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Oneida Father's Day insert

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Pollster: Bible Belt seeing drop in faith activity

ARLINGTON, Texas (ABP)—While traditional religious indicators were constant during the past decade, an undercurrent of change is affecting some segments of the population, Christian researcher George Barna says.

Statistics from the Barna Research Group indicate that during 1993-2003, the percentages of Americans who said they read the Bible, prayed to God, attended church and attended an adult Sunday school class or small group in the past week remained about the same.

Also holding steady were beliefs in God as the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator, the total accuracy of the Bible and a responsibility to share one's faith. Likewise, the percentage of Americans identified as born-again believers and evangelicals remained constant during the decade.

But closer examination of the data suggests the South is becoming less of a Christian stronghold, Barna said. Sunday school and church attendance and evangelism are all in decline in the region.

Increased mobility is a large factor in this change, Barna said. As people from around the country move into the South, residents are exposed to more religious options. Some of these other choices are drawing younger generations, he noted.

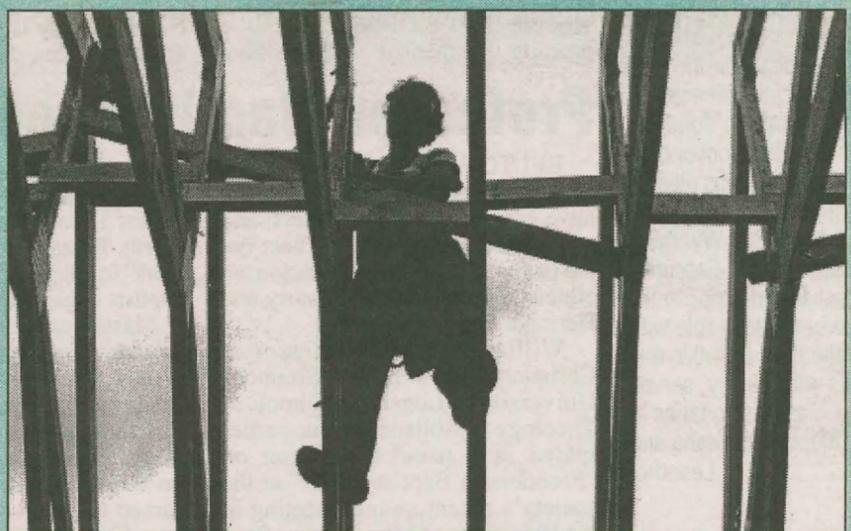
Also, senior adults are dropping out of the church, Barna said. Senior attendance, evangelism involvement and volunteerism are all down nationally.

Since 1991, the country's unchurched population has risen from 24 percent to 33 percent, Barna added. Even the spike in church attendance after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks should not be attributed to unchurched people entering sanctuaries, he said, but to believers returning to church.

Four days' work



About 125 members of a church near Atlanta traveled to Eastern Kentucky last week to help build a new sanctuary and classrooms for Crane Creek Baptist Church near Grayson. While adults worked on the building, youth conducted sports camps and backyard Bible clubs for area youth. ■ Above: Starting with only a wooden floor, in four days the workers had raised the walls and trusses. On Thursday night, the churches held a joint worship service in the sanctuary area. ■ Right: Jeanny Speissegger nails roof trusses. "We just really like helping other people." *Story on page 3. (Photos by David Winfrey and Asa Greear)*



Can you take a joke? Christian satirists ask, 'What's sacred?'

By Bob Smietana
Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—A Web site that bills itself as "a good source for Christian News" recently featured such eye-popping headlines as:

■ **Casino-church lights up Vegas Strip.** A pastor in Las Vegas has opened the world's first combination church-casino, where losses are tax-deductible and waitresses serve communion at the slot machines.

■ **Mega-church explodes—literally.** No one was injured, but an Albuquerque mega-church apparently spontaneously combusted when it added one-too-many members. The explosion has halted expansion plans for the church to build a 200-acre theme park/shopping mall/air strip/professional baseball stadium/skating rink/water-ski lake and NASCAR race track just outside city limits.

■ **Bob Tomato: "VeggieTales**

bigger than Jesus." Many Christian leaders were cautious in commenting on Bob the Tomato's outrageous statement. But some churches already have organized burnings of the popular Christian videos for kids.

Then there's news on the Mormon version of "The Bachelor," where contestant Larry Whitstall "got down on his knees and proposed to all six finalists."

