



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

**Baptists**  
Groups mobilizing to aid Iraqis. Page 2.

**Kentucky**  
Free background checks available for church youth workers. Page 3.



**Kentucky WMU**  
Leaders unveil Missions LINK at annual meeting. Page 6.

**Nation**  
Religious leaders want broader health insurance coverage. Page 8.

**Women**  
Scrapbooking a popular outreach activity. Page 12.

**Books**  
Reviews include "The Emerging Church" and "Digital Storytellers." Page 13.

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, April 9

## Murray mentors might be model to link churches, college students

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

MURRAY—Something more than a friend and less than a parent, the mentoring program at Murray State University's Baptist Student Union is offering a unique relationship for students who are looking to strengthen their faith.

Senior Brad Walker said his weekly sessions with a member of a local church have helped him develop better Bible study skills and shown him the importance of accountability.

"I'm able to talk with a mentor more openly than I would a parent," said Walker, who has applied to seminary. "This is a person you don't have to live with, but you're close enough you take his advice. You know he's looking out for your best interests."

Organized last year by Mark Whitt, MSU's Baptist Student Union director, the program has about 75 students in small groups. Whitt said the number has grown regularly as more students seek discipleship.

Thus far, about three dozen members from seven churches have served as mentors. They meet each week with one to three students for up to two hours.

"It's a very positive thing to be able to connect with our churches," Whitt said. "It's true discipleship. We need churches ... to be involved in students' lives. We've got 10,000 students here, and we're effectively only reaching 400."

"BSU is an arm of the church," he said. "We need the church to be an active part of what we're doing. It may mean members have to step out of their comfort zone to pour into the lives of college students."

Keith Inman, director of collegiate ministry for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said such community-based efforts are a key to reversing the trend of teens dropping out of church after they leave home.

"My concern in Kentucky is there are only a small number of people I can relate to in college ministry," Inman said. "Successful youth ministry is more than how many kids are involved in youth group in high school. It's also how many are still in church when they're 19 and 20."

With nearly 190,000 collegians in the state, Kentucky Baptist campus ministries cannot reach all of them, he said.

□ See Murray mentors ..., page 3

## Healthy cooperation

Medical missions and construction are just two of several programs Kentucky Baptists are involved in with churches in El Salvador.

Coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department, volunteers also have taken part in partnership projects to lead evangelistic work, economic development and agricultural programs.

KBC Brotherhood has coordinated about 18 trips to El Salvador, and at least five are scheduled for this year. Baptists in several other Central American countries are interested in expanding the effort, said Randy Foster, director of Kentucky Brotherhood. "It's a good working relationship." Story on page 7.



**CONSTRUCTION** Gee Phillips, a member of Mt. Gilboa Baptist Church in Campbellsville, lays mortar during construction of a church building in El Salvador during a recent mission trip.



**MEDICAL MISSIONS** Ben Principe, a doctor and member of First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, examines a young girl as her mother looks on at one of many medical clinics organized by Kentucky Baptists during a recent trip to El Salvador. (Photos by John Foster)

## Author recalls journey from addiction to healing

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor



**ANN KIEMEL ANDERSON** The author of "Seduced by Success: No Longer Addicted to Pills, Performance and Praise" shared her testimony with women last week at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

SHELBYVILLE—Thirty years ago, Ann Kiemel Anderson was a best-selling Christian author and speaker who's first book boldly declared, "I'm out to change my world."

Today, after tragedies ranging from multiple miscarriages to drug addiction, Anderson says she's learned that Jesus is the source of true change.

Anderson was the featured speaker at an April 1 banquet hosted by the women's ministry of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

Her latest book, "Seduced by Success: No Longer Addicted to Pills, Performance and Praise," details the story of her recovery from addictive behavior.

Noting that many people looked at her early adult life and "thought I had

just everything," Anderson said, "It appeared that I really was a very together person."

But "along the journey, I got lost," she confessed. "It's a powerful thing to me tonight to know that Jesus doesn't put His hand on perfect people. ... I ask your forgiveness for getting so lost."

Lisa Yancey, women's ministry chairwoman at Shelbyville First Church, said the ministry's goal is to help women "develop a love relationship with Jesus Christ."

Citing the banquet theme, "An Authentic Heart," Yancey asked the capacity crowd of 250 women, "Isn't authenticity what we're all looking for? ... Who has written on the tablet of your heart?"

Mixing testimony and songs, Anderson recounted her journey from bold Christian witness and noted audience. □ See Author recounts ..., page 3

## Missouri leaders threaten to defund state WMU

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director David Clippard has threatened to cut funding for the state's Woman's Missionary Union if the group won't pledge exclusive loyalty to the conservative convention.

WMU currently serves all Missouri Baptist churches, including those that recently formed the moderate Baptist General Convention of Missouri.

At issue, Clippard said, is a line in the organization's bylaws that states WMU's ministry will include, but is not limited to, the MBC and the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a letter to WMU board members, Clippard offered the organization two options to avoid losing Cooperative Program funding—either eliminate the group's non-profit status or allow the convention to elect board members.

WMU president Debbie Miller said the organization remains committed to serving all Missouri Baptists. "We have set aside our differences for a higher calling 'that all may know Him,'" she said.

## Baptist groups mobilize to aid Iraqis displaced by war

WASHINGTON—Baptist relief workers expect hunger to be one of the major needs they find in Iraq when humanitarian aid finally is able to cross the border, and churches across the United States are being challenged to help minister to that need.

Leaders of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist World Alliance are gearing up to coordinate various relief efforts in Iraq and neighboring countries.

Iraq's people have suffered under the regime of Saddam Hussein and 12 years of United Nations sanctions have made their lives even more difficult, said Jim Brown, director of world hunger and relief ministries for the International Mission Board.

For less than \$60, congregations can assemble a box of dry food that will feed a family of five for about a month. Brown is challenging all 42,000 Southern Baptist congregations to mobilize food relief for hungry Iraqis.

"This is a great way for Southern Baptists who can't actually go themselves to minister in a personal way to Iraqi people," Brown said. "This isn't relief that is going to be mass-distributed in a refugee camp either. It will be specifically delivered to hungry families in the towns and villages of Iraq once peace has been restored to the country."

The food aid will be delivered without regard to ethnic or religious identity, Brown said.

The boxes will contain almost 70 pounds of staple food items: beans, lentils, rice, flour, salt, sugar, loose tea and powdered milk. Packing instructions are available from the IMB.

The boxes must not contain other items or literature of any sort, Brown said. Inclusion of evangelistic tracts could cause the aid shipment to be rejected by authorities.

A label on the outside of each box will quote John 1:17 in Arabic:

"For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ." It also will identify it as "A gift with love from the Southern Baptist churches in America."

### Kentucky leaders offer help

Larry Koch, disaster relief director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said his office and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will coordinate the collection of food boxes from Kentucky Baptists.

"We've had real good response in the past," Koch said, citing food collection efforts a few years ago for North Korea.

"I think it's putting faith into action and hopefully getting the message of the gospel across to the Iraqis—that we're not against them, but just trying to share the love of Jesus as we give them these gifts," Koch added.

He said details about collection sites and deadlines have not been finalized. Churches and individuals interested in participating in the project can contact Koch at (502) 244-6489 or toll-free at (888) 254-5720 for more information.

Churches or individuals who would prefer to make a donation toward the cost of the project can designate checks to "Iraq Response—General Relief" and mail them to: Iraq Response, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767. Make checks payable to the International Mission Board and designate "Iraq Response—General Relief."

For more information about the IMB's Iraq relief efforts visit [www.imb.org/worldhunger](http://www.imb.org/worldhunger).

### BWA releases initial funds

Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of Baptist World Alliance, has sent an initial \$10,000 for relief work among Iraqi refugees. Half has been sent to the Jordan Baptist Convention and the other \$5,000 to a network of churches in the Middle East.

## NAMB launches 'Operation Prayer Cover'

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has launched the "Operation Prayer Cover" Web site to assist Christians praying for those involved in the war in Iraq.

Located at [www.namb.net/iraqprayer](http://www.namb.net/iraqprayer), the site includes resources that have been made available over the past several weeks, including:

- A prayer guide to help Christians pray for all aspects of the war, such as U.S. leaders and troops, the Iraqi people and "peace in Jerusalem."

- Daily devotionals from several Christian leaders on the theme of "Know Peace in Troubled Times."

- Published reports from military chaplains, as well as reports on how the Southern Baptist International Mission Board is responding to anticipated needs of refugees.

- Two video clips available for free download designed to assist with sermons or worship. The first segment, "A Call to Prayer" is a visual montage of U.S. military footage. The second segment, "Word on the Street: How does the war make you feel?" examines how the current world situation is affecting the emotions of average citizens.

- A photo gallery highlighting the ministry of Southern Baptist chaplains on the field.

- Four short video clips encouraging prayer by NAMB President Robert Reccord.

Also available at the Western Recorder's Web site, [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org), is an "Operation: Prayer Warriors" list of deployed military personnel submitted by Kentucky Baptists.

As the war in Iraq intensifies, so does the likelihood of a massive humanitarian disaster. Jordanian Baptists plan to continue to play their part in relief efforts.

Fawaz Ameish, president of the Jordan Baptist Convention, informed BWAid officials that the Jordan Baptist Convention plans to use some of its own funds as well as gifts from its 17 churches to help with the relief efforts.

"Financial assistance is needed to aid the refugees coming to Jordan from Iraq and staying in the camps that are set up in Jordan for this purpose," Ameish said. "Help is also needed to help the many poor Iraqi families that attend our churches."

### CBF coordinates partnership

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is poised to minister to thousands of refugees and other displaced people whose lives are expected to be disrupted by the war, CBF leaders said.

CBF global missions field staff have been meeting with partner state CBF organizations, churches and groups such as BWA and World Vision to determine the most effective way to minister during and after the war in Iraq.

"We have been pre-positioning ourselves so that we can be responsive to the tremendous fallout of human suffering that the war will bring," said David Harding, emergency response coordinator for CBF global missions. "We intend to assist in meeting immediate needs like food and shelter but also directing funds with a long-term perspective on how to restore people to productive living in the future once the war is over."

Churches and individuals can send checks made payable to CBF, marked "CBF Relief and Development Fund #17000." Specify donations for Iraq relief and send to CBF, Box 101699, Atlanta, GA 20392.

Based on reporting by Associated Baptist Press, Baptist Press and Baptist World Alliance



"I'd like to withdraw 2 anecdotes, 4 jokes and 3 sermon illustrations from my safety deposit box."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

- **Annuity Board adds fund.** The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has expanded its investment choices for most retirement plan participants with the April 1 launch of the Capital Preservation Fund. The new fund will seek to maximize participants' current income while seeking to maintain, but not guaranteeing, a stable price per share, Annuity Board officials said. The fund is available to 403(b) and other employer-sponsored retirement plan participants, including those in the deferred compensation plans.

- **Dunn hospitalized in N.C.** James Dunn, retired executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, is improving after experiencing a tear in his aorta March 26. Dunn collapsed on the campus of Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C., where he is serving as a visiting pro-

fessor. Hospital officials upgraded Dunn's condition from critical to serious after he underwent emergency surgery.

- **Pastor jailed for sexual assault.** A former Illinois Southern Baptist pastor received a seven-year prison sentence March 31 for two counts of criminal sexual assault involving a teenage girl. Leslie Mason, 35, former pastor of Olney Southern Baptist Church in southeastern Illinois and a former member of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Committees, pled guilty in January to the felony counts as part of a deal with prosecutors to dismiss eight other counts involving two teenage girls.

- **CBF receives \$5 million gift.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has received an anonymous \$5 million contribution in support of the orga-

nization's global missions and other ministries. The gift distribution will include \$4.2 million for CBF global missions, \$500,000 for endowment for the CBF Church Benefits Board, \$250,000 for church starts and \$50,000 for a new, shared database system in the Atlanta Resource Center.

- **Allen to head EthicsDaily.com.** The Baptist Center for Ethics has hired veteran journalist Bob Allen as managing editor of EthicsDaily.com, an Internet service operated by the independent agency based in Nashville. Allen, 47, most recently worked nine years as news editor of Associated Baptist Press in Jacksonville, Fla. Before that, he was editor of the state Baptist paper for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Allen is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

## Murray mentors might be model to link churches, college students

Continued from page 1

And twice as many teens go directly into the work force, which is why healthy, church-based ministries, Inman added.

