

April 15, 2003
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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
Southwestern Seminary's president retiring at age 54 to head Southern Baptist EKG initiative. *Page 2.*

Easter sermons
War affecting how Kentucky ministers prepare for big Sunday. *Page 3.*

Food drive
Kentucky Baptists collecting food for Iraq. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Good triumphs in historic war against evil. *Page 5.*

Hunger
Faith group criticizes farm subsidies' impact on farmers, hunger. *Page 8.*



Armageddon?
Some wonder if Iraq is gateway to final showdown. *Page 9*

Southern Baptist chaplain cleared in 'baptisms for baths' allegation

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A U.S. Army inquiry has determined that a Southern Baptist chaplain in Iraq who reportedly was giving baptisms to dirty soldiers seeking baths has not been using coercion.

"I am confident that Chaplain (Josh) Llano does not, has not and will not use coercion in the exercise of his official responsibilities," said Chaplain (Col.) Al Buckner, director of operations at the Army's chief of chaplains office at the Pentagon.

A report from the Knight Ridder news agency about Llano's possible exchange of baptisms for baths prompted strong criticism from organizations concerned about church-state separation.

That news story stated that the 32-year-old chaplain, who described himself as a "Southern Baptist evangelist," told a reporter: "It's simple. They want water. I have it, as long as they agree to get baptized."

A statement from the U.S. Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs said Llano does not recall making such a statement.

"He did make some of the remarks the reporter attributed to him, but not all to her, and not in the context or with the intent the article appeared to suggest," the statement reads.

The Army said soldiers at Camp Bushmaster were not suffering from a water shortage and

□ See *Southern Baptist ...*, page 2

Is Judas misunderstood?

Scholars debate motivation for betraying Jesus

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

WATERLOO, Ontario (RNS)—He is the Benedict Arnold of the Bible, a man synonymous with treachery and betrayal.

For 30 pieces of silver, Judas Iscariot handed Jesus over to the authorities and sparked events that led to the Crucifixion.

New Testament accounts label him a thief, a turncoat and the "son of perdition." The Bible is clear that Judas betrayed Jesus, but some scholars question Judas' motivation.

What was he really up to? Is it possible that he was motivated not by greed or betrayal, but by love? Was his suicide an admission of guilt, or perhaps a sign of his loyalty to his fallen Messiah?

"I'm not saying Judas is a saint, but we owe him an enormous debt for having helped Jesus to accomplish God's will," argues William Klassen, a retired professor of New Testament at the University of Waterloo in southern Ontario and author of "Judas: Betrayer or Friend of Jesus?"

"Why the church has turned against him so terribly badly is a mystery to me, and it also means that the church still hasn't understood the meaning of Christ's death."

The questions surrounding Judas' life and legacy are twofold. Some are historical, and the few available details are found in the four Gospels.

The others are theological, and remain as mysterious and profound as the Easter story itself. Was Judas used by God, and if so, did God forgive him?



BETRAYED? The painting "Judas Betrays His Master," circa 1860s, shows Jesus being betrayed by Judas with a kiss. But some scholars claim Judas has been misunderstood and was actually trying to help Jesus by handing Him over to the Jewish authorities. (RNS photo)

The details of Judas' life, like most of the 12 apostles, are sketchy. He was called by Jesus, but we don't know his qualifications. John's Gospel says he was entrusted as "keeper of the money bag," but also that he dipped into it. It appears that Jesus knew that Judas ultimately would turn on him.

Some scholars say he was an outsider from the beginning. Klassen said

the word "Iscariot" indicates he was probably from the village of Kerieth in southern Judea, while the other apostles were drawn from Galilee, in the north. He was perhaps a Zealot, hopeful that Jesus would usher in a political revolution that would free the Jewish people from the Romans.

In some ways, we know more about his death than his life. The

□ See *Was Judas Jesus' ...*, page 6

Where is your church's praise focused, Duke chaplain asks

By David Winfrey
News Director

GEORGETOWN—True Christian praise and worship involves encountering a God who seeks to transform His followers, William Willimon told a group of Kentucky pastors recently at Georgetown College.

"There is a price to be paid for not being attentive to our praise," said Willimon, dean of the chapel at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

Speaking at the Georgetown Pastors Conference April 7, Willimon contrasted Christian and non-Christian forms of praise and spirituality.

The world's fuzzy spirituality can be based on emotion or personal feelings, he said.

"The great 'theologian' George Carlin said spirituality has become the last refuge of an inadequate human being," Willimon said, quoting the salty

comedian. "Spirituality is whatever you're feeling when you're feeling just fine about the way you're feeling right now."

He described explaining to students that that the world's spirituality is not a Christian experience.

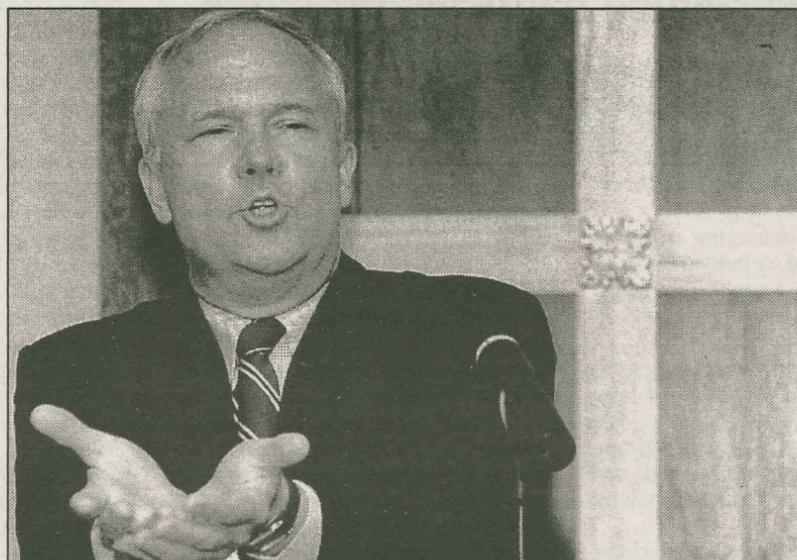
"I have to explain to them, 'Well, Christianity is not a very spiritual religion. We have this thing called the Incarnation,'" he said. "We believe God became flesh. We can't make God into anything we please. God has a face, a name, lives somewhere specifically, did certain things."

In the movie "The Green Mile," episodes of spirituality involved soft light, sparkles and unfocused vision, Willimon noted.

In contrast, "for us, when things get spiritual is whenever God comes to us and where God speaks, God reveals and things come into focus,"

□ See *All praise not Christian ...*, page 6

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, April 16



PASTORS CONFERENCE William Willimon, chaplain at Duke University, was among the featured speakers for the Georgetown College Pastors Conference, April 7-9.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Russell Moore**, an assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has been reappointed to the Southern Baptist Convention's resolutions committee. Moore is the only Kentuckian on the committee, which presents resolutions to messengers at the SBC annual meeting.

■ **Southern Seminary's** biweekly newspaper is now available on the Web. The seminary's news can be accessed at www.towersonline.net.

Hemphill retiring from Southwestern

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Ken Hemphill announced his resignation as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary last week.

Hemphill, 54, told a packed chapel audience of students, faculty, staff and trustees that he will take "early retirement" from the seminary to become national strategist for the Southern Baptist Convention's Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative.

He becomes the first president in the seminary's 95-year history to voluntarily leave the post for another position. His six predecessors died in office, retired or were fired.

Hemphill will complete the current academic term before moving to Nashville, where he will be jointly employed by the SBC Executive Committee and LifeWay Christian Resources. Empowering Kingdom Growth is a new national initiative to promote church health and growth and mission. It has no specific goals but has been touted as an inspiration ideal.

Hemphill came to Southwestern in 1994 from a position similar to the one he soon will assume. From 1992 to 1994, he directed the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth, a strat-

egy role funded jointly by the SBC's Home Mission Board and what is now LifeWay.

Prior to that, Hemphill built a reputation as an effective pastor at First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., where membership grew from 800 to 6,000 in 11 years.



Hemphill

Southwestern trustees turned to Hemphill for leadership after firing President Russell Dilday.

Hemphill has enjoyed more favorable relations with SBC leaders during his tenure, but some trustees privately have expressed frustration that he has not moved fast enough to make sweeping changes at the Fort Worth seminary. At the April 8 meeting, trustees gave no indication of dissatisfaction with Hemphill.

Asked if Hemphill felt any pressure to leave, trustee chairman Michael Dean responded by quoting Hemphill's own words: "Circumstances inform our decisions, but only the word of God and will of God determine our decisions." Dean is pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where Hemphill is a member.

In the chapel service where Hemphill announced his plans, Dean urged students, faculty and staff not to despair over Hemphill's departure but to understand it as God's will. "Nothing important has changed," Dean said,

emphasizing the certainty of God's reign.

Hemphill tearfully read from a prepared text, emphasizing his love for the seminary and its people. "I will always be grateful for the opportunity the Lord has given me to serve the greatest seminary on the face of the earth," he said.

Hemphill reported that he and his wife, Paula, feel a strong call from God to move to the new role, even though the decision is painful. Making this change, he added, is "in the best interest of the seminary and the Southern Baptist Convention."

After Hemphill's announcement, Dean appointed a presidential search committee to be chaired by Denny Autrey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lindale, Texas. The vice chairman will be Dean Gage, associate dean for academic programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University.

As currently configured, the nine-member committee includes representatives from three states. Its members include one Hispanic and eight Anglos, all male. It includes five clergy and four laymen.

Dean said the search committee will be given no time frame to complete its work. "We're setting the beginning point, not the end point," he said, urging the committee to take "however long it takes to find God's man."

Steve Hyde: Satan made mistake killing my dad

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Steve Hyde encouraged seminary students to work in the "hard places" when considering where to do ministry.

Speaking this month during chapel at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Hyde recalled how his father, Bill, a Southern Baptist missionary in the Philippines, reminded coworkers to be ready to go wherever God tells them, no matter the potential for danger.

"We need to be in places where the work is dangerous," said Hyde, founder of Words of Life Ministries, a missions organization working in

Southeast Asia. "We need to be in places where people have not heard the Gospel before."

