

May 27, 2003  
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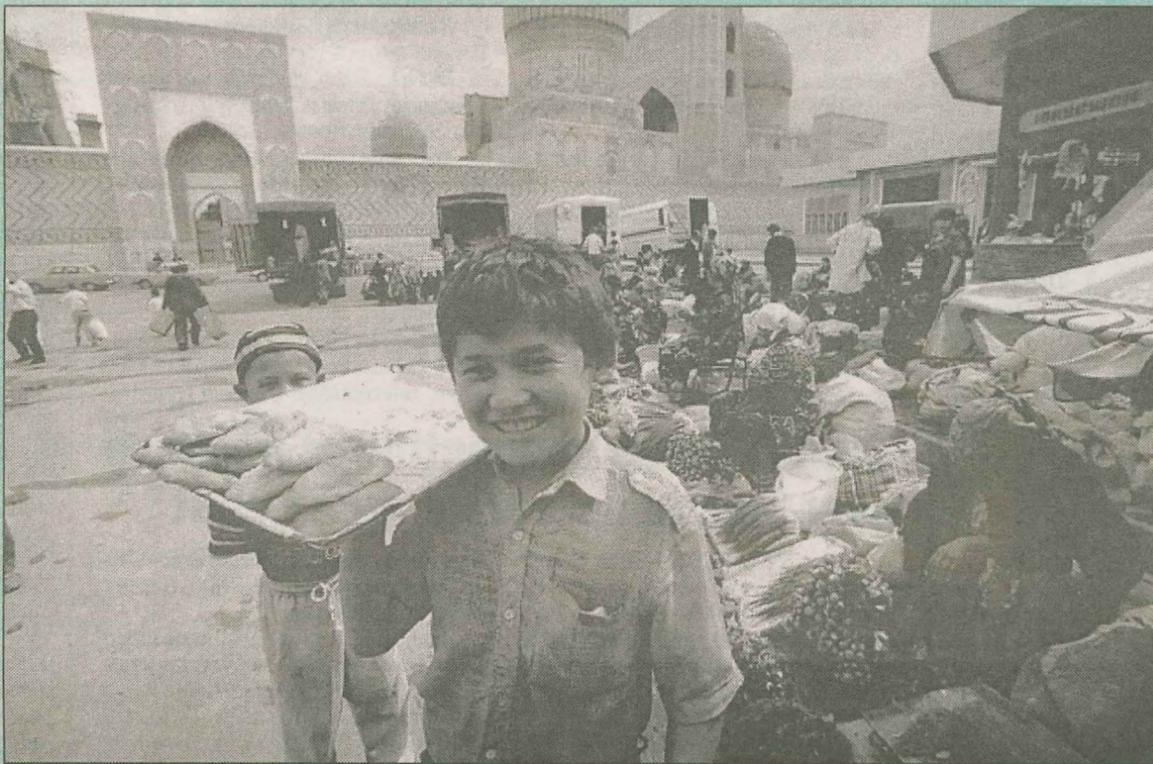
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## Worth the secret?



**MUSLIM COUNTRIES** In some countries closed to traditional Christian missionary work, evangelical missions agencies send workers to do other jobs. That connects them with residents who otherwise might not hear the gospel. (IMB, RNS/Reuters photos)

## Use of secret missionaries gets another look

By John Pierce  
*Baptists Today*

ATLANTA (ABP)—Is it ethical to send missionaries into a closed country without disclosing the real reason they're there?

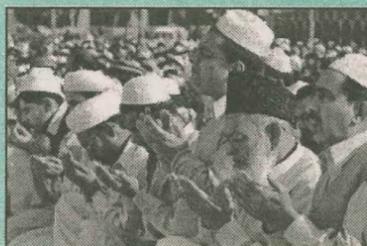
Some mission strategists are having second thoughts about the practice, common among evangelical groups. Since at least the 1980s, some Christian organizations have sent mission workers into countries that don't accept missionaries.

Some go with other "platforms"—skills, trades or services that are acceptable to the host country. These missionaries, who live in the target country, often are called "tentmakers," after the Apostle Paul's adopted occupation. Others, called non-resident missionaries, live outside the target country and enter on short-term visas.

In both cases, their work of evangelism or church planting is kept secret from authorities. And back home, their identities and assignments are not revealed by the mission organizations to protect their safety.

Anonymous missionaries are used by both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Recent missionary murders and the war in Iraq have heightened concern about the presence and safety of missionaries, particularly in Islamic countries. Three Southern Baptist hospital workers—missionaries but not secretive—were killed



in December in Muslim-dominated Yemen. In April, word that Time magazine is considering an in-depth article revealing the work of anonymous missionaries sparked protests from some Christians.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is one organization rethinking the strategy. Gary Baldrige, co-coordinator of CBF global missions with his wife, Barbara, said recent concerns about the ethical and missiological implications justify a second look.

"We're in the middle of reflecting on the deployment of field personnel to restrictive-access countries," Baldrige said. "We're really struggling with it administratively."

The issues, he said, are more about the long-term effectiveness of the "non-resident missionary" than about public relations, although it requires ongoing explanation about why some missionaries remain anonymous. Baldrige said CBF repeatedly tells those who support its mission efforts, "Please be aware that this (missionary) directory is incomplete."

"Many CBF missionaries live in areas of the world that are openly hostile to the gospel," he added.

"Their identities are kept confidential in order to protect their lives and ministries and the lives and livelihoods of new Christians in these highly sensitive areas."

Southern Baptist International Mission Board leaders declined to contribute to this story.

Keith Parks, now retired in Richardson, Texas, served both as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) and as the first CBF global missions coordinator. It was under his leadership that Southern Baptists began the efforts that developed into the non-resident missionary approach.

### China: 'We need help'

"It really started in the '80s when we were talking with people from China," Parks recalled. "They said: 'We can't receive missionaries, but we need help.'"

As a result, Parks said, the FMB created Cooperative Services International as a non-profit organization separate from the FMB. Parks served as CSI president as well, and the organization used the same address and phone number as the FMB.

"It wasn't some James Bond approach," Parks said. "Governments know what you're doing. If you play according to their rules, they'll let you do it."

Through hiring arrangements with universities and other institutions, Parks said, personnel could gain access where missionaries otherwise would be rejected.

□ See Agencies' use of ..., page 8

## Will other Eastern Kentucky cities follow Corbin's pro-alcohol vote?

By Ken Walker  
*State Correspondent*

CORBIN—Now that alcohol can be sold legally in Corbin for the first time in more than 60 years, the leader of a citizen group that opposed a May 20 liquor referendum expects to see similar efforts elsewhere in Eastern Kentucky.

"We have a close relationship with London," said Darren Gaddis, chairman of Citizens for Corbin. "It won't surprise me if this is on the ballot there in November."

Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, was disappointed that voters in this southeastern Kentucky town voted 1,152 to 941 for alcohol sales in restaurants that seat at least 100 patrons.

Establishments must also derive at least 70 percent of revenues from food sales, according to the new measure.

The director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems echoed the concern that Corbin will add to a "domino effect" in the commonwealth.

Passage of liquor referendums in Georgetown, Danville and Elizabethtown helped influence this election, according to Howard Beauman.

While those towns are more centrally located, the Corbin vote makes Eastern Kentucky ripe for additional attempts, he added.

Beauman predicted Corbin won't see a financial bonanza from legalized liquor sales. He estimates the town will receive only \$1,000 per year from restaurants licensed to sell alcohol.

While cities can assess an additional fee for regulatory costs, those fees don't generate funds for municipal operations, he said.

"They'll talk about extra jobs and so forth, but most people hired (in restaurants) work for below minimum wage," Beauman said. "If a city has a 1 percent occupational tax, that doesn't amount to anything."

Corbin is the second community this year to legalize some form of liquor sales. A small precinct in Somerset voted to allow a resident there to build a winery, Beauman said.

Despite those moves, dry forces have seen victories in recent times. Last year Junction City and Mercer County rejected attempts to legalize liquor sales.

Lately, a group in Lyon County has struggled to attract enough signatures on a petition to legalize all forms of alcohol sales, Beauman added.

But the leader of Citizens for Corbin is still stunned by the group's loss after no visible public support for the issue surfaced during the campaign.

Gaddis said the results have prompted considerable reflection.

□ See Will Eastern Kentucky ..., page 3

## Ten Kentuckians tapped for SBC service

PHOENIX—Four Kentucky Baptists have been appointed to key Southern Baptist Convention committees by SBC President Jack Graham.

Six other Kentuckians are being nominated to serve on the boards of national SBC entities, including four people being nominated for a second term of service.

Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, is responsible for appointing members to the 2003 Resolutions Committee, Committee on Committees, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee.

He announced last month that Russell Moore, an assistant professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was among those reappointed to the SBC Resolutions Committee.

Other Kentucky Baptists appointed

by Graham to serve at next month's SBC annual meeting in Phoenix are:

■ Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephens Baptist Church in Louisville, Committee on Committees.

■ Todd Linn, pastor of First Baptist Church of Henderson, Committee on Committees.

■ Mark Overstreet, a doctoral student at Southern Seminary and a member of DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church in LaGrange, Credentials Committee.

The Committee on Committees is responsible for nominating members to the Committee on Nominations, who will then nominate trustees next year to serve on the boards of SBC entities. The Credentials Committee is responsible for issues concerning the credentials of SBC messengers.

Kentuckians being nominated to a first term of service by this year's

Committee on Nominations are:

■ Richard Bowden, senior pastor of Ormsby Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, SBC Executive Committee.

■ Gregory Faulls, senior pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, North American Mission Board.

Kentuckians being nominated to a second term of service are:

■ Greg Bibb, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Annuity Board.

■ David Butler, pastor of Springdale Baptist Church in Louisville, North American Mission Board.

■ Rick Hatley, associate pastor for education at Central Baptist Church in Winchester, LifeWay Christian Resources.

■ Steven Hill, pastor of New Horizon Baptist Fellowship in Elizabethton, International Mission Board.