In Murray, Whitt said students get more active in churches when members show an interest in reaching young adults.

"It's more than Sunday worship attendance," Whitt said. "It's helping in children's ministry and other areas. There's a spiritual growth factor, to have someone older and wiser involved in their lives."

Recent graduate Haley Hudson said she learned many lessons from her mentor that she has taken back home to Calhoun Baptist Church.

She credits her mentor with helping her develop a passion for prayer, Bible study and teaching others.

"She told me what Christ had done in her life and helped me to see what we're called to do as Christians," Hudson said, adding that she hopes to lead Calhoun Baptist to start a similar mentoring program. "I learned to experience Christ on a whole new level."

Two members of Westside Baptist Church in Murray who have mentored students say the effort has helped them grow spiritually as well.

Jeanetta Smith, a part-time home furnishings salesperson who meets with two students, said their studies force her to know the Bible so she can answer their questions.

"We don't have special training, we just ask the kids where they're at and what they want out of this semester," Smith said. "Sometimes they just want to share their heart and we don't get a lot of Bible study done."

Homemaker Wendy Yates formed such a close relationship with the student she mentored in 2002 that she still invites her over for dinner.

"It's exciting to see her start her adult life off and feel that I was helpful to her," said Yates, daughter of former KBC president Terry Wilder.

Walker said students appreciate the chance to develop close relationships with others outside the realm of campus life.

"I've heard nothing but positive remarks from students who are able to spend time with people who aren't wrapped up with studies," the Murray native said. "We like to let adults know we respect the fact that they're not perfect and that we need a chance to see how they handle failure as well as success."

## Better safe than sorry

### Kentucky offers free background checks for church youth workers

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist churches can get free criminal background checks for potential volunteers to work with children and youth, according to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's preschool and children's specialist.

Wendy Dever is eager to get the word out about the free background checks, which are provided by the state of Kentucky.

The background checks cover all jurisdictions within the state and can turn up past convictions that signal a volunteer should not be allowed to work with children.

The process for requesting the background check is simple, Dever said. Ministers or volunteer coordinators complete a single-page form, available from the state court administrative offices' pretrial services department by calling (800) 928-6381. The form also is available for download at [www.kybaptist.org/backgroundcheckform](http://www.kybaptist.org/backgroundcheckform).

The background checks take approximately one week to be completed and returned.

Allowing volunteers and staff to work with children without having background checks might no longer be an option for churches, Dever noted.

"Many insurance companies now require background checks for people who work with children and youth,"



**CHILD PROTECTION** The Kentucky Baptist Convention can help churches acquire free state background checks on prospective volunteers to work with children. (BP file photo)

Dever said. "Without background checks, rates could quadruple, and some companies will even deny coverage."

Many Kentucky Baptist churches have taken advantage of the free background checks, but none have turned up serious violations, Dever said.

The checks can deter child predators from applying, she added.

"If people know they have a violation, they don't apply to become volunteers," Dever said.

Performing a state background check is just one step Dever recommends for protecting children and safeguarding against accusations of child abuse.

Other ideas include:

- Getting a nationwide background check on volunteers who have lived in other states.

- Making sure at least two unrelated adults are in the room with children at all times.

- Limiting eligible volunteers to those who have been active church members for at least six months.

- Having ministers and coordinators meet with children's ministry volunteers to share information about church policies and security.

A church commitment to child safety and security "says so much to parents," Dever said.

For more information, contact Wendy Dever toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5709 or (502) 254-4730.

## Author recounts journey from addiction to healing

Continued from page 1

thor to despair, addiction and self-loathing.

While she was "passionate about Jesus and wanted everybody to know Him," Anderson every day she also "was passionate that you love me."

Citing her experience as a marathon runner who qualified three times for the prestigious Boston Marathon, Anderson told the crowd, "If you're not enough before best-selling books and standing ovations and marathons, you will never be enough with them. Externals will not make you whole."

Deciding in her mid-30s that marriage was the next step toward success and fulfillment, she said she determined that Will Anderson was God's choice for her. But conflict soon popped up in their marriage.

Explaining that one of her husband's traits was to fix problems he encountered, Anderson said, "When Will married me, I became his next problem to fix." Acknowledging her own "gaping, gaping insecurity," she added, "When he set out to fix me, it made the hole in me bigger and bigger."

Repeated miscarriages eventually led the Andersons to adopt four sons. Yet "babies and a handsome man and all my success never made me enough," she said.

### Performance addiction

"I was an addict of performance and praise just waiting to be an addict

of pills," she added. After being given morphine to relieve the pain of a kidney infection, she soon became hooked on pain pills.

"I confess to you that there were major contradictions in my life," Anderson said. While being honest in what she shared in her books and speaking engagements, "my lie was in what I didn't tell you."

With a growing addiction problem and declining health, Anderson suffered a pair of comas while separated from her husband.

"When I awakened from my second life-threatening coma, God finally had my attention," she recalled. Entering a secular drug treatment center, she said the experience was "the hardest, most nightmarish journey of my life."

Describing the severity of the treatment and confrontational group therapy sessions, Anderson added, "It took all of it to break through the thick, thick layers around my heart. For God to crack through down to the core of my soul, it took the toughest and the worst."

Realizing it would take more than personal willpower and brains to gain physical, emotional and spiritual healing, she declared, "I wanted God and I wanted freedom more than anything else in my life. ... There was only one thing that delivered me and that was the blood of Jesus. It was the blood that set me free."

As she pursued healing from her

addiction, Anderson said God also was getting her husband's attention.

After they reunited, "Will and I pledged to each other and to God that we were going to be the family God wanted us to be and we were going to love each other the way God wanted us to."

A few years later, Anderson's husband was diagnosed with cancer and died two years ago.

Despite their earlier marital struggles, "I know what transformation is because Jesus did it for me and I saw God do it for Will," she shared. "It was so precious."

### 'Only God defines me'

Reflecting on her spiritual pilgrimage, Anderson said, "I was lost, I was confused and Jesus pulled me together. Jesus did for me what I could not do for myself. ... When Jesus healed me, I never wanted any attention again."

"I don't go around worrying about whether people like me," she added. "Only God defines me."

Emphasizing that "this isn't about me," Anderson explained, "This is all about this great, glorious God. He is so much more than I ever knew He could be."

"May no one walk out tonight thinking that you have secrets too deep or problems too overwhelming," she urged. "You and Jesus and God and love can change the world around you."

## BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Kentucky Changers** is in need of crew chiefs for housing projects this summer. The crew chiefs will supervise teenagers as they repairs and rehabilitate homes during a week that combines worship, ministry and discipleship. Kentucky Changers events will be held June 14-21 in Maysville, June 21-28 in Hopkinsville and July 5-12 in Calloway County. A training event for prospective crew chiefs will be held April 12 at Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton. For more information, call Kentucky Brotherhood at (888) 254-5720.

■ **Campbellsville University** will present a roundtable discussion on Christian perspectives on Middle East policy issues Tuesday, April 15 at 5 p.m. in the school's Little Auditorium. In addition to Campbellsville professors, participants include John Stempel of the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy; William Warner, an attorney and retired military officer; and Barrett Duke, public policy advocate with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. The event is free and open to the public.

## 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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## God's antidote for our fears

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP)—Regardless of your position on the war in Iraq, there is no question it will have a worldwide impact and will leave many people in your community fearful of the future. They will be hungry to hear God's truth, and I encourage you to offer a special service of worship and prayer related to the war.

I suspect that many people—even Christians—are fearful at this time.

What is God's anecdote for not fearing the future? In Psalm 23:6, where David wrote, "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever," God reminds us of three things:

■ **He is watching over us.** "Surely goodness will follow..." David is not saying, "Surely only good things are going to happen to me!" Bad things happen to good people. Rather David is saying only goodness will follow. Good things will always come out of whatever happens—even the bad, the evil and the difficult.

It's a great promise that God has given to believers: We know that all that happens to us is working for our good—if we love God and are fitting into His plans (Romans 8:28). If you're a believer, the Bible says all things are working together for good—not that all things are good. There is no difficulty, dilemma, defeat or disaster in the life of a Christian that God can't ultimately get some good out of.

■ **Grace is working in us.** When you understand God's grace and mercy, then you have no need to fear the future. God isn't trying to get even with you. Jesus has taken the penalty for everything you've ever done wrong or will do wrong. He paid for it on the cross. That's grace and mercy.

Mercy, like goodness, follows us in life. Picture a parent following a little child around, picking up after him. God constantly is picking up our messes. Christians go to the future—not with a question mark—but with an exclamation point! God will be with you no matter what happens. He will help you out.

Goodness is the fact that God gives us good things in life that we don't deserve. Mercy means God holds back the condemnation we deserve.

■ **Heaven is waiting for us.** "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." That's one of the most important connections we see in the Bible. It connects yesterday and today with tomorrow. God says, "I've got this great life planned

for you and surely goodness and mercy will follow you through it, but that's not the end! I've got something else at the end!" He builds it to a crescendo.

David ends this verse by saying "We're going to heaven!" Jesus saves the best until last.

"We know that our body will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a house for us. It will not be a house made by human hands; instead, it will be a home in heaven that will last forever" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

How long is forever going to last? Forever! You're going to live forever in one of two places—heaven or hell. They're both real places. You will spend eternity in heaven or hell. Your body is going to end but that's not going to be the end of you. We were made to last forever.

Why are Christians the most confident people about the future?

"We look forward with confidence to our heavenly bodies. And we are not afraid, but are quite content to die,

## COMMENTARY



Rick Warren

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Church relocations make ministry impact

I recently had the privilege of visiting two Kentucky Baptist churches that God is blessing with new facilities. First Baptist Church of Mount Sterling is in its new building and held a dedication service on March 16 while Flemingsburg Baptist Church's building still is under construction.

The new \$4 million facilities in Mount Sterling are spacious and beautiful on a site that exceeds 20 acres. It is located south of downtown just off the bypass and represents the culmination of an eight-year process, Pastor Rick Johnson said.

The new building maintains important links to previous church buildings by making use of stained glass windows from both the original building constructed in 1870 and the 1916 building, said Al Blevins, church finance chairman.

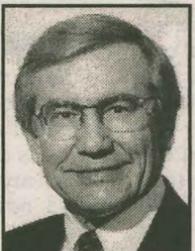
The building is designed so that people enter through a large atrium with four corridors off the atrium. The

first right corridor leads to the children's area; the second to the youth area and the chapel. The first left corridor leads into the high-ceiling fellowship hall, which doubles as adult

Sunday school space, while the second left corridor curves along the sanctuary wall to the preschool area. A person standing in the center of the atrium can see down all four corridors with a view into the sanctuary.

There also is a large covered drive-through out front, which is adjacent to ample parking. The church offices are located immediately to the right upon entering the atrium. The library and resource center is located off the atrium between the children's and youth corridors.

A generous stewardship of financial resources is required in order for this kind of project to be completed. Much prayer and thought went into the process, and God is blessing. There already have been six baptisms in the two months since the church



Bill Mackey

for then we will be at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:6, 8).

Death, for Christians, is a transfer, a promotion. It's on to better things. You're going to die—someday. If you have accepted Christ, then you're going to go to heaven.

You'll be released from pain, sorrow, suffering, depression and fear. "He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. All of that has gone forever" (Revelation 21:4).

How do I know I'm going to heaven? Jesus says, "My sheep listen to Me and they follow Me" (John 10).

Are you doing that? Are you listening to what God says to do with your life? Are you following Jesus Christ? Is He your Savior and Shepherd?

If you say, "Yes, I'm listening to God, and I'm trying to let Him lead my life—letting Jesus Christ be my Savior," then you can say with absolute confidence, "Surely, I know I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

When you face the future, what do you see? Do you look at it with eyes of doubt? With eyes of cynicism? With eyes of expecting the worst?

You have two choices in life: You either can face the future as a cynic, a doubter, with negative thoughts, expecting the worst. Or you can face the future expecting God to be with you and His goodness and mercy to follow you all the days of your life.

It is amazing how much better life gets when you start to look actively for God's goodness and mercy in every experience. It will change your life.

The Good Shepherd provides protection, provision, peace, providence and paradise. Even in a world filled with war, pain, fear and uncertainty, Jesus is all you need.

*Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is the author of "The Purpose Driven Life" and "The Purpose Driven Church"*

began using the new building.

A week after visiting in Mount Sterling, I discovered a sign near the bypass for Flemingsburg that read: "Future site of Flemingsburg Baptist Church." The facilities soon will be completed.

The sanctuary will seat about 400 people while a large fellowship hall, to be approximately 50 feet by 80 feet, will serve church and community gathering needs. There are ample rooms for Sunday school classes, nursery, etc.

The church, which has experienced steady growth under the leadership of Christopher Beckham, was desperate for educational space, especially for children and youth activities.

As I attended Bible study and worshipped with the people, I felt the presence of God in a special way. Again, it was obvious that spiritual growth is critical in order for God's people to take bold faith steps.

May God bless every Kentucky Baptist, church and association to be bold in following Jesus so lives will continue to be transformed!

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## STEWARDSHIP

### Timely tips help make sense of retirement plans

By Don Spencer

Do you participate in a retirement plan at your place of work?

Is it a 401(k) plan, a 403(b) plan, an IRA or some other kind of plan? Do you feel overwhelmed by the details of

your retirement plan? Here are some brief tips to help you manage your retirement plan investments:

■ **Set a long-range target.** Choose investments in your retirement plan that fit your target goal for retirement in terms of age and monthly retirement income.

■ **Diversify to reduce risk.** This is another way of saying, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." No single investment is foolproof. During the '90s when stock investments were growing at an excessive rate, many people began to ignore this rule and chased the most aggressive investments. Now, during three years of a market decline some people are ignoring this rule by avoiding the most aggressive investments. Long-term, history teaches us there is value in diversification—in all seasons.

■ **Ignore the copy machine "guru."** He or she probably doesn't know what's best for your situation. If you're uncomfortable making your own investment choices, seek help from a professional.

■ **Choose investments appropriate for your age.** The longer one has until retirement, the more he or she can consider aggressive investments. Those investments likely will be volatile but with enough years, one has time to recover from the down periods.

■ **Balance your investments.** Make sure your retirement investments complement any financial resources you have outside of your retirement plan.

■ **Invest for growth to stay ahead of inflation and taxes.** Fear and greed drive stock prices in the short term. Prices will fluctuate, but historically, stocks have outperformed other investments over longer periods of time.

■ **Don't "micromanage."** Don't make frequent changes in your investment choices. Use time, not timing.

■ **Review your asset allocation.** Every few years you should review your investment choices and make sure the mix still fits your long-term objective.

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



## Provide sensitive responses to children's questions about war

**Q: What should I tell my children about the war with Iraq?**

"What time does the war start?" asked one of my 4th grade boys several Wednesday nights ago. The matter-of-fact way the question was asked left me shaking my head.

Children know that we are at war, but this fact should not consume a child's thoughts or become a source of fear. Limiting your child's exposure to war coverage on TV and in newspapers and magazines will help some. However, you still can expect them to have questions and to want to talk about what is going on.

Children might struggle with the question of why we have to go to war, especially if they remember what Jesus said about being peacemakers, or see a yard sign that says, "Peace is patriotic."

Children know about bullies. Compare Saddam Hussein and his government to a big bully that someone has to stand up to. Make sure your children know that Saddam has a history of bad behavior and that he has ignored multiple warnings to change his ways. Help them understand that sometimes peace has a price, and that it is right to fight for good.

From a practical standpoint, the war is "over there" and we are relatively safe. At the same time, we cannot and should not be indifferent to the tragedy and suffering war always brings. Pray for our troops, leaders and the Iraqi people who are in the middle of the war zone.

If your child asks about the threat of terrorist retaliation here in our country, assure him or her that trained and committed law enforcement personnel are working very hard to keep that from happening.

Be sure to correct any misinformation or challenge any rumors that might have come from friends or other sources.—*David Garrard*

**Q: I find the relationship between my grandfather's brothers and sisters very unusual. Though they have argued with each other in strong emotional ways over the years, they now are becoming more affectionate with each other. Is this a normal relationship pattern?**

The sibling relationship is unique in that it is an involuntary, lifelong relationship that has the potential to outlast nearly every other relationship in one's lifetime.

During old age, siblings typically provide companionship and support to one another, often making an effort to resolve earlier conflicts and rivalries. Elderly siblings might reminisce with one another, which provides an important source of comfort and well being.

Siblings are uniquely suited to provide psychological support to each other due to their shared family history and perceptions. Although contact sometimes become less frequent in the later years, the sibling bond generally appears to intensify with age.

The protective function of attachment bonds supports the idea of siblings achieving renewed attachment support later in life. The need for protection of one's siblings can become greater in old age as illness and dependency become more severe. As a result, attachment feelings toward one's sibling and the expression of those feelings may increase with advancing age, often producing an increase in the amount of contact with siblings who fulfill attachment functions.

In particular, siblings can become a vital source of social support for elderly adults who may no longer have a living spouse and whose adult children might be primarily involved with their own nuclear families.—*Jon Rainbow*

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



## Kentucky WMU: a faithful missions legacy

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union marked two historic milestones last weekend. Exploring the theme, "The Legacy Continues ... Let's Celebrate," WMU members from throughout the commonwealth gathered April 4-5 for the mission organization's 100th annual meeting.

The meeting at Central Baptist Church in Winchester also marked 125 years of women's missionary society work in Kentucky. With the 1878 founding of the Kentucky Central Committee—the forerunner of today's state WMU organization—women's mission group efforts in Kentucky predated by a decade the 1888 establishment of Southern Baptists' national WMU.

Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers recognized Kentucky WMU's historic ministry impact by adopting a resolution of appreciation last fall.

Noting that Kentucky WMU "has been instrumental in training men and women, boys and girls in missions work, in providing missions literature and resources to Kentucky Baptists and in challenging churches to be involved in missions locally and globally," the resolution expressed gratitude to state WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton, President Cathy Chinn and other WMU leaders and members "for their service to Christ and to Kentucky Baptists."

As significant as WMU's legacy is, however, current state WMU leaders are not content to rest on those laurels.

"While WMU has a rich history that we love, the call is ever before us," Bolton emphasized. "There are still lost people in the world, there are still children to teach and to instill in their lives a heart for a lost world. God's not finished with us yet."

As an example of their commitment to future ministry, WMU leaders introduced Missions LINK, a five-

year emphasis aimed at strengthening WMU growth and involvement in local churches and associations.

Urging prayer for the success of the effort, Bolton told WMU members, "If we don't begin here, the rest is just another plan that will be on the shelf before we know it. But if we begin earnestly praying for WMU and for God's leadership, God will do more than we can ask or imagine."

While Kentucky WMU's future looks promising with strong state convention support and cooperation, that doesn't hold true for WMU organizations in all states. The Missouri Baptist Convention, which has suffered divisive political infighting in recent years, is seeking to force WMU to take sides in the controversy.

MBC Executive Director David Clippard threatened last week to defund the state WMU if the organization refuses to reverse its commitment to work with "all Baptists" in the state—including those who differ with the current MBC leadership.

What a tragedy that a state convention would use financial pressure to try to force WMU to limit which Baptist churches it will serve—and, in turn, limit WMU's ability to help spread the gospel of Christ around the world.

Yes, Missouri Baptist leaders have the right to choose which ministries to support financially. But the spiritual consequences of such decisions should be weighed carefully and prayerfully.

As you give thanks for Kentucky WMU's 125 years of ministry and for Kentucky Baptists' historic commitment to the work of WMU, pray also for those state conventions that don't have the same level of openness and cooperation.

Kentucky WMU has built a strong and faithful missions legacy. Let's never take it for granted.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Responding to the tragedy of war

By David Gushee

JACKSON, Tenn. (RNS)—It is impossible to write about anything other than the war. Who cares about faith-based initiatives, welfare reform or the future of Social Security right now?

That is, of course, one of the costs of war: The president's attention turns to his responsibilities as commander in chief. The nation's attention follows the president's.

Somehow domestic business continues, but by default. No creative new initiatives, no domestic reform agenda can find any oxygen. We stay as we are—actually, we slowly deteriorate—on the domestic front. Pressing problems remain unsolved a while longer.

War is also not the time for retrospective analyses of whether the conflict should have been entered. That time has past.

One of the key factors in wartime is domestic morale. If the nation too quickly loses confidence in its leaders or their strategies, then pressure for a quick retreat will grow. Constant critique of why we entered the war, and constant carping in the media about details of military strategy, undermine domestic morale.

That is why I choose not to engage in such activity. Nor would I join a peace protest. The time will come for

political and military leaders to be held publicly accountable for their performance during these days. The time may come when the public rightly begs its leaders to end a conflict whose costs clearly outweigh any conceivable gains. But a few weeks into the war is not that time.

This is the time of the generals and the soldiers, not the moralists and the critics. The military must be permitted to do its work.

And yet there is another kind of discord that seems appropriate just now. It is not the angry protest in the street but the mournful lament in the sanctuary. It is not ill-informed second-guessing of military strategy but well-informed grieving over the tragedy of war itself.

We grow accustomed in wartime to hearing dispassionate accounts of rocket launchers, AK-47s, cruise missiles, bunker busters. We hear of skirmishes and battles, enemy forces destroyed and positions held and lost.

But underneath the language of war is the human reality. And underneath the human reality is the God who makes each human being.

A maintenance battalion staffed by ordinary people takes a wrong turn. We later see a very scared woman paraded as a hostage by the Iraqis.

Iraqi children are going shopping with their mothers in Baghdad. A bomb drops on their market. Many of

these young ones die, their bloody little shoes all that is left of them.

American soldiers lower their weapons to approach a surrendering group of Iraqis. It is a trick. They are blasted to their deaths for having the decency to try to honor the rules of war.

A van carrying a dozen Iraqis, mostly women and children, runs through an American military checkpoint. Following the cautious rules of engagement established for such situations, our troops open fire. Seven Iraqi women and children end up dead. No one knows why they ran the checkpoint.

Combatant or noncombatant, male or female, adult or child, American or Iraqi—these are categories that matter to us during war. But underneath the categories are human beings, all made in the image of God, all with hopes and dreams, friends and families; all with lungs and kidneys and muscles and skin and memories, all fearfully and wonderfully made by a gracious Creator, all loved by Him and by many others; all blown to bits by weapons of war that turn people into bits of flesh in an instant.

War is hell. Even if justifiable, it is marked by atrocious carnage. In war, the demons dance. Those who have returned from the battlefield usually are the first to admit it.

Do not be afraid to grieve. Surely God does.

*David Gushee is a professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.*

# MISSIONS

## State WMU celebrates heritage, unveils Missions LINK

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

WINCHESTER—An afternoon tea party, complete with vintage hats and a harpist, highlighted Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's 100th annual meeting last week in Winchester.

But the April 4-5 gathering wasn't primarily about celebrating the past. State WMU leaders also unveiled plans for Missions LINK, a five-year emphasis designed to encourage WMU growth in churches and associations.

"The significance of this meeting was that we celebrated our legacy but focused on the future," said Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU executive director. "While WMU has a rich history that we love, the call is ever before us. ... God's not finished with us yet."

The two-day meeting was held at Central Baptist Church in Winchester, just a few blocks from First Baptist Church where Kentucky WMU's first annual meeting was held a century ago.

In addition to 100 years of WMU annual meetings, the event marked 125 years of Baptist women's missionary society work in the commonwealth.

Dee Gilliland, retired Kentucky WMU executive director, helped set the stage for historical reflection with a series of theme interpretations.

Depicting Kentucky WMU legends Eliza Broadus, Annie Allen and Freeda Harris, Gilliland recounted the challenges they faced to help support and strengthen mission work in Kentucky and around the world.

"Our work is extremely impor-



**MISSIONS LINK** Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union staff members highlight Missions LINK, a five-year WMU growth plan set to begin in September. The emphasis was part of WMU's 100th annual meeting April 4-5 at Central Baptist Church in Winchester.

tant," Gilliland said as she portrayed Broadus. "If we do not continue with our work with dedication, with purpose and with strong encouragement, how are we ever going to strengthen our missionaries? ... If we do not teach the children, who will follow in our footsteps?"

