

April 29, 2003  
Vol. 177, No. 17

**FOR THE RECORD**

- Baptists**  
Six missionaries reject call to resign. *Page 2.*
- Kentucky**  
Church pitches in as pastor's family has quadruplets. *Page 3.*
- Churches**  
Kentucky Baptist Fellowship hosts a workshop offering church growth ideas. *Page 3.*
- Editorial**  
Drop IMB ultimatum and support missionaries. *Page 5.*
- Nation**  
More churches fighting zoning restrictions. *Page 9.*
- World**  
Gunman on trial admits killing Southern Baptist workers in Yemen. *Page 10.*

## Active churchgoers more likely to be satisfied with life, according to poll

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—Americans' views about life satisfaction are shaped by their faith and religious practice, a recent poll shows.

Pollsters asked people with an active faith—those who attend church, read the Bible and pray during a typical week—and found that 73 percent strongly agreed that they were very happy with their lives, compared to 64 percent of those who are less active.

Eighty-three percent of those active with faith said their faith consistently is growing deeper, compared to 38 percent of the less-active group.

Seventy-two percent of those with an active faith said they felt connected to other people, compared to 63 percent of those not as active.

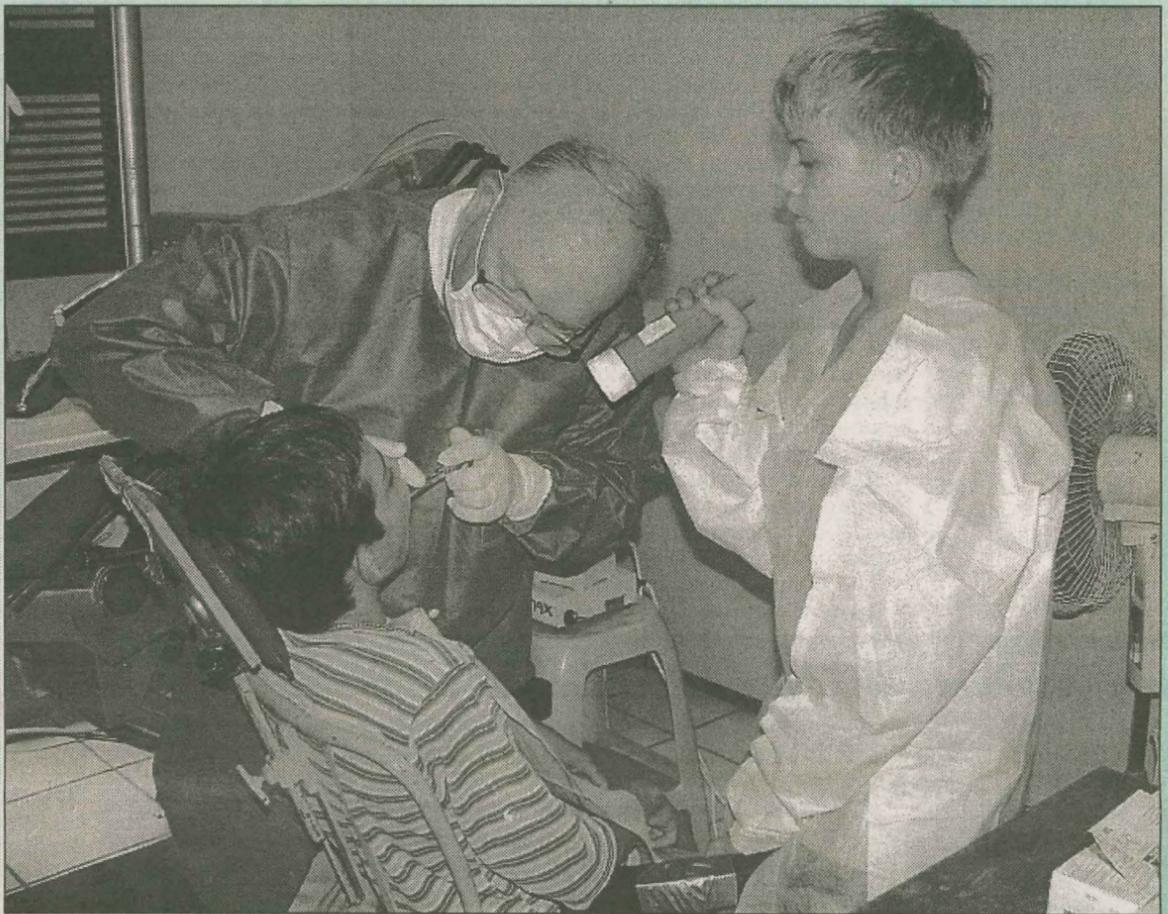
People with an active faith also were more likely to say they were in excellent physical condition—42 percent, compared to 34 percent of those less active in their faith.

The poll, released last week by Barna Research Group, found that 66 percent of polled adults said religion is losing influence in society but 70 percent said their own "religious faith is constantly growing deeper."

Pollsters compared evangelical Christians to atheists and agnostics and found that 84 percent of evangelicals strongly state they are very happy with their lives compared to 57 percent of agnostics and atheists. While 14 percent of evangelicals said they feel their lives get more stressful each year, 29 percent of those with no faith said their lives are increasingly stressful.

Researchers also found that 56 percent of adults with no college degree and household earnings of less than \$30,000 strongly agreed that their faith is constantly growing deeper, compared to 44 percent of adults having completed college and with a household income of \$60,000 or more.

## Brazilian blessings

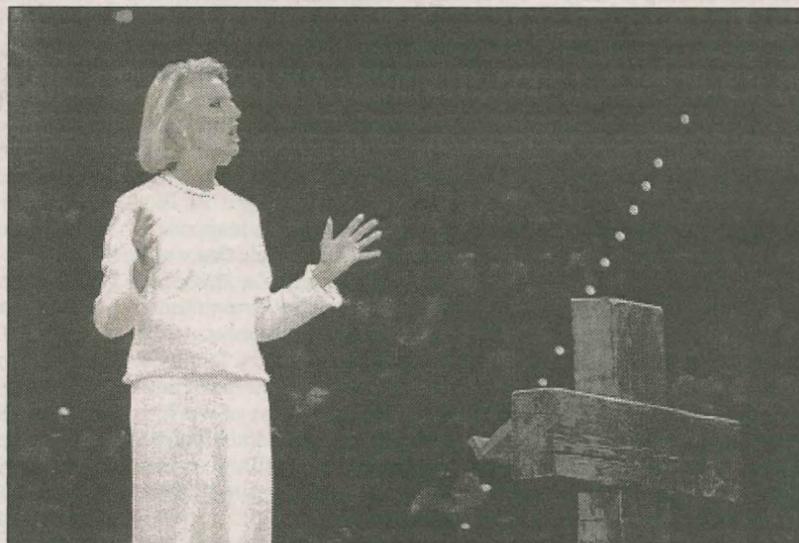


**VOLUNTEER MISSIONS** Fifteen Kentucky Baptists recently traveled to Brazil to explore a new partnership with Baptists in northern Brazil. Volunteers took part in dental clinics, door-to-door evangelism visits, worship and fact-finding interviews. Leaders with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office hope to establish a formal link with the churches in northern Brazil starting in 2005. Some trips already are scheduled for this summer and 2004, officials added. ■ **Above:** Dentist Sam Ballou, a member of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, conducts a dental exam with the help of Matthew Anderson, whose parents are Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil. ■ **Right:** KBC partnership missions consultant Calvin Wilkins (left) and missionary Scott Pittman visit a resident during house visits. (KBC photos by Larry Brannin) **Story on page 6.**



## Lotz challenges women to 'go and tell people who Jesus is'

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, April 30



**GIVE ME JESUS** Anne Graham Lotz encouraged thousands of women attending a "Just Give Me Jesus" conference in Lexington to "live in the freedom (Jesus) has won for us."

By **Trennis Henderson**  
Editor

LEXINGTON—It was a dramatic sermon illustration—even though it was totally unplanned and unexpected.

Anne Graham Lotz paused midway through her Saturday morning message to thousands of women gathered at a "Just Give Me Jesus" conference in Lexington's Rupp Arena. Explaining that she suddenly was feeling faint, she bowed her head in silent prayer.

As two assistants rushed to her side, Lotz fainted and collapsed on the arena stage. A collective gasp from the crowd was followed by a spontaneous outpouring of prayer for her physical condition.

Moments later, Lotz returned to the stage, sat down in a chair placed in

the middle of the platform and concluded her message on the Lordship of Christ.

"What can I say? I'm so sorry," she told the crowd. "I don't have medical problems; I have no pain. I don't know what that was about."

"But I want to finish the message because the most important part is almost at the end—this is where victory in the Christian life is found."

Lotz spoke at two more conference sessions Saturday afternoon, showing no ill effects from her earlier collapse.

"Thank you for your patience and your prayers—and isn't God great?" she told the afternoon crowd. "I've been preaching for 27 years and nothing like that has ever happened to me."

Emphasizing that "God allowed that for a purpose," Lotz added, "We don't know what's going to happen

□ See Lotz: 'Just give me ...,' page 7

## IMB missionaries facing dismissal reject call to resign

**"We cannot resign. We are guilty of no misconduct or false teaching and have been accused of none."**

*Rick and Nancy Dill, IMB missionaries to Germany*

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

RICHMOND, Va.—"We will not sign. We will not resign," declared Ron Hankins, a veteran Southern Baptist missionary to Japan.

His response last week to Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin summed up the views of three missionary couples expected to be fired next week by IMB trustees.

Letters from the three couples came in response to Rankin's recent ultimatum for missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement by May 5, resign or face termination.

For Hankins, his wife, Lydia Barrow-Hankins, and two other couples—Rick and Nancy Dill, missionaries to Germany, and Leon and Kathy Johnson, missionaries to Mozambique—Rankin gave only two options: resign or be fired.

Rankin told the three couples they face dismissal "due to your unwillingness to be accountable to Southern Baptists who send and support you."

The couples, who have served overseas more than 20 years each,

apparently were singled out for publicly differing with Rankin's directive in January 2002 to affirm the latest version of the SBC faith statement.

The Dills released a letter last fall emphasizing that "our authority is the Bible and no man-written document."

Johnson noted in January that signing an affirmation of the revised faith statement "would place a man-made document in authority above the Bible and God's self-revelation in Jesus. For us to sign would be a sin in our minds."

The Hankinses took issue last summer with the faith statement's view of women in ministry. Leaders of the Japan Baptist Convention "are troubled over the historic relationship with Southern Baptists if missionaries sent out with the IMB are required to sign agreement with such a statement," said Barrow-Hankins, an ordained minister and chaplain.

### Flurry of correspondence

In the latest flurry of letters, the Dills, Hankinses and Johnsons emphasized they have no reason to resign their IMB positions.

"We cannot resign," the Dills wrote. "We are guilty of no miscon-

duct or false teaching and have been accused of none."

The Dills, the first Southern Baptist workers to enter East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall, currently are on a leave of absence and serving as missionaries-in-residence at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, Ark.

Rankin told the three couples that failing to resign on their own initiative would "undermine the integrity and credibility of the IMB."

The Dills asked Rankin why that is so. "The answer is simple," they then wrote. "It is not possible with integrity to terminate missionaries who are guilty of nothing but years of faithful service and having a deep sense of love for God's Word."

Rankin has insisted that missionaries must sign the revised faith statement to remain "accountable to Southern Baptists."

"To which Southern Baptists are we being accountable?" the Dills asked in response.

"The truth is that Southern Baptists have not required missionaries to sign the BF&M 2000. ... Even the trustees of the IMB have not required missionaries to sign. To whom are we not acting accountably? Who is actually requiring us to sign?"

Rankin has said non-signing missionaries are guilty of advocating "positions contrary to what Southern Baptists confess to believe." Again, the Dills asked, what positions have they held that are contrary to Southern Baptist beliefs?

"Is it that we believe God's Word must be supreme in our lives and that it is wrong to make a man-written document the test for our faith and calling?" they asked. "Or would Southern Baptists disagree that Christ is Lord of Scripture and that we must understand the Word of God first and foremost through His love, His teaching, His death and His resurrection?"

The only possible point of contention, they report, is their belief "that God can call whomever He chooses to serve wherever, whenever and however He so chooses." That runs counter to the new faith statement's declaration that women may not serve as senior pastors.

"Is a different understanding of

Scripture in this matter really grounds for dismissal?" they asked.

### Accuracy of charges challenged

In his response to Rankin, Johnson said the IMB president's charge of the Johnsons failing to be accountable to Southern Baptists "is an untruth."

"We already stand accountable to Southern Baptists," Johnson wrote. "Signing a document will not make me more accountable."

Johnson's letter then asked Rankin: "Are you acting in accountability to the trustees of the IMB and the churches of the SBC by imposing upon us a requirement that they have not mandated?"

Concerning Rankin's claim that the Johnsons "continue to advocate positions contrary to what Southern Baptists believe," Johnson responded, "This is also untrue. I challenge you to produce one piece of evidence to substantiate this statement."

Johnson said Rankin's "disregard of the truth in making false accusations and insinuations in public ... does more to undermine the integrity and credibility of the IMB than Kathy's and my refusal to violate our consciences by signing a document."

The Hankinses expressed concern over the BF&M's "blatant sexual discrimination."

The 2000 version "rewrites the role of every missionary woman on the field," Hankins wrote. "Its marriage and ministry restrictions spell a setback of generations for the liberating power of Christ in the lives of women."

"Lydia and I cannot sign a document that would deny her call as a minister/preacher of the gospel," he added. "Neither of us could sign a document that requires that we not encourage young women to follow God's call in their lives, including the call to the pastorate."

Claiming that "Rankin's latest letter is rife with distortions and half-truths," Hankins wrote, "This is not a case of biblical truth. If it were truth, it would have been true 22 years ago when we were 'hired.' This is a recent change that reeks of prejudice and malice."

*With additional reporting by Mark Wingfield of the Texas Baptist Standard*

## IMB faces \$10 million budget shortfall

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is facing a \$10 million budget shortfall this year and is looking for ways to cut expenses.

The shortfall, confirmed by IMB President Jerry Rankin in a memo to staff, would represent less than 3 percent of the agency's basic budget of \$269 million.

