workers, and identify them as visible signs of God’s care.”

How kids process info

Recognize that children live in the present, and they may think that every rerun of an aerial assault on Baghdad is a new event, advised Diane Lane, a preschool and children’s consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. “They think it is happening again every time they see it on TV,” she said.

Older children need parents to help them understand the difference between violent images on TV news and violent images some may have seen in movies and video games, Joiner observed.

“It’s important for them to know that there are consequences. ... It’s not just a PlayStation kind of world

we’re living in. Violence is real,” she said.

Joiner recommended that parents help older children “humanize” the conflict by reminding them that individual lives are at stake.

“Parents might have them pray for the school children of Iraq who have to go to class with their gas masks,” she said.

Crescent Park Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas, personalized the war by creating a prayer wall at the church, filled with yellow ribbons and the names of specific individuals serving in the armed forces. “We encouraged our children to place their hands on names of particular people and pray for them,” said Kim Wells, director of children’s ministry.

Learning opportunities

Parents and Sunday school teachers should consider war questions from older children as teaching opportunities, Wells added.

Communication is essential, McGee noted. “Encourage your child to talk about what she is feeling in her own language. Resist the temptation to ‘correct’ her perspective. The process is more important than the facts,” he said.

Communication also means listening. McGee said adults should recognize that a child might not be ready to talk when it is convenient for the parent.

“When the timing is truly impossible, schedule the talking time right then, and stick to it.”

Demonstrate faith, McGee urged. “Research shows that families of faith do better in crisis. Teach your child that prayer is not only for food and church but a way of life.”

Children learn lessons about fear and faith by example and exposure, Joiner agreed. “Children are usually OK as long as the adults in their lives are OK. Children mirror the emotions and fears that we have. And they mirror the strength and faith and trust in the Lord that we have,” she said.



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Hospital visits 101

Chaplain has some ideas for being more sensitive while visiting sick

By Yvonne Betowt
Religion News Service

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (RNS)—Kimberly Foreman's dark eyes lit up and a big smile spread across her face when Pastor Ed Azzam walked into her fourth-floor room at Crestwood Medical Center one recent day.

Not sure if she remembered his name, Azzam stretched out his right hand and introduced himself.

"Oh, I remember you," said Foreman, 31, who has sickle cell anemia. "You've visited me several times." Foreman is just one of many pa-

tients Azzam visits on his rounds as a part-time chaplain for Crestwood.

Although Jesus encouraged His followers to visit the sick, He really didn't leave any instructions on how to make those visits.

That's where Azzam hopes to help.

He wants to teach people, especially the laity, who find visiting the sick awkward or a somewhat difficult chore, how to visit the sick.

"What I teach is to make all the mistakes you want, but learn from them," he said. "I made all the first mistakes. With just a little bit of listening, you can learn what to say. Sometimes you say nothing. Just be there for five minutes and they will tell you what they want you to know. You hold their hand, and if they want to cry, cry with them."

Common mistakes

Azzam, 78, cautions against talking about the patient's illness and against overstaying one's welcome.

"Don't stay too long," he said. "That's the worst thing people (who are visiting the sick) do."

After chatting with Foreman a few minutes and having prayer, he left her with a smile on her face.

"He's comforting and hilarious," Foreman said. "I enjoy seeing him."

Azzam is as comfortable talking with someone bedridden and

hooked up to IVs and tubes as he is in the pulpit at Immanuel Lutheran Church, a congregation he started 18 months ago.

Unlike some chaplains, Azzam doesn't wear a collar because he says "it scares people to death. I wore it for a couple of weeks when I first started. When I would go into a room, people would say, 'Am I going to die?'"

Now he wears a white Polo-type shirt with navy blue trousers, along with a navy blue blazer and chaplain badge given to him by Crestwood. It's the "unofficial" uniform he wears during his 25 hours of rounds each week. He might only go into a hospital room if invited by a patient, the patient's family, or a doctor or nurse who believes his presence may help.

Azzam quickly learned humor, if done in good taste, can truly be the best medicine for hospital patients.

"Men will test you by teasing you, then when you tease back, they know you are OK," said Azzam, who has served as Crestwood's chaplain for the past 15 months.

Reinforcing the faith

Much of his time is spent in the hospital's eight waiting rooms talking with anxious family members, trying to calm them during times of emergency or surgery.

"About 85 percent of the people who come here are Christians, but sometimes they forget that when they are here," he said. "I just remind them to pray and reinforce what they already know. The easiest part of my job is just being there and listening. Many times people who have been (at a hospital) a long time are bored or anxious. The size of their smile tells me how anxious they are."

Azzam said members of the clergy often overstay their welcome.

"People can't be themselves when their minister is around and maybe they have things they need to discuss they don't want him to hear," Azzam said. "And the most scandalous thing anyone can do is to discuss a child's illness in front of the child. You should never do that."

Azzam has visited his share of sick folks during his ministry that spans nearly six decades.

A native of Flint, Mich., Azzam enlisted in the Navy after graduating from high school.

After his military duty, he went to Boston where he intended to go into social work. But a retired minister asked him if he had ever considered the ministry, which was enough to send him down the spiritual pathway.

He has served churches in Michigan, Nebraska, Maryland and Alabama. "I tried to retire twice," Azzam said, "but I was miserable."

PRAYER TIME Ed Azzam, a part-time chaplain in Huntsville, Ala., prays with a patient. Azzam says that while Jesus urged His followers to visit the sick, He didn't leave many instructions for how to do it. (RNS photo by Ellen Hudson)



'The Legacy Continues'

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will be celebrating 125 years of ministry at its 100th annual gathering at Central Baptist Church in Winchester, April 4-5.

