

May 6, 2003  
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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, May 7

## Corbin Baptists fight referendum on alcohol sales

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

CORBIN—During the next two weeks, Citizens for Corbin plans to accelerate its campaign to defeat a May 20 referendum that would permit restaurant liquor sales in this town of 8,000 residents.

The effort includes advertisements, public service announcements, brochures, yard signs and a billboard just off Interstate 75.

A combination patriotic and get-out-the-vote rally will be held the weekend before the election, according to publicity chairman Joe Samples.

Samples is one of several Kentucky Baptists playing key roles in the battle against alcohol legalization.

Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church, chairs the citizens committee. He said the keys to defeating the initiative will be church members taking a stand, coupled with a large senior citizens turnout.

"We are saying, 'Our community is good the way it is, so it makes sense to keep Corbin dry,'" said Samples, pastor of Greenland Baptist Church. "Proponents say bringing in alcohol will make the community a lot of money, when we find that it won't. It will cost the community money. The gains don't outweigh the costs."

The measure to be voted on May 20 would permit individual beer and liquor sales "by the drink" at restaurants that have seating for at least 100 patrons and that derive at least 75 percent of their sales from food.

But opponents said they fear that will be only the first step. Samples said he fears that would be followed by legalizing alcohol package stores and alcohol sales at grocery stores.

In addition, Greenland's pastor said it is likely that caterers at parties held during the town's community-wide festival each summer will be permitted to serve alcohol to guests.

"Our question is: Who's going to regulate it?" Samples said. "Right now Corbin is a family-friendly community where people can feel safe. Alcohol will affect that. It will no longer be the same community."

While no group has publicly supported the measure, Corbin Mayor Scott Williamson said he's confident that a group of investors is behind it.

Samples said Williamson has spoken out in favor of the initiative, but the mayor angrily denied that claim.

□ See *Corbin Baptists ...*, page 3

## Kentuckians stay alert on mission field

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Since the war in Iraq began in March, Southern Baptist missionaries in a region of Africa dominated by Muslims have faced increased strains in daily life.

Altering their routines, they vary travel times and destinations.

They avoid popular restaurants that might be tied to Western governments.

Some stay inside for days at a stretch.

All have been briefed on possible evacuation plans.

The heightened tensions have forced missionaries to stay in closer contact, said "Nick Johnson," a pseudonym for a Kentucky Baptist who has been on the mission field for 20 years.

"We know where everyone is 24-7," he said. "We encourage them

to keep their heads down and their hearts up. I need to stay accessible by phone and e-mail and be near an airport.

"But missionaries are still looking for opportunities to share their faith in Christ," Johnson added. "In the Gulf II crisis, people are still hungry, naked and need shelter. We're still doing what Christ called us to do in culturally appropriate ways."

While he doesn't dwell on the war, it's on the veteran missionary's mind a lot because he and his wife serve and mentor hundreds of people in the midst of danger.

Johnson doesn't hide any details of their experiences from relatives or their home church. Without the understanding of those who are supporting them through prayer and contributions, it is difficult to fulfill God's call,

he said.

"When you're in a crisis situation, what is needed is more information, not less," Johnson said. "If some of us face persecution and have to walk through death, then family members can articulate why we did what we did."

Elsewhere, other Kentucky Baptists who will soon return to other nations expect to encounter challenges because of war.

Robert Davis, bound for Uganda in late May with his wife and their three children, said a small group of militant Muslims in that eastern Africa nation have provoked trouble since Sept. 11, 2001.

Some rob tourists; occasionally they kidnap pastors, releasing them a day or two later with a warning not to return to that village.

Such animosity increased after the Sept. 11 attacks in America, Davis

□ See *Kentucky missionaries ...*, page 9

## SARS & Baptists



**FUMIGATED CHURCH** A municipal health worker fumigates a church where the wedding of a SARS patient was held last month in the western Indian city of Pune. As of last week, the bride was in hospital isolation while the groom is in quarantine in his house. Baptist missionaries and ministers from Hong Kong to Toronto have been affected by the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. (RNS/Reuters photo by Arko Datta)

## Disease changing schedules and customs

Bob Allen  
Baptist Center for Ethics

NASHVILLE—Health officials say severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is here to stay, and Baptists are among those coping in high-outbreak areas.

"It is difficult knowing what to think about the current situation in Hong Kong," John Gravley, an American Baptist missionary there, wrote in an on-line journal on a mission Web site.

The World Health Organization

last week reported 17 new cases and six more deaths in Hong Kong. To date, 1,527 cases have been diagnosed in Hong Kong, and 121 people there have died from the disease.

In a city of nearly 7 million people, Gravley said, the odds of catching SARS are statistically low, but people have little information, are afraid and don't know what to do.

"People are advised to avoid crowds, so I wondered how many people would be at church," he wrote. "I was somewhat surprised to see a big crowd. Of course, over half of the peo-

ple wore surgical masks. The worship leader used a sterile wipe to clean the microphone after each person spoke. And when it was time to share the Lord's Supper, I had to wear a mask and latex gloves."

Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary has canceled all activities except normal classes and chapel services. Professors and students were asked to wear masks while on campus and to keep doors and windows open for ventilation.

The Baptist World Alliance post-

□ See *SARS forces Baptists ...*, page 10

## Baptist groups in U.S. sending aid to Iraq

DALLAS (ABP)—A crew of Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States will soon take the gift of pure water to Iraq, and other Baptist groups are providing relief and re-development help to the war-ravaged Iraqi people.

A nine-member team of volunteers from several states will assemble water purification units and train Iraqis how to use them. Five water purification units, provided through Southern Baptist gifts, already have been crated and shipped to the region by volunteers in the Houston area. Another five units are scheduled for shipment in the immediate future.

"We will be in southern Iraq working in remote areas away from the cities," said Dick Talley, logistics coordinator for Texas Baptist Men. "We'll be purifying water in rural areas along the Euphrates River."

Meanwhile, Southern Baptists are continuing to collect food boxes for

needy families in Iraq. For less than \$60, a church can fill a box with 70 pounds of dry food that will feed an Iraqi family of five for about a month, according to representatives of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Other Baptist groups also are providing aid. Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, has provided \$5,000 to the Jordan Baptist Convention for relief among Iraqi refugees, and it has given an additional \$5,000 grant to a network of Middle Eastern churches providing relief.

National Woman's Missionary Union and the WMU Foundation announced April 30 that the organizations had awarded a \$2,500 grant to BWAid to help fund relief efforts in Iraq. The grant comes from WMU's HEART (Humanitarian Emergency Aid for Rebuilding the Tomorrow) Fund, established in the wake of the Sept.

11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"At this time of war, uncertainty and fear, it is more important than ever that Christians provide help to the people of Iraq forced from their homes during the war," said Wanda Lee, national WMU executive director. "Helping with relief efforts is an excellent way for Baptists in America to demonstrate God's love for all people."

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is exploring a partnership with the Jordanian Evangelical Committee for Relief and Development, and plans to work among the Kurdish people of northern Iraq once the U.S. military grants clearance.

"We have not placed volunteers yet but plan to look for appropriate ways for them to be engaged, such as training medical staff at several Iraqi universities," said David Harding, CBF coordinator for emergency response.

## Alliance of Baptists votes to foster ties with two other denominations

VIENNA, Va. (RNS)—The Alliance of Baptists has approved a proposed ecumenical agreement with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that would foster greater cooperation among the groups' leaders, congregations and seminaries.

Alliance Executive Director Stan Hastey urged the approval in a vote just before the April 25.

"We have a historic opportunity to give living testimony to our mutual commitment to the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer, 'that they may all be one,'" he said, addressing about 200 participants at his group's annual convocation at Vienna Baptist Church.

The proposal still must be approved by the other bodies when they meet later this year.

The Alliance, meeting for its 17th convocation, grew out of a protest of

the conservative leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hastey said the Alliance has been in dialogue with the United Church of Christ for six years. The Disciples joined the conversation two years ago.

"This proposed ecumenical agreement was not something dreamed up by the participants," Hastey said. "Rather it came up from local settings in which UCC, Disciples and Alliance people began to find each other and explore the possibility of a joint Christian witness in their communities."

He cited examples of a Florida congregation formed from the merger of a Baptist church and a UCC church and the creation of a Baptist studies program jointly supported by the Disciples and the Alliance at the Disciples-affiliated Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas.

## Mohler marks first decade as SBTS president

By Jeff Robinson  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—A true theological institution is built upon an indestructible foundation of the absolute truth of God's Word, Al Mohler told Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees April 22 in marking his 10th anniversary as president of the seminary.

There currently are two models of theological education, one that holds to the inspiration and authority of Scripture and one that rejects it in deference to the wisdom of the world, Mohler said, addressing the annual spring meeting of the trustee board. Southern stands boldly upon the authority of Scripture, he added.

Mohler identified six non-negotiable blocks upon which a true theological institution must build: truth, theology, trust, testimony of Scripture and the task of ministry assigned to the church with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone.

Southern Seminary's executive cabinet presented Mohler with a rare 1641 edition of "Foxe's Book of Martyrs." Trustees gave Mohler a 1608 Geneva Bible and presented the Mohler family with a trip to Europe.

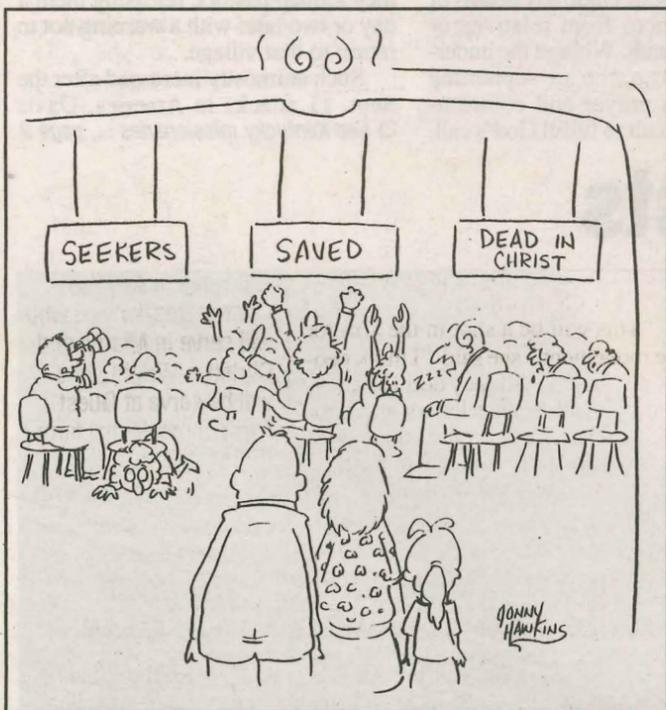
"These have been the most incredible 10 years of my life," Mohler said. "And if I had to do it all over again, I would. I'm not sure I could have said that at every single point, but that is honest. But on the other side, it is sheer grace and I believe and pray and fervently hope it is to God's glory that this institution is what it is."

In seminary business: trustees approved a \$25.4 million budget for 2003-04, representing an 8.8 percent increase.

The board granted tenure to three faculty members. Charles Lawless was elected associate professor of evangelism and church growth. George Martin was elected professor of Christian missions. Both have served as professors for several years in the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Seminary.

The board also elected Robert Vogel as professor of Christian preaching. He currently serves at Western Seminary in Portland, Ore., and will join the Southern faculty in the fall.

Mohler announced the addition to the faculty of Ken Fentress as assistant professor of Old Testament. Fentress, currently pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Lisbon, Md., will join the faculty in the fall.



## BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Church dismissed over gay issue.** A Baptist association in North Carolina withdrew fellowship last week from one of its founding churches for baptizing two men believed to be practicing homosexuals. Messengers to Cabarrus Baptist Association voted 250-11 to dismiss McGill Baptist Church in Concord, N.C. Randy Wadford, director of missions, said the issue was "lifestyle," not "fundamentalism." He noted that "no one in this building had a problem with homosexuals who would have come and joined any of our churches if the lifestyle had changed." McGill Pastor Steven Ayers said the congregation would not ask people their sexual preference before allowing them to join the church. "I'm not their judge," he said, "but I can tell you the people who joined our church are living a very Christlike lifestyle." The two men, who were baptized in March, reportedly are living together.

■ **Henderson to lead Hawaii convention.** Veryl Henderson was elected executive director of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist

Convention April 19. Henderson, who will begin his new duties in June, currently is director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention's church planting division. He previously served more than 25 years in Hawaii as pastoral missionary of three congregations, 2nd in convention leadership. He succeeds O.W. Efurd who retired March 31.

■ **ERLC expands Washington focus.** The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is reallocating more of its resources to its work in Washington, D.C. Barrett Duke, the ERLC's vice president for research, is now leading the commission's public policy division in Washington, ERLC President Richard Land announced. The ERLC "has unprecedented opportunities at this time to impact our country's public policies," Land noted. He said the change will help the commission "fulfill our vision statement, which is: 'An American society that affirms and practices Judeo-Christian values rooted in biblical authority.'" Duke, an

ERLC staff member since 1997, has served as vice president for research since 1999.

■ **MissionsFEST impacts New Orleans.** Nearly 150 volunteers from Kentucky and 10 other states gathered recently in New Orleans for a weeklong MissionsFEST sponsored by national Woman's Missionary Union. Workers tutored elementary students, prayerwalked, worked at homeless shelters, did repair work at Baptist centers, helped with church construction and hosted a block party. Additional MissionsFEST projects this summer will be in Cincinnati; Rochester, N.Y.; and San Antonio, Texas. For information, visit [www.wmu.com](http://www.wmu.com) or call (205) 991-4097.