## SBC conference offers ministers free counseling

PHOENIX (BP)—Where can Christian leaders facing personal problems turn for help? One option this summer is the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Next month's Pastors' Conference will join with Focus on the Family and Hope for the Heart to offer free Christian counseling June 15-16 to Southern Baptist pastors, staff members, missionaries and their families.

Confidential appointments can be made by calling Hope for the Heart at (800) 488-HOPE (4673) between 8:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. CST. Names are not required; registration numbers will be assigned. Appointments will be made in the order received.

To ensure anonymity, the counseling will take place away from the Phoenix Civic Plaza, site of the Pastors' Conference and Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Focus on the Family's H.B. London Jr. and Hope for the Heart's June Hunt will lead a team of "perhaps the best counselors you could find in America," said conference president Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas.

London is co-author of "Pastors at Greater Risk," a book that deals with the issue of pastors who are hurting. He heads Focus on the Family's pastoral ministries division that includes a toll-free pastoral care line.

Hunt is founder and president of Hope for the Heart, a Christian ministry that produces three radio programs, including "Hope in the Night," a nightly nationwide program in which Hunt takes calls and gives counsel.

The counseling ministry is designed to complement the conference's family-oriented emphasis. The theme of the Pastors' Conference will be "Building Kingdom Families." It will conclude with a Kingdom Family Rally Monday night, June 16.

The counseling "adds a dimension that I've never known the convention to have before," Brunson said. "Here, you can literally be ministered to."

Both Hunt and London say Christian leaders are dealing with a variety of problems. London said the key issues fall into five categories: marital issues; family issues; contention in the local church; the balance between ministry and home life; and addictive personalities and perversions (Internet addiction, television addiction, etc.).

People need "a safe person with whom to talk," Hunt noted. She said the Phoenix counseling sessions provide an opportunity "to talk with those who on a day-to-day basis help others with their problems."



## NAMB, Texas convention at impasse over new cooperative agreement

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has postponed action on a cooperative missions agreement with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A motion passed during the NAMB trustees' meeting this month declared the Southern Baptist Convention agency and Texas convention had reached an "impasse" in negotiations over the agreement. The motion called for the mission board's leaders to appoint a "response task force" to study the situation. NAMB trustees will not meet again until Oct. 8.

The BGCT and NAMB do not currently have an agreement. The most recent cooperative agreement was drafted between the BGCT and the former Home Mission Board.

Negotiations on an updated document have been under way for more than a year. The sticking point in the document is NAMB's requirement

that jointly funded missionaries sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

The BGCT repeatedly has declined to embrace the SBC's new faith statement, although BGCT officials have said they are willing to work jointly with NAMB in supporting missionaries who are comfortable signing it.

In early March, the BGCT Executive Board approved a change to the most recent agreement proposal from NAMB and then added one sentence above the space where BGCT officials were to sign the document. That sentence reads: "Approved with the understanding that this indicates neither affirmation nor endorsement of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

The BGCT previously accepted a phrase in the document that notes "NAMB's requirement" for jointly funded personnel "to conform to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

### BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Davis to lead Indiana Baptists.** Texas Baptist pastor Stephen Davis has been elected executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. Davis, an Indiana native, has served since 1994 as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Garland, Texas. He is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and San Francisco Theological Seminary.

■ **Neely dies at age 74.** Alan Neely, a noted Southern Baptist pastor, professor and missionary, died May 14 at age 74 after an extended respiratory illness. Neely and his wife, Virginia, served 13 years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, teaching at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali, Colombia. The Neelys returned to the States in 1976, and he served 12 years as a professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He then taught for eight years at Princeton Theological Seminary until his retirement in 1996. Neely also helped found the moderate Alliance of Baptists.

■ **Harris elected Georgia editor.** Gerald Harris, 62, former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, has been elected editor of the GBC's Christian Index newspaper. He succeeds Bill Neal who was forced into early retirement in January by GBC Executive Director Robert White. Harris, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, has served since 1994 as pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. Harris said he views the Index "as the instrument whereby Georgia Baptists are connected for the purpose of Empowering Kingdom Growth," the SBC's current ministry emphasis. He is the author of two books and has written devotions for Open Windows and Home Life magazines.

■ **Baylor president, regent clash.** A regent of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, is under investigation by the university for allegedly interfering in an undercover drug sting on campus. But regent Jaclanel McFarland, a Houston attorney, said the accusation is untrue and is part of an attempt to silence her criticism of Baylor President Robert

Sloan. She has opposed the Baptist school's growing indebtedness as well as Sloan's purchase of a \$2.3 million private jet for school use. Baylor police say a yearlong drug sting operation at a university fraternity was cut short when fraternity members were tipped off about the operation. University officials suspect McFarland because her son is a member of the fraternity. She and her son deny any involvement.

■ **Golden Gate reduces music program.** Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., will phase out its master of music in church music and master of arts in worship leadership degrees, trustees were told this month. The school's music emphasis will be reconfigured with a master of divinity degree with a concentration in church music. President Bill Crews noted that "most churches in the West are small, staffed by volunteer worship leaders who are candidates for seminary training." With only 24 students enrolled in the two music degree programs, "the music department has been a financial drain on other degrees," he added.

## Will Eastern Kentucky cities follow Corbin?

Continued from page 1

"This has caused me to think, 'Where is our community morally and spiritually?'" the pastor said. "It's not what we thought it was. Obviously, we don't have the influence we once thought."

Gaddis said he fears Corbin will see an increase in drunk-driving arrests and alcohol-related crime and work absences.

But in a post-election interview, Mayor Scott Williamson said he doesn't think alcohol will change the local landscape.

"As far as those saying this will be a change for the worse, I disagree," Williamson told the Corbin Times-Tribune. "Our residents are already going to other cities. ... They visit restaurants that serve alcohol already."

There will be a challenge to the results. Beauman has filed a complaint with state election officials. It concerns the alleged failure of a marketing group to file papers with the state.

Beauman said ABC Marketing of Lexington, which mailed a survey and a follow-up mailer encouraging voters to support the referendum, failed to register with the board of elections.

Beauman said ABC failed to file forms reporting campaign contributions and note its support on campaign literature.

"It's been very secretive," Beauman said of the pro-liquor campaign. "It's not obvious who's who here."

That wasn't the only irregularity, said the publicity chairman of Citizens for Corbin.

Joe Samples, pastor of Greenland Baptist Church, said roughly half of more than 700 anti-liquor yard signs disappeared, many of them less than a day after they were erected.

The Greenland pastor said with only two months notice, the citizens group did the best it could to defeat the issue.

"I think it says clearly we don't live in the conservative, Bible-believing community we thought we did," Samples said. "I believe the main reason it went the way it did was apathy. A lot of church-going people didn't get out and vote."

Gaddis said the results also show his group was outfoxed politically. He said the only way to defeat the cleverly targeted campaign would have been to start several months earlier.

"It ought to serve as a wake-up call to other communities," Gaddis said. "If it happens here, it will happen elsewhere. They were a slick, well-funded organization. They're not going to be beaten by a grassroots campaign. People will need a little more scientific approach."

## 'In God we trust'

*Paducah Baptist aims to honor God distributing posters*

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

PADUCAH—Believing that God still should be mentioned in public arenas, a Paducah man has distributed more than 1,100 posters proclaiming "In God We Trust" to area schools, hospitals and various agencies.

Lee Chumbler initiated the project last August by securing permission from the city and county school boards to distribute the framed, 11-by-14 inch posters to area schools.

The words are imposed over an American flag, with a note they represent the United States national motto, as adopted by Congress in July of 1956.

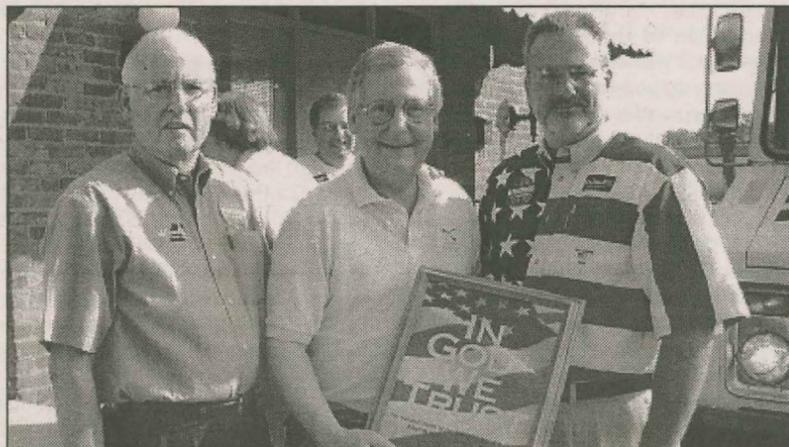
"This was just something I felt needed to be done," said Chumbler, a member of Friendship Baptist Church, a rural McCracken County congregation. "I had to retire in 1995, but I felt better the last year or two than I have in years. I felt the Lord was giving me something to do."

Although the 73-year-old Paducah resident suffers from Parkinson's disease, he distributed most of the materials with help from family and friends.

In addition, Chumbler raised \$4,000 to pay for the posters and framing. Twenty-one churches, many of them Kentucky Baptist congregations, contributed.

By his estimate, 70 schools with 9,600 students and more than 1,300 teachers can now see the motto daily. Not every classroom in the county has one because the McCracken County board made their display optional.

Chumbler pushed for the display,



**POSTER GIVEAWAY** Lee Chumbler, left, poses with U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, Chumbler's son, Lee, and one of the more than 1,000 "In God We Trust" posters he has distributed throughout Paducah.

saying government had removed God, the Bible and the Ten Commandments from schools. There had to be something left they can't take out, he told the Paducah Sun last August when the county school board authorized the display.

"If I'm a student, studying hard, and I look at the board, I see that there's a God watching over me," he said. "It reminds me that there's a power higher than myself out there."

A friend from neighboring Ballard County, who had distributed posters there, gave him 20 copies for an initial display.

### Support on church-state issue

Aware of potential objections concerning separation of church and state, Chumbler said he contacted a couple of attorneys to verify there were no legal problems with the displays before approaching the school boards.

A couple of attorneys offered their services if anyone contested the issue. One mentioned a 1992 law passed by the state legislature, which authorizes the display of documents from American history in public classrooms.