What a legacy of missions leadership, support, education and hands-on ministry our Kentucky WMU has given us Kentucky Baptists! And, the good news is, after 125 years, the legacy continues! And, it's a legacy worth celebrating!

I am looking forward to participating in the celebration in Winchester, and I encourage you to participate as well. I am especially looking forward to the Heritage Fund tea and hat party, which begins at 2:45 p.m., April 4. Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton is encouraging you to dig out of the closet an old hat to wear, or just start a new tradition with a new hat.

There is another way you can celebrate and continue this wonderful legacy. You can become a member of the Heritage Society of Kentucky WMU and/or contribute to the Heritage Fund. This fund is a permanent endowment. Kentucky WMU will use only the earnings for developing, strengthening and sustaining its ministry—its legacy. We in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

are honored to be the fiduciary of this endowment.

My wife and I are regular contributors, and I recommend you do the same. Every member of a church WMU group should participate in this celebration by contributing to this endowment, and should seriously consider becoming a Heritage Society member. Perhaps you

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

would like to honor with a qualifying gift the person who gave you your missions legacy. Perhaps the Lord is leading you to consider leaving a legacy of your own connectivity to the mission of Kentucky WMU. A simple bequest in your will, a provision in your trust, beneficiary designations in a life insurance policy or retirement account are ways you could respond

to the Lord's leadership.

For more information about becoming involved in the Heritage Society of Kentucky WMU, call toll-free Joy Bolton at (888) 254-5726. For assistance in your gift and estate planning, call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me. There is no cost or obligation for our assistance. Let the legacy continue!

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

Campbellsville outreach to the world

Campbellsville University is committed to reaching out into the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ as a vital component of Christian higher education. Campus Minister Ed Pavy reports that 62 of our students traveled to various parts of the United States, Canada and Central America during spring break for mission projects. Our Kentucky Heartland Outreach ministry worked on four new homes in Mexico in partnership with Crossroads Ministries. Several students traveled to Florida with Sports Reach to help in prison ministry. Another 44 students were on spring break tour with the university chorale and handbell choir. Spring sports teams participated in intercollegiate competitions at several locations.

The second annual Roundtable on Christian Perspectives on Public Policy Issues, sponsored by the Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy, is scheduled for April 15, 5 p.m. EST in Little Auditorium. This year's session focuses on the Middle East and includes discussion on the current Iraqi war and terrorist threats. Panelists include three Campbellsville faculty as well as guests John Stempel, director of

the University of Kentucky Patterson School of Diplomacy; Barrett Duke, of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission staff; and William Warner, an attorney with military and intelligence experience. Such academic experiences are essential to preparing our students to become Christian leaders in all facets of society.

The Technology Training Center is providing a variety of training opportunities for businesses in the region, as well as being heavily used by the faculty and students. Teleconferencing facilities and state-of-the-art computer aid design and general computer laboratories provide us with the very latest in technology. An April 17 leadership seminar, outlining the "21 Irrefutable

Laws of Leadership" and based on John Maxwell's writings, will be presented by Jay Conner, a university trustee and principal with Conner, Gering and Associates. The seminar runs from 7:30 -9:30 a.m. Registration costs \$69 and includes breakfast.

John Chowning is vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president at Campbellsville University. He can be contacted at (270) 789-5520, or via e-mail at jchowning@campbellsville.edu.

CAMPBELLVILLE UNIVERSITY



John Chowning

SMILE

Christian counseling can benefit families

As much as we love the children we care for at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, we'd rather they not be here. We'd much prefer they be safe and secure in their own homes.

But that's not reality. This week marks the beginning of Child Abuse Prevention Month. You'll be hearing a lot from us this month about child abuse, because we're determined to do our best to prevent it.

You can, too. The organization Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky claims one of the best things we can all do as parents is to build positive relationships with our children.

The group also has advice for those who are worried that things seem out of control or that they might hurt their children:

■ **Talk to someone.** Tell a friend, health-care provider or church leader about your concerns.

■ **Get counseling.** Individual or family counseling can help you learn healthy ways to communicate with each other.

■ **Take a parenting class.** Nobody was born knowing how to be a good parent. Parenting classes can give you the skills you need

to raise a happy, healthy child.

■ **Accept help.** You don't have to "do it all." Accept offers of help from friends, family or neighbors. And don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

Everyday problems such as unemployment, marital tension or a child with special needs can add to family tension. That stress often can affect the way children in those environments are treated.

KBHC's Cornerstone Counseling services can help. All services are provided by master's degree-level or higher professionals who approach counseling from a Christian perspective. Many Cornerstone counselors have earned professional certifications and licenses in areas such as social work, pastoral counseling or marriage and family therapy.

There are more than 20 Cornerstone Counseling offices throughout Kentucky. Child abuse prevention is worth a phone call to Cornerstone: (800) 981-7493.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Building homes and relationships

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College students Matt Mann, son of James and Charlene Mann of Winchester, and Trisha Price, daughter of Mark and Karen Price of Auburn, Ill., both served on Cumberland's Mountain Outreach team during the summer of 2002. They loved their experiences in building homes and relationships.

Mann, a senior with a major in chemistry and a minor in mathematics, had volunteered with Mountain Outreach for several years and even had gone with the ministry on mission trips. The summer of 2002 was his first opportunity to work for an entire summer with the program.

Mann served as the official driver of the one-ton truck as well as being involved in the construction. He arrived two weeks before the rest of the team members to help with the basic work.

Mann remembers the excitement felt by one of the women for whom they were building a house as she watched her new home taking shape. He notes that while many youth groups seek to travel overseas to experience missions, "there is a world of need in our own backyards. There are things to do just

steps away from my house that need to be done."

