

May 13, 2003  
Vol. 177, No. 19

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Baptists**  
More than 40 missionaries have been fired or forced to resign recently for refusing to support the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.  
*Page 2.*

**Cedarmore & Jonathan Creek**  
The trustees for Kentucky Baptist Assemblies begin searching for a new president.  
*Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
KBC mission study: Can we hear God now?  
*Page 5.*

**Mission Study Committee**  
Read the committee's recommendations.  
*Pages 6-7.*

**Disaster relief**  
Volunteers are in Rineyville this week after tornadoes and violent storms damaged several towns in Kentucky.  
*Page 9.*

**Southern fried gospel**  
"Cotton Patch Gospel" message still needed today, co-writer says.  
*Page 13.*

## Evangelicals set guidelines for Muslim dialogue

WASHINGTON (RNS)—While affirming their right to proselytize, leaders of the evangelical Christian community issued guidelines May 7 to foster better relations between Christians and Muslims and criticized some prominent evangelicals' strongly negative generalizations about Islam.

The guidelines were issued at a half-day forum sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals and the Institute on Religion and Democracy. The forum was attended by 50 representatives of mission, advocacy and educational evangelical organizations.

It is dangerous to oversimplify Islam by labeling it, said Clive Calver, president of World Relief, the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals.

"As evangelical Christians we disagree with Islam and we are allowed to disagree," he said. "The question is, how do you disagree without being disagreeable?"

Participants were acutely aware of the public scrutiny of evangelical groups since Franklin Graham, head of the aid organization Samaritan's Purse and son of Billy Graham, called Islam a "wicked" religion. Similar views have been voiced by Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell.

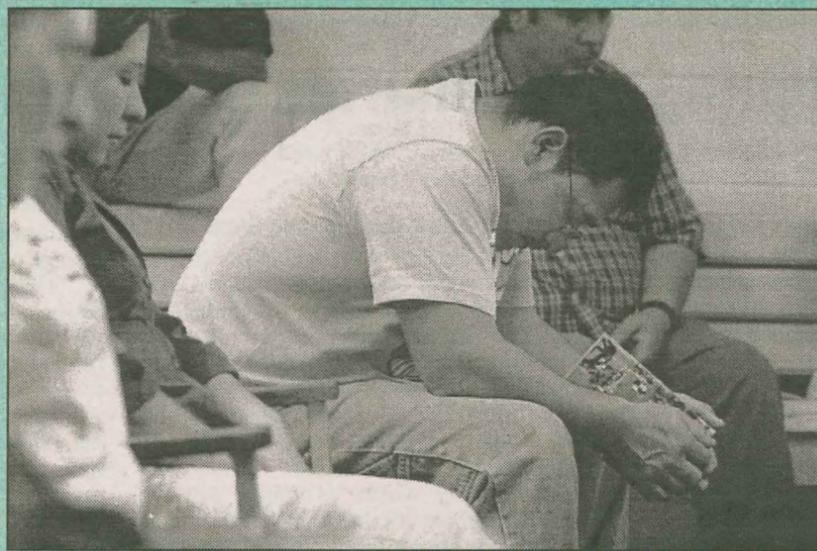
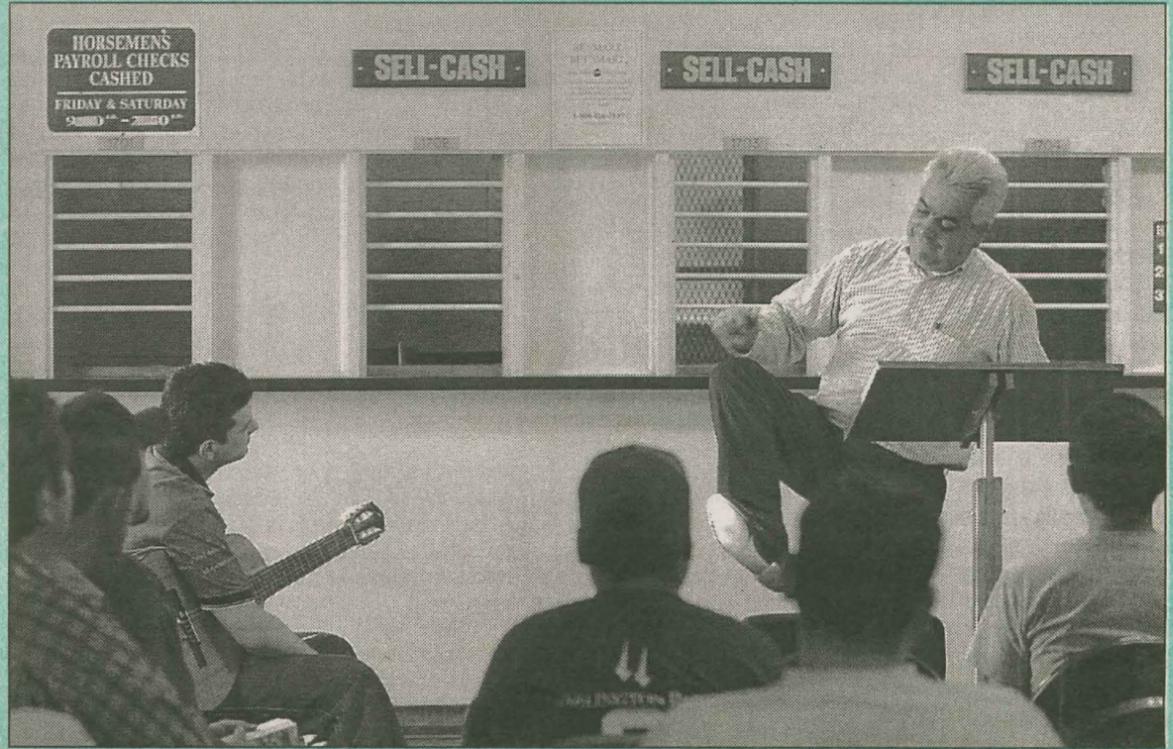
NAE President Ted Haggard warned that everything evangelicals say is public rhetoric now.

The Washington-based IRD, a conservative think tank that monitors religious freedom issues, released guidelines authored by IRD Vice President Alan Wisdom on what is appropriate and inappropriate in Christian-Muslim communication.

The document's first recommendation called on evangelicals to "seek to understand Islam and Muslim peoples."

□ See *Evangelicals set ...*, page 12

## Churchill chaplaincy



Kentucky Baptists have taken part in a chaplaincy ministry on the backside of Louisville's Churchill Downs for several years. The ministry is directed primarily toward the workers who handle the horses. Worship services are conducted in English and Spanish. ■ Above: A recreation center, complete with betting windows, serves as the setting for a recent service in Spanish conducted by Jesus Pacheco, pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Louisville. ■ Left: Jose Valencia bows during prayer during the service. (Lexington Herald-Leader photos by Nick Tomecek.) Story on page 10.

## KBC mission study focuses on 'connecting' Kentucky Baptists

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

CEDARMORE—Scott Kilgore believes the heart of Kentucky Baptists' Mission Study Committee report can be summed up in one word: "connecting."

The 10-page report and recommendations, the product of a 15-member study committee's yearlong work, were unanimously approved May 5 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board.

The document includes a mission statement, objectives and goals addressing such areas as evangelism, missions, leader training, networking and strengthening churches. It is designed to help guide Kentucky Baptist ministry philosophy and priorities from 2004 through 2009.

The mission of the state convention "is to assist Kentucky Baptist

Convention churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

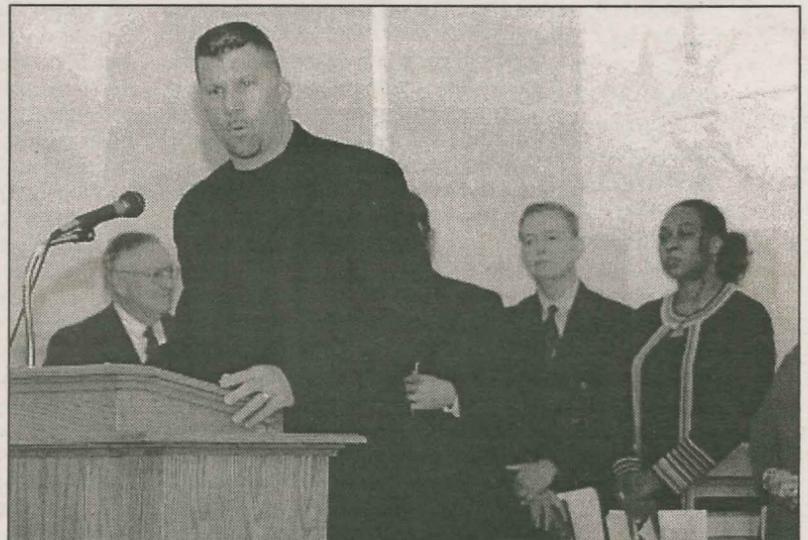
"The mission statement is the heart of it. The key word is 'connecting,'" explained Kilgore, study committee chairman and executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

"Connections are conduits for something else," he added. "We're conduits for the work of God as we seek to be about Kingdom work."

Describing the plan as "a rallying point" for Kentucky Baptist ministry, Kilgore noted, "I hope it can get us to think outside the box and open our eyes to new possibilities to be salt and light in an ever-changing environment."

As they explored needs for future ministry, committee members cited concerns in such areas as inadequate record in reaching people with

□ See *Mission study sets ...*, page 3



EVANGELISM EMPHASIS Kentucky Baptist Mission Study Committee member Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green, calls on Kentucky Baptists to help "raise the water level of evangelism across the whole state" by encouraging every congregation to increase baptisms each year.

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, May 14

## BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **A group of 57** Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries was commissioned May 4 at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Atlanta. The missionaries serve in partnership with state conventions and local associations to plant churches, coordinate associational missions efforts, minister in inner-city neighborhoods and other settings.

■ **Seminary professor** Bill Wagner will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the June 17-18 annual meeting in Phoenix. Wagner, professor of evangelism and missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., also is an emeritus missionary with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

■ **Author and educator** Tony Campolo will be the featured speaker at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's annual general assembly June 26-28 in Charlotte, N.C. The event also will feature Nashville recording artist Kate Campbell and guided prayer time by Marjorie Thompson, an author on spiritual formation. The assembly will include the commissioning of CBF missionaries and more than 100 ministry workshops. Author Brian McLaren will lead a day-long leadership institute on June 26 prior to the general assembly.

## IMB fires 13 workers; 30 resign or retire

FRAMINGHAM, Mass.—Thirteen Southern Baptist international missionaries were fired last week for refusing to affirm the Southern Baptist Convention's 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Trustees of the SBC International Mission Board dismissed the mission workers in keeping with an ultimatum IMB President Jerry Rankin issued last month to missionaries. He called on them to affirm the revised faith statement, resign by May 5 or face termination.

It is believed to be the largest group of SBC missionaries ever fired at one time. IMB officials declined to release the names of the missionaries involved, noting that "we don't feel it's our place to publicize their names."

Another 20 missionaries resigned in recent days rather than endorse the doctrinal statement and 10 more took early retirement, according to the IMB. They join at least 34 missionaries who resigned last year in protest of the requirement to sign.

That means at least 77 IMB missionaries have left the mission field because of concerns over affirming the new faith statement.

Rankin said he is "grateful" for the thousands of missionaries who signed willingly. "We regret that any of our missionaries have chosen to resign rather than affirm the faith statement, but we feel it is time to move forward and keep our focus on sharing Christ with a lost world," he said.

The primary concern cited by missionaries is their view that signing any faith statement amounts to affirming a creed—something historically opposed by Baptists. Rankin and other SBC leaders, however, have insisted the signing is necessary to assure Southern Baptists their missionaries are working within boundaries set by the convention.

"It is not appropriate to expect Southern Baptists to support those who are not willing to work in accord with what the denomination confesses to believe," Rankin said. "To do so would undercut the credibility and confidence in the IMB as a denominational mission entity serving Southern Baptists."

### Trustees support dismissals

The terminations were carried out with no discussion or dissenting votes among trustees, according to an IMB spokesman.

"The SBC family has been in strong agreement concerning our statement of faith," said Bob Claytor, IMB trustee chairman. "Our board reflects that agreement and 99 percent of our missionaries are also in strong agreement."

While most of the non-signing missionaries were given the option of resigning, at least six were not—Ron Hankins and Lydia Barrow-Hankins (Japan), Rick and Nancy Dill (Germany) and Leon and Kathy Johnson (Mozambique). The six,

who each have more than 20 years of service, had publicly opposed Rankin's requirement to sign the faith statement.

In a letter informing them they must resign or face termination, Rankin accused them of "unwillingness to be accountable to Southern Baptists who send and support you." "After all this time of knowing it was coming, I was surprised that I was still so sad, sad for our convention that it has come to this," Mrs. Dill said. "We didn't resign because we didn't feel we did anything wrong."

Mrs. Hankins said she and her husband were told by Rankin that their dismissal was not a negative reflection on their missionary work.

"If this is not about our effectiveness as missionaries," she said, "then it means Southern Baptists no longer put proclaiming Christ as a priority."

The Dills have founded an organization to continue their work in Germany with new supporters; the Hankins plan to continue their work in Japan with support from Japanese Baptists.

The Johnsons, however, said they are unsure about their future plans.

"We must find some form of employment," Johnson said. "Whether any Baptist church will consider us for a position or whether we'll need to try to be greeters at Wal-Mart or burger flippers at McDonald's is uncertain."

*Based on reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Religion News Service*

## Resigning missionaries have Kentucky ties

By **Trennis Henderson**  
Editor

GEORGETOWN—For thousands of Southern Baptists, many of the international missionaries who were fired or resigned last week are more than just names on a missionary prayer list.

Here in Kentucky, prime examples are Don and Angie Finley, who were appointed in 1988 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Serving most of their missionary career in Brazil, the couple worked closely with hundreds of Kentucky Baptist mission volunteers in the early 1990s during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with Baptists in Espirito Santo, Brazil.

The Finleys, who submitted their resignation in an April 28 letter to their regional leader, are among 43 veteran missionaries who resigned, took early retirement or were terminated last week by IMB trustees. Their decision came in response to an ultimatum issued last month by IMB President Jerry Rankin to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, resign or be dismissed.

In addition to their connection with Kentucky Baptists through partnership missions, the Finleys were missionaries-in-residence at Georgetown College during the 1992-93 school year; they plan to return to Georgetown this summer to serve a second time as missionaries-in-residence. They also were actively involved at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington during their 1997-98 stateside assign-

ment when they lived in Calvary's missionary house.