Bill Hyde, 59, was killed in a bomb attack at the Davao City airport March 4. He and his wife, Lyn, had served in the Philippines for nearly 25 years.

Steve Hyde noted that at his father's funeral in the Philippines the church was filled and people spilled out onto the streets.

"The whole block was full of pastors (who) were impacted by the life of my father and they are even more passionate for the gospel now," Hyde said. "So Satan made a big mistake by killing my father."

Hyde and his wife, Noit, develop training materials and programs for church leaders in the region. The couple began Words of Life Ministries in 1997.

Hyde encouraged students to be ready to go when God says "go," no matter where that place may be or how dangerous it may seem.

"I have often heard people say that the safest place you can be is in God's will," Hyde said. "It's safe as far as your eternal security, but if you're in God's will, most likely it's not a physical safe place. Very rarely does God call people to the most comfortable place on earth."

Southern Baptist chaplain cleared in story of swapping baptisms for baths

Continued from page 1

the chaplain was only given water for baptism after water needs of the soldiers were met.

"Soldiers had no need to resort to being baptized to get clean," the Army said.

Mark Seibel, managing editor of The Miami Herald, defended the original story by Meg Laughlin, a Herald reporter who is covering the war in Iraq for the news agency.

"I don't think the story suggested coercion," he said. "That's just how some people want to read it. ... We stand by the story as it was written. He made the remarks that he made and Meg was not the only person who heard them."

The military service said the chaplain recently has conducted 57 bap-

tisms at the base camp, but most were for Christian soldiers who wanted to be baptized as a reaffirmation of their faith or because they had never previously taken part in the ordinance.

"Significantly, no soldier at Camp Bushmaster has complained or commented that the chaplain coerced anyone in any way," the statement adds.

Martin King, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board, said the Army's findings demonstrate that there may have been a misunderstanding between Llano and a reporter.

"Our faith in the integrity and competency of Southern Baptist chaplains is reaffirmed by the investigation," said King, whose board is the chaplain-endorsing agency for Southern Baptists.

E-mails suggest convention tried to influence Shorter trustees

ROME, Ga. (ABP)—While Shorter College and the Georgia Baptist Convention battle in court over ownership of the school, a recently subpoenaed e-mail exchange reveals an effort to influence the school's board of trustees that convention leaders previously have denied.

In a Feb. 8, 2002, e-mail message to GBC Executive Director Robert White, retired pastor Nelson Price of Marietta, Ga., then a newly elected Shorter trustee, thanked White for allowing him to meet with members of the convention's administrative committee to discuss the college.

Though he had not yet attended trustee orientation or his first meeting with the board, Price requested additional information from White in order "to influence the trustees."

"If some persons with a knowledge of the Shorter board of trustees can do a bit of analysis of the trustees we might find that we can be in a position much quicker (than) it initially appeared to influence the trustees," Price wrote. "We could be in a posture of influence within two years."

Price added it would be helpful to him to "know who might be likely friends." He also told White that an analysis of the current board notes "when strong advocates of independence rotate off" it would be important to plan strategy for influencing the board with conservative viewpoints.

In response, White assured Price "we will certainly do the study as you suggested" and "will proceed to work on that immediately."

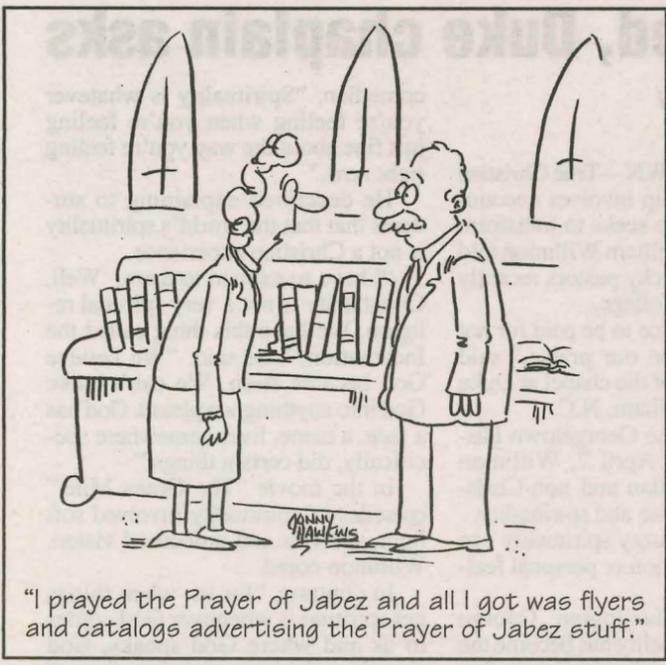
Shorter trustees voted last year to become a self-perpetuating board after claiming that undue influence by fundamentalist Georgia Baptist leaders was putting their independence, and therefore their accreditation, at risk.

White has strongly denied any attempts by GBC leadership to interfere with the work of Shorter's trustees.

"The (GBC) has strictly adhered to the practice of electing good and qualified trustees and then allowing them to serve on the board of trustees without any interference or pressure from the convention," White said in a letter distributed to Georgia Baptist pastors last year.

Shorter attorneys recently received the e-mail exchange between Price and White as part of subpoenaed documents.

White's office told the newspaper Baptists Today that he did not want to comment on the subpoenaed e-mail.



KENTUCKY

War impacting many Kentucky pastors' Easter messages

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

DANVILLE—As pastor Tim Mathis sees it, American's fear amid war and economic downturn represent a perfect parallel to the situation Christ's disciples faced nearly 2,000 years ago.

So in his Easter message, Mathis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Danville, will use the story of the empty tomb to illustrate how Jesus helped His disciples overcome fear after He rose from the grave.

"A plant here just announced it is closing and 550 people are going to lose their jobs," he said, illustrating local fears. "Some people who are talking to me are depressed."

Mathis noted that Jesus didn't scold the disciples for hiding, but told them He was alive, was sending them out and was giving them the Holy Spirit to empower them.

"That's what people need—a reason to get out," he said. "The good news of the resurrection is we're not alone."

Throughout the commonwealth, war with Iraq is having an impact on Kentucky Baptist pastors' sermon preparations this week.

Answering questions

Because numerous congregations have members, relatives or friends fighting in the Middle East, many

expect record crowds this Easter.

At Harmony Baptist Church in West Paducah, Pastor Tom Sparks expects to address some of the questions he's been hearing lately.

"People are wondering where does war play into the scheme of things," Sparks said. "Is it right? Should innocent lives be taken? Where does this have to do with prophecy? It gives me a better chance to reiterate the hope people have in the resurrection."

"I'm seeing more of a concern for outreach and concern for the lost," he added. "People see how precious life is and how quickly it can be taken away."

For a pastor living near Fort Campbell, the question of how war affects the Easter message might be the first topic he discusses on Sunday.

Ron Edmondson is interim pastor of Auburn Baptist Church, but lives in Clarksville, Tenn. First Baptist Church of Clarksville has 140 military members serving in the Middle East, twelve of them from Edmondson's Sunday school class.

In recent weeks he has been trying to use war as an illustration of the urgency of the times we live in, and a constant reminder that people nearby are hurting and have needs.

"We're losing lives in Iraq every day," Edmondson said. "If the Easter message is true, we have to be

telling that every day, not just at Easter."

At Second Baptist Church in Greenville, Ray England will base his sermon on Mark 16:1-8. He didn't change his text because of the war, but he thinks the war could increase the message's impact.

"The message of Easter is of life, hope and a God of peace," England said. "I can't imagine a more important time for those messages to be brought out. It's not what I will be preaching, but the impact of what I will be preaching."

Lancaster pastor Jerry Browning said he'll focus on the resurrection, looking at how Jesus' speaking to Mary affected her life and the disciples.

Still, the pastor of Forks of Dix River Baptist Church said he will use news from the war front as a sermon illustration.

"I've received e-mails...about soldiers being baptized in the desert," Browning said. "I'll put an illustration in my message that Christ is still in the saving business, even in the midst of war."

No change

Two pastors said they won't tie this Sunday's sermons to war, but for varying reasons.

Floyd Price, pastor of First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg, said the church already is praying constantly

for 15 relatives and friends of members involved in the fighting.

In addition, the message of Easter goes beyond the suffering of war, said Price, who has endured personal crises in recent months. Last October his son's fiancée died in a car accident and his wife currently is being treated for colon cancer.

"I won't preach a sermon directly tied to war," Price said. "For almost any minister, we preach out of life's experiences. If I had a son in Iraq, I would preach a sermon about hope and peace."

"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' With regard to war and all who (are involved), He is the resurrection and the life. But the dimension goes farther and deeper than war. That's the message for Easter—there is hope in the empty tomb."

William Dodson, Jr., pastor of Bell City Baptist Church just south of Murray, will preach a traditional Easter message, using Psalm 12 as his text.

That's because he devoted nearly an hour of his April 6 sermon to why he believes the Bible justifies war with Iraq.

Using Romans 13:1-7, Dodson argued that the Bible does not condemn war.

"God hates war and we should hate war," Dodson said. "But the consequences of not going to war may be greater than going to war."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ The West Kentucky Fellowship of Christian Athletes will host a fundraising golf scramble April 24 at Deer Lakes Golf Course. The entry fee is \$240 per foursome, and the deadline is April 21. For more information call (270) 898-9055.

■ Cumberland College's conference with worship authority Robert Webber was cancelled last week due to Webber's illness. Officials said they hope to reschedule soon.

■ The Kentucky Baptist Convention's next prayer for spiritual awakening event will be April 28-29 at the Long Run Baptist Association office in Louisville. For more information, call the KBC toll-free at (800) 266-6477.

Kentucky Baptist churches asked to collect food for Iraqis

The daily news images from Iraq, combined with the urgent needs, should result in a "magnanimous" response by Kentucky Baptists collecting food to ship to the Middle Eastern country, according to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department.

"I think there's a lot of concern and prayers for the Iraqi people," Randy Foster said.

"The collection points are not only willing, but excited about being a part of this," he added. "I think Kentucky Baptists are going to overload us, but we're ready."

Joy Bolton, executive director for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, agreed.

"It's a project that churches really enjoy doing, because it's hands on and a very tangible expression of their concern," she said last week.