Price, a sophomore with a major in biology, learned a lot about construction and about working with people during the summer. As a team member, she learned "you depend on other people and they have to depend on you."

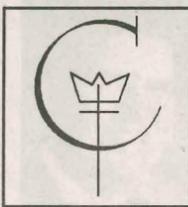
Price primarily worked with the electrical wiring. She wired two houses and helped with the wiring for a third home. She also blew insulation into the attics of several of the homes. As she says, "I was the smallest, and I fit in those small places!"

Price remembers one day when she did not help with construction but played with two children who were constantly underfoot. At the end of the day she did not think she had accomplished much, but her team members told her how much they appreciated her keeping the children entertained so they could get more accomplished.

Both Mann and Price are athletes. Mann is a member of Cumberland men's soccer team and Price is a member of our women's golf team.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kudzu



Doug Marlette

Church of the Covered Dish

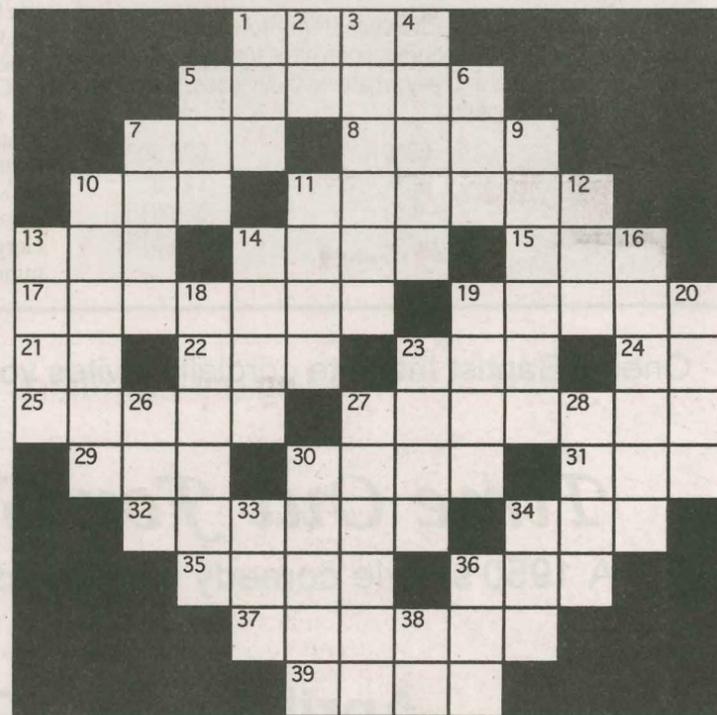


Thom Tapp

Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 "Whomsoever I shall ____, that ... is he" (Matthew 26:48)
- 5 Paging device
- 7 "Let me go and __ my vow" (2 Samuel 15:7)
- 8 Property claim
- 10 Fire
- 11 "one ____ destroyeth much good" (Ecclesiastes 9:18)
- 13 Admirer
- 14 Window part
- 15 Part of Chaldea (Ezekiel 23)
- 17 "And she coming in that ____ gave thanks" (Luke 2:38)
- 19 "But as many as received him, gave he ____" (John 1:12)
- 21 Artificial language
- 22 Pronoun
- 23 City of Judah built by Benjamin's descendants (1 Chronicles 8)
- 24 East. state
- 25 "it is better for thee to ____ into life maimed" (Mark 9:43)
- 27 Insane
- 29 Below normal
- 30 "____ up the mighty men" (Joel 3:9)
- 31 Stadium sound
- 32 "____ of false prophets" (Matthew 7:15)



- 34 Banking (abbr.)
- 35 ____ of Solomon
- 36 Disciple of Paul (abbr.)
- 37 Idyllic
- 39 Theatre notices (abbr.)

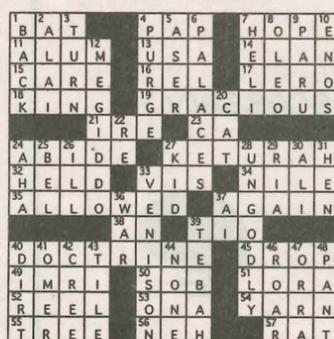
- 11 Without (Fr.)
- 12 Tiff
- 13 "gold tried in the ____" (Revelation 3:18)
- 14 "they sold ... the poor for a ____ of shoes" (Amos 2:6)

Down

- 1 "to him was given the ____ to the bottomless pit" (Revelation 9:1)
- 2 Common (Lat., abbr.)
- 3 To hold in place
- 4 River of northern France
- 5 Prohibit
- 6 New birth (abbr.)
- 7 "thou shalt make his ____ to receive his ashes" (Exodus 27:3)
- 9 Among the remnant of returning Levites (Ezra 2:48)
- 10 Basic principles

- 16 Antenna
- 18 Another name for the city of No
- 19 Corn ____
- 20 Far from destitute
- 23 Gospel writer
- 26 Large basin
- 27 More grand
- 28 London transportation
- 30 Shoots of a tree
- 33 "____ unto us! Who shall deliver us?" (1 Samuel 4:8)
- 34 Found in a pencil case
- 36 It is (poet.)
- 38 Japanese drama (var.)

Last week's solution



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Study: Free market has major impact on pastors' pay

Continued from page 1

in clergy placement and in setting standards for clergy qualifications and pay. Congregational Protestants, such as Baptists, allow congregations free reign to hire whomever they desire and pay whatever they choose.

Baptists and other congregational churches exemplify the strongest correlation to free-market economics, the authors explain.

Data for the report were gleaned through a national survey of 883 clergy in 2001. Among the key findings:

■ In all but the largest churches,

connectional churches pay their ministers better than congregational churches and provide better benefits.