■ **VBS Day of Prayer set for May 18.** LifeWay Christian Resources has set May 18 as a day of prayer for vacation Bible school. VBS statistics for 2001 indicate more than 3.2 million participants enrolled in vacation Bible schools held at 28,180 churches. More than 100,000 individuals reportedly made public decisions to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

## Corbin Baptists fight referendum on alcohol sales

Continued from page 1

"All I've tried to do is lay out the information," Williamson said. "From an economic development impact, if you look at other cities that have passed it, it does have a favorable impact."

"I'm not taking a stand. Everyone has their own voice and a right to express their views in a private voting booth. It's become a witch hunt, and few people are going to speak out in favor of it."

Corbin is one of two Kentucky communities that could face liquor referendums this year. The other is in Western Kentucky, where a petition has been circulating that would support liquor sales throughout Lyon County.

A similar move in 1999 failed by a 56-44 percent vote. But in 2001 a measure to legalize restaurant liquor sales passed in Kuttawa, a town near Lake Barkley.

Even though the petition had not been filed with the county clerk by April 28, a group of church members have formed Citizens for a Better Way to oppose the potential measure.

Chairman Jimmy Duff, a member of Second Baptist Church of Eddyville, said the economic boom that alcohol advocates promised hasn't materialized in Kuttawa.

"I'm just going to tell them the facts, that drinking is not good for anybody," Duff said. "Not as a person, a community or a state."

Howard Beauman, director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, said many communities fail to realize that approving one form of liquor sales often opens the door to additional options.

For example, he said, Mount Washington voters previously approved the sale of liquor in package stores, and now the city council is looking at permitting alcohol sales in restaurants.

In addition, last year in Danville voters OK'd restaurant sales, but the question of whether liquor could be sold on Sunday had to be resolved by city council.

"The question came up right after the election, but people didn't expect that," Beauman said. "Fortunately, the council voted not to have Sunday sales."

In Corbin, Gaddis said people should remember the historical reason the town halted liquor sales: its experience after Prohibition ended in 1933.

"Our church sits two blocks off Depot Street," Gaddis said. "There was a time when Depot was known as 'Saloon Row.' It got to be a rough place," Gaddis said. "Our big concern is not just these restaurants. We're afraid of the bars coming in."

## Cal Thomas recruits for abortion fight

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Cal Thomas believes the double murder charge facing the husband of a slain California woman demonstrates the illogical nature of America's abortion laws.

Speaking April 25 to the annual banquet of Right to Life of Louisville, the nationally-syndicated columnist noted that Scott Peterson is accused of killing both his wife and their unborn child.

But if victim Laci Peterson had sought to terminate her pregnancy at an abortion clinic, state law would call that permissible, the political commentator said.

Both California and Minnesota's supreme courts have ruled fetal homicide differs from abortion because it involves destruction of a fetus without the woman's consent, Thomas said.

"This stretches logic and credibility to a breaking point," he said. "This just boggles the mind. There is no change in the status of the child, it is only the intent that matters. ... Maybe I ought to go to a fortune teller. Maybe they have more insight on this than I do."

Nor are such policies the end of the road, said Thomas, whose column is syndicated to about 530 newspapers, including eight in Kentucky.

### Linking abortion, euthanasia

Five years after abortion was legalized, Dr. Everett Koop and theologian Francis Schaeffer warned that once abortion gained a foothold, it

would be followed by infanticide and euthanasia.

While many Christians considered them alarmists, partial birth abortion demonstrates the existence of the first, Thomas said.

He predicted that euthanasia will appear as "Baby Boomers" retire, increasing financial pressures on the nation's Social Security system.

"It certainly followed in the Netherlands and it's coming quickly here," Thomas said.

"The great irony is that as the pressure builds for euthanasia in this country, the generation that gave us abortion is going to be faced by their own children, who will make them subject to the threat of euthanasia," he said. "Talk about what goes around comes around."

Although legal abortion is 30 years old, the columnist said he fears the battle over it will continue much longer.

Thomas said the basic struggle is one for information, with women often denied the truth about alternatives to abortion and the life they are carrying.

Thomas said women receive more federally-mandated information about groceries, bank loans and car purchases than life in the womb.

"If we can have truth in labeling, lending and a sticker at the automobile dealer, why can't we have truth about unborn life?" he asked. "What do we have to fear from giving women more information?"

He said the nation has reached this stage because of society's failure to recognize humans as unique creatures, created in the image and likeness of an infinite, personal God

Who loves them, knew them in their mother's womb and has a plan for their lives.

Quoting from a national proclamation written by Abraham Lincoln in the midst of the Civil War, Thomas recalled how the 16th president called for citizens to acknowledge their dependence on God, humble themselves and pray for forgiveness.

"This is the way back," he said. "The problem is not going to be solved in Washington, D.C. (They) will be the last place to get it. Washington is merely a reflection of the soul of the nation."

### A call to get involved

At the conclusion of his talk, the Washington-area resident encouraged the audience to get involved in the battle by signing up as members.

Margie Montgomery, executive director of Kentucky Right to Life, said about 50 people responded to Thomas' call for listeners to join or renew their membership in the Kentucky organization.

Montgomery said Thomas' speech instilled a vital sense of unity in the right to life community.

While there was no action on any right-to-life concerns in this year's state legislature, Montgomery said she's excited about predictions that Congress soon might pass a ban on partial birth abortion.

"This will be a shot in the arm for the movement," she said. "I think people get frustrated if they don't see anything passed despite letters and petitions. When I think of all the names signed on petitions in recent years, it will be nice to put something behind us and say, 'We have this.'"

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Georgetown College recently became a member institution of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. The honor will allow Georgetown to recruit and recognize outstanding students, officials said. "I'm excited that we have climbed the second step of honorary organizations that we need membership in to have true academic credibility," said President Bill Crouch. The first was Omicron Delta Kappa, a student honorary organization; the next step would be Phi Beta Kappa.

**Correction:** Kentucky Baptist Fellowship commissioned four college students as summer missionaries during their spring meeting April 25. They are: Shemeka Gill and Amanda Shearer, who will serve in Angola; Chriten Roszkowski who will serve in Miami; and Christina Wright, who will serve at Quest Farm, a residential farm for mentally disabled adults near Georgetown.

## Western Recorder staff recognized with BCA writing and design awards

SAN DIEGO—The Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children earned four national awards during the recent Baptist Communicators Association annual workshop.

The Western Recorder staff earned two first-place and one second-place awards in the organization's annual Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition. KBHC received one first-place honor.

BCA is the professional organization for Baptist communicators throughout the nation. The awards ceremony was part of BCA's April 24-26 workshop in San Diego.

The Western Recorder staff was awarded first place in design among state Baptist papers that publish up to two colors.

This marks the third time in four years the Recorder has been honored in that category.

Editor Trennis Henderson, News Director David Winfrey and State Correspondent Ken Walker earned first place for newspaper feature writing package for "Man on a Mission." The feature package highlighted the 2002 Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission.

Henderson received a second-place award for newspaper first-per-



son column for his editorial, "Finishing Well in the Midst of Adversity." The column was a personal tribute to his 22-year-old nephew, Brad Henderson, who died last fall of leukemia.

Vickie Grassman, director of communications for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, earned a first-place award for special materials for "Legacy for Children," a brochure highlighting KBHC's endowment campaign.

## Supreme Court declines to hear state's Ten Commandments Case

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court declined, without comment, to allow a challenge to a lower court ruling that barred the commonwealth of Kentucky from posting a Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the state capitol building in Frankfort.

Commonwealth Attorney General Ben Chandler argued the state should be allowed to place a six-foot-tall monument to the commandments in a prominent location on the statehouse lawn.

The monument originally had been donated to the state by the Fraternal Order of Eagles in 1971 and displayed in an inconspicuous location on the capitol grounds. It was removed in the 1980s during a construction project and never put back.

But the state legislature in 2000 passed a resolution to re-erect the monument in the new location.

The law directed the monument to be placed along other, non-religious commemorative artworks, and Chandler argued the display was meant as a larger tribute to the secular and religious forces contributing to the development of Kentucky's laws.

But the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, noting the monument depicted two tablets with a prominent inscription that began, "The Ten Commandments. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

State Sen. Albert Robinson, R-London, who sponsored the resolution, said he was disappointed the court did not hear the case, according to Associated Press.

"We will continue," Robinson said. "I consider it war, and I think they got the best in this battle but it ain't over. There are going to be constant battles until we are victorious."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## New leaders needed

Having been a Southern Baptist ever since I was saved some 53 years ago, I am devastated at what our mission boards are doing.

I have served churches in Kentucky and one in Tennessee. My wife and I have served with what is now the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. I have served on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board.

I grew up in Western Kentucky and under teachings that were almost Landmark, yet the Southern Baptist Convention always was given its proper place. Our mission offerings were always promoted.

The former Foreign Mission Board was presented as a sacred thing then. I am definitely glad I am not still on the foreign mission field. The way that (IMB president) Jerry Rankin and the board are doing the missionaries who have given their lives to help lead people to the Lord Jesus Christ is unthinkable.

The missionaries have proven over the years their accountability to Southern Baptists time and time again. To even think of forcing any Christian anywhere to sign that Baptist Faith and Message creed is beyond imagination—at least to most except the bigwigs at the IMB.

Every time I hear about the way this thing has gotten out of hand, I just about go to pieces over it. How can anyone prove accountability to the SBC family more than to complete all the requirements of service and then to serve away from family and friends on a foreign field?

Besides, the majority of Southern Baptists have not stated that they approve of this offensive statement. There was nowhere near half of the SBC members represented at the convention when this was voted on. Only those who have been politically involved in the takeover of our once wonderful convention were involved.

Lord God, please help us now! Give us new leadership in our mission boards.

Joe Pat Winchester  
Murray

## 'Courageous writing'

After reading two of your recent articles online (www.WesternRecorder.org), I want to commend you for your courageous writing regarding the heartbreaking developments at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The IMB leaders in Richmond, Va., are bringing to public culmination the issue of veteran Baptist missionaries who refuse to become non-Baptist by signing the creed known as the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

It has been a while since I have read your paper. I began reading the Western Recorder many years ago while I was a seminary student in Louisville. In congregational, denominational and Baptist higher education ministries in several states over the decades, I often saw the Recorder, but I had not been able to follow your editorship.

Your "Drop ultimatum and support missionaries" and "IMB missionaries facing dismissal reject call to resign" are in the gutsy tradition I recall from Chauncey Daley. With Baptist editors in several states forced into silence regarding the hostile takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention in order to hold their jobs, I am glad you are still able to report things as you see them. For decades, that was a hallmark of Baptist journalism.

As a longtime writer and sometimes editor in the old SBC, my more recent denominational writing has been for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Mainstream Baptists. Even in those presumably more open settings, some call it divisive to write about the divisions in Baptist life—a contemporary example of wanting to silence the messenger who bears an

unpleasant message.

Our prayers should undergird the soon-to-be former missionaries as they are relegated to second-class citizenship in the Baptist kingdom, along with ranks of former seminary professors, former editors, former leaders of SBC agencies and ministers and lay members no longer considered worthy to be trustees of state and SBC institutions.

Lawrence Webb  
Anderson, S.C.

## Keep speaking out

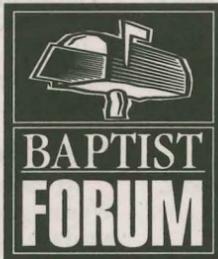
After reading your editorial opinion in the April 29 issue of the Western Recorder, I could not help but paraphrase Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:16 and say: "I continually give thanks to God that He has let you be editor of our Western Recorder and has given you the wisdom and courage to speak out on the issue of the International Mission Board requirement that missionaries be required to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement."

The fundamentalist leadership of our Southern Baptist Convention boards and agencies lost my support several years ago, and I fervently hope that this will open the eyes of other faithful Southern Baptists to the heavy-handed tactics of a group of people who believe that only they are right and everybody else is wrong.

Keep up the good work of reporting the news to Kentucky Baptists as it is and not a "one-sided, doctored-up version." Thanks for your level-headed and well-thought-out advice to Jerry Rankin and the IMB trustees concerning action that they could take in order to avoid untold hardship to a great many people and tremendous hurt to the work of advancing the Kingdom of God.

Continue to let your moderation (your being considerate of others, your humility, your spirit of sweet reasonableness and gentleness) be known to all men (Philippians 4:5).

Hal Shipley  
Murray



## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### In honor of godly mothers

The writer of Proverbs states that the value of a virtuous woman is priceless (Proverbs 31:10). On Mother's Day we recognize mothers in general and especially our own mothers.

I am filled with gratitude when I think about my mother. She spent her active life serving other people. No one came to her home without receiving an offer of food and no one left without a small gift. Frequently she baked cakes and delivered them to homebound people after she completed eight hours of production work. As homebound coordinator for her church, she delivered Sunday school literature, read the Bible and prayed with each person. She also would deliver their offering envelopes to the church.

As a younger leader of Girls In Action, she provided transportation for girls whose families did not attend

church. The girls often were guests in her home to enjoy baking, crafts and games. She planted a large garden to provide food throughout the year but also to make sure she had enough to share with others. She seemed to accomplish her work efficiently and effectively.

But what I treasure most is her dedication of me to the Lord before my birth. She had lost her first child by the "mysterious" crib death and it was devastating for her. Later she promised the Lord that she would dedicate her child to Him if she were able to conceive. She did not share that promise with me until I had surrendered to the call of God to vocational ministry. This promise and her prayers have had a great impact in my life.

After 37 years in full-time ministry as a pastor and denominational worker, I am also grateful for the

mother of our daughters and the multiple roles that my wife, Kay, has filled during these years. She is a wonderful mother for Anonda and Beth, a doting grandmother, a complement to me in ministry and a gifted speaker.

It has been a delightful experience to observe our daughters as they have become godly women and mothers themselves. Beth and her husband, Bartley, who live in Indian Trail, N.C., have given us a wonderful granddaughter, Lillian Grace. Lilly, who is 31 months old, is very active and anticipating the birth of a little brother.