"This'll be bigger than Korea," she predicted, referring to the last food collection, when Baptists sent food to North Korea. "I expect there to be a great response to this project because of our concern for the Iraqi people."

Kentucky Baptist churches are being urged to collect a group of pre-approved items and pack them inside a small, U-Haul packing box.

Officials estimate that churches can collect the food for one box for less than \$60. One food box will contain approximately 70 pounds of food and feed a family of five for approximately a month.

"This is a great way for Southern Baptists who can't actually go themselves to minister in a personal way to Iraqi people," said Jim Brown, direc-

What to pack

- Rice - Long-grained (not instant), 4 - 5 lb. bags
- All-purpose flour, 3 - 5 lb. bags
- Sugar, 2 - 5 lb. bags
- White navy beans, 12 - 1 lb. bags
- Lentils, 4 - 1 lb. bags
- Iodized salt, 2 - 26 oz. containers
- Loose tea (Lipton), 4 - ½ lb. boxes
- Powdered milk, 10 - 3.2 oz. envelopes

■ **Note:** Please do not make substitutions or add any items or literature in boxes. Labels will be attached to the boxes with John 1:17 in Arabic and identify the box as "A gift of love from Southern Baptist Churches in America."

tor of world hunger and relief ministries for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"This isn't relief that is going to be mass-distributed in a refugee camp either," he added. "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.

Officials stressed that no other items should be added or substituted for the pre-approved foods on the list. Inclusion of evangelistic tracts could

Where to take it

Bowling Green	Warren Association office	6448 Scottsville Road	(270) 842-4160
Elizabethtown	Severns Valley Association office	500 College Road	(270) 765-4023
Glasgow	Immanuel Baptist	1151 Happy Valley Road	(270) 678-7729
Hardin	Blood River Association office	47 Aurora Hwy.	(270) 437-4203
Lexington	Broadway Mission Center	709 N. Broadway	(859) 254-7747
London	First Baptist, London	804 W. 5th St.	(606) 864-4194
Louisville	First Baptist, Highland Park	7321 Billtown Road	(502) 231-3917
Madisonville	Little Bethel Association office	445 Thompson Ave.	(270) 821-6400
Manchester	Booneville Association office	212 ½ Maple St.	(606) 598-6242
Mayfield	First Baptist, Mayfield	118 W. South St.	(270) 247-2992
McKee	McKee Baptist	1 Water St.	(606) 287-7561
Morehead	First Baptist, Morehead	123 Main St.	(606) 784-5768
Owensboro	Daviess-McLean Association office	1003 Scherm Road	(270) 684-2377
Pikeville	Pike Association office	79 Ratliffe St.	(606) 432-2660
Pineville	First Baptist, Pineville	405 Kentucky Ave.	(606) 337-2040
Princeton	First Baptist, Princeton	300 W. Main St.	(270) 365-5591
Somerset	Pulaski Association office	116 Mill St.	(606) 678-4465
Stanford	Lincoln Association office	4160 Hwy. 27, South	(606) 365-7123
Williamstown	Crittenden Association office	305 N. Main St.	(859) 824-7755

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."

Jones stressed that food should be packed in a small U-Haul box "if at all possible." Other companies' packing boxes are not the same size and will affect how many boxes fit in each tractor-trailer, he said.

Food boxes should be dropped off

at the collection sites throughout the commonwealth between Monday, May 12 and Monday, May 19.

Churches also have an option of contributing money to the project. Checks earmarked "Food for Iraq Project" should be sent to the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

For more information, call Kentucky Brotherhood toll-free at (888) 254-5720 or Kentucky WMU at (888) 254-5726.

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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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Trust God's sovereignty

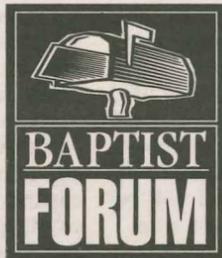
Shawn Merithew's April 1 letter states that Saddam Hussein has acquired nuclear weapons. Do we have new evidence of this? The International Atomic Energy Agency has all but cleared Iraq of these allegations and has rebuked the United States for presenting falsified documents before the United Nations. As Christians, we should ensure our facts, for Christ cautions about accusing someone falsely.

Merithew's letter claims "we live in a world with men so evil that the only language they understand is that of brute force." But Scripture teaches to overcome evil with good. I refuse to believe there is evil so great that Christ's goodness can't overcome.

So many, including top leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention, quote Romans 13:4 in support of the war, implying that George W. Bush is God's servant to bring punishment to Saddam. For all who believe this, I challenge you to read the rest of the chapter detailing our responsibility as Christians to obey the secular laws in the country in which we live. If we do not obey these laws, we are doing evil

and it is the responsibility of the government to punish our transgression.

This passage doesn't give our president scriptural authority to wage war against other sovereign nations. To claim so is taking the verse grossly out of context, deceiving others into believing a false moral authority which doesn't exist.



As a Christian, an American and a veteran, I honor our soldiers' valor and sacrifice in war, but "just war" it is not. Merithew asks why so many vehemently oppose the war in Iraq, a country which has neither threatened nor attacked us. For me, it is because I take heart in Christ's ministry, read Paul's writings in context and have absolute faith in God's sovereignty, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord."

Christopher Williams
Louisville

Students make impact

I recently had the opportunity to see some Kentucky college students experience a spring break with substance. They did not spend the week basking on the beaches of Florida or

skiing in Colorado. The students spent their entire week investing in the city of New Orleans by:

- Feeding and leading chapel at a local homeless shelter.
- Working on construction.
- Ministering at a local deaf church revival.
- Leading an after-school program at a public housing development.
- Leading a daycare program.
- Prayerwalking.
- Visiting at an AIDS/HIV transitional home.
- Doing survey work, street witnessing and distributing hygiene packs to the homeless and travelers in the French Quarter.

On behalf of MissionLab New Orleans, a ministry of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, I would like to thank the following groups: Baptist Collegiate Ministry of Murray State University, under the direction of Mark Whitt, and Baptist Collegiate Ministry of Eastern Kentucky University, led by Bethany Watkins.

Southern Baptists of Kentucky need to be proud of these students and their leaders. It was a pleasure having them on our seminary campus and an honor to work alongside them for the glory of God.

Byron Townsend, associate director
MissionLab New Orleans

Living together in God's family

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—To be a child of God is an incredibly exciting experience! You have "family" members you never knew you had before.

Some in the family have a wonderful capacity for wisdom and counsel, and they make that readily available to you. Others give great comfort and encouragement, and you can experience this in your times of trouble and uncertainty. Still others share their resources freely with the family, and

you can receive from them as well. Being an active part of God's family, you have access to all God has placed in His people when He made you His child.

I have watched Christian medical doctors share their expertise, and Christian lawyers their counsel. I have seen Christian teachers tutoring with their teaching skills, and neighbors watching after the children of single parents who had to work. I know of Christian businessmen offering their experience and encouragement in business matters.

FIRST PERSON

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

In honor of faithful teachers

"Jesus said ... I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live" (John 11:25-26).

On Easter, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with great productions and wonderful worship. Christians have something to celebrate!

There is a special group of people to whom I would like to pay tribute this Easter season. About 30,000 Sunday school teachers in more than 2,400 Baptist churches across Kentucky will be teaching the truth of the Resurrection. These teachers are present throughout the year faithfully teaching God's Word.

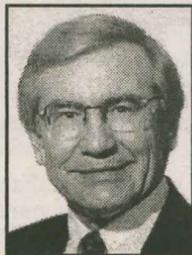
I'm especially grateful for the impact of Uncle Sam who taught the junior boys (ages 9-12) in my rural home church. It was in his class that I first experienced awareness that I was not a Christian. Within a few months, the Holy Spirit convicted me that I needed to make a commitment to Jesus

Christ as my personal Savior and Lord.

In recent visits to churches across Kentucky, I have discovered some wonderfully gifted Bible teachers. Let me tell you about just a few:

■ At West Pineville Baptist Church in Pineville I recently inquired about a Sunday school class to attend. "Oh, you can attend Lewis' class. He's one of the best," was the response. It was a delightful experience to observe Lewis Wilder's knowledge of the Bible. He knew what the Bible taught and engaged his class. I learned later that he was saved at age 22. He wanted to be a better teacher so he attended a Bible college for two years. He has continued in his commitment to read the Bible through each year for 43 years.

■ On another Sunday, I was at Flemingsburg Baptist Church and heard Juanita Hill teach. She taught with passion the truth of God's Word.



Bill Mackey

And then there are the Christian policemen and truck drivers and waitresses, and the list could go on.

We also must include the pastors who sit through the long nights of pain and uncertainty in the hospital rooms with God's family. They also share in times of death and loss, giving much-needed Scriptures and prayer.

Make sure that you are sharing all that God has worked into your life with others in God's family. As you give and receive as a member of God's family, you will experience the incredible joy and provision of God working in you and through you.

Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," is president of Henry Blackaby Ministries

I was sure that she was a professional teacher and learned that she had received some special training in teaching the Bible. Again, I praised God for a gifted teacher.

■ I also recently was at Premium Baptist Church in Letcher County. The Premium Mission had been started in 1971 following a mission vacation Bible school sponsored by First Baptist Church of Whitesburg. David Banks, an excellent teacher, surrendered to the ministry and became the bivocational pastor while serving as a school principal. Also in that church is Kendall Ison who I observed leading one of the best interactive learning experiences that I have seen.

These represent thousands of people who are faithful and wonderfully gifted by the Holy Spirit to teach God's Word. Please join with me in praising God for those who week after week teach preschoolers, children, youth, singles and adults. Encourage them by your words of thanks this Sunday!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Proper insurance choices enhance financial security

By Jeremy White

Her husband and college-age children began to notice that Ellen occasionally forgot routine things. Then, they laughed when she absentmindedly put the mail in the refrigerator.

The laughs turned to their worst fears, however, when a doctor diagnosed Ellen with early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

This is the setting to the stirring movie, "A Vow to Cherish," a World Wide Pictures release (a ministry of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association). John Brighton and his wife, Ellen, are faced with a merciless illness that will either confirm their love or destroy their marriage. It is a compelling movie about true commitment.

Because the film focuses more on marital commitment, it does not provide the details of how the family survives financially during a long-term illness. The illness resulted in the loss of Ellen's income. Was there any disability insurance? How was that income replaced?