### 'We know them & love them'

Eric Fruge, Georgetown's director of church relations, said school officials look forward to the Finleys returning to campus.

"We know them and love them and are excited about them coming," Fruge said. "We want them to use this year with us to find God's future direction for their lives."

Why would a couple with 15 years' experience in international missions choose to resign their IMB positions rather than endorse the SBC's revised faith statement?

In a response a year ago to Rankin's initial directive, the Finleys explained that "our clearest point of difference with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message is not in the text of the doctrinal statement itself, but in the preamble's assertion that this document is to serve as 'an instrument of doctrinal accountability.'"

Noting that they are "in basic agreement with the majority of the statement's text," the Finleys wrote that "as far as we know, we have never given occasion for anyone to make an issue over the integrity of our teaching, lives or doctrine."

They emphasized, however, that "our authoritative rule of faith and practice always has been, and always must be, the Bible alone."

In their April 28 letter of resignation to Robin Hadaway, the IMB's regional leader for Eastern South America, the Finleys explained they

were "not resigning because we have a problem with grassroots Southern Baptists" or "because we have done anything wrong" or "because of a change in our sense of call."

"There is only one reason we are resigning," they wrote. "Put simply, we no longer believe that the IMB offers us viable conditions for effective missionary service. When a Baptist missionary-sending agency demands doctrinal accountability on the basis of a manmade document rather than on the basis of Scripture, something is wrong. ... When board leadership resorts to untrue accusations to justify the threat to terminate us, something is wrong."

### 'Our call ... hasn't changed'

In an e-mail interview with the Western Recorder, the Finleys said affirming the 2000 faith statement "and the way it is being used would, in our view, compromise biblical authority and be a denial of our heritage as Baptists."

Acknowledging that the process "has taken a toll on us," they wrote, "One of the hardest things is that when we left for the field, Southern Baptists promised to 'hold the ropes' and support us while we were overseas. Now it feels like our leadership has taken that rope and tried to hang us with it."

Though their decision to resign "has been very painful," the Finleys added, "Our call did not come from the SBC or the IMB. It came from God and it hasn't changed. ... They can close one door; God can open any number of doors."

## IMB trustees cut spending by \$10 million

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. (BP)—Facing a major budget shortfall and reduced reserve funds, trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board voted last week to restrict the number of missionary appointments until the IMB's budget can support the growth.

During a meeting May 6-8 in Framingham, Mass., trustees also appointed 47 missionaries and were told that Avery Willis, senior vice president for overseas operations, will retire at the end of 2003.

Because of an expected shortfall in 2003 budget receipts, two of the next three conferences for people interested in the International Service Corps, Journeyman and Masters programs have been cancelled. The number of new short-term personnel will be limited to 400 this year and 300 in 2004, and the number of new long-term personnel will be kept at 350 this year. A total of 412 were appointed last year.

"It's tragic that we must defer missionary candidates ready to go to the field at a time when God is accelerating the harvest and opening doors of opportunity to bring all the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ," IMB President Jerry Rankin said.

Trustees approved options presented by staff to reduce 2003 spending by \$10 million to help offset whatever shortfall may occur. In addition to canceling the two conferences, those options include restrictions on staff travel and delaying production of some materials.

"Not only has the performance of the stock market reduced ... reserves, but it is uncertain how much of the budgeted investment income of \$23 million the board will have available this year," Rankin said. "Since 70 percent of the IMB budget is for the support of missionary personnel, any shortfall would impact this primary budget item."

Avery Willis, who will be 70 in February, announced his plans to step down as senior vice president at the end of the year.

Willis will have completed 10 years in his current role. He has served 50 years in the ministry, including 25 years of service with the IMB.

Forty-seven new long-term missionaries were appointed in the first IMB missionary appointment service held in New England.

"I'm so excited that New England is being exposed to world missions," said Jim Wideman, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England. "This mission task is so great. It is an honor."

## Mission study sets KBC ministry priorities through 2009

Continued from page 1

the gospel, failing to retain new church members at a satisfactory rate, increasing cultural tensions, an aging population and limited state convention resources.

"The report is directional in its intent," Kilgore told Mission Board members. "It is not programmatic."

Among major goals approved by the Mission Board are:

- Encourage each Kentucky Baptist church to increase baptisms at least one per year through 2009.

- Enlist 250,000 new members over the next five years, including 125,000 by baptism.

- Launch 75 churches, including 25 "high impact" churches with a target of 250 members each in five years.

- Assist 1,250 churches in developing and implementing outreach ministries and missions strategies.

- Train 1,000 leaders "with emphasis on emerging leaders."

- Equip 250 pastors and local teams to lead their churches in renewed connection to the Great Commission.

- Equip 1,000 church leaders "to provide a worship experience that connect with emerging generations."

- Provide four church development strategies in regional locations across the state by the end of 2005.

- Assist 250 churches in church development and growth.

- Lead Kentucky Baptist churches to start 5,000 Bible study units by the end of 2009.

### 'Grassroots' emphasis

"I think the fact that this comes from grassroots Kentucky Baptists is tremendously significant," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "For Kentucky Baptists to say this is the direction we want to go can be a means of rallying resources to accomplish these goals."

"The biggest resource is the people resource. That's more significant than anything else," he added. "God working through all Kentucky Baptists is the only way this is going to become a reality."

Describing the recommendations as "God-sized goals," Mackey noted, "People in all size churches are a huge resource. That's where I believe God wants us to focus our re-

## Proposal permits college trustee boards to include non-Baptists

CEDARMORE—In addition to focusing on the ministry of Kentucky Baptist churches, the Mission Study Committee highlighted the work of the convention's institutions and agencies.

Affirming the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 11 related entities, the committee noted that "it will take the support and efforts of each of these members of the Kentucky Baptist family to move toward the objectives and accomplish the goals set forth in this report."

The committee report "strongly encourages Kentucky Baptists to support the work of all of its institutions and agencies."

Zeroing in on "the urgent needs of Christian higher education," the report

### Board members offer words of praise, caution

By David Winfrey  
News Director

CEDARMORE—A mixture of praise and caution by Kentucky Baptist Mission Board members and directors of mission greeted last week's Mission Study Committee report.

"I feel like they have moved us in a position with the emphasis on evangelism, where it should be," said Jerry Oakley, director of missions for Warren Baptist Association in Bowling Green. "And I feel like they have set reasonable goals for all size churches."

But while Oakley said he thinks the committee was responsive to the concerns of Kentucky Baptists, he added that it's up to the congregations whether the report will be a success.

"If we as Kentucky Baptists do not commit ourselves to the vision,

sources."

Several committee members discussed key points of the report as they presented it to the Mission Board for consideration.

Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green, said the ambitious evangelism goals are an effort "to move this convention from an inward-focused convention to an outward-focused convention."

"More than 450 of our Kentucky Baptist Convention churches last year did not reach a single convert," he added. "Folks, that's going out of business. To address this, we need to be encouragers, we need to be encouraging the attitude that this is important."

Asa Greear, director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association, emphasized that evangelism and missions go hand-in-hand.

Citing the committee's finding that 41 percent of Kentuckians are not affiliated with any major religious group, Greear said, "We need to be about focusing on these different groups in order to reach them for our Lord Jesus Christ."

"This is not a plan designed from

it's not worth the paper it's written on," he said. "We've got to do it."

Jerry Dooley, a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, said he wondered if the goals are realistic.

"The idea that we give more money is great," he said. "But the fact is that we haven't been doing it."

Don Phelps, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sturgis, said he's not sure how local churches will receive the report.

"I know most churches are supportive of the convention, but sometimes we're more involved in our own local setting than we are statewide," he said.

The trend toward more hands-on missions participation often requires that more money be used by the local church rather than be sent to the state or national missions agencies, he added.

the top down; it is from the bottom up," said Chris White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton. "It is impossible for the staff of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to deliver this kind of plan. It is going to come through all of us as God leads us."

### Seek Holy Spirit's leadership

During discussion of the proposals, Wayne Spivey, pastor of Cynthiana Church, voiced concern about "running ahead of God" by adopting church baptism goals that only the Holy Spirit can accomplish.

Board members approved an amendment to encourage churches "as led by the Holy Spirit" to increase baptisms by at least one per year through 2009.

The report also includes several "major impact factors" in the areas of financial resources, technology, communications, associational partnerships, staff organization and spiritual foundations.

Committee members projected that "Cooperative Program giving will not likely increase much greater than the rate of inflation ... unless a major effort is made to better educate Kentucky Baptists about the

main affiliated" with the KBC.

Committee member Leslie Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, explained that "the best way to assure that our colleges can remain alive and vibrant and Baptist in the future" is to provide opportunities for the schools to expand their financial resources.

He said the proposal will provide the opportunity for non-Baptists "to help Baptist colleges to continue to survive and thrive."

The plan, which will require a change in Article IX of the KBC Constitution, will be presented for a first reading at this year's KBC annual meeting. It will be presented for a vote at the 2004 annual meeting.

Committee chairman Scott Kil-

"Time will tell how it (the report) plays out," Phelps said.

Committee member Rick Robins, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, admitted that the report's goals are ambitious, but added that the results aren't solely up to the churches.

"I think we're going to have to have the hand of God working with the Kentucky Baptist Convention," he said.

Gregory Deaton, associate pastor of Swiss Colony Baptist Church near London, agreed.

Deaton praised the report's goal for all churches to increase their baptisms, especially those that had no baptisms in the past year. Getting more churches to focus on unreached people will require both "kneework and legwork," a reference to prayer by all Kentucky Baptists and encouragement from pastors and leaders.

ministries of the convention and better promote the need for Cooperative Program support."

Recommendations call on KBC leaders to "significantly increase the level of education and promotion" in the areas of stewardship and cooperation and to establish a program to increase financial support through direct gifts and bequests.

Other proposals approved by the board include establishing a properties study committee to report on facility needs by December 2004. Board members also approved creating a transition fund of up to \$300,000 from excess post-retirement funds to help implement the report's goals and objectives.

A nine-member missions advisory committee will be appointed by KBC President Paul Badgett to work with Mackey in implementing the proposals.

"I think the heart of the whole issue is reaching people for Christ and disciplining them—it's the Great Commission," Mackey said. "It's going to take some bold steps by Kentucky Baptists to say we're going to go for it; we're going to see what God can do through us."

gore, in a May 9 letter to Kentucky Baptist pastors, noted that the four college presidents "believe that this recommendation will provide the opportunity for significant funding from new sources."

He added that "such a supportive recommendation can only strengthen the treasured ties" between the KBC and the colleges.

Other proposals related to the schools include working with the KBC to plan goals and action plans for each student generation, using available resources to assist students called to vocational ministry, pursuing "a first-class Baptist student ministry" on each campus and encouraging graduates to "serve in God's Kingdom work."

### Search begins for Kentucky Baptist Assemblies leader

JONATHAN CREEK—Leadership adjustments and the search for a new chief executive officer were among recent actions by Kentucky Baptists Assemblies' board of directors.

Board chairman Willis Henson was named acting chief executive officer for the organization, which oversees Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore Baptist assemblies.

Henson's appointment, effective May 5, followed the resignation of Rusty Ellison as president and CEO to become pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Also at the recent board meeting, directors named Jonathan Creek Director David Melber as vice president. He will continue to direct Jonathan Creek in his new role.

The board also named Bert Lace as director at Cedarmore. Lace has served as associate director at Cedarmore for more than three years.

A search for a new president and CEO is under way, Henson noted.

"Our board has voiced the perspective that we will be searching for a candidate whose ministry experience uniquely qualifies them for this position," he said.

"Our hope and expectation is the new CEO will buy into the vision and direction already established by Rusty and the board," he added. "Our goal is to have the new CEO in place by our August board meeting."

Introductory letters and resumes can be mailed to Henson, care of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Inc., Box 43364, Louisville, KY, 40253-0364. The deadline for submitting resumes is June 15.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

**TRENNIS HENDERSON**  
Editor

**DAVID WINFREY**  
News Director

**MAURI SMITH**  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

**JOYCE MARTIN**  
Partnership Editions  
Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'Prophecy fulfilled'

You would think the mandatory requirement that International Mission Board missionaries either sign off on the latest version of the Baptist Faith and Message or resign their positions would be met with a motion at this year's Southern Baptist Convention meeting in June apologizing to our missionaries for the well-intentioned but unfortunate misunderstanding of how to relate the BF&M to Baptist life and rescinding the IMB's actions. Given our current situation, this probably won't happen.

As one of the chief architects of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message, Herschel Hobbs warned that "the only thing that would divide Southern Baptists with regard to their faith would be for one group ... to attempt to force upon others a creedal faith."

Sadly, Hobbs' warning has become prophecy fulfilled as the once unifying heartbeat of missions in the SBC is being replaced by the artificial pulse of "doctrinal accountability." Since neither the SBC nor the trustees of the IMB have authorized what has taken place, it seems the only group willing to stand up for Baptist convictions are the missionaries who, refusing to sign or resign, face the probable consequences of being fired.

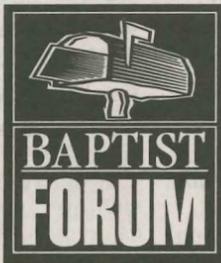
Where are those Southern Baptists willing to stand on the convention floor and mandate that trustees and board presidents are likewise accountable for their non-convention approved actions? Unfortunately, like Hobbs (who was later booed on the convention floor for daring to speak out against the erosion of Baptist principles), I fear they, too, have died.

Lynn Traylor  
Westport

## BF&M 'not creedalistic'

In the April 29 issue of the Western Recorder, the bash-brothers of Henderson and Wingfield are still relentlessly attacking the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention. More than ever, it is obvious that doctrinal integrity means little to the "religiously correct" crowd in our state.

I applaud the leadership of the SBC and Jerry Rankin for the conviction of



Scripture and reverence for Holy God that causes them to make hard and unpopular decisions. While other denominations such as United Methodists and Presbyterians (USA) have not enforced doctrinal principles and now find themselves debating things such as

homosexual ordination, the SBC had drawn a line that does not fade and boldly stand firm upon Scripture.

It seems to me that the IMB missionary problem is an issue of accountability. The accountability is not to popular thought and editorial comments, but to the authority of God's Holy Word. The Baptist Faith and Message is not a creedalistic document but an accurate statement of principles found in Scripture that Southern Baptists agree upon as true. I applaud the IMB for wanting to support only missionaries who believe and teach Scripture and represent the beliefs of Southern Baptists.

Why should we support missionaries who are teaching and practicing ordination of women as heads of churches when that is something we

believe is unscriptural? If missionaries don't believe what the SBC stands for, then why would they even want to be SBC missionaries?