Anonda and her husband, A.J., have provided us a big grandson. John William Nepa was born Dec. 18, 2002. He currently weighs in at 17 pounds and has grown to 26 inches. Kay and I plan to be at Anonda's church in the Philadelphia area for his dedication on May 11.

Please join me in the prayer that all mothers will have a powerful influence as godly women.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

### Are mutual funds right choice for your investments?

By Don Spencer

Trillions of dollars in our nation are invested through mutual funds. They have become one of America's most popular mediums for investing. Are mutual funds the right choice for your personal investments? Arguments can be made for and against mutual funds.

Advantages include:

■ **Diversification is at the heart of mutual fund investing.** Diversification greatly reduces the risks that come with owning just a few stocks or bonds. The average investor typically cannot own enough stocks to be adequately diversified. By investing in a single mutual fund, the investor generally is investing in many different companies.

■ **Professional management is readily available.** Few investors have the time or experience needed to manage personal investments on a regular basis.

■ **Mutual funds have high liquidity.** Liquidity is the ease with which an asset can be quickly bought or sold with relatively small price changes. Mutual fund shares may be acquired or liquidated quickly and easily.

■ **Mutual funds provide convenience.** It's like one-stop shopping. Funds generally provide many other features that make the investment process an easy one for the average investor.

Disadvantages include:

■ **Cost.** The median expense ratio for domestic equity funds is now around 1 percent. Many times it is higher. Doing your own stock investing through discount brokerages might reduce the cost.

■ **Professional management?** You might feel the cost is justified for experienced management. However, many of today's fund managers have limited experience. Few funds consistently beat market averages.

■ **Long-term investing.** Every text on investing teaches, "Invest for the long term." However, many popular funds turn over most of their portfolio during the course of a year.

■ **Taxes.** You have no control over mutual fund distributions. When the fund sells a stock, any gains realized become taxable to you in that year. If you buy your own stocks, you can control when you sell, thus deferring the tax on capital gains until a time of your choosing.

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



## Encourage teens to set goals, pursue positive relationships

**Q: As a concerned parent, what can I do to encourage my teenage daughter who seems to shrink back from friends and activities?**

Talk with your teen to find out why she is reticent to become involved. Perhaps she feels awkward in relating to others in social situations. Maybe she is afraid of failure in an activity or sport. It might be that you can help her work through some irrational thoughts that seem to be driving her anxiety. Examples of her concerns might include:

- I already should be skilled and accomplished before starting an activity or joining a team.

- I should be perfect and never make a mistake.

- Everybody's approval is necessary for me to be happy. Remind your daughter that we grow by taking risks. Encourage her to view the things that make her anxious as opportunities to grow. Help her set some goals that will be specific, attainable and measurable. As she reaches these, she will discover that competence builds confidence.

Examples of social and achievement goals might include:

- Smile at 10 people each day.

- Greet 10 people each day by name before they speak to you.

- Make eye contact with whom you're speaking.

- Keep a notebook with information you are learning about new people you meet.

- Try one new activity this semester and measure your performance only against yourself.

Remind your daughter that learning to communicate effectively with others starts with understanding that everyone loves to talk about their favorite subject—themselves. Helping her learn to be a good interviewer might be an excellent step towards increased social confidence.—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: How can I make certain that appropriate thoughts and convictions influence my decisions in day-to-day life?**

Our philosophy of life constantly undergoes revision based on new experience. However, some of our beliefs are deeply held and resist change or even examination. It is helpful to stop occasionally on our journey in life to examine our philosophies or beliefs to see how well they are serving us.

Nadine Stair is a person who did so at the age of 85. Out of her life review, she composed a prose poem to tell how she would live if she had her life to live over. Among her revelations were:

"If I had my life to live over, I'd dare to make more mistakes next time. I'd relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I would take fewer things seriously. I would take more chances. I would take more trips. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones."

In looking back, Stair concluded that her philosophy of life had not served her well. There were many things she would change if she could live her life over.

Rather than looking back in regret, look ahead and envision what the rest of our lives would be like if we continue with the same philosophy or beliefs we have today. What beliefs serve us well? We can affirm them. What beliefs serve us poorly? We can change them. If we do this work well and do it now, we might be able to look back at the age of 85 or 95 or 105 and say: If I had my life to live over, I'd do it the same way.—*Jon Rainbow*

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



## Make Iraqi relief efforts a personal issue

Statues of Saddam Hussein have been toppled, the U.S. Marines have wrapped up their invasion of Baghdad and President Bush has announced that "major combat operations in Iraq have ended."

From day one of the coalition forces' war against Iraq, there was scarcely any doubt about the military outcome. Yet a far greater challenge than winning the war remains—securing the peace.

In the wake of President Bush's speech last week aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln, the time has come for Americans and other people around the world to help rebuild the regime-ravaged nation of Iraq.

Among those leading the efforts to offer food, hope and healing to the war-weary people of Iraq are Southern Baptists and other Christian individuals and organizations. But even those efforts are being met with criticism and resistance in some circles.

As an example, a recent editorial in the Kansas City Star warned that "it would be a mistake for groups that have been hostile to Islam and that mostly want to make religious converts to have a major relief role" in post-war Iraq. The editorial goes on to single out such prominent Baptists as evangelist Franklin Graham and former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines for statements described as "harshly antagonistic toward Islam."

Whether or not you agree with Graham's view of Islam as a "wicked, violent" religion or Vines' claim that Mohammed was a "demon-possessed pedophile," the fact remains that neither Graham nor Vines (or any individual, for that matter) has the standing to speak officially for any other Southern Baptist.

By contrast, most Southern Baptists likely resonate with a recent resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board that emphasizes "our

Lord Jesus commands us to love all people, including both our neighbors and our enemies, and to pray for them." The resolution also "calls on all Southern Baptists to join in fervent prayer for the peoples of Iraq, that they might experience God's mercy and love."

The IMB is among Baptist organizations poised to make a positive impact on the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the Iraqi people. Plans already are under way to ship thousands of boxes of food to needy families in Iraq.

A label on each box will quote John 1:17 in Arabic: "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ." The labels also will identify the food as "a gift with love from the Southern Baptist churches in America."

Kentucky Baptists are being invited to participate in the food relief effort by packing boxes of food and delivering them from May 12-19 to several collection sites throughout the commonwealth.

Larry Koch, disaster relief director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said individuals having difficulty locating the small U-Haul boxes recommended by relief workers can order the boxes online at [www.uhaul.com](http://www.uhaul.com). Individuals interested in more information about the relief project can contact Koch at (502) 244-6489 or toll-free at (888) 254-5720.

In addition to donating food or money to Iraqi relief projects, Christians should make ongoing prayer for the Iraqi people a top priority. A few Southern Baptists also will have the opportunity to serve as relief volunteers in Iraq in the coming months.

Whatever God calls you to do, make a personal commitment to follow His will as Southern Baptists work together to share physical and spiritual hope with the people of Iraq.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Stress stoppers make positive impact

By Branda Polk

NASHVILLE (BP)—The uncertain times we live in can cause us to experience the effects of stress and stress-related illnesses or complications. Stress is the wear and tear your body experiences due to the changes that occur as a part of living.

Whether the changes are global, work-related or personal, your body responds physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. You can reduce the wear and tear on your body by recognizing your body's response to stress and employing stress management techniques to ward off its harmful and long-term effects.

Stress management is a personal process to discover the techniques that work best for you. Here are a few proven strategies to help settle your mind, change your attitude, quiet your spirit and calm your body's response to stress:

- **Stop and listen.** In times of stress, one natural response is to keep going and work into a panic, therefore increasing the stress response. Instead, try the opposite. When you feel pulled in many directions, stop everything. Find a quiet place without TV, people or activity. Do nothing for at least five minutes. Allow your mind and heart to open to the Holy Spirit. Remember when Elijah was stressed in 1 Kings

19? God told Elijah to go to the mountain and He would pass by. Elijah did not hear the voice of the Lord in the wind, earthquake or fire but in a still whisper. Elijah had to be still and quiet to hear from God.

- **Breathe deeply.** Another common response to stressful times is shallow breathing. When we do not breathe deeply we deprive the body of adequate oxygen to think clearly and function properly. Instead, take five or six long, full deep breaths. Inhale through your nose for a slow count to five and exhale through your mouth for a slow count of five. When you breathe deeply your body will respond with a lower blood pressure, slower heart rate and reduced tension in muscles.

- **Find the positive.** When life gets out of hand, another typical response is to think of the worst. "Doom's Day" thinking leads to a higher stress level. When faced with stressful events, begin to speak the positive about the situation. Example: You are rear-ended by another car. The damage is relatively minor. Positives in this situation might be no one was seriously hurt, the damage is repairable or you have insurance to cover the cost of repairs. If you have difficulty finding the positive in a situation, ask God to change your outlook so you can see things more clearly through His eyes.

- **Laugh.** Proverbs 17:22a says, "A cheerful heart is good medicine." Laughter reduces stress by releasing endorphins into your body that lower your blood pressure, release tight muscles, increase your oxygen intake, stimulate your brain and change your emotional outlook and thinking. Take a "laugh break" when things are stressful. Keep comic strips, funny photographs of family or friends, a funny book, or a Christian comedian CD or video on hand to use during your laugh break.

- **Get out and move.** During stressful times your body produces hormones that are ready to help you protect yourself or get away from a "predator." This is called the "fight or flight" response. When these hormones are not used to fight or flee, they hang around, keeping your heart rate elevated and muscles tight, blood pressure up and cholesterol levels high. Exercise uses these hormones and limits the damage they can cause to your body. When stress is at its peak, get out and move. Walk around the neighborhood. Jog or run through a park. Join a fitness class. Finding a physical activity will help you manage the harmful effects of stress.

1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him (Jesus) because He cares for you." Ask God to show you the best process for managing the stresses that life brings your way.

*Branda Polk is a certified personal trainer and wellness coach in Cordova, Tenn.*

## 'Kingdom Family Rally' to kick off 2003 SBC in Phoenix

PHOENIX (BP)—Next month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will feature the theme "Kingdom First," drawn from Matthew 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

The 2003 SBC annual meeting will be June 17-18 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. It will be preceded by the SBC's first-ever "Kingdom Family Rally" the evening prior to the convention.

On Monday evening, June 16, during the closing session of the SBC Pastors' Conference, messages from family experts on how to strengthen families will culminate nearly three years of planning by the SBC Council on Family Life.

The rally will begin at 7:15 p.m. and will include appearances by Dennis and Barbara Rainey of FamilyLife Today; SBC Council on Family Life Chairman Tom Elliff and his wife, Jeannie; and Christian recording artist Steve Green and his wife, Marijean. Bible study author Beth Moore and Focus on the Family leader James Dobson and his wife, Shirley, are scheduled to speak via video.

"At the rally, Southern Baptists will be introduced to a strategy which can strengthen existing families and

virtually divorce-proof the families of the future," said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla. "Southern Baptists around the world will be encouraged to embrace with their hearts (the Seven Pillars of a Kingdom Family) as guiding principles for personal and family life."

The seven pillars include honoring God's authority, respecting human life, exercising moral purity, serving one's church, using time wisely, practicing biblical stewardship and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Presidential election

SBC President Jack Graham is expected to be nominated and elected to a second one-year term during the SBC's Tuesday afternoon session June 17. He will deliver his presidential address that morning.

"We are praying and planning toward a valuable time together including powerful Kingdom challenges from dynamic preachers, celebrative worship and the affirmation of the Southern Baptist Convention's Kingdom work and missions around the world," said Graham, pastor of First Baptist Church of Plano, Texas.

Empowering Kingdom Growth and the "Kingdom First" theme will be a focus throughout the convention

with four "Kingdom Challenge" sermons. Delivering the messages will be Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn; Daniel Akin, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston; and Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

Southern Baptist Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins will deliver the convention message at 11:50 a.m., Wednesday.

### Fund shift from BWA to EKG

The SBC Executive Committee will present reports at 10:10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. Part of its report will be a recommended funding shift of \$125,000 into global EKG initiatives from the \$425,000 allocated for Baptist World Alliance causes. BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz will present a BWA report to the convention at 9:50 a.m., Wednesday.

Other reports include:

■ North American Mission Board, 8:35 p.m., Tuesday.

■ International Mission Board, 8:30 p.m., Wednesday.

■ LifeWay Christian Resources, 3:20 p.m., Tuesday.

■ Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 6:45 p.m., Tuesday.

■ Woman's Missionary Union, 2:10 p.m., Tuesday.

■ Seminaries' joint report, 4:05 p.m., Tuesday.

Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar will speak at 7:55 p.m. Wednesday.

The week prior to the convention, hundreds of Southern Baptists will come together for "Crossover Arizona," an evangelism-focused strategy that uses block parties, door-to-door visits and other efforts to share the gospel in and around Phoenix.

Beginning this year, proposed resolutions must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider submissions. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available on the Internet at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net).

Also beginning this year, online registration will be available through June 8. Churches can register their messengers online at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net).

By registering online, the SBC Web site gives each church a "messenger reference number" form to be printed out and presented by each messenger at the SBC registration booth.

## SBC PREVIEW

■ **Ministers' wives conference.** June 17, 11:30 a.m., Phoenix Civic Plaza Ballroom. Theme: "Jewels in the Desert." Speaker: Louisville humorist Liz Curtis Higgs, author of "Bad Girls of the Bible." Tickets are \$10 before May 15 or \$12 at the event. For tickets, send a check payable to SBC Ministers' Wives Conference and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Tammy Litton, 1627 Silver Creek Drive, Saraland, AL 36571.