She underwent many tests and procedures. Did they have adequate health insurance? Was the health insurance through his job or her job?

With no physical ailments, only mental, she likely would live many more years but still need at-home care. Most health insurance policies will not pay for long-term care in a nursing home or at home. Was there any long-term care insurance? If John were going to care for her at home, how would he continue to earn a living?

Whew! Life is complicated and insurance seems to add more complication. Things used to be simpler back when doctors made home visits and were paid with farm produce; midwives helped birth babies at home; Uncle Charlie fashioned Uncle Bob's coffin in his carpentry shop.

But the right kind of insurance can enable you to survive financially through the unexpected storms life brings. You need good health insurance, disability and life insurance if you are working and others are dependent on you, and long-term care insurance if you have assets to protect.

An illness like Ellen Brighton's is tragic and unavoidable; the devastating financial consequences are preventable.

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

Parents can help evaluate & assist teen's spiritual growth

Q: Sometimes I have a hard time understanding where my 16-year-old son is spiritually. While I feel confident about his salvation, he seems to have more questions than I have answers. How can I gauge his spiritual development?

The Christian walk is a lifelong process of potential development and growth.

Early on, parents should hope to lay a relational foundation for trust in human relationships so that our children will be better prepared to trust our Heavenly Father Who laid the very foundations of the world. When our children give their lives to Christ, and through baptism are willing to say publicly what they already have said privately, parents are given a rather tangible benchmark of their spiritual progress.

Early in their spiritual journey, young Christians need a lot of help through biblical preaching, teaching and modeling. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, "I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it, and even yet you are not ready" (1 Corinthians 3:2).

Whereas mature Christians, like mature adults, should be able to feed themselves, this is not yet possible for the baby Christian. One mark of growth in the Christian life is when you see your son taking responsibility for feeding himself through personal Bible study and initiatives in spiritual disciplines.

As you evaluate his spiritual growth, realize that his questions, sometimes disturbing and frightening, represent him moving from a borrowed faith of childhood to a personalized faith of adulthood. Watch carefully for the ways in which he identifies with other Christian teenagers and the ways in which he connects to the church and youth group. Look for evidence that he is demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23) and pay attention to the ways in which his behavioral choices reflect the faith he is professing.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: When should I get speech therapy for my child?

Learning to speak clearly and correctly takes time. Good diction, articulation and enunciation are skills that come naturally for some children, but require hard work for others.

Most children eventually outgrow what we would call "baby talk." However, some children acquire or develop poor speech patterns that persist on into grade school years. Pronunciation difficulties could be the result of many factors, including dental problems, hearing problems or lazy speaking habits.

Speech problems can lead to other problems. Obviously, the child may have trouble being understood by teachers or friends. If the problem is hearing related, your child might have trouble paying attention, following instructions or learning. Beyond that, a child whose speech is not age-appropriate might have to deal with open ridicule from peers who make fun of his baby talk.

A pediatrician should notice if your child talks in ways that are not developmentally appropriate. Your dentist might be even more helpful in terms of recognizing problems that could contribute to speech impediments. Most schools provide free testing to all students. Many have a speech therapist assigned to them to work with boys and girls who need help. Beyond that, therapy is available on a cost basis. Organizations such as Easter Seals provide quality speech therapy.

Although children do tend to outgrow most speech problems, parents should be ready and willing to seek help when this is not the case. Do not let the problem persist until it becomes a pattern and is no longer cute.—*David Garrard*

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



Good triumphs in historic war against evil

It was a classic battle between good and evil. The leader of the God-honoring forces sought a way to avoid direct confrontation. But it was not to be. In the end, after an all-out war between the two sides produced extreme pain, suffering and death, the good eventually won out, with the victor offering hope and freedom for those who had been oppressed.

No, this is not a recounting of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While some observers would describe the current conflict as a clear battle between good and evil, others continue to have questions and concerns about the need for launching the massive military campaign.

But long before the U.S.-led war with Iraq got under way—in fact, some 2,000 years before—a far more significant battle took place at the Garden of Gethsemane, Golgotha and a borrowed tomb. The results changed the course of human history for all eternity.

With Baghdad and much of Iraq in the throes of chaos, it is important to remember that a solitary death 20 centuries ago paved the way for spiritual peace and hope amid a world in turmoil. Jesus' actions during Passion Week are instructive for Christians today:

■ **Supplication.** After observing the first Lord's Supper with His disciples, the Gospels report that Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. "Abba! Father! All things are possible for Thee; remove this cup from Me," Jesus cried out to His Heavenly Father. "Yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt." Matthew's account notes that Jesus repeated His plea three times before telling His disciples "the hour is at hand" for His betrayal.

As we wrestle this Easter season with the challenges

of life—whether on a personal or global level—we can follow Christ's perfect example of openly sharing our burdens with God and trusting Him for the outcome.

■ **Obedience.** Once Jesus confirmed God's direction and timing, He never wavered in His commitment to follow His Father's plan. Enduring the excruciating pain and indignity of His arrest, trial, beating and execution, Jesus graciously declared from the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." In the midst of the ultimate clash between good and evil, Jesus was undeterred in His absolute obedience to God.

Obedience isn't a particularly popular topic in today's world, but it remains a cornerstone of effective Christian discipleship. Whether we're following Christ's commands to "love your enemies" or "teach all nations," the goal is to bring glory to God's Kingdom.

■ **Celebration.** Of course, as Easter triumphantly proclaims, Christ's "obedience unto death, even death on a cross," was not the end of the story. Matthew 28:5-6 joyfully recounts that an angel of the Lord told the women who came to Jesus' tomb early Sunday morning,

"Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said."

"Do not be afraid." Those words are just as timely and meaningful in 2003 as they were on that first Easter morning. We know the story of Easter so well, but we sometimes forget to apply its truths to life today.

Amid the struggles of war, fear and uncertainty, Christians can find authentic peace through supplication, obedience and celebration.

Do not be afraid. Jesus is alive!

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Rumor no more: Seminary presidency vacant

By Marv Knox

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary steered further to the right last week.

President Ken Hemphill "retired," opening the way for a more ideologically aggressive fundamentalist president. Expect his successor to change the complexion of the faculty within three to five years. Expect the seminary to engage the Texas Baptist political/theological struggle more vigorously, advocating on behalf of the new convention created to compete with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

For several years, speculation swirled around Hemphill. Every time he took on another prominent interim pastorate, rumors flew around the seminary's Fort Worth campus, across Texas and throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. "Haven't you heard? Ken Hemphill's going to become pastor of First Baptist in Such-and-such." Invariably, round two of each rumor would bring Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, to Texas to take over the reins at Southwestern.

Although the rumors became routine, they always sounded plausible.

Hemphill had been the successful pastor of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., and observers could picture him leading another large congregation. He seemed to fit in with the elite class of mega-church pastors within the SBC.

Moreover, the open secret among SBC insiders was that several powerful Southwestern trustees and other convention leaders were not pleased with the pace of progress at the seminary and therefore were unhappy with Hemphill.

For fundamentalists who wanted to turn the SBC upside down, Southwestern's shift has seemed agonizingly slow. It started with a bang, all right. Nine years ago this spring, seminary trustees fired President Russell Dilday, a theological conservative in the truest sense, but also a denominational traditionalist who would not advance fundamentalists' agendas. Then the trustees hired Hemphill. He apparently agreed with their theology and political movement. But he's affable, characteristically courteous and likes to be liked. With a few notable exceptions, he seemed content to allow Southwestern to change through the natural rhythms of faculty attrition.

That ponderous pace didn't thrill Hemphill's trustees. To begin with, Southwestern is Baptists' largest seminary. At a huge school where more faculty retire than resign, attrition advances glacially.

In his trustees' view, Hemphill also failed in comparison with his two most fair-haired colleagues. At Southeastern, Patterson inherited a faculty decimated by departures following the coerced resignation of a beloved president. He quickly repopulated professorships, primarily with former colleagues from Criswell College in Dal-

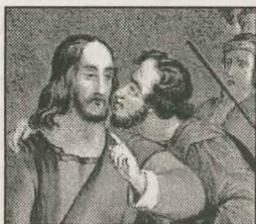
las, where he had been president. At Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, President Al Mohler's combative administrative technique led a host of faculty to flee, and trustees approved early-retirement packages for many others. So, Mohler seized these opportunities to scoop up a new crop of profs. Meanwhile, for the most part, Hemphill waited for beloved longtime profs to retire and leave vacancies for newcomers. Even then, he surprised the trustees by occasionally picking prospects not closely identified with the fundamentalist party. One trustee leader claimed the seminary faculty still includes "moderates" who have "hunkered down and gone underground."

Now, Hemphill himself is on the way out. Trustees called his departure "retirement," but he's only 54 years old. He's moving to Nashville to accept a custom-made job as national strategist for Expanding Kingdom Growth, a program created by the SBC last year without strategies, objectives or goals. He will work for the SBC's Executive Committee and LifeWay Christian Resources, but the funding should come from Southwestern, since the job clearly was created to vacate the seminary's presidency.

Whoever succeeds Hemphill—especially if it's Patterson—will clarify the issue of Southwestern for Texas Baptists. The trustees want a very different seminary from the school that trained our ministers for generations. Hemphill didn't complete what trustees started when they fired Dilday. So now they will try again.

Marv Knox is editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard*.

Biblical scholars debate Judas' motivation for betraying Jesus



"Why the church has turned against him so terribly badly is a mystery to me."

William Klassen, author of "Judas: Betrayer or Friend of Jesus?"

Continued from page 1

Gospel of Matthew records his guilt-ridden suicide by hanging, while in Acts, Judas is disemboweled in a field purchased with his "blood money."

Views about Judas

Pop culture has its own opinions. In Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar," Judas is the likable—and curiously, black—protagonist. Martin Scorsese cast him as Jesus' closest friend in "The Last Temptation of Christ."

It's not an easy part to play. Larry Cunard, a heavy equipment salesman from Fort Myers, Fla., has played Judas four times in a massive Easter drama at First Assembly of God. Cunard, 53, says he takes a "lot of ribbing" from his friends, but "somebody has to do it."