The attorney noted the law prohib-

its content-based censorship based on religious references in those records.

Although he distributed the 1,100 posters he ordered, Chumbler recently received another 100 left from a similar drive in Marshall County. He said he needs to raise another \$200 to complete the framing of the remaining copies.

While the Friendship Baptist member kept a low profile at church about the effort, Pastor Jason Browning said it has made the congregation more sensitive to the community.

"It has probably made us more aware of those around us and things we can do to change the community," Browning said.

Chumbler's former pastor, Kevin McCallon of First Baptist Church of Paducah, said the posters have widespread support and haven't generated controversy around Paducah.

"We have a lot of support for Christian values, where in major cities most of those values have been difficult to maintain because of court decisions," McCallon said. "If Lee was living in Louisville, it would be newsworthy because it would be controversial."

"It reminds me that there's a power higher than myself out there."

Lee Chumbler

## Literacy missions workshop honors 2 volunteers

SOMERSET—Literacy missions ministry volunteers from across the state recently recognized two of their own for their long-time commitment to "coloring outside the lines."

Debbie Steger, a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence, was awarded the Lillian Isaacs Award for her work teaching adults to read and tutoring children.

Gracie Erwin, a member of Kirksey Baptist Church, was recognized with the D.M. and Kay Aldridge Award for her ministry teaching English as a Second Language.

"Coloring Outside the Lines" was the theme for the annual Kentucky Baptist Literacy Conference, held at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, May 2-3. The conference attracted 40 volunteers who tutor children, youth and adults.

Linda Netherly, also a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church where Steger's husband, Charles, is pastor, nominated Steger.

"She has such a giving heart and pure spirit," Netherly said in nominat-

ing Steger. "She has taught adult literacy for 19 years. ... She does this with loving grace by trying to make someone's life a little easier by opening their world with words that have meaning and by giving that person self-pride."

Erwin, who has worked as an English as a Second Language tutor, workshop leader and program director for more than 30 years, was nominated by Connie White, a Missions Service Corps consultant from Edyville.

"To me, she is a hero of missions as she goes about year after year teaching and loving the internationals in our area," said White in nominating Erwin. "She has friends from all over the world."

The Lillian Isaacs Award is named for the woman who first organized literacy missions in Eastern Kentucky at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in 1959. Literacy missions ministry soon spread across the Southern Baptist Convention. Isaacs, now in her 80s, lives in Florida.

The D.M. and Kay Aldridge Award is named for D.M. Aldridge, who served as president of Clear Creek from 1954-1982, and his wife, Kay, a literacy tutor. Both were enthusiastic literacy missions ministry supporters, according to Becky Ross, KBC literacy missions ministry consultant.

The conference also included skills-building workshops for literacy volunteers and a presentation by keynote speaker Gayle Leininger, a retired Southern Baptist North American Mission Board national literacy missionary.

Leininger encouraged literacy volunteers to continue growing, adapting and acquiring new skills. Changing doesn't mean old methods weren't any good and should be discarded, Leininger said, it just means that new methods may be even better.

"My typewriter isn't broken, but I've got something better—my computer," Leininger said. "Now I've still got my typewriter, and I use it from time to time, but I use my computer."

### For more info

For more information about literacy missions ministry, contact the extension-ministries department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at (502) 244-6461 or (888) 254-5724 toll-free in Kentucky.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Creedalism isn't issue

After reading your recent article concerning International Mission Board missionaries and the notion of creedalism of the Baptist Faith and Message, I was compelled to respond. Growing up as a missionary kid, I am deeply grieved over the terminations, and am convinced that the situation could have been avoided.

I do believe though that the "creed" has been misrepresented by many journalists and others. With the teaching of the apostles in the first century came great responsibility to guide the community in the way of the truth. The church quickly discovered that even though preachers were preaching the Bible, they were interpreting it in ways that were contrary to the teaching of the apostles. Arian is a case in point; a bishop, who preached the Bible, began teaching that Jesus was not the incarnate Son but a created being empowered by the Spirit. Because he was using the Bible as his authority, his views quickly became popular. Other bishops and theologians drafted a response that affirmed the unity of essence between the Father and the Son, and that He was not creature but creator. The end result was the writing and affirmation of the Creed of Nicea.

It is not enough to say that we need to "simply affirm commitment to the Bible." Creeds throughout history have provided a guide to the proper interpretation of the essentials truths of Christianity. Creed simply comes from the word "credo" which means, "I believe." There is nothing evil, un-Christian or even un-Baptist about affirming a creed or statement of faith; the difficulty arises when such statements go beyond the bounds of the essentials of the Christian faith.

There may be many reasons why the IMB should not have issued the statement concerning the BF&M, but certainly not because of the supposed evils of creedalism.

statement concerning the BF&M, but certainly not because of the supposed evils of creedalism.

Danny Panter  
Fort Worth, Texas

## 'Irreplaceable loss'

I must say that these are the darkest days in Southern Baptist history. Through the years no one admired and loved Southern Baptists more than I. Southern Baptists were my much-loved family.

In 1979, however, the Southern Baptist Convention suffered a terrible coup. The shocking thing about the takeover was that few people noticed as the new dictators disposed of all former Baptist leaders: the presidents of all six Southern Baptist seminaries, one by one; the members of Baptist Press; the leaders of the former Baptist Sunday School Board; the top people at the former Foreign Mission Board; and on and on.

I felt angry and betrayed when all of these things happened, but none of that was as bad as what has now happened. On May 7 many Southern Baptist missionaries around the world were fired and many others resigned, even though they had served the Lord and Southern Baptists with integrity for many years. They were fired because they could not conscientiously sign the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. In the May 13 Western Recorder, Lydia Barrow-Hankins was quoted as saying that Jerry Rankin told them that their being fired "was not a negative reflection on their missionary work." How could that be?

I have known some of these missionaries for many years and served with them in Japan. I am convinced they are being fired out of no fault of theirs. What a loss to all the fields where these people have been missionaries!

Mary Neal Clarke  
Louisville

## Seeking answers

We are beginning to hear a great deal about a program related to evangelism and missions called Empowering Kingdom Growth. That sounds good. However, it seem to me that withdrawing funds and participation in the Baptist World Alliance and firing dedicated missionaries is a strange way to launch this type of program!

Baptists need some answers. How many messengers were present at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting when the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message was presented for a vote? How many messengers voted? What was the result of the vote? What percentage of the 16 million-plus Southern Baptists does that represent? It seems to me that it would be necessary to have 75 percent of the vote to even consider it a mandate serious enough to fire dedicated servants of God! I believe a serious study of the facts will reveal that a very small percentage of Southern Baptists approved the BF&M that is now being used as a creed.

My thanks and appreciation to David and Susie Dixon and all other missionaries who refused to sign the Baptist Faith and Message. You did the right thing. There are thousands of Baptists who agree with you and will be praying for you.

Ernest Martin  
Danville

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Ministry partnerships impact Kentucky

First Baptist Church of Cold Spring dedicated a new 1,200-seat sanctuary on Sunday, May 18. This is the second new sanctuary in 10 years for the church, both coming under the leadership of Larry Davis.

The dedication service was conducted at 2 p.m., following a wonderful catered meal. The choir loft was filled with singers under the direction of Sarah Moore, daughter of the pastor. The litany of dedication, special music and other participants were the same as the dedication of the former building. Pastor Davis was gracious in requesting that I speak during the afternoon service and for the three morning services.

The pastor had started three morning worship services due to growth and limited space in the former building. However, he decided to keep all three services in order to meet the preferred worship schedules of members. The middle service (9:30-10:30 a.m.) is contemporary in worship style and very effective.

The music related to the sermon text and message. Instrumentalists used two grand pianos, organ, drums and other instruments in worship. The church is blessed with talented musicians.

The 10:45 a.m. service has the largest attendance, but the 9:30 a.m. service continues to grow in attendance for a total average attendance of about 1,200 people.

Davis is due much credit for inviting God to work through him in providing Kingdom leadership in the area. Last year, he was used

by God to provide inspirational leadership for the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission and is very supportive of Northern Kentucky Baptist Association.

That Sunday night, Will Langfort, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, welcomed me to his pulpit. He is a former president of the Ohio Baptist Convention.

The youth conducted the service

featuring drama, narration and music. It was encouraging to observe the devotion of the youth to Jesus Christ. Hickory Grove is strategically located in the population growth area.

That day marked the first time that I have preached five times on Sunday. I was amazed that each service was very special with inspiring music.

On Monday I had the privilege to speak at the Northern Kentucky Association pastors' conference. It was a privilege to share with them a summary of the Mission Study Committee report and experience their positive response to the big goals focused on assisting their churches in growth. I was blessed by their special prayer time for me and the ministries of Kentucky Baptists.

These kinds of experiences are possible due to the partnership with associations like Northern Kentucky Baptist Association and directors of missions like Rick Robbins. During this time of focus on associations and their ministries, I want to say praise God for the partnership in ministry with 74 associations across Kentucky.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

### Don't be guilty of 10 biggest estate planning errors

By Laurie Valentine

The 10 biggest estate planning errors people typically make are:

■ *Not executing a will.* If you don't make a will, Kentucky will do it for you. Your assets might not go where you want



and, if your estate is large, unnecessary taxes may be paid.

■ *Wanting "just a simple will."* Some people leave their spouse everything regardless of the estate's size because the spouse pays no estate taxes. That may only delay the tax until your spouse dies.

■ *Putting everything into joint tenancy.* While that avoids probate, joint ownership between spouses has the same danger as a simple will. If you own property jointly with others, such as children, "your" property may become subject to the claims of the child's creditors and you may get taxed on your own property if the child dies before you.

■ *Thinking that avoiding probate will avoid taxes.* It doesn't always. There are advantages to avoiding probate, but saving taxes isn't generally one of them.

■ *Leaving property to one child to "work things out."* If you leave your assets to one child, he or she is not obligated to give it to other members of your family. It might even cost them in gift taxes to redistribute your assets as you would have wanted.

■ *Letting your children "take care of" your grandchildren.* In larger estates, it might cost less for you to leave property to grandchildren directly rather than letting your children do it through their own estates.