■ **Directors of missions' conference.** June 15-16, 9:45 a.m., Phoenix Airport Marriott. Theme: "The DOM: Missionary at Heart." Featured speakers: Don Reed, conference president, and director of missions from Kansas City, Kan.; Ernie Perkins, humorist and director of missions from Oklahoma City; Carlisle Driggers, co-chairman of the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth Task Force and executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; and O.S. Hawkins, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

■ **Hispanic Baptist fellowship.** June 14-15, North Phoenix Baptist Church. Theme: "There Is Life in Jesus." Featured speakers: Augusto Valverde, fellowship president and pastor of Resurrection Baptist Church in Miami; concert by Miguel Angel Guerra and Miguel Cejas. For information, contact Julio Fuentes at (305) 978-5253 or by e-mail at [Julhist@aol.com](mailto:Julhist@aol.com).

■ **African-American fellowship.** Worship fellowship, June 15, 6:30 p.m., Bethesda Community Baptist Church, Phoenix. Featured speaker: Ronald Vail, pastor of Bible Way Baptist Church, St. Louis. June 16, 4:30 p.m., pastors' meeting and fellowship dinner, Wyndham Hotel, Phoenix. Featured speaker: George McCalep Jr., fellowship president and pastor of Greenforest Community Baptist Church, Atlanta. For information, contact McCalep at (404) 486-1120.

■ **Evangelists' conference.** June 15, 9 a.m., Symphony Hall, Phoenix. Theme: "Jesus Is Precious." Featured speakers: Bible teacher and author Anne Graham Lotz; James Messer, an evangelist from Theodore, Ala.; and David Ball, an evangelist/medical doctor from Batesville, Miss. June 16, noon, business meeting and luncheon, Embassy Suites, Phoenix. Featured speaker: Bill Britt, an evangelist from Dallas.

■ **Baptist World Alliance breakfast.** June 18, 7 a.m., Phoenix Civic Plaza, Tucson Rooms 38-39. Featured speakers: BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and Tony Cupit, BWA director of evangelism, education, study and research. For tickets, \$15 each, call (703) 790-8980.

■ **FAITH luncheons.** June 17, immediately after SBC morning session, FAITH Force Multipliers' lunch meeting for FAITH-trained pastors, Hyatt Regency Ballroom, Phoenix. Featured speaker: Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla. June 17, immediately after SBC morning session, FAITH awareness luncheon for pastors of non-FAITH churches, Hyatt Regency Phoenix Ballroom. Free tickets are available June 15, 4-9 p.m., and June 16, 8-9 a.m., at the FAITH information table in the SBC registration area.

■ **Seminary luncheons.** June 18. **Golden Gate**, Phoenix Civic Plaza's Tucson Rooms 36-38, tickets \$10, (888) 442-8708. **Midwestern**, Hyatt Regency's Curtis A/B Room, tickets \$15, (816) 414-3720. **New Orleans**, Wyndham Hotel's Pueblo Room, tickets \$10, (504) 282-4455. **Southeastern**, Hyatt Regency, tickets \$12, (919) 761-2202. **Southern**, Wyndham Hotel, tickets \$20, (800) 626-5525, ext. 4143. **Southwestern**, Hyatt Regency Ballroom C/D, tickets \$20, (817) 923-1921, ext. 7260.

## SBC Pastors' Conference to focus on strengthening nation's families

PHOENIX (BP)—A focus on strengthening families will highlight this year's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Based on the theme "Building Kingdom Families," the 2003 Pastors' Conference will conclude with the "Kingdom Family Rally" Monday evening, June 16. Sessions will be held in the Phoenix Civic Plaza prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The conference will feature four sessions, focusing on "Building Kingdom Families" in America, in the church, "in our homes" and "Building Kingdom Families to reach the world."

Speakers include:

■ Sunday, June 15, 5:30 p.m.: Hank Williams, evangelist, Asheboro, N.C.; Howard Hendricks, chairman, Center for Christian Leadership, Dallas Theological Seminary; Josh McDowell, author/speaker, Dallas.

logical Seminary; Josh McDowell, author/speaker, Dallas.

■ Monday, June 16, 8:30 a.m.: Chip Roberson, pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Chesapeake, Va.; Dennis Swanberg, humorist, Monroe, La.; Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

■ Monday, June 16, 1 p.m.: Ken Whitten, pastor, Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.; Ted Traylor, pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.; Tommy Nelson, pastor, Denton Bible Church, Denton, Texas; David Jeremiah, pastor, Shadow Mountain Community Church, El Cajon, Calif.

■ Monday, June 16, 5:45 p.m.: Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.

■ Monday, June 16, 7:15 p.m.: Kingdom Family Rally.

## Cancer survivor to address WMU

PHOENIX (BP)—Brenda Ladun, an award-winning news anchor, author and breast cancer survivor, will headline national Woman's Missionary Union's Missions Celebration.

The WMU event will be June 15-16 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza in conjunction with the 2003 Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix.

In her book "Getting Better, Not Bitter," Ladun writes about her spiritual transformation through her battle with breast cancer. She credits her family, Christian friends and her faith in God with seeing her through her struggle with cancer.

Other program leaders include Janet Hoffman, WMU national president; Debra Berry, author and WMU ministry consultant for African-Amer-

ican women; and worship leaders Mary Kaye Wonner and Karla Worley.

Building on the theme, "Answer His Call," sessions begin at 2 p.m. on June 15 and conclude Monday evening. No pre-registration is required. Childcare will be provided.

WMU will host a reception on Sunday, June 15, at the Phoenix Civic Plaza for participants to meet missionary field personnel.

Later that evening will be a Legacy Dessert Party at the Wyndham Hotel. This is the only part of the WMU program that requires pre-registration. To register, send \$7 per person by May 15 to WMU Foundation, Box 11346, Birmingham, AL 35202-1346.

## Political, religious leaders mark national Day of Prayer

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)— Religious and political leaders joined for a National Day of Prayer observance May 1 on Capitol Hill as similar gatherings were held across the nation in locations ranging from the White House to stadiums to office buildings.

Hundreds of Christians meeting at the Cannon House Office Building were urged by speakers to foster a movement of prayer intertwined with humility and repentance.

"God lifts up a nation through individuals who are righteous," said evangelist Luis Palau, an Argentinean whose ministry is based in Oregon.

Attorney General John Ashcroft continued the theme, saying freedom is granted by God, not by people.

"It's important for us not to become intoxicated with the power that America now has," he said. "Greatness isn't to be found in power but it's to be found in humility and righteousness. President Bush commands the good and the mighty armed forces of the United States, but he understands that it is faith and prayer that are the sources of this nation's strength."

At this ceremony and others, religious leaders and politicians took

turns sharing the importance of faith in their personal lives.

"Millions of Americans seek guidance every day in prayer to the Almighty God," Bush said in early-morning remarks at the White House. "I'm one of them."

He reiterated his appreciation of others' prayers for him and his family.

"I also know that many Americans remember Laura and me in their prayers, and we are so very, very grateful," the president said. "To pray for someone else is an act of generosity. We set our own cares aside and look to strengthen another."

Vonette Bright, co-chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, led the Capitol Hill gathering in prayers for the executive branch after first asking the audience to turn toward the back of the Cannon Caucus Room, in the direction of the White House.

### Prayers remember Iraq

In many ceremonies and in Bush's proclamation marking the day, the recent hostilities in Iraq were recalled, with thanks offered to God for the short duration of the war and prayers uttered for military members and their families who suffered.

### Palau's prayer

Evangelist Luis Palau, who served as honorary chairman for the observance this year, wrote the following prayer for the day:

"Our Father and our God, we thank You for the many blessings You have poured out on America and we praise You for Your mercy.

"You have said, 'Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.' We confess, O Lord, our national and personal sins. We repent and ask forgiveness for all actions that dishonor You.

"O God, bless our president and other leaders. Provide them with wisdom and move them to honor You. Deliver this great nation from all our enemies as we recommit ourselves to trust, serve and obey Your commands. We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen."

"Our armed forces have achieved great success on the battlefield, but challenges still lie ahead," the presidential proclamation reads. "Prayer will not make our path easy, yet prayer can give us strength and hope for the journey."

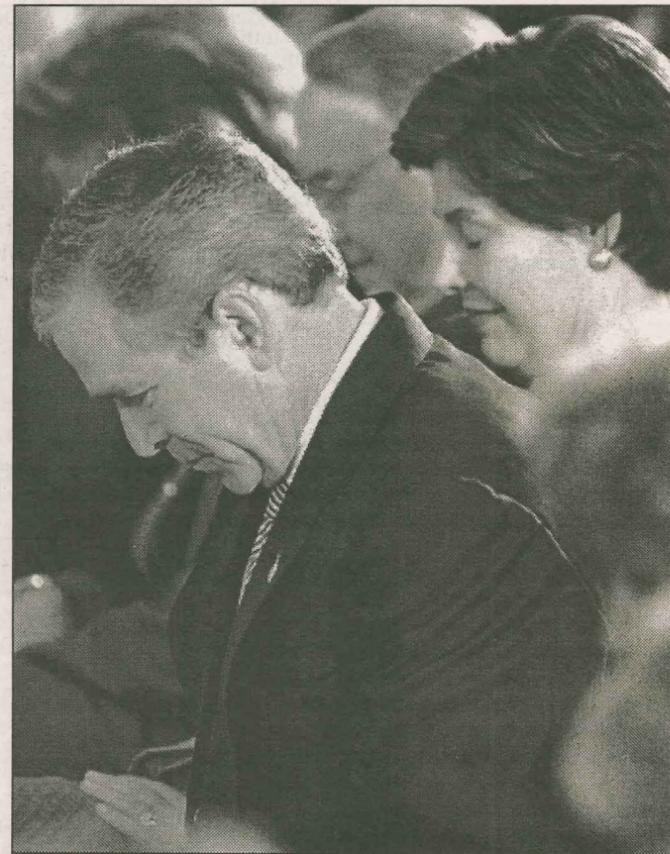
Outside Washington, tens of thousands of other gatherings were planned for the day.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force said small and large meetings took place in churches, parks and capitols.

Shirley Dobson, chairman of the task force, said about eight events were planned in stadiums that were likely to draw 10,000 to 20,000 people each.

"We are part of a great chorus of prayer that is ascending to heaven to pray for our nation and those who lead us," she said.

As the tradition established by Congress continued for the 52nd time, the protests from groups supporting church-state separation also



continued.

Annie Laurie Gaylor, spokeswoman for the Freedom From Religion Foundation, said she views the day as one used by the religious right to state their case in front of politicians.

"It's not just being pious," she said. "It's clearly flexing their right-wing muscles in front of legislators."

Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, said the gatherings are following a biblical mandate in 1 Timothy to pray for people in positions of authority. She said she believes the idea of church-state separation, first penned in a letter by Thomas Jefferson, is often misunderstood.

"Actually, what it was intended to mean was the government should not influence the church, but it had nothing to do with the church influencing government," she said.

**DAY OF PRAYER** President Bush and first lady Laura Bush pray during the National Day of Prayer in the East Room of the White House May 1. (RNS/Reuters photo by William Philpott)

## 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

## Gallup: 10 percent of U.S. identified as 'secular'

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—The 10 percent of Americans who claim no religion tend to be young, liberal and live on the West Coast, according to research by the Gallup Organization.

The so-called "secularists," while "being detached from the religious process, are also apparently more likely to be detached from other American institutions such as marriage and the political process," according to Gallup's "Tuesday Briefing" Web site.

While 69 percent of secularists are registered to vote, that figure is smaller than the 83 percent registered among Americans who claim a religious preference. The percentage of secularists who are unmarried and living with a partner—12 percent—is double that of religious Americans.

Secularists also are younger—those between the ages of 18 and 29 are four times as likely as those older than 65 to be secularists, and twice as likely as those between the ages of 50 and 64. The Western United States—particularly

Oregon and California—has a larger percentage of residents identifying as secularists (15 percent) than other parts of the country (typically less than 10 percent).

Forty-three percent of secularists describe themselves as moderate, 35 percent are considered liberal and 20 percent are conservative. Other Gallup polls have shown that religious people tend to be more conservative.

Only about 1 percent of Americans describe themselves as atheists, who have no belief in God, or agnostics, who aren't sure about the existence of God, according to the Gallup study.

The study also found that 60 percent of secular Americans approve of President Bush; 34 percent disapprove; and 6 percent have no opinion.

The study was based on several polls of nearly 15,000 people conducted in 2002. The margins of error range from plus or minus 3 percentage points to plus or minus 6 percentage points.

## Supreme Court asked to hear pledge case

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Bush administration has formally asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule a lower court decision and allow the Pledge of Allegiance to include the words "one nation under God."

U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson said last summer's ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that said the pledge violates the separation of church and state is "manifestly contrary" to previous church-state cases.

"Whatever else the (First Amendment) may prohibit, this court's precedents make it clear that it does not forbid the government from officially

acknowledging the religious heritage, foundation and character of this nation," Olson wrote April 30 in his argument.

California atheist Michael Newdow sued in 2000, saying his daughter should not be forced to listen to the Pledge of Allegiance in her classroom. The first court to hear the case dismissed it, but the San Francisco-based appeals court ruled in Newdow's favor.

A three-judge panel found that the phrase "one nation under God"—inserted into the pledge in 1954—amounts to government endorsement of religion. The court's ruling affect-

ed only the nine Western states in its jurisdiction.

But after a public outcry, the court stepped back and stayed its decision pending appeals. On March 3, the court refused to change its decision. "We may not—we must not—allow public sentiment or outcry to guide our decisions," Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote.

Olson also questioned whether Newdow could bring the suit since he does not have custody of his daughter. After the initial ruling, the girl's mother said she had no problem with her daughter reciting or hearing the pledge.

## U.S. House rejects two proposals for school vouchers

WASHINGTON (ABP)—In the first congressional floor vote on private-school voucher programs since the Supreme Court declared them legal last year, members of the House of Representatives decisively turned down two attempts at adding voucher proposals to a federal education bill.

In reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, House members rejected attempts by two lawmakers to add voucher proposals to the bill.