■ Church size matters when it comes to salary. Among Protestant churches of both kinds, landing a job at a larger church translates into a larger income.

■ Smaller churches struggle to pay a high enough salary to attract and retain qualified clergy.

■ Regardless of polity, "only a small percentage of pastors earn what most Americans would consider a professional-level salary."

The problem begins with the assumptions upon which clergy salaries are based, the authors contend. "Most congregations attempt to answer that question by looking at what they have paid pastors in the past and what they can afford given their current membership."

But what is the purpose of a clergy salary? the authors ask. "Is it to reward good preaching? Is it to attract a much-sought-after visionary? Is it to pay a professional for ministerial services rendered? Or could it simply be to provide hospitality and a well-lived life for persons and their families who are compelled by a call from God to proclaim the gospel?"

Connectional Protestant churches are more likely than congregational Protestant churches to offer clergy a livable wage. The down side of that policy, however, is that some smaller connectional churches go without clergy because they cannot pay the minimum salary required by the de-

nomination.

In 1999, the Presbyterian Church (USA) found 62 percent of its churches with less than 100 members were without pastors.

Another reason clergy salaries may be higher in connectional churches than in congregational churches is the typical economic status of those churches. "Churches within connectional polities also happen to be on average larger and richer, and they hire clergy with higher education," the study explains.

Among other findings:

■ Clergy salaries correspond much more to church size than to years of experience held by the pastor.

■ Median salaries for clergy have

grown to become comparable to those of teachers and social workers. The gap between clergy salaries and those of other professionals such as doctors and lawyers has widened.

■ African-American churches are more likely than Anglo churches to offer pastors less than a livable wage, although some African-American churches have broken through this barrier.

■ Female clergy on average earn \$6,500 less than male clergy, although average household income for female clergy is higher than for male clergy households due to working spouses.

The complete report, "How Much Should We Pay the Pastor?" is available at www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu.

Pastors & their pay

Connectional churches: Those from Protestant denominations in which the denominational structure plays a major role in clergy placement and in setting standards for qualifications and pay. (Examples: Methodists, Presbyterians)

Church size	Percent of those studied	Average pay
Less than 100	56%	\$36,000
101-350	38%	\$49,835
351-1,000	6%	\$66,003

Congregational churches: Churches from Protestant denominations in which congregations have freedom to hire whomever they desire and pay whatever they chose. (Examples include Baptists)

Church size	Percent of those studied	Average pay
Less than 100	63%	\$22,300
101-350	32%	\$41,051
351-1,000	5%	\$59,315
More than 1,001	0.5%	\$85,518

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DEADLINE: MAY 23, 2003

Introducing our college relations director

1993 graduate Jay Sulfridge is Clear Creek's new director of college relations. He also serves as senior pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Middlesboro and moderator of Bell County Baptist Association.

"I see this as a step ahead for myself and the church," Jay said. "We needed to call a minister of music, but our budget could not support two full-time positions. We questioned if someone with a part-time commitment could do the job we needed. As we struggled with that question, God put the plan together with the opening at Clear Creek."

Sulfridge will be the preaching pastor, and the church has called a full-time associate pastor to work with music and youth. "This is different for Southside, but the membership has responded wholeheartedly and the church absolutely loves the associate pastor," he said. "The church has always been a strong supporter of Clear Creek, and several students attend."

What are his hopes and expectations in his new job with the college? "Clear Creek is the best-kept secret in the world," Sulfridge said. "Before I came as a student, I was

aware the school was here but didn't know much about it. Many people near us do not realize what is offered here. I want to help get that message out."

After completing his BA at Clear Creek, Sulfridge earned an M.Div. degree from Southern Seminary. "Growing up, I never thought I would attend college. My father

went to the sixth grade and I remember my mother learning to write. I learned how to study after I got in college. Clear Creek taught me I could do that level of work and brought me to the point where I could do post-graduate study. I did two-thirds of my master's work in an extension center, and the Clear Creek library did not lack any resources needed for graduate

study; what they didn't have they were able to obtain very quickly." Sulfridge affirms our continuing emphasis on practical education. "I discovered tools here that became valuable in ministry," he said. "The Clear Creek faculty has more than book knowledge; they have knowledge of work on the field."

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

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Town & Country

Missionaries share gospel on Indian reservations and in inner-city mission

By Stacey Hamby
SBC North American Mission Board

OMAHA, Neb.—Alpha Goombi wanted to be the first Native American actress to win an Academy Award. Ron Goombi wanted to be a successful businessman.

But God had other plans.

Today Ron and Alpha Goombi (pronounced goom-BYE) use their talents in ministry in inner-city Omaha, Neb., and on three Indian reservations in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Goombi is the director of Omaha Baptist Center and pastor of All Nations Church.

They are among the North American Mission Board missionaries featured during the recent Week of Prayer for North American Missions. The related Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions has a national goal of \$53 million.

As Native Americans, the Goombis say they have an opportunity to share the gospel with the varied ethnic groups in Omaha as well as on the reservations. Natives of Oklahoma, Goombi is of Kiowa/Choctaw descent and Mrs. Goombi is Kiowa/Apache.