■ *Failing to consider how your affairs will be handled if you become incapacitated as the result of a stroke, accident or illness.* If you don't plan, a costly guardianship may be required to give someone authority to handle your personal and financial affairs.

■ *Not using trusts to help beneficiaries handle their inherited wealth.* You can ease beneficiaries into the management of inherited wealth with the use of testamentary trusts.

■ *Not planning for taxes that may be due at your death.* Federal estate taxes are due nine months after death. Children may be forced to sell family assets at reduced prices if you do not have a proper plan in place.

■ *Procrastination.* The government will love you for this. Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

## Weigh variety of factors when considering early retirement

**Q: My husband is having a hard time deciding whether to take early retirement. He usually is decisive, but this issue seems to have him stuck. What can I do to help?**

Choosing to retire early typically is not a quick decision. Studies indicate that retirement decisions generally are influenced by both work-related and non-work-related factors. The decision-making process tends to start long before people actually have the opportunity to retire.

Issues regarding personal health and specific situations at work appear to have a strong impact on retirement plans. Employees who are in poor health or who face pressures at work (physical strain, lack of challenge, etc.) are far more likely to retire early. Similarly, employees in organizations facing cutbacks or where restructuring is the order of the day often choose early retirement.

In addition to issues related to their actual work, the personal connection of workers in their jobs—including their social relationships with colleagues and the importance of their jobs for their self-esteem—plays a significant role in such decisions.

A spouse's attitude of support or opposition to retirement also is an important factor. The more a worker's spouse encourages withdrawal from the workforce, the less inclined most people will be to continue working after reaching retirement age.

Concerns about how retirement will affect a partner's health, the quality of the marriage and the number of shared leisure activities also should be considered when making such a decision. Take time to discuss these issues with your husband as you work together to determine the best choice for your situation.—*Jon Rainbow*

**Q: How can I help my child learn to live virtuously in the information age?**

In his excellent book, "Habits of the High-Tech Heart," Quentin Schultze emphasizes the importance of cultivating character as vigorously as we pursue and embrace the latest technology.

Teach your child to evaluate information before deciding what to believe and what messages to value. As one CEO says, "The best search engine is the one between your ears." In the midst of mountains of information, help your children know what is good and right—what is worth knowing and remembering. Make sure your child has meaning to go with the information.

Do not let technology retard your child's ability to connect with others and with the real world. Does your child bury himself or herself in video and computer games even when other people are around? Insist that your child turn off his or her game and interact with other human beings.

In a world where everything runs faster and faster and the emphasis is on being quick and efficient, encourage your child to pursue the time-consuming but rewarding disciplines of reading, thinking and conversation. Teach your child the importance of patience.

Keep first things first. Don't let technology become your god or it almost surely will become your child's. As Schultze says, "Teach your children to be stewards instead of exploiters, listening caregivers rather than noisy messengers, and suffering servants rather than indifferent technicians."

Without good "habits of the heart," our children will face growing moral confusion in the midst of the wealth of information available to them.—*David Garrard*

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



## Power of prayer produces spiritual impact

Special calls for prayer seem to popping up everywhere these days—and that's definitely a good thing.

Consider the following examples:

■ The Southern Baptist International Mission Board and numerous other organizations have urged prayer for Iraq in recent months. A resolution adopted by IMB trustees "calls on all Southern Baptists to join in fervent prayer for the people of Iraq, that they might experience God's mercy and love."

■ The Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission study plan adopted this month by the KBC Mission Board includes a section encouraging church and associational leaders, KBC staff and institution and agency personnel "to place a five-year emphasis on prayer focused on God's protection and connecting all people to Jesus Christ." The plan calls for the KBC prayer consultant "to develop a state-wide five-year prayer emphasis in consultation with church and associational leaders."

■ Even Newsweek magazine reported last week that "American Idol" winner Ruben Studdard and runner-up Clay Aiken—both longtime Baptists—had a prayer time together before each installment of the popular talent contest.

Beyond those examples, the KBC missions growth team continues to host quarterly prayer meetings focused on spiritual awakening. The next two regional prayer events will be July 17-18 in Mount Vernon and Oct. 23-24 in Lynch. Additionally, churches and associations throughout the state and nation provide a variety of prayer ministries on an ongoing basis.

There also are a number of prayer emphases under way on the national and global levels.

The latest prayer effort for Iraq was announced last week by the National Association of Evangelicals and several related organizations. Endorsed by such Christian leaders as Bill Bright, T.D. Jakes, Bill McCartney and Joni Eareckson Tada, "Operation: Iraqi Care" en-

courages volunteers to "adopt" various cities in Iraq for focused prayer. Information about the emphasis is available at [www.operationiraqicare.org](http://www.operationiraqicare.org).

Highlighting another region with tremendous prayer needs, the June 8 "Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization" will focus on spiritual needs in China. The annual prayer emphasis, sponsored by the IMB, will highlight the more than 1 billion Chinese people in China and elsewhere who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Praying for so many people may seem daunting," said Randy Sprinkle, director of the IMB's prayer strategy office, "but the power of united prayer is immeasurable."

The Han, the largest people group in the world, reside in China and number 1.16 billion people, according to IMB officials. The Han make up 20 percent of the world's population, yet fewer than 5 percent reportedly are Christians.

For churches and other groups that plan to observe next month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, the IMB has a number of resources available, including free

bulletin inserts; "Loving the Lost" pocket prayer guides; and a 19-minute video, "A Door of Opportunity: Loving the Chinese." Additional information is available at [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org).

"China has more lost people than any other nation on earth," the IMB Web site notes, adding that "the task of sharing the good news with them is impossible apart from the enabling power of the Holy Spirit."

Whether it's joining widespread efforts to pray for people in Iraq, China and other parts of the globe; praying for local ministry needs with a small group of Christian friends; or praying in the privacy of your home for specific burdens God places on your heart, take time to make focused prayer a vital part of your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Avoid 'cerebral' limits to spiritual gifts

By Darrell Robinson

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP)—One of the most regrettable situations I see in churches today occurs when people feel led to serve Christ in a particular ministry but refuse to do so because they don't feel gifted in that area.

Sometimes these people decline because they have taken some sort of "spiritual gift inventory" or "spiritual gift assessment" that ideally will help them identify areas in which they can adequately serve other members in the body of Christ.

Although tests or instruments like this might be entertaining and enjoyable, they also can lead to abuse when people overemphasize a gift that the assessment identified or refuse to meet a need because they didn't score high in that spiritual gift category.

This results in a cerebral approach that becomes a barrier to what God wants to do through us.

The best thing someone can do is to become practically involved in the life of the church through obedience to Christ—stepping out on faith to be available and obeying Christ. When we do this, God will surface gifts in us that will help accomplish His mission.

This happened in my life when I surrendered to preach at age 17. De-

spite God's call on my life, I was convinced I could never stand in front of people and deliver a sermon. I grew up on a cotton-and-cattle farm in West Texas and was most comfortable around animals, since you don't have to talk to them, and I was not a talker.

The night after I made a public commitment to preach, renowned Southern Baptist educator Roy Fish stopped by my home. Then a seminary student-pastor at a nearby church, Fish had heard about my decision and asked me to preach at his church the following week.

I had no idea what I would say. I did not know what a sermon was. I could not lead in public prayer. I did not even own a Bible. That was my "cerebral" approach to what was asked of me. Nevertheless, I had settled that issue. God had called me to preach, and I had surrendered my life. I said, "Yes, Brother Fish, I will do it."

I went to my pastor for help. He taught me about sermon structure. I bought a little New Testament and read it while I drove the tractor planting cotton. We had the crookedest rows in the country that year! Every evening I practiced my sermon in the garage, with my mother's washing machine as my pulpit and the deep freeze as my congregation.

When I finally preached my first message, I preached every bit of my eight-point, 22-minute sermon in 13 minutes. The pulpit, which I gripped, shook as much as I did. But when I finished, several people came forward to make decisions for Christ.

I had learned something special: Whatever you place in God's hands is sufficient. He will use whatever I yield to Him. I was nothing but ignorance on fire, but God began to use me and continued to do so. Pastors began to invite me to preach for them, and God continued to bless. Since that time, I have preached almost every week. Through His grace, God had sovereignly given me gifts necessary to do what He planned for me to do.

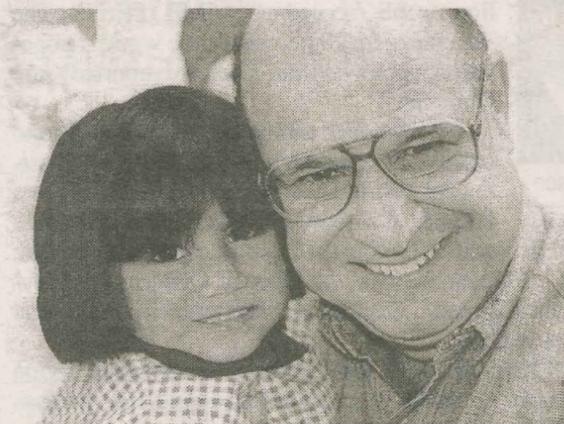
Without question, I had the option of saying, "Yes!" or "No!" to what God impressed on my life. I faced the choice of neglecting the gifts He had given me or using and developing them.

God will surface any and every gift needed for His body to accomplish what He wants done to fulfill His mission. Believers have the potential to have any gift, because the One who lives in us is the source of those gifts. Christ is the perfect person. He possesses every gift. As Philippians 4:13 tells us, through Christ we can do all things.

*Darrell Robinson, an evangelism leader with the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, is president of Total Church Life Ministries in Marietta, Ga.*

## Gathering...

**P**reacher and educator Tony Campolo demonstrates being the presence of Christ. As founder and president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, Tony Campolo has supported tutoring for urban children in North America. He has helped provide care to hundreds of African children orphaned by AIDS and helped bring the presence of Christ to countless individuals.



Enjoy a rare opportunity to hear Tony Campolo speak free of charge during the opening session of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's General Assembly.