"I couldn't make up my mind," Whitstall reportedly said. "I realized they all had good qualities, so I went the polygamy route." Five of the six women agreed, leaving the show's producers to ponder a reality series called "Life With Larry" to follow "Whitstall's transition from bachelorhood to having five wives."

There's only one problem. The stories, which appeared on Larknews.com, a satirical newspaper Web site, aren't real. But that doesn't mean that they don't tell the truth, according to

Larknews editor and writer Joel Kilpatrick.

"Our purpose is not to deceive—it's to have fun," he says. "It's a way of truth-telling."

Kilpatrick, a freelance magazine writer with a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, started the site with some friends to look at "what is essential and what can be laughed at" in the church.

"I think that humor divides the human and the divine," he says. "I am not convinced that everything in the (evangelical) subculture is as sacred as we make it out to be."

More importantly, he adds, "I am not sure that Christians have had a good laugh at themselves in a while."

Besides Larknews, other sites that satirize Christians include:

■ Shipoffools.com, a United Kingdom-based site that averages 1.6 million hits a month.

■ BettyBowers.com, home of

"America's Best Christian."

■ LandoverBaptist.com, a sister site to BettyBowers, which bills itself as "Where the Worthwhile Worship."

■ TheOnionDome.com, which pokes fun at Orthodox Christianity.

Alex Riggle, creator of TheOnionDome, recently recognized as "site of the week" by the Dallas Morning News, says outsiders often think "Orthodoxy seems like a such a serious thing." He says Orthodox Christians have "the same foibles" other Christians do.

"If I can make one person a day laugh," he says, "I have justified my existence on the planet."

But not everyone is laughing. Larknews' Kilpatrick admits, "We get lots of mail from offended folks."

Kilpatrick said he recognizes that not everyone enjoys satire. "I simply recommend that, if they don't enjoy it, they avoid visiting the site."

□ See *Can you take a joke? ...*, page 8

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, June 11

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Glendale Baptist Church** in Nashville, which last year hired a lesbian as associate pastor, was removed from membership in the Tennessee Baptist Convention May 30. In a special meeting of the convention's Executive Board, members voted unanimously to "dissolve" the convention's relationship with the church. While "each Baptist church is autonomous," TBC Executive Director James Porch emphasized that a church's decision "to employ a staff member whose sexual orientation is contrary to biblical teaching would not be in harmony with the principles of the Tennessee Baptist Convention."

■ **Randy Sprinkle**, former director of the International Prayer Strategy Office for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, began work June 1 as executive director of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention. Sprinkle, 53, was elected unanimously earlier this year by the Wyoming convention's Executive Board. Prior to his prayer strategy role with the IMB, Sprinkle and his wife, Nancy, served as missionaries in Ethiopia, Botswana and Lesotho.

Chaplains protest NAMB ordination policy

By Craig Bird and Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Southern Baptist endorsement of female military chaplains who are not ordained seriously undermines the spiritual effectiveness of all ordained military chaplains, according to one of the Navy's top chaplains.

Capt. Al Hill, a lifelong Southern Baptist and a 25-year veteran chaplain, said June 3 that a motion will be presented at the June 17-18 Southern Baptist Convention to reverse the policy now practiced by the North American Mission Board, the SBC's chaplain-endorsing agency.

The policy, approved by NAMB trustees in February, permits women to be endorsed as chaplains—in the military and elsewhere—but not if they are ordained. The policy is aimed at appeasing conservative critics who oppose the ordination of women. Rather than not appointing any female chaplains, as some would prefer, NAMB contends ordination is not necessary for chaplains.

"Regardless of Capt. Hill's views of ordination, most Southern Baptists do not consider ordination necessary for ministry," said NAMB spokesman Martin King.

Hill, director of the training and education division in the Navy Chief of Chaplains Office, met for two hours May 28 with John Yarbrough, NAMB vice president for evangelization—a meeting the chaplain said was con-

ducted in "a spirit of graciousness and openness." Hill said he left the meeting optimistic NAMB trustees would reconsider their February action, which he said is opposed by most Baptist chaplains in the Navy.

Instead, Hill said, the trustees' chaplains commission declined a recommendation from Yarbrough to place the issue on the agenda of the full trustee board meeting in October. Members of the commission said they would discuss the issue further at their August meeting and decide if it would be placed on the October agenda.