In January IMB officials cited a drop in investment income and slower growth in contributions for tighter finances.

Rankin's April 22 memo called the staff to a special forum to be held the next day "to discuss the implications of our budget shortfall this year." The discussion was cancelled after news of the meeting leaked to the local newspaper, the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"The trustees have asked us to present options for making up \$10 million of our anticipated budget deficit," Rankin said in the memo. "Administrative leadership has been working for several weeks to identify ways to do this without

being deterred from accomplishing the strategic objectives of the organization."

Wendy Norvelle, IMB spokesperson, declined to answer questions about the shortfall. "We have some projections coming in," she told the Times-Dispatch. "We are looking at the projections. They are based on thinking rather than fact. It is premature to speak to them at this point."

The IMB trustees, who meet May 6-8 in Framingham, Mass., are expected to address the shortfall. However, no final action is expected until the end of May, when the agency closes the books on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, its primary source of funding.

At the trustees' January meeting, the IMB said record missionary appointments and slower resignation rates have caused the agency to spend more than planned for missionary support. The IMB employs about 5,500 missionaries.

Additionally, the IMB has spent \$50 million from operating reserves during the past two years to make up for reduced investment income.

## Hemphill denies convention leaders pressured him to resign

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Ken Hemphill denies he was given an ultimatum by Southern Baptist Convention leaders to resign as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Standard April 21.

"I am appalled and dismayed that the Standard would print speculation that borders on libel," said Hemphill in a statement released April 23. "No group of SBC leaders has ever met with me about a deal to remain at or leave Southwestern."

However, the Baptist Standard released its own statement in support of the story.

The story reported a former Southwestern professor told the Standard sources closely related to the seminary confirmed Hemphill had been to a

meeting in North Carolina a few years ago in which he was given several ultimatums: find another post, fire David Crutchley as dean of the school of theology, and hire Craig Blaising as provost and executive vice president.

But Hemphill denies such a meeting took place. "The only meeting in North Carolina was held at my request over the Christmas holidays two years ago at Calvary Baptist Church with my three mentors, Mark Corts, Jimmy Draper and Charles Fuller," he said. "I asked them to pray with me concerning my desire to move back to pastoral ministry."

Hemphill also denies he was told to remove David Crutchley as dean. "Anyone with knowledge of Baptist polity would know that no outside group has any authority to hold such

a meeting or make such a suggestion apart from the trustees of an institution," said Hemphill.

"The decision to reassign (Crutchley) was mine based on my understanding of his gifts and passion," he said.

"The Baptist Standard stands by its story as reported in the April 21 issue," the newspaper said in response. "Every assertion in the article that was not directly attributed to a specific source was confirmed by a minimum of three knowledgeable sources."

"Unfortunately, seminary faculty, staff, students and even retirees currently live under such a fear of reprisal from seminary trustees and administration that few are willing to be quoted on the record by name," the statement continued.

"Hemphill correctly asserts that in Baptist polity, 'no outside group has any authority' to force its will on another Baptist body," the statement said. "That statement, however, belies the well-documented pattern of action within the Southern Baptist Convention over the past 23 years."

Hemphill will leave the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary at the end of the current academic year for Nashville, where he will be jointly employed by the SBC Executive Committee and LifeWay Christian Resources as national strategist for the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative. However, seminary trustee chairman David Allen confirmed April 16 that Hemphill's salary will be paid by Southwestern for a year after he leaves the seminary.

## Church pitches in as pastor's family grows with quads

By Victoria Moon  
State Correspondent

HARRODSBURG—What has 16 arms and legs, eight eyes, needs 50 diaper changes and a can and a half of baby formula to make it through the day?

According to Jason and Tina Clark of Harrodsburg, it isn't anything to fear—much. It's just the quadruplets born to their family in January of this year.

Clark, pastor of Salvia Baptist Church, said the babies—Lucas Wayne, Landon James, Logan Alexander and Lauren Elizabeth—have brought "overwhelming joy" to his family and church.

"Overwhelming because the experience was far more than we all had originally anticipated, but full of joy at the same time," he said.

Clark said he and his wife, who had used fertility treatments to conceive, discovered they were pregnant with the quadruplets in July 2002.

### Audible gasps

Telling his congregation about the unexpected pregnancy was very difficult, Clark added, because he wasn't sure how members would react.



'OVERWHELMING JOY' Jason and Tina Clark say the experience of having quadruplets has brought more joy than they could have anticipated.

"I told them one Sunday morning that I had something I wanted to share, but it was very difficult," he said. "I think a large number of them thought I was going to resign. But when I told them Tina and I were expecting, there was great applause throughout the church."

"Then I told them we were expecting quadruplets, and there was a collective gasp throughout the congregation that a friend later told me he heard outside the building."

But members rallied from their surprise. Clark said the church showered them with care and support.

The weight of the babies caused Mrs. Clark to be bedridden from September until the babies' birth on Jan. 17.

"From September all the way up until now, different members of the church have daily brought us meals and taken care of us," he said. "We've been overwhelmed at the blessings God has provided through our church and the association (and) churches throughout the state."

Besides meals and prayer support, Clark said the church and churches in the surrounding area gave them much-needed supplies, including diapers and clothes to prepare for four new babies.

He admitted, though, that the quads brought about some teasing from church members.

"Some of the church members commended me on my dedication to church growth. And when the congregation bought a bus for the church they said it was to get the pastor's family to church," Clark said.

### Important church support

Church prayer support was especially important, Clark said, as he watched his wife go through a high-risk pregnancy and deliver seven weeks early.

"It's been a really emotional time; we've laughed a lot and cried a lot," he said. "But the church members have been so wonderful to us, and their prayers so needed."

Mrs. Clark added that despite the risks associated with multiple births and the premature delivery, all of the babies are in good health.

Besides a newfound gratitude to his church, Clark said his relationship with God has changed since the babies' birth.

"I have to be honest and say there were times when I asked, 'Why, God, why us?'" he said. "God certainly does have a different plan than we do, but His plan is always the best plan."

He said he has seen examples of God preparing the way for the births long before the couple was thinking about it.

"For instance, when we went looking for a house a couple years ago, we found one that we really liked, but it just seemed too big for us," he said. "But it was the only one that really fit us at the time. Now I know God was looking out for us even then."

"The Psalmist says, 'Blessed is a man whose quiver is full,'" he added. "I have to say I am extremely blessed."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Campbellsville** University's graduation ceremony May 10 will feature J. Chester Porter as guest speaker. Porter, a Campbellsville alumnus and trustee, heads the law firm Porter & Associates in Shepherdsville and Taylorsville. Approximately 265 students are scheduled to graduate at the 9 a.m. ceremony on Tiger Field.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist** Bible College will host graduation ceremonies May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro. Charlie Rice, a former Clear Creek dean and professor, will be the guest speaker at the ceremony, where 33 students are scheduled to graduate.

■ **Cumberland** College's graduation ceremony May 10 will feature U.S. Senator Jim Bunning as guest speaker. Approximately 200 seniors will graduate at the 10 a.m. ceremony in the school's O. Wayne Rollins Center.

■ **Georgetown College** will feature Joe Louis Barrow Jr., national director of The First Tee program and son of the famous heavyweight boxer Joe Louis, at its graduation ceremony May 10. An estimated 250 seniors will receive degrees at the 10 a.m. ceremony on the lawn of the campus' Giddings Circle.

■ **Mid-Continent** College will confer degrees on the largest graduating class in its 54-year history May 17. Approximately 140 students will graduate at the 3 p.m. ceremony at Trace Creek Baptist Church. Brigadier General Michael Curtin will deliver the commencement address. This year's graduating class includes many students in the adult-student program for the accelerated degree in organizational leadership.

## Fellowship workshop offers resources for plateaued churches

By David Winfrey  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Leadership, missions and outreach are three keys for helping churches that have stopped growing to begin growing again, according to speakers at a recent workshop on the subject.

Three speakers addressed the challenge of plateau-membership churches April 25, prior to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, April 25-26 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort.

"I believe that the role of a pastor is to be a leader," said Dan Vestal, coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Atlanta. "If you don't give leadership, there will be a vacuum where you are."

Whether they be servant leaders or shepherding leaders, pastors should help create and cast a vision that members will adopt and that will direct members toward the goals of the church that can result in growth, Vestal said.

By determining a congregation's core values, or its unique and biblical characteristics, leaders can develop both the church's vision and mission, he said. "Vision is, 'This is what we want to be as a people.' Mission is 'What do we do?'"

Using missions as a stackpole for activity, Vestal outlined three broad categories for action:

■ **Ministry** must involve every member. "God gives gifts to every member of the body of Christ," Vestal said. "The goal ought to be that they minister out of their gifts. You don't try to make everybody a Sunday school teacher."

■ **Evangelism** must be based on relationships. Vestal said everyone doesn't have the gift of evangelism,

but every Christian can have relationships with non-Christians that lead to evangelistic opportunities.

Good curriculum and training is no substitute for church leaders being good examples for evangelism, he added. "Let me talk straight, brethren: You've got to model this yourself."

■ **Members** should be encouraged to take part in missions work outside the church. The goal is every member is involved in at least one hands-on missions project," he said.

### Missions involvement

Kentucky pastor Jack Olivers said many churches have forgotten that they must be willing to die in order to grow.

Oliver, pastor of Immanuel Fellowship in Jackson County, recalled going to churches in Louisville and Covington that had started congregations in other neighborhoods rather than building their own numbers.

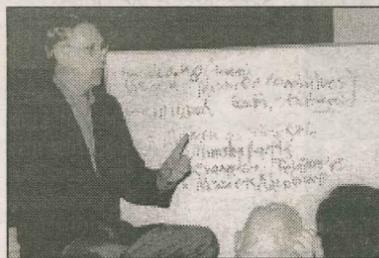
"These churches could have doubled and tripled in size, but they didn't because they thought it was more important that there be a church in (another) neighborhood," Oliver said.

He described how leading members to be involved in hands-on ministry resulted in more vibrant churches in Louisville and at Immanuel in Jackson County.

"If, by the grace of God, we can get people to stop talking about saving the church and let God save the church and we get the people talking about saving the community, then we'll see a tremendous revival in the church," he said.

Missions professor and author George Hunter encouraged church leaders to not consider anyone beyond the reach of God's grace.

"Most churches want to follow Jesus Christ and they want to be fish-



WORKSHOP Dan Vestal, coordinator for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, leads a workshop on church growth for approximately 30 church leaders prior to the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's spring meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort.

ers of men, but the only fish they want to catch are the ones who are already cleaned," said Hunter, author of "Radical Outreach" and a professor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore.

Many of those churches have one of two problems, he added: either the Christians believe that people who act differently are unreachable or the Christians are acting like Job.

"They know those people who are very different from us are not absolutely hopeless and are probably redeemable," he said. "But deep down, we just don't want people like that in our churches, and we don't want people like that in heaven with us, as if we had any choice in the matter."

### Spring meeting

More than 200 people attended the opening worship service for Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's spring meeting.

The organization is comprised of approximately 65 Baptist churches in Kentucky that are involved in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a national network of Baptist churches dissatisfied with the conservative leadership

of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We've lost a few and gained a few," said John Lepper, executive director for Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

Fellowship leaders commissioned five summer missionaries at the opening worship service and promoted missions work at Nada Baptist Mission near Natural Bridge State Park in Eastern Kentucky.

The group has experienced a budget shortfall in the past year, but Lepper said expenses have been kept below income. "We're paying our bills."

Next year's proposed budget is nearly equal to the 2002-2003 budget of \$232,198.

The Kentucky Fellowship will soon host a strategy planning session that will look at its direction for the next three to five years, Lepper said. "My hope is it'll energize us and give us a focus and direction."

Vestal reported to the group that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has approximately 142 missionaries around the world, with another 15 to be appointed at that group's annual meeting in June.

CBF could double its missionary count with no change in administration or infrastructure if it had more funding, he added.

With approximately 1,800 churches involved in CBF, some people see the group as a competitor for Southern Baptist missions funds.

Vestal said CBF is another resource for local churches that already are looking for missions options.

"They're already partnering with Habitat for Humanity, Campus Crusade for Christ, World Vision, parachurch organizations," he said. "My experience is that churches need all the resources and partners they can get."

## WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253  
(USPS 679-380)

TRENNIS HENDERSON  
Editor

DAVID WINFREY  
News Director

MAURI SMITH  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN  
Partnership Editions  
Editor

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.19 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.75 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Laura Beville, Bowling Green, chairman; Bill Thurman, Lexington, vice chairman; Mike Harmon, Princeton, secretary; Skip Alexander, Campbellsville; David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville; Ken James, London; Don Mantooh, Morehead; Bill Marshall, Louisville; Linda Polley, Elizabethtown; Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

## Kingdom growth is limitless

By Carlisle Driggers

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—In the four Gospels, Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God more than anything else. Sometimes He referred to the Kingdom of God as the Kingdom of Heaven or just the Kingdom.

A careful study of those statements of Jesus reveals that He was more concerned about the Kingdom of God on this earth than in eternity. In other words, if the people of this world become Kingdom people, their inclusion in the heavenly Kingdom will take care of itself.

It is becoming more and more apparent that for generations and even centuries, Christian theologians, teachers, missionaries, denominational leaders, preachers and writers have overlooked or chosen to ignore the instructional statements of Jesus about the Kingdom of God on this earth. That neglect might finally be changing. With increasing persistency, books, articles, sermons and musical pieces are being published about God's Kingdom. Might it be that in the providence of God, the Kingdom

Age is upon us and we are just beginning to discover it?

During the Southern Baptist Convention last June in St. Louis, messengers made a decision that may prove to be one of our finest and most far-reaching. At the time, SBC President James Merritt observed that our decision on Empowering Kingdom Growth is as significant for the SBC as was the decision made back in 1925 to launch the Cooperative Program.

Henry Blackaby has taught us how critical it is for believers to pray and determine where God is at work in His world redeeming humanity to Himself and to go join Him in that work. That is the Kingdom of God on this earth. Jesus said that we are to seek first and foremost over any other concern the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:32-33). He also declared that He had come to seek and to save any one who is not spiritually connected in redemption to God (Luke 19:10). That is Kingdom work and that is our purpose as Christians and as Baptists.