Missions LINK (Linking Involvement, Needs and Knowledge for missions) will begin this fall with a simultaneous missions ministry day Sept. 6. Key elements of the five-year WMU expansion plan include prayer and spiritual preparation, a suggested goal of 10 percent WMU growth per year in local churches, training, associational LINK teams, pastor-staff education and hands-on mission efforts.

"The reason we seek to grow, to expand our territory, is because of the outcomes of WMU work," Bolton said. Citing potential impact on missions education, support and involvement, she added, "Above all, lost persons will come to know Jesus as Savior."

"Churches need WMU to help them focus on missions and instill a heart for a lost world," Bolton said. "If we begin earnestly praying for WMU and for God's leadership, God will do more than we can ask or imagine."

Wanda Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, was among the conference's keynote speakers.

Describing the commitment and involvement of missions volunteer Margaret Burk, Lee noted that Burk took part in her first overseas mission

trip at age 70, graduated from seminary at age 81 and then taught four years at a seminary in Tanzania.

"God is shaping us and molding us into the persons He wants us to be," she noted. "When we take the step of faith and follow Him, we can discover new and exciting ventures we can take with our heavenly Father."

Calling Burk, now 88, "a living testimony of what it means to live a missions lifestyle," Lee asked, "What kind of legacy are you envisioning

that (others) will see and experience and reap blessings from?"

Kentuckians Mark and Jodi, "Last Frontier" missionaries to northern Africa, shared about their efforts to befriend and minister to local residents.

"Reaching out and loving people is the way to reach for people for Christ," said Mark, whose last name is withheld for security reasons. "The more we get involved in God's mission to a lost world, the closer we get to Him."

WMU President Cathy Chinn interviewed several mission volunteers about their work in Kentucky and elsewhere. The panelists highlighted mission opportunities through partnership mission efforts in Germany and Poland as well as Christian Women's Job Corps, MissionsFEST and restorative justice.

Teresa Shaffer shared how she became a Christian through an Ohio County Jail ministry led by Shirley Kirk.

"I have to praise a God that pursued me long enough to not give up on me and set me in a place where I was locked away from the world so I could hear Him," Shaffer said. "I love Him so much because He has forgiven me so much."



**WMU PRESIDENT** Cathy Chinn of Stanton was re-elected Kentucky WMU president last week. Also re-elected was recording secretary Gayle Horn of Harrodsburg. Pat Key of Central City was elected vice president, succeeding Pat Howard of Bowling Green.



**TEA PARTY** Wanda Lee (center), executive director of national WMU, visits with former Kentucky WMU presidents Sally Deen (left) and Peggy Hicks during an April 4 Heritage Fund Tea and Hat Party.

## Struggling with infertility?

There is hope.



If you're struggling with infertility, there is hope. Habakkuk's Hope.

Created to comfort and encourage women who are hoping for a child, Habakkuk's Hope ministers to women just like you.

One out of every six couples experience infertility problems and that number is on the rise. If you find yourself among that group, we're here to help. Our desire is to take the pain, sorrow, and devastation of infertility to God, and there find comfort and strength in the midst of trying circumstances. Our hope is to be a fellowship of compassion. Our goal is to glorify God in all that we do.

Join us **Monday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m.** on the campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville.

For more information, call Patti Withers at 899-3324 or email mipawi@juno.com.

Habakkuk's Hope is a ministry of the Gheens Institute for Christian Family Ministry and is supervised by William Cutrer, MD.

*The sovereign Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of the deer, He enables me to go on the heights.*  
Habakkuk 3:19

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## Central American missions

### Brotherhood links Kentucky Baptists with El Salvador projects, churches

CHINAMECA, El Salvador—When Kentucky Baptists took part in a recent free medical clinic in El Salvador, residents came with a variety of injuries and illnesses.

Some were so severe, they shocked even the medical professionals.

"No! No! You don't need to show me!" Dr. Ben Principe cried when a man began to remove the gauze he had stuffed in an empty eye socket.

Most people came in with the usual aches and pains associated with a life that involves daily tasks such as carrying water up and down mountain paths. Others came in with goiters or high blood pressure.

Team members provided some effective medicines, but could not offer the ongoing medical attention that many patients needed.

"Sure it's kind of band-aiding," admitted nurse Jenny Klaber, a member of Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Falmouth. "But it means so much to these people."

Team members were in El Salvador to explore more ways to partner with area Christians.

Kentucky Brotherhood links teams with churches in El Salvador based on needs expressed by the churches there, according to Randy Foster, director of Kentucky Brotherhood.

"It's a good working relationship," Foster said, estimating that Brotherhood has assembled 18 teams for trips in recent years. Brotherhood has at least five trips scheduled this year, he said.

#### Other links possible

Churches in other Central American countries, including Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, have expressed an interest in teams for evangelistic work, economic development, medical missions and agricultural projects.

Team members on this recent trip included Dan and Jenny Klaber of Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Falmouth; George Phillips and Larry Hunt of Mt. Gilboa Baptist Church in Campbellsville; Ben Principe of First Baptist Church in Brandenburg; Lee Swaggerty of Northeast Christian Church in Louisville; and Justin Swaggerty, Randy Foster and John Foster from Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

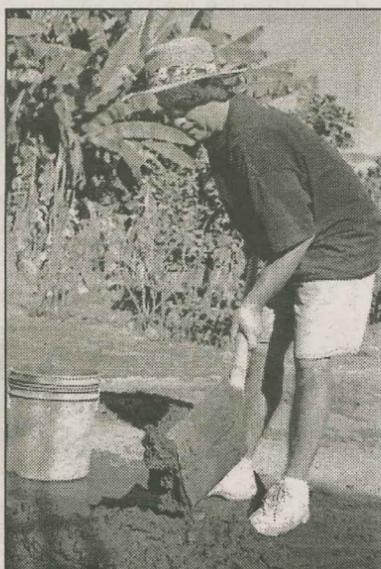
Partnership with other believers is something Salvadorans know well.

At a recent worship service at Chinameca Baptist Church, the offering plate was passed once for a collection to support the church itself. The offering plate was passed a second time to provide for brothers and sisters who are struggling.

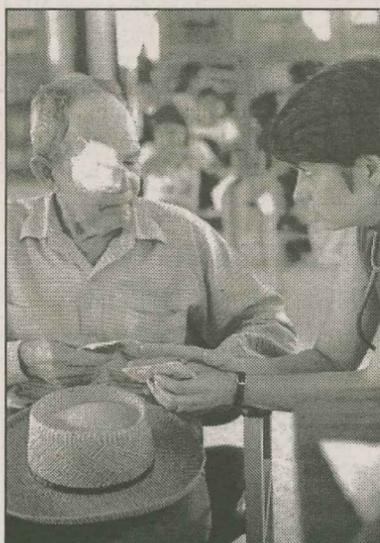
The Salvadoran Christians take care of each other in this way, a form



**A LITTLE HELP** Justin Swaggerty, a member of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, and a local boy named Julio filter sand to be used in building San Antonio Baptist Church in eastern El Salvador. Kentucky Brotherhood volunteers are responding to requests for help in church construction, evangelism and economic development in the Central American country. (Photos by John Foster)



**CEMENT MIXER** Dan Klaber, a member of Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Falmouth, mixes cement to be used in church construction.



**MEDICAL CLINIC** Jenny Klaber, a nurse and member of Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Falmouth, distributes medicine in one of many medical clinics provided by Kentucky Baptists on a recent trip to El Salvador.



**PLAYING IN CHURCH** Local girls from the community of San Antonio play soccer within the walls of a church under construction.



**BRICK WORK** Larry Hunt of Mt. Gilboa Baptist Church in Campbellsville heaves a brick up to be used in the construction of a church.

of biblical welfare.

Many El Salvadorans are struggling. Almost half the population of El Salvador lives below the poverty line. Poverty is especially prevalent in rural areas.

Medical care is both difficult and expensive to come by in this region. The two "free" clinics in town charge for medicines, something many residents cannot afford.

Kentucky Baptists hope to one day provide supplies for a free medical clinic run by local Baptist medical practitioners, providing a more permanent solution to the region's medical problems.

Part of the purpose of the clinics is to demonstrate to Salvadorans that Jesus and local churches care about them.

#### Love through livestock

Kentucky Baptists and Chinameca Baptists also are partnering to

demonstrate the love of Christ through a livestock program.

Goats are given to needy families. The families use the female goats for milk and slaughter the male goats for meat.

So far, 31 families have received a goat and more than 20 people have begun attending Chinameca Baptist Church because of the project.

The impact of the livestock and other outreach programs is stretching throughout the surrounding region through Chinameca Baptist Church's mission churches. Chinameca has been active in planting missions throughout the region, regularly hosting crusades in surrounding communities.

Chinameca church members are active in planning and leading the crusades. Typically, they will block off a street and then sing, preach or show a video.

In the midst of the bazaar-type at-

mosphere—complete with women balancing laundry or water jugs on their heads, men carrying loads of firewood, and dogs and chickens running about—amazing things happen.

At one recent crusade, a drunken man joined in. He sang and danced wildly, but listened with rapt attention to the message.

At the end of the message, he came forward and made a profession of faith in Christ.

Many people were skeptical about his sincerity, but he came back the next night, sober, asking what he needed to do to know more about Christ.

Compiled from reporting by missions volunteer John Foster and News Director David Winfrey

"It means so much to these people."

Nurse Jenny Klaber, a member of Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Falmouth

## Faith leaders want broader health insurance coverage

**"I think the role of the faith community is ... to say that this is an unacceptable level of suffering."**

*Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An unusually broad coalition of leaders for religious groups, including Southern Baptists, says expanding coverage for 41 million uninsured Americans must be a priority for people of all faiths in the 2004 elections.

A group of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Muslim leaders who rarely agree on theological or political issues said last month that care for the poor and sick transcends religious labels.

"I think the role of the faith community is to call the nation to be their brother's keeper, to say that this is an unacceptable level of suffering," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

In a conference call hosted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as part of Cover the Uninsured Week, the religious leaders called on churches, mosques and synagogues to force political candidates to address the issue.

"In America, the wealthiest, most bountiful country in the history of the world, with the best doctors, the best hospitals, the best health care available, it's a moral shame that we have 41 million people uninsured," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foun-

ation estimates that 75 million Americans went without health insurance for at least part of 2001, including half of Hispanics, 40 percent of blacks and one-third of the elderly. Studies show that those without health insurance are more likely to die as a result of illnesses that go either undetected or untreated.

The Bush administration on March 10 proposed increased coverage by expanding community health centers, revamping Medicaid for poor people and instituting a series of tax credits to offset medical expenses. The religious leaders said their first task is to raise the issue, and debate the proposals later.

"I think we'll be able to find the difference between fundamental convictions and tactical judgments, ... and I suggest that we'd find more in common than we have differences," said Michael Place, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association.

Eileen Lindner, deputy general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said getting bogged down in debates on prescription drug coverage, for example, misses the larger point.

"That's an example of where we can be penny-wise and pound-foolish," she said. "Keeping people well is more effective, to say nothing of more dignified and more humane, for us as a society."

## Oregon assisted suicides at highest level in law's history

SALEM, Oregon (RNS)—Thirty-eight people in Oregon killed themselves through physician-assisted suicide in 2002, the highest number in the five full years since a state law allowed the procedure.

A state report in the March 6 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine* revealed that 38 people committed suicide in a year when doctors wrote 58 prescriptions for terminally ill patients who qualified under the law, *Associated Press* reported.

The number of suicides is more than twice the number of patients who took their own lives in 1998, the first full year the law was in effect. That year, 16 patients committed suicide when doctors wrote 24 lethal prescriptions.

The key reasons cited for committing suicide under the law included loss of control of bodily functions, loss of independence and a decreasing ability to take part in activities that bring joy to life. Many of those who ended their lives were older, well-educated cancer victims, said Dr. Mel Kohn, state epidemiologist and co-author of the report.

Assisted suicides accounted for 0.1 percent of deaths. Experts originally predicted 2 to 5 percent of deaths would be assisted suicide, according to Steve Miles, director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

## Bush's faith-based initiatives bill scaled back by Senate sponsor

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The chief Senate sponsor of President Bush's "faith-based" initiative has removed its most controversial elements in hopes of gaining wider support.

Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., agreed March 27 to remove language from the CARE Act that would have allowed "equal treatment" for religious charities that receive government funding and permitted them to use religious criteria in personnel decisions.