"I like to think they picked someone who was strong in spirit so he wouldn't succumb to the role after the play is over," he said with a laugh.

Judas remains most infamous not for who he was, but for what he did. Action, however, begs a motive, and this is where the story gets interesting.

Klassen said Judas has been a victim of bad translation, that he did not "betray" Jesus but rather "handed him over" to the authorities. And when Jesus cries "woe unto that man" who betrays him, Klassen said Jesus was foretelling that Judas would be maligned by history.

"Jesus knew what was coming," Klassen said. "When they met in the garden (before Jesus was arrested), He didn't say, 'Hey, betrayer.' He said, 'Hey, friend.'"

Maybe Judas, frustrated and confused by Jesus' talk of His impending death, was trying to push Jesus into action. If Jesus truly was the Messiah, surely He had nothing to fear from the Jewish high priests or the Roman governor.

Bart Ehrman, chairman of the religious studies department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, theorized that maybe all Judas was guilty of was "spilling the beans" about Jesus' true intentions.

"Jesus ends up being put on trial and condemned to death for calling Himself the King of the Jews," an act of treason, Ehrman said. "That's in-

teresting because Jesus never actually called Himself that. Is it possible that Judas actually gave some insider information to the authorities so they can have a reason to kill Him?"

Judas receives the harshest treatment in John's Gospel. There, he is portrayed as a Satan-possessed thief. Kim Paffenroth, a professor of religious studies at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y., and author of "Judas: Images of the Lost Disciple," said Judas—whose name literally means "Jewish man"—eventually came to represent all Jews in this account.

A view to God & self

Whatever his motivation, Judas remains a type of theological Rorschach test. Looking at him, it's easy to ask what he says about us, and maybe more important, what he says about God.

Ray Anderson, a professor of practical theology at the evangelical Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., takes a sympathetic view of the Judas story. If Jesus had encountered Judas after His death, Anderson believes he knows how the conversation would go. "Your sin of betrayal did not put Me on the cross," Jesus would say. "I put Myself there."

"If there had never been a Judas, Jesus still would have been on the cross," said Anderson, the author of "The Gospel According to Judas."

"We need to see Judas as a person who represents the terrible possibility of betrayal, but also the depths of God's forgiveness and grace," he said.

Alan Schreck, chairman of the theology department of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, said Judas is an uncomfortable mirror that we hold up to ourselves.

"Even when confronted with the purest example of the love of God, Judas shows us the depth of our sin," Schreck said. "It's still possible for a person to deny or betray the love that we see in Jesus Christ."

Anderson calls betrayal a "psychic wound" because it is impossible to betray someone you don't know. "It strikes at the very heart of love," he said. "But because it is a sin against love, the love can forgive it. The grace of God is big enough to forgive Judas."

All praise not Christian, Duke chaplain Willimon tells pastors

Continued from page 1
he countered.

Encountering that God, Who seeks to transform His followers, is what allows Christians to experience true worship, he added.

"The thing that makes worship interesting is not that so many people feel a need to worship. We are kind of an inherently idolatrous race, as John Calvin noted, and we will bow down to a lot of different things," Willimon added.

"The thing that makes Christian worship interesting is the God Who meets us, sometimes, in worship; Who dares to redeem and speak."

True Christian praise results from recognizing God as the true source of power for that transformation, he added.

"All my praise rests upon some assumptions about Who's in charge and what's going on in the world and how we got here and where we're headed and where the power is," Willimon said. "We've got some weird notions about what's real and Who's in charge. ... And that's based on the God that we keep trying to praise."

Pastors must be vigilant that worship involves a properly focused praise, he added.

"I think that's one of the things that we are ordained to do as pastors: to care for the churches' prayer

and to care for praise and prayer in Jesus' name, always under the assumption that not all praise is Christian praise," he said. "There's praise and then there's praise in the name of Jesus."

Willimon noted that U.S. church attendance rose 30 percent after the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001, and then went back to normal levels.

"People came to the church seeking consolation and healing and hope, and they met Jesus," he said. "And Jesus can be good at that. But one problem with Jesus is that He, a lot of times, doesn't give us the compassion that we thought we needed, that we thought we had to have."

After speaking, Willimon said he chose the topic of praise because he's concerned about the content of many churches' praise.

He recalled attending a church, which would have considered itself a Bible-oriented church, where just two verses of Scripture were read. "Now the hymns contain Scripture in places, and all. But isn't that curious? Just the lack of exposure to the Word I found striking."

"At the end of the day it's not, 'Did a lot of people come?' 'Do people like it?'" he added. "But ultimately, 'Was this about Jesus, the crucified and risen Savior?'"

Proportionate giving

The Bible teaches proportionate giving. In the Old Testament, the tithe, or 10 percent, was to be returned to God. The same principle of proportionate giving carries over into the New Testament. As Christians, we are not to give arbitrarily or haphazardly. God has gifted us with a certain amount of financial resources, a portion of which we are to give back to him for Kingdom work.

From 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 we could paraphrase Paul this way: "Don't take an arbitrary approach to giving; it's much too important for that." That is, don't say, "well, I guess I'll give \$25 to my church," or "I guess I'll increase my giving by \$5." Consider what proportion or percentage of income you are giving now. Is that a proper proportion? If not, then what is? Paul pointed to the Macedonian Christians who "gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability" (2 Corinthians 8:3).

Begin by letting God's Word speak to you. "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not

have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:10).

Then make the careful and prayerful decision, which Paul suggested, for giving. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Let God's Word and the inspiration of His Holy Spirit be your guide.

For information on how your church can help you to grow in your giving, contact Doug Strader at the Kentucky Baptist Convention. His toll-free number is (888) 254-5708, and his e-mail address is douglas.strader@kybaptist.org.

If you desire information about how proportionately to give through your estate plan for the benefit of your church and other Baptist causes, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me, or log on at www.kybaptistfoundation.org. We also can visit your church to conduct Christian stewardship education seminars related to estate, financial and charitable gift planning. There is no cost to you for these services.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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SMILE

Society pays a high price for child abuse

Child abuse is costly, not only in emotional and physical terms. The United States spends nearly \$258 million each day as a result of the abuse and neglect of our nation's children, according to a 2001 report from Prevent Child Abuse America.

It cost Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children more than \$18 million last fiscal year to care for 2,580 children and families who needed our help. We are reimbursed for much of that cost by the state, but Kentucky Baptists like yourself really make the difference as we strive for financial independence. You have supported this agency generously during our 134-year history. We'll continue to count on you in years to come.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Yes, it is costly to care for these hurting children and families, but it is necessary. So is your support. Your donation of time, prayers, food, gifts and money help KBHC provide Christ-centered treatment for kids who need it most.

The word "treatment" often conjures up negative images of institutional-type settings. That's not the case at KBHC. Your donations support a Christ-centered ministry where "treatment" includes food, clothing, shelter, unconditional love

and acceptance. Christian counseling, medication and other therapies unheard of in 1869, when KBHC began, now work in concert with our foundation of compassionate care.

Children belong in families. We strive to place children with foster or adoptive families, and we work with families in crisis to maintain relationships or reunite parents and children. Those children who do live in KBHC's residential care find warm, loving environments that resemble traditional homes. One of our staff members describes therapy as "simply claiming control over your environment."

"We want them to get to a point where they can go back home or to foster care, back to a family environment God created for them," she said. "We want to free them from their pasts."

You are a vital part of this ministry. If you'd like to become more involved in helping us prevent child abuse or treat the children who come to our care because of it, call us at (800) 456-1386.

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

Apartment ministry in Texas

By Robert Dunston

During Cumberland College's recent spring break, campus ministry intern Rochell Goff led a team to work with Mission Arlington in Arlington, Texas.

Cumberland students Mattie Carter, Wayne Keith, Samantha King, Zachary Lynch, Karen Morgan, Samantha Sturk and Erin Toner accompanied Goff.

On Sunday, the team met with approximately 300 other volunteers to receive instructions for the week. Mission Arlington works in apartment complexes, providing church services, Bible studies, English classes, food pantries, clothing closets and furniture give-a-ways.

Cumberland's team worked with Rainbow Express, a program providing backyard Bible clubs for children in the apartment complexes. Each morning began with a combination worship service and training time. The team then worked with children in the Woodland East complex.

Lunch was followed by another worship service and training time. The team then went to LaHoya Apartments and again provided the Rainbow Express program. In the later afternoon, they worked with

additional projects to help Mission Arlington.

Several of the students spoke about the conversion of a young boy named Jacob. Gregorio, one of Jacob's good friends, began the week refusing to participate. After Jacob received Christ, he asked the students if his friend Gregorio would go to heaven. The students told him that Gregorio needed to accept Christ too. That night, Jacob showed his salvation bracelet to Gregorio and told him he wanted Gregorio to be with him in heaven. The two prayed together and Gregorio invited Christ into his life.

King mentioned an unhappy boy named Braden. King tried to help him make a pinwheel, but he became upset and ran away. She finished the pinwheel for him and delivered it. Braden was amazed she had completed the pinwheel for him. She invited him to help her hand out refreshments, and he did so very politely. Her kindness had helped him respond with kindness.