In our churches, institutions, associations, state conventions and Bap-

tist entities, we should be constantly asking, "Are our plans and activities really and truly indicative of authentic Kingdom work, or are we merely enhancing our own?" In our individual lives, we should always be seeking to grade ourselves on the question, "Am I a Kingdom person?" In whatever position of leadership we hold, we should look in the mirror and ask of ourselves, "Are my people giving consistent evidence of being Kingdom people?"

Wherever God is at work in this world, there is His Kingdom. When we go where He is and merge our efforts through ministry and evangelism, we are about the business of the Kingdom. There is no end or limit to Kingdom growth. Everything we do should be in line with the teachings of Jesus on the Kingdom of God, or we should stop doing it.

The results of sinfulness are rampant across the world in these early years of the 21st century. Our only hope is through Christ Jesus. His call to the Kingdom. May we be responsive and obedient!

Carlisle Driggers, executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, is co-chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Empowering Kingdom Growth Task Force

## COMMENTARY

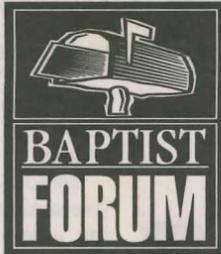
## Look in the mirror

For 20-plus years, it has been about control. Often couched in some "defender of the faith" language, the result has been the same. Good people, strong Christians and devoted servants of God have been fired, maligned, demoted and removed from positions of influence. And now, in the April 22 issue of the Western Recorder, on page 2, those who can read with comprehension can see the full-blown, calculated and devastating effect of

total control.

It was only a matter of time before those missionaries, who refused to yield to the attempted usurpation of their Christian ethics, were summarily fired. This development, surprising no one, was exposed on page 2, along with a "little sir echo" statement of support from one trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

As if further proof of dictatorial demands were needed, we also read on page 2 about two Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary



professors (again?) who were denied tenure on the basis of their refusal to bend to the prevailing mandates of creedal demands.

This open and blatant demand, forced upon all missionaries, for blind adherence of words that were written by control-oriented leaders, should be seen and taken as an insult by all "priesthood of the believer" Christians. We have been exposed to two decades of fundamental judgmentalism and it is not pretty.

Why do we allow this to happen? The answer, when one looks in the mirror, is also not pretty.

Edward Clark  
Danville

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

## Easter week celebrations

I recently had the opportunity to participate with a number of Kentucky Baptist congregations in worship. It continues to be exciting to me to see how God is working in the lives of our churches!

On Palm Sunday, Kay and I enjoyed worship with the congregation of First Baptist Church of Barbourville and Pastor Shane Nickell and his wife, Sandra. I was present to speak and present a recognition plaque for the church's very strong Cooperative Program support.

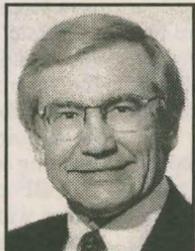
Shane has been blessed by God to lead this church in significant growth. During the past 18 months, three new Bible study classes have started with five more projected for this year. More than 80 people are involved in a church prayer ministry and 24 people pray around the clock each Tuesday.

Last summer, the youth of the church had a great experience with Kentucky Changers, the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood program in

which young people work on home repair projects for elderly or low-income homeowners. Under the leadership of Ralph Neal, the group also started its own band and praise team to lead worship at the One Way Youth Building near the church. In addition, 14 youth have been baptized through First Priority outreach efforts at the local schools.

The following Thursday night, it was an inspiration to speak and celebrate the Lord's Table in a service sponsored by four churches in the Shively area. The service was well planned with prayers, a praise team, choir and the Lord's Supper.

The pastors of these churches have a wonderful working relationship. After participating in the Joshua Project, a leadership development experience sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Rockford Lane Baptist Church Pastor Randal Pollock reached out to local pastors to form a learning cluster. That led to Rockford



Bill Mackey

## GIVING

## Will your current power of attorney 'get the job done'?

By Laurie Valentine

Estate planning is part of our Christian stewardship responsibilities. Being a good estate steward requires that you not only plan for how your assets will be distributed at death, but

how your personal and financial affairs will be managed in the event you are incapacitated.

"Incapacity planning" must be done while you have the mental capability to understand what you are doing. It requires careful consideration of your particular situation to best assure that the documents used and the powers granted will enable the person you are empowering (your attorney-in-fact) to do all that needs to be done on your behalf.

A key incapacity planning document is the durable power of attorney. A DPOA remains in effect and useable even if you become incapacitated; a general power of attorney does not. A power of attorney is "durable" if it states "this power of attorney shall not be affected by the disability of the principal" or words to that effect.

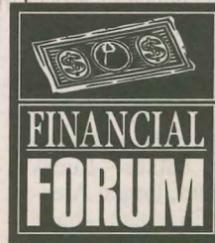
Both financial management powers and personal decision-making authority can be granted under a DPOA.

Financial management powers that must be specifically granted include the power to sign tax returns and deal with tax matters, to institute or defend lawsuits concerning your property or rights and to make contracts. Your attorney-in-fact also must have specific authority in order to buy or sell real estate; carry out banking and security transactions; access your safe deposit box; apply for and collect Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and insurance benefits; and make gifts.

Including personal decision-making powers makes the DPOA a "full service" incapacity planning document. Authority to make healthcare decisions, including the power to consent (or withhold consent) to medical treatment and the power to contract for healthcare services should be specifically included.

If your power of attorney is not durable or does not contain all necessary powers, an expensive and time-consuming guardianship might be the only way someone can manage your affairs if you become incapacitated. Be a good steward by making a DPOA that can get the job done.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## Strong family identity can help children address peer pressure

### Q: How important is family identity to my child?

In their excellent book "On Becoming Preteen Wise," Gary Ezzo and Robert Bucknam devote an entire section to the importance of strong family identity. According to Ezzo and Bucknam, "Peer pressure is only as strong as family identity is weak. Children choose their peer friends only after they either accept or reject their family identity."

Development follows a predictable pattern. Young children enjoy being with family and parents, and are almost exclusively influenced by them. As a child grows, he or she begins to move away from Mom and Dad until peers gradually become the primary influence. Even at that point, a strong sense of family identity can have created strong ties that will keep the older child tethered to important principles and values.

Ezzo and Bucknam offer several tips for building family identity:

- *Cultivate it.* Make family a priority. Be intentional about making your family stronger.
- *Read after dinner.* Shared stories have a way of bringing people together.
- *Allow your kids to plan a family night.* Besides being fun, regular family nights show how important family is.
- *Work together to build family memories.* Take pictures. Form traditions. Talk about the experiences that tie you together.
- *Take walks together.* Walks create opportunities for casual conversations as well as for meaningful discussion.

Strong family identity can help you maintain a significant relationship with your child even as his or her circle of friends and influences widens. It also can help your child remember his or her roots—especially when it comes to questions of morality and values.—David Garrard

### Q: I often feel a sense of anger and anxiety at work. People keep "ticking me off" and I don't always understand why. What practical steps can I take to alleviate these feelings and to keep them from impacting my home life?

First consider your work environment. When God said to "remember the Sabbath day," He meant it. It might be that you have worn yourself to a frazzle by overwork. So first take your day off. And remember to take "mini-Sabbaths" through the day, such as taking a brief walk. God can renew you in surprising ways.

If possible, freshen up your workspace. Put reminders of God's love around you. Do plants remind you of God's hand in nature? If so, place some of His creation strategically around you. Would there be a picture that would call to mind His majesty and power?

Take time to get rid of clutter. God's design in creation shows a beautiful sense of order. Try to institute that where you work. You likely will feel a sense of relief when you survey your accomplishment.

Also consider the people factors. Can you empathize with those who disagree with you? Try to put yourself in their shoes for a moment. As a Christian, can you come to work with an attitude of service, rather than being served?

Seek an empathetic ear and talk out your concerns. If you feel listened to by one significant person, much of your anger might dissipate.

It might be that you've done all you can and must move on to a job that better suits you. Make such a decision a matter of prayer to God who can meet your every need.—James Stillwell

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



## Drop ultimatum and support missionaries

Next week has the potential to become one of the darkest moments in Southern Baptists' denominational conflict of the past 20-plus years.

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, issued an ultimatum this month to more than two dozen veteran missionaries: Affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement, resign or face termination. Six other missionaries were given only two options: resign or be fired.

IMB trustees, scheduled to meet May 6-8 in Framingham, Mass., are expected to dismiss each of the missionaries who fail to meet Rankin's May 5 deadline to sign or resign.

As troubling as the dismissals and forced resignations at Baptist seminaries and agencies have been in recent years, most Southern Baptists have continued to find common ground through unwavering support of our international missionaries. In January 2001, IMB trustees even declined to require missionaries already on the field to sign the revised faith statement.

That abruptly changed last year when Rankin directed all missionaries to affirm the 2000 statement. He said his intent was to protect them "from charges of heresy behind your back while you are overseas and cannot defend yourself."

Rankin claimed in his January 2002 letter that the unresolved issue was "creating suspicion that there are IMB personnel whose beliefs and practices are inconsistent with those represented by Southern Baptists."

He added, however, that IMB leaders believed such suspicion was "unfounded." But rather than stand up for the missionaries' proven record of doctrinal integrity, he simply called on them to endorse the revised statement in order to avoid "needless controversy."

The problem is that several missionaries view endorsement of a man-made document as a violation of Southern Baptists' historic aversion to creedalism. More than 30 missionaries already have resigned over the issue and the total number who quit or get fired could top 70 by next week.

### No accusations of heresy

Remember that these are the same faithful missionaries who Southern Baptists have prayed for and supported—many of them for more than 20 years. No charges of doctrinal heresy have been filed against any of the missionaries expected to be dismissed. Their only offense is standing firm on their conviction that IMB leaders are seeking to push creedal conformity.

The issue was further complicated by Rankin's latest letter to missionaries who have not affirmed the 2000 statement. Earlier this year, IMB officials insisted they were not using the word "termination" in a series of phone calls to missionaries about the consequences of failing to fulfill Rankin's directive. Two months later, Rankin's letter to missionaries warned that failure to sign or resign would result in him "recommending that the board take action to terminate your service in their May meeting."

Explaining his recent actions, Rankin insisted that "no one was coerced" to comply with his request.

What? Once again, it appears that Rankin is creating his own definition of words. A common definition of coercion is to compel or force a choice. From Rankin's perspective, however, requiring missionaries to affirm a faith statement they view as creedal,

resign their career ministry positions or be fired apparently is not forcing a choice. The affected missionaries clearly believe otherwise.

Rankin also insists that since missionaries are allowed to note minor differences of interpretation from the current faith statement, "it is inaccurate for this to be perceived as a creed being imposed on individuals." He fails to address the missionaries' concern that the issue of creedalism involves affirming any man-made document to maintain employment rather than simply affirming commitment to the Bible.

The most tragic element in Rankin's letter is his statement to missionaries that "these consequences have nothing to do with your calling and the effectiveness of your ministry."

If the head of the International Mission Board believes these missionaries have a legitimate call from God to serve overseas and they are effectively fulfilling that ministry, why would Rankin not do everything possible to defend their record of doctrinal integrity as sufficient for ongoing ministry?

Failing to do so means several God-called missionaries will no longer be supported in their effort to share the gospel with people in need around the world. That sounds contrary to the IMB's stated purpose and goals of global evangelism.

Yet Rankin explains that the reason for the missionaries' termination is their "unwillingness to be accountable to Southern Baptists who send and support you."

### Missionaries remain accountable

In what ways are missionaries failing to be accountable to Southern Baptists? Neither Southern Baptist Convention messengers nor IMB trustees have taken action requiring missionaries to affirm the latest Baptist Faith and Message.

Here in Kentucky, state convention messengers voted in 2001 to "adopt the Bible as the basis of all our faith and practice." Messengers also acknowledged the value of several historic faith statements, including all three versions of the Baptist Faith and Message (1925, 1963 and 2000).

Based on those actions, veteran missionaries who decline to affirm the 2000 statement are not violating accountability to either Southern Baptists or Kentucky Baptists.

Rather than charging faithful missionaries with questionable generalities, Rankin should lead the way in calling on trustees to affirm the ongoing ministry of long-term mission workers unless there are specific violations of doctrinal or moral issues.

Some IMB trustees have voiced concern that I've been too tough on Rankin in recent editorials. I don't think so. However, in the interest of balance, I invited him to participate in a pro-con dialogue on the issue to be published in the Western Recorder. He declined, noting that IMB officials "feel that we have adequately and clearly expressed the need for missionaries to be doctrinally accountable to the Southern Baptist Convention and the rationale for asking them to affirm the current BF&M, and there is no need to try to give further justification to that."

The fact remains that Rankin and IMB trustees still have the opportunity to avoid unleashing one of the SBC's darkest days. If they are willing to waive Rankin's ultimatum and find a way to keep dedicated missionaries on the field, that will be a mark of true denominational leadership.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Brazil partnership

*Volunteers travel to minister & learn of other opportunities*

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

FORTALEZA, Brazil—In the heat of the day, a young Brazilian man made his way to Davis Lar, an orphanage near the city of Fortaleza in northern Brazil.

For the previous several days, the young man had watched Kentucky Baptist missions volunteers walking through his village, stopping at homes and chatting with neighbors.

The Kentuckians would share a gospel message with those they visited and they would pray.

The young man sought out missionaries at the orphanage, the Kentucky team's base of operations, with a simple request: Would they take him with them when they made their visits? He wanted to learn, too. The Kentuckians readily agreed.

"He asked the team to go to his home and do a Bible study," explained team member Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

After traveling for some time over rough unpaved roads, the team reached the young man's home. He jumped from the vehicle and gathered his father, best friend and sister.

"Now," he said to the Kentuckians, "teach us about Jesus."

Badgett explained the story of Jesus, and all four Brazilians decided to follow Jesus Christ.

It was just the kind of reception for which Badgett and the other Kentuckians had prayed. The team was the first of several Kentucky Baptist mission trips to northern Brazil planned for the next year.