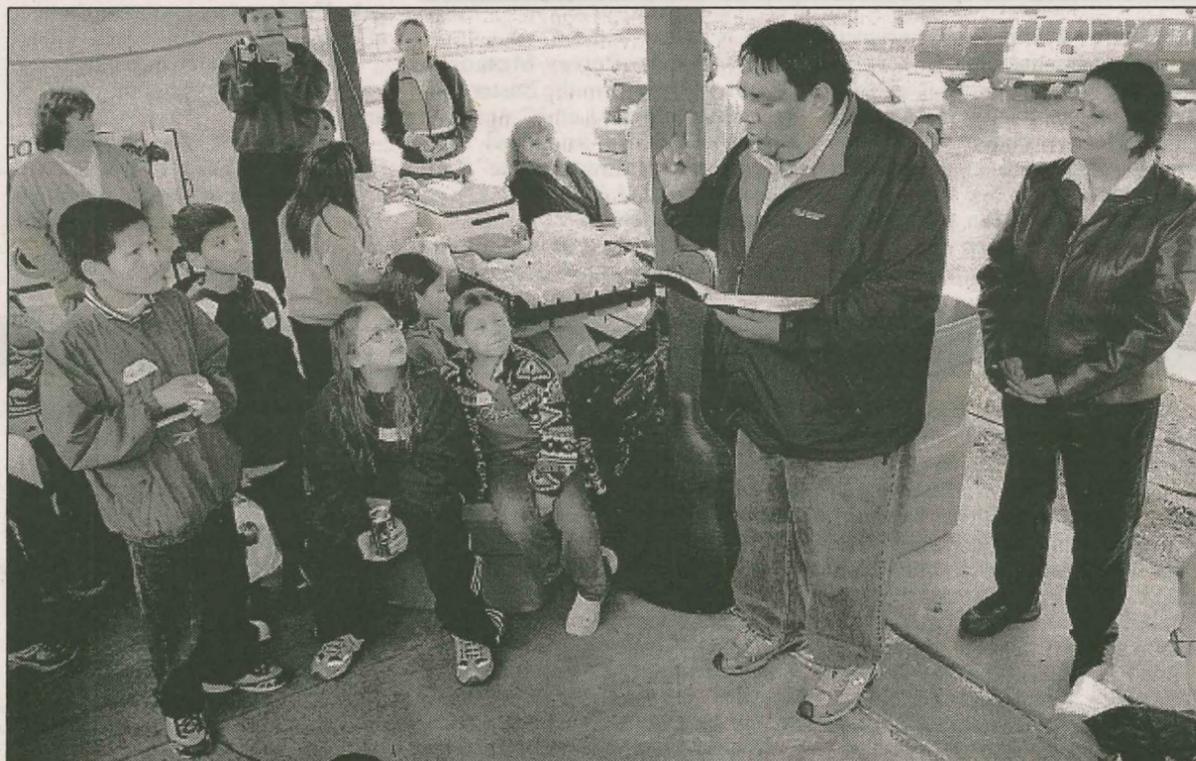
"Our background helps get our foot in the door, but beyond that, people watch us to make sure our Christian testimony is real," said Goombi, who has been director since 1993.

Answering the call

Goombi accepted Christ as a child, but Mrs. Goombi did not accept Christ until age 27. Her family faced many of the same obstacles as Native Americans do today—sexual abuse, poverty, alcohol and prejudice.

"I had a very painful life before my conversion, and I am able to share truthfully with people who are lost and hurting," she said. "I want to serve God because of what He's done in my life."

Her conversion marked a turning point in her marriage to Goombi,



BIBLE CLUB Missionary Ron Goombi shares the gospel during a Bible club at the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebraska. Goombi, who serves as director of Omaha Baptist Center, and his wife, Alpha (right), conduct regular ministries on two reservations. They are among the missionaries whose work is featured in promotion of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's national goal is \$53 million. (NAMB photos by Gibbs Frazier)

whom she had met in college. They began attending a mission church near their home in Oklahoma. Eventually, they participated in a revival on a reservation in South Dakota, and that's when Goombi first said he heard God's call to the ministry.

"I didn't surrender to the ministry," he said. "I just answered God's call. There was so much need among Native American people in general, and I just felt the overwhelming responsibility to minister to multicultural people."

Their involvement with the Omaha Baptist Center began in 1988 when as students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., they participated in a church-planting program in Omaha during summers and on weekends.

After graduation in 1991, they moved to the city and started All Nations Church as an integral part of the center's ministry. Their calling was first as a couple, then as a family with their three sons—Kurtis, 24, Daniel, 18, and Jonathan, 9—all participating.

Omaha Baptist Center ministers to its multicultural inner-city community through children's Bible clubs, after-school girls and boys clubs, tutoring, discipleship training and services for All Nations Church and a food pantry.

Mrs. Goombi teaches a women's Sunday school class and is the church's worship leader. For the past two years, she has worked full-time as an Indian child welfare specialist.

The Goombis also coordinate associational volunteers, summer missionaries and mission teams from throughout the United States.

Needs on the reservations

Every day the Goombis are reminded of how much work has yet to be done in Omaha and on the Indian reservations.

On some reservations, unemployment is as high as 75 percent. School truancy, alcohol and drugs are constant problems.

"The ills of society are magnified on reservations because they are such small communities," Mrs. Goombi said.

The main towns on the reservations usually have 400 to 500 people. While a few religious groups have churches on some reservations, there are no Southern Baptist congregations.

The Goombis use tribal gymnasiums to hold their Bible clubs and sports camps. In the summer they set up a tent to hold outdoor events.

"We have leased 1.5 acres from the Omaha tribe, and we are praying for funds to build a church building," Goombi said. "We have mission groups waiting to come and do the labor, but we don't have funds for materials. It's an ongoing dream to see full-time work on the reservations."

Southern Baptist work in Nebraska is few and far between, he noted. "We truly are a pioneer area. There

are 40 Southern Baptist churches and missions in the eastern half of the state."

But the lack of evangelical Christian churches should not be mistaken for a lack of religious belief.