It seems that some that criticize the SBC believe there should never be accountability in our society. I for one believe in the accountability of individuals to Scripture and the church. Missionaries are not above the standards of those by whom they are sent.

Brad Hall  
Benton

## Vote with wisdom

With the upcoming gubernatorial primary election approaching, we are watching and listening to what the candidates of both parties are saying as campaign promises.

We are especially keeping a close watch concerning what the candidates are saying about the current debate to expand gambling by opening casinos in Kentucky. The Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems encourages our Baptist friends to keep informed about what the candidates are saying about this important issue.

I want to take this opportunity to inform readers that we at the Kentucky League do not endorse any political candidate. We encourage our supporters to use their own discernment in choosing the candidate for whom they will cast their vote. Read, listen and pray for wisdom from the Lord as you decide on the next person to lead our great state.

Howard Beauman, executive director  
Kentucky League on Alcohol  
& Gambling Problems  
Louisville

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### What's new in mission study plan?

As you've seen through the coverage in this issue of the Western Recorder, the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Study Committee has presented its report to the KBC Mission Board. After some discussion and one amendment, the report was approved unanimously. I'm excited by the passage of this report and the opportunities we will have for connecting people to Jesus through its implementation.

Everything in the report is not new to Kentucky Baptists although new approaches are abundant. Several things are new for us as a convention, however.

First, the adoption of a mission statement for the Kentucky Baptist Convention as a whole is new for Kentucky Baptists. It has been gratifying to observe how the institutions and agencies have embraced this mission statement as well as the objectives outlined in the report.

The adoption of objectives recommended by a diverse committee of 15

Kentucky Baptist church leaders also is new. The committee process was very dynamic as the members engaged information from Mission Board staff team leaders; institution and agency heads; experts on cultural trends, demographics, church profiles and transitions; and from one another. It was exciting to watch God bring the members together as they sorted and analyzed the vast amounts of data.



Bill Mackey

The mission statement and objectives are designed to provide general direction for the future, especially the next five years. The big goals are designed to help provide concrete expression for the objectives.

Some goals may need to be adjusted as we move forward, and the Mission Study Committee understands that. The committee has made it clear these are goals for all Kentucky Baptists and that they as individuals are willing to support their attainment under God's direction.

The development of action plans

to carry out the objectives is still to come. It will take time this fall and next spring to organize and develop initial plans, as we look forward to their launch at the KBC annual meeting in 2004.

One important objective noted in the report is encouraging and developing networking. Networking enables us all to look for how God is at work, celebrate with those in that ministry, learn from their experiences and share with others. Networking will take place as pastors connect with pastors, churches connect with churches, and all Kentucky Baptists connect with associations and KBC staff.

A key role of the new regional church development specialists called for in the report will be to help enhance and strengthen ministry networks. Churches and pastors who work to help other churches and pastors will discover that they are blessed and strengthened in the process. As a result, I believe such strong networks will produce spiritual development and growth for all involved.

It's going to be an exciting journey!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

### Ensure you are properly insured to protect assets

By Jeremy White

Owning insurance does not necessarily reflect a lack of faith in God.

Consider insurance as a useful tool to manage risk in the fallen world in which we live. In simple terms, insurance lets you pay a little now to cover major expenses in the future due to accident or disaster.



In my previous article, I recommended that health insurance is a basic requirement. Disability and life insurance is vital if your family depends on your income. Long-term care insurance is important for those in their 50s or older to protect their assets.

The final type of insurance you likely need is protection from liability. Our nation has a balanced court system overall, but it also is very litigious with many people trying to get rich from lawsuits. Therefore, having liability insurance is wise. "Therefore, be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16b).

Liability issues may arise from accidents on your property (home), accidents with your property (automobile) or accidents from other actions. Consider these scenarios:

■ Ray, excitedly talking on a cell phone, runs a red light and hits a van carrying preschool children. Does he have enough liability coverage on his auto insurance? You should carry more than the state-required minimum.

■ The Andersons love to have their grandchildren play in their pool. Their grandchildren invite some friends over too. One of the friends dives in shallow water and incurs a paralyzing spinal cord injury. Do the Andersons have enough liability coverage on their home policy?

■ Patty hooks her golf swing wildly to the left. The golf ball bounces into the highway and causes an accident. Does she have an umbrella liability policy?

While these illustrations may seem far-fetched, accidents can happen. Too often, people focus on insuring property—cars, boat, house—rather than insuring the liability.

Obtain liability coverage through your home insurance, auto insurance, an "umbrella" liability coverage for general actions or negligence, and professional liability for self-employed professionals.

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

## Studies show divorce creates host of problems for children

### Q: Does divorce really devastate children?

Popular divorce literature tells us children are happier if parents are happier; children are resilient; they adjust; they adapt; they bounce back after their parents' divorce. The hard evidence tells a different story.

In her definitive book, "The Divorce Culture," Barbara Dafoe Whitehead shows how divorce sets in motion a host of problems, and begins a downward spiral that includes loss of income, loss of ties with father, loss of residential stability and loss of social resources, not to mention increasing the risk of school dropout, behavior problems, lower educational and job achievement and teen pregnancy.

Dr. John Gottman agrees. He says there is rarely such a thing as a peaceful divorce. The hostility typically continues after the breakup. A lot of the anger gets dumped on the kids, leading to behavior problems that include higher occurrences of truancy, depression, peer rejection, behavioral problems (especially aggression), low achievement at school and even school failure.

Divorce also impacts children from an economic standpoint. Simply put, children of divorce are worse off financially. They have less, and are disadvantaged when it comes to money matters.

The Baptist Center for Ethics reports research showing that children who grow up in divorced households are more likely to get divorced themselves. According to Whitehead, this is because "children whose parents break up have a hard time forming lasting bonds with others and keeping commitments."

Writing in "Today's Better Life," Brad Wiewel sums up the evidence. "Children of divorce experience more of every kind of social problem than those from intact families."—David Garrard

### Q: My husband has an unrealistic view of the options for his care if he becomes unable to care for himself. Although he still is healthy and active, he is frustrating me and other family members with his constant pronouncements about not putting him in a nursing home. What realistic options are available if he eventually needs professional care?

This worry is not uncommon for many older adults. Most people want to maintain independence as long as possible.

Recognition of this issue has led to the concept of the continuum of care. A key component of this concept is the principle of least restriction: the least restrictions that will provide an individual the most care is the most appropriate setting. Generally, whatever can be done to enable a person to remain in his or her own home setting is the preferred choice.

The continuum of care, from least to most restrictive includes:

- **In-home.** Monitoring services, home health care, nutrition programs.

- **Community.** Nutrition programs, legal/protective services, senior centers, community mental health services, adult day care, respite care.

- **Special housing.** Respite care, hospice care, retirement village, life care services, domiciliary care, foster home, personal care home, group home, congregate care.

- **Institutional.** Intermediate care, skilled nursing, psychiatric hospital, acute care hospital.

Take time to discuss these options with your husband to help him realize there are a variety of viable options if or when he needs specialized care.—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.



## KBC mission study: Can we hear God now?

That ubiquitous cell phone slogan—"Can you hear me now?"—would be a fitting theme (barring copyright restrictions, of course) for the Kentucky Baptist Mission Study Committee's ministry plan.

The 10-page report and recommendations by a 15-member blue ribbon study committee gained unanimous approval during last week's Kentucky Baptist Mission Board meeting.

The yearlong process involved Baptist leaders from across the commonwealth seeking to hear and respond to concerns, needs and hopes of grassroots Baptists. It also involved committee members hearing about trends and challenges impacting denominational ministry in the 21st century. Mission Board staff also are hearing the priorities and goals of board members for ministry through the rest of this decade.

As significant as it is for Kentucky Baptists to hear one another, the more challenging step is to apply those priorities and goals on a practical level.

Chairman Scott Kilgore emphasized that the committee was "able to say with one voice we feel like this is where God wants us to go." Comparing the report to an artist's canvas, he added, "There are some broad strokes here. In other areas there are just outlines that are penciled in."

Helping complete the painting will be the responsibility of Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey, the Mission Board staff, KBC institutions and agencies, local churches and associations and individual church members.

"I believe this to be a historic time for us as Kentucky Baptists," Mackey told board members. "I look forward to the future God already has prepared for us in connecting people to Jesus Christ. ... It will require a growing discipleship among every Kentucky Baptist."

Achieving the plan's ambitious goals will require not only a shift in priorities but a change in overall ministry philosophy.

The mission statement adopted by the board declares that the mission of the state convention "is to assist Kentucky Baptist Convention churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

"Connecting" speaks of building personal relationships, sharing vital resources and maintaining effective communication. Rather than being program-driven, convention emphases will need to move toward tailored approaches that address specific needs and concerns of Baptists throughout the state.

Anticipated results range from increased baptisms and church starts to personal spiritual growth and church fellowship across racial and ethnic lines.

"I'm very excited about this report," said Larry Martin, leader of the KBC missions growth team. "I think it really captures the

movement of God which is already occurring in Kentucky. ... When the emphasis is on what God is doing at the grassroots level, it is much more lasting."

Dan Garland, leader of the KBC evangelism growth team, suggested that "the evangelism piece is the thread that ties it all together."

"If the convention actually does embrace evangelism as their primary objective," he added, "that is a major shift that hopefully would send a positive message to churches that the convention is about evangelism and missions."

Such priorities are not only God-honoring goals, but God-sized goals as well. As Kentucky Baptists rally around "connecting all people to Jesus Christ" as our primary mission, God surely is saying to us, "Yes, you can hear Me now."

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Can Southern Baptists grow God's Kingdom?

By Tony Cartledge

What can Southern Baptists do to grow the Kingdom of God? At the convention annual meeting last summer, messengers approved a strategic initiative called "Empowering Kingdom Growth."

The emphasis began with no stated goals, but some aspects of the program are taking shape. A new "Empowering Kingdom Families" program and a line of supportive resources will be unveiled at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Phoenix next month, and LifeWay Resources is promoting new "Kingdom Focused Churches" materials.

Ken Hemphill, who recently announced his departure from the presidency of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has been named to head up EKG and bring it more focus.

To promote understanding of the concept, LifeWay hosted a conference for Southern Baptist communicators at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center April 30-May 2. Participants struggled with what we mean by the "Kingdom of God," whether Southern Baptists can retain their distinctive identity and still be "Kingdom people," and how the SBC can best promote its new emphasis on Kingdom values.

I personally struggle with how to

communicate an emphasis that has what I believe to be a self-contradictory name. Naming the enterprise "Empowering Kingdom Growth" implies that Southern Baptists can actually empower Kingdom growth—that we can do something that will make God's Kingdom bigger.

But the Bible clearly teaches that God's Kingdom already fills the universe and encompasses every race and tribe, so there is little we can do to expand it.

The expression "Kingdom of God" never appears in the Old Testament, but the concept is everywhere, and it can be summed up in two words: Yahweh rules!

When Christians gather for worship, we often sing "Rejoice the Lord is King," or a praise chorus about God's kingship. It's pure hubris to think that any human work can make the Kingdom any bigger than it is.

Which is not to say that we cannot participate with God in Kingdom work. God calls His followers to a unique relationship within the Kingdom. For example, God's covenant with Israel in Exodus 19:5-6 affirms that Yahweh is Lord of all peoples, but He offers a special covenant relationship to those who listen to Him and follow Him. Peter quotes this as a promise to the church as the new Israel (1 Peter 2:9).

When Jesus came preaching the

gospel of the Kingdom, He declared that the Kingdom was present in His ministry in a way it had not been experienced before.

I believe we are indeed called to declare the good news that the Kingdom of God has been revealed in a new way through Jesus Christ, and that its benefits and responsibilities are waiting for those who will receive it—but that's not empowering Kingdom growth as much as encouraging human surrender.

Several speakers struggled with the concept of whether Southern Baptists can be sold out to the Kingdom and sold out to their Southern Baptist identity at the same time.

Some observers have expressed a concern that if we put too much emphasis on the Kingdom of God, it might lead Southern Baptists away from a doctrinally oriented focus and toward the more ambiguous concept that we're just supposed to love each other.

My concern is that won't happen. I'm all for any emphasis that encourages Christians to be more faithful servants of the King, obeying Christ's command to love God and to love one another, in keeping with God's purpose for humankind.

For that to happen, however, we must catch a Kingdom vision that goes beyond our own denominational and doctrinal kingdoms. Such is my prayer.

Tony Cartledge is editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder

## KBC Mission Study Committee recommendations

### Challenges

The Mission Study Committee began its report noting several issues facing Kentucky Baptists, including:

- Approximately 450 Kentucky Baptist Convention churches reported no baptisms in the past year.

- Total baptisms in Kentucky have stabilized at approximately 17,500. That's approximately 5,000 fewer baptisms than the record 22,267 baptisms recorded in 1973.

- 41 percent of Kentuckians are unclaimed by any major faith group.

- Five counties in Eastern Kentucky are among the most unreached in America.

- Sunday school enrollment for churches in the commonwealth continues to decline.

At last week's meeting, members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board adopted the following recommendations of the Mission Study Committee.

The committee opened its report stating that it "recognizes the steady and faithful contributions which the Kentucky Baptist Convention has made to the Kingdom of God. We are grateful for the foundational strengths of the Kentucky Baptist Convention which make possible the following recommendations. By building from our strengths we are positioned to focus our energies with additional 21st century strategies for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ."

### Mission statement

The Kentucky Baptist Convention needs a mission statement to provide focus and a yardstick for its ministries. The Mission Study Committee recommends the approval of the following Mission Statement:

**"The mission of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is to assist Kentucky Baptist Convention churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ."**

## Objectives & goals to achieve the mission statement

### Evangelism

To introduce all people to God's grace through:

- Increasing conversion growth.
- Training converts to reproduce themselves.
- Connecting converts with mature followers in churches.

#### Evangelism goals:

1. Encourage each church, as led by the Holy Spirit, to increase its baptisms by at least one each year by Jan. 1, 2010.
2. 250,000 new members, including 125,000 baptisms by Jan. 1, 2010.
3. Achieve at least 80 percent of the new members becoming active by Jan. 1, 2010.

### Missions

To help Kentucky Baptists identify, explore and respond to mission opportunities in Kentucky and beyond. The focus will be on:

- New church starts.
- Eastern Kentucky/Mountain target area.
- Groups, such as the poor, language missions, ethnic groups and multi-housing.
- Partnership efforts on the local, state, national and international levels.
- Missions education and involvement.
- Creating an on-mission attitude among Kentucky Baptists.

#### Missions goals:

1. Launch 75 new churches, including 25 high impact churches (five of the high impact in Eastern Kentucky) by Jan. 1, 2010.