### Missions opportunity

Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to work alongside Southern



**BRAZIL MISSIONS** A woman near the Davis Lar orphanage in Fortaleza, Brazil, hears about the Christian faith from Southern Baptist International Mission Board staff member David Campbell (center) and Paul Badgett (in cap), pastor of Pikeville Baptist Church. The two were witnessing as part of a recent Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions trip to Brazil. (KBC photos by Larry Brannin)

Baptist missionary Scott Pitman and implement a strategy to plant home Bible study groups throughout hard-to-reach northern Brazil, according to Ross Bauscher, the KBC's partnership missions director.

While back in Kentucky for a visit two years ago, Pittman, a former associate pastor at Fairdale Baptist Church and former pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church, shared his strategy for reaching northern Brazil with Bauscher.

Bauscher recalled that Pittman's passion and vision was evident. "I felt the leading of the Holy Spirit to do something with him," Bauscher said.

Pittman said he hopes that Bible study groups sponsored by First Baptist

Church of Fortaleza, Brazil, will help penetrate the area with the gospel. Evangelism, discipleship and church planting are difficult in northern Brazil because the population is spread throughout a large area and transportation is difficult. Poverty impedes families from traveling distances to established churches. In addition, most northern Brazilians are culturally Catholic, though few practice the faith. The spiritual landscape includes African folk religions, spiritism and idol worship.

After listening to Pittman, Bauscher agreed to organize several mission trips to Brazil in 2003. The first group recently returned after two weeks of evangelism, nightly services, dental clinics and more.

In addition to Badgett, team members included Sam Ballou of Central Baptist Church in Corbin; William Bell, Stephen Mark Gassaway, Paul McKenzie, Kenneth Miller, Larry Noe and John Zermehly of Edmonson Worship Center; Delbert Horn of Carter Creek Baptist Church in Greenville; Charlie Simmons of High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield; and William Bevins, Megan Fuller and Todd Johnson of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

### Medical clinics

Working in fairly primitive conditions at the temporary clinic set up at the Davis Lar orphanage, Ballou and Johnson, who are dentists, saw more than 150 patients in eight days.

"It has been a very needed service everywhere I have been," said Ballou, a missions veteran who already had four international trips under his belt. While providing a much-needed service, medical professionals also find opportunities to "plant seeds," Ballou added.

The work of Ballou and Johnson impressed local health authorities, opening the door for future medical missions.

Bauscher said he also hopes the door is open for a partnership between Kentucky Baptists and Baptists in northern Brazil. He plans to ask the KBC Mission Board to approve such a partnership at its May 2003 meeting. If approved, the partnership will kick off in 2005.

"I think that's the place we need to be," Badgett said. "Ninety-eight percent of the people will take time to listen to you. It doesn't mean they will agree, but they will listen."

Several other trips to northern Brazil already are being organized.

Coy Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello, and a team of 19 volunteers will leave July 31 for the city of Imperatriz to do evangelism and vacation Bible school. On June 8, a prayer walking and evangelism group led by David and Becky Woodward of Burgin Baptist Church will depart for Teresina, a city of 700,000 residents.

More volunteer teams are needed to fill requests for vacation Bible school and evangelism work in Teresina and medical teams for ministry to fishermen in the Canary Islands.

In 2004, Bauscher hopes to organize five more projects using Kentucky Baptist volunteers to teach leadership skills, provide musical and vocational training and offer free medical services.

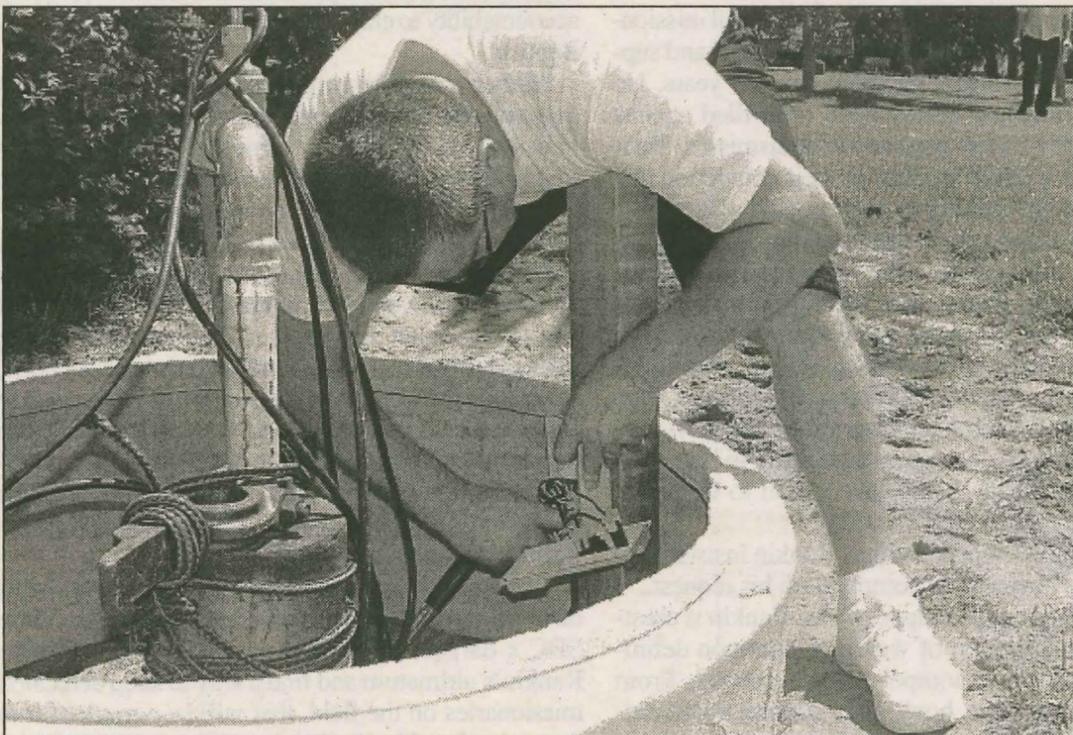
Badgett said he hopes Kentucky Baptists will take advantage of the opportunities offered through KBC partnership missions to get outside of their fields and get interested in what's going on in the rest of the world.

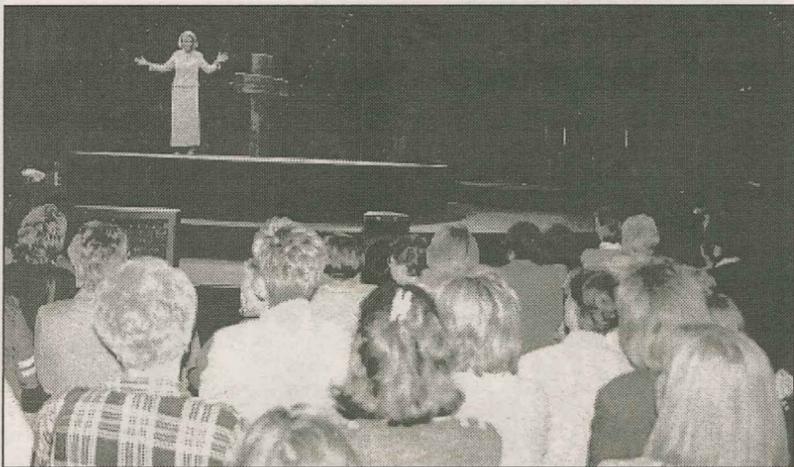
"You can't spell the word 'gospel' without the word 'go,'" Badgett said.



**More volunteer teams are needed to fill project requests for vacation Bible school, evangelism work and medical clinics.**

**VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION** A missions volunteer from Kentucky works on a water pump at the Davis Lar orphanage near Fortaleza, Brazil.





**INVITATION** Scores of women responded to a Friday evening invitation by Anne Graham Lotz to accept Jesus Christ as Savior. Lotz was the featured speaker for the "Just Give Me Jesus" women's conference April 25-26 at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

## Lotz: 'Just give me Jesus' answers challenges of life

*Continued from page 1*

in the next moment, do we? ... We don't know what the future holds so we need to be ready for whenever we step into eternity."

The April 25-26 women's conference, in the planning stages for more than a year, attracted an estimated 9,000 women from throughout Kentucky and surrounding states. It is Lotz' only women's conference scheduled this year in the U.S. She will lead similar events in South Korea, England and Wales.

Sue McGee, women's ministries coordinator at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, and Rosz Akins, pastor's wife at First Baptist Church of Bracktown, co-chaired the Lexington event.

"God led us to do it to begin with," McGee said. "He's been faithful over the year as we planned. We're just leaving the results in His hands."

"We sense that the Lord has moved in a lot of people's lives," she said, including scores of people who publicly responded to Lotz' Friday evening invitation to become Christians.

"You can't measure in numbers what the Lord is going to do in people's lives" as a result of the conference, McGee added. "It shows there's a great hunger in people's hearts for Jesus."

Lotz, who presented three messages and a Bible study during the two-day event, highlighted Jesus' roles as Savior, Lord and King.

Frequently emulating the speaking style of her father, renowned evangelist Billy Graham, Lotz pulled examples from current news events to illustrate biblical truths.

Describing Saddam Hussein as "public enemy No. 1," Lotz noted that coalition forces "struck with surgical precision ... to set the Iraqi people free."

"Two thousand years ago, God invaded time and space in what certainly was a surgical strike when He became flesh," she added.

Citing God's "shock and awe display" at Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, Lotz declared, "The battle has been won. ... We have been set free."

Emphasizing the need for revival in America, Lotz warned that "the

greatest problem in America is not some of the things we point our fingers at," such as social sins or corporate greed. Rather, she said, "the greatest problem in America is sin in the church. It is causing the church of Jesus Christ to be defeated. ... We need to look at ourselves and find the sin that's buried down deep."

"The challenge is for you and me to understand what it cost God to take away our sin and to understand what it means to live in the freedom He has won for us."

Urging women to be actively involved in ministry, Lotz noted that Jesus instructed Mary Magdalene to tell His disciples about His resurrection.

"There are people today who say a woman cannot do that, that a woman cannot share her testimony with men," she said. "People who have trouble with women in ministry need to take it up with Jesus."

Recalling that some men have objected to her public ministry, Lotz told the women, "It's not only your right, it's your privilege to go and tell people Who Jesus is. Don't let anyone hinder you from doing that."

Leading a Saturday afternoon seminar on how to study the Bible, Lotz encouraged the women to:

- Read a selected passage of Scripture.
- Compile a verse-by-verse list of the most outstanding, obvious facts.
- Write down spiritual lessons or principles learned from the list of facts.
- Rewrite the lessons or principles from the previous step in the form of personal questions that address: "What does it mean in my life?"

"Start in your favorite passage," Lotz suggested. "Ask the Lord to open up your spiritual ears that you can hear His voice speaking to your heart. ... He has spoken to me enough personally that I know He speaks through His Word and calls me by my name."

Joyce West, a member of Hazelwood Baptist Church in Louisville, said the weekend event was "just a time of revival."

Noting that Lotz "holds your attention with everything she says," West added, "She's got the gift that her father has. ... It just makes you stop and examine yourself."

## Equip for the Call

The Marshall Center  
for Christian Ministry  
presents



### Recess Conference & Professional Development Workshop

For Christian Public School Teachers

June 13-14, 2003

at the Georgetown College  
Conference and Training Center  
Georgetown, KY

Featured Speakers Include:

**Doreen Rappaport**

*Award Winning Children's Author*

**David French**

*Attorney and Author of  
A Season for Justice*

*Where can Christians who have dedicated their lives to service in the public schools find encouragement and affirmation, as well as legal and professional tools to enhance their confidence and effectiveness in the classroom? Recess is the place!*

Visit online for Recess registration information at:

<http://spider.georgetowncollege.edu/recess>

or call 502-863-8390

# BAPTISTS

## 2002 SBC membership reaches 16.2 million, baptisms decline

NASHVILLE (BP)—Membership in Southern Baptist churches reached a record 16,247,736 in 2002, a 1.21 percent increase compared to the previous year, or 194,816 additional members.

The total number of churches grew to 42,775, a 1.04 percent increase, or 441 churches more than the 2001 total. At the same time, church-type missions operated by churches grew 10.26 percent to a total of 5,439, an increase of 506.

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention compiles the Annual Church Profile from church reports routed through local Baptist associations and state conventions.

While membership grew, the number of baptisms—394,893—reflected a decline of 0.26 percent or 1,037.

Sunday morning average worship attendance grew by 1.9 percent or 108,965 to 5,839,945.

Music ministry enrollment/participation decreased 2.98 percent or

51,009 to a total of 1,658,310.

Other increases were reported in total tithes, offerings and special gifts to \$8,681,491,558 (4.41 percent above 2001), as well as undesignated receipts of \$6,786,994,352 (5.3 percent above 2001). Total receipts increased by 5.89 percent to \$9,461,603,271.

Sunday school enrollment declined 8,251 or 0.10 percent to a total of 8,174,493. Discipleship training enrollment/participation showed an increase of 1.45 percent, or 30,038 to a total of 2,100,752, following a 6.24 percent decrease in 2001.

Woman's Missionary Union enrollment and men/boys mission education enrollment both showed increases. WMU enrollment increased by 105,434, or 12.29 percent, to a total of 963,114. Men/boys mission education enrollment grew 3.08 percent or 13,009 to 435,646.

Total mission expenditures for the year were up 4.94 percent, totaling \$1,028,650,682, a \$48,426,439 increase above 2001 totals.

## SARS prompts BWA to move meeting

McLEAN, Va. (ABP)—In response to increasing concerns about the SARS outbreak in Asia, the Baptist World Alliance has moved its July General Council meeting from Seoul, South Korea, to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The General Council sessions, scheduled for July 7-12 in Seoul, were planned in conjunction with the Baptist Youth World Conference in Hong Kong July 16-20. But SARS—severe acute respiratory syndrome—has spread rapidly throughout Southeast Asia, with

Hong Kong hit particularly hard, and the World Health Organization has issued travel warnings for several Asian countries.

Concerned BWA leaders recently postponed the Hong Kong youth meeting until August 2004 rather than risk exposing thousands of conference participants.

The site for the BWA council meeting was moved to Rio de Janeiro, which was to host the 2004 council meeting. Instead, the council plans to hold next year's meeting in Seoul.

## Struggling with infertility?

There is hope.



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

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

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

Join us **Monday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.** on the campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville.