Gather at this year's Assembly with Fellowship Christians as they strive to be the presence of Christ. Select from more than 100 workshops. Participate in a commissioning service for new global missions field personnel.

Become a Partner in Hope and help reach a \$100,000 goal for the Assembly's featured ministry offering that will be highlighted in the Thursday and Friday evening sessions. The offering will go to Partners in Hope: CBF's Rural Poverty Initiative, a 20-year commitment to the people in 20 of the nation's poorest counties.

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2003 General Assembly**

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**Being the  
Presence of Christ**

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

## Evangelicals launch 'Operation Iraqi Care' prayer initiative

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The National Association of Evangelicals and other evangelical ministries have launched "Operation Iraqi Care," an initiative to encourage prayer for the Iraqi people as their country recovers from war and Saddam Hussein's regime.

"Today we are mobilizing Christians worldwide to pray for the Iraqi people," NAE President Ted Haggard announced May 22. "We know that God desires a better future for the Iraqi people."

Haggard said the coming months will be a key time for Iraqis to decide about principles of individual freedom and liberty. "These next few months of decision-making will set the stage for all future Iraqis," he said. "And that's why we want to serve them."

Haggard said he is asking evangel-

ical Christians and "people of prayer everywhere" to sign up at [www.operationiraqicare.org](http://www.operationiraqicare.org) to pray for Iraqi people in specific cities.

Haggard hopes people also will donate to World Relief, the NAE's relief and development arm, to help meet physical needs in the region. The organization hopes to work with local Iraqi churches to assist in rehabilitation of schools.

Haggard said people joining the effort will be sent e-mails with "prayer points," information about key people and issues that can be the topics of prayers.

Haggard said this effort is not designed to evangelize Iraqi Muslims. "Right now we're very concerned about the freedom for the people of Iraq and we're concerned about the well-being of the people of Iraq."

## Study: TV sexual content declined in 2002

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Almost every broadcast network saw a marked decrease in sexual content during the evening "family hour" between 1998 and 2002, the Parents Television Council reports.

With the exception of the WB, every broadcast network decreased its sexual content from 8 to 9 p.m. in recent years.

Analysts for the council found that sexual content during the family hour dropped 67 percent on ABC from 1998 to 2002. In that same period, similar content decreased 48

percent on Fox, 13 percent on UPN and 6 percent on CBS. NBC's sexual content during the family hour decreased by 34 percent from 2000 to 2002.

"For years, conventional wisdom in Hollywood had it that 'sex sells,' and therefore the more of it, the better," council president Brent Bozell said. "But ratings data and survey results prove that's not true. Parents don't want their kids to be exposed to irresponsible messages ... but more than that, parents don't want to see it either."

## 'Great expectations'

By David Melber

With Rusty and Pam Ellison moving on to minister at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, we would like to take this opportunity to honor them with an expression of thanks.

Many of you who have worked or participated in a camp setting know that there are many non-glamorous tasks (some even very late at night) that must be accomplished for the days

**KENTUCKY  
BAPTIST  
ASSEMBLIES**

to run smoothly. Rusty, Pam and their family were always willing to do whatever it took to make camp operate. They led by example and their legacy will live on even though they will not be "on-call" this summer. The Ellisons, their daughters, and their sons-in-law (one still to be) all have contributed at one point or another over the past years. The KBA staff will miss them greatly, but we are excited about how God will use them at Walnut Street.

When the Ellisons came on board, our camp situation did not look promising. With many years of deferred maintenance and few people attending the respective camps, many thought the best years of Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore had come and gone. Two weeks ago, Rusty and Pam were presented with a print entitled, "Great Expectations." This phrase captivates

their hearts' desire, the standard they have set and the goals for everything that happens in the ministry of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.

Now, five years later, the numbers speak for themselves. Last summer campers at Jonathan Creek made more decisions for Christ, re-dedications and commitments to full-time ministry than Jonathan

Creek had total campers during 1999. This summer, registration at the Creek is up 67 percent to more than 3,700 camp-

ers. Cedarmore is experiencing continued growth as well, as we have had guests on the property every week since Jan. 1 this year. Many improvements have been made, and the best is yet to come. In combining the camps together, attendance numbers this year will double the attendance of the best years of both camps during the late 1980s.

All the glory belongs to God, for it is by His power that lives are changed and He is the One Who has supplied the increase. God does raise up leaders to accomplish His will, and we thank the Ellisons, Rusty, Pam, Jodi, Angie, Chris and Billy for their willing service to the camps. To God be the glory as we look forward with great expectations.

David Melber is vice president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 43364, Louisville, KY 40253-0364. Call (502) 499-8655

## Open your home to a child in need

Kentucky's kids are hurting. Mental and physical abuse or neglect is taking its toll. But many of these kids need more than open hearts; they need open homes.

The number of kids needing foster care is rising. At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children—where we license our own foster homes independent of the state—we see that reality daily as we try to place foster children with loving families who can nurture them back to emotional and physical health.

While the number of licensed foster parents has declined in recent years, the number of children in foster care has not, according to the Child Welfare League of America. Individual foster homes are licensed for fewer children today than they were prior to the mid-1980s.

In most cases, KBHC limits the number of foster children in any home to two. That ensures that each child gets the best of care without overwhelming the foster family.

How can you be a part of this ministry? KBHC has set a goal of having at least one foster family from each Kentucky Baptist church.

Allen and Jami Dobbs, who have opened their home in Ferguson to KBHC's foster children,

claim there's no better way to share God's love than by caring for His children.

"The most rewarding thing you could ever ask for out of life is to touch a child's life," Mrs. Dobbs said.

Rest assured that you won't be alone in this calling. KBHC provides training and around-the-clock support for families caring for children. We also provide or coordinate counseling and other treatment services when the child has special needs.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Kenny Williams, director of KBHC's Western Region Family Foster Care Program, said foster parents become God's arms, holding and nurturing children in need.

"This is ministry on the front line," Williams said. "Our foster families are where the rubber meets the road. They live this 24/7. We are not just social workers, not just Christians. We are the history and the future of KBHC."

Consider opening your heart, and your home, to a child in need. Call us at (800) 456-1386 for more information.

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)

## Building during spring break

By Robert Dunston

During spring break 2003, Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach sponsored a mission trip to North Carolina.

Cumberland senior Michelle Henson led the team that included Jamie Bowling, Ranessa Capps, Jamie Dozier, Shelby May, Becca Newby, Hannah Rogers, Stephen Tyler and Marcee Williamson. Cumberland College staff member Ed Woods also accompanied the students.

This year marked Mountain Outreach's third spring break mission trip to North Carolina to repair homes destroyed by hurricanes. Several churches from North Carolina have been faithful participants in Mountain Outreach's summer building program. Cumberland students looked forward to the opportunity to say thank you to those churches by ministering through North Carolina Baptist Builders.

The team primarily worked at a site where a trailer once stood. Thanks to North Carolina Baptist Builders, the family was receiving a new home, built well above flood stage. Team members worked inside the home putting up drywall on the walls and ceiling.

On Thursday, rain prevented the team from further work at the site. Team members spent the day working in the warehouse. They removed rotting wood from 200 bed frames, divided and repacked groups of dishes into settings for four and six, and organized the warehouse for an upcoming furniture giveaway.

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Cumberland College junior Shelby May, son of Patrick and Ellen May of Crestwood, spent Thursday helping a retired gentleman repair an engine for the Baptist Builders. Later May helped the gentleman's wife get the warehouse computer working after it crashed.

May likes being busy and told the people when he arrived, "Give me a job and I'll do it." As he reflects on the mission trip he says, "We were there to work and help people. There was nothing I dreaded doing a single day."

We appreciate the willing spirit and hard work offered by May and others. We know God will continue to bless their service.

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

## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

## Bible Crossword

Mary Louise DeMott

### Across

- 1 Father of 23 and 48 Across (Genesis 4:21)
- 4 Father of those who dwell in tents (Genesis 4:20)
- 8 A tract of open grassland
- 10 Pursuing wild animals for food
- 13 A length measured in yards
- 16 To rub or scrape out
- 17 Serial, abbr.
- 18 Suitable
- 20 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 21 Dry cut stalks of grain
- 23 Musical instrument with strings stretched on a roughly triangular frame
- 24 Barium, chem. symbol
- 26 Fermented grape juice
- 28 No
- 30 Using land to grow crops
- 33 Color of the sky
- 35 First note of the musical scale
- 36 Argon, chem. symbol
- 37 "\_\_\_ the mighty hunter" (Genesis 10:8-9)
- 40 A bag, or envelope, inflated with air
- 41 Rural Electrification Administration, abbr.
- 42 Einsteinium, chem. symbol
- 43 Mystery writer Christie's first name

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- 46 Latin, Locus Sigilli, means place of the seal, abbr.
- 47 School, abbr.
- 48 Musical instrument made of pipes, that air is forced through

### Down

- 1 A summer month
- 2 A person who carries something
- 3 Unit of money in Turkey
- 4 A summer month
- 5 Thorny or prickly plant with woody stem
- 6 Forward section of lowest balcony
- 7 Tending a flock of sheep
- 9 Opposite of west
- 11 Walk or run with quick, light steps
- 12 Not specified, abbr.
- 14 To pull back his hunting equipment for 37 Across

- 15 Gallium, chem. symbol
- 19 Tantalum, chem. symbol
- 21 Number 39 Down turns this when he works
- 22 Opposite of husband
- 24 Bachelor of Arts, abbr.
- 25 Opposite of 28 Across
- 27 Sodium, chem. symbol
- 28 National Guard, abbr.
- 29 Fluid, abbr.
- 31 Mother
- 32 Noncommissioned Officer, abbr.
- 34 Mottled yellow and green citrus fruits
- 36 Father of 7 Down (Genesis 4:2)
- 37 Built the ark, the father of zoology (Genesis 6:13-14)
- 38 To pull something with difficulty
- 39 Father of 30 Across
- 44 Preposition
- 45 Home run, abbr.

## Last week's solution

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## Agencies' use of secret missionaries gets another look

Continued from page 1

But Parks said the original CSI effort evolved into a non-resident missions program that allowed access to other countries in the Middle East, Asia and Africa that were hostile to the Christian gospel.