The scaled-back bill now contains only tax incentives for charitable giving and increased federal aid for social service groups. This is the second time Santorum has agreed to trim the original plan.

"I would have liked to have gotten the whole enchilada, but in the United States Senate this year, you're lucky to get anything, and I'll take anything," Santorum said, according to *Associated Press*.

The new bill is a dramatic step back from the plan originally presented by President Bush two years ago. That bill, which would have

allowed religious groups to sidestep anti-discrimination laws and preserve their religious identity, passed the House but remained stalled in the Senate.

Santorum said the bill could face a vote in the full Senate soon; he said he has assurances from House Republicans that they will not try to revive the old bill.

Jim Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, pledged that Bush would continue to push to give religious groups an expanded role in providing social services.

"This is more of a legislative strategy issue—what you can do now versus what you can do later," Towey told AP. "The president remains committed to ending discrimination against faith-based groups."

Barry Lynn, director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and chief foe of the Bush plan, praised the move.

"This shows that members of Congress can increase aid to religious and secular charities without violating the Constitution," he said.

## Foundation fulfills sick boy's wish to send Bibles to Africa

PLANO, Texas (RNS)—When an ill Texas boy recently was offered a chance to make his dreams come true, he didn't chose to go to Disney World or meet his favorite athlete.

Steven Downey chose to supply Bibles to African pastors.

Steven, 16, was honored in mid-March at the Reformed Church of Plano, Texas, by officials of the church, International Bible Society, Make-A-Wish Foundation of North Texas, and African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries.

Steven was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease in July 2002. He learned through his church that ALARM, which trains pastors and ministry leaders, needed Bibles.

When the North Texas chapter of Make-A-Wish Foundation offered to grant him a wish, Downey asked to provide study Bibles to ALARM.

With help from the Bible society based in Colorado Springs, Colo., ALARM pastors in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo received 210 French study Bibles. Delivery occurred in February and March, according to society officials, who took part in the ceremony honoring Steven.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation, which began in 1980, grants wishes of children with life-threatening diseases.

It was inspired by a 7-year-old boy who wished to be a police officer for a day despite his diagnosis of leukemia.

"Steven Downey is a young man working diligently to reach the next generation for God," said Tom Youngblood, the Bible society's vice president of outreach.

Celestin Musekura, president of ALARM, said the contribution to the organization is particularly meaningful.

"Steven's giving is indeed sacrificial, and none of us will ever forget this special 'wish,'" Musekura said in a statement.

Steven said he chose his particular wish because he believed it "was going to have the most impact for God's Kingdom for eternity."

## Kentucky Baptist FELLOWSHIP Spring Gathering April 25-26 Immanuel Baptist Church Frankfort, Kentucky

Friday, April 25

**"Getting Your Church off the Plateau" 1 - 5 PM**

A conference for pastors and others interested in church growth  
Featuring: Daniel Vestal, Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; Jack Oliver, Pastor, Emmanuel Fellowship, Jackson, Ky.; and George Hunter, Professor, Asbury Theological Seminary

**Buffet Meal 5:30 PM Cost \$7.50. Reservations Required**

**Evening Program 6:50 - 8:30PM (Refreshments Following)**  
"KBF is about Missions—around the world and in Kentucky,"  
featuring Daniel Vestal and Paul Jarrett, Special Music,  
Missions Reports, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky Report by  
President Greg Earwood, and Message from Dr. John Killinger

Saturday, April 26

|                     |                                                                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:45 - 8:15 AM      | Juice, coffee, pastries, and fellowship                                               |
| 8:15 - 9:40 AM      | Reports and Business                                                                  |
| 9:50 - 11:20 AM     | Breakout Sessions                                                                     |
| 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Worship/Communion Service featuring Special Music and Message from Dr. John Killinger |

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## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **House calls for prayer, fasting.** The House passed a resolution March 27 urging a national day of prayer and fasting as the nation battles Iraq and the threat of terrorism. The resolution, which passed 346 to 49, asks President Bush to proclaim a "day for humility, prayer and fasting" for all Americans. The Senate passed a similar bill March 17.

■ **Graham vols aplenty in San Diego.** Volunteers for the upcoming Billy Graham mission in San Diego have reached record numbers. More than 20,000 people have attended training classes across the San Diego area, marking only the fourth time numbers have reached that level in the history of Graham's crusade and mission ministry. Officials previously estimated about 10,000 would attend the witnessing classes for the mission scheduled for May 8-11.

■ **Judge backs religious candy canes.** A federal judge ruled last month that students at a Massachusetts high school had the right to distribute religious-theme candy last Christmas and should not have been suspended. U.S. District Court Judge Frank Freedman said the students' free speech rights were violated when they were prohibited from handing out candy canes with Christian messages. Freedman also said the school was wrong to suspend the students after they ignored the principal's order to stop.

■ **Winans, Chapman to host Doves.** Christian artists CeCe Winans and Steven Curtis Chapman will host the upcoming 34th Annual Dove Awards April 10. The ceremony will take place in Nashville and will air on PAX TV and the Trinity Broadcasting Network in the following weeks. The awards show also will be presented live on a pay-per-view Webcast produced by StarOne Networks and sponsored by LifeWay Christian Stores.

■ **'Tree-hugger' wins Templeton Prize.** Holmes Rolston III, a self-described "tree-hugger" and a pioneer in the burgeoning academic discipline of environmental ethics, is this year's winner of the Templeton Prize, one of the most prestigious awards in religion. Rolston, 70, an ordained Presbyterian minister who teaches philosophy at Colorado State University, joins a list of recent Templeton winners who have tried to narrow the divide between science and religion.

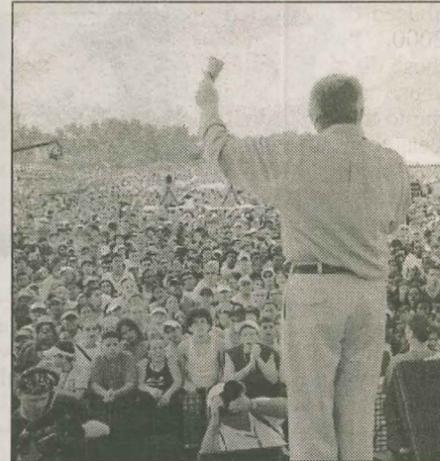
■ **Evangelicals group names president.** Ted Haggard, senior pastor of a megachurch in Colorado Springs, Colo., has been appointed president of the National Association of Evangelicals. Haggard, 46, is the leader of New Life Church, the largest church in Colorado. He succeeds another megachurch pastor, Leith Anderson, pastor of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, who served as interim president.

■ **InterVarsity, Rutgers resolve dispute.** Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., and a chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship have reached a settlement after the ministry sued the school over its policy on student leaders. The school had questioned whether the constitution of an on-campus InterVarsity chapter was compatible with university policy on selection of student organization leaders. The settlement determined that the group is not violating school policy by requiring that leaders agree with the fellowship's faith statement.

■ **Presbyterians to cut budget.** In an effort to balance its budget, the Presbyterian Church (USA) will cut its 2004 budget by \$3.1 million by eliminating 19 staff positions and using \$1.67 million from its savings account. The cuts, including 10 current staff members and nine vacant positions, affect four church divisions but do not include any overseas missionary appointments.

■ **Report: Lutheran pastors underpaid.** A new report shows more than half of Lutheran pastors aren't being paid enough according to church guidelines. A survey found that 20 percent of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America pastors earned salaries at least \$10,000 below standards set by regional synods. The average salary for an ELCA pastor in 2000 was \$45,838.

■ **Pastors' network leader named.** Bill Bright, the ailing founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, has chosen his eventual successor as chairman of Global Pastors Network. Author and speaker John Maxwell, will succeed Bright, the co-founder of the network, following Bright's death. Bright has pulmonary fibrosis, a life-threatening disease. Global Pastors Network is an Internet operation that distributes training materials to pastors worldwide.



**BEACHFEST** Evangelist Luis Palau preached to about 300,000 people March 22-23 during Beachfest, a two-day evangelistic spring break gathering in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The event featured sports and musical activities. It involved 1,100 churches and had sponsors ranging from Pepsi to the Miami Dolphins. (Photo courtesy of Luis Palau Evangelistic Association)

## Thanks to our Campers on Mission

Over the next few weeks, there is no way that I could adequately express my "thank yous" to all of you who have been such a significant part of this ministry during the last five and one half years.

However, I'll give it a try, for the moment beginning with a dedicated group of men and women whom I have known (and will continue to know!) as Campers on Mission.

Earlier this week, I went to Cedarmore to say hello to this great group of men and women I have grown to love so much. It was a cold spring day, but nothing could chill their spirit as I made my rounds thanking them for all they had done for and at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

I think back a few years ago. When we started as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, there were more than a few people who didn't think this ministry ever would thrive again. But that certainly wasn't the perspective of our Campers on Mission. They thought our ministry was worthy of their investment, so they went to work at a feverish pace. They helped us where and when we needed help. A couple of times a year, they descended upon our camps and did everything from

construction to clean-up. From painting to patching. From sewing curtains to sweating in the kitchen, this group has been willing to do it all.

And so I will forever be thankful. It is not an exaggeration to note that without the help of our volunteers, we wouldn't be nearly as far along today as we are. The man and womanpower they have provided is of immeasurable worth. I don't dare mention any names in this column, because I can't begin to list everyone who has helped and been a part of our work.

So the contribution of our Campers on Mission has been huge. I know their work with us will continue. I also know the relationships that have been formed will last forever.

I have grown to love so many of our COMs. They have loved me and encouraged me. We have worked together, laughed together, even cried together. And those memories will remain in my heart.

Once again, to God be the glory for what He has done. I pray His richest blessings upon this group. They are a treasure to His Kingdom as we seek to do His work.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

## Operation: Prayer Warriors



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

## Reporting abuse the right thing to do

Like many of the kids who come into Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's care, Joe came with bruises and a shattered ego.

He was placed in KBHC's foster care program because someone cared enough to report the abuse and see to it that Joe was in a safe environment.

Children die daily from injuries caused by child abuse. In Kentucky alone, more than 18,600 children were proven to have been abused or neglected in 2000. Twenty-one of those died as a result of abuse or neglect, according to the Child Welfare League of America.

Bonnie Finney of Chesapeake, Va., is all too familiar with such statistics. Her 3-year-old grandson died in 1989 at the hands of his mother's abusive boyfriend. Finney championed Blue Ribbon Month, celebrated every April, to raise awareness about child abuse and ways to prevent it. The blue ribbons represent her grandchildren's bruised bodies, Finney said.

You can take action, too, by encouraging others to report abuse if they see it or hear of it.

Reporting abuse can help connect families with counseling and other services that will relieve a

family's stress and help prevent future abuse. Victims of abuse who receive counseling and treatment are less likely to become abusers or have other problems as they grow up.

So what happens when a report is made? The process can vary, but generally, an investigator visits the home and interviews the child, parents or other caretakers.

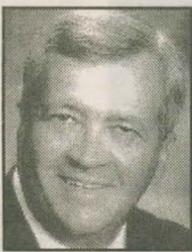
The investigator helps determine whether the child is being abused or is at risk for abuse. The case then might be referred to social services or to a court.

If abuse is occurring in the home, the child might be removed temporarily. Often, the child is taken to live with relatives or a foster family, such as in Joe's case.

Remember that you might not have the legal right to know what steps were taken to protect the child, but you have the responsibility to report a situation.

Suspected abuse can be reported to the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline: (800) 752-6200.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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

## Spring break service in Maryland

By Robert Dunston

During Cumberland College's recent spring break, Campus Minister Dean Whitaker and six students traveled to Ocean City, Md., to minister.

Cumberland College students Stephanie Dobbs, Will Farrington, Carrie Freeman, Dawn Moore, Katie Tellin and David Wilson joined Whitaker to work with Ocean City Baptist Church.

Dobbs, a senior and daughter of Bentley and Leila Dobbs of Mt. Vernon, served as team leader. During the summer after her sophomore year, she had served as a summer missionary with the church and knew about their resort ministry.

The team members got materials ready for the vacation Bible schools that will be held each week through the summer as part of Baptists' outreach through resort missions. The team members prepared craft materials (including punching out and gluing together thousands of foam pieces for a Noah's Ark) and organized the craft room so that each week's craft materials will be easy to find.