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

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

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

## Judge issues split decision in Shorter case, appeal expected

ROME, Ga. (ABP)—A judge ruled April 23 that Shorter College can proceed with its plan to dissolve and transfer its assets to a newly formed foundation, but the Georgia Baptist Convention still has the right to elect the college's board of trustees.

DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Daniel Coursey Jr. lifted a temporary restraining order, allowing the college's plan for reorganization to move forward.

College trustees responded by immediately splitting with the state convention and transferring the school's assets to a private foundation, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

But the judge also ruled that the GBC, though not an "owner" of the college, has the right to elect the college's board of trustees. Under the reorganization plan, however, it appears that elected trustees of the college will have little power.

Shorter College, located in Rome, Ga., has 2,100 students and has been affiliated with the GBC since 1959.

Late last year, the Shorter College board of trustees voted to sever ties with the GBC and transfer the assets of the college, estimated at \$50 million, to the Shorter College Foundation.

The convention claimed the reorganization was an attempt to "steal" the college from Georgia Baptists.

The April 23 ruling left both sides claiming victory, but Judge Coursey noted the ruling is likely to be reviewed by the Georgia Supreme Court.

Looking for a Time of Fun, New Insights and Spiritual Refreshment?

SENIORS

SENIORS

## Come With Your Friends to the Greatest Party of the Year!

2003 SENIOR Celebration

Senior Adult Celebrations are a great time of fellowship, renewal and spiritual growth! Enjoy times of worship and learn more about health, finances, evangelism and missions.

May 13th - First Baptist Church, Paducah  
May 15th - Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, Cecilia  
May 20th - Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset  
May 22nd - First Baptist Church, Paintsville

[www.kybaptist.org/seniorcelebration](http://www.kybaptist.org/seniorcelebration)

 **KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Family Ministry Department  
P.O. Box 43433  
Louisville, KY 40253-0433  
502-254-4719 or 888-254-5704

## Churches willing to fight local zoning restrictions

By Bob Smietana  
Religion News Service

EVANSTON, Ill. (RNS)— For the past six years, members of the Evanston Vineyard church have been free to meet, sing and pray in the building they own in this suburb just north of Chicago.

Just not on Sunday mornings. And they could not call it church.

That's because the building lies in an office zone, where, according to Evanston city code, membership associations (both secular and religious) and cultural institutions (like theaters and concert halls) are allowed, but worship services are not.

But a federal judge ruled March 31 that Evanston's zoning code violates the Vineyard's constitutional rights to free assembly, free speech and equal protection.

In ruling against the city, District Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer noted that Vineyard's congregants could legally stage a production of "Fiddler on the Roof," which includes a traditional Jewish wedding, but "could not host an actual religious wedding."

"Evanston's claim that it has zoned purely for land use and not on the basis of religion is not supported by the facts," Pallmeyer ruled.

After the ruling, William Hanawalt, executive pastor of the 700-member Vineyard church, expressed cautious optimism that the church's conflict with the city was over.

The Vineyard hopes to recover its legal costs and some of the estimated \$500,000 in rental fees it has paid for worship space for the last five years.

"We feel a sense of gratitude and a sense of vindication," Hanawalt said, "but won't have a sense of relief until the last 'i' is dotted by the city."

### 50 lawsuits nationwide

The Evanston case is one of several federal lawsuits involving Chicago-area churches challenging local zoning codes. There are an estimated 50 similar lawsuits nationwide, according to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

A federal suit against the city of Chicago filed by a group of 50 churches and religious groups currently is on appeal.

In late March, Petra Presbyterian Church, a Korean-American congregation, filed suit against the suburb of Northbrook, Ill., for refusing to grant zoning approval for worship services in the office/warehouse building it owns. The Petra church, which currently rents space from another

church, bought the building after an intensive search for other properties. Northbrook's zoning code is "even more stark" in its restriction of religious groups, said John Mauck, Petra's attorney.

"The Northbrook code singles religion out, and says, 'You are not welcome,'" he noted. Petra Presbyterian Church claims that under the village of Northbrook's zoning code, "the Masons, the Republicans and the Glee Club" would be free to meet for social, political, educational or recreational purposes at the church's building, "but the Korean Presbyterians are not welcome to worship, pray and sing hymns."

The Department of Justice announced in early April it was investigating claims that the village's code discriminates on the basis of religion.

### Urban planners 'faulty assumptions'

Robert Larson, former director of church growth and evangelism for the Evangelical Covenant Church, said many zoning conflicts are caused by "a faulty assumption" that churches belong only in residential areas. Larson, an ordained minister who has a Ph.D. in urban planning, said that in the 1950s city planners designed residential neighborhoods with a central community center, park and church

building. The idea, he said, "was that people would walk" to the neighborhood church and community center.

"That idea was flawed," said Larson. "Presbyterians didn't want to walk to the Episcopal church in their neighborhood. They wanted to drive to the Presbyterian church in someone else's neighborhood."

"People are more likely to drive past eight or 10 churches before getting to the one they want," added Mauck. That has led to loss of political and emotional ties between churches and their communities. "And because they don't pay taxes," Mauck said, "churches are often seen as necessary evils" instead of benefits to their community. That, he said, leads communities to enact zoning ordinances that restrict churches.

Richard Hammer, editor of the Church Law and Tax Report, argued that communities cannot restrict "houses of worship" in the same way they treat other land uses, such as an office building or a Wal-Mart.

"The Constitution requires that churches be treated differently from Wal-Marts," he said. "Discount warehouses find no protection in the Constitution, but houses of worship do. So, at the end of the day it should take a compelling case to deny a church the right to locate where it wants."

**The church could legally stage a production of "Fiddler on the Roof," which includes a traditional Jewish wedding, but "could not host an actual religious wedding."**

## Prof ends practice of recommending only evolution believers

LUBBOCK, Texas (RNS)—The U.S. Justice Department has ended its investigation of a complaint against a Texas Tech University biology professor after he stopped requiring that students believe in evolution to receive a letter of recommendation.

The department said April 22 that it dropped its probe after professor Michael Dini eliminated the evolution belief requirement in his recommendation policy. He replaced it with a requirement that students have the ability to explain the theory of evolution, Associated Press reported.

Micah Spradling, a student at the university in Lubbock, Texas, filed the complaint, accusing Dini of refusing to write letters of recommendation based on the religious beliefs of his students. Spradling said that as a creationist he couldn't state a belief in human evolution to receive a recommendation.

The Liberty Legal Institute, a religious freedom group, joined in filing the complaint, calling Dini's policy "open religious bigotry."

Dini's previous policy on his Web page told students desiring a recommendation to be able to answer a question about their views on

the origin of the human species.

"If you cannot truthfully and forthrightly affirm a scientific answer to this question, then you should not seek my recommendation for admittance to further education in the biomedical sciences," he previously wrote.

Now his Web site reads: "How do you account for the scientific origin of the human species? If you will not give a scientific answer to this question, then you should not seek my recommendation."

Dini later adds that the requirement "should not be misconstrued as discriminatory against anyone's per-

sonal beliefs."

In the fall, Spradling withdrew from Texas Tech and transferred to Lubbock Christian University. He re-enrolled at the first school in the spring semester after getting a recommendation letter at the other school.

"A biology student may need to understand the theory of evolution and be able to explain it," said Ralph Boyd Jr., the Justice Department's assistant attorney general for civil rights, in a statement. "But a state-run university has no business telling students what they should or should not believe in."

**"If My Money  
Runs Out Before  
I Do, What  
Happens Next?"**

**Plan Now For Long  
Term Care Insurance**

Call Long Term Care  
Insurance Expert *NOW!*



Carol James

Louisville  
Local # (502) 245-3966  
Toll-free: (800) 227-1394



**We bring good things to life.**

Insurance products underwritten by General Electric  
Capital Assurance Company

81669

## Judge orders school library to put Harry Potter books back on shelves

CEDARVILLE, Ark. (RNS)—A federal judge has ruled that schoolchildren in Cedarville, Ark., must have access to Harry Potter books, despite the objection of some parents who say the wildly popular novels teach witchcraft.

U.S. District Judge Jimm Larry Hendren rejected a policy that forced children to obtain permission slips to check the books out of a school library.

The books were ordered returned, "where they can be accessed without any restrictions other than those ... that apply to all works of fiction in the libraries of the district," Hendren ruled last week.

The policy was implemented last summer after one parent, Angie Haney, said her pastor had told her that the books about a young wizard taught children sorcery and witchcraft. The school board voted 3-2 to restrict the books.

Billy and Mary Nell Counts, parents of a fourth-grader, filed suit, saying they were concerned their daughter would be targeted if she were seen with the "evil" books.

School officials said they were studying the judge's decision but planned to return the Harry Potter books to general circulation.

## Haiti sanctions voodoo as religion

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (RNS)—The government of Haiti recently allowed voodoo to be an officially sanctioned religion.

Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in a recent executive order, called the religion "an essential part of national identity" and invited voodoo followers to register with the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

After registering, followers will be able to legally perform weddings, baptisms and other rituals.

Voodoo combines elements of African religion with Catholic spirituality. Voodoo teaches belief in a supreme God, and that spirits can be summoned through gifts and offerings to bring ill will or good fortune to others.

Popular beliefs about voodoo link it with witchcraft, but adherents deny the connection.

## Yemeni gunman admits in court to murders

JIBLA, Yemen (RNS)—A Yemeni man suspected of having ties to al-Qaida has testified that he killed three American missionaries at a Southern Baptist hospital because he believed they were trying to convert Muslims.

Abed Abdul Razak Kamel told a court in Jibla, Yemen, on April 20 that he planned the Dec. 30 attack for a year and a half, Associated Press reported.

"I acted out of a religious duty ... and in revenge for those who converted Muslims from their religion and made them unbelievers," Kamel said at the opening of his trial in southern Yemen.

The 30-year-old man said he entered the hospital hiding a semiautomatic rifle under his clothes and then opened fire on a staff meeting, shooting each of his targets twice.

Kamel further testified he traveled to Jibla in July 2001 and began to scout his target by frequently visiting the hospital and asking about its activities.

"I found out that they were truly converting Muslims into Christians," he said.

Residents of Jibla have said the Americans working at the hospital never discussed religion. Yemeni law bars non-Muslims from proselytizing in the country, which is overwhelmingly Muslim.

The three Americans who were killed were Kathleen Gariety of Wauwatosa, Wis.; Martha Meyers of Montgomery, Ala.; and Bill Koehn, a



**JIBLA HOSPITAL.** Abed Abdul Razak Kamel said in court that he planned his attack on Baptist workers for more than 18 months.

native of Cimarron, Kansas. Donald Caswell, from Levelland, Texas, was injured.

The IMB has since transferred control of the hospital to a local charity founded by Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Kerbi, who also is a Canadian-trained doctor. The hospital is now headed by a Yemeni Health Ministry official, and its staff continues to include American and other foreign doctors.

Kamel said he coordinated the attack with Ali al-Jarallah, another suspected Muslim extremist who is accused in the shooting death of a Ye-

meni leftist politician two days before the hospital was attacked.

"We agreed. (Al-Jarallah) would kill seculars, and I would target Christians," Kamel said.

Neither Kamel nor the prosecutor mentioned al-Qaida, blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But Yemeni security officials have said Kamel may belong to a terrorist cell with links to al-Qaida.

The prosecutor asked for the death penalty in Kamel's case, which is scheduled to resume this week.

With additional information from Baptist Press

## Eritrea police reportedly arrest, beat Protestants

SMARA, Eritrea (BP)—At least 170 Protestant Christians have been jailed, beaten and threatened with death by Eritrean security forces in a harsh crackdown during February and March, Compass Direct news service recently reported.

Since the government closed 12 Pentecostal and charismatic churches last May, the nation has stalled official registration status for all of these young Protestant churches, now containing more than 20,000 believers.

In five separate incidents in four cities during the past two months, Eritrean police barged into worship services to jail men, women and children for practicing "a new religion."

The Eritrean government recognizes only four "official" religions: Orthodox Christian (40 percent), Muslim (50 percent), Catholic (5 percent) and Evangelical Christian, a Protestant church begun in the late 19th century by Swedish Lutheran missionaries, (2 percent).

Compass reported that the jailed Protestants, detained from three to 15 days, were subjected to beatings, cursing and threats for refusing to return to the historically dominant Orthodox Church faith.

## Western aid workers retreat in Afghanistan as attacks increase

KABUL, Afghanistan (RNS)—Aid organizations, facing attacks and threats from resurgent Taliban and al-Qaida forces, are retreating from areas of Afghanistan where some have worked for 16 years.

Mercy Corps, a Christian relief-and-development agency, is pulling workers out of the Taliban's heartland in southern Afghanistan. Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children and other organizations also are pull-

ing out of especially dangerous areas.

As an escalating guerrilla war threatens President Hamid Karzai's U.S.-backed government, Mercy Corps managers say Taliban and al-Qaida forces are targeting Western aid workers.

Mercy Corps reported this month that one of its Afghan staff members was shot to death in November.

"They've extended this conflict that they have with the coalition and with the Karzai government to include international organizations, which is a new and disturbing twist," said Jim White, Mercy Corps' South Asia regional director. "We're having to substantially downsize."

The retreat by aid organizations exposes Afghanistan to a vicious cycle as the Taliban, warlords and al-Qaida move into the void, turning more Afghans against the Karzai government, the United States and the United Nations.

Mercy Corps has pulled workers back to Kabul from rural areas, where they had been supporting villagers rebuilding wells, schools and houses. The organization's Afghan work force has dropped from 500 to about 150 in southern Afghanistan. "For the first time in 16 years, we're having to pull back substantially from an area that we've worked in through five successive governments," White said, "including the Taliban, the mujahedeen and the Soviets."

## A gift that comes back

If I told you there was a way to make a charitable gift using funds that eventually would be returned to you or your loved ones, you would be interested, would you not?

With the extended bear market in equities, the endowments of your favorite charitable causes have declined, at least temporarily. As a result, they need an income "stretch" while they await a recovery in the equity market. With interest rates at more than 40-year lows, the tax benefits to you for this type of gift are especially attractive.