"I am surprised and disappointed," Hill said. "They may or may not choose to recommend full board action, but waiting to find out is an unacceptable option. Their decision makes it necessary to present a motion on the floor of the (SBC) convention in two weeks that will force the trustees to address the issue before the next convention."

King said NAMB's policy is designed to honor the SBC's opposition to women pastors while not eliminating appropriate ministry by women.

"The North American Mission Board supports women in chaplaincy in positions that are not the equivalent of a senior pastor," King said. "We renew our pledge to stand with any female Southern Baptist chaplain who is discriminated against because she is not ordained."

But Hill and other chaplains say the NAMB policy is impractical. In the armed services, the position of chap-

lain cannot be separated from the role of pastor, Hill said, and neither can female chaplains minister exclusively to female soldiers and families, as one NAMB trustee suggested. The military can make no such distinctions, Hill said.

"To endorse anyone who has not been ordained is to proclaim the ordination of all Southern Baptist military chaplains as unnecessary and irrelevant," Hill added. "It is to strip all of us—in one stroke—of the sign and seal of our spiritual authority as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

All military chaplains "preach the gospel, perform baptisms, provide communion, lead worship, teach the Word, conduct weddings and funerals, visit in hospitals and jails, around the world, at sea and in the field, in peacetime and in war," Hill said.

He also warned that the NAMB policy "removes Southern Baptist chaplains from the ranks of all other mainstream Christian denominations and aligns us squarely alongside Christian Scientists and Mormons, two religious groups that do not require ordination for endorsement for military chaplaincy."

NAMB trustee Barry Holcomb, writing in the Alabama Baptist newspaper in March, said the policy expressed "a fair understanding of Baptist polity and exercised appropriate doctrinal accountability to the SBC" while voicing "support for women in various roles of ministry with the exception of roles entailing ordination."

Professor: Baptists need new ethical pioneers

BELTON, Texas (ABP)—Trails blazed by Baptist pioneers in ethics have grown over from neglect, and new scouts are needed to "beat out the pathways" for this generation, an ethicist told the Baptist History and Heritage Society.

William Tillman, professor of Christian ethics at Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology in Abilene, Texas, participated in a panel discussion on "Frontiers in Baptist Ethics" at the society's recent annual meeting at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas. The gathering explored the role of Baptists on the American frontier.

Tillman described two 20th century professors of Christian ethics—Henlee Barnette of Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Louisville, and T.B. Maston of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas—as "scouts" and "pioneers" in Christian ethics who helped Baptists engage the culture.

Maston and Barnette influenced generations of Baptist leaders not only through their prolific writing both for scholarly and popular audiences, but also through their seminary classrooms. Maston taught at Southwestern Seminary from 1922 to 1963, and Barnett taught at Southern Seminary from 1951 to 1977.

"We need them, or their kind, more than ever because, as a friend has insightfully observed, the pathways grow over," Tillman said. "The frontiers reappear with each succeeding generation."

David Stricklin, associate professor of history at Lyon College in Batesville, Ark., described the practically unknown contributions of Martin England on what he called "the far frontiers" of Baptist ethics. England was a Northern Baptist missionary to Burma, a co-founder of the interracial Koinonia Farms in Georgia, and a Southern field representative for the American Baptist Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

"His covert assignment was to be a minister to persons who got into various kinds of trouble as part of the struggle for civil rights for African-Americans in the South in the 1950s and '60s," Stricklin said. "He often appeared, seemingly out of nowhere, to visit people in jail, help their families and do whatever he could to help

without calling attention to himself."

Rosalie Beck from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, surveyed the contributions of frontier missionary Mina Everett.

Everett was the first single woman missionary appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to serve in the Western Hemisphere and the first female missionary employed by the state missions arm of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"Mina's employment with the state and Southern Baptist Convention boards ended because of her willingness to speak to mixed (gender) audiences in an effort to raise support for and consciousness of missions," Beck said. "Mina Everett succeeded in many areas of her frontier work, but she crashed on the ministry barrier between genders in Victorian Texas."

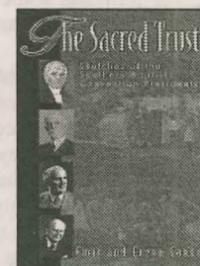
Wallace Alcorn, a Baptist educator from Austin, Minn., received the top award in the annual Baptist Heritage Preaching Contest for his sermon, "Dissenting Baptists: The Glory of a Hated People."