The team also cleaned and straightened the rooms where summer missionaries will live during

the summer. The work, although not very exciting, saved the summer missionaries about four days of preparatory work and ensured they could get right to their ministry.

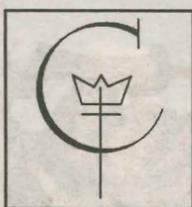
On Monday evening, the team led a successful Baptist student ministries program at Salisbury State University. The next night, they traveled to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to provide a similar program. Only three students attended, but they all enjoyed a time of good discussion.

During the week, the students and Whitaker took turns sharing their spiritual journey with one another. All of the team members found the times of sharing to be a wonderful bonding and growth experience.

Farrington, son of Carl and Gloria Farrington of Wayne County, is most excited about the doors the trip opened to him as he shares his faith with his unsaved friends. He said his friends ask about his trip and he shares with them about Christ. God continues to bless the work of these students, and we are grateful.

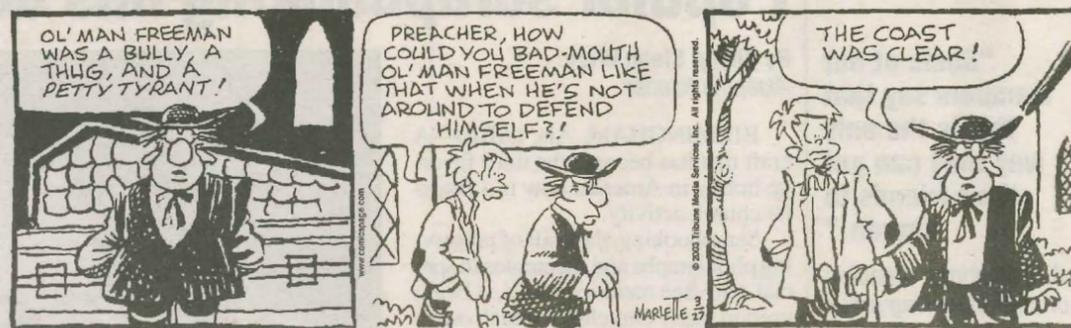
Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, KY 40769

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Kudzu

Doug Marlette



## Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



## Bible Crossword

Elizabeth B. Smith

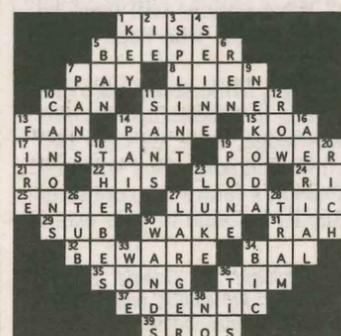
### Across

- 1 Definite article
- 3 Jewess who became queen (Esther 2:17)
- 7 Eastern state, abbr.
- 8 "All that handle the \_\_\_\_\_, ... shall come down from their ships" (Ezekiel 27:29)
- 11 "Upon thy belly shalt thou \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 3:14)
- 13 "Disciples believed \_\_\_\_\_ him" (John 2:11)
- 14 "Judah's wife, the daughter of \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 38:12 NIV)
- 16 Naomi changed her name to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ruth 1:20)
- 19 "He said, Behold, I am \_\_\_\_\_, Lord" (Acts 9:10)
- 20 Enoch's son (Genesis 4:18)
- 21 "I \_\_\_\_\_ no pleasant bread" (Daniel 10:3)
- 23 Moses' mother (Exodus 6:20)
- 27 Mid-west state, abbr.
- 29 "Ye have not chosen \_\_\_\_\_, but I have chosen you" (John 15:16)
- 30 "Neither do the \_\_\_\_\_ understand" (Job 32:9)
- 32 Wife of Nabal (1 Samuel 25:3)
- 35 Old card game
- 36 "The counsel of the Lord, that \_\_\_\_\_ stand" (Proverbs 19:21)
- 38 This woman hid spies on her roof (Joshua 2:1)
- 41 He cried unto the Lord his God (2 Chronicles 14:11)
- 42 "Father said, 'Let us \_\_\_\_\_, and be merry'" (Luke 15:23)
- 44 Samson told her everything (Judges 16:18)

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- 47 Judah's daughter-in-law (Genesis 38:11)
- 49 Hodiah was his sister (1 Chronicles 4:19)
- 50 Short greeting
- 22 Topographical Engineer, abbr.
- 24 Single room in prison
- 25 David's wife (2 Samuel 3:5)
- 26 Eastern state, abbr.
- 27 Saul gave her to David (1 Samuel 18:27)
- 28 King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33)
- 31 "I \_\_\_\_\_ set my bow in the cloud" (Genesis 9:13)
- 33 "God ... rested ... from \_\_\_\_\_ his work" (Genesis 2:2)
- 34 "He careth \_\_\_\_\_ you" (1 Peter 5:7)
- 36 Wind direction
- 37 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23)
- 39 Saul's concubine (2 Samuel 21:11)
- 40 Esau's wife (Genesis 36:12)
- 41 "Why make ye this \_\_\_\_\_" (Mark 5:39)
- 43 "Let them be desolate ... that say unto me, \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 40:15)
- 45 "This is the confidence that we have \_\_\_\_\_ him" (1 John 5:14)
- 46 Southern state, abbr.
- 48 Smallest state, abbr.

### Last week's solution



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# RESOURCES

## Popular scrapbooking has become church outreach tool

**"Some of our members say that this is the only way they can get their friends to church."**

*Amy Waldrop, organizer of a scrapbooking group at First Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala.*

By Cheryl Sloan Wray  
Alabama Baptist

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—A craft that has become the third favorite hobby in America now is a favorite church activity.

Scrapbooking, the craft of preserving photographs and mementos in special acid-free memory books, is being used in many churches to reach out to the community.

It has become a \$300 million-a-year industry, according to the Hobby Industry Association. One study ranked it the third most popular craft, behind cross-stitching and home décor painting.

It's a hobby on which many women readily admit they are hooked.

Linda Smith, coordinator for a scrapbooking group at Huffman Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., said she fell in love with the hobby when she wanted to preserve her family's memories. Eight years ago, she decided to share her hobby with others and began a group at the church.

"We meet on a Friday night and stay from 6 p.m. till midnight," she explained. "We have 10 to 30 women come every meeting, and most of us spend the time cropping and just fellowshiping with one another."

"Cropping" refers to working on scrapbooks, whether it's selecting photographs, journaling memories about photographs or designing scrapbook pages.

Smith said the monthly crops have become a meaningful outreach.



**CROPPING AWAY** Friday nights often find Lisa (left) and Fern Metzler attending the monthly scrapbooking "Crop 'Til You Drop" at Huffman Baptist Church in Birmingham. (Alabama Baptist photo by Jennifer Davis Rash)

"Probably half of the women who come are not members of our church," she said. "And some of them have become involved in other ministries of our church because of this group."

### Girls' night out, at church

At First Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala., about 30 women meet each month to share their love of scrapbooking.

"It's designed to be kind of like the quilting bees from years past," organizer Amy Waldrop said. "It's a way to get women together and get them

communicating. We like to call it a girls' night out.

"Some of our members say that this is the only way they can get their friends to church," Waldrop said. "Once they come to our crop, it's a great opening to invite them to Bible studies or to activities for their children."

Julie Bates, a consultant for scrapbook supplies retailer Creative Memories, said churches are a natural place to hold scrapbooking activities.

"Churches understand the value of family, they know that family is a pri-

ority," said Bates, an organizer for a scrapbooking group at First Baptist Church of Pleasant Grove, Ala. "It's a great way to help people get to know a church in a casual, friendly, fun way."

Several scrapbooking coordinators said the hobby is a natural extension of their faith. Waldrop said she discovered the importance of scrapbooking after her bout with cancer and the death of her grandmother.

"When my grandmother died, we looked through her photographs and discovered that so many of them didn't have any documentation with them. Waldrop said. "I want to leave a legacy for my children. After I have died, I want them to still have a piece of me through my scrapbooks."

### Mixing family and faith

Linda Smith said the hobby is an extension of her faith because family is so interspersed with her Christian beliefs.

"I think it's a great way to preserve family history and to remember the importance of family events," she said.

"It's not just a hobby, it's a real lifestyle change," Bates added. "I'm trying to teach women that their scrapbooks will really make a difference. We are telling stories behind photographs. We are preserving memories. We are both preserving the past and inspiring the future."

"It's more than a hobby," Waldrop added. "It's my heart and soul on paper."

## There aren't many of us left!

The fate of boarding schools across the U.S. and here in Kentucky is not very bright. When I came to Oneida in 1961, our sister school, Magoffin Baptist Institute, had just closed her doors. Founded in 1905, six years after Oneida's founding, Magoffin's early days were similar to ours. Magoffin ministered to mostly local kids from some of Kentucky's poorest families. Like Oneida, she had a dedicated staff that was willing to work long hours for little material compensation. The joy of investing one's life for the benefit of others was compensation enough. And like Oneida, she had a strong work ethic. Students had to do most of the chores on campus. They even had a farm with milk cows, just as we did until the late 1960s.

Like most boarding schools, Magoffin struggled with finances and at times had difficulty maintaining an enrollment high enough to support the school. The final blow came when the county paved the last 12 miles of road to the Magoffin campus. That made it possible for the county school bus to pick up students who otherwise were too difficult to reach. With a declining enrollment and loss of sufficient funds, she was forced to close her doors in 1960. The Magoffin trustees voted to give Oneida the property and other items. I visited that campus with one of Oneida's staff my senior year to help bring back some of those items.

I remember going into those beautiful stone buildings. They were every bit as nice as any on our campus. Their new school building was only six years old. While many had helped themselves to most of the school's removable property, the library was still intact. It was a sad sight to see all those books, but no one to read them.

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Magoffin was not the first boarding school of her day to go under, nor would she be the last. And many smaller colleges have met the same fate. In nearby London, Ky., Sue Bennett College, founded in 1886, closed her doors in 1997.

The front page headline of a recent Lexington Herald Leader read, "Millersburg Military Academy closes doors, sends students home." You have no idea how that thought haunts every boarding school. Recently I was interviewing a prospective student and his guardian. During the interview a friend, who had driven the grandfather and his grandson to our school, made a comment that has haunted me ever since. He said, "The sad thing is, Oneida will probably not be around 100 years from now to help kids like this."

You may think that 100 years is far enough into the future that one should not worry, but think about that. When was the last time you heard of a new boarding school being built? If there is no Oneida, who will meet the needs of middle and high school students who need an opportunity to succeed in a different environment? What options will there be for thousands of young people who need Oneida?

Founded 110 years ago, Millersburg once met a vital need. Many young lives benefited from its program. To my knowledge, there are only two boarding schools left in Kentucky. One way you can help to insure Oneida's future is to consider including Oneida Baptist Institute in your estate planning.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

## A partnership with North Carolina Baptists

Clear Creek has a growing partnership with Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute near Hendersonville, N.C., an agency of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. The two-year school graduates can transfer to Clear Creek and secure the bachelor of arts in ministry in two more years.

Fruitland has 200 students, and they gave me a tremendous welcome when I preached in chapel services the past two years. Fruitland President Kenneth Ridings preached at Clear Creek this spring. Three "Fruitland Boys" now are enrolled.

Craig Boley commented on the correspondence from schools as he sought a place to continue his education. "Other schools I contacted stressed the income results of securing additional education; Clear Creek emphasized God's calling and the desire to help me fulfill His purpose," Craig said. "I also like the personal relationship with faculty, and my kids love it here. We don't worry about their safety with the houses away from a major highway."

Trent Moody stated the reaction of his son Carter, almost 4 years old, when they talk about going home to North Carolina for a visit, "Tell

them to come here." This is the first time the Moodys have lived more than 100 yards from their parents. "The kids have so many friends here. When we came to prepare the house to move in, neighbors brought food and drinks; we have encountered wonderful friendliness," Trent said.

Robert Johnson, a single student, started in 2001 with a weekly commute from Johnson City, Tenn. He now lives in Kelly Hall. "The teaching here is more practical than theory, and right on track with what we need for ministry," Robert said. "I've had to adjust to professors using PowerPoint presentations."

How is campus life for a single man where two-thirds of the students are married with children? "I'm pro-family!" Robert responded. "The food isn't like Mama's, but I haven't had any heartburn."