We are delighted our students could work with Mission Arlington in reaching people for Christ.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



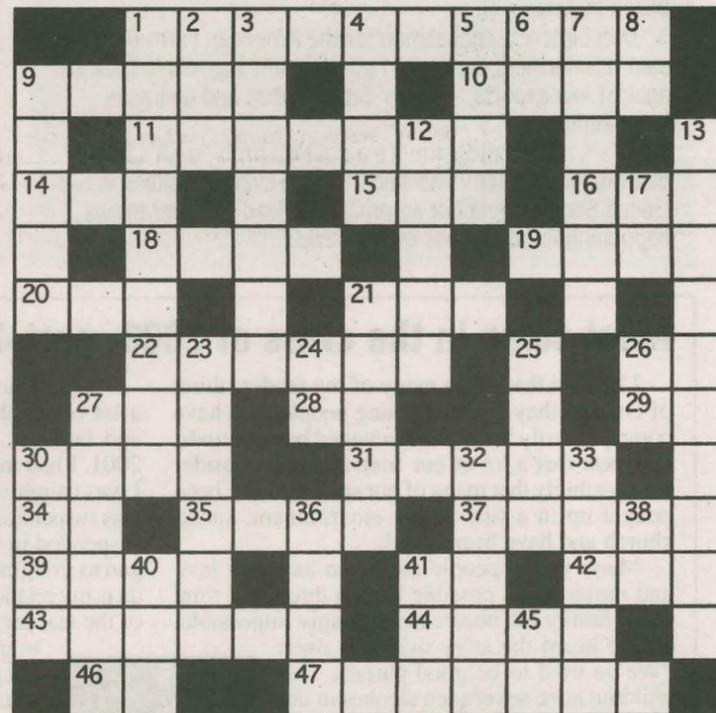
Mike Morgan

Bible Crossword

Kenda Turner

Across

- 1 "Being justified freely by his grace through the ___ that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24)
- 9 "I will sift the house of Israel ... like as corn is sifted in a ___" (Amos 9:9)
- 10 Annoy
- 11 "Jesus said ... 'If thou canst ___, all things are possible to him that believeth'" (Mark 9:23)
- 14 "I ___ no pleasant bread" (Daniel 10:3)
- 15 "___ the knot" (get married)
- 16 Roman numeral seven
- 18 "Man shall not ___ by bread alone" (Matthew 4:4)
- 19 Fervor
- 20 Delegate, abbr.
- 21 A swine
- 22 Jacob
- 26 Fifth letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 27 Fruit of the Spirit
- 28 Undergraduate degree
- 29 Southern state, abbr.
- 30 James and John, to Zebedee
- 31 One of two faithful spies sent to search Canaan
- 34 A preposition, meaning to the same degree
- 35 Biblical weed
- 37 Weird
- 39 What Boaz plucked off to signify redeeming Ruth
- 41 Southern continent, abbr.
- 42 Possessive pronoun

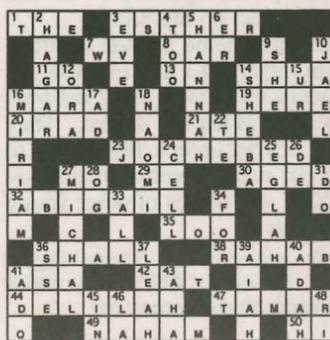


- 43 One of four seasons
- 44 Roman poet
- 46 Support group for alcoholics, abbr.
- 47 Sect of Jews during time of Christ
- 21 "And the ___ of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7)
- 23 An orderly way of getting things done
- 24 Stomach muscle, for short
- 25 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you ___" (John 8:32)
- 26 Exclamation of amusement
- 27 One of two faithful spies sent to search Canaan
- 30 What disrespectful children do
- 32 "Therefore shall a man ___ his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife" (Genesis 2:24)
- 33 "And the Spirit and the ___ say, 'Come'" (Revelation 22:17)
- 36 Unusual
- 38 Pronoun
- 40 Suffix for a growth
- 41 International signal of distress
- 45 Opposite of out

Down

- 1 "For ___ is as the sin of witchcraft" (1 Samuel 15:23)
- 2 The first woman
- 3 "Lead us not into temptation; but ___ us from evil" (Luke 11:4)
- 4 Come together
- 5 "___ of knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9)
- 6 2, Romans num.
- 7 Mount of ___
- 8 Compass point
- 9 "___ in awe, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 12 Active of watching
- 13 "He said, 'I am the voice of one crying in the ___'" (John 1:23)
- 17 Its capital is Des Moines, abbr.

Last week's solution



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Faith group questions impact of farm subsidies on poor, hungry

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A Christian anti-hunger group says that government subsidies for farmers are actually hurting rural America and keeping foreign farmers locked in poverty.

Bread for the World said in its 13th report on world hunger that the \$310 billion spent by developed nations on agricultural subsidies could be better spent on economic development, job training and direct assistance to the poor, both at home and abroad.

"This is an irrational structure in the world," said the group's president, David Beckmann. "The way we organize it now is very expensive for rich countries, not the best way to help poor countries and really harsh on poor farmers in developing countries."

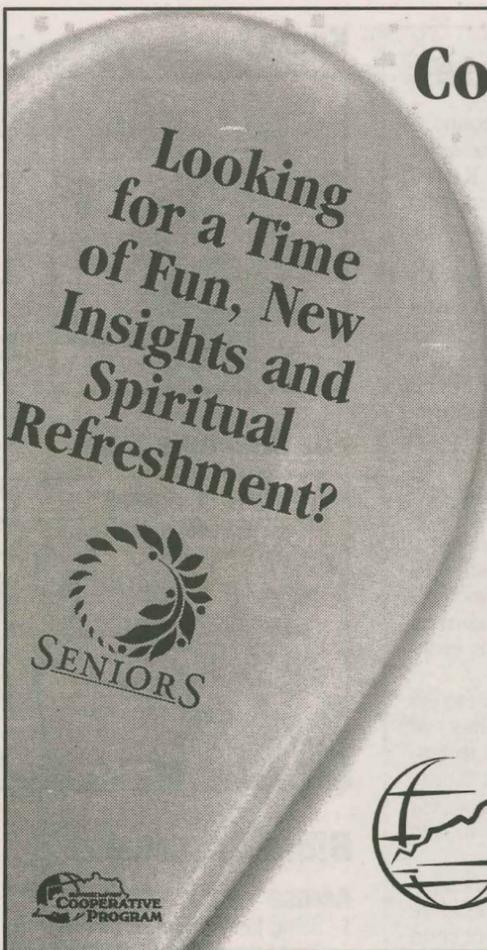
According to the report, almost half of the \$95 billion spent by the United States to support U.S. farmers in 2001 went to only 8 percent of farmers. Approximately 60 percent of farmers got no federal aid; most went to large agribusiness operations.

Subsidies artificially inflate prices of U.S. goods and clog the world market with excess products such as corn, cotton and wheat, Beckmann said. Meanwhile, poor overseas farmers cannot sell their own products, keeping them locked in poverty.

The report found that eliminating government subsidies would triple the net agricultural trade of foreign markets, including \$10.7 billion a year in sub-Saharan Africa and \$22.8 billion in Asia.

Don Lipton, a spokesman for the American Farm Bureau, said U.S. farmers depend on government support to balance against low exports, weather catastrophes and overseas competition.

"It's a money problem, it's a political problem, it's a distribution problem," he said. "Taking away subsidies in the United States would not automatically lead to better things happening in other parts of the world."



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Meet some in the class of 2003, part 4

I suspect that when many of my readers think of Oneida, they think of young people who have come primarily from disadvantaged backgrounds. I suspect that a lot of our friends never consider the possibility that many of our students have been bought up in a fine family environment, attend church and have been loved.

Many young people are given as much love and nurturing as possible but go through a time when family life becomes seemingly impossible. I have heard the story over and over: "We've tried to be good parents. Our children have never seen alcohol in our home. We never say anything at home we would not say in church. We have made Christ and worship the center of our family life. We don't understand what's gone wrong." Such statements often are followed by tears from the parents and by unsympathetic body language from the child.

It is easy to blame the child for being less than thankful for all of the advantages he or she has had. But, whether we understand it or not, it does happen. While some parents struggle through these challenging times, hoping and praying for the best, others turn to Oneida seeking help. Two years ago, two such parents had traveled that difficult road too long and asked if we could help.

"Kate" (not her real name) came from a good home. Her father is a pastor. He had done everything he knew to resolve the strife within the family. Kate was failing in school, had a horrible temper and wouldn't listen to much of anything her parents said. She had been home-schooled until the eighth grade, and she did not make the transition to public school very well. I would like to share part of Kate's senior essay with you.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

"My sophomore year (at my old school) I had a lot of problems with grades, teachers, friends and family. ... I came to Oneida on March 25, 2001. I had trouble adjusting my first week here. I was caught smoking a week after I arrived and was suspended for a day, the only time I have been suspended in my two years here. After that I began to straighten up. ... The best thing about Oneida is my relationships I have developed with some of the teachers. At my old school, I couldn't talk

to most of my teachers about anything but school stuff. Here, I have been able to talk to teachers about my life, and, even though they probably get annoyed sometimes, they listen to me and give me advice. ... They care about their students.

"I am involved in more activities here than I was at my old school. I've been involved in yearbook, choir and drama. ... My character in the play right now has over 400 lines. ... I have really learned to appreciate the activities and classes Oneida has to offer. ... During my time here I have matured a lot. I have learned to respect people and not to take things, or people, for granted. ... Oneida has had the biggest impact on my life."

Before enrolling at Oneida Baptist Institute, Kate's grades were mostly D's and F's. But she has been on the honor roll nearly all of her time here. We were told that at her old school, "They haven't found the key to unlock her desire to learn." Thanks to our many friends, Oneida has been a place for Kate and scores of other young people to find themselves.

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

Committed to evangelism

One of Clear Creek's core value statements reads: "Evangelism and Missions: We are a community of individuals redeemed from sin by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. We affirm He died for the whole world and commissions each believer to take the Gospel into the world. We commit ourselves to the priority of personal evangelism and world missions."

Of course, this is not a new commitment. Founder L.C. Kelly took students on evangelistic preaching tours. Former President D.M. Aldridge coordinated several missions through First Baptist Church of Pineville and had our students preach on the courthouse steps. Our curriculum requires each student to take a personal evangelism course and includes opportunities for mission practicums at home and overseas.

We now have added a local dimension to our evangelistic concern. Annual community service days are scheduled to involve the faculty, staff and students in evangelism and ministry projects in the immediate area. Last fall, nearly 30 people from the campus participated in Crossover Kentucky, the

evangelism project related to the annual state convention meeting.

Thanks to an Eastern Kentucky donor, KBC evangelism growth team leader Dan Garland tells us Clear Creek will receive \$3,500 to implement a block party trailer ministry as a pilot project. Ohio Baptists, through the leadership of Evangelism Director David Wheeler, contributed \$500. These funds will help equip an eight-foot trailer. Does a reader of this column have a trailer to donate?

On April 20-24, evangelist Dale Rose, a 1989 alumnus, will conduct an associational county-wide crusade near Russell Springs; 2001 graduate Rick Neff is crusade chair. Clear Creekers will assist on April 19 with door-to-door personal invitations. Plans have started for a block party in early September focused on the nearly 200 homes surrounding Clear Creek. On our softball field we will have games, food, entertainment and a relaxed atmosphere for personal witnessing.