William Reynolds received the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to Baptist history. Reynolds is distinguished professor of church music emeritus at Southwestern Seminary and former secretary of church music at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Bill Pinson, his predecessor, received the officer's award for their commitment to historic Baptist principles, history and heritage.

Book explores lives, legacies of SBC leaders

NASHVILLE (BP)—William Johnson, the first president of the Southern Baptist Convention (elected in 1845-46, 1849), shook the hand of U.S. President George Washington as a boy. The second president, Robert Howell (1851, 1853, 1855, 1857) battled J.R. Graves over the issue of Landmarkism.



Such stories are at the core of "The Sacred Trust," a book by brothers Emir and Ergun Caner that recounts the

life of each of the Southern Baptist Convention's 52 presidents. It is the first such book in more than a generation, according to its publisher, Broadman & Holman, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Emir Caner is assistant professor of church history and Anabaptist studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Ergun Caner, assistant professor of theology and church history at Criswell College in Dallas, will be moving to Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., this fall.

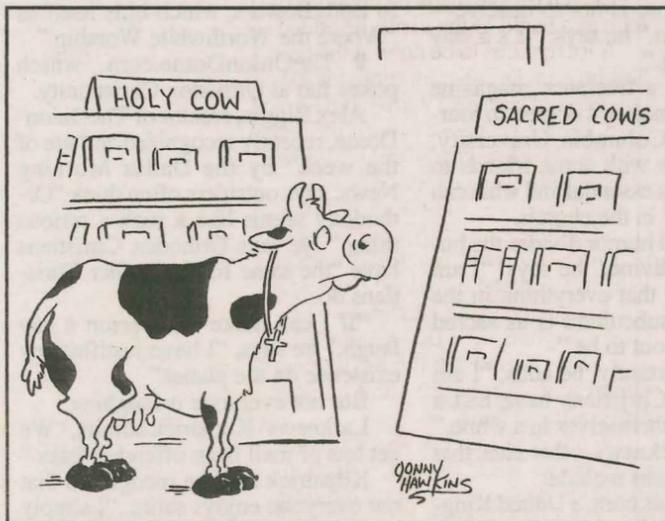
The 238-page book includes a biographical sketch about each man who has wielded the gavel at the annual meeting. But the book is more than a collection of facts; it is a compilation of stories and events that molded their lives.

Richard Fuller (1859, 1861) used his pulpit at Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore to argue against infant baptism. As a pastor of First Baptist in Houston, Owen White (1963) fought for the inclusion of blacks in his church. As pastor of a church in Fort Pierce, Fla., Adrian Rogers (1979, 1986-87) and his wife lost their third child to crib death on Mother's Day.

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, wrote the book's foreword.

"The president of the Southern Baptist Convention has no office in a denominational headquarters, receives no salary from his position, is given no staff for assistance, and has few unilateral powers," Mohler wrote. "And yet the SBC presidency is one of the most recognized and influential offices of leadership in the Christian world. Therein lies an enigma and an incredible story."

In the preface the Caners say the book is "an investigation" of the "heartbeats and the passions" of the presidents' lives.



Campbellsville trustees approve \$7 million worth of construction

By Joan McKinney
Campbellsville University

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University construction projects totaling \$7 million were approved May 29 by the school's trustees during a special called meeting.

President Mike Carter called the trustees' action "one of the most memorable days in the history of our institution."

The projects include the construction of the E. Bruce Heilman Student Center Complex, in which two buildings, a new dining hall and student service building, will be built. Also, a new wing will be built on the existing women's residence village and the renovation of North Hall.

"These new projects will greatly enhance services to our entire student body," Carter said.

The Heilman Complex will be located directly across the street from the university's Technology Training Center.

The complex will include a new dining hall that seats 550, almost doubling the capacity of the current dining hall in the Student Union Building.

Pioneer College Caterers, the food services contractor for the school, has pledged \$500,000 toward the 20,000-square-foot dining hall project.

Construction on the complex and dining hall should begin this fall, with both scheduled to be finished by fall 2004.

The new Student Services Building will provide approximately 6,500 square feet of space and house a bookstore, post office, campus minister's and Baptist Student Union offices plus a lounge and grill with extended hours.

Alan Medders, vice president for development, said the student services building and dining hall will cost \$5.2 million, and \$2.2 million already has been raised or secured toward the construction of the building.

In December 2002, the James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville made a grant of \$500,000 toward the construction of the dining hall.