Moving to Clear Creek influenced the extended family of these students. "Our families watched us walk by faith and saw God provide," Craig said. "It has strengthened our faith and theirs."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Karon for kids

*Author pens homage to grandmother, predicts end for popular Mitford series*

By Cecile Holmes  
Religion News Service

BLOWING ROCK, N.C. (RNS)—Thinking back, award-winning author Jan Karon revels in recalling her grandmother's stories.

"I loved hearing about her life and how people used to live," Karon said in a telephone interview about a special children's Easter book.

The book celebrates the generosity of spirit so many Christians seek to embody during the Easter season.

"I loved hearing about her many

beaus and suitors and her five proposals of marriage," Karon said of her grandmother. "What it was like to go to school. What they wore. What they ate. ... I learned a lot from her, but most of all, I learned to love stories."

When "Mama"—as Karon called her—died at age 100, her granddaughter wanted to honor her and her legacy with a special book.

The result is the engaging children's story, "Miss Fannie's Hat," first published in 1998 and now re-issued for Easter by Augsburg Books. The special edition, appealing to both girls and boys, includes a CD of the author reading the story and talking about the real Miss Fannie.

Karon, creator of the well-known Mitford book series about a village in the Blue Ridge Mountains, is a writer known for accomplishing what some once considered impossible. Her Mitford books have been so popular with readers that she has crossed over from Christian to mainstream circles.

With "Miss Fannie's Hat," her first children's book, she manages to bridge another great divide: creating a book with so lovable a heroine that even modern, computer-savvy kids will want to read it again and again.

Miss Fannie is the sort of unforgettable, indomitable woman many people remember from Sunday school. A tiny lady with a huge heart and an enormous collection of hats, Miss Fannie gains a real treat when she gives up her favorite Easter Sunday hat to help raise money in her church's auction.

"People have loved it, boys and girls," Karon said.

Her desire for the book was to help children see an old person as "someone who was, in many ways, like themselves," Karon said. "The book begins: 'Miss Fannie was very old and had grown to be about the same size she was as a little girl.'"

But, like the children who will read the book, Miss Fannie has a big decision to make because she "was not eager to share what she loved."

Such simple lessons and basic

truths about human relationships are standard in Karon's books. Relationships are the focal point of the Mitford books and of this one. In all of them, Karon's characters search for—and find—meaning and hope. Maybe that's why her fictional Mitford has become the village so many long to call "my hometown."

In "Miss Fannie's Hat," we find that Miss Fannie and her daughter, Miss Wanda, live together. Miss Wanda cooks each morning. And always, Miss Fannie says she won't eat much.

"Miss Wanda tries to mind because Miss Fannie is her mama," Karon writes. "But she forgets, and brings her a piece of sausage, buttered toast with jelly, a scrambled egg and a cup of herb tea."

"Oh, my! That's way too much," Miss Fannie always says. But then she goes and eats it all up."

Miss Fannie's strength of character, fun-loving spirit and generous heart emerge from Karon's prose. The book also includes reusable stickers and a storyboard to make it extra appealing to kids.

That's how Karon reaches out, hoping to touch children in a beguiling way as she does in the Mitford books.

"I'm writing the second-to-last Mitford novel," Karon said.

"Once we've done the final novel in 2005, it will be a total of nine novels. There will be a Mitford bedside companion, a cookbook and a second Father Tim quote book." Father Tim is a lead character in the series.

Though many readers demand it continue, Karon insists the series must stop when it should. "The story ends at a certain place, just like all of our stories have an ending. I have no information beyond the end God has given me. I'm not going to force it. I always want to write authentically."

And Karon is ready for fresh horizons.

"The first thing I want to do after I catch my breath is to get in a very upscale RV with a very darling little dog and write a book about a couple in their 60s who set out to see America," Karon said. "It's a couple who haven't ever been anywhere or seen anything."

Their names are Ray and Irma. One morning Ray turns to his wife and says, "What's the matter, Sugarbabe?"

And Irma says, "I'm just give out."

"Anything I can do to help?" Ray asks.

She turns around and says, "Ray, I want to go to Disney World."

And that's how their adventure will begin, Karon said.



**The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations.** Dan Kimball. Zondervan, 2003. 266 pages. \$14.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

About the time I begin to wonder if anyone can add anything worth reading to the discussion of postmodernist culture and how the church should respond, someone like Dan Kimball comes along and surprises me.

As founding pastor of the "Graceland" worship services, a postmodernist-shaped worship form within the life of Santa Cruz Bible Church in California, Kimball has studied the cultural shifts taking place in Western societies and the successes and failures of churches attempting to reach those immersed in a postmodern mindset.

Without becoming a cheerleader for everything postmodern, Kimball uses the first part of the book to examine the differences between modern and postmodern worldviews.

Some of this will be a review for those who have read in this field, but I found his way of presenting the material useful for anyone who would try to teach or share this information with others. The remainder of the book looks at practical issues, from forms of worship to leadership styles in the emerging church. One particularly interesting feature is his use of sidebars, in which Brian McLaren, Rick Warren and others respond and dialogue with Kimball's insights.

Kimball contends that the church emerging in this postmodern context will reach back to vintage forms of Christian worship and community. Postmoderns, he contends, want worship space that feels holy. Consequently, Boomer worship centers which have been stripped of religious symbols feel cold to them. The worship space at his church uses many centers of activity, while at the same time keeping the focus on the cross and Jesus Christ.

While at times he lost me in the particulars of their worship style and planning, I found the book challenging, inspiring and a rich resource for churches who are serious about reaching the younger, largely unreached generation among us. *Jim Holladay*

**Digital Storytellers: The Art of Communicating the Gospel in Worship.** Len Wilson and Jason Moore. Abingdon Press, 2002. 165 pages, plus DVD and Web site. \$25. ♦♦♦♦

Len Wilson and Jason Moore want to help churches integrate 21st century digital communication into worship.

But that means much more than just adding Microsoft PowerPoint to display sermon points or hymn lyrics, they insist.

It takes multimedia communication to expand worshippers' understanding of Scripture or a sermon theme.

"The church wants to use digital technology to crunch its data faster and better," Wilson writes. "But what people crave is an experience with God."

Wilson was media minister at a church near Dayton, Ohio. Moore served on the church's worship design team for three years before they left in 2000 to start a church media training institute and production company.

"Digital Storytellers" makes a strong case for making visual storytelling an integral part of communication, particularly to reach postmodern adults and youth.

"Doctrine without form is powerless because it doesn't engage the whole person," Wilson writes.

This book is a good resource for any pastor looking to add visual elements to worship. And it provides strong support for

advocates looking to convince others to expand the use of media in worship.

One chapter offers help for small and medium-size churches just getting started, and their on-the-Web chapter has updated sources for videos, images and other resources.

One complaint: A book that promotes multisensory communication shouldn't be this gray. Certainly the enclosed DVD and Web site help, but I expected a more visually stimulating layout for a book that advocates imagery and metaphors. *David Winfrey*

**In Times of Crisis and Sorrow: A Minister's Manual Resource Guide.** Carol Noren. Jossey-Bass, 2001. 324 pages. \$24.95. ♦♦♦♦

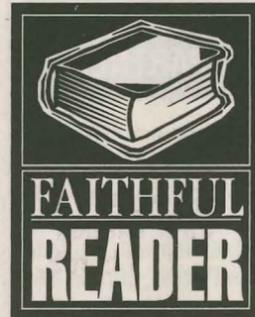
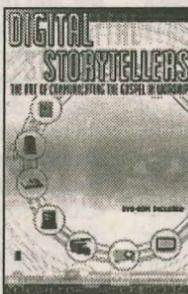
Nothing fancy. No frills. Carol Noren simply offers a good, solid resource for pastors, chaplains and others who are involved with people who are facing, or have faced, significant losses in their lives.

The manual has two main divisions. The first deals with the theory of "ministry in times of crisis and sorrow." Noren explores the theology of grief ministry, the various ways communities deal with the issue, as well as related pastoral care issues. She covers a wide variety of topics which include some not covered well, if at all, in other, more traditional funeral handbooks. Such topics include issues related to viewing the body, how to handle Masonic rites, the acceptability of honoraria and the theological underpinnings for grief ministry.

The second division is filled with practical help for conducting a wide variety of services connected with crisis and sorrow. A significant

amount of space is given to actual sermons that can be used. She also includes sermon outlines, prayers, hymns, scripture texts, sermon illustrations and calls to worship. One particularly helpful section deals extensively with services for children.

If you do not have a manual dedicated to funerals and other ministry helps for those times of grief and loss, Noren has compiled a thorough, useable resource. If you have some of the older manuals, "In Times of Crisis and Sorrow" would be an excellent way to update that resource. *Jim Holladay*



By Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and David Winfrey, news director of the Western Recorder. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: docholladay01@aol.com; david.winfrey@kybaptist.org.

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **NEEDED:** About \$3,000 is needed to pay for food, lodging and transportation for deaf children to attend a camp in Czech Republic this summer. Missionaries across Eastern Europe who work with the deaf are planning the camp. E-mail Carla.Purvis@kybaptist.org for information.

■ **NEEDED:** A mission team to help with a backyard Bible club, servant evangelism and door-to-door surveys in Falmouth, Maine, June 30-July 3. The team that had planned to work there has cancelled. Contact Scott Baker: scott@cascobaychurch.org or call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office.

■ **Wisdom for Baptist representative** Martha Moore in Germany to know when to work and when to rest. She leads seven Bible studies and discipleship groups for students each week.

■ **Give thanks for the seven Spanish-language, three English-language and one German-language Bible study groups now meeting regularly on the Canary Islands.** Pray for plans to begin two more Spanish-language groups soon.

■ **A retired couple to work in Boston with internationals and to manage a mission house for volunteers.**

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Second Twelve Mile Church called **Glenn Chasteen Jr.** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Annville Church.

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church will host a city-wide youth rally April 17, 7 p.m., with guest speaker **Russell Simon Jr.** For information, call (606) 324-3100.

■ **BAGDAD**—Indian Fork Church licensed Youth Minister **John Matthews** to the gospel ministry.

■ **CADIZ**—Locust Grove Church dedicated its new facility April 13.

■ **CLAY CITY**—**Clyde Bolling** recently resigned as pastor of Powells Valley Church.

■ **COVINGTON**—West Covington Church called **Chuck Overton** as pastor.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church's adult choir will present the Easter musical "Who Do You Say I Am?" April 19-20, 7 p.m. **Willie Ailstock** is pastor.

■ **FLORENCE**—**Robert Golden** resigned as pastor of Greenview Church to become a full-time chaplain with the National Guard.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church will hold its second annual Easter "Eggstravaganza" April 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **French Harmon** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church ordained **Roger Becher, Don Hunter** and **Kahle Morris** as deacons. **Rodney Travis** is pastor.

■ **KENTON**—Kenton Church will hold revival services April 13-16 with **Doug Ramage** as evangelist. **Steve Watkins** is pastor.

■ **MCDOWELL**—Pine Grove Church recently ordained **James Tackett** as a deacon.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—First Church, Pleasant Grove Church and Woodland Church will host an Easter sunrise service April 20, 7 a.m., at Wetherby Park in Middletown. Breakfast will follow at First Church.

■ **MORNING VIEW**—Piner Church ordained Associate Pastor **Dan Ison** to the gospel ministry April 6.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Bill Coleman** recently resigned as minister of youth

and activities at Reidland Church.

■ **PAINTSVILLE**—First Church recently ordained **Mark Grim** as a deacon.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Calvary Church will hold revival services April 12, 7 p.m., and April 13, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., with **David Livingston** as evangelist.

■ **SOMERSET**—High Street Church called **Jammie Vance** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Beech Grove Church, Campbellsville.

■ **SUMMERSVILLE**—Brush Creek Church called **Donald Finn** as pastor.

■ **WHEELWRIGHT**—First Church called **Edmon Bolen** as interim pastor.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Bethlehem Church called **Doug Kineman** as pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

■ **AVAILABLE:** Southern Baptist evangelist available for revivals, crusades and conferences. For scheduling information, call Desi Ginn at (662) 781-9670, or go to [www.desiginnministries.com](http://www.desiginnministries.com) on the Internet.

■ **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](mailto: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](http://www.sanibelcondo.net). Call Pat (502) 895-8752.