"There are more than 550 federally recognized tribes in the U.S. alone," Mrs. Goombi said. "Each has its own language, customs, worldview and religion. Each is like a nation unto itself. I'd say that less than 7 percent are being effectively reached with the gospel."

Suspicion of "white man's God"

Complicating any Christian witness is a cultural rejection of Christianity that often causes new believers to face ostracism.

"They really don't want to hear about Jesus because (they believe) He's a white man's God," Mrs. Goombi said. "It's hard to bring Christianity to Native Americans because they see it as a threat to their identity. Many people mistrust things that come from the white man. It is rare to see Native American Christian people. When Indian women see me come in their door on their reservation, they can see that God has helped me, so He can help them, too."

But the need and their call continue. The Goombis' vision includes expanding their work to include new mission points on other reservations.

They also are praying for a pastor for a full-time mission on the Omaha Indian reservation, volunteers to assist with the ongoing ministries on the reservations and workers to help start new works on other reservations.

"Many Native Americans are very spiritual in nature. And yet we come in and we let them know that we have the true revelation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," Goombi said. "And that is the one thing that can change someone's life for the better."



BIBLE STUDY Southern Baptist missionary Ron Goombi leads a weekday Bible club at Omaha Baptist Center in Nebraska, where he serves as director.

The big picture

■ Ron Goombi is one of 210 church and community ministries missionaries under appointment by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in the United States, Canada and U.S. territories.

■ The Omaha Baptist Center is one of 87 Baptist centers jointly funded by a state convention and NAMB. A total of 7,601 professions of faith were reported by Baptist center missionaries from January to November of 2002.

■ Currently, about 350 Native American churches and missions are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Don Mantooth

During the past few months, writers for this column have interpreted God's plan of salvation in very personal ways. We have been inspired by a variety of individual responses to God's love and grace.

It also is important to see how the plan of salvation works itself out in our everyday encounters with other people. Our Lord sets the example in the story of the woman He met at the well in Samaria. Jesus was tired and thirsty from the journey, and the woman's appearance could have interrupted His rest. Instead, this encounter gives instruction for our own "on the go" sharing of the gospel. Here are a few lessons:

■ Jesus initiated a dialogue with the woman. As He did so, he leveled the playing field between the two of them by asking her to share water with Him. His request gave her an opportunity to offer something in her possession.

■ Jesus knew that the walls of separation between the two of them had to be broken down (Ephesians 2:14). She was Samaritan and he was a Jew. She was a woman and he was a man. America is a society of many cultures and many barriers that can block the gospel message.

■ Finally, to this woman who was rejected by her own community, Jesus shared a message of God's grace, love, acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation.

It was a simple encounter with another person—like those we have every day. She was a person with a need for acceptance and love—the very things each of us can find in Christ.

Don Mantooth is pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ BURNA—Philip Yancy resigned as pastor of Central Church.

■ GREENVILLE—Macedonia Church called Richard Allen as pastor effective March 30. He previously was pastor of Bethel Church in Morgantown.

■ HARLAN—Harlan Church ordained Mike Forester and David Hill as deacons March 16. John

Ditty is pastor.

■ HAZARD—Petrey Memorial Church will perform the Easter cantata "He's Still the Lamb" April 20.

■ HENDERSON—Immanuel Temple will present "Bow the Knee" April 18, 6:30 p.m., and April 19, 6:30 p.m. Joseph Tricquet is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Davis Memorial Church recently voted to change its

name to Lakeside Church.

Hopewell Church called Don James as pastor.

Midlane Park Church called Angela Hartman as minister of music effective March 19.

Mount Herman Church held services March 23 to celebrate its 82nd anniversary.

Valley View Church will host Dennis Swanberg's "Loosen Up, Laugh and Live" tour, April 26, 7 p.m. For information, call (800) 791-3309.

Victory Memorial Church called

Benjamin DeLoach as minister of youth. Randall Williams is pastor.

■ MAYFIELD—High Point Church will host a conference on intercessory prayer and spiritual awakening April 13-16 led by Tom Kyzer. Don Embry is pastor.

■ MOUNT WASHINGTON—Kings Church called Barry Perkins as associate pastor and minister of music.

■ RUSSELL SPRINGS—Friendship Church called Jeff Kerr as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry by Bethel Church.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Looking for full-time education, discipleship and/or outreach ministry position in/near the Louisville area, starting in August—attending Southern for PhD. Two master's degrees and three years full-time experience. Call (251) 970-3518, (251) 609-3596, or e-mail cgoodman@gulftel.com for resumé and/or to discuss position.

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 RENT: Sanibel Island, Fla. Spring dates available. Two-bedroom, 2-bath condo for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely beach. www.sanibelcondo.net. Call Pat (502) 895-8752.

FOR SALE: Pulpit Commentary (great condition). Asking \$225. Other texts and sermon outline books. (606) 528-0211.

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

FOR SALE: 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: 1,500-member SBC/VBMB congregation seeks an individual to provide comprehensive youth ministry program for 7th-12th grades. A secondary area of leadership responsibility based on candidate's skills and giftedness also may be explored. SBC seminary degree preferred. Competitive salary based on experience; excellent benefits and SBC annuity. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, West Lynchburg Baptist Church, 3031 Memorial Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501, or e-mail: office@wlbc.org.

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: Director for Monday/Wednesday morning child care program. Experience and references required. Send resumé to: Buechel Park Baptist Church, PDO Search Team, 2403 Hikes Point, Louisville, KY 40218. Deadline: April 25.

SEEKING: Permanent, part-time minister of music for First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ky. Send resumé to: FBC, PO Box 838, Russellville, KY 42276-0838, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time children's worship coordinator for Sunday service for elementary children. 3-5 hours/week. \$100/month. Contact Deer Park Baptist Church, 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205; (502) 451-7220.