A high impact church has a goal of 250 members attending within five years. They will need an estimated \$100,000 in seed money.

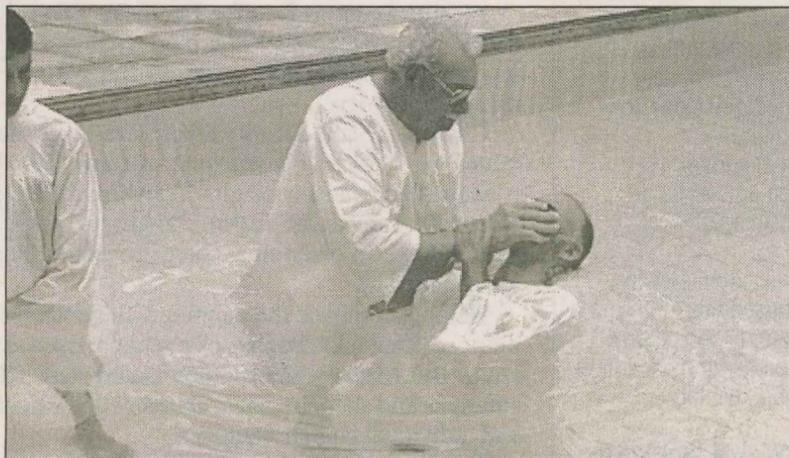
In addition, start 50 language church-type ministries.

2. To assist 1,250 churches in developing and implementing outreach ministries and missions strategies.

3. Enlist and develop 500 workers to lead in establishing 500 evangelistic points of outreach focused on unreached people groups in Kentucky (e.g. multi-housing).

### Leader training

To equip church leaders in spiritual life development and leader skills to enable churches to fulfill the Great Commission.



**BAPTISMS** The Mission Study Committee has set a goal of every Kentucky Baptist church increasing its number of baptisms by at least one person for the next seven years.

#### Leader training goals:

1. Train 1,000 leaders with emphasis on emerging leaders by Jan. 1, 2010.
2. Equip 250 pastors and local teams to lead their churches in renewed connection to the Great Commission.
3. Equip 1,000 Kentucky Baptist church leaders to provide authentic worship experiences that connect with emerging generations.
4. Train 500 leaders to begin and/or strengthen women's and men's ministries.

### Networking

To connect KBC staff and church leaders with other church leaders for encouragement, coaching and resourcing. Emphases would include the following:

- Providing KBC church development strategists.
- Building community fellowship among Baptists.
- Connecting churches across different racial and/or ethnic backgrounds.
- Mentoring.
- Connecting churches in racial reconciliation ministries.

#### Networking goals:

1. Place four church development strategists in four regional locations by Dec. 31, 2005.
2. Enlist and utilize 100 representative KBC churches in networking church development by Jan. 1, 2010. (Selected staff will be equipped as coaching and consultative specialists, and pastors will network with other pastors.)

### Strengthen churches

To assist churches in realizing their God-designed potential.

#### Church strengthening goals:

1. Assist 250 churches in church development and growth (10 percent increase in attendance) by Jan. 1, 2010.
2. Equip 1,000 pastors for small group/Sunday school development by Jan. 1, 2010.
3. Lead Kentucky Baptist churches to start 5,000 new Bible study units by Jan. 1, 2010.
4. Utilize technology in providing customized resources to 1,000 churches by Jan. 1, 2010.

### Relationship with agencies & institutions

To partner with Kentucky Baptist Convention institutions and agencies and other ministry groups in order for the convention to achieve its mission statement.

The committee recognizes and affirms the work of:

- Baptist Healthcare Inc.
- Campbellsville University.
- Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.
- Cumberland College.
- Georgetown College.
- Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.
- Kentucky Baptist Foundation.
- Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.
- Oneida Baptist Institute.
- Western Recorder.
- Woman's Missionary Union.

Having met with the leaders of these institutions, the committee expresses appreciation for their insight and contributions. The committee believes that it will take the support and efforts of each of these members of the Kentucky Baptist family to move toward the objectives and accomplish the goals set forth in this report.

The committee further strongly encourages Kentucky Baptists to support the work of all of its institutions and agencies. The urgent needs of Christian higher education lead to the following recommendations:

1. For the Convention and colleges to strategize goals and action plans for each student generation (meaning, intentional four-year plans), and for the colleges to determine the best focus for specializing their work to minimize duplication among themselves and to maximize shared resources.

2. For the Convention and colleges to utilize the most effective financial resources to assist students who are called to vocational ministry.

3. For the Convention and colleges to continue the policy that all trustees are to be Christians who are sympathetic with historic Baptist beliefs; and in order to expand the resources of the colleges, a minimum of three-fourths of the trustees must be members of churches affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The intentional commitment of each trustee is for the college to remain affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

4. For the colleges to pursue a first-class Baptist Student ministry.

5. For the Convention and colleges to partner in helping to create passionate bonds of shared purpose so students from each collegiate generation will upon graduation, serve in God's Kingdom work and feel their place of importance in the Kentucky Baptist family.

As the institutions and agencies continue to share reports to the Convention it will be especially important that a spirit of encouragement and accountability permeate their working relationship. This will call for a more effective network of communication between the agencies and institutions on the one hand and the churches of the Convention on the other so each can respond as to available resources to meet the needs of the other.

## Major factors for achieving the new mission statement

The committee recommends that the Mission Board acknowledge (1) that there are some major subjects or factors which will have significant impact on one or more of the KBC's objectives and/or goals, and (2) that the Executive Director and/or the applicable committee or board will need to address these factors in order to effectively implement the mission statement, objectives and goals. These major factors are:

### Resources/stewardship

**Resources:** The primary source of financial support for the ministries of the Mission Board is Cooperative Program gifts from the churches. The genius of the Cooperative Program has allowed Kentucky Baptist ministries to have a major impact on the Commonwealth in the 20th century. All Kentucky Baptists are very thankful to God for His provision through His church.

The committee has reviewed the potential support of the Cooperative Program in the 21st century. The most likely projection is that Cooperative Program giving will not likely increase much greater than the rate of inflation 3 percent +/-, unless a major effort is made to better educate Kentucky Baptists about the ministries of the Convention and better promote the need for Cooperative Program support. The committee is also of the opinion that the percentage of Cooperative Program gift use for Kentucky Baptist work will remain at 64 percent of the total gifts for the foreseeable future, and that 55 percent of this 64 percent will be used for the ministries of the Mission Board with the remaining 45 percent going to KBC institutions and agencies. Therefore, providing increased resources from the Cooperative Program for the work of the Mission Board will be a challenge. There will likely be some need to re-allocate resources to implement new objectives in the best scenario.

Other prospective sources of funds are (1) funds designated for Kentucky only (RKO) and (2) direct support or endowments through direct gifts and bequests to support Mission Board ministries. RKO funds are likely to be about \$450,000 +/- over the next few years. These funds are not promoted by the convention.

**Recommendations:** The Mission Board adopt two goals in order to increase resources to undergird the ministries of the Mission Board as follows:

1. Significantly increase the level of education and promotion in

order to communicate with every new believer and church members how the biblical teaching of stewardship and the Southern Baptist idea of cooperation (i.e. Cooperative Program) connects to the Christ of reaching every person for the Christ.

2. Establish a program(s), which will provide increased support through direct gifts and bequests.

The committee believes that God will provide for His work and that Kentucky Baptists will meet the challenges of the 21st century.

**Expenses:** The committee identified the following major items with respect to the current expense structure of the Mission Board:

■ The current support infrastructure is being fully utilized to support current staffing, programs and ministries. Support for new ministries will need to be provided, or resources will have to be redirected based on the objectives of the Mission Board.

■ At current income levels, the programs of the Mission Board are being operated at 90 percent of budget.

■ Year-end overages, which have been used in recent years to fund a number of programs, are drying up as a resource of funds.

■ The Mission Board faces some major questions in regard to occupancy in the KBC Building-East. Part of the building is 46 years old and will require major repairs and maintenance expenses in the near future. A number of offices need re-configuration under the current Mission Board structure. Assuming the Mission Board approves the Report of the Mission Study Committee, other major re-configurations will be required to implement the Board's objectives.

**Recommendation:** The Mission Study Committee recommends that the chairperson of the Mission Board appoint a Properties Study Committee for the purpose of reviewing the work of previous building study committees, studying the occupancy needs of the Mission Board and the condition of KBC Building-East, and making a recommendation(s) to the Mission Board by Dec. 31, 2004.

**Transition Fund:** In order to implement the Report of the Mission Study Committee, transition funds will be required to implement the objectives and any changes in a timely and effective manner. For example, overlapping in staffing for some

weeks may be required to move to new organizational changes. New programs to implement objectives may need "seed money" or funding for some period prior to a new budget year in order to be implemented in a timely manner.

**Recommendation:** The Mission Study Committee recommends that a Transition Fund be established for the Executive Office Budget to be used to implement the objectives and goals of this report as approved by the Mission Board, and that the transition fund be funded, starting June 1, 2003, with transfers as needed out of the Post-Retirement Income Fund, not to exceed \$300,000.

### Technology

The Kentucky Baptist Convention will need to continue to use technology to undergird and impact our mission of connecting people to Jesus. This will involve:

■ Providing the KBC staff with the needed technology to carry out their duties.

■ Connecting churches to customized resources.

■ Disseminating information regarding KBC ministries thus providing opportunities for spiritual growth and church development.

### Communication

The KBC will strive to communicate clearly its mission and purpose. Also, studies will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of communication within the KBC departments, between its agencies and institutions, with KBC churches, individual Kentucky Baptists, and to present recommendations for improvements in these lines of communication.

### Associational partnership

The Mission Study Committee acknowledges that the work of Directors of Missions and partnership with associations will be vital in carrying out the KBC mission, objectives and goals. The committee recommends enhanced training and resourcing of Directors of Missions.

### Organization/staffing

In order to implement the mission statement and objectives, some organization and staffing needs will change over the next few years. Any changes will be processed under current procedures through the Administrative Committee and the Mission Board.

requested, and monitor the progress of Kentucky Baptists in fulfilling their mission statement.

The committee shall bring a report(s) to the Mission Board when appropriate with a final report to be made on or before Jan. 1, 2010, at which time the committee shall terminate.

### Advisory committee

With the adoption of the Mission Study Committee Report, the President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, with the advice and consent of the Executive Director, shall appoint a nine-member Mission Advisory Committee.

Members shall serve for three years or may be reappointed.

The purpose of the committee is to advise the Executive Director, as

### Mission Study Committee members

**Chairman Scott Kilgore**, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

**Vice Chairman Chris White**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton.

**Secretary Rick Robbins**, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association.

**Steve Ayers**, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green.

**Charles Barnes**, member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

**Paul Chitwood**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset.

**Roy Finley**, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Madisonville.

**Asa Greear**, director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association.

**Harold Greenfield**, retired director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association and past president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**Les Hollon**, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

**Mike James**, pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Lexington.

**Kevin McCallon**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah.

**Randy Pressnell**, associate professor of preaching and pastoral ministries at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and member of East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church in Middlesboro.

**Ava Bingham Reynolds**, member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

**Sheila Rose**, member of New Horizon Baptist Church in Danville.

**Ex-officio member Paul Badgett**, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

**Ex-officio member Bill Mackey**, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**Committee adviser Steve Thompson**, executive associate of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

### Spiritual foundations

The Mission Study Committee members understand that the KBC mission, objectives and goals cannot be achieved without God's hand of blessing upon Kentucky Baptists. The nature of the mission involves spiritual warfare, consequently each Kentucky Baptist is encouraged to remain closely connected to Jesus Christ, to love as Christ loved us, to pray for and encourage one another (John 15).

Therefore, KBC staff, associational and church leaders, and institution and agency personnel, are encouraged to place a special five-year emphasis on prayer focused on God's protection and connecting all people to Jesus Christ. The KBC staff Prayer Consultant is requested to develop a statewide five-year prayer emphasis, in consultation with church and associational leaders.

### Concluding comments

The members of the Mission Study Committee thank the Mission Board for the opportunity to serve.

The committee has tried hard to be diligent and open to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

We trust that God will use this report and use our efforts to advance the work of His Kingdom among Kentucky Baptists.

## Other recommendations/comments by the Mission Study Committee

### Leadership

Leadership for the implementation of the Mission Study Committee Report and Recommendations, along with the Mission Statement, Objectives and Goals as outlined, rest with the Executive Office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

With the adoption of the report and recommendations, the Executive Director is authorized to proceed with its implementation.

# KENTUCKY

## KBC board adopts zero-growth CP budget for 2003-04

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

CEDARMORE—The Kentucky Baptist Mission Study Committee report wasn't the only focus of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board meeting.

In addition to approving the study committee's report and recommendations, Mission Board members adopted a \$23.2 million Cooperative Program goal for the KBC's 2003-2004 fiscal year and approved an international missions partnership with Baptists in Brazil.

The KBC Cooperative Program goal is unchanged from the current year's budget goal. The zero-growth budget comes in response to a budget shortfall last year—the first time in six years that Kentucky Baptist CP giving fell short of budget.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team, told board members, "Last year we did not meet budget; this year we will not meet budget. There are no new dollars to be used" from Cooperative Program resources.

Ashby added that the KBC's portion of the budget will include about \$2,000 in additional funds from other sources.

Budget allocations include 36 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes, 35.5 percent for KBC Mission Board ministries and 28.5 percent for Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies.

Through the end of April, current CP receipts are \$14.68 million, a slight increase over the previous year but more than \$780,000 (5.1 percent) below budget.

KBC leaders project CP giving will continue to run about 5 percent below budget for the remainder of the fiscal

year, Ashby told board members. If so, he added, "We will finish the year probably about \$1 million short of budget."

Ashby said a primary concern is that local churches' CP giving percentage continues to decline while church receipts are increasing. He said convention leaders "have got to do a better job of educating and training and promoting the Cooperative Program in our state."

Despite the budget shortfall, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey told board members, "I trust we will have a great finish this year."

Expressing appreciation for "the consistency of support of missions provided by Kentucky Baptist churches," Mackey added, "I am convinced that Kentucky Baptists are a missionary people; I see that coming through time and time again."

### Brazilian missions partnership

In other action, the board's missions growth committee proposed a four-year missions partnership with two Baptist conventions in Brazil. The Northeast Brazil Partnership, set for 2005-2008, will include cooperation with Brazilian Baptists' Piaui Convention and Federal District Convention of Brasilia.

Ross Bauscher, director of the KBC partnership missions department, said 140 of Piaui's 233 counties have no Baptist church. Plans call for helping plant up to 30 churches and assisting both conventions in such areas as evangelism, leadership training, church construction and medical missions.