"You can't live in a country, but you're assigned to find ways to serve," said Parks. "At the FMB, we would set up these entities (non-profit service organizations), and then the funding for the individual and their work would go through that organization."

### Which is more ethical?

"They could literally say their support came from Organization XYZ, but that support came to the organization from the FMB," he added.

Parks said he understands how some people could pose ethical questions about a strategy that does not use full disclosure of one's identity or in-

tent. However, he asked: "Is it ethical to leave millions of people to suffer?"

Parks said he welcomes the discussion about this and other approaches to missions in difficult settings. But he sees some increased risks as well. "I think it needs to be more fully aired," Parks said, "but you're alerting people all over the world to what you are doing."

"I don't agree with breaking the law or smuggling," Parks said. Yet he recognizes that "some of the greatest needs are in the poorest countries" where governments are hostile toward a Christian witness.

In those settings, Parks said, non-resident missionaries have been able to assist with water purification, agriculture, medical and educational needs—and were public about that assistance. These workers, Parks said, "did what they said they were doing—just more. I don't have an ethical problem with that."

"Most American Christians are so insulated from the world and don't realize that day-to-day people are being slaughtered because they are Christians," Parks said. "You can lay that alongside, 'Gee, I can't call them missionaries,' and you see the concept."

Parks said he doesn't fault either the IMB or CBF for what they've done to try to serve people groups not reached with the gospel. But the "ideal got blurred along the way," he said.

Parks recommends focusing more heavily on "tentmakers" who hold legitimate employment in mission set-

tings that give opportunity for witness.

"The greater need is to have business organizations set up to find ways for local Christians to make a living and present the gospel," he added.

Bill O'Brien of Birmingham, Ala., is a former FMB vice president who worked closely with Parks in developing mission strategies like the non-resident approach. "You can live in a neutral city where it was legal to live and travel in and out (of a restricted access setting) as you can to find out if there are other Christians there and to share the gospel any way you can," said O'Brien. "The term used is 'find a platform.'"

But O'Brien said he has "an opinion that borders on a conviction" now about what has evolved from this mission strategy.

### 'What do you really do?'

O'Brien, who also served as founding director of the Global Center at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, said he began to "have real questions about this" when trying to establish a mission partnership for Samford in an undisclosed country. A Southern Baptist missionary there told O'Brien that when the missionary publicly identified himself as an "agricultural and humanitarian specialist," locals would often ask: "What do you really do?"

"Local people are not dumb," O'Brien said. "And we are kidding ourselves if we think governments don't know what we're doing."

O'Brien said he is especially con-

cerned for the risk placed on local Christians. Missionaries can leave quickly if persecution arises, he said, "but I'm worried about locals who can't leave quickly."

O'Brien said the IMB missionary he visited returned to the United States and became an employee of a multinational company. In doing so, he was able to "put people in difficult parts of the world, but in legitimate businesses."

"You are unashamedly creating a Christian witness," said O'Brien, "but you don't have to remember what you told the last person."

O'Brien described the "marketplace" as a great mission field and urged strategists to focus on planting legitimate businesses that provide opportunities for witness.

O'Brien admitted he is "still struggling" with the issue. He said he gets "a little turned off to coded language" used by mission personnel to conceal their identities and purposes, "but I'm sensitive to security."

Baldrige said he and other CBF leaders struggle as well. In China, CBF is completely "above board" by registering missionaries with the China Christian Council, said Baldrige. In other parts of the world where that is not an option, he said CBF's focus might shift more to the tentmaker approach where workers can actually reside in the areas they serve.

If so, he added, it will be a slow and deliberate move.

With additional reporting by Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press.



### The privilege of service

Nearly every day someone puts a tract, letter, card or note in the basket by my office door. I never know if the information will bring a tear to my eyes, a chuckle, disturbing information, encouragement or a word of praise and testimony. Last week one such article was left in my basket. It reminded me of the importance of service.

In earlier articles, I have shared the difficulties of finding faculty and staff who are willing to make the sacrifices necessary for ministry. I would like to share part of this article with you.

If you are in full-time ministry, I hope it will remind you of the trust God has placed in you. If not, you may want to encourage your pastor, youth leader, music minister or others who wrestle every day with the needs and responsibilities of this world and their commitments to Christ.

"Recently I counseled a couple planning to enter missionary service. They claimed they desperately wanted to serve the Lord. They were well-qualified, and it was obvious the Holy Spirit was calling them into the privilege of service.

"But the world had a grip on them. They began to ask what I now recognize as the critical American questions about Christian service. If they went into missions ... would they have a home? What about a retirement plan? What about the education of their children? What about insurance?

"They were measuring the opportunity for service by the amount of inconvenience it would cause them. They didn't want to face the possibility of difficulties, sorrows, sacrifice and uncertainty. ... The risks were too great, and so—like millions of other North Americans—they have not

yet obeyed that call. They probably never will.

"What a contrast with the routine sacrifices made by so many Christian workers in the Third World. I think of a team of five young pioneer missionaries whom the Lord called to begin a mission in Rajasthan, a North Indian state. They had no money for train fare, let alone for food or rent. Everyone discouraged them and begged them to stay home. But this was their answer: 'If we have no money to go by train, we will walk (1,500 miles). If one of us becomes sick and dies on the way, we will bury him on the roadside and the rest of us will continue on. If only one of us survives the journey and reaches Rajasthan and places only one gospel tract on the hot desert sand of that state before he dies, we will have filled our mission, and we will have obeyed our Lord.'"

I am to interview three people today about possible full-time ministry opportunities at Oneida. To my knowledge, none has been involved in full-time service before. I will spend a good portion of the interview making sure they understand the responsibilities of ministry.

Sadly, from time to time, I discover that potential co-workers have the wrong motives for service. They are not only overly concerned with their personal needs, but they also misunderstand the servant's responsibility. Whether you serve in a Sunday school classroom, behind the pulpit or keeping the buildings and grounds clean, service in God's work is a privilege.

Reprinted from *Western Recorder*, Feb. 23, 1999

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### The person at the front door

Billy Howell, a 1993 graduate from Clear Creek, is our new director of admissions.

"It was a big move from the pastorate," Howell said. "The reality hit me when I finished my responsibilities at First Baptist (Church of Normandy, Tenn.) on a Sunday evening and I drove here the next day. I woke up Tuesday morning realizing I'm not a pastor anymore. That's been a tremendous adjustment, but at the same time I realize the scope is broadened. I will help others, who together will do a greater work than I could do in one local church."

Howell soon discovered his new job includes a pastoral relationship with prospective students. "In one interview, a young man broke down in tears. He was so sensitive to God's leadership. We held hands and prayed together. It was beautiful to see God working," he recalled. "They (students) are struggling to discern God's will, and I'm grateful I can encourage them. It is important to have someone at the front door with whom they can identify."

Converted at age 21, Howell was called to preach at age 25. "I thought for sure the Lord would not be calling me," Howell said. "Since

I surrendered, my life has been wonderfully blessed and the ministry terrific."

He met his wife, Patty, at Clear Creek. "Her dad had returned to secure a BA after the school became accredited," Howell said. "She came with him once, when he registered for classes. We met and started dating. Our call back to

Clear Creek was confirmed in her life also." They have three daughters, Ashley, 9; Brooke, 7; Caitlyn, 6. The children look forward to attending a local Christian school and activities with other campus families.

Howell was pastor in Normandy, Tenn., for four years. "We saw the Lord bring about some changes. Three men attended our first Brotherhood meeting and we agreed to pray. God began to bring men and several were converted," Howell said. "The group is now strong in numbers and excited. One man has surrendered to God's call, and is considering attending Clear Creek."

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## 'On the Far Side Banks of Jordan'

*June Carter Cash's faith and influence celebrated at funeral*

By Erin Curry  
Baptist Press

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—June Carter Cash's faith in God and its impact on others was a common theme for her funeral service May 18 at First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn.

"A lot of great things will be said about June today, but the greatest thing that can be said about her and about anyone is that they have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ," said Glenn Weekley, pastor of First Baptist Hendersonville, where Cash was a member.

Cash, a member of the legendary Carter Family and wife of Johnny Cash, died May 15 at age 73 following complications from heart surgery.

Among the nearly 2,000 people gathered for her funeral were musicians, actors and others Cash had reached in her lifetime.

Actor Robert Duvall, who Cash worked with in "The Apostle," was in attendance as were singers such as Ricky Skaggs, Trisha Yearwood and Hank Williams Jr.

Larry Gatlin of the Gatlin Brothers led the service, noting that Cash gave him his first chance at making it in the music industry. The Oak Ridge Boys sang "Loving God, Loving Each Other," and Emmylou Harris and Sheryl Crow sang "Angel Band" and "On the Sea of Galilee" in tribute to Cash.

Rosanne Cash was a stepdaughter to June Carter Cash, but she said June banished the words "stepdaughter" and "stepmother" from her vocabulary and accepted all the children as her own.

Rosanne Cash also said June's great mission and passion in life were



**SOUL MATES** June Carter Cash, pictured with her husband, Johnny, died May 15 at age 73 after complications from heart surgery. "My dad lost his dearest companion," Rosanne Cash told mourners at the funeral service at Hendersonville (Tenn.) First Baptist Church, where the Cashes were members. (RNS/Reuters photo)

lifting up Johnny Cash. If being a wife were a corporation, she said, June would have been the CEO.

"It was her most treasured role. She began every day by saying, 'What can I do for you, John?' Her love filled up every room he was in, lit every path he walked, and her devotion created a sacred, exhilarating place for them to live out their married life," Rosanne Cash said. "My dad has lost his dearest companion, his musical counterpart, his soul mate and his best friend."

Associated Press reported that Johnny Cash, 71, looking somber and composed, was brought into the church in a wheelchair and did not speak at the service. Afterward he was taken to his wife's light blue coffin, which he bent over for a long moment.

Courtney Wilson, former pastor of First Baptist Hendersonville, summed his observations of Cash in one sentence: "June Carter Cash was a kind

and thoughtful Christian lady who loved her God, loved her family and loved her friends."