Congressmen first voted down a voucher amendment offered by Rep. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) that would have allowed parents of disabled children to receive government funding to pay for tuition at private schools, including religious schools.

Then representatives voted down a similar amendment offered by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.). It would have transferred federal funds to private schools that offered disabled-learning programs.

## Librarians renew online pornography lawsuit

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)—A group of 12 librarians has renewed a federal lawsuit alleging they have endured pornography addicts using taxpayer-funded computers to create an intimidating, hostile and offensive workplace since Internet access was installed five years ago.

The 12 female workers at the Minneapolis Public Library filed initial sexual harassment charges with federal and state agencies in 2000, but the case was left in limbo for three years until the Justice Department recently

decided not to file suit.

The librarians filed the new suit in March, seeking damages of \$400,000 each and a better work environment.

Wendy Adamson, one of the 12 librarians, said her library became "sex central" and complained that security guards could not control the number of pornography-addicted men who used the public computers to download obscene images.

The librarians said they began to feel unsafe and regularly were threatened by hostile men who refused to

leave the computers, and who were showing obscene photos to children, according to the Traditional Values Coalition.

The Minneapolis Public Library's Internet policy was revised in late 2000, and the Internet use guidelines were revised in January 2001.

But the librarians say the revised policy has not gone far enough because "a significant amount of pornography," as described by the librarians' attorney, Bob Halagan, still makes its way to the computer terminals.

## City council reverses vote on benefits for same-sex partners

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)—A city council in Colorado recently reversed its decision to grant insurance benefits to same-sex partners.

The vote is being touted by opponents of such measures as demonstrating the strength that Christians and other groups can have in the matter.

The Colorado Springs city council eliminated health benefits for partners of homosexual city employees April 22 by an 8-1 vote—just three weeks after an election that focused heavily on the issue produced sweeping change.

During the election, six of the seven council members who won promised to eliminate the same-sex benefits. One of those six was Mayor Lionel Rivera, a voting council member.

The ideological shift on the council was sharp. The same-sex benefits package had passed the city council last December by a 5-4 vote.

"That action by the city council just really mobilized the electorate here," said Glen Stanton, director of social research and cultural affairs at Focus on the Family.

Churches in the area and staff members at Focus on the Family—based in Colorado Springs—made their voices heard, Stanton said.

"It really should mobilize the church to see (that) the church can make a real difference, and to make a real difference by simply having their members go out and cast the one vote that they have," he told Baptist Press. "... You can change an election. It's what we call democracy, and it's a wonderful thing to participate in."

Focus on the Family put together voters' guides and also hosted debates for the political candidates—which it has done in years past. But with the exception of its staff members casting votes and simply acting as "citizens," the organization was not involved heavily in the election, Stanton said, noting that church members and pro-family voters were the key.

"It really was remarkable to see how relatively easy it was to change an election, as far as just mobilizing the churches to really get out there and make sure that their voice was heard," he said.

## More steeples becoming hosts for cell phone antennas

NEW YORK (RNS)—About 1 percent of all cell phone towers in the United States are housed in church steeples, according to The New York Times.

Cell phone companies that have looked to expand their coverage areas often pay churches between \$1,000 and \$3,000 a month to rent space in church steeples, said Jim Fryer, a cell phone analyst in Landsdown, Pa.

The steeples provide the height needed to transmit signals and often receive the blessing of urban planners who do not want transmission towers cluttering the skyline.

"When churches were originally built, they wanted them to be the tallest structure in the area—the closest to heaven, or so people could hear the bells," he told The Times.

Fryer predicted that more churches would rent their steeples to cell phone companies as the country's 100,000 towers are expected to triple within the next five years.

In Ipswich, Mass., the landmark steeple on the historic United Methodist Church was destroyed by a lightning strike in 1973. In 1996, under an agreement signed with Bell Atlantic, the steeple was rebuilt and a cell phone tower was installed.

Still, the phone company brought in a consultant to convince the congregation that they "wouldn't glow on Sunday morning" from radiation, according to pastor Bob Ebersole.

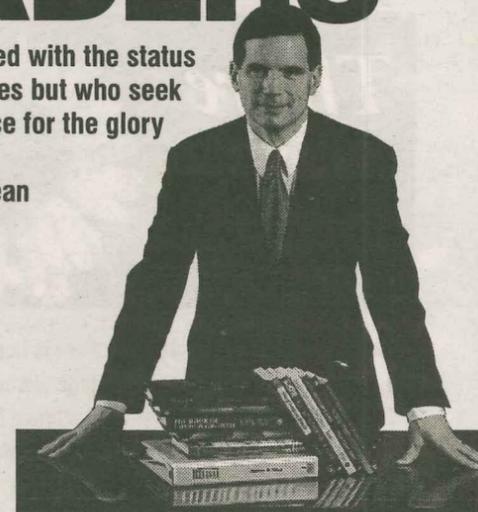
Ebersole said he was not overly concerned that sordid conversations might be relayed through the transmitter in the steeple. "We don't require a statement of faith from the person that empties our Dumpster," he said

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

# MISSIONS

## War not slowing flow of missionaries, officials say

By Susie Oh  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Danger comes with the territory for Christian missionaries working abroad, but legions of them still appear eager to serve in foreign countries.

Against the backdrop of increasing anti-Americanism across the globe, at least six U.S. missionaries working overseas are known to have been killed since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. At least four of them died at the hands of suspected Muslim extremists in Yemen, Lebanon and the Philippines.

But some missionary organizations find little reason to adjust their game plans.

"We've been sending missionaries out since 1845," said Mark Kelly, spokesman for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. "Over a century and a half you have lots of opportunities to hone policies and procedures in crisis situations."

Through the IMB, Southern Baptists have had more than 32,000 missionaries and volunteers serving overseas during 2002. Kelly said the board's policies and procedures underwent a thorough review after the events of Sept. 11, but no wholesale changes were made.

"Nine-eleven taught us that even New York City isn't necessarily a safe place," Kelly said. "Everyone has to weigh (options) for themselves and make the best decision they can."

Allowing individuals to make their own decisions, but offering advice and counsel, is also the approach that Campus Crusade for Christ, based in Orlando, Fla., takes

toward its missionaries.

"We are in most countries of the world and there's always been political, social and religious tensions and you always take that into account," said Stephen Chapman, communications director for Campus Crusade, which had roughly 5,500 people working abroad in 2002.

Chapman added there was no need for any sweeping changes to the organization's staffing assignment policies and that assignments are based on common sense and a country's particular situation.

### Some college mission trips cancelled

Although the vast majority of international missionaries remain safe on the job, some organizations have altered their guidelines for overseas Christian workers, particularly for young volunteers.

Liberty University, Jerry Falwell's college in Lynchburg, Va., has called off many of its summer mission trips for the second year in a row, last year due to Sept. 11 and this year because of the war in Iraq.

"Because of the dangerous situation, we decided to restrict students from going on official trips from the university," said Don Fanning, director of the university's Center for Global Ministries.

Liberty officials said the school did not have plans for trips to the Middle East, but a trip to the Muslim-majority nation of Indonesia was one of those canceled this summer. Some students still will be going to South American countries.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, an evangelical college organization, also has become more judicious with its overseas summer as-



**MISSIONARY COMMISSIONING** Eddy and Amanda Simmons were among 98 Southern Baptist missionaries commissioned at a service March 15 at First Baptist Concord in Knoxville, Tenn. The Simmons and their four boys will serve the Samburu people group of Kenya. Officials at the IMB and elsewhere say the war in Iraq and other recent events have not slowed the rate of people willing to serve overseas. (IMB photo by Sandy King)

signments.

"Since many students are still in that fuzzy time period between parental authority and independence, I think it's OK to be more conservative," said Scott Bessenecker, director of global projects.

He said he thinks about how he would feel "looking parents in the eye after sending a student to a place the State Department said 'don't go'—and saying, 'I'm sorry.'"

But the group is still sending more than 300 students to 30 locations this summer, including the Philippines, Egypt and Kenya, according to Bessenecker.

### Dangers at home and abroad

Despite what he called a "let's-

all-crawl-into-a-cave" mentality arising from the Sept. 11 attacks, Bessenecker said student participation is still robust. He said he doubts the level of risk overseas is any greater than it is at home.

"Last weekend I was in (Washington) D.C., and I'm not so sure I wasn't safer in Cairo. Because we're an insular society, as Americans, when we travel abroad, it feels riskier (than home)," Bessenecker said.

Plus, as Kelly noted, danger is commonly inherent in a missionary's job. "We have some people coming and saying that the increase in terrorism only makes them more convinced that people need to hear about God's love and forgiveness and peace in Jesus."

"Nine-eleven taught us that even New York City isn't necessarily a safe place."

Southern Baptist International Mission Board spokesman Mark Kelly

Wherever  
He Leads...

I'll Go

## Kentucky missionaries say they're staying alert on mission field

Continued from page 1

said. Last November, he attended a regional meeting in Kenya, located in the same block as a motel later bombed by terrorists.

"We keep our eyes and ears open a lot more," said Davis, a native of Cadiz who is on a six-month assignment in Hopkinsville. "There's a heightened sense of who's around us and where the kids are playing."

This atmosphere has forced him to alter travel routines and restricted his work. In some villages and parts of their city, he no longer can do "storying," dramatizations of Bible stories.

Reality also hits when they travel, Davis said. He once carried knives aboard airplane flights, which now is forbidden. Airport security checks are much stricter, and in Uganda they keep an eye out for potential threats.

"It takes a toll on us, especially among those who are called to highly Islamic areas," Davis said. "We usually try to make time to get away, like going to the southwestern part of the country, where it's safer."

### Anti-American attitudes

Though farther away from the conflict, David Williams has seen the

impact of war in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The week it started, he received an e-mail about the city's U.S. consulate closing for a day because of anti-war demonstrations.

Violence already had struck close to home. A fight between residents of rival shantytowns led to a killing a block from his family's home. (Williams' family has since moved). Last year, two hours south of Sao Paulo, robbers killed three people on a bus—the mode of transportation he sometimes uses to reach other cities.

"In troubled times like these, world events and anti-American attitudes can put a strain on a missionary's ministry," said Williams, who currently is staying at St. Matthews Baptist Church's mission house in Louisville.

"One of our main roles is as facilitators and encouragers," he said. "I try to be a friend of pastors, as someone who is genuinely interested in their struggles and who can offer some good suggestions and ideas. But world events could cast a shadow on that role, as they don't see you any more, but see the ugly Americans as shown on the nightly news."

That image has affected his three teenage children, two of whom attend

a private school in Brazil. The week of the Sept. 11 attacks, both encountered negative comments. One teacher expressed anti-American attitudes, knowing he had American students.

"(Recently) my daughter said, 'I'm sure glad I'm not back in school there right now,'" said Williams, a former assistant in the discipleship department at Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville. "We return in July and hope the issue will calm down by then."

While world tensions haven't caused problems on her current assignment in Paraguay, Suzanne Lacy encountered considerable turbulence during her first term in Albania from 1995-98.

In 1997, the former Louisville resident left Albania for five months when riots erupted after citizens lost money in pyramid schemes. The after-effects of the widespread looting, arson and gunfire eventually led most Southern Baptist missionaries to move elsewhere, Lacy said.

Today in Paraguay, civil chaos causes periodic road closings. Robbers broke into her home two years ago. But conditions in Paraguay seem mild by comparison to Albania, said

Lacy, who began a six-month state-side assignment March 15.

"It hasn't gotten that bad yet, but friends ask why things get crazy wherever I go," she joked.

### Longing for support

Regardless of what dangers Kentucky Baptist missionaries face, Johnson said they need support.

He compared missionaries' dangers to the biblical story of Joseph, who was thrown into prison unjustly. His unjust persecution allowed him to interpret Pharaoh's dream and save Israel and Egypt, Johnson noted.

Many Western Christians seek to free Christians from harsh circumstances when God might use the adversity to save a nation, he added.

"Suffering is normal; Jesus said 'What they do to Me, they will do unto you,'" Johnson added. "Since 9-11, we sense a lot of people in America are afraid. Fear is debilitating and is not of the Lord."

"What would it mean if family members and church members were saying, 'We're proud of you. Stay the course?' That's not the message we're hearing. Too many say, 'Aren't you ready to leave yet?'"

### Kentucky Baptists' prayer requests

■ For long-established Christian churches in the Middle East who have become targets during the war.

■ That missionaries will take advantage of opportunities created by war and be faithful in their witness.

■ That Muslims and people of other faiths will be open to the message of Jesus Christ.

■ That opportunities for the gospel will open up in nations that are hostile to Christ.

■ That missionaries will keep their minds and hearts centered in Christ.

■ That parents will know if a situation is too dangerous for their children to remain on the field.

## SARS forces Baptists to change schedules, customs

**"We posted signs at entrances asking people to greet one another with a nod, smile or bow."**

*William Norman, pastor of Blythwood Road Baptist Church in Toronto*

*Continued from page 1*

poned its world youth conference, scheduled this summer in Hong Kong, until 2004. "We had hoped that this would not be necessary," said Emmett Dunn, director of the BWA Youth Department, "but the BWA must act responsibly to protect the thousands of young people we expected in Hong Kong and move to allay the fears of many people who were concerned that the disease would not be under control by July."

The BWA also moved its July 7-12 general council meeting from Korea to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While there have been no cases of SARS reported in Korea, the general council decided to wait another year to meet there, so the meeting can be held in the same region as the youth conference.

CNN on April 28 quoted a World Health Organization official as saying he believes the worst of SARS is over in Vietnam, Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong. The disease continues to spread, however, in mainland China.

Canadian officials bristled, meanwhile, when the WHO issued a travel warning against Toronto. As of last week, 20 deaths in Canada had been attributed to SARS.