Board members also approved plans to extend the KBC's current international missions partnerships with the European Baptist Convention and the Baptist Union of Poland through

2004. Both partnerships were scheduled to conclude this year.

Board members also:

■ Heard a report from administrative committee chairman Charles Barnes that the committee had hired Tim Mills as a part-time campus minister at Union College in Barbourville. Mills has served the past two years as interim campus minister. He is a graduate of Cumberland College in Williamsburg and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ Adopted a policy specifying that "all full-time and professional contract positions, where possible, (be) persons who are members in good standing of Baptist churches which are affiliated with and/or working in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and/or the Southern Baptist Convention."

In response to a question, Barnes said the policy would not prohibit hir-

ing individuals who attend churches affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or National Baptist conventions as long as the church also is working "in cooperation with" the KBC or SBC.

■ Designated \$80,000 from the Marguerite Reed Trust Endowment for use in mountain missions ministry and church development and more than \$500,000 from the trust endowment to be used as a permanent endowment for mountain missions.

■ Approved transfer of \$69,000 from a Poland Partnership Fund to a new Partnership Mission Special Emphases Fund.

■ Heard a report from former KBC President Jim McKinley, a retired international missionary, about a Southern Baptist International Mission Board appointment service in Kentucky. The service will be Nov. 11 at Rupp Arena in Lexington in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting.

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

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



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

### SERIOUS CONCERNS

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

- Call us: 1-800-370-6180
- Visit us: [carpenterbus.com](http://carpenterbus.com)

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

## BAPTIST SEMINARY OF KENTUCKY ANNOUNCES COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 2003-04

Our students are pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. Tuition: \$220 per semester hour. Scholarships available. For more information about admission as a student or auditing, contact the Seminary at 859-455-8191.

Fall 2003	First/Last Day of Classes	8/25 - 12/12	Spring 2004	First/Last Day of Classes	1/29-5/12		
Mon	9:00-12:00	New Testament	Dalen C. Jackson	Mon	1:00-4:00	Old Testament	Dalen C. Jackson
Mon	1:00-4:00	Worship	Bill Turner	Mon	5:30-7:30	Spiritual Formation I	Richard L. Landon
Mon	5:30-7:30	Spiritual Formation II	Richard L. Landon	Mon	5:30-7:30	Spiritual Formation II Sect. 2	Jim Holladay
Mon	5:30-7:30	Spiritual Form. I Sect. 2	Jim Holladay	Tues	8:00-10:00	Life and Work of the Minister	Robert G. Baker
T/Thr	9:15-10:30	Hebrew	Greg C. Earwood	T/Thr	9:15-10:30	Hebrew Reading	Greg C. Earwood
Tues	11:00-11:45	Chapel		Tues	11:00-11:45	Chapel	
T/Thr	1:00-2:15	Introduction to Greek	Dalen C. Jackson	T/Thr	1:00-2:15	Greek Reading	Dalen C. Jackson
T/Thr	2:30-3:45	Missional Life of the Church I	Leslie Hill	T/Thr	2:30-3:45	Missional Life of the Church II	Leslie Hill
Tues	6:00-8:45	Introduction to Spirituality	E. Glenn Hinson	Tues	6:00-8:45	Ministers as Spiritual Guides	E. Glenn Hinson
W/F	8:00-9:00	Spiritual Form. I Sect. 1	Richard L. Landon	W/F	8:00-9:00	Spiritual Formation II Sect. 1	Richard L. Landon
W/F	9:15-10:30	Old Testament	Dalen C. Jackson	W/F	9:15-10:30	New Testament	Dalen C. Jackson
W/F	10:45-12:00	Church History I	E. Glenn Hinson	W/F	10:45-12:00	Church History II	E. Glenn Hinson
Wed	1:30-4:30	Theology I	Dwight A. Moody	Wed	8:30-11:30	Pastoral Care	G. Wade Rowatt
Thur	6:00-8:45	The Book of Revelation	Joe E. Lunceford	Wed	1:30-4:30	Theology II	Dwight A. Moody
		Contextual Ministry I				Contextual Ministry II	

2004 January and Summer terms also available  
See [www.bsky.org](http://www.bsky.org) for details



Baptist Seminary of Kentucky  
150 E. High Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

859-455-8191  
[www.bsky.org](http://www.bsky.org)

## San Diego mission the 413th for Graham; Oklahoma next

SAN DIEGO—With total attendance reaching more than a quarter million people, Billy Graham wrapped up his 413th mission May 11 in San Diego.

"I probably will not preach another sermon in San Diego, but I'll see you in heaven," Graham said, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper.

The 84-year-old evangelist preached four days during the event, May 8-11.

Christian artists Third Day and Michael W. Smith helped launch Graham's Mission San Diego evangelistic campaign with a crowd of 54,000 May 8 at Qualcomm Stadium.

Graham, in typical fashion, turned the evening heavenward.

After a standing ovation spanning several minutes, the evangelist spoke of the war in Iraq—the San Diego area provided one-fifth of the Iraq fighting force—the SARS epidemic, the ongoing battle against AIDS and the tornadoes that had devastated parts of the country.

"Not in my lifetime have I seen so many problems," Graham said.

Citing his own fragile health—including Parkinson's disease—and his wife Ruth's health—she is now bedridden at their home in Montreat, N.C.—Graham spoke of mortality.

"All of us here are going to die,"

Graham said. "In the next 60 or 70 years, almost everybody in this stadium will be gone."

And at the end of his 30-minute sermon, Graham asked his audience to "get up out of your seats" and commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

More than 3,100 people came forward in response to Graham's May 8 invitation.

Approximately 74,000 people attended the Saturday night youth-oriented "Velocity: A Concert for Our Generation," with an estimated 4,200 people responding to the invitation.

Local officials praised the mission for its impact.

"I think many have been brought closer to God," Jane Crane, a Presbyterian laywoman and one of the key organizers, told the San Diego Union-Tribune. "I think it has been a wonderful knitting together of the churches through the common denominator of Dr. Graham."

David Montzingo, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in North Park and a member of the mission's local executive team, said, "I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

An estimated 24,000 people worked to organize the event. Graham's next mission will be next month in Oklahoma City.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and the San Diego Union-Tribune

## Disaster relief

### Tornadoes, storms send workers to Rineyville and three other sites

RINEYVILLE—Kentucky Baptists are in Rineyville and at least three other locations this week helping residents clean up after tornadoes and violent storms lashed the commonwealth last week.

Volunteers are expected to be most needed in Rineyville after a tornado caused extensive damage west of Elizabethtown May 11.

Volunteers already were working in Olive Hill, near Ashland, on mud-out work when Sunday morning's storms hit.

Also, chainsaw and cleanup crews are working in southern Illinois and Jackson, Tenn.

A team of nine Kentuckians was in Jackson City, Tenn., last week, where an F-4 tornado ripped through May 4.

Kentucky volunteers worked with Baptists from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas and Tennessee, cleaning debris from yards and streets so city crews could carry it away.

"Several of the homes don't look like there's going to be too much left," Larry Koch, director of disaster relief for Kentucky Brotherhood, said from Jackson.

In Kentucky, at least 19 counties have some level of wind damage as a result of the storms in the past week, said Ray Bowman, spokesman for the Kentucky Emergency Management Division.

Eight counties have declared themselves local disaster areas, and state and federal assistance will likely be requested soon, Bowman added. "Nationwide it was a record setting week," he said.

Kentucky Baptists are part of a substantial response by Baptist disaster relief volunteers throughout the Midwest and South.

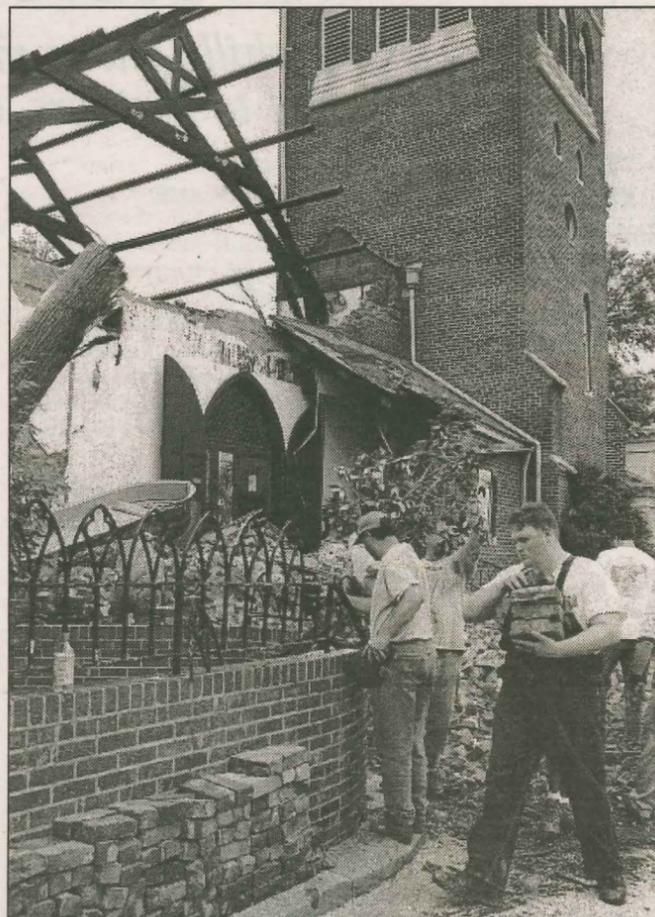
Units responding include mobile kitchens, chain saw units clearing downed trees, crisis intervention teams providing counseling and "mud-out" units cleaning out homes in flood-stricken areas.

Current Baptist relief efforts include work in:

■ **Oklahoma.** Disaster relief units of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma were at First Southern Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, working with the Red Cross to serve 3,000 meals to displaced families.

■ **Missouri.** State feeding units are operational in central and southwest Missouri, and an Arkansas feeding unit is set up on the campus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. Two Missouri chain saw units and one Arkansas unit are also working in the state.

■ **Tennessee.** Chainsaw units from seven states and mud-out units from four states have been activated in Jackson, Tenn. Also, a feeding unit is set up at West Jackson Baptist Church.



### Volunteers needed

Trained disaster relief volunteers are being asked to call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department if they can volunteer for cleanup work.

Kentucky Baptists currently are serving in four sites in Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee, and organizers are working to distribute volunteers where they are needed, said Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for Kentucky Brotherhood.

Those who can volunteer are asked to call the Brotherhood office first at (888) 254-5720 or in Louisville (502) 244-6489.

■ **Illinois.** Two state chainsaw units and one Kentucky unit were working in Southern Illinois, and a childcare unit is ministering to children affected by the tornadoes.

■ **Kansas.** The Kansas-Nebraska feeding unit continues operation in the southwest Kansas town of Pittsburg.

■ **Arkansas.** Five chainsaw teams completed work May 8 northeast of Little Rock.

■ **Mississippi.** A state feeding unit began operating May 9 in eastern Mississippi.

■ **Georgia.** Disaster relief leaders are assessing damage in west central Georgia, after flooding that began late May 8.

More than 25,000 trained volunteers currently are part of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief network nationwide. The units generally are owned and operated by state conventions and local associations and coordinated nationally by the North American Mission Board.

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey and Baptist Press

### TORNADO DAMAGE

Volunteers salvage bricks from St. Luke's Episcopal Church in downtown Jackson, Tenn. Kentucky Baptists are in Jackson, Rineyville, Ky., and two other locales helping residents clean up after severe storms in the past week. (Union University photo by Jim Veneman)



THE  
*Stephen Olford*  
Center

FOR BIBLICAL PREACHING

The Center was founded in 1988 to promote the biblical exposition of God's Word and to provide practical training for pastors, evangelists and lay leaders throughout the world. Drs. Stephen and David Olford share an abiding passion for encouraging and equipping men and women to rightly divide the Word of Truth and to live Spirit-filled lives. The ultimate answer to problems of every age is the anointed expository preaching of God's inerrant and holy Word.

• **INSTITUTES** . . . on biblical preaching, leadership, and evangelism. Drs. Stephen and David Olford, host speakers at all events, share the program with an array of guest speaker(s).

• **WORKSHOPS** . . . "live preaching" and constructive critique of your sermons, skills, and style.

• **CONTINUING EDUCATION** . . . full program of training. Potential academic credit offered through affiliated seminaries and Bible colleges.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
FOR SCHEDULE  
& DETAILS!!**

P. O. Box 757800  
Memphis, TN 38175-7800  
Phone: (800) 843-2241/(901) 757-7977  
Website: <www.olford.org>  
E-mail: <omi@olford.org>

## 'No losers in God's Kingdom'

*Churchill Downs ministry takes gospel to trainers, owners & jockeys*

By Frank Lockwood  
*Lexington Herald-Leader*

LOUISVILLE—Pastor Dan Powell has never bet on a horse or sampled a mint julep.

But he was at Churchill Downs on Derby Day—sharing Scriptures with hot-walkers, praying for the safety of jockeys and performing a marriage ceremony for a horse-crazy Canadian couple.

Jesus Pacheco was on the backside, sharing his faith through both English and Spanish.

Ken Boehm, Churchill Downs' new chaplain, was roaming the track, offering spiritual guidance to millionaire horse owners and minimum-wage workers alike.

"Win or lose the Kentucky Derby, God loves them all just the same. There are no losers in God's King-

dom," Boehm said.

That's a message the chaplain continues giving long after the celebrities have left, the limousines have driven away and the spotlight has shifted to the Preakness and the Belmont.

Thanks to the Kentucky Race Horse Chaplaincy, workers at Churchill Downs and other bluegrass tracks are provided with spiritual guidance throughout the year.

Sundays aren't treated as holy days at the track, Thoroughbreds must be cared for 365 days a year. But each Monday night, after the horses have been fed and the workday is over, Christians gather at Churchill Downs to celebrate their faith.

### Worship in the rec room

There aren't any stained-glassed windows or pipe organs on the backside. Workers worship at the recreation center, a building with betting windows and pool tables, and washing machines that whir and hum.

On a recent Monday evening, about 25 Spanish-speaking believers sang choruses, accompanied by a guitarist. They read from bilingual Bibles titled "Guide for Winning the Race of Life." They asked for prayer for their loved ones in Mexico.