SEEKING: Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., is searching for a full-time minister of youth and activities. Individual will be responsible for leading the church in planning, coordinating and directing the youth program and a program of Christian activities for all ages. College graduate is preferred. Baptist training and/or experience is desired. Olivet is a suburban church with an average of 228 in S.S. Please send a resumé to OBC, 5186 Hinkleville Road, Paducah, KY 42001. Resumés will be accepted until April 15.

SEEKING: Baptist Life Communities is currently accepting resumés 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: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College announces a faculty position in missions/evangelism. Terminal degree (Ph.D. or Th.D.) in missions or evangelism is required. Five years full-time ministry experience in a Southern Baptist-related ministry is required. Send resumé including a statement of faith and educational philosophy to Academic Dean Malcolm Hester, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. E-mail may be sent to: mhester@cbbc.edu.

SEEKING: McDowell (Ky.) First Baptist Church is prayerfully receiving and reviewing resumés for a full-time pastor. Pastoral experience is preferred. Please send video/audio tape and/or resumé to Tommy Hall, Pulpit Committee chairman, PO Box 263, McDowell, KY 41647.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Kings Baptist Church in Mt. Washington, Ky. Strong, mission-minded church in growing community; affiliated with LRBA, KBC and SBC. If you are a flexible, versatile individual who loves the Lord and are prayerfully seeking a way to serve God, please submit your resumé and a video or cassette to the Pastor Search Committee, Kings Baptist Church, PO Box 380, Mt. Washington, KY 40047.

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: 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 resumés to: New Hope Community Church, 34 Dee Street, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. For more info., call (270) 737-6645.

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

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

SEEKING: 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. Resumés 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: 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: 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; no fine print; and 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or info at www.covenantphoneservice.com. Home agents needed.

TOURS: You are invited to join a group of Kentucky Baptists on a 5-day tour to Branson departing June 9. The total cost is \$549 including transportation, hotels, shows and several meals. Tour departs from Lexington with a pickup point in Louisville. For information, call Christian Life Tours toll-free at (877) 557-0073; ask for David; OK to leave a message.

TOURS: Join our group of Kentucky Baptists on a 7-day Canada/New England cruise aboard the beautiful Golden Princess, departing Sept. 28. Prices begin at \$1,388 including round-trip air from Lexington (also available from Louisville). For additional information, call Christian Life Tours toll-free at (877) 557-0073; ask for David; OK to leave a message.

WANTED: Ferguson Springs Baptist Church is exploring the possibility of purchasing a small van. Call (270) 437-4289, or write to Ferguson Springs Baptist Church, 64 Ferguson Road, Benton, KY 42025.

Worship services require logistics during times of war

By Judy Peet
Religion News Service

FORT DIX, N.J. (RNS)—In time of war, even religion is about logistics.

How do you baptize someone in the desert? How do you say Mass wearing a gas mask? From the battlefield, which way is Mecca? How do you find a lawyer for a female soldier who has just been notified that her ex-husband back home is suing for custody of their children on grounds of abandonment?

U.S. military chaplains have been the voice of solace in the smoke of the battlefield ever since they were first commissioned by George Washington. It is horrific, exhilarating duty that goes way beyond praising the Lord and passing the ammunition.

"I am not prosecuting the war; I am serving the soldiers," said Air Force Lt. Col. Warren Bridgeman, 51, an Episcopal minister and head chaplain at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

"Chaplains are an important link to the civilized world," Bridgeman said. "We remind the soldiers that we are not mercenaries."

Military chaplains care about the things their troops care about: biological and chemical weapons, terrorist retaliation against their families back home, the possibility that the enemy may use women and children as protective shields, and how to process the bombardment of information—and second-guessing—coming to the front by way of e-mail, telephone and the news media.

"War is never without its psycho-

logical and spiritual costs, but this time our soldiers go off to fight burdened with the knowledge that the enemy is not fighting by our rules, and with the sense of mortality that is our legacy from 9-11," said Lt. Eric Wester, spokesman for the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps.

"Chaplains are unarmed noncombatants who are willing to accompany soldiers into the ambiguity of combat," said Wester, who began as a chaplain's assistant in 1973. "They stand alongside soldiers in the battlefield so they will not suffer alone."

From footsoldier to chaplain

Army Lt. Col. Paul Womack, a Methodist minister, knows the loneliness of the foot soldier. An infantryman in Vietnam in the late 1960s, he came away from his tour of duty horrified "at the morality of American involvement in that war."

"It was so awful that I entered the seminary in an attempt to find some perspective on the terrible things I saw in Vietnam," said Womack, 56. "After I became ordained, I rejoined the Army so I, hopefully, could help other soldiers in battle find some frame of reference."

At Fort Dix, N.J., Womack shares religious duties with several veterans who recently discussed the challenges of chaplaincy and war.

"I have to admit that I have problems with young mothers going off to war," said Lt. Col. Ira Kronenberg, 55, a rabbi whose camouflage yarmulke matches his fatigues.

"But it's not my job to judge or to inflict my opinion of the war on the soldiers. It is my job to support."

Chaplains are drilled on military

procedure, the culture of the country of deployment, suicide prevention, family issues, identification of stress syndromes and understanding of all major religions, because there aren't enough chaplains to go around.

A flurry of baptisms, marriages

Chaplains spend the eve of war marrying and baptizing. It is a mixture of pragmatism—making sure loved ones receive military benefits—and spirituality. Troops crowd services to capacity and force the clergy to improvise when necessary.