Toronto's Anglican and Roman Catholic communions changed the way worshippers take communion Easter Sunday to safeguard against infection. Priests were instructed to place communion wafers in parishioners' hands instead of on their tongues. Worshippers were asked not

to kiss the crucifix, but instead to bow or kneel.

### Bows instead of handshakes

Hand-shaking that usually occurs with the "passing the peace" was replaced by gestures like a bow, Religion News Service reported.

"Our board of deacons decided the situation was serious enough that we should take similar action," said William Norman, pastor of Blythwood Road Baptist Church in Toronto. "Beginning with Good Friday, we posted signs at entrances asking people to greet one another with a nod, smile or bow, and our greeters were instructed to do this."

Norman said he knows of no one among the sick or quarantined with direct ties to his congregation.

"Perhaps the major way I see people in the congregation affected is that many homebound members living in institutional settings are not permitted visitors," Norman said. "Both the homebound and those family and friends who visit miss this contact."

Norman said he has not preached on SARS, but has addressed it in intercessory prayer and a weekly prayer letter that is e-mailed within the congregation.

U.S. health officials said it is possible to prevent SARS from spreading throughout the world, but it is unlikely it will be eradicated.

"If we do the kind of common-sense public health measures we know work, we ought to be able to stop it from being a global pandemic," Dr.

Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

### Numbers worldwide

Worldwide, 4,836 cases have been diagnosed, and SARS is attributed to 293 deaths in 26 countries. More than half the cases (2,753) are in China, where the outbreak is thought to have started. A total of 2,239 patients around the world have recovered from the disease.

About 250 cases have been reported in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Despite widespread concern, those numbers are small when compared to

an influenza epidemic in 1918 that incapacitated a billion people (the world population then was 1.8 billion) and killed 20 million in the course of eight weeks.

The death toll from SARS also pales compared to the leading causes of death in America. According to the National Vital Statistics report, nearly 700,000 Americans die each year from heart disease; more than a half-million succumb to cancer.

Other leading killers in the U.S. are stroke (163,000 deaths annually), chronic lower-respiratory disease (123,900), accidents (97,000), diabetes (71,000), pneumonia/influenza (62,000) and Alzheimer's Disease (53,000).

### SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION 2003 MESSENGER CARDS

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ALL Messenger Cards for voting privileges at the SBC are distributed from the KBC Executive Office. They **MUST** be signed by your church clerk or moderator **BEFORE** being presented for registration.

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e-mail: Wanda.Karolyi@kybaptist.org

**DEADLINE: MAY 23, 2003**

### A plan for generosity

Like most people, you are bombarded with solicitations by telemarketers calling at the dinner hour, fund-raisers surveying the neighborhood and organizations campaigning through the mail. With so many appeals, even the most generous among us get tired and confused. There is a way to revive the joy found in helping others, and this process should not be considered work.

First, prayerfully consider your values. What are the principles in which you most strongly believe? Consider the experiences, people, causes and organizations that matter the most to you.

Second, prayerfully concentrate your efforts. From your list of values and the organizations and

causes that mean the most to you, through which ones of them can you make the greatest difference?

Third, prayerfully prepare a personal plan. Decide how much money you can devote to charitable organizations. Do not let limited resources intimidate you. No one is excluded from making worthy gifts.

Fourth, prayerfully look before you leap. Be as prudent in your evaluation of a charitable organization as you would be with any other investment decision. If necessary,

visit the site. Do whatever it takes for you to understand and feel comfortable with the charitable organizations in which you plan to invest.

It would be my hope and expectation your church and one or more of our Kentucky and Southern Baptist causes would be among those charitable organizations you determined were making the greatest difference in the world. My wife and I have concentrated our giving among the various missionary, educational and benevolent causes of our larger Baptist family. We followed the four-step plan outlined above and came to the conclusion we could make the greatest impact by giving to and through these causes.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 and Galatians 6:7-9 Paul reminds us of the law of sowing and reaping. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 he instructs us about giving not out of impulse, but after careful and prayerful reflection. Paul closes in 2 Corinthians 9:15 by exclaiming his gratitude to God for God's indescribable gift.

Let us assist you in your plan for generosity.

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

### Your will, a privilege & responsibility

In our busy lives, the most important long-lasting decisions are often the last to be taken into consideration.

Taking the time to look at the long-term needs and objectives of our families gets relegated to another day and time. One of those critical decisions is planning, making and maintaining a will.

The numbers are staggering. Based on probate records, six to seven of every 10 individuals in America die without a will. Those numbers cannot change for those who have passed on. However, for those who are still living and reading this article, we can change those numbers.

We as Americans have a tremendous privilege to be able to utilize a will to pass on tangible personal property and other personal assets to our family, friends and charities. Having a will is also a responsibility. God has entrusted us to care for and use the resources of the world. Having a will allows us to demonstrate our stewardship to God for our blessings.

The greatest beneficiary of poor estate planning, with or without a will, is the United States government. Thousands of indi-

viduals each year choose the IRS as their charity because they decide to make no choice at all. Individuals think that if they include charitable institutions in their will—i.e. colleges and universities, church, other Christian ministries—this will mean less for their heirs.

A simple question to ask your financial advisors is, "How much estate tax will I have to pay?" Generally, that same amount can be designated for charitable purposes in an outright or residue bequest and would not go to heirs anyway.

The hundreds of millions of dollars given to the IRS each year could do so much more for God's Kingdom and work. I would encourage you to find out and decide who you really want your charitable gifts to support, for both now and later.

### CAMPBELLVILLE UNIVERSITY



Alan Medders

Alan Medders (agmedders@campbellville.edu) is vice president for development at Campbellville University, 1 University Drive, Campbellville, KY 42718; (800) 264-6014.

## Golf tournament to benefit children

Golfers know all about second chances. Miss what you thought was the perfect shot, and you get another go at it on down the course. That's why a golf tournament is the perfect fund-raiser for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The kids we care for are just asking for a second chance.

You can help KBHC give these abused or neglected children another chance and enjoy a great golf game at the same time. Our fifth annual "Play for the Children" tournament kicks off May 12 in Louisville; there's still time to register for this or any of the six other scrambles across the state.

Proceeds benefit KBHC's residential and foster care programs along with other services to children and families. Last year's tournament brought in more than \$55,000; we're looking to top that number this year.

We'll play in six Kentucky locations this year:

■ **Metro Louisville.** May 12, Nevel Meade Golf Club in Prospect.

■ **Paducah.** May 19, Drake Creek Golf Club in Ledbetter.

■ **Bluegrass.** June 2, Gibson Bay Golf Club in Richmond (2 flights).

■ **Bowling Green.** June 9, Indi-

an Hills Country Club in Bowling Green.

■ **Northern Kentucky.** June 16, A.J. Jolly Golf Course in Alexandria.

■ **Cadiz.** June 30, Arrowhead Golf Club in Cadiz.

Registration is \$100 per individual, with pastors and ministers who recruit three paying team members from their churches playing free. The registration fee includes greens and cart fees; an embroidered KBHC logo golf shirt; lunch; water, sports drinks and soft drinks; up to \$30,000 in hole-in-one prizes; a door prize drawing for all golfers; and an awards reception after play.

The top two teams from each event and the top two women's teams in the state advance to the championship tournament Aug. 11 at Persimmon Ridge Golf Club in Louisville.

In the "Play for the Children" tournament, everyone comes away a winner, especially the kids we serve.

Find out more about how to register at [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org) or by calling us at (800) 456-1386.

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

## HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

## Fisk serves in Panama City

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College junior Eley Fisk, daughter of Debbie and Stan Porter and Ron and Pam Fisk of Taylor Mill, served as part of Cumberland's Beach Reach team during spring break.

Fisk says, "Most of the people I met were college students on spring break looking for a good time. By the grace of God, I was able to show some of them that Christ is the best thing for them."

One evening Fisk and two male team members were walking down the main road, telling people about the free van rides being offered by their ministry. They encountered several young men from Knoxville, Tenn., who had been calling for a van but never could get through due to a busy line. The team members called using their cellular phone and a van was sent.

While they waited for the van, Fisk began talking with one of the young men who had gotten a henna tattoo of a cross. As they talked about God, Fisk discovered the young man's father had died several years before and he had lost his faith in God. They talked that night and then encountered each other twice more during the week. Fisk

hopes their conversations have encouraged the young man to turn back to God.

Another night, the team's van picked up two young men who needed a ride to a club. The van driver missed the turn and had to circle around again. During the van ride as the team members shared their faith, one of the young men decided he did not want to go to the club. His friend got out, but the first man stayed inside, talking with the team members about God.

The young man finally got out of the van, still with questions but realizing what Christ had done for humankind. When he left the van, the team stopped to pray for him.

Later that week, one of the team members talked with him on the telephone and the young man said he was ready for a new life.

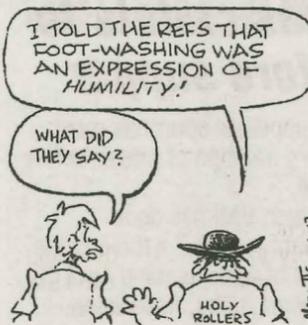
Fisk says God showed her that if she would make herself available, God would use her. We thank her for her dedication to Christ and for her willingness to go and minister. We join her in praying for those to whom she witnessed.

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

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

## Bible Crossword

### Across

- 1 Bottommost parts of faces
- 6 Having to do with either the North or South Poles
- 11 The sister of Tubal-cain (Genesis 4:22)
- 12 Lets up
- 14 Preposition
- 15 "The soldiers ... \_\_\_\_ his side" (John 19:34)
- 17 Military police, abbr.
- 18 Man's name
- 20 Not the clergy
- 21 7, Romans num.
- 22 Paul's original name
- 24 Root-mean-square, abbr.
- 25 One hundredth of a dollar
- 26 Motors
- 28 "The \_\_\_\_ of the wicked have robbed me" (Psalm 119:61)
- 29 "I will surely do thee \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 32:12)
- 30 Steal
- 31 Mix together
- 33 "The \_\_\_\_ of death are fallen upon me" (Psalm 55:4)
- 36 Rodents
- 37 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_ of man
- 38 Chocolate sandwich cookie
- 39 Article that precedes a vowel
- 40 "I have \_\_\_\_ ashes like bread" (Psalm 102:9)
- 42 Astronomical unit, abbr.
- 43 Selfish part of the psyche, according to Freud
- 44 "We were \_\_\_\_ of God to be put in trust with the gospel" (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14			15			16						17
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47		48						49			50	
	51							52				

Malina English

- 46 Physician, in other words, abbr.
- 47 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a \_\_\_\_ than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom" (Mark 10:25)
- 49 Washes away
- 51 "The angel appeared to (Joseph) in a \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 1:20)
- 52 Person who gives something
- 13 Expels saliva
- 16 Edges
- 19 Small chunk of gold
- 21 Seller
- 23 "Faith ... stopped the mouths of \_\_\_\_" (Hebrews 11:33)
- 25 Egyptian capital
- 27 Biblical land (Genesis 4:16)
- 28 Rod
- 30 Made fresh
- 31 Organ of thought
- 32 Alit
- 33 Dorothy's dog
- 34 Peruser of books
- 35 Turns acid
- 37 Melchizedek was king of this (Genesis 14:18)
- 40 Girl's name
- 41 Roman emperor
- 44 Lemon drink
- 45 Donald, for short
- 48 More, suffix
- 50 "\_\_\_\_ thou that which is good" (2 Kings 10:5)

## Last week's solution

1	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	6	O	P	T	10
11	A	M	I	D	A	13	P	U	C	K	E	R		
15	E	A	B	U	R	17	M	R		19	H	A		
20	U	N	T	I	L	21	A	B	B	A	22	N	M	
26	L	O	N	24	G	L	O	R	Z	29	S	O		
31	V	E	R	32	L	I	S	33	I	T	E			
34	G	E	M	35	N	O	38	E	P	H	T			
36	R	E	I	G	N	S	39	40	H					
41	C	N	H	42	P	E	43	44	S	E	M	I		
46	B	O	T	T	L	E	47	48	S	H	A	R	I	F
50	I	M	R	O	A	R	52	53	L	I	L	Y		
54	B	E	G	O	T	T	E	N	55	M	T			

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## Court: VMI forces cadets to have prayer before supper

RICHMOND, Va. (RNS)—An appellate court has ruled that the Virginia Military Institute's tradition of prayer before evening meals is unconstitutional.

"In establishing its supper prayer, VMI has done precisely what the First Amendment forbids," a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled April 28.

The decision upheld a lower court ruling, Associated Press reported.

The panel rejected arguments that the prayer is voluntary because the cadets are adults. It emphasized that the high level of obedience expected from VMI cadets doesn't give them the freedom to choose whether to take part in what has been called a voluntary, nondenominational dinner prayer.

"Put simply, VMI's supper prayer exacts an unconstitutional toll on the consciences of religious objectors," Judge Robert King wrote in the opinion.

Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore said last week that the prayers are "part of the fabric of our country" and he plans to appeal the decision to the entire appeals court.

In a statement, Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, welcomed the ruling.

"No Americans should be forced to sing for their supper or pray to get it either," said Lynn, whose organization filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the two cadets who sued.

In light of the ruling, the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland said April 29 that the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., should review its practice of leading students in lunchtime prayer, AP reported. Academy officials did not comment immediately, but a Navy official said the service will review the decision.

## Abstinence included in AIDS relief bill

By Kevin Eckstrom  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. House of Representatives last week approved a \$15 billion plan to fight global AIDS, including two provisions pushed by religious groups that promote abstinence programs and allow exemptions for churches opposed to condoms.

The plan, approved on a 375-41 vote, would funnel about \$3 billion a year over the next five years to 14 African and Caribbean nations hardest-hit by the AIDS epidemic. More than half of the money will go toward treatment.

"So much of what we do is really unimportant and trivial, but not today," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., chairman of the House International Relations Committee and a lead sponsor of the bill.