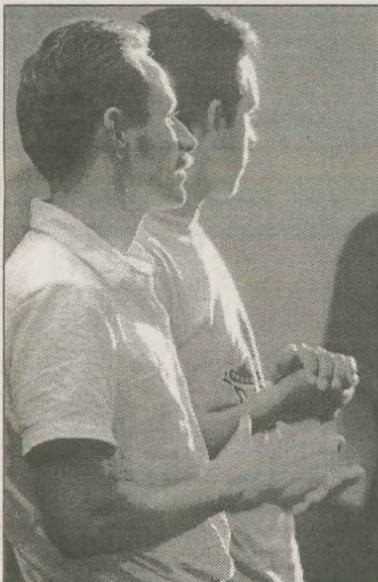
Outside, on the porch, 30 English-speaking worshipers sang "Victory in Jesus" and listened to a sermon by Powell, Churchill's chaplain for seven years and the pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Louisville. Powell is no longer the official track chaplain, but he continued with Monday services.

Churchill Downs might not look like a typical Baptist church, but the gospel message is the same, Powell says. "We all need forgiveness and salvation from our heavenly Father. We all need spiritual guidance."

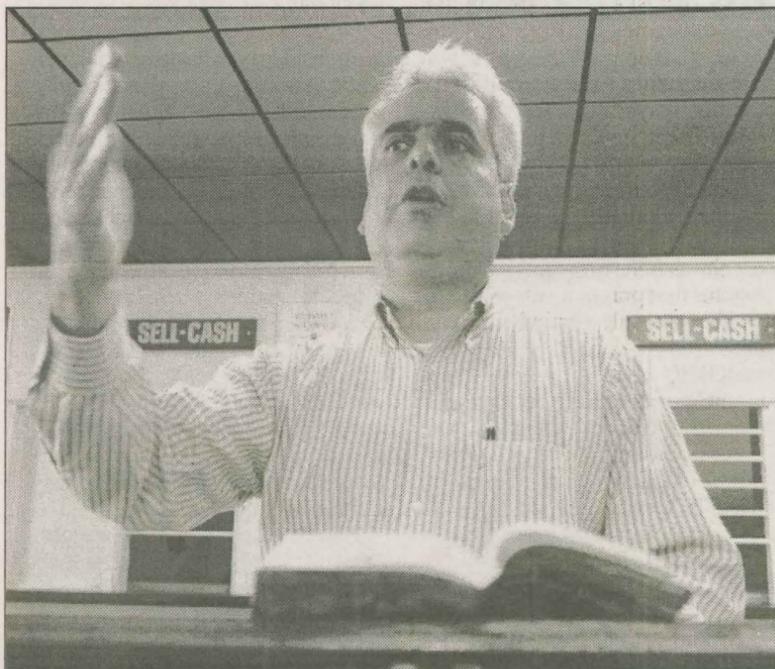
Afterward, the Spanish and English-language groups came together

**"Win or lose the Kentucky Derby, God loves them all just the same."**

Ken Boehm, chaplain of Churchill Downs



**DUELING SERVICES** While Ruben Orantes (left) and Mario Cano sing in the Spanish-language service, another worship service in English was taking place nearby.



**SERMON** Jesus Pacheco delivers a sermon during a worship service for employees at Churchill Downs. "I love these people. They're very nice people, very humble people, very open to God ... and to the gospel." (Lexington Herald-Leader photos by Nick Tomecek)

to eat dinner provided by a local Baptist congregation.

Throughout the evening, Pacheco leaned out the door, inviting stragglers to stop by.

"Come in, come in," said Pacheco, pastor of Louisville's New Jerusalem Baptist Church and an assistant track chaplain. "Es en su casa"—"You're in your own home."

"I love these people. They're very nice people, very humble people, very open to God ... and to the gospel," Pacheco said.

Roberto Soto, a native of Mexico, said he is grateful for the fellowship.

"When we're all alone," he said, "we need the Word of God."

Reprinted with permission of the Lexington Herald-Leader

### One last note

As I conclude my tenure as the leader of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, I have devoted my two previous columns to thanking many people and groups who have made our ministry such a joy over the nearly six years.

I have waited until this last column to thank the most significant group of people, our staffs at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. I suppose that leaving the staff behind is as hard as any part of leaving. To be sure, Pam and I will miss the work, the summer camps, the conference ministry. But we will so miss our teams at the two places. I have said so many times to so many people, "You don't have to like the people you work with, but it sure is nice when you do."

And so it is with our ministry. Not only do we *like* our staffs, but we *love* them dearly. And they know it.

I have disciplined myself not to think about the down side of leaving these men and women. I have grown to love them so very, very much. We have worked side-by-side for the last few years. They are a special group. I can't begin to name names, but they really do know how much we care for them. Pam and I care so very deeply about

this work that we'll continue to watch and pray as new leadership will take Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek to ministry levels never seen before.

The staff at Cedarmore frequently ribs me as I leave the place. I never say good-bye. Instead I always choose to say, "I'll see you in a minute." Sam Satterly, who has been on the staff at Cedarmore, I guess since Old Testament days, says that I have been known to say, "I'll see you in a minute," and it might take me two weeks to get back!

So now I'm done, but the work is not finished. For now, I'm gone. Pam and I will always love you all. Thanks for making these six years or so the best of our lives. To God be the glory for what He is going to do in the years ahead.

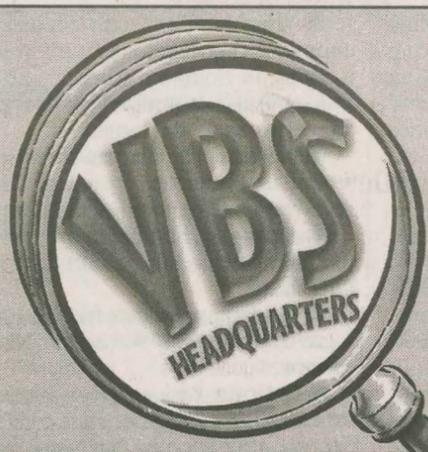
My last advice is an exhortation to guard the vision. Staff, our mission has been to serve all ages, but the young generation is so very critical. Don't let anyone talk you out of doing all we can to reach the students. Press on in the name of Christ.

And I'll see you in a minute. Rusty Ellison is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 43364, Louisville, KY 40253-0364; (502) 499-8655.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison



Come see our complete line of new 2003 Vacation Bible School programs.

Elizabethtown 270.234.8854  
Lexington 859.276.3025  
Southern Seminary  
502.897.4506

Louisville 502.491.4589  
Owensboro 270.685.4901  
Paducah 270.415.9977

over 115 stores nationwide  
call 1.800.233.1123  
click lifewaystores.com

**LifeWay**  
CHRISTIAN STORES  
Biblical Solutions for Life

# SMILE

## Prayer partners needed

Every Monday morning at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children starts the same—with prayer. Those of us in our central office who choose gather for a time of praise reports, prayer requests and devotions. Prayers are lifted up for staff members, their loved ones, people we hardly know, and most of all, for the children in our care.

You might not be able to join us here in the office for that prayer meeting, but you still can take part.

KBHC needs prayer partners, people committed to getting on their knees and asking God for His blessing and wisdom when it comes to caring for Kentucky's children and families. I can think of no greater way to start supporting this agency than with your prayers.

Pray that the kids who come from abusive homes or other crisis situations find hope and healing at KBHC's residential facilities.

Pray that children taken from their families and placed in KBHC's foster homes will adjust well and find comfort in a loving family environment.

Pray that families trying to adopt children through KBHC's Pregnancy and Adoption Services' international program will have success,

with little hassle from foreign governments.

Pray that troubled, unwed mothers considering what to do with their unborn children will seek wise guidance from our pregnancy counselors.

Pray that those teens getting help from our Center for Independence in Louisville are able to make successful transitions from childhood dependency to responsible adult living.

Pray that the kids coming to KBHC's Youth Support Centers for tutoring, counseling and service projects find themselves growing spiritually and turning away from risky behaviors.

Pray that couples, families and individuals trying to cope with turmoil in their lives on their own will turn to Christian

counselors for help through KBHC's many Cornerstone Counseling offices.

And when you pray, ask the Lord how you might become involved in this ministry by being a volunteer, a financial partner or both. Most of all though, pray for God's will to be done.

## HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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

## Ministry in Panama City

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College's Beach Reach team this year was composed of Elizabeth Bailey, Nathan Barnes, Jordan Britton, Elley Fisk, Dana Ferguson, Angie Martin, Joseph McGill, Daniel McKee, Casey Russell and Christy Tudor. McKee and Fisk served as team leaders.

Cumberland College senior Elizabeth Bailey, daughter of Louis and Esther Bailey of Stanford, served as a van driver. Driving a van among the spring break participants proved to be quite a challenge. She had to watch the road carefully because people who were party-

ing often stumbled out in front of the van. She also had to listen to the conversation in the van to ensure her fellow team members had time to speak with those who were receptive to the gospel.

Bailey said that with only a limited time to spend with individuals, "you had to make your influence count." Bailey will begin work this fall on her seminary degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. She plans to serve in foreign missions.

Cumberland College freshman

Joseph McGill, son of Tim and Kathy McGill of Livingston, Tenn., felt intimidated by the hundreds of people in Panama City, but through prayer and Christ's strength he went out and met and talked with many people. He was stunned by how many of the students knew absolutely nothing about Jesus. "They were totally clueless. In America you'd expect people to hear about Jesus, but no one had ever talked to them about Jesus."

McGill remembers one young man named Judd. Judd had come to Panama City with some friends. When his friends decided to return home, they simply left Judd behind to fend for himself. McGill and others helped Judd find some other people he knew so he could get home. McGill said that many of the stories he heard broke his heart.

Every Cumberland College student who participated returned with stories like those of Bailey and McGill. In the process of trying to help others change their lives, the team members found their lives changed and blessed as well.

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

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

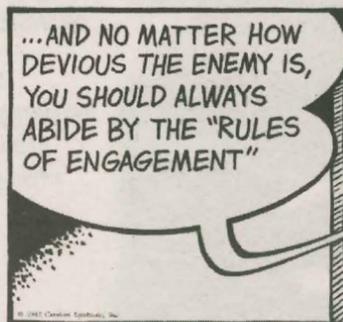


## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## For Heaven's Sake



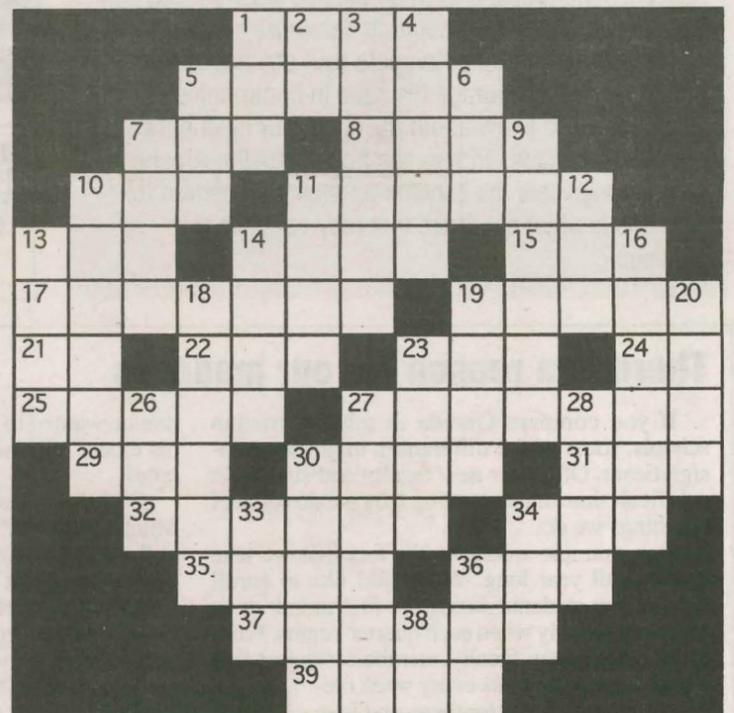
Mike Morgan

## Bible Crossword

Janet Adkins

### Across

- "(I) will \_\_\_\_ praise to the name of the Lord most high" (Psalm 7:17)
- "Famine and pestilence shall \_\_\_\_ him" (Ezekiel 7:15)
- "He hath chosen Solomon my son to \_\_\_\_ upon the throne" (1 Chronicles 28:5)
- "When it shall turn to the Lord, the \_\_\_\_ shall be taken away" (2 Corinthians 3:16)
- Letter before dee
- "\_\_\_\_ is confounded and dismayed" (Jeremiah 48:1)
- Self-addressed envelope, abbr.
- Religious group
- "There \_\_\_\_ him ten men that were lepers" (Luke 17:12)
- "And hired counsellors against them to frustrate their \_\_\_\_" (Ezra 4:5)
- "And if he trespass against thee \_\_\_\_ times in a day ... forgive him" (Luke 17:4)
- Plural ending
- Belonging to Judah's first son (Genesis 38:2-3)
- Prohibit
- Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
- Robinson Crusoe author
- "They found him ... sitting in the midst of the \_\_\_\_" (Luke 2:46)
- "\_\_\_\_ thy morsel in the vinegar" (Ruth 2:14)
- "I will \_\_\_\_ in thy truth" (Psalm 86:11)
- Amount, abbr.
- Girl's name
- Late general/president



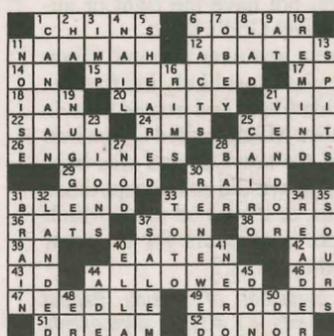
- Father of Ahira (Numbers 1:15)
- Saints, abbr.
- Fur-bearing aquatic animals
- Syringe, for short

- "Have they not \_\_\_\_?" (Judges 5:30)
- "For they were \_\_\_\_ afraid" (Mark 9:6)
- "They did \_\_\_\_ and ceased not" (Psalm 35:15; 2 words)
- "Let my \_\_\_\_ go, that they may serve me" (Exodus 9:1)
- "And the cup was found in Benjamin's \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 44:12)
- Political cartoonist
- Gaucha's weapon
- "No grapes on the vine, nor figs on the \_\_\_\_ tree" (Jeremiah 8:13)
- "All things which were \_\_\_\_ and goodly are departed" (Revelation 18:14)
- "He was strong as the \_\_\_\_" (Amos 2:9)
- "For the fierce \_\_\_\_ of the Lord is upon you" (2 Chronicles 28:11)
- "Let us meet ... in the plain of \_\_\_\_" (Nehemiah 6:2)
- Contraction
- Theatre sign when there are no more seats, abbr.
- European Plan, abbr.