Baptisms in the desert that require full immersion, for example, can be carried out by digging a hole in the sand, pouring in water and dunking quickly before the water is absorbed.

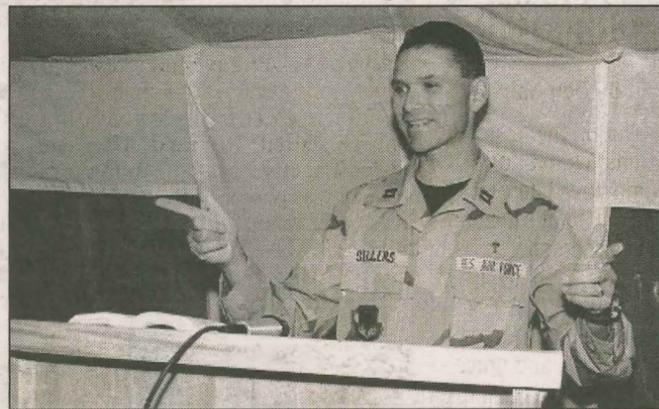
It is impossible to say Mass wearing a gas mask, but laminated cards with the order of service can be handed out. Global positioning, available in many chaplains' jeeps, can locate Mecca, toward which Muslim soldiers direct their prayers.

In the case of a legal problem back home, a chaplain can request help locating an attorney through the Red Cross, base family aid organizations or church parishes.

There are about 2,400 chaplains in all branches of the military, half of them in the Army, Wester said. There are 1,350 chaplains on active duty, deployed around the world.

"It takes a special kind of man to become a military chaplain," said Bridgeman, who proudly calls himself "a minister and an officer."

"You have to understand military order; you have to be disciplined, flexible and be able to respond to all kinds of crises," he said.



The battleground has always been dangerous, but until relatively recently, chaplains, like medical personnel, were respected as noncombatants.

Not immune to danger

That changed during the Korean War, when every chaplain taken prisoner was killed, said Charles McConnell, auxiliary bishop of the Newark, N.J., archdiocese and a brigadier general who was deputy chief of chaplains for the Army until his retirement in 1989.

McConnell first served as chaplain in Vietnam. He says he will never forget the moment that he realized that the black cross on his white robes made a perfect target for enemy guns. He cut up camouflage parachutes and made new vestments. Military chaplains all wear camouflage these days.

"I never figured out why (the U.S. military) was there, but I knew why I was there," said McConnell. "I've known chaplains who were shot in the head while giving the (Communion) host to a man in a foxhole. It was the most meaningful time of my life."

CHAPLAINS & WAR Capt. Randy Sellers, a chaplain in the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing, conducts a service during the previous Operation Enduring Freedom. Chaplains must contend with a variety of challenges while ministering during times of war. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force)

Operation: Prayer Warriors



The Western Recorder is compiling on its Web site (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; fax (502) 244-6474; or mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253

Sermon offers peace to aviators between missions

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S TRUMAN, East Mediterranean (BP)—More than 25 men and women sit in the small chapel on board the USS Harry S Truman early Sunday morning.

They're participating in the weekly Protestant liturgical service given by air wing chaplain Alan Wilmot. They recite the Lord's Prayer and a confession of faith and sing the Doxology.

For general observers, this might seem to be a typical Sunday service. But look closer and you'll notice several green flight suits with wings.

These are some of the nation's finest naval aviators—men and women who had flown the first air strikes into western Iraq within the previous 48 hours. They've come to renew their spiritual energy, for comfort and for encouragement.

Many come to pray.

"Is our attack of Iraq a righteous one?" Chaplain Wilmot asks those in attendance. "It's all about the motivation."

Motive can be the difference between completing a mission in terms of hate or in terms of defense, Wilmot said. Doing something in hate or anger toward another person isn't the right reason. But, he counseled, there is healthy anger.

Quoting Ephesians 4:26 and James 1:19-20, Wilmot encouraged the group not to let anger get out of control. Anger, if focused on evil and the defense of others, can be positive. It's negative if anger happens as a result of not

getting something simply because it's expected.

"Saddam Hussein is a nasty individual, but is it OK to hate him?" Wilmot asked. "Hate poisons us and makes what we do less. It ultimately dwells within us. We need to hate what Hussein does and how he treats his people—not him. The hate will only destroy you."

Wilmot illustrated his point by comparing the difference between a person who kills someone else on purpose and a police officer who kills someone as a result of defending another life.

"It's the moral difference," Wilmot explained. "I thank God that someone's willing to protect our families while we're deployed. It's what we're doing here for all American families."

It is such duty that weighs primarily on the pilots' minds.

One aviator, a Baptist from Virginia, admitted that the task before him is a challenging one.

"The operational things we do, sometimes you wonder if you're doing the right thing," said the aviator, who was not identified for security reasons. "I question that a lot, but I have to open the Bible to what (the apostle) Paul says, and that's 'have faith in your leaders.' The only authorities that are there are who God has put there. That's what I have to draw back to."

The aviator said prioritizing is important and he relies greatly on his faith for strength.

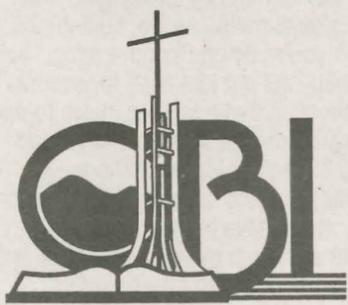
"I look at my job as a soldier—that's what I do," he said. "That's what I'm doing, and I'm trusting my leaders and trusting in God."

In uncertain times, our hope is sure.



Adolescence is a time of questions.
Particularly in our world today,
teenagers need to know that there is hope.

At Oneida Baptist Institute, young people hear
the gospel message every day.
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