Construction on the village project also is tentatively scheduled to begin in the fall of 2003 and completed in spring 2004.

The new construction projects follow the opening of the new Tuggle-Morris Wellness Center, located adjacent to Powell Athletic Center, and the construction of the O.D. and Bessie Hawkins Athletic Complex, which is now under way and which is scheduled to be open in the fall of 2003.

Construction invasion

Georgia church brings 125 members to Grayson for weeklong mission trip

By David Winfrey
News Director

GRAYSON—For a project that almost didn't happen, Crane Creek Baptist Church has a lot to show for one week's work.

About 125 people from a church near Atlanta arrived last week and helped build a new church sanctuary for the Eastern Kentucky congregation.

In addition to getting the building "dried-in," the volunteers from Unity Baptist Church in Newnan, Ga., conducted sports camps and backyard Bible clubs and visited area residents to invite them to the new church.

The end result has been more than just a building, according to Glenn Stephenson, pastor of Crane Creek. The week has energized members and opened their eyes to the potential for reaching other people in the community, he said.

"Things are going to happen," Stephenson said. "Our goal was to double the size of the church in a week. It may take a little longer than that, but I think it's going to happen."

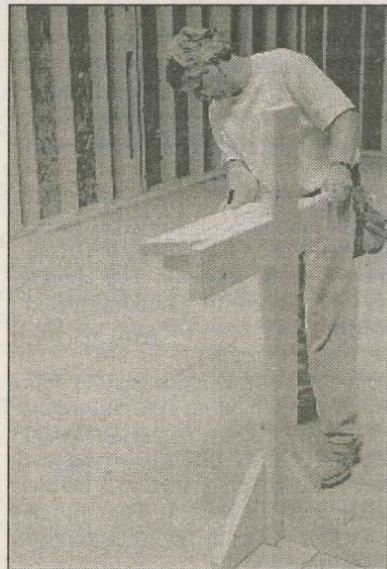
Members have wanted to build a new church building for almost 20 years, he noted. The current building's size and location limit it from attracting or holding more than the average 60 people who now attend on Sunday mornings.

"We're three miles up a holler," he said, adding that the road to reach it is narrow. "You've got to want to be there. ... A lot of people don't want to drive it."

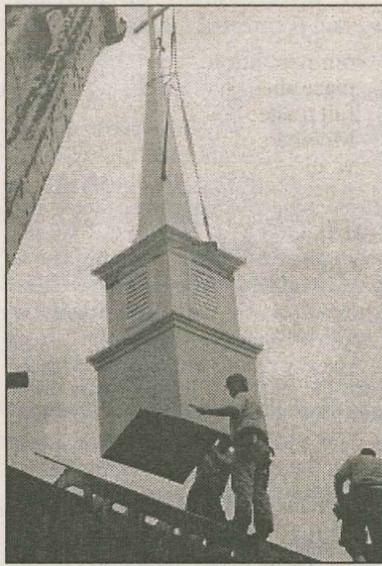
Within the past year, members bought seven acres near a main road.

People were ready to build, but Stephenson said the project still almost didn't take off.

Asa Greear, director of missions



READY FOR WORSHIP Carey Jackson positions a makeshift pulpit for the Thursday night worship service. Approximately 300 people attended the service, and a man made a profession of faith. (Photo by David Winfrey)



WEDNESDAY Workers were installing the church's new steeple by the third day of the construction project.

for Greenup Baptist Association, worked with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department to link Unity with Crane Creek.

Almost a bust

But with only three months before the workers arrived, the church had no building plans, no building permits and no foundation prepared.

"They (Crane Creek members) got excited about it and then they got to thinking, 'We can't do it,'" Stephenson recalled. "It got down to the last month and I was ready to pull the plug on it and pull out."

But with Greear's encouragement, the progression of plans and building permits and a break in the weather, all the elements came together by last week. "It was a hayfield two weeks ago Tuesday," Stephenson said last week.