### Down

- "I will \_\_\_\_ no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Psalm 101:3)
- Method of administering medication, abbr.
- "Not a \_\_\_\_, lest ... he fall" (1 Timothy 3:6)
- "That he was gone to be \_\_\_\_ with a man that is a sinner" (Luke 19:7)
- Expire
- Equip
- "And Samuel answered Saul ... 'I am the \_\_\_\_'" (1 Samuel 9:19)
- "Gird yourselves, and \_\_\_\_, ye priests" (Joel 1:13)
- "I have \_\_\_\_ you to be carried away captives" (Jeremiah 29:7)
- "And there followed him a \_\_\_\_ of meat from the king" (2 Samuel 11:8)
- Girl's name, for short

### Last week's solution



© 1999 Barbour Publishing

## Evangelicals set guidelines for dialogue with Muslims

Continued from page 1

Paul Marshall, a fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom at Freedom House, a Washington organization that promotes global human rights, noted that Muslims "know much more about the West than we know about them," pointing out that many Muslim extremists obtained advanced degrees in Europe or America.

But sometimes understanding can go too far and "attempts to meld Christianity and Islam" by overemphasizing commonalities is damaging, according to Wisdom.

While dialogue, both locally and abroad, is a good start, it needs to have a goal, Marshall said. He said communication could stimulate cooperation between Muslims and Christians on relief work, religious freedom and human rights issues.

A spokesperson from the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations didn't object to evangelicals wanting to spread their faith.

"That's something that is not particular to evangelicals and in the marketplace of ideas, that's fine," said Hodan Hassan. "The problem is when the line gets crossed and leaders within any faith begin to demonize another faith."

IRD President Diane Knippers said she hopes the guidelines will encourage dialogue in communities.

"We need to know about the Islam our neighbors practice," she said, adding she hopes Muslim-Americans can communicate the benefits of religious freedom to Muslims in other countries that may not have that privilege.



# TECHNICAL MINISTRIES Conference

## 2003

Learn From the Pros About Sound Systems, Microphones, Video Projectors, Lighting, PowerPoint, Church Web Sites, Newsletters, Copyright Issues and MORE!

*If you play a role in planning the worship or using technology in the ministries of your church, you won't want to miss this exciting conference. Just \$35 per person when you register a group of three or more by May 16!*

**Saturday, June 7, 2003**  
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at  
Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky






Check out the workshop details or register online at [www.kybaptist.org/techconference](http://www.kybaptist.org/techconference)

**Communications/Media Department**  
P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433  
For more information call:  
**888-254-5713 or 502-254-4731**

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

## WESTERN RECORDER + Your Church Newsletter

Two great publications, one less post office headache; (888) 254-5728

## There is a reason for our madness

If you compare Oneida to other Christian schools, some of the differences might seem insignificant. Often our new faculty and staff have a difficult time understanding why we do some of the things we do.

One example would be the fact that we take students all year long. We would like to enroll most of our students during the first month or so of school, or only when each quarter begins. From time to time new faculty members suggest that enrolling new students every week creates some challenges for them, and I am sure it does. I often tell those teachers that most of what we do here is not done for our convenience but for the benefit of the students we seek to serve.

A good example of that would be "Mitch" (not his real name.) Mitch enrolled in February in the middle of the third quarter. If we had required him to wait until the quarter ended, he could not have enrolled until the end of March. For many reasons, Mitch was far better off enrolling when he did. Mitch came from a broken home and was having difficulties common to many middle and high school students. He was having serious conflicts with his stepmother. In general, he would put all rules and restrictions to the test. He was disrespectful and nearly always wanted to have the last word in any conflict.

In school Mitch did OK, but he was the class clown and he talked too much. His grades were average, though he did have some learning deficiencies. He got along with his peers and generally was not known as a problem student.

When Mitch heard about Oneida, he was willing to give it a try. When we asked him what he most wanted to accomplish while here, he told us

that he wanted to learn to have more "respect for his elders" and he wanted to be involved in athletics.

On his application, his parents had noted that Mitch was not a Christian. Many Christian schools will not accept students who aren't Christians. Some will accept a student who is not a Christian if one or both parents are active church members. Others will accept non-Christian students for a probationary period to see if the student can live within the school's general boundaries.

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

For most of our 104 years of ministry we have held to the conviction that accepting students who were not Christians gave us many opportunities to share the love of Christ with them. We understand the painful reality that in spite of our best efforts, many students exercise their God-given right to walk away from the gift of salvation.

Some non-Christian students admit that they are somewhat uncomfortable attending a school where they are required to listen to the gospel message at least once every day. On the other hand, we do not have the right or authority to try to force-feed God's love.

Mitch had been here just over a month when he experienced what was most likely his first revival. Longtime Oneida friend and trustee Dennis Rush was our evangelist. Mitch invited Christ into his life during one of the services and was baptized a few days later. If we did not accept those who are not Christians, or if we had made Mitch wait until it was more convenient for us, what would have happened to Mitch?

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)

## Finding faith with the help of Hope

Christians discover the reality of hope after they exercise faith, but it was the opposite for first-year student Justin Mendoza.

"My wife, Hope, was converted in her grandmother's house at age 6. When Hope met me, I was not the most desirable person to be around, but she maintained patience with me. Her love demonstrated the love of God," Justin said.

"God showed me through her how wonderful He really is. Hope asked me, 'Haven't you ever heard of God's love?' I had not; I had heard of God's wrath. She continued to witness to me until I came to profess my faith in Christ. She met me as a lost sinner in Texas and after eight years she helped me come home to the Lord."

Justin lived most of his childhood in Kansas and graduated from high school in Hutchinson, Kan. His father was general manager of a plant that manufactured mobile homes; his mother was a homemaker.

In the U.S. Army, Justin served as a medic. Overseas duty included an assignment at Camp Casey, near the demilitarized zone in South Korea. The family moved

to Ohio, where Justin worked in a group home for the mentally retarded, teaching them basic living skills.

"My wife was very supportive during that time," Justin said. "The job took long hours with night calls. It was very demanding but very rewarding."

The family, which includes four boys, ages 8 years to 4 months, joined an Ohio church with a Clear Creek graduate as pastor. "When I surrendered to ministry, I wanted to come to Clear Creek because of Bill Lashelle. I was impressed with him and his integrity," Justin stated. "If Clear Creek produced people like him, that's where I wanted to go."

Justin worked in the church youth ministry, led in youth Sunday school and sang in the adult choir. "My call is in music. Praising the Lord through music is very important. God called trumpets to bring down the walls of Jericho and not pastors," Justin said with a smile. He now is involved with the choir program at First Baptist Church of Barbourville.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Southern-fried gospel

20 years later, 'Cotton Patch Gospel' message still needed, co-author says

By Mark Wingfield  
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—As if having a teenage girl impregnated by God give birth to the Messiah isn't scandalous enough, the "Cotton Patch Gospel" ups the ante.

Mary, according to the stage play, is the daughter of a deacon at First Baptist Church of Opp, Ala. And Jesus isn't crucified by Pontius Pilate but lynched by the Ku Klux Klan working in concert with Gov. Pilate of Georgia.

More than 20 years since its off-Broadway premiere, the dramatic uprooting of Matthew's Gospel from Israel to Georgia continues to both shock and amuse audiences.

The audience at a recent performance of "Cotton Patch Gospel" at Dallas Theater Center gave the seven-member cast a standing ovation. After one memorable scene, a woman shouted out "Amen!"

But not all the shouting remains positive. At performances around North America, some theatergoers still walk out in protest of the play's inference of racial equality as a gospel cause.

"I used to think we've really evolved with race," said co-author Tom Key, who created the musical's main role and currently stars in the Dallas production. "But sadly, that's

not the case. Sadly, this story is still essential."

"Cotton Patch Gospel" is a story Christians like to see in the secular theater but won't let in their churches, explained Key, who was raised at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. "People who profess Christianity will come to the theater to see it but will not bring it into their churches because that endorses a theology," he surmised.

As evidence, he cites the fact that the show continues to be a theatrical hit and has been performed in both professional and amateur theaters across the country and into Canada. But a movie version intended to draw heavy use in churches did not fare nearly so well.

### Changed lives

Nevertheless, Key speaks with passion about the joy he finds in lives changed through the production. Recently, a Jewish friend who played the title role of Matthew in a production of "Cotton Patch Gospel" directed by Key became a believer in Jesus as Messiah, in part through the influence of the musical.

Key said he has collected "many amazing stories" about how those who have seen the show or acted in it have been changed.

That's part of what keeps the Atlanta-based actor invigorated to re-



prise the role he not only created but which accounts for about one fourth of his acting career. The current production at Dallas Theater Center is his 10th production in 20 years, and he stopped counting performances after he surpassed 1,000.

"Every time I do it, I think, 'This is going to be the last time.'"

The show originated as a one-man play, born out of Key's own passion for telling the gospel story in a fresh way. He developed the script after reading Clarence Jordan's "Cotton Patch" translation of Matthew's Gospel. Jordan was a Georgia Bible scholar and social activist who founded Koinonia Farms, a ministry that in turn played a pivotal role in birthing Habitat for Humanity.

### Unexpected writing help

From the shorter one-man play, "Cotton Patch Gospel" evolved into a full-blown musical with unexpected help from composer Harry Chapin, best known for hit songs such as "Cat's in the Hat" and "Taxi." Key met Chapin through a friend of Russell Treyz, who became his co-author in expanding the drama.

Chapin was enthralled by the project, Key said, and declared, "I was born to write music for this." He completed the project in June 1981, one month before he was killed in an automobile accident. Three months later, the musical opened off-Broadway for what proved to be a successful run.

Today, the show still is evolving, Key said. "Over a period of 20 years, you learn things."

In 1995, for example, he directed a production in Atlanta in which he restored use of the "N-word" for African-American to emphasize the severity of the cultural context.

### Scandalous gospel

One of the main reasons he created the play in the first place, he said, is to remind people that the Christian gospel is scandalous. "We're so familiar with the story we forget the shock value of a girl being impregnated by God."

Through "Cotton Patch Gospel," Key said, he intended to use the con-

text of the American South to help people understand the scandalous nature of the gospel in a new way.

So in the musical, Mary becomes Mary Hagler from Clayton, Ga., and Joseph becomes Joe Davidson. Nazareth becomes Gainesville, Ga.

Mary gives birth to Jesus in an abandoned trailer "out back of" the Dixie Delights Motor Lodge as she and Joe travel to Atlanta for an income-tax audit.

When Jesus is 12, He stays behind at the Baptist Sunday School Conference in Atlanta to teach the Bible to denominational leaders, worrying His parents who cannot find Him.

John the Baptist baptizes people in the Chattahoochee River. Judas is named Judd. And Jesus' fate is sealed not during Passover but during the annual Believe in the Bible Society Convention in Atlanta.

The script resounds with familiar Bible quotations spun in a Georgia vernacular as in Jordan's translation. Jesus says, "Come on to Me, everybody who's got a belly full of emptiness."

### Showing Christ as human & divine

As in the Gospel of Matthew, the theme of the show is Jesus' appeal to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and might, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Although Key appreciates the influence of "Godspell" and "Jesus Christ Superstar," he said he wanted "Cotton Patch Gospel" to go beyond where those shows stopped. Neither addresses the Resurrection in a significant way.

"I wanted to go all the way with Jesus being both human and divine," he said. "I wanted a Christ who could come back and have a cup of coffee and a piece of pecan pie."

Surprisingly, the translation into Southern idioms hasn't been lost on audiences beyond the South, Key reported. In fact, he noted, audiences in New York warned him he shouldn't take the musical to the South because "they'd lynch you." Likewise, audiences in Atlanta told him: "You could never do this outside the South. They wouldn't get it."

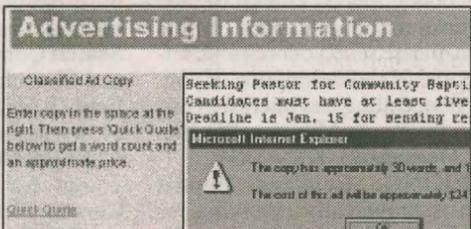
**JESUS IN GEORGIA** Tom Key (center) is co-author of "Cotton Patch Gospel." He is pictured here with the cast from a current performance in Dallas. The musical transplants the Gospel of Matthew from Israel to Georgia. (Photo by Linda Blase)

## Getting your classified ad in the Western Recorder is as easy as ...



Visit [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org) and click on the "Advertise" button.

**2** Compose your ad on the screen. Our "quick quote" feature lets you see how much your ad will cost each time it runs!



Please complete the following information to submit your classified ad.

Name: John Doe  
Address: 1880 Ivanhoe Court

**3** Fill out the on-screen form, and we'll bill you for the ad.

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
**WESTERNRECORDER**  
www.westernrecorder.org

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Praise God for pastors who recently have been called to international churches in Romania and Spain: Hilton Olive and his wife, Alice, International Baptist Church in Bucharest, Romania; and Robert Rogers and his wife, Joyce, First Baptist Church in Rota, Spain.

■ "Praise God for the way He is developing worship leaders among the theology and music students at Emanuel University" in Romania, writes Baptist representative Richard Mauney.

■ Wisdom for Sasha, who is translating "Lessons in Prayer-Walking" into Russian. Also pray that Russian believers will begin prayerwalking in their neighborhoods.

■ Eleven students from Auburn University in Alabama who are in Khabarovsk, Russia, this month for sports ministry.

■ Missionaries in Budapest, Hungary, who are developing ways to reach into the city's Jewish community of 80,000 people.

■ New English language classes and an English language club recently begun by Baptist representatives Marcy and Doug Shaw in Rzeszow, Poland.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ BELFRY—First Church recently ordained **Bill Rogers** as a deacon. **Mark Helton** is pastor.

■ BROADHEAD—**Arthur Benge** recently resigned as pastor of Mount Zion Church.

■ CADIZ—Trigg County Church called **Billy Hart** as pastor.

■ CLINTON—First Church called **Josh Harris** as full-time youth minister effective June 8. **Howard Kitter** is pastor.

■ COVINGTON—First Church Ninth Street called **Adam Crews Sr.** as pastor.

Immanuel Church called **Dan Black** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Grace Church in Dry Ridge.

Madison Avenue Church called **Ed Kirkpatrick** as pastor.

■ FORT MITCHELL—Fort Mitchell Church will present the patriotic musical, "America: We Must Not Forget," May 23-25, 7 p.m. **French Harmon** is pastor.

■ FULTON—Mount Carmel Church ordained **Rick Major**, **Tony Perry** and **Tommy Stewart** as deacons April 6.

■ GLASGOW—Calvary Church will host **Nashaat Ibrahim**, pastor of an Arabic church in New Orleans, May 14-16, 6:30 p.m. He will speak on "Islam and Christianity in the Middle East Today." For information, call (270) 651-8572.