The gift arrangement about which I speak is called a charitable lead trust. With it you can make a significant gift, but all or a portion of the assets used to fund the trust will be available to you and/or your loved ones at a time in the future that you specify. Using this arrangement, you may be able to provide your heirs with an inheritance larger than might otherwise be possible. Finally, with a charitable lead trust you can reduce or eliminate income, estate and gift taxes now and in future years.

As you can see, the charitable lead trust is an exciting planning tool that provides a way for you to benefit both your loved ones and

your charitable interests. There are a variety of ways to structure a lead trust. For more information about this unique gift arrangement, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me. We have a very informative brochure we shall send you at no cost or obligation.

If you prefer, you can obtain information about lead trusts from our

Web site. From the home page click "charitable gift planning," then under step 2 (research) click "all gifts at a glance." You can also obtain directly from the Web site a personal, confidential illustration customized for your situation. By e-mail from the Web site you also can request the informative brochure.

Thank you for all the ways you demonstrate your love for God and His mission in the world through faithful financial stewardship. To the extent we can be helpful in your estate and charitable gift planning, please give us that privilege.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

## Panel pushes for religious freedoms

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A federal religious freedom panel warned President Bush that unless the United States intervenes, a new constitution in Afghanistan will be no improvement over the repressive Taliban regime that was overthrown by U.S. forces.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said a constitution that "codifies repression, rather than securing freedom, may well undermine the support of the American people for reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan."

The panel, which advises the White House and Congress on religious freedom issues, said the new Afghan constitution, which currently is being drafted, must guarantee religious freedom for all Afghans, not subject non-Muslims to Islamic law, prohibit harsh punishments used by the Taliban and not allow blasphemy or "offending Islam" to be used by hard-liners to stifle debate.

"Outside of Kabul, what passes for justice all too often appears to be arbitrary decisions dispensed by ill-educated mullahs or dictated by powerful local leaders," the panel stated.

# SMILE

## Changing a life

By Robert Dunston

LifeWay Christian Resources sponsors a program called Beach Reach using students to minister to other students on spring break. The ministry reaches out to vacationing students through pancake breakfasts, conversations and free rides to points around town.

Cumberland College junior Daniel McKee, son of Eddie and Sandy McKee of Richmond, served as part of Beach Reach both last year and this year. McKee remembers an experience last year when God, working through Christian compassion, changed a young man's life.

At the very first pancake breakfast McKee attended, a group of wild college men, still feeling the effects of inebriation, came in. McKee and his team members got to know them and had a wonderful time talking and joking around. The men told McKee that talking with him and his fellow students had been the most fun they had enjoyed in a long time. They promised to return each morning for breakfast.

The young men returned each morning in various stages of inebriation. McKee and his fellow team members got to know them and

began to explain what they were doing in their ministry. On the last day, McKee found out where the men were staying and promised to come by their hotel and visit them.

Late that night when McKee and a team member arrived, Donovan, one of the young men, opened the door sobbing. He explained that his grandmother had died and he needed to get home but his friends refused to leave. "We'll take you home," McKee said. They waited for Donovan to pack and then took him to the church where they were staying.

The next morning Donovan rode back to Cumberland College. On arriving at Cumberland, McKee and a friend loaded Donovan into McKee's car and drove him to Indiana, along the way offering comfort, encouragement and new life.

McKee and Donovan have stayed in touch. Donovan has become involved in his church and in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has found a new circle of friends. We rejoice with McKee at how God is changing lives through Christian compassion.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

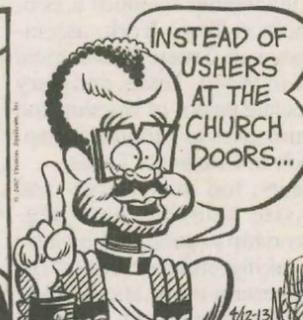


## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

## Bible Crossword

Beverley Barnes

### Across

- 1 "Confession is made unto \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 10:10)
- 8 To make a choice
- 11 "There \_\_\_\_\_ I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20)
- 12 Woman's name
- 13 A narrow fold or wrinkle
- 15 "To know ... the \_\_\_\_\_ of my days" (Psalm 39:4)
- 18 Man's title
- 19 North America, abbr.
- 20 "\_\_\_\_\_ the day in which he was taken up" (Acts 1:2)
- 21 "\_\_\_\_\_, Father" (Mark 14:36)
- 22 Southwestern state, abbr.
- 23 Playful aquatic mammal
- 25 The book before Nehemiah
- 26 Man's name
- 28 "Brightness of his \_\_\_\_\_" (Hebrews 1:3)
- 29 New covenant writings, abbr.
- 31 "\_\_\_\_\_, I say unto you" (John 3:3)
- 33 Suffix
- 34 A precious stone
- 35 Opposite of yes
- 36 Holds royal office
- 39 One of Paul's epistles, abbr.
- 41 Cable News Network, abbr.
- 42 Gym class, abbr.
- 44 Meaning partial or half, prefix
- 46 "Put thou my tears into thy \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 56:8)
- 49 Prince of Islam

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12			13	14		
15		16			17	18		19	
20					21			22	
		23		24		25			
26	27			28				29	30
	31		32				33		
34			35						
	36	37		38		39	40		
	41			42	43	44	45		
46			47	48	49				
50		51		52		53			
54						55			

- 50 First person contraction
- 51 "He shall \_\_\_\_\_ like a lion" (Hosea 11:10)
- 53 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the valleys" (Song of Solomon 2:1)
- 54 "He gave his only \_\_\_\_\_ Son" (John 3:16)
- 55 Helena's state, abbr.

- 16 "Day of \_\_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 23:28)
- 17 "My God; \_\_\_\_\_ will I seek thee" (Psalm 63:1)
- 24 A city of Judah (Joshua 15:39)
- 27 "\_\_\_\_\_ evil with good" (Romans 12:21)
- 30 "We have seen and do \_\_\_\_\_" (1 John 4:14)

### Down

- 1 "The Lord called \_\_\_\_\_; and he answered, Here am I" (1 Samuel 3:4)
- 2 The end of a prayer
- 3 "\_\_\_\_\_ the fatherless and widows" (James 1:27)
- 4 Grown-up
- 5 Black sticky substance
- 6 Observation post, abbr.
- 7 The book after Leviticus
- 8 Short agreement
- 9 A long narrow triangular flag
- 10 A streetcar
- 14 Chief \_\_\_\_\_ Horse

- 32 Participle ending
- 33 The meek shall \_\_\_\_\_ the earth (Matthew 5:5)
- 37 Inward, prefix
- 38 South American language, abbr.
- 40 What David wrote
- 43 Plural of E
- 45 1,000 x 1,000, abbr.
- 46 Put this on baby when feeding
- 47 Abram's nephew (Genesis 12:5)
- 48 Of every tree thou mayest \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 2:16)
- 52 Do, \_\_\_\_\_, mi

### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
F	E	L	L	O	W	S	H	I	P
11	O	R	I	O	N	12	L	O	V
13	R	14	N	O	15	O	N	16	E
17	18	19	A	G	20	A	W	E	21
22	E	O	N	23	A	24	S	25	E
26	A	Y	27	C	H	A	B	28	P
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
39	R	A	C	A	J	O	Y	40	V
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
H	U	M	I	L	I	T	Y	S	T

© 1999 Barbour Publishing

## Child abuse has a face



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

Children die daily from injuries caused by child abuse. In Kentucky alone, more than 18,600 children were proven to have been abused or neglected in 2000. Twenty-one of those died as a result of abuse or neglect, according to the Child Welfare League of America. At KBHC, we talk a lot about child abuse, its effects and how we might prevent it. What we really do, though, is help kids overcome it. Call us to find out how you can help.

Triad East, Suite 200  
10200 Linn Station Road  
Louisville, KY 40223  
**1-800-456-1386**



## Leaders cite benefits of cross-generational worship

**"They began to realize the whole congregation was responsible for meaningful worship."**

*Gary Hall, associate pastor of worship at Monterey Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas.*

By John Hall  
Baptist General Convention of Texas

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Cross-generational worship means more than teenagers sitting next to senior adults on Sunday mornings. It means presenting a holistic picture of the body of Christ, according to two worship leaders who have tried it.

Churches should include a greater variety of generations in their worship leadership to unite a congregation, said Terry York, associate professor at Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas, and Gary Hall, associate pastor of worship and church ministries at Monterey Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas.

For years, too many large- and medium-size churches have segmented worship experiences by generations, taking children out of the service at certain times and holding children's services and separate youth services, York said.

As a result, generational groups have begun expecting a worship service for their specific interests and are hesitant to integrate into larger worship services, York said at a recent conference for church social workers.

While worship that is segmented by generation might better reach certain groups of people, it costs the church its sense of "family and community," York said.

Congregations can move past generational and stylistic arguments

and unite in worship that is meaningful for all, he said.

### Strengths of each generation

Generational cooperation allows each group to use its gifts to strengthen a congregation, York said.

Generally, younger people bring hope to the congregation, while middle-age adults bring managing skills and senior adults contribute experience.

Hall, under York's supervision in Truett's doctoral program, started two worship-planning teams designed to encourage cross-generational worship during the Advent season at the Lubbock church.

The first group of eight people, ranging in age from 12 to 68, sought to include multiple generations in each service. The second team of 10 people, ages 11 to 70, evaluated the cross-generational inclusion by the first team.

People from multiple generations were used in prayer, Scripture reading and music presentation during the six-week project.

Hall said the project had at least three results:

- People from different generations are intermingling more during the worship services.

- More people are volunteering to help with worship.

- The worship services have more variety.

"It affected the church dramatically," Hall said. "The people began

to understand we are all priests of Christ. They began to realize the whole congregation was responsible for meaningful worship."

Monterey Baptist Church has continued the teams beyond Hall's project and is looking to tailor them better to the needs of the church. The teams no longer meet weekly but plan more services during their meetings. Sometimes they plan all the services that coincide with a sermon series.

### Team approach

York suggested rotating team members would promote diversity of ideas and perspectives while giving the teams continuity.

ing the teams continuity.

He urged churches that want to move toward cross-generational worship to establish two teams as Hall did and orient team members at one event.

But York said cross-generational worship will not continue unless multiple generations also work together in church ministries such as a food pantry, clothes closet or a Sunday school class, he added.

When a congregation gets actively involved in cross-generational ministry efforts, Hall said, "A church becomes more vibrant because they see other parts of the church body becoming healthy."

## 15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

LifeWay has the solution—a 15-passenger mini-bus that meets Federal safety standards.



- Mini-Bus
- 15 Passengers (No CDL)
- 2/1 Seating
- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- Raised Roof
- Longer Wheelbase
- Dual Rear Wheels
- Steel Construction

### SERIOUS CONCERNS

- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

• Call us: 1-800-370-6180

• Visit us: [carpenterbus.com](http://carpenterbus.com)

**LifeWay**  
CHURCH BUSES  
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.  
Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

## Meet some in the class of 2003, part 6

"One of my friends died from an overdose on New Year's Eve, and another friend died in February from an overdose. I have a third friend in the hospital now because of drugs."

When I interviewed "Larry" (not his real name) last November, his story was almost too sad to be true. Larry came from a good home, but like a lot of young people, experienced the divorce of his parents when he was 5 years old. When a marriage falls apart, it is nearly always confusing and difficult for the children. "It was about six months before I saw my Dad again. It like to drove me crazy because he was my favorite person in the whole world."

All of the world's problems are not the result of broken homes, but failed marriages cause a lot of sadness and pain. Larry is a good example. Sure, he made many careless mistakes, but most of the dead-end roads he traveled could have been avoided if he had been given a better road map.

We almost did not accept Larry because of his drug use. We have never claimed that all of our students are drug free; we fight that battle like any other school. However, at times a person is so involved with drugs that we do not want to create additional problems for our current students who are successfully putting drugs in their past. Larry enrolled knowing that drug use one time would cause his expulsion. He has successfully avoided drugs and alcohol at Oneida Baptist Institute. Additionally, his grades have been good. Let me share more of his senior essay:

"When I was (in) ... middle school, ... my childhood came to a screeching halt. The only bunch of kids that lived in my town were 15 to 18 years old, and I thought they were cool. But they

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

were nothing but a bad influence on me. I started drinking and smoking weed when I was about 12."

Some young people think that there is nothing really bad with smoking a little marijuana. During the interview with Larry, I asked him what he believed had been the single biggest tragedy in his life. His response was, "Pot started all my problems."

"Smoking pot progressed into more drugs and drinking until I was 17, and by then I was completely out of control. I've overcome a lot more than I care to talk about, ... but I have been sober for six months as of March 29, the longest in almost seven years.

"If I hadn't been allowed to come here, I know I wouldn't have graduated from high school. ... I'm not sure I'd even be alive. ... I'm happy for the change, and my folks are a hundred times happier than they have ever been. ... I came here with a positive attitude, and I have loved it ever since.

"If you don't like church, don't come here. ... You go to church seven times a week, plus your Bible class. ...

When I came here, I didn't believe in God or Jesus Christ. I have been here less than six months, and I now believe the Bible. Maybe someday I'll become a Christian."

To my knowledge Larry is still not a Christian. We accepted him because Jesus said, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Larry needed to know that Jesus gave His life for him. Larry now has heard of God's love many times; the rest is up to him.

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

## Twenty-four years of teaching

Creed Caldwell, associate professor of general studies, celebrates 24 years at Clear Creek.

"I've seen a lot of changes, but some things remain the same," Caldwell said. "The impact of technology is most evident. I remember when the campus only had two phones; now every office has one and a computer. Our purpose is the same."

Has the student body changed much? "They seem to be getting younger, but that may come from me getting older," Caldwell said. (The average age of a Clear Creek student is 31, virtually unchanged in the past 15 years.) "Most of the students are very sincere and very dedicated. We don't have the discipline problems of other colleges. Because the majority of them are married they have to adjust schedules for study, family and church.

"Clear Creek students are eager to learn and want to hear about our experiences," he added. "It is a joy to teach them."

The student body does have a higher percentage of single students. Caldwell noted that some families adopt single students, and have them over to eat regularly. "Sharing the calling overcomes the

differences," he said.

Flexible describes Creed Caldwell. He has helped the college with assignments at the bookstore, family life center, library and as registrar. Although he holds three earned degrees, he took graduate classes to meet accreditation requirements to teach history. He served eight years as a minister of education before joining the faculty.