Conservatives won two major concessions in the final bill. One change, offered by Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., mandates that at least one-third of the 20 percent used for prevention be designated for abstinence programs. That amendment was approved 220-197.

Pitts and others pointed to successful programs in Uganda that emphasized abstinence. "It's important that we not just send them money, but we send them values that work," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind.

Conservative groups say previous programs that relied on condoms to stop the spread of AIDS have failed miserably.



**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS** President George Bush discusses his Global HIV/AIDS Initiative in the White House East Room April 29. "Today, on the continent of Africa alone nearly 30 million people are living with HIV/AIDS," Bush said. (White House photo by Paul Morse)

"When you put abstinence first, as they did in Uganda, infection rates fall," said Michael Schwartz, chief lobbyist for Concerned Women for America. "It was not through social marketing of condoms, like they did in South Africa, it was through promoting abstinence and marital fidelity."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., offered an amendment that allows groups opposed to condoms—such as the Roman Catholic Church—to still receive funding to fight AIDS. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

### Bush rallied support for bill

President Bush, who hosted a White House rally for the bill earlier in the week, praised the House action and called the bill "a moral imperative."

Bush noted on April 29 that more than 760,000 people have died and 1.2

million have been infected with the HIV virus since he unveiled his global AIDS plan in January. He urged Congress to pass the \$15 billion package because "time is not on our side."

"When we see the wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not, America will not, pass to the other side of the road," Bush told a White House gathering of about 200 religious, community and government leaders.

The most prominent faces at the White House rally were evangelical Christian leaders such as Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson and evangelists Franklin Graham and Anne Graham Lotz, children of legendary evangelist Billy Graham.

"People with this disease cannot be written off as expendable," Bush told the audience gathered in the White House East Room.

The bill now moves to the Senate, where Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has promised swift approval.

Religious groups, including World Vision and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, praised the bill. World Relief, the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, however, warned that money for children's health programs was at risk to pay for the AIDS bill.

"In our fight against AIDS, we must not forget that every day thousands of young children are dying from preventable or curable diseases like dehydration, malaria and pneumonia," World Relief President Clive Calver said.

## Meet some in the class of 2003, part 7

For several weeks I have shared excerpts from essays written by students in the senior class. I have provided background information so you would better understand some of the difficulties these students were facing. Hopefully these stories have given you additional insight into the ministry that Oneida Baptist Institute provides. We hope knowing more about OBI will encourage you to tell a young person who might have similar needs about the opportunities waiting here for him or her.

"Natasha" (not her real name) came to Oneida a year ago. Like many other students I have written about, Natasha was being raised by a single parent. Going through her teenage years and desiring more independence than her mother was willing to give was creating problems. After an argument, Natasha's mother suggested OBI as an alternative. Here is part of what Natasha wrote:

"(I said) 'You expect me to leave all my family and friends just because of a little argument?' But after ... about an hour of looking at the OBI booklet and re-running the movie over and over, I came back to my mom ... to talk to her about Oneida Baptist Institute. ... She was shocked. It was really just meant as an empty threat, but it had turned into a new and exciting opportunity and a new chance at graduation.

"Not every day has been a great adventure, ... but I didn't really expect Oneida to be like living in the wilderness, having to hunt and kill your own food and fending off wild animals while finishing my homework. It seems like every rule, and there are a lot, has a purpose. They ... help to keep the students happy—well maybe not all the time—

and healthy.

"The most important things I have gained are responsibility, appreciation and acceptance, but most importantly my relationship with God."

Natasha was not only dealing with conflicts with her mother; she also was struggling in school. Her grades ranged from A's to F's. She did not like school, was not motivated and had a history of truancy. Natasha was not involved with drugs, but there was more than enough defiance, lying and stealing. She was dealing with the typical problems of peer pressure and the consequences of being easily swayed by others.

We have seen steady improvements in Natasha. Living in a room with three other girls can challenge anyone. Natasha has lived in the same room all year, which means she has done a good job of adjusting and respecting others. Though there were a few early battles over rules, she soon realized that we were not going to change them just to suit her. Most of the staff who work with her would say she is personable and easy to get along with.

Natasha's grades have improved, and she is currently on the B honor roll. She is a very bright student and could easily be on the A honor roll if she had been here longer. She has worked most of this year in the campus grill. I am told that she works very well and is pleasant to be around. Natasha plans to enroll in college this fall. Hopefully her year at Oneida has not only prepared her for college but also has given her and her mother time to mend a tattered friendship.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Bookstore an engaging experience

Campus bookstore manager Janie Maynard likes the opportunity to meet new students and help orient them to the college.

Janie helped Harrodsburg student Seth Miller with books for his first semester last August, and he must have been impressed with the manager's individual attention; they are now engaged.

"The bookstore is really a ministry," Janie said. "Not only to students, but to the community and area churches." The bookstore offers curriculum materials and resources for churches. Distance education students and others can order on-line through the college Web site, [www.cbbbc.edu](http://www.cbbbc.edu).

Janie also works part-time as a teacher in Clear Creek's Irene Peterson Child Development Center. "I've learned so much about children's ministry," she said. "I hope someday to operate a day care/children's ministry in a church."

Janie, a Bell County native, became a Christian at age 19 through the ministry of Bethlehem Baptist Church. "My grandmother, Bertha Maynard, was the first one to take me to Sunday school," Janie said. "Our church had Clear Creek pastors when I was younger. I knew the

school was here but never thought I would attend. I thought it was just for pastors and men. My plan was to go away to school, but the Lord took me right next door."

At Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Middlesboro, Janie worked with youth, ages 12-18. The group did sign language, music and interpretative movement. Attendance averaged 10-12, but they have had as many as 30. "The church has been positive in responding to new approaches," she said.

Since she and Seth became engaged, she attends Stoney Fork Baptist, where Seth is interim pastor. The congregation has grown from three to 12 since December. "We are building up a children's ministry," Janie said.

The July 19 marriage ceremony will be in the Clear Creek chapel, performed by Kelly Hall Director Austin Campbell. Food Services Director Barbara Campbell will bake the cake. Expecting clear skies, I plan to drive the newlyweds from the chapel to the Kelly Hall reception in my 1964 Impala convertible.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Jaci Velasquez responds to critics for movie appearance

NASHVILLE (BP)—Contemporary Christian music star Jaci Velasquez has raised some eyebrows for her appearance in a movie that some critics call too racy for a faith-based performer.

The movie, a comedy called "Chasing Papi," is rated PG and was released April 16 by 20th Century Fox. The plot involves three single women who think they have found the perfect man, "Tomas."

After discovering that he has been dating all three simultaneously, each woman tries to get him to pick her.

In one scene, all three women end up at Tomas' house without knowing of the others' presence. Then, according to Screenit.com, the three women emerge from different rooms in Tomas' place, hoping to surprise him, but instead see each other. Each is wearing lingerie he bought them.

Velasquez addressed the criticism in a letter to fans on her Web site. "I hear that there are many questions about the movie, especially now since people are seeing the trailer or previews," she wrote. "To put your minds at rest, No I haven't left my personal faith in God, and I don't ever intend to."

She said she was "surprised" by the content of the trailer, which includes clips from some of the controversial scenes.

"The trailer doesn't really tell the complete story," she said. "I am



**CHASING PAPI** Jaci Velasquez (left), Sofia Vergara and Roselyn Sanchez star as three women after the same man in "Chasing Papi." (20th Century Fox photo)

grateful for the production company, because they allowed me to change and edit several scenes that I was uncomfortable doing because of my beliefs."

But Steven Isaac of Focus on the Family's "Plugged In Film Reviews" urged parents to not let their teenagers see the movie.

"There's no other way to interpret the implications of this 'lingerie scene' as anything other than sexual," he wrote. "Women simply don't bounce into a man's bedroom wearing trench coats and little else for any purpose other than sex."

Alan Boyer of Preview Family Movie & TV Review also rated the movie "quite objectionable."

A third family-oriented movie review Web site, Movieguide.org, was less critical but did advise "caution, especially for parents of the teenagers who might be attracted to this movie."

**Church Staff Handbook: How to Build an Effective Ministry Team (revised and updated).** Harold Westing. Kregel Publications, 1997. 221 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦ (out of five)

Once in a while, every pastor needs a tune-up when it comes to church administration issues in general, and staff leadership in particular.

Granted, this is not as glamorous as creating the grand vision for one's church or leading forth in some great and glorious ministry program, but inattention to how one develops a staff team can make or break everything else.

Harold Westing's "Church Staff Handbook" is not inspiring reading, but addresses the basic issues in a readable manner. He covers every aspect of staff administration from the leader's personal leadership style and developing job descriptions to hiring staff and working to clarify and maintain proper role expectations. One strength of the book is the many examples of the basic tools of staff leadership he provides. Each chapter concludes with exercises that the team and/or the team leader can do to assess and improve staff relations.

One thing becomes abundantly clear in Westing's treatment of staff functioning: While teamwork is the essence of what it means to function as a church, the pastor bears the heaviest responsibility for setting the tone and pace for how a church works together. This begins with the way the pastor develops the staff. I was impressed that he suggests regular staff meetings should be three and a half hours long, an hour being given to prayer and study, one and a half hour for business and an hour for lunch.

Though not exciting reading, Westing's outline of church staff development is a sound basis for doing a regular tune-up, not only for the pastor, but the entire staff team, not to mention the personnel committee. *Jim Holladay*

**Life After Death.** Graham Twelftree. Monarch Books, 2002. 223 pages. \$11.99. ♦♦♦

As part of the "Thinking Clearly Series," "Life After Death" treats death from a mainline Christian perspective. Indeed, there are other books that present a more conservative approach and those that present a more liberal approach.

Twelftree walks the middle ground consistently and persuasively. His purpose is to help Christians understand their faith through the examination of what we believe about life after death.

All the expected questions are considered: Is death the end? If there is an afterlife, what is it like? Will we be absorbed into the spiritual realm? If we have a soul, is that what lives on? Will we still have bodies?

As Twelftree answers each of these questions, and others, he does so from both a biblical and historical perspective. The final word is how he interprets what the Bible says, but he also is conversant with historical positions and popular beliefs.

Twelftree writes clearly and with conviction. He seems to have no particular theological ax to grind. His bibliography points the reader to other works, some of which reach different conclusions than Twelftree's.

The book is good material for study either individually or in a group. Most of the issues he deals with are not on the radar screen for most people until they or someone they know faces death.

Whether or not the reader reaches the same conclusions as Twelftree, one must appreciate how an open-minded approach helps the reader clarify one's own personal beliefs. *Wayne Hager*

**Capp Street Carnival.** Sandra Dutton. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003. 131 pages. \$16. ♦♦♦♦

*Put your troubles in the gutter.  
God's a sweeping streets today.  
He will spin his whirling bristles.  
He will wipe your cares away.  
He will sweep up all your shame.  
God's descending with His dumpster.*

*Let us praise His holy name.*

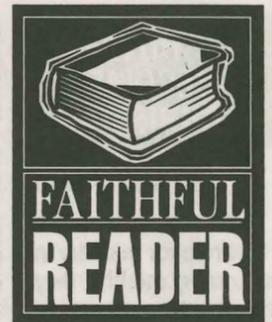
With those words, 11-year old Mary Mae, a Kentuckian living somewhere between Cincinnati and Somerset, celebrates the coming together of several strands of toil and worry in her life. Sung from the back of a flat bed truck at a carnival that she and two friends organize to help two-year-old Lukey get an operation for a "hole in his heart," these words come from a song passed down to Mary Mae by her Great-Granny.

Along the way to carnival, she tries to help Annabelle see that Leroy is not the man for her, get Earl C. to fight for Annabelle, help her dad get a backbone and get heard by her mama. Quite a task for an 11-year old, even if she is a guitar-picking, song-writing prodigy.

"Capp Street Carnival" is designed for an audience of older children to younger youth. But the book will appeal to adults as well. It is a delightful story of the complexity and simplicity of childhood. Mary Mae finds herself trying to get heard in an adult world that she finds puzzling. At one point, when her mother sees a conflict between the carnival planned for the first of the

week and a wedding planned for the end of the week, Mary Mae observes: "Tell you the truth, I don't know why grownups can't handle more than one event in a week. You just go to one, then you just go to the other."

This delightful children's story, while not overtly religious, nonetheless gives us insights into the minds of children and the power of compassion and imagination. *Jim Holladay*



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



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WESTERN RECORDER  
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Alan Witham

As mission volunteers gear up for ministry in the coming months, they will provide many acts of service and kindness. These volunteers simply will be showing the love of Jesus in a real and practical way with no charge and no strings attached. They will serve in a culture that often shares such sentiments as: "Nothing in life is free!" "You get what you pay for!" "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true."

However, God's greatest gift—the gift of eternal life—comes to us as a free offer. Consider the following Scripture passages:

■ *God's free gift to you is eternal life.* "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

■ *You need to confess the sin that keeps you from accepting this free gift.* Jesus "came to that which was His own but His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11).

■ *You will enjoy this gift when you accept it by faith in Jesus Christ.* "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

This summer when you encounter mission volunteers showing the love of God in practical ways free of charge, be reminded they simply are following the example of their Heavenly Father.

Alan Witham is a church starting strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's extension-ministries department

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BAGDAD**—Matt Frizell, minister of youth at Indian Fork Church, was called as pastor. He succeeds Ray Cummins who retired May 4.

■ **BEECHMONT**—Hazel Creek Church is holding revival services May 4-7, 7 p.m., with Gary Buck as evangelist.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church held a farewell reception April 27 in honor of interim pastor John David Laida and wife, Libby.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Valley Creek Church called Scott Kerr as pastor, effective June 1. He previously was pastor of Calvary Church in Glasgow.