■ GREENSBURG—Macedonia Church called **Scott Proffitt** as pastor.

■ LANCASTER—Gilberts Creek Church will host a reception June 1,

2-3:30 p.m., to honor **Zora Oliver** for more than 50 years in ministry, including pastor of Freedom Church for 33 years.

■ LEXINGTON—Broadway Church recently called **Robbie Davis** as youth minister.

■ LOUISVILLE—Shively Church will host the Journeymen Quartet in concert May 18, 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-9155. **Bruce Truman** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church called **Bob Johnson** as associate pastor for pastoral care. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ MOUNT VERNON—Conway Church called **Jim Ritchey** as pastor.

■ PADUCAH—Bellview Church called **Jeff Prather** as minister of music and youth. **Elbert James** is pastor.

■ REGINA—Faith Church will hold revival services May 16-17, 7 p.m., and May 18, 11 a.m., with **Joe Mobley** as evangelist. **Nick Damron** is associate pastor.

■ SHELBYVILLE—Shelby Association recently paid off a loan for the purchase of the former property of Shelbyville Church of God. The facilities include a church building that houses the association's Hispanic ministry, a parsonage for Hispanic ministry pastor **Amaury Dittz** and a house used as the associational office. **Bill Hartung** is director of missions.

■ WILLIAMSTOWN—Williamstown Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary June 1. Also, **Pauline Lanter** celebrated her 99th birthday May 1. **Steve Rice** is senior pastor.

## Gambling opponent cites lessons from Bennett's gambling habits

LOUISVILLE—A recent report that virtues promoter William Bennett has lost \$8 million in gambling has lessons for everyone, according to an opponent of expanding Kentucky's gambling laws.

"No matter who you are—your education level, your economic, social level—gambling addiction can affect you," said Howard Beauman, executive director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems. "That type of addiction can grab anybody."

Newsweek and The Washington Monthly recently reported that Bennett, author of "The Book of Virtues," lost upwards of \$8 million in casinos in the past 10 years.

In a brief statement May 5, Bennett said he would stop gambling.

"It is true that I have gambled large sums of money," the statement said. "I have also complied with all laws on reporting wins and losses.

"Nevertheless, I have done too much gambling, and this is not an example I wish to set," he added. "Therefore, my gambling days are over."

Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, criticized Bennett's gambling habit.

"The fact that one of America's leading moralists would sneak around and engage in one of the nation's most destructive vices undermines his credibility," Parham said. "Protestants and conservative evangelicals, who overwhelmingly see gambling as a moral issue, will say that Bennett betrayed

the very moral habits about which he wrote in "The Book of Virtues."

Bennett has not included gambling among the sins and vices that he preaches are undermining American culture. He told the two magazines that wrote the original articles that he did not have a problem. He likened gambling to drinking alcohol. "If you can't handle it, don't do it."

Beauman lobbies the state legislature in Frankfort, seeking to dissuade officials seeking fast fiscal fortunes from expanding the commonwealth's gambling laws. Last week, he connected several lessons on gambling with the Bennett revelations:

■ **Losses can be tremendous.** "It gives real evidence to the large amounts of money that are gambled by some people," Beauman said. "A lot of us would think, 'Well what's a quarter or a nickel in a slot machine?' But it can add up to a lot of money."

■ **Recovery involves admitting a problem.** "Now he doesn't do that," Beauman said, pointing to Bennett's statements that he hadn't broken the law or gambled "milk money."

■ **Problem gamblers need help.** "The large amounts wagered show that Mr. Bennett would be classified as either a problem or compulsive gambler." Depending on the study, from 5 to 16 percent of Americans classify as problem or compulsive gamblers, Beauman said. "It's obvious that he needs some help."

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey, Bob Allen of the Baptist Center for Ethics and wire reports

## 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.

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

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for McCarthy Baptist Church, a Global Priority SBC church in St. Joseph, Mo. Information on McCarthy Baptist Church is available on the Internet at www.McCarthyBaptist.org. For a community profile, visit www.saintjoseph.com. Send resumé to: McCarthy Pastor Search Committee, 3622 A Mitchell Ave. #35, St. Joseph, MO 64507, on or before June 26. For further information, contact Ray Yarnell, chairman, Pastor Search Committee, at (816) 667-5360.

**SEEKING:** Children's minister. Please send resumé to DeHaven Baptist Church, 307 W Jefferson St., LaGrange, KY 40031, Attn: Scott Riggs.

**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, 11780 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:** 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 youth minister to give spiritual leadership to a growing youth program. Education and experience are a plus, but calling, a vibrant relationship with Jesus, and a love for middle school and high school students is a must. We are a purpose-driven, seeker-sensitive, decidedly contemporary church located in Owensboro. If interested in this position, please send your resumé, references and a brief description of your conversion, calling and interest in this position to: Youth Minister, PO Box 22302, Owensboro, KY 42304.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'I knew there was a God somewhere'

*George Foreman shares how God became real and changed his life*

By Wendy Schuman  
Beliefnet

HOUSTON (RNS)—George Foreman, two-time heavyweight boxing champion and globally renowned corporate spokesman, is also an ordained minister and founder of the George Foreman Youth and Community Center in Houston.

His most recent book, "George Foreman's Guide to Life: How to Get Up Off the Canvas When Life Knocks You Down," was released last December.

**Q: In your book you talk about your childhood—how you were raised in extreme poverty and had to learn everything the hard way. What was it like for you growing up?**

A: I was raised in a one-parent home, and my mother had to work two jobs. When you're in a single-parent home, they try to give you a good foundation, but by the time you're 4- or 5-years-old, from that point on you're pretty much on your own. You get your hand burnt and you learn not to put your hand on the fire. So everything I learned I had to learn the hard way. There are seven of us total, I'm number five of seven kids, four boys and three girls. Most of my childhood I was raised in the city of Houston, Texas, where I am now. But I started my boxing career in California.

**How did you get started in boxing? What motivated you?**

After I dropped out of junior high school I heard a commercial—a great football player by the name of Jim Brown said if you're looking for a second chance, join the Job Corps. And I was looking for a second chance—I was in big trouble anyway—and I joined. That's where I started a basic education and vocational program. I studied electronic assemblies in the Job Corps. One day there was a fight being broadcast between Muhammad (Ali)—he was Cassius Clay, then—and he was fighting Floyd Patterson. All the kids said, "George, you're a bully, why don't you be a boxer?" And I just took the challenge. I said, "OK, I'll show you," just to prove it for myself, I went out for boxing.

I didn't like it, I really didn't like it. But the boxing coach, Doc Broadus, liked me. He said, "Look, if you stop fighting in the streets and the alleys, you could be an Olympic champion." I had no idea what an Olympic champion was. He stayed on my back, and I went back to California to work for the Job Corps center, and I learned how to box. In 1968 I became a gold medalist in Mexico City.

That was the highlight of my whole athletic career. I was a 19-year-old boy who had never had a dream come true before, and there I am standing on the platform with the

medal around my neck, and I hear the national anthem in the background—there's never been anything like that in my life since.

**You've been through a lot of ups and downs in your boxing career. What effect did losing have on you? Was it as important as winning?**

In 1973 I became heavyweight champion of the world with 38 victories, no defeats as a professional. You get to a point where you think you cannot lose. I felt like I had the greatest power with my fists, I was the strongest man in the world. I kept winning fights, but then I lost to Ali in Zaire, Africa. It devastated me, it really did have a great effect on me. I told everybody I was going to be heavyweight champion of the world forever, and I was the strongest man alive. And I lost in Zaire, in 10 seconds my whole life was changed. One day people (are) walking by you afraid to even ask you a question, and the next day they're patting you on the back with pity. That was devastating. It changed my life.

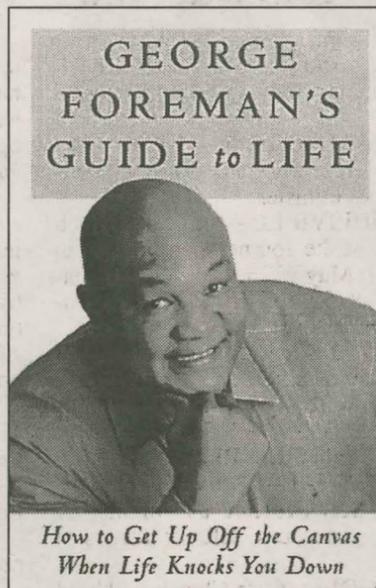
**But you regained the heavyweight championship.**

Twenty years after I lost. I was 45—the oldest ever to do so. Nobody believed it. They said, "George Foreman is gonna get himself hurt, he's too old." I heard it all. But one thing I always had going for me, I knew how to box, I always knew how to box. I gave it up to become a preacher, but not because I couldn't do it anymore. Just that the higher calling penetrated my life.

**You're talking about the religious awakening you had in 1977?**

I didn't believe in religion, but I knew there was a God somewhere. Everybody I knew who was in (religion) always seemed like they were running from something. So I wasn't going to take it up, but that night in Puerto Rico, I had my last boxing match in 1977 with Jimmy Young. I lost a decision, a split decision, went back to my dressing room to cool off, and that's when it all started happening.

I started thinking, I could go home and retire, I got money, I could retire right now to my ranch and die. And before I knew it, that had taken over my whole conversation—You're gonna die. I realized I was going to die in that dressing room from a boxing match. I thought silently, because I thought if I revealed to anyone in the room what I was thinking that they was gonna figure I was depressed because I lost the decision. So I kept it in. And right within my thoughts I heard a voice within me that said, "You believe in God. Why are you scared to die?" And I was scared ... I didn't want to die. I mean, I didn't think that could happen to me, so I started jumping up and down, say-



ing, "I'm not gonna die, I got everything to live for." I tried to make a deal with the voice—I'm champion of the world, I'm George Foreman, I can still give money to charity and cancer. I heard an answer right in my thoughts: "I don't want your money, I want you. And that's when I knew I was about to die."

I said, "God, I believe in You, but not enough." When I said that, there was a deep dark nothing over my head, under me, all around me was just a dump yard of every sad thought I ever had in my life, multiplied like nothing. And I was dead, and I could smell death, and it was just the most horrible thing. It was like someone dropped me off in the deep sea—no help—there was no way I could get out of this. And I said, as a tough man, I've always been tough, I said, "I don't care if this is death, I still believe there's a God." When I said that, a gigantic hand snatched me out of this "nothing," and I was lying in the dressing room bleeding, blood flowing through my veins. And evidently they had picked me up off the floor in the dressing room and laid me on the table, because that's where I was and everybody was standing around me crying, and I said to my doctor, "Move your hands, the thorns on His head are making Him bleed." I saw blood coming down my forehead, and I hadn't been hit in the boxing match. And I told my masseur, Mr. Fuller, "You move your hand because He's bleeding and they crucified Him."

And I started screaming words I never screamed before—that Jesus Christ was coming alive in me. And I jumped in the shower started screaming "Hallelujah, I'm clean, I'm born again, I'm going out to save the world!" and they said, "You better put on some clothes first."

I tried to explain it away as much as I could—you got hit too hard, you're hot, I didn't believe in religion, Jesus, I never even thought it existed.

**You were running away from it? (Religion) was for depressed people, just an excuse if you didn't have anything else. So here I was embarrassed because my friends, we**

made fun of religion.

After that experience I was still a top contender, but I just couldn't go back into the gym. I didn't know what to do with my life. And I started telling this story ... and people started calling me "brother" and I was ordained at the Church of Lord Jesus Christ in Houston at the end of 1978 as an evangelist. I started traveling to hospitals and prisons and telling this story. Eventually I started preaching weddings and funerals. That's been the story of my life. I never intended to be a preacher, never!

I started a youth center, my brother-in-law and I, in Houston, for the kids to hang out. Finally I was broke, I would have to close the youth center if I didn't quickly move. The only way I knew how to make money and not to beg people for it was to be a boxer again. It hurt me to take my shirt off again and be a boxer but it was the only profession I had. And that's why I went back.

**Was it hard for you, believing in Christianity, which emphasizes peace, to take up boxing, with all the violence that's involved?**

That was a hard thing for me. When I started the youth center, some parents wanted me to get their kid interested in boxing. I said, "Look I'm a preacher, I'm not going to be helping boxers, that's nothing but ignorance and violence." And then one day I inquired about the kid, and (learned) he robbed a store in my neighborhood. The storekeeper shot his friend and he shot the storekeeper. All these lives were devastated because I didn't want to look like a backslider. I said, "I can't help this kid, but I'll never let another get away from me."

**What do you pray for?**

You know this peace I found in 1977? More than anything, I pray to keep it. When I was about to die in that dressing room, all I could think of was I didn't say goodbye to my mother, I hadn't gotten a chance to embrace my kids, there were friends I forgot to say I'm sorry to. I had a second chance to live, and I'm constantly embracing my loved ones. My friends know that they're my friends. Even my enemies know that they're my friends. All I pray is to be consistently like this all the days of my life.

Never pray for things. Just to consistently be the same way I am. I never get upset about what I read in the newspaper. I realize that every human being can make a difference in this world. Just make certain that I'm consistently making a difference.

**What's your relationship like with Ali?**

We've become great friends. Muhammad Ali and I—I love him like a little brother. I'm always talking the Bible to him and he's saying, "Uh-oh, here he comes!"

**Does Ali ever come back and quote the Koran to you?**

Never, never. It's always like, "George, if God wants me to know about it, He'll tell me; don't do it, George, don't!" That kind of thing.

**"And I started screaming words I never screamed before—that Jesus Christ was coming alive in me."**

*Former heavyweight boxing champion and ordained minister George Foreman*



# Vacations are nice, but sometimes you need more.

Feeling overwhelmed? We can help. Cornerstone Counseling, a ministry of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and local churches, specializes in helping put families, and lives, back together.

Cornerstone Counseling is a professional Christian counseling ministry dedicated to helping individuals, couples and families solve problems in a healthy way. A caring counselor can often help people discover new ways of looking at the difficulties in their lives, turning problems into opportunities to grow.

Financial assistance may be available.

All services are provided by master's degree-level or higher professionals who approach counseling from a Christian perspective. All counseling is confidential.

Cornerstone Counseling offices are located in:

Ashland, Berea, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Corbin, Frankfort, Harlan, Harold, Hazard, Henderson, Hopkinsville, LaGrange, London, Louisa, Madisonville, New Castle, Northern Kentucky, Owensboro, Paducah, Pineville, Somerset and Stanford.

## Cornerstone Counseling

### 1-800-981-7493

E-mail: [cornerstone@kbhc.org](mailto:cornerstone@kbhc.org)