As director of developmental studies, he works with students who test low on English and math, or need help with reading and study skills. Occasionally a student enters with the need to complete a GED; most already have college work. "Student and faculty tutors assist students who fail the entrance tests so they can retake the test and demonstrate proficiency," Caldwell said.

At Middlesboro First Baptist, Caldwell serves as a deacon and teaches a senior adult coed Bible study. He said his most enjoyable church work is serving on the long-range planning committee.

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## Failure, lunatic or saint?

*Once successful church architect won't let his setbacks dictate outlook*

By Douglas Todd  
Religion News Service

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (RNS)—Will Wilding was one of the busiest designers of churches during one of the busiest periods of Christian expansion in North America.

He created more than 180 Protestant edifices during the 1950s and 1960s, stamping his graceful West Coast style of wood, arches and flooding light on generations of Christians in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington state.

By the 1980s, Wilding was worth millions of dollars. In addition to churches, he was building shopping centers, banks, schools and apartment blocks.

He wasn't hot, he was on fire—and not only financially, but for the Lord.

Now, at age 75, he is barely getting by. He lives in a small rented apartment in Vancouver. He's been pummeled by bankruptcy and hasn't designed a church for more than three decades.

Is Wilding a failure, a lunatic—or a saint?

With his smile, lean face and shock of white hair, Wilding says he has no time for what he calls "the vice of tradition," either in architecture or religion.

He has been trying to keep his eyes on a prize that to him is much larger than worldly success. To be true to his bedrock Christian faith, he has spent almost every Sunday morning in the past 13 years performing a low-key mission through the streets and cafes of Kitsilano, a hip neighborhood of Vancouver.

Instead of attending church, he performs a weekly "walking prayer" through the vibrant neighborhood of under-35s, "keen to get young people harnessed." He prays for God's grace to fall on whomever he encounters.

Evangelistic impulses have guided Wilding's entire strange and remarkable life.

He and his wife, Sheila, and two other couples once started their own church. Years ago they bought the

land, designed and built the sanctuary and ran Marineview Chapel in Vancouver. It soon had 500 members, mostly young.

His were the deep pockets behind several group homes in the Kitsilano neighborhood in the '60s, which took in hippies, draft dodgers, street kids and refugees—turning some on to Jesus.

And Wilding was one of the dreamers who had the original vision for Regent College, a now-renowned evangelical graduate school on the University of British Columbia campus, where its art gallery recently sponsored a show devoted to his church architecture.

If you had any doubt, Wilding is the first to admit he's a bit crazy.

It might have had something to do with the cannibals.

Wilding was born in 1927 in an open bush hospital in what was then the Belgian Congo. Other than his parents, the nearest white person was 200 miles away.

His English dad and French mom were dirt-poor missionaries with the Plymouth Brethren. Wilding has fading photos of him as a kid surrounded by tribespeople. You don't have to look hard to see the shrunken skulls around the necks of the semi-naked warriors.

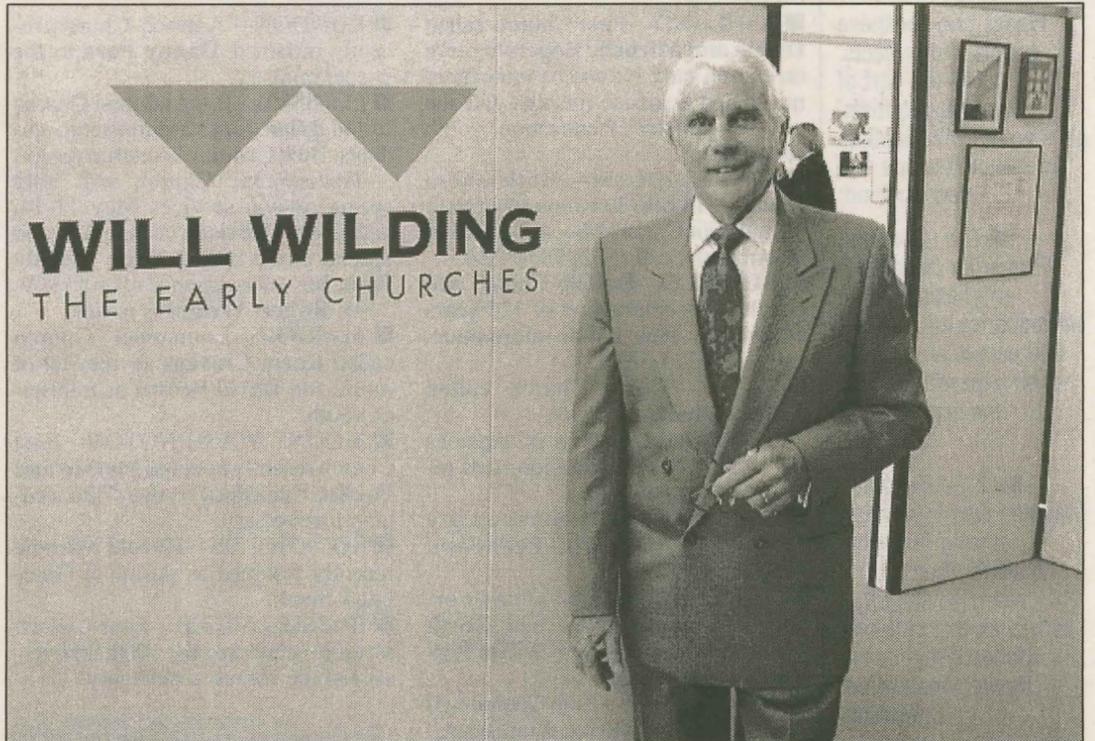
"I grew up in difficult circumstances," he says, with understatement. Life was about as hard for him and his parents as it was for the jungle's cannibals.

Coming out of Africa at age 13, he hit upon his unusual life combination of preaching and architecture.

He began to work with famous evangelists such as Billy Graham and Carl Henry and the founder of World Vision, Bob Pearce.

In an interview amid the light oak pews and soaring beams of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, Wilding describes himself as "rather nuts."

But it's not as if he requires psychiatric care. It's the nuttiness of the spirit-possessed—the mystic who lives beyond the world of careerism.



"There's a method to what I'm doing," he says.

He came to Vancouver 50 years ago, after studying architecture and winning awards at the renowned Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, Scotland.

In addition to luring people to Jesus as a regular lay preacher, he aimed to create "sacred spaces" for the faithful, specifically scores of Baptist, United Church of Canada and Christian Reformed congregations, as well as Evangelical Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Mennonites, Pentecostals and Evangelical Free.

Wilding set the tone for the look of churches in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington state, according to Dal Schindell, director of Regent College's Lookout Art Gallery.

Wilding's distinctive alpine, often A-framed structures, with their generous use of natural wood, suit the Pacific Northwest, Schindell says. There is a relaxed, casual and uplifting feeling to his buildings, much like there is to the man.

"He's a really interesting character. He has his own mind and he's got a lot of style. He's full of beans. Unlike many architects, he brought intense Christian conviction and sensitivity to his design," Schindell says.

Despite many ecclesiastical design successes throughout British Columbia, Oregon and Washington state, Wilding lost his fortune in 1984.

By then he had moved mostly from church-making into developing. Among the many projects Wilding was into, his firm had 12 apartment buildings in process.

Then came the marketplace's free fall after the hyper-inflated run of real estate prices in the early 1980s.

The creditors rushed in, and he was stretched too thin.

"For some weeks we didn't have enough money for food. It was the greatest test of my life. This is when I experienced a whole other world of God's grace," he says.

"I realized after two years there was no way out. So I just let go. I've

had to gradually reconstruct my whole life."

Financially, it's been a tough go. He drives a small, white 1984 Mercedes. He has his government pensions and a few residential projects he's working on. "We're slightly better than getting by."

Spiritually, he's not complaining, though. He still has his loving wife of 46 years, Sheila. He thinks his four children are marvelous. And, of course, he has a faith that burns brightly.

"I feel my time in Africa and elsewhere prepared me for some real severe trial," he says. "From my early teens I've sought to walk with Christ. I realized God comes to you in all circumstances. I accepted my bankruptcy and went through it. It was very difficult, for my wife too, obviously, but it strengthened me and my family to the Christian faith.

"You have to realize, in these terrible circumstances, life can go on—that the real things in life are not tangible. Things like love and justice and truth and peace. These are real no matter where you're at in material things."

By 1990, Wilding even had enough of such "material things" as churches.

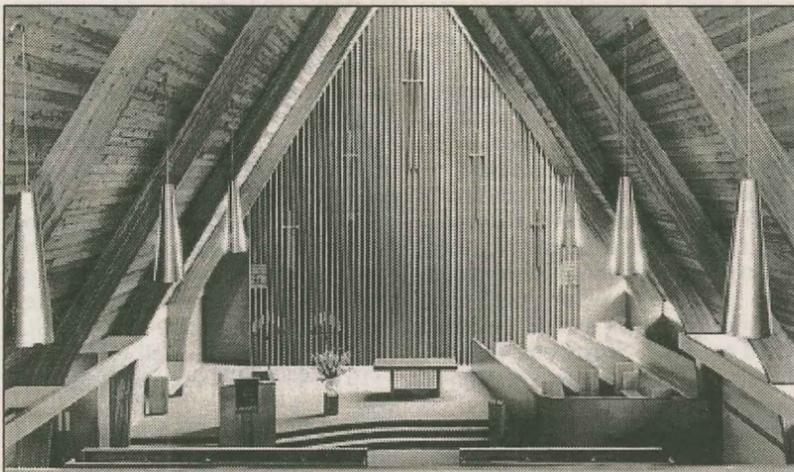
Since he'd been to thousands of evangelical services by that time in his life, he decided he'd heard enough sermons.

He chose to make Kitsilano a kind of mission field, a hip version of the Congo in which his parents once reached out with the gospel to those in need.

So every Sunday for more than a decade he has been walking through the neighborhood. He prays in front of homes and buildings where he senses the often-young inhabitants might be in need of help. He hangs out in coffee shops, where he'll chat with people.

"I don't believe in Bible-thumping. It's just a sharing of my beliefs," he says, calling what he does "pre-evangelization."

**WILL WILDING** Once counted among the busiest church architects and hippest evangelists in North America, Will Wilding—pictured here at a recent exhibit of his work at Regent College in Vancouver—insists his reduced circumstances do not constitute failure. (Regent College photos)



**SACRED SPACE** The interior of Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church in Vancouver demonstrates the distinctive alpine structure and generous use of natural wood architect Will Wilding used in designing many churches in the Pacific Northwest. There is a relaxed, casual and uplifting feeling to his buildings, much like there is to the man.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ The upcoming "Prayer for Budapest" emphasis in May. Missionaries are seeking 500 people around the world who will pray for the capital city of Hungary.

■ "E," a Bulgarian Christian who is working among Bulgarian Muslims. Pray for her safety as she often travels alone to Muslim villages. Pray for her family, who are not Christians.

■ Missionaries in Belgium as they work to start home churches, Bible study cell groups and discipleship training.

■ Jack and Pam Malone, International Service Corps workers in France, as they seek wisdom and discernment in leading seminars for business people.

■ Give thanks with the missionaries who form the Marina Baxi Team in Spain as they have opportunities to minister to people from across Europe who vacation and retire in their area.

■ Susan Garbiso, a Mission Service Corp volunteer who ministers to international business people and diplomats in Boston.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church called **Dwain and Michelle Rogers** to serve on church staff. He will be minister of music and associate minister and she will be minister of education, youth and children.

■ **BETHLEHEM**—Bethlehem Church will host Lebanon Church in "Hands For Christ" May 4, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 747-8724.

■ **BUFFALO**—Buffalo Church will conclude its celebration of 125 years of ministry May 1. For information, call (270) 325-3820.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church called **Kevin Roberts** as pastor.

■ **Bob Martin**, director of missions for Little River Association, will retire effective Sept. 30.

■ **CORBIN**—**Bart Powers** recently resigned as pastor of Bethlehem Church.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church ordained **Lance Akridge** and **Heath Carlton** as deacons April 9. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Zion Church will host a "Ladies Spring Luncheon," May 10 at noon with **Kathy Blume** of Anderson, Ind., as guest speaker.

■ **KEVIL**—The Women on Mission of First Church recently coordinated a second "Mile of Pennies" collection for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

■ **LONDON**—Antioch Church recently ordained **Danny Fore** to the gospel ministry.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Audubon Church called **Brian Jones** as minister to students. **Dan Cromer** is interim pastor.

Gethsemane Church will hold spring revival services May 11-14, with **Bob Morrison** as speaker and special music by the **Dixie Melody Boys**. For information, call (502) 969-3191. **Robert Wright** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Emmanuel Church called **Kevin Cravens** as minister of music and **David Brown** as minister of youth.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church recently honored **Marvin and Pauline Crenshaw** on their 70th wedding anniversary.

■ **ROCKHOLDS**—**Harold Miracle** recently resigned as pastor of Goldbug Church.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church's sanctuary.

### What's going on?

Send your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@ntr.net.

## Longtime Clear Creek prof dies

**PINEVILLE**—Jackson Ramsey Robertson Sr., a retired professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, died April 15 in Birmingham, Ala., at age 87.

Robertson, a Baptist minister and professor for more than 50 years, was pastor of Fredonia Baptist Church and Lynch Baptist Church as well as several churches in Alabama.

A radio producer and announcer in the 1930s and 1940s, he later helped write and produce The Baptist Hour as associate director of the former Southern Baptist Radio Commission in Atlanta.

Robertson joined the faculty of

Clear Creek in 1977, teaching systematic theology and Baptist doctrine. He was named the first occupant of Clear Creek's L.C. Kelly Chair of Biblical Interpretation in 1987 and was named a distinguished professor in 1996.

Robertson "was a valuable part of our faculty," said Clear Creek President Bill Whittaker. "He had a heart for our ministry and for students."

Robertson was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Mary Jeanette Ziegler Robertson. He is survived by one son and two daughters.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Jackson Robertson Endowment Fund at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

## NAMB seeks 1 million people to pray

**ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)**—Under the banner of "One in a Million," the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board is seeking 1 million people to pray regularly for personal repentance, personal revival and national spiritual awakening.