■ **EUBANK**—McKinney Church recently called Dan Smith as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church ordained Tim Chase, Don Farley, Vent Foster, Ira Linville and James Melton as deacons April 27. Wallace Kent is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Dry Branch Church is holding revival services May 4-5, 6 p.m., with David Livingston as evangelist. Donnie Releford is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Nolynn Church will observe its 200th anniversary June 1, 11 a.m., with A.B. Colvin as guest speaker. Events also will include a meal and a 1 p.m. service to honor former pastors and special guests. Dan Flanagan is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Mt. Olivet Church ordained Lonnie Abrams and Charles Gray as deacons March 23. The church also held a note-burning

service. Seymour Wattenbarger is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host "Rejoice" in concert May 18, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

Donna Grimes, office coordinator at Fern Creek Church, recently received the Part-Time Secretary Plus

award from Long Run Association.

Ormsby Heights Church celebrated 100 years of ministry May 4. Rick Bowden is pastor.

St. Matthews Church's men's chorale, "Cornerstone," will present its spring concert, "The Gospel Trumpet: A Gospel Music Journey," May 18, 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 896-8882.

■ **NANCY**—Oak Grove Church #1 recently called David Sisson as pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Sinking Valley Church called Tim Renner as pastor.



**DEDICATION** Cumberland College officials dedicated several additions to the school's Williamsburg campus April 24. Cumberland President Jim Taylor (left) expresses appreciation to Patricia Bennett as one of four historical markers is unveiled. The markers highlight the Clyde V. and Patricia Bennett Building and Mahan, Roburn and Gillespie halls. School leaders also dedicated the "Divine Servant" statue that represents the mission of the college and the Patriot Pavilion located on the grounds of the James H. Taylor II Stadium. (Cumberland College photo)

## 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. Call Pat (502) 895-8752.

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

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

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader for energetic and enthusiastic congregation that enjoys worshipping God each Sunday. \$200-\$300/week, depending on experience. Twelve- to 15-member choir and praise team; blended worship style; south Louisville area. Contact Von Smith, (502) 933-2761, 11789 Tierney Drive, Louisville, KY 40203. Send resumé or call for appointment.

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

**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:** 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:** Full-time pastor for conservative Southern Baptist church located in foothills of Appalachia. Resúmes, 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:** Director of missions in Franklin Association, Frankfort, Ky. Part-time position. Send resumé to DOM Search Committee, 130 Holmes St., Frankfort, KY 40601.

## Emeritus missionary Edith Rose Weller dies at age 86

SANTA MARIA, Calif.—Kentucky native Edith Rose Weller, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died April 24 at age 86.

Weller, who was born in Bethlehem, Ky., was appointed as a Southern Baptist missionary in 1945. She served as a teacher in a Baptist primary school in Manaus and a Baptist training school for women in Recife.

Weller also served as executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist woman's organization in Para state and assisted with religious education programs in various churches. For 10 years prior to her retirement in 1966, she assisted the treasurer for three organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil.

Weller was a graduate of Georgetown College and the former Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville. She taught school in Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee prior to her appointment as an international missionary.

Weller is survived by one brother and two sisters, all of California.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Weller Award, in care of the Georgetown College Development Office, 400 E. College St., Georgetown, KY 40324.

## Church members upset they didn't learn of pastor's sex abuse past

NEWARK, N.J. (RNS)—After a yearlong search, Shiloh Baptist Church hired Chavalis Williams, a charismatic young Floridian known for spellbinding sermons, to be their new pastor.

The church is planning a series of special events this month to mark Williams' installation, but not everybody at the church is celebrating.

Shiloh's leadership hired Williams last month and put his one-year, \$45,000 contract to a vote before the congregation without telling members he was a convicted sex offender in Florida, according to church members.

Williams, then known as Chavalis Bonsell, pleaded guilty in May 1999 to arranging for two teenagers to have sex in front of him and others while working at the Daniel Memorial facility for troubled youth in Jacksonville, according to Libby Senterfitt, director of the special assault unit in the Florida State Attorney's Office in Jacksonville.

Williams pleaded guilty to child abuse and using children in a sexual performance. He was sentenced to six months in jail and 30 months of probation, and required to pay for counseling for the 17-year-old girl involved.

At the time of his arrest, Williams was on probation after pleading guilty in 1998 to battering his wife. Senterfitt said Williams struck his wife in the face and forcibly removed her dress after complaining it was too short.

Williams declined to return repeated phone messages left for him at Shiloh Baptist and his home in Florida.

In a statement, the leaders supporting Williams said the church was a place of "restoration" and they chose Williams after an arduous selection process, which included extensive interviews, and criminal and educational background checks. They said his appointment was approved by 90 percent of the church's members.

But some members of the 275-member church said leaders kept them in the dark about Williams' past and have since refused to discuss the matter.

"The executive committee, from what I heard, knew he was a convicted sexual abuser and they did not tell us," member Diane Atwell said. "Why would I subject my children to a man of that caliber?"

Church leader Audrey Sharpe said most of the congregation support Williams and the others are stirring up trouble for no reason. "These are demons who are only interested in upsetting the congregation," she said. "Satan is always busy, even in the church."

## Stained-glass surgery

### Artist renovates church windows, frescoes & murals

By Chris Meehan  
Religion News Service

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (RNS)—David Wiskirchen reaps rich rewards—and not just financial—from the work he does inside churches.

Following in the footsteps of his German ancestors, the 46-year-old artisan repairs stained-glass windows, restores statues and hand-stencils sacred symbols on sanctuary walls. And when called upon, Wiskirchen also paints murals, frescoes and icons and custom-designs storm windows for mostly historic churches.

"This is a hobby, a passion, a love. There is a lot of religious sentiment behind what I do," said Wiskirchen, currently refurbishing the stained-glass windows inside Kalamazoo's First United Methodist Church.

He also will build storm windows for the outside.

"There are very few companies that do what I do," he added. "I don't have too much competition."

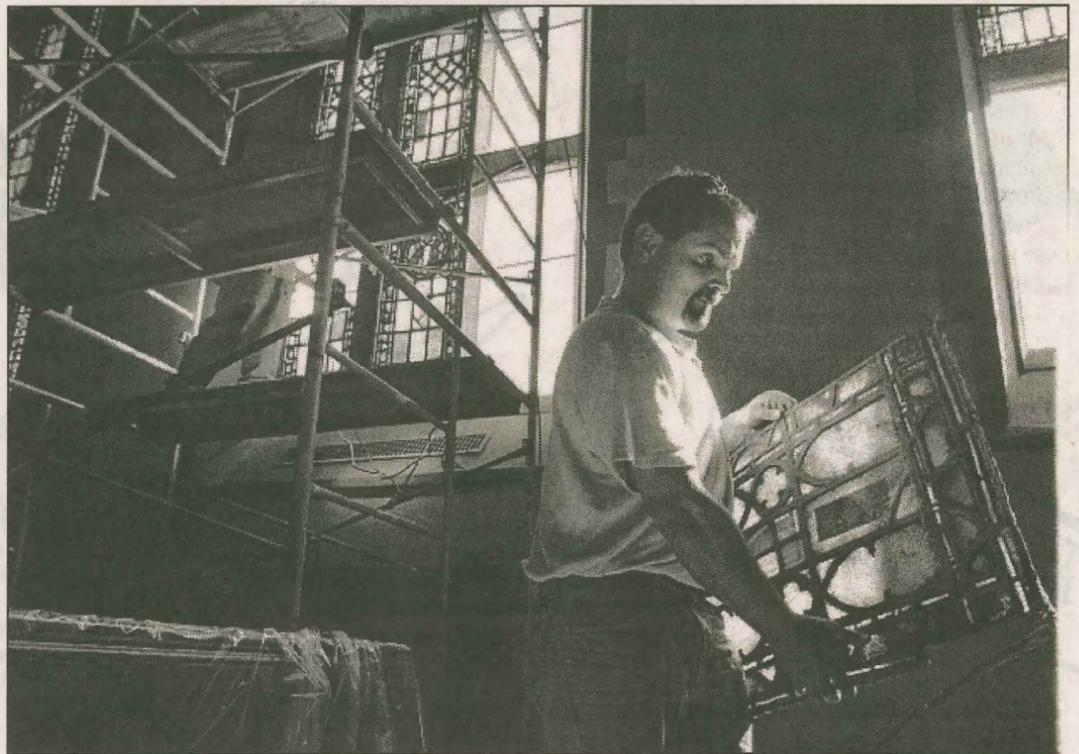
As First Methodist approaches its 175th anniversary in 2004, church officials have been discussing ways to update and upgrade the interior and exterior of the Late English Gothic facility.

One item on the list has been to fix the weather-battered stained-glass windows that have become tarnished and begun to bow and break over the years, said Senior Pastor Doug Vernon.

When money recently became available from a donation, the church hired the Indiana-based Wiskirchen.

#### Work 'feels like a ministry'

Wiskirchen has brought a handful of assistants to First United Methodist. Under his supervision, they are carefully removing the windows, piece by piece, and carrying them to a basement room serving as a workshop. The windows are stacked neatly on the floor and worked on one af-



ter another on a bench at which Wiskirchen stands.

"My work feels like a ministry," he said. "I'm not a preacher and yet my whole life is dedicated to the preservation of old cathedrals."

By cathedrals, he means churches mainly constructed in the early part of the 20th century by immigrant congregations that sought to honor God through such traditional trappings as ornate altars, hand-hewn pews and, of course, the multicolored windows.

With more than 600 projects behind him, Wiskirchen says he sees himself as helping to keep alive a type of church construction and decoration that is not particularly popular today.

Many contemporary churches, Wiskirchen said, want to emphasize simplicity of form and format, embracing an architecture that tends to be plain, simple and even auditorium-like in its execution.

"In my opinion, many of the new churches don't give you a warm, spiritual feeling on Sunday morning," he said.

Wiskirchen grew up in the St.

Louis area as part of a family with a history of building churches in Germany and of helping to construct houses of worship in this country. Although his father didn't build churches, he was an artist who passed on various skills to his son.

#### A passion and heritage for churches

Especially inspirational was his aunt. A Catholic nun and art history teacher, she made gold and silver chalices (Communion cups) for churches from Minnesota to Utah.

"I was introduced to this type of work when I was a child," Wiskirchen said. "I've also taken a lot of art classes. But mostly I'm self-taught."

Although he had the urge to work in churches, he didn't actually launch his company until after a congregation he knew and loved destroyed its artwork during a renovation. The church painted over its rich images and symbols with plain white paint.

"I was determined to do what I could so that no other church lost its artwork" that way, he said.

His work has taken him all over the eastern and Midwest states and he's worked on scores of churches in the Boston, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis and Indianapolis areas.

Wiskirchen predominantly works on Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist or Orthodox churches. But he also has fixed stained glass, touched up murals and done other types of work at many inner-city Baptist and Pentecostal churches that were previously owned by other denominations.

In some instances, he's actually moved walls and revamped whole sanctuaries. In other cases, he has recovered artwork buried under layers of dust and grime, and re-done statues that have been broken by years of wear and tear.

"To make someone's (the original artist's) work look good is always an adrenaline flow," he said as he removed brittle metal from one of the windows of the Methodist church in Kalamazoo.

**CHURCH REHAB**  
Ed Grudzinski, assistant to church artisan David Wiskirchen, removes a stained-glass panel from First United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo, Mich. (RNS photos by Mark Bugnaski)



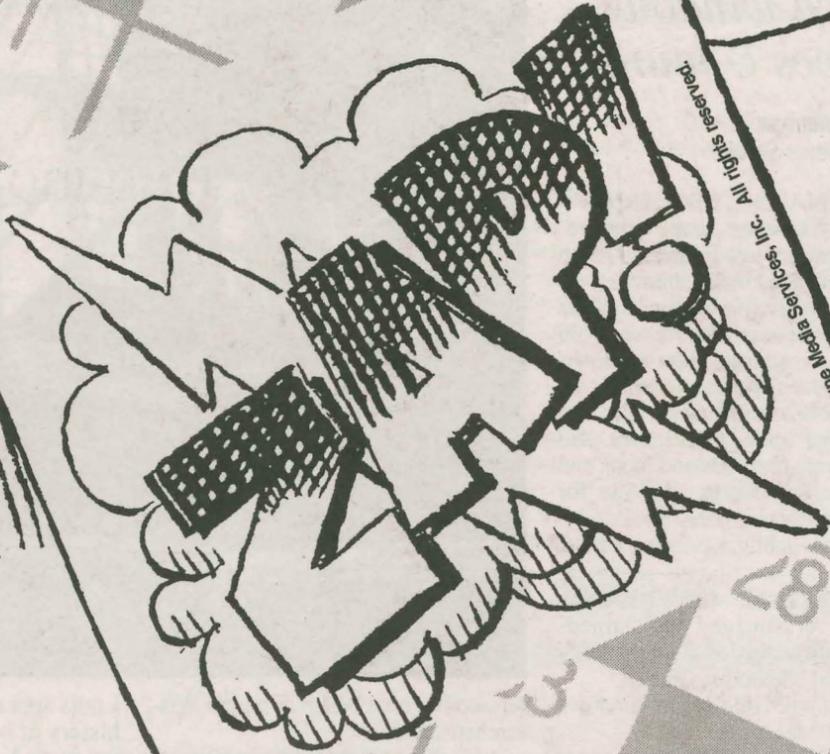
**STAINED GLASS OPERATION** David Wiskirchen restores one of the stained-glass windows from First United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo, Mich. "I'm not a preacher," Wiskirchen said, "and yet my whole life is dedicated to the preservation of old cathedrals."

# SMILE!

TO: THE LORD  
FROM: WILL B. DUNN



MARLETTE



THE LORD'S NOT INTO  
TAKING DICTATION!

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BRINGING HOME A  
ROMANTIC  
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HAD "FOUR  
WEDDINGS AND  
A FUNERAL"!



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