■ **FOR SALE:** Used theological books bought and sold. Contact Brent Cloyd, 25100 Indian Ridge Road, Sterling, IL 61081; [cloyd@essex1.com](mailto: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](mailto:steph@metrol.org). ceo8761.

■ **REFER:** \$1200 to refer one home seller who wants to sell instantly and for full value. [www.bill-bowen.com/33465](http://www.bill-bowen.com/33465).

■ **SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for a growing church in Owensboro, Ky. Exceptional professional opportunity for a creative, experienced and skilled church musician. The minister of music will direct, coordinate and supervise a full music ministry that includes (but not limited to) sanctuary choir, graded choir program, youth choir, quartets and ensembles. Send resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Yellow Creek Baptist Church, 5741 Highway 144, Owensboro, KY 42303.

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

■ **SEEKING:** Post Oak Baptist Church is currently accepting resúmes for the position of minister of music on a bivocational basis. Responsibilities include the entire music ministry, sanctuary choir, youth choir and children's choir. Applicant also must have knowledge of string and wind instruments sufficient for directing an instrumental ensemble. Resúmes should be sent to: Search Committee, Post Oak Baptist Church, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276.

■ **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:** 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:** 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:** 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. Resúmes will be accepted until April 15.

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

■ **SEEKING:** 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](mailto:mhester@cbbc.edu).

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

■ **SEEKING:** McDowell (Ky.) First Baptist Church is prayerfully receiving and reviewing resúmes 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:** Seeking full-time pastor's secretary. Send resúmes to Shively Baptist Church, 1599 Sadie Lane, Louisville, KY 40216.

■ **SEEKING:** Full-time youth pastor for Northeast Park Baptist Church. Please send resumé to Northeast Park Baptist Church, 1215 North Boeke Road, Evansville, IN 47711.

■ **SEEKING:** Full-time youth/music minister for White Sulphur Baptist Church. Send resumé to church at 5300 Ironworks Pike, Georgetown, KY 40324, Attn: Personnel Committee.

■ **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:** Minister to single adults, Lexington/Midlands of South Carolina. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Lexington Baptist Church, 308 E Main St., Lexington, SC 29072.

■ **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.

# EASTER

## A-a-a-a-a-al-le-e-lu-u-ia!

*'Christ the Lord Is Risen Today' a hit every Easter*

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Long before Easter Sunday dawns, Nolan Williams Jr. already knows a key hymn he'll direct at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

"The message is so appropriate for the season and certainly for the day," said Williams, minister of music for the predominantly black church. "The setting of that hymn, it just makes for such a glorious worship experience. And Easter is all about glory."

Several blocks away at Foundry United Methodist Church, a mostly white congregation, Eileen Guenther couldn't agree more.

"That is the hymn without which Easter wouldn't be Easter at Foundry," said Guenther, the church's minister of music and liturgy. "I'm not a big believer in doing the same thing, but this is one of my traditions. This hymn is the first hymn for Easter."

In these days of worship wars and ongoing debates about appropriate church music, on Easter Sunday there comes a resounding agreement on the great hymn for the holiday.

Of course, there are many runners-up in such a contest, but the hymn with words by prolific composer Charles Wesley and tune by an unknown composer takes the prize.

"Even churches that use contemporary worship still find a use for that hymn," said John Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"'Christ the Lord Is Risen Today' is so memorable," he added. "Kids love singing the Alleluias. It just sings well."

Evangelicals, mainline Protestants and Catholics will join in that refrain—a rare confluence of sometimes different musical tastes—literally all singing the multinote "Alleluia" at the end of each line of verse.

Jim Cordell, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church music department, agreed that the hymn is popular among large and medium-size churches throughout the commonwealth.

The hymn's pervasiveness adds to its use at Easter, he said, when community services unite worshipers from



**EASTER MUSIC** Music ministers from a variety of denominations say they'll use the same hymn, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" as part of their Easter music. (File photo)



**GAITHER TUNE** "Because He Lives" is also popular at Easter.

across denominational lines and once-a-year worshippers attend Easter Sunday. We tend to like to sing what we know," he noted.

But "the smaller churches, I'm not so sure," Cordell added. "Mainly because it's a pretty difficult hymn to do. You've got to have a pretty good pianist."

For them, he said, many are likely to sing the Bill and Gloria Gaither hymn "Because He Lives."

### The hymn's history

Perhaps the dominance of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" was foreshadowed by the names of its words and tune. The text of the hymn dates to 1739, when Wesley's 11 stanzas were published under the title "Hymn for Easterday," according to the "Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal."

The tune, known simply as "Easter hymn" is from a 1708 musical collection called "Lyra Davidica."

Guenther, a lecturer in church music at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, said the words and music are a perfect match.

"It is a great text, and it is a tune that completely supports what the text is about," she said. "The Alleluia is sort of like the jubilus, an ecstatic 'Alleluia,' something that comes completely from the heart."

In almost 300 years of existence, the hymn has evolved through multiple arrangements and languages.

Different hymnals across the country include editors' choices among the multiple stanzas by Wesley. And church songbooks spanning the globe carry it in various languages. In the Spanish version of the United Methodist Hymnal, "Mil Voces Para Celebrar," it's called "Christo ya resucito."

"I've seen it in several African hymnals," said Michael Hawn, a global church music expert at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Hawn said it's not surprising to see the words in Yoruba in Nigeria or in Shona in Zimbabwe.

"It's just kind of the quintessential hymn in the West," he said. "And so therefore it would have been taken by the missionaries."

Carl Daw Jr., executive director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, said "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" has become an unbroken holiday tradition.

"It's partly because it's been sung for so long, there's such a deep memory," he said. "It's nearly always the case that for important occasions, people tend to go back into memory rather than to try to do something new."

### Other top choices

Although musicians cite "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" as the top choice for Easter Sunday, they offer a range of runners-up.

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" and "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"—the latter of which, also has "Alleluias" at the end of each line—get votes from Guenther at Foundry United Methodist.

Williams, of Metropolitan Baptist, cites the Gaithers' "Because He Lives," plus "He Lives," a popular hymn in African-American congregations whose first words are "I serve a risen Savior."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

## Sign of the cross



**CROSS CONSTRUCTION** Gene Murray (left) is excited by the response generated by his initial idea for yard crosses. His pastor, Jeff Vanlandingham (second from left), supported the project. Church members Wallace Johnson and Furman Dobbs helped build 320 crosses.

## One family's simple yard cross idea catches on throughout city

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—For several years, Gene and Lynda Murray have testified to the spiritual significance of Easter each spring by erecting a six-foot cross in their yard.

This season they're encouraging Christians of many denominations to make similar displays.

As a result, they expect to see thousands of crosses displayed throughout the Birmingham area during the weeks leading up to Easter.

"We had mentioned the idea to some friends who are members of a different church, and they encouraged us to go talk to their pastor," Murray recalled. "As God called us to go out and talk to more pastors about it, we were overwhelmed by the responses we received. The Lord truly went before us and prepared the pastors' hearts for our message. Every one of the pastors said, 'Yes, let's do it,' within minutes of us being with them."

Murray's own pastor, Jeff Vanlandingham at Valley Baptist Church in Hoover, immediately supported the idea.

The project gives Christians a simple way to proclaim their faith, he said. "We are really praying that it takes off, and we think it can," he said. "It's a project that both small and large churches can do."

The churches involved include Presbyterian, Methodist, Assembly of God, Catholic, Southern Baptist and others. Seven out-of-state churches also have expressed interest in the project, leading to a current total of 25,000 crosses.

At Metropolitan Church of God, Pastor Raymond Culpepper was instantly enthusiastic. "He prayed right then and there, telling God that we wanted to see thousands of crosses throughout the area," Mrs. Murray said.

Each church is responsible for its own crosses, with individual churches developing different ideas about how to build and distribute them. Ideally, each family will have a cross to display. The crosses, made from 1-inch-by-4-inch rough boards, cost no more than \$1.50 each to make.

The crosses typically are set in the yard on Palm Sunday and remain through Easter. Murray encourages participants to keep their crosses plain and simple, without paint or fancy adornments. "We want it to be as much like Jesus' cross as possible. It was a simple wooden cross," he said.

Once the Easter season is over, "The crosses could be retained by each family and used again during subsequent seasons," Murray said.

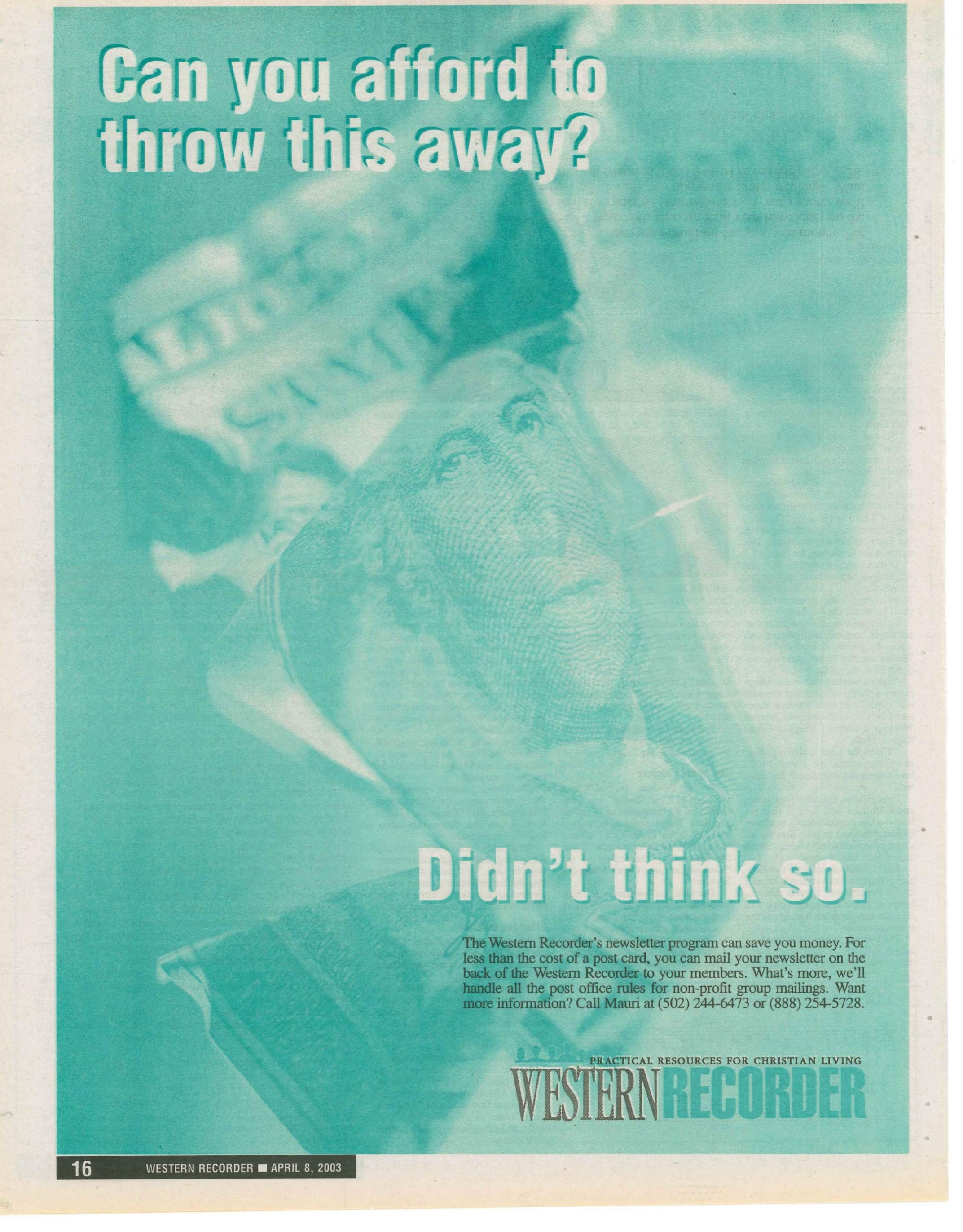
In talking with various pastors and church members, Murray was struck by their creativity. At one Catholic church, the priest said the Knights of Columbus and Boy Scout troop would build their crosses.

A Baptist church had its Royal Ambassador group build them. Another used an existing workshop to construct the 4,000 crosses needed for that congregation.

"This gives Christians the chance to be an example during this time," Murray said. "It is a beautiful emphasis on the true meaning of the Easter season."

### 114 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



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