"One in a Million is not a program," said John Yarbrough, NAMB's vice president for evangelism. "It is an invitation to join thousands of others with a passion to see a mighty movement of God sweep across North America. It is a call to repentance. Repentance always precedes revival."

The effort is in preparation for

"What Now?" a denominational strategy for evangelism and spiritual awakening in 2005. One in a Million also dovetails with the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative as well as NAMB's Great Commission Prayer Strategy for churches, said Chris Schofield, NAMB's director of prayer evangelism.

Participation in One in a Million begins with registration by phone at (770) 410-6333 or through the [www.namb.net/prayer](http://www.namb.net/prayer) site. Weekly updates provide information to help guide personal prayer efforts. Resources also are available to help enlist others in the prayer effort.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT:** Christian-owned beachfront condo just west of Panama City, Fla. Sleeps four; pool; tennis; shuffleboard; basketball; No smoking. Spring and summer dates available. Call (800) 874-8823 and request unit B2-308.

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

**FOR SALE:** Five-piece cherry sleigh bedroom suite: bed, dresser, mirror, chest, ns. Brand new—still in boxes. Sell \$945. Call (502) 664-3781.

**FOR SALE:** King-size pillow-top mattress set with warranty. New—in plastic. Sell \$245. Can deliver. (502) 345-8934.

**FOR SALE:** Brand new Queen-size pillow-top mattress and box; still in original plastic. Must go for \$150. (502) 664-3781.

**SEEKING:** Church pianist for Sunday morning and Wednesday night services. Harrods Creek Baptist Church, Crestwood, Ky. Call (502) 228-1462.

**SEEKING:** Full-time multiple ministries director, Richland Southern, East Peoria. Involves children's, youth and part-time collegiate outreach ministries. Training provided for collegiate ministries by IBSA Collegiate Ministries Division. Send resumés to: Richland Southern Baptist Church, 2022 Springfield Road, East Peoria, IL 61611, or contact Pastor Gary England by e-mail at [genland@quixnet.net](mailto:genland@quixnet.net). Check church Web site at [www.richlandchurch.com](http://www.richlandchurch.com).

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Westport Road Baptist Church. Kindly send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Westport Road Baptist Church, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor, Guthrie Baptist Church, Guthrie, Ky. (Todd County). Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 447, Guthrie, KY 42234, Attn: Bert Covington, Jr., or call (270) 483-2262.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister to give spiritual leadership to a growing youth program. Education and experience are a plus, but calling, a vibrant relationship with Jesus, and a love for middle school and high school students is a must. We are a purpose-driven, seeker-sensitive, decidedly contemporary church located in Owensboro. If interested in this position, please send your resumé, references and a brief description of your conversion, calling and interest in this position to: Youth Minister, PO Box 22302, Owensboro, KY 42304.

**SEEKING:** Reidland Baptist Church is prayerfully receiving resumés for the full-time position of minister of youth and activities. RBC has an average attendance of 325-350 in morning worship and 275 in Sunday school. We are looking for a dynamic leader for approximately 80 7th-12th grade students. Our facilities include a gym and youth activity center. Salary package is based on education and experience. Seminary/Baptist college graduate preferred. Send resumé to: Reidland Baptist Church, 5559 Benton Road, Paducah, KY 42003, or e-mail [rbclewis@bellsouth.net](mailto:rbclewis@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Samaria Missionary Baptist Church in Albion, a small rural community of 2,000 in southeast Illinois. Send resumé to: Search Committee, c/o Gene Brock, RR #1, Box 105, Albion, IL 62806, or e-mail to [Brocks4@shawneeling.com](mailto:Brocks4@shawneeling.com) or [Leesmom281@hotmail.com](mailto:Leesmom281@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Friendship Baptist Church is prayerfully receiving and reviewing resumés for a bivocational pastor. Pastoral experience in a Southern Baptist-related ministry is preferred. Position would require candidate to live in a reasonable proximity to Campbellsville, Ky., and parsonage is available on church grounds. Interested individuals should send resumé and references to: Pastoral Search Committee, Friendship Baptist Church, 5411 Bengal Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718. Video and/or audio tapes are welcome, if available.

**SEEKING:** Westwood Baptist Church, a CBF-affiliated church in Springfield, Va., seeks applicants for the position of associate pastor/minister with youth and children. Candidates should have a degree from an accredited seminary, relevant experience in this ministry field and a genuine love for youth and children. Resumés should be submitted to: PSC, Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for purpose-driven Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Friendship Baptist Church, PO Box 1008, Plainfield, IL 60544. Visit our Web site at: [www.umatter2God.org](http://www.umatter2God.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for conservative Southern Baptist church located in foothills of Appalachia. Resumés, references, audio or video to be sent to: Search Committee, PO Box 321, West Liberty, KY 41472.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of children for Tunnel Hill Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Terry Caudoin.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth for Tunnel Hill Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Terry Caudoin.

**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:** 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 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. Call (606) 436-4716 or 439-3928 for more information.

**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](http://www.covenantphoneservice.com). Home agents needed.

## Legislator says church-state issues worth the risk to defend

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Defending the separation of church and state might be politically risky, but it's one of the most important matters facing lawmakers, a Texas congressman said recently.

Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, offered that assessment when he received the 2003 Associated Baptist Press Religious Freedom Award April 10 at the Freedom Forum in suburban Washington, D.C. The award is presented annually to a person whom ABP's board of directors cites as making significant contributions to the defense and advancement of religious liberty.

In accepting the award, Edwards said that any political price paid by elected officials who defend the separation of church and state pales in comparison to the imprisonment and torture endured by Baptists in Virginia during the Revolutionary War era.

Edwards expressed appreciation to those who taught him the importance of church-state separation as an essential corollary to religious liberty. He cited specifically Herb Reynolds, former president of Baylor University, who introduced Edwards to a sermon on religious liberty by George Truett.

"Why should it be difficult politically to fight for an ideal that is embedded in the first 16 words of the First Amendment?" Edwards asked.

The first reason some lawmakers find defense of church-state separation politically risky is that the concept is so greatly misunderstood, he suggested.

Edwards recalled one elderly constituent who told him that separation of church and state was in the Constitution of the Soviet Union, not the United States. He said he didn't have the heart to correct her publicly.

Legislators often fail to defend separation of church and state because they want to avoid being labeled as opponents of religion, he noted. "The challenge we face is the same one faced in the days of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. Elected officials fear being perceived as anti-religious," Edwards said.

Televized attack ads distorting the records of some elected officials have silenced the voices of some who might otherwise have defended church-state separation, he said.

Edwards, who described himself as a "Texas Aggie Methodist" and the husband of a Baptist preacher's daughter, added, "I think congressmen should live by the Ten Commandments more and preach about them less from the floor of the Capitol."

## Did sermons matter to accused exec?

### HealthSouth CEO charged with fraud donated to church

By Greg Garrison  
Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—HealthSouth Corp. founder Richard Scrushy, accused by federal investigators of overseeing massive accounting fraud, sat through many Sunday sermons on corporate ethics and the hazards of wealth, according to his pastor, William Elder.

"Richard has been a part of our church and has heard and responded to strong messages about biblical ethics," said Elder, pastor of Mountain-Top Community Church in the affluent Birmingham suburb of Vestavia Hills.

Scrushy has attended services there for six years with his third wife, Leslie, and as many as five of his eight children. "They're at church when they're in town most of the time," Elder said.

Scrushy donated \$600,000 toward construction of the church's \$11.5 million new building. The ousted chief executive of the nation's largest chain of rehabilitation hospitals has kept a low profile in recent weeks and has missed worship services since being accused of accounting fraud. But the church supports him, Elder said.

"We are trying to reach out to him every way we can," Elder said. "God does incredible things with repentance and brokenness."

The Securities and Exchange Commission has filed a federal lawsuit accusing Scrushy of insider trading and inflating profits by \$1.4 billion to prop up the value of the stock he sold. One of eight former HealthSouth executives who has pleaded guilty so far told investigators of an-

other \$1.1 billion in false profit claims. The federal accusations of fraud at HealthSouth have again raised the issue of a lack of corporate ethics in America. No criminal charges have been brought against Scrushy, but a grand jury is investigating.

#### Too great a temptation?

The temptation to abandon integrity and long-term business stability in favor of short-term profit runs rampant in corporate America, say business ethics experts.

"Nobody usually starts off trying to defraud," said Rick Boxx, founder of Integrity Resource Center in Kansas City, Mo. "It's usually a small step at first, then once they get away with it, it expands."

Unethical executive behavior has been blamed for scandals at Adelphia, Enron, HealthSouth, Tyco and WorldCom.

Elder said he hopes Scrushy didn't do what he's accused of—insider trading and faking \$2.5 billion in profits.

"We don't know that he did anything wrong," Elder said. "That remains to be seen. If he did do something wrong, that indicates that he is a sinner, just as we are. We try to walk with sinners. We are a church that loves sinners and hates the sin."

Scrushy spread some of his wealth through charitable donations.

At a fund-raising service for its building project in 2000, Mountain-Top Church was stunned to find a \$600,000 pledge from Scrushy.

The Richard M. Scrushy Foundation, which listed assets of nearly \$13 million at the end of 2001, also contributed \$250,000 to Briarwood Christian School, among many other charitable donations.

"We're always concerned where money comes from and where it goes," said Harry Reeder III, pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church. "You have to deal with what you know at the time you receive it."

The money went toward the school's building expansion fund. With what it knows now, the school would not accept a donation possibly tainted by corporate fraud, Reeder said. He said his congregation includes people who lost jobs at HealthSouth, stockholders and retirees who have been affected by the scandal. "In a town like this, it really reverberates."

#### A new view of success

Reeder said executives must get beyond viewing success in terms of profit and loss.

"There has to be a higher virtue of how we judge success corporately," he said. "I disciple our businessmen and (business) women to conduct themselves with biblical integrity to do not what's allowable, but do what's right ethically."

Scrushy lived in grandeur with multiple mansions, yachts and a fleet of airplanes as one of the nation's highest-paid executives. He had made \$169 million in salary, bonuses and exercised options since 1992, taking home \$106.8 million in 1997, ranking him as Business Week's third-highest paid U.S. executive.

"Scripturally, it's pretty clear there are lots of temptations that come along with life," Elder said. "Many times those temptations get worse with success."

Another noted executive, Enron CEO Kenneth Lay, son of a Baptist minister and a member of the board of trustees at First United Methodist Church in Houston, had his church-going ridiculed by comedians after the Enron scandal broke.

Elder said he preached often on the dangers of wealth with Scrushy in the congregation.

"We talk a lot about ethics in the workplace and stewardship," Elder said. "Richard has heard messages on the rich young ruler, the Good Samaritan, the prodigal son. He always responds positively."

**"Richard has heard messages on the rich young ruler, the Good Samaritan, the prodigal son."**

*William Elder, pastor of HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy*

## Humanist manifesto rejects idea of God at work

By Kevin Eckstrom  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Thirty years after rejecting the idea that there is a God who needs to save humanity, the nation's largest Humanist group said that humans' ethical behavior alone will dictate the future of the world.

The American Humanist Association on April 21 released Humanist Manifesto III, the group's third major statement since 1933. The document was signed by 19 Nobel laureates and 57 other intellectuals, including novelist Kurt Vonnegut and filmmaker Oliver Stone.

"The responsibility for our lives and the kind of world in which we live is ours and ours alone," the one-page document says.

In releasing the statement, AHA leaders said they hoped to revive the group's philosophy for the 21st century and serve as a counterweight to the Bush administration's embrace of religious rhetoric.

"A new embrace of Humanistic

reason is needed to hold back this assault on our protections and prevent us from going down a path toward theocratic despotism," said the AHA's Roy Speckhardt.

Humanists from both the AHA and the Council for Secular Humanism have raised their profile in recent months, lobbying against Bush's "faith-based initiative" and supporting the removal of "one nation under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony Hileman, AHA's executive director, said Humanists do not quibble with Bush's public or private embrace of faith, but grow nervous when the White House seems to link godliness with patriotism.

Maddy Urken, who helped draft the new manifesto, said the "current administration has created a climate that further excludes minority faiths, philosophies and lifestyles by consistently imposing its own."

Unlike atheists, who say there is no God, and agnostics, who aren't quite sure, Humanists believe that people are called to ethical living "without supernatural assistance from a god,

gods or goddesses or an impersonal mystical force."

In many ways, the new manifesto does not break new ground and is far less specific than the group's last document issued in 1973, which called for sexual equality, environmental protection and euthanasia rights.

The 1973 statement called belief in a prayer-answering God "unproved and outmoded" and said it offers "false hopes of heaven hereafter." The new statement barely mentions any kind of deity, and said Humanists are "concerned for the well-being of all, are committed to diversity and respect those of differing yet humane views."

Hileman said it is not enough simply to not believe in God. Humanists are called to take that unbelief and build their own ethical support system based on "deeply held values," he said.

"It's not necessary to reject the possibility (of the existence of God)," he said. "But Humanists are highly skeptical of that and would seek confirmation before we allow that to direct how we live our lives."

**"The responsibility for our lives and the kind of world in which we live is ours and ours alone."**

*From the recently released Humanist Manifesto III*

How's your vision?

**E  
VE  
RY W  
EEK THE  
WESTERN R  
ECORDER HELPS  
BAPTISTS IN KENTUCKY**

**RENEW THEIR VISION FOR EVANGE  
LISM, MISSIONS, WORSHIP, STEWARDSHIP, MINISTRY  
AND A HOST OF OTHER TOPICS THAT ARE IMPORANT TO YOUR  
CHURCH. ADD TO THIS OUR ABILITY TO PUT YOUR NEWSLETTER ON OUR PAG  
ES AND IT'S EASY TO SEE HOW THE WESTERN RECORDER IS YOUR PRESCRIPTION FOR CO  
MMUNICATIONS SUCCESS. TO GET MORE INFORMATION (WITHOUT HAVING TO BOTHER WITH THE FINE PRINT),  
TALK TO WESTERN RECORDER MARKETING SPECIALIST MAURI SMITH AT (888) 254-5728 OR THROUGH E-MAIL AT [mauri.smith@kybaptist.org](mailto:mauri.smith@kybaptist.org).**

 PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
**WESTERN RECORDER**