Contact us if your church or association would like our assistance in an evangelism project. That's our commitment.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

The mother of all battles?



GATEWAY BATTLE? U.S. Marines move through the Iraqi city of Nasiriyah. Some Christians question whether the war in Iraq could be a gateway struggle leading to Armageddon. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Gordon Rouse)

Some wonder if Iraq leads to Armageddon

By Patrick Rogers
Religion News Service

ANDERSON, S.C. (RNS)—The front pages of newspapers around the world are filled with stories of war, turmoil and political upheaval in the Middle East. For some Christians, those accounts have special significance when read side by side with certain passages from the Bible.

For them, the war in Iraq could mean more than just the end of Saddam Hussein's rule. It might mean the beginning of the end for human civilization.

"I believe that this is the beginning of the wars of the last wars," said Pastor Elva Martin, leader of the Word of Truth Assembly of God in Anderson, S.C.

Martin often uses a map of the Middle East in her sermons and draws a direct link between biblical sites and passages and modern-day nation-states and conflicts.

Christians such as Martin believe the end of the world is described in the New Testament Book of Revelation and in Old Testament books of Daniel and Ezekiel.

According to one popular conservative Christian interpretation, the war in Iraq is not the final battle of Armageddon described in Revelation, but it could be a significant sign that world events are leading up to a final conflict between good, led by Jesus, and evil, led by an anti-Christ.

A point of interest

"First," said Steven Hankins, dean of Bob Jones University's seminary, "it (the war in Iraq) is relevant geographically in that the final events in the history of the world as we know it center in the Middle East, so anything that happens militarily in the political states in the Middle East is naturally a

point of interest."

But while Hankins says the war in Iraq could be relevant to end times prophecy, it is not the main event. According to his interpretation, Armageddon, the battle between good and evil described in Revelation, will occur after a period of seven years of "tribulations." Those tribulations will not begin until the world's faithful Christians are "raptured," physically taken into heaven by Jesus. During the rapture, millions of those Christians, Hankins believes, will disappear all at once from the Earth.

"If the rapture happens today, then we are seven years from Armageddon. Is what's happening in Iraq somehow, somehow a precursor to Armageddon? Who knows?" Hankins asked.

Whether this is the beginning of the end or not, interpreting biblical end times prophecy has captured the attention of millions:

■ The best-selling "Left Behind" series of 11 books written by Jerry Jenkins and Tim LaHaye has sold around 50 million copies. The books are a fictional account of the rapture and the tribulations. LaHaye and Jenkins also offer their analysis of the Iraqi war on a Web site called the "Left Behind Prophecy Club," charging club members about \$30 to join.

■ Publishers of End Time magazine, based in Richmond, Ind., report a 25 percent jump in subscriptions and sales of books, magazines and tapes that explain biblical prophecy from the perspective of the magazine's founder, Irvine Baxter. Baxter offers tapes, books, videos and lectures. The End Time Web site offers an interpretation called "The Iraqi War in Bible Prophecy" for \$20.

■ Baptist Jerry Falwell's Liberty University recently opened the Tim LaHaye School of Prophecy. The Web has a host of end-times sites, and

the radio has programs that interpret world events while looking through the lens of biblical prophecy.

Often discounted

Despite its popularity with millions of Christians, end times prophecy is either ignored or discounted by most mainline Protestants and Catholics.

"Too many people read prophecy like fortune tellers," said Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches. "In almost every generation since Christ, someone has looked at current events and said this is the end times."

Theologians say interest in end times prophecy and religiously based apocalyptic thinking peaks at certain times.

"Especially when one century turns to another and when wars, especially in the Middle East, occur," said J. Kameron Carter, assistant professor of theology and black church studies at Duke Divinity School.

"We have just changed not only centuries but from one millennium to another, and we have this Iraqi war," Carter noted. "It is not unusual to see this."

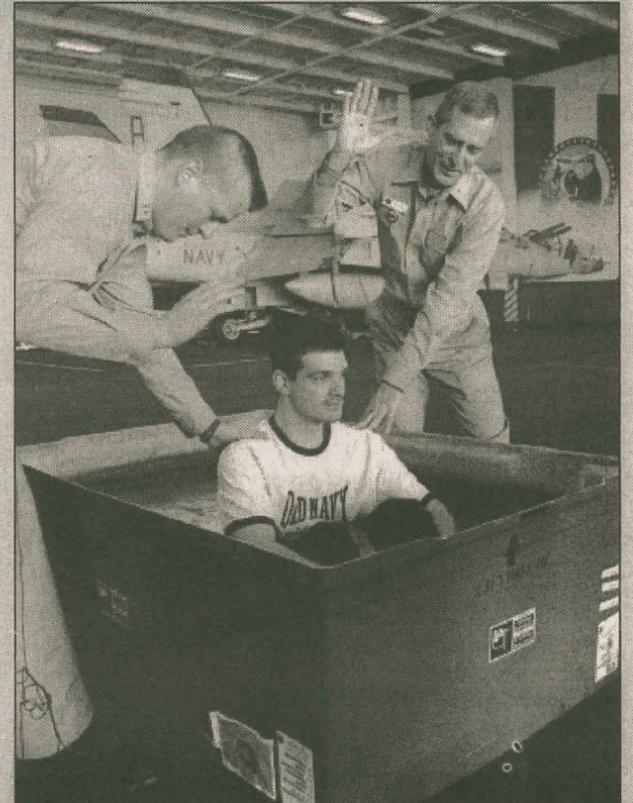
Carter and Edgar say that despite end times believers' reliance on biblical passages to support their theories, the evidence is thin.

"A lot of this stuff has a weak exegetical (interpretive) basis at best. There tends not to be a great mass of Scriptural evidence to support it," Carter said.

But that kind of skepticism does not surprise the true believers. According to them, that disbelief was also foretold.

"I don't think that a lot of people are interested, and that is another sign," Martin said. "The Bible says that people will shake their fists at God."

On-board baptism



IMMERSION Chaplain Cory Cathcart (left) and Command Chaplain Doyle Dunn prepare to baptize Sean Zahornacky on board the USS Harry S Truman. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Baptist chaplain uses munitions box for carrier's first immersion

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S TRUMAN, EAST MEDITERRANEAN (BP)—Through the opening of the hangar bay door, a brilliant view of bright sunlight spills across the rolling Mediterranean waves and into the ship.

In the middle of the hanger bay, Avionics Technician 2nd Class Sean Zahornacky, from San Jose, Calif., sits in a water-filled, green tub. The large container actually is a joint direct attack munitions crate.

What once carried ordnance for destruction now serves as a baptistry for the first-ever, full-immersion baptism on board the USS Harry S Truman.

Several excited Christians gather to watch.

Chaplains say many young men and women join the Navy searching for something, ultimately finding God.

That's the case with Zahornacky, who said he had no church background and found it hard to admit he needed God.

"If I don't see A and B, I don't believe C," he said. But, after many months of prayer, questions and Bible study, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Chaplain Cory Cathcart spent a lot of time with the young sailor to make sure he understood what he was "signing up" for.

"I really believe that everyone has a God-shaped vacuum inside," Cathcart said. "Many try to fill it with other things, but in the end, only God will fit your heart."

The new believer will be matched with a couple of older mentors through the chaplain's office, and will be encouraged to attend church services and get involved in regular Bible studies offered throughout the week.

"It is perhaps fitting that this is being done during Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Chaplain Doyle Dunn, a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. His hand sits on Zahornacky's shoulder. "This box is designed to bring destruction. Today, we use it to represent creation and newness of life."

After the young sailor was baptized, he stood, wet and slightly shivering from the breeze blowing through the hangar as fellow Christians congratulated him.

"I walk inches off the ground after something like this," Dunn said, smiling broadly. "It is such a joy to see a sailor make such a clear commitment in front of his shipmates."

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:

■ Churches in the European Baptist Convention that minister to American and British military personnel and their families.

■ "C," a young pastor in Romania who has begun several Bible studies in villages around Bucharest. "Pray as he continues to develop relationships, that through these relationships the villagers will see Jesus and realize the need to accept Him," write Baptist representatives Roger and Melinda Russell.

■ Irene, Agnes, Kathy, Eve, another Kathy, Mark and Barb—all unbelievers to whom Baptist representatives Doug and Marcy Shaw in Rzeszow, Poland, are ministering.

■ A place to meet in downtown Boston for a Bible discussion group that will reach international business people and international diplomats.

■ Bryan Goza, who works with international students on several campuses in Boston. In May, he will become a Mission Service Corps volunteer and will need to begin raising his own financial support.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ ADAIRVILLE—Larry Baker, pastor of New Hope Church for seven years, resigned effective May 18.

■ BURLINGTON—Burlington Church's music and activities ministries recently presented the Easter drama "Let All Heaven Rejoice."

■ CUNNINGHAM—Bethlehem Church called Michael Lee as youth pastor March 12. Bill Mason is interim pastor.

■ FANCY FARM—Beulah Church recently called Jason Porter as pastor.

■ GEORGETOWN—Mallard Point Church recently called Nick Alexakos as pastor.

■ HOPKINSVILLE—First Church will present "God So Loved the World" April 19-20, 6 p.m. Rodney Travis is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Gethsemane Choir will present "Then Came Sunday" April 20, 6 p.m. Robert Wright is pastor.

Riverside Church will hold revival with David Livingston as evangelist April 20, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; April 21-23, 7 p.m. Howard Roberts is pastor.

■ MARION—Emmanuel Church presented the Easter Drama, "The Other Carpenter" April 13. Also, the sanctuary choir and Heart and Hands of Praise will perform the Easter Cantata, "Majesty" at the morning worship service on Easter Sunday April 20. Wayne Carter is pastor.

■ MIDDLETOWN—First Church will present a Tenebrae, or service of darkness, April 18, 8 p.m., directed by Leslie Hancock. For information, call (502) 245-7889.

■ MOUNT VERNON—Freedom Church called Albert McKinney as pastor, effective March 23.

■ MURRAY—Cherry Corner Church called Don Roberts as pastor.

■ NORTONVILLE—Nortonville Church will hold a youth revival April 21-24 with Gary Taylor as evangelist.