Speakers at the funeral ranged from a representative of the prime minister of Jamaica, where the Cashes spent some time in charitable work, to actress Jane Seymour, who worked with Cash on the television series "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

"She taught me so much about acting, about God, about giving and about love," Seymour said.

Gatlin closed the service by leading the audience in an a cappella version of "The Far Side Banks of Jordan," which the Cashes wrote and recorded in the 1970s: "She'll be waiting on the far side banks of Jordan. She'll be sitting, drawing pictures in the sand. And when you go to meet her, she will rise up with a shout and come running through the shadow, reaching for your hand."

## Vince Lombardi tract helps Green Bay Baptists reach community

By Rob Phillips  
Baptist Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. (BP)—The Four Spiritual Laws and the Roman Road are fine, but Baptists in the Green Bay, Wis., area are finding that Vince Lombardi's wisdom provides some high-powered support for sharing the gospel.

Dennis Hansen, director of missions for Bay Lakes Baptist Association in northeastern Wisconsin, said a tract with quotes from the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers is the best evangelism tool around.

**PACKED WITH FAITH** A Vince Lombardi tract is the best Baptist evangelism tool in Wisconsin, according to Dennis Hansen, director of missions for Bay Lakes Baptist Association in northeastern Wisconsin.

OK, so Lombardi was Catholic, not Southern Baptist, but one of his quotes graces the green-and-gold cover of a gospel tract that the Bay Lakes association has produced and Hansen has used repeatedly to lead people to faith in Christ.

"Think of only three things—your God, your family and the Green Bay Packers ... in that order," Lombardi once said. Beneath that quote on the cover of the tract is the question: "Have you put your life in order?"

Inside, the tract uses Scripture and quotes from Wisconsinites to show that God's desire is to have a loving relationship with every person. It emphasizes man's sin, God's provision through the finished work of Christ and the necessity of making a personal decision.

"People love anything having to do with the Packers," Hansen said. "The biggest challenge I have is walking people through the plan of salvation before they take the tract with them as a souvenir."

Hansen is happy to give them the souvenir, but his greatest joy is when they say yes to the question, "Would you like to receive Christ now?"

The tract is a model of how Baptists are trying to adapt in an area where the regional Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention is just 50 years old.

The region is still considered a "pioneer mission area" with barely 150 Southern Baptist churches.

In Minnesota there are 1,411 people for every Southern Baptist, the highest ratio in the country, and staggering when compared to the 6-1 ratio in Alabama, for example.

"This is not missions for the faint of heart," Hansen said. Local residents are predominantly northern European, Roman Catholic and skeptical of anything "southern," he added.

As if to illustrate his point, he's making these observations while sipping coffee at the Machine Shed, a thriving restaurant with a John Deere motif that went belly up during its original incarnation as a Cracker Barrel.

"The customs, attitudes and vernacular of the people here are unique," Hansen said. "If you come here thinking your southern church-planting model will work, you'll go home discouraged in a very short time."

Successful church plants take a good pastor, good Bible study curriculum, good music, financial support and perseverance, Hansen said.

With an average 60 members per church, most congregations are led by bivocational pastors.

Congregations in the area are committed to planting more churches to reach more people, he added.

"Every church in our association that has been here two years or more has sponsored at least one other work," he said.

"The thing we have to remember is that sharing the gospel is our main focus," Hansen said. "We must not let cultural differences keep us from sharing Christ."

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## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Twelve Roma/Gypsies in Romania who were baptized recently. One is the widow of a Romanian Orthodox priest. The 12 were reached in four mission points where Romany/Gypsy church planters serve.

■ Project S.O.W., an effort begun in March by missionaries and Polish believers in Warsaw, Poland, to reach university students with the gospel via a Web site called VitaNovis ([www.vitanovis.com](http://www.vitanovis.com)). VitaNovis is a global evangelistic effort developed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

■ A school for church leaders begun in April by missionaries among the Extramadurans of Spain.

■ The dozen students who attended a retreat on Malta this month. At least one student who was not a Christian went away with "a Bible and a new interest in Christ," write missionaries Earl and Robin Pinkston.

■ An Alpha seekers' study group begun this month for young adults ages 18-29 in Stara Zagora, a city of 150,000 in the center of Bulgaria. "Many young people in Bulgaria are looking for a spiritual path, and they see Christianity as only one of many choices," write missionaries there.

■ Jason Hammond who ministers to scholars, researchers and professionals in the Japanese community in Boston.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BURNA**—Central Church ordained **Bob Guy** as a deacon May 18.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—**Jason Dunbar** recently resigned as music and worship minister at Saloma Church. **Kaleb Chowning** will serve as interim worship and music director.

■ **FINCHVILLE**—Finchville Church called **Todd Sprouse** as minister to children and youth. **Tony Smith** is pastor.

■ **HARLAN**—Kelly Street Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary in June.

■ **HAZARD**—Petrey Memorial Church recently called **Mark Wilson** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Rosemont Church will host a Rosemont Family Reunion June 1. Activities include worship at 10:45 a.m. and a 4 p.m. picnic at Southland Park. **Gilbert Tucker** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church youth will host a dinner theater and present "Godspell" May 31 and June 1. Tickets are \$10. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. and the performance at 7. For information or tickets, call (502) 452-9541.

Cloverleaf Church will host "Jubilation" in concert June 8, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Highland Church celebrated its 110th anniversary May 18 with **Duke McCall** as guest speaker. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

Jeffersonton Church honored **Vince McGowan** May 24 on his 90th birthday. **Sanford Hill** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church called **John Shapanus** as church administrator May 18. **Leslie Hollon** is pastor.

■ **MIDDLEBURG**—Middleburg Church called **Curtis Brock** as pastor effective June 1. He previously was pastor of Bethel Church in Eu-bank.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will present "A Lot of Praise" featuring **Mark DeJarnette** and family praise band June 4, 6:30 p.m.

■ **PLEASUREVILLE**—**Jason Meyer**, pastor of Orville Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry May 18.

■ **PROVIDENCE**—**David Frisby** recently resigned as pastor of Shady Grove Church.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—**Steve White** resigned as pastor of Buffalo Lick Church to enter the military chaplaincy.

Clayvillage Church called **Melvin Riley** as pastor effective June 1.

■ **SIMPSONVILLE**—First Church called **Kevin Hendrix** as minister to students.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—New Hope Church recently called **Josh Jennings** as pastor.

■ **WATERFORD**—Plum Creek Church dedicated an education and fellowship building May 18 with **Todd Robertson**, missions strategist for Long Run Association, as guest speaker. The two-story, 6,400-square-foot facility includes classrooms, kitchen, fellowship hall and restrooms. **Richard Graham** is pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Mount Olivet Church recently called **William Wilson Jr.** as pastor.

## Beth Moore expands ministry with online, simulcast events

**HOUSTON (BP)**—Bible study teacher Beth Moore continues to break new ground.

The best-selling author recently taught "Believing God" to more than 30,000 women through an online study offered through LifeWay Christian Resources' Web site, [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com).

Then, in April, women gathered to participate in Moore's first-ever simulcast event from Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston. Moore led the women through her "Beloved Disciple" Bible study.

Champion Forest hosted 2,500 women for the four-hour program. More than 13,000 women and 38 churches participated across the country.

Welcoming women to the simulcast, Moore said, "I have absolutely no clue how this happening. But I know it is happening. Sounds sort of like the Holy Spirit of God, doesn't it?"

As she led the study, she encouraged the women to discard anything in their lives that could come between them and God. "God sets a passion in anything He consumes," she said. "He burns with a holy fire. Anything we give up to Him, He will consume."

Greg Flessing, who produced and directed the simulcast, said people at the remote sites sing, clap, laugh and pray just like the people at the live site.

When people attend events at convention centers, arenas and stadiums, they are accustomed to watching the big screens to see what is happening on the stage, he added. "Sometimes it's easier to feel connected with the big screen when you can see the speaker close up than when he or she just looks like a tiny speck."

Moore's Bible study workbooks have sold more than 3 million copies. She also speaks to thousands of women annually through her "Living Proof ... Live!" conferences.

## Hairston, emeritus missionary, dies

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.**—Martha Elizabeth Hairston, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died May 13 at age 82.

During her 37-year ministry in Brazil, Hairston was president of the Seminary for Christian Educators in Recife. She also served in Belo Jardim where she was involved in church development and hunger relief ministries. She also translated "Survival Kit for New Christians" into Portuguese.

Prior to being appointed to Brazil in 1951 by the former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Hairston

taught at the former Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville. She also taught and was a social worker in Arkansas.

Hairston, a native of Arkansas, was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and the WMU Training School. She also attended Tulane University in New Orleans and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Memorials may be made to Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1000 Bishop Street, Little Rock, AR 72202.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Acoustic guitarist/singer to lead worship. Bivocational, part-time or full-time; will relocate. Blended to contemporary style. Seven years experience in current church praise band, church elder and currently Wednesday night worship leader. Call Mark, (270) 360-9148.

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**SEEKING:** Someone who loves to exercise, loves music and has two hours available in the mornings (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to lead an established exercise class. The Young at Heart exercise class at Hurstbourne Baptist Church is looking for someone who would be willing to substitute occasionally for the class. This is a paid position. If you are interested but have not had the experience, we will gladly work with you. For more information, please call Gwen Nelson at (502) 254-3438, or Barbara Hancock at (502) 339-8657.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time pianist for Sunday and Wednesday services. Send resumé to: Kings Baptist Church, PO Box 380, Mt. Washington, KY 40047.

**SEEKING:** Keyboardist to play for two morning worship services. Some experience required; salary negotiable. Contact New Hope Baptist Church, PO Box 825, Versailles, KY 40383. (859) 873-1707.

**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](http://www.McCarthyBaptist.org). For a community profile, visit [www.saintjoseph.com](http://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:** Part-time minister of music and youth. Unity Baptist Church, Stephensburg, Ky. Please call (270) 234-4606 for more information.

**SEEKING:** Pastor and song leader for Decoursey Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Decoursey Baptist Church, 8276 Decoursey Pike, Covington, KY 41015.