■ PIKEVILLE—Charlie Higgins, director of music and youth at Meta Church, has accepted a call as associate pastor of Westview Church in Sanford, Fla.

■ RUSSELLVILLE—Post Oak Church called Nick Stamps as associate pastor, effective April 1.

Youth compete in Bible drills, speaking

Youth from throughout Kentucky recently competed in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Bible drills and speakers tournaments.

Hosted by the KBC discipleship department at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore conference centers, winners and runners-up were:

■ Jonathan Randolph, a member of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green, winner of the Jonathan Creek Bible drill.

■ Tiffany Hamilton, a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church in Hi-Hat, winner of the Cedarmore Bible drill.

■ Karissa Ramey, a member of Bethany Baptist Church in Eddyville, winner of the Jonathan Creek speakers tournament.

■ Sean Holleran, a member of First Baptist Church of Hodgenville, winner of the Cedarmore speakers tournament.

■ Hayla Joi Frye, a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Cadiz, runner-up of the Jonathan Creek Bible drill.

■ Jenifer Brown, a member of Cave Springs Baptist Church in Al-



RECENT WINNERS Karissa Ramey (left) and Jonathan Randolph hold certificates for their accomplishments.

bany, runner-up of the Cedarmore Bible drill.

■ Britney Martin, a member of Cave Spring Baptist Church in Morgantown, runner-up of the Jonathan Creek speakers tournament.

■ Ryan Kenimer, a member of Central Baptist Church in Paris, runner-up of the Cedarmore speakers tournament.

A total of 76 students in grades seven through nine took part in both Bible drills; 32 speakers in grades 10-12 took part in the speakers tournament. Next year's events will be March 26-27.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

REFER: \$1,200 to refer one home seller who wants to sell instantly and for full value. www.bill-bowen.com/33465.

SEEKING: Owingsville Baptist Church (45 minutes from Lexington on I-64) seeks a full-time pastor for our strong mission-minded church. Please send your resumé to: Search Committee, PO Box 662, Owingsville, KY 40360.

SEEKING: Director of missions in Franklin Association, Frankfort, Ky. Part-time position. Send resumé to DOM Search Committee, 130 Holmes St., Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Centerfield Church, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Willow Creek Association, is in search of a senior pastor. We are a vision-driven congregation with a contemporary worship style and a casual atmosphere. If interested, please contact the church office at (502) 243-1982 for application information.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music to lead blended worship and fully-graded choirs for Oakland Baptist Church (12 miles north of Bowling Green). PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159; (270) 563-4011.

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: 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: Seeking full-time pastor's secretary. Send resumé to Shively Baptist Church, 1599 Sadie Lane, Louisville, KY 40216.

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: 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: 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: 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. ccbc_cmssc@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

SERVICE: Lower your phone bill. Blessed Hope has 4.9 cents/minute (24/7); no fees; no fine print; and 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or info at www.covenantphoneservice.com. Home agents needed.

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

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

Nontraditional services



WORSHIP TIME Adam Economour from Munster, Ind., participates in one of the Sunday worship services held aboard the USS Harry S Truman. War has forced chaplains to adapt their worship services to a variety of conditions. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Chaplains adapting to unique conditions this Easter

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

BAGDHAD, Iraq (RNS)—U.S. Army Chaplain Mark Thompson says many of the rules he's developed as a Christian minister with the troops in Iraq are pretty straightforward.

"Every day is Sunday."
"Adapt and make do."
"God, not religion, becomes the focus."

Thompson, a brigade combat team chaplain with the 101st Airborne Division, is one of many chaplains who is facing the challenges of catch-as-catch-can religion in wartime.

Guarded by chaplain assistants, unarmed chaplains have jumped out of airplanes and trekked across the desert with military units, providing counsel, prayer and opportunities for worship. Hundreds of teams of chaplains and assistants currently are serving in the Balkans, Asia and the Middle East.

"You offer services, prayer, Scripture reading, Communion, whenever and wherever you can," Thompson said in an interview via e-mail.

"We do not know if tomorrow will come. I do not mean that in a negative sense, but that is the reality we live with."

Chaplains are preparing for the traditional holidays of Easter and Passover in a most nontraditional atmosphere.

Thompson, a United Methodist, said he gathered palms in Iraq for Palm Sunday observances.

Sandstorms and on the run

Chaplain (Major) Harry Reed, who currently is teaching a class on performing religious services at the Army's Chaplain Center and School in Fort Jackson, S.C., said days like Palm Sunday require flexibility.

"If possible for those who observe



OUTDOOR SERVICE Soldiers gather in the Kuwait desert to hear Chaplain Richard Huey Bratton, left, read Scripture. (BP photo)

Palm Sunday, they would have some type of branches," said the Pentecostal chaplain. "It may not be the long branches that we would have here in a garrison, but it may be something real small to just remind them of this special day."

Easter observances may be held on the Saturday before or the Monday after the traditional time of worship.

"There are times, if the mission allows, to have a sunrise service," Reed said.

But there also are times when worship services simply cannot happen.

Asked about Iraq's sandstorms, Thompson said: "The sandstorms you do not deal with. You close up and wait for them to pass. They are nasty."

Reed can cite the specific Army regulation—600-20—that explains there are times when a religious service will be canceled.

"If there's a building to get out of a sandstorm, surely we would perform a religious service, but based on the mission, sometimes we might have to go a week or maybe two weeks before we have it," he said.

Sometimes, worship is curtailed instead of canceled.

In late March, Thompson recalled learning at the start of a service that his unit was "jumping," or moving. "The service then became just Communion," he said.

Chaplain (Major) Timothy Mallard, another minister with the 101st Airborne, said Communion has come at emotional times, such as just before battle.

"Several of my soldiers were weeping as they took the Eucharist, and I felt compelled as their spiritual leader to maintain my composure," Mallard, a Southern Baptist, said in a statement released by the Army Chaplain Corps. "I closed knowing these soldiers were now prepared for battle."

Worship can happen just about anywhere. Army chaplains baptized eight members of the 3rd Infantry Division in a baptismal pool built from plastic and sandbags in the Kuwaiti desert. Thompson has led services in the middle of the desert, at a guard post and at the bedside of a wounded soldier. His altar has sometimes been built from boxes.

Other faiths

Chaplains make adjustments to meet the various faith requirements among their troops.

There may not be a rabbi in a particular unit, but the chaplain will try to provide kosher food and identify a representative who can conduct services for Jewish soldiers.

"We try to teach them to prepare themselves and always have that on hand because they never know when a conflict may arise and the unit is deployed," Reed said.

Recently a Jewish chaplain in Kuwait corresponded with an Orthodox expert on kosher foods. Via e-mail.

"The greatest difficulty in bringing some Yiddishkeit (Jewish observance) to our troops is how spread out they are," the chaplain wrote. "Bringing them together for Pesach (Passover) would be wonderful, but I don't think it will happen. Too many things are going on in the war."

Nordeman picks up 7 Doves at gospel music's big night

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Christian singer Nichole Nordeman walked away with seven awards, the most of any winner, at the 34th Annual Dove Awards ceremony in Nashville, on April 10.

Nordeman won Song of the Year and Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year for "Holy" from her "Woven & Spun" album, and was recognized for her performance and co-writing of the song. She also was honored as Female Vocalist of the Year and garnered Doves for Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year and her performance on the Special Event Album of the Year, "City on a Hill—Sing Alleluia."

Right behind her with six honors was Michael W. Smith, another contemporary Christian singer and songwriter, who was named Artist of the Year for the second year in a row.

Smith also was honored with Doves for top male vocalist and his performances and production of "Worship Again," which was recorded in Louisville and named the top praise and worship album. His "Worship" video was honored as the top long form music video.

Third Day was named Group of the Year for the third consecutive time. The group also was honored with an award for the top recorded rock song, "40 Days," and its role in the year's special event album.

Three artists were officially inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame during the ceremonies: Amy Grant, Pat Boone and the Blind Boys of Alabama.

- Dove winners included:
- Song of the Year** "Holy" by Nichole Nordeman.
 - Songwriter of the Year** Nichole Nordeman.
 - Male Vocalist of the Year** Michael W. Smith.
 - Female Vocalist of the Year** Nichole Nordeman.
 - Group of the Year** Third Day.
 - Artist of the Year** Michael W. Smith.
 - New Artist of the Year** Paul Colman Trio.
 - Modern Rock/Alternative Recorded Song of the Year** "Breathe Your Name" by Sixpence None The Richer.
 - Rock Recorded Song of the Year** "40 Days" by Third Day.
 - Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year** "Holy" by Nichole Nordeman.
 - Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year** "Here I Am To Worship" by Tim Hughes.
 - Southern Gospel Recorded Song of the Year** "Don't You Wanna Go?" by The Crabb Family.
 - Bluegrass Recorded Song of the Year** "Walkin' and Talkin'" by The Lewis Family.
 - Country Recorded Song of the Year** "The River's Gonna Keep On Rolling" by Amy Grant.
 - Traditional Gospel Recorded Song of the Year** "Holding On" by Mississippi Mass Choir.
 - Contemporary Gospel Recorded Song of the Year** "In The Morning" by Mary Mary.
 - Modern Rock/Alternative Album of the Year** "The Eleventh Hour" by Jars of Clay.
 - Rock Album of the Year** "Lift" by Audio Adrenaline.
 - Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year** "Woven & Spun" by Nichole Nordeman.
 - Inspirational Album of the Year** "Legacy...Hymns & Faith" by Amy Grant.
 - Southern Gospel Album of the Year** "A Crabb Collection" by The Crabb Family.
 - Bluegrass Album of the Year** "50th Anniversary Celebration" by Lewis Family.
 - Country Album of the Year** "Rise And Shine" by Randy Travis.
 - Traditional Gospel Album of the Year** "Higher Ground" by Blind Boys of Alabama.
 - Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year** "The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin" by Kirk Franklin.
 - Praise & Worship Album of the Year** "Worship Again" by Michael W. Smith.
 - Children's Music Album of the Year** "Jonah, A Veggie Tales Movie Soundtrack" by Kurt Heinecke, Phil Vischer, Mike Nawrocki, David Mullen, Steve Taylor and Monroe Jones.

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