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

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Beechmont Baptist Church. Established in 1911, the church is located in the south side of Louisville. Resumé accepted through June 14; send to: Pastor Search Committee, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader for energetic and enthusiastic congregation that enjoys worshiping 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:** Pastor for Westport Road Baptist Church. Kindly send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Westport Road Baptist Church, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

**SEEKING:** Full-time director of missions for Little River Baptist Association. Resumé with references may be sent to: Little River Baptist Association, 149 Old Dover Road, Cadiz, KY 42211, Attn: DOM Search Committee.

**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:** 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.

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## 'I'm like a coach'

*Jabez author helps African churches and governments*

By Robin Branch  
Religion News Service

SANDTON, South Africa (RNS)—American Bruce Wilkinson, best-selling author of the trio "Prayer of Jabez," "Secrets of the Vine" and the recent *The New York Times* best seller "A Life God Rewards," is becoming a new voice in Africa.

Since moving from the United States to Sandton, a Johannesburg suburb, in August to aid in the fight against AIDS, Wilkinson has received invitations from Namibia, Ghana, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as South Africa for speaking engagements and to meet with heads of state.

He has met with groups ranging from white farmers in Namibia (who are afraid what happened to white farmers in Zimbabwe—the confiscation of their land—will happen to them) to pastors from the GKSA, the Reformed Churches of South Africa (whom he rebuked for their lack of evangelism).

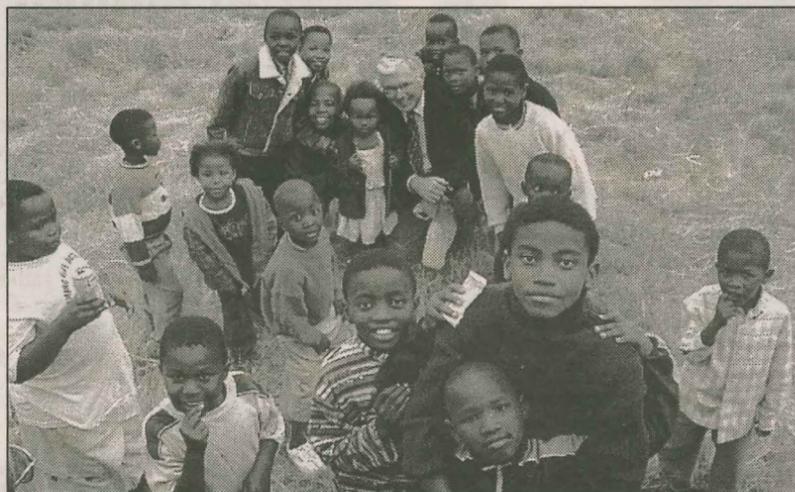
"I am like a coach," he told the GKSA pastors at a recent conference here. "Sometimes we need help from somebody from the outside to get us to move ahead."

### 'Preach to the need'

Using stories and examples, Wilkinson encouraged the pastors to "preach to the need." He told of a pastor who couldn't understand why his church was dying. When asked what he preached, the pastor replied the biblical book of Galatians. When asked for how long, he answered two years.

"You're killing your church!" Wilkinson told the pastor and suggested he supply paper and pens at the next service and ask the congregation to write down their needs.

The pastor later phoned Wilkinson in tears. "I had no idea what my people are going through," the man said. Wilkinson then encouraged him to start preaching to the top need and



**CATALYST** "Prayer of Jabez" author Bruce Wilkinson poses with children in Umtata, South Africa. Wilkinson has moved to South Africa, where he works with churches to address AIDS, poverty and famine on the continent. (RNS file photo)

stop preaching on it when it was no longer a need. "Then go to the next need," Wilkinson advised.

In his frequent visits to Namibia, a country west of South Africa, where he meets with farming, church and government representatives, Wilkinson said he addresses land ownership.

"The farmers are asking how do they make land more equitable among the people. I told them the issue isn't ownership of the land. God owns the land. The issue is if God is pleased with what they are doing with His land. I ask them, 'Are you treating the people the way you would like to be treated? Are you letting them buy the land? Are you giving them a way out of their poverty?'"

He said he challenged the white Namibian farmers to spend a night in the housing they provide for their workers. He reminded them that merely feeling sorry for colonialism's mistakes is not enough and that repentance involves looking for ways to change the system.

"I serve as a catalyst. I speak directly. I try to give the scriptural answers for their problems," Wilkinson said.

It was this grab-the-bull-by-the-horns approach that led him to relocate to South Africa last year. On a visit to the country in 1999, he was "blindsided by the needs here. AIDS, poverty, famine, hopelessness. The

challenges are overwhelming," Wilkinson said in an interview.

### Five-year project

In 2001, he founded Global Vision Resources, a nonprofit, interdenominational organization aimed at alleviating poverty and AIDS in Africa through the action of American churches. Then last August, Wilkinson and his family made the move to South Africa, where they expect to live for as many as five years or more.

Wilkinson, 55, said his new life is "stressful. It's impossible to plan because no two days are the same."

He makes his way stateside now and then, keeping busy with speaking engagements in addition to rallying support for combating the ailing social conditions in Africa.

Wilkinson said he was heartened during a recent trip to Washington, where he spoke with administration officials about his new home. "I found in every single person a deep commitment to the area and to solving the problems of famine and AIDS in Africa," he said.

Now reaching the one-year mark in South Africa, Wilkinson remains hopeful that his ministry will make a difference. "I don't believe there is a limit to what one person can do as long as that person continues to look to the Lord," he said. "Too often we settle for too little."

## Theologian: Turn off noise for sacred family time

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Those who pay attention may see spiritual truths in the everyday occurrences of family life, according to theology professor Wendy Wright.

Wright called Christians to "prayerful attentiveness" as she delivered the Barbara Chafin Lectures in Family Ministry at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The lectures were given during the school's annual conference for church social workers.

Identifying the Spirit of God at work in the chaos of family life requires occasionally clearing away the noise, said Wright, who teaches at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. "You can't pay attention if the space is filled with other things. ... You have to turn off some of the noise."

Families may find spiritual mo-

ments in reading together, sitting on a child's bed, spending time with a spouse at the end of the day, gathering around a kitchen table, visiting grandparents' homes or in a variety of other simple yet sacred places, she explained.

"We locate our sense of the presence of God in the ordinary fabric of everyday life. ... In ministering to families, one of the most powerful things we can do is to empower families to know themselves."

Welcoming a child into a family's life and eventually letting go of that child each illustrate spiritual disciplines that shape all of life, Wright continued.

Welcoming a child also "causes us to decenter ourselves," she added. "Loving someone else ... calls me to

hear, 'What does love demand that I do?'"

Taking an 18-month-old child for a walk illustrates the change in perspective an adult may experience, Wright said. Rather than the purposeful and utilitarian walk of an adult, a young child engages in a "process of exploring" that may cause the parent to "see things again for the first time, ... to become aware of wonder again."

Likewise, by letting go of a grown child, parents may learn the power of trust in God, the theologian said. "We have to entrust them (to the arms of God)."

The Chafin lectures were established by the late Ken Chafin, former pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, in honor of his wife, Barbara, who lives in Houston.

## Bible as cookbook?

*Nutritionist says Old Testament provided recipe for health bar*

By Tom Feran  
Religion News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. (RNS)—Different people find different things in the Bible. Tom Ciola found a recipe for snack food. The directions weren't precise, he admits. Coming up with the right formula, which added a few organic ingredients for taste and texture, was "quite a challenge."

But through trial and error, and with a bit of outside help, Ciola finally produced the Bible Bar. Resembling a granola bar, it's billed as a "highly effective appetite regulator" and a "great way to control hunger pangs while still providing your body with the highest level of biblical nutrition."

"God was the first nutritionist," Ciola said recently from his office in Orlando, Fla., noting that early in the Bible God commands, "You shall not eat of every tree in the garden."

Ciola said he believes the story of the Garden of Eden says as much about nutrition as it does disobedience. "The Lord put a high price on good eating habits and health."

Ciola found inspiration for Bible Bars in Deuteronomy 8:8, "where the Lord uses seven species of food to describe the goodness of the land. That intrigued me. I've been in the nutrition business all my life, and I've also been a Bible student all my life."

The seven foods are wheat, barley, honey, olive oil, figs, pomegranates and grapes. All are laden with symbolic value and, Ciola learned, sometimes surprising nutritional value.

"I wasn't the first to stumble on the importance of these foods," he said. "Many ancient Bible scholars and rabbis have studied the subject, and I found a number of theories about their importance. I thought, from a nutritional standpoint, as long as the Lord sees these as important foods, let's see if we can put them in a form people can eat day to day."

### 'Absolutely horrendous' taste

That was seven or eight years ago. Ciola approached a candy company with the idea. The results, from a taste standpoint, were "absolutely horrendous."

So he put the idea aside, "got hot on it again" three years ago, and finally got it to work with the help of a small Texas company—and the addition of organic puffed rice and raspberry flavoring.

This was something he could sink his teeth into.

Besides being a serious Bible student, Ciola has a background as a natural health advocate and bodybuilder. He opened a combination health food store and fitness club in Utica, N.Y., in 1970, and won the Mr. New York State title in 1975—the same year he founded National Health Products, which produces sports nutrition supplements.

He also wrote the nutrition guide "Moses Wasn't Fat," which he wrote after realizing the Bible said Moses died at 120. "Yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone," states Deuteronomy 34:7.

Ciola said Moses was "an excellent physical specimen right up to his death and the epitome of everything my book stood for."

Using the Bible Bar as the foundation, under National Health he started House of David, a distributor of "spiritual health products" in a growing field that includes such items as Testaments and edible Nativities.

House of David, at houseofdauid.net, handles such products as Bible Bread, Back to the Garden meal replacement powder and the new Bible Granola—as well as the chewy Bible Bar, which has 190 calories, 6 grams of fat and retails for \$1.89 at about 2,500 health food stores and religious bookstores.

"I've been accused of commercializing the Bible," Ciola said, "but I'm a believer, and I believe I will have to answer someday for my actions."

No problem there, he said—in the end, "it all goes back to the beginning. God does have a plan for us to eat properly."



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