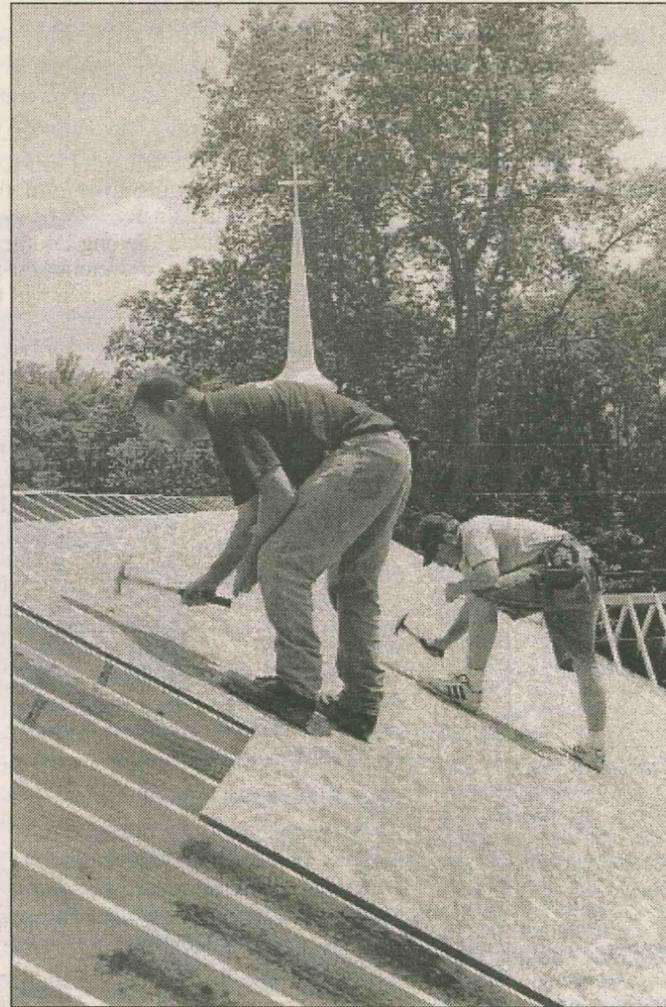
The foundation and footer were prepared, and builders from First Baptist Church of Russell helped build the floor the week before Unity arrived.

"The Lord's working a miracle on this," Stephenson said. "People who didn't have equipment all of a sudden had equipment that we could work with. ... Things are not just happening. The Lord's just providing what we need."

Much of what they needed came in the form of strong backs and ready hearts from Unity Baptist.

For 31 years, the church has taken a week each year to go on a mission trip, according to member Doug Ray. "Like the saying goes: 'Love is not love unless you give it away,' and that's what we're doing."

The church hosted two fundraising barbecues and a concession stand at a crafts fair to raise the \$18,000 it took for travel, housing and food during the week. "We work hard to make the money so we can come and work hard," volunteer Denise Franks said. Housing alone cost \$10,000 for 45 rooms at a local hotel.



"The amazing thing is there's not many of us who know anything about carpentry," added Ray, who is a retired insurance salesman.

Having FAITH

About 15 teams of volunteers made house visits, using the FAITH model of evangelism and outreach to share their faith and invite people to the new church.

Greear noted: "The most exciting thing about this mission trip is we've finally found a church that's willing to use their FAITH training on mission."

Stephenson said Unity members took Crane Creek members along to show them how it could work.

"They said, 'Just take us out and get us in the door and we'll do the visitation,'" Stephenson said. "Our people learned a lot and saw what could happen, and so did I."

Eleven people made professions of faith as a result of the visits, he added.

A lot remains to be done at the new building, including plumbing, masonry work and electrical wiring, but leaders hope to have construction finished in July. "We'll have a \$300,000 building (including labor) for \$130,000."

On Thursday night approximately 300 people entered the new sanctuary for the first worship service. Workers crafted a makeshift pulpit from two-by-fours. After the service, Stephenson said, a man who had been visited by the volunteers talked with Stephenson and made a profession of faith.

"If it was just for the visitation program, it was worth the trip," Stephenson said. "But we got a free building out of it, too."

HARD WORK Two workers from Unity Baptist Church in Newnan, Ga., nail boards onto the roof at the new building for Crane Creek Baptist Church in Grayson. Unity brought 125 volunteers for a week to build, conduct backyard Bible clubs and make evangelistic visits.

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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In age of anxiety, 'Security Mom' rules

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—See ya, Soccer Mom. Security Mom's in charge now.

That's the word from Time magazine, which reported in its June 2 issue that personal, family and national security now top all other concerns for millions of American women. Politicians right and left are scrambling to adjust to her changing priorities in the run-up to next year's national elections. Security Mom has replaced Soccer Mom as the most coveted category of swing voter.

Soccer Mom is still around, mind you. She regularly runs me off the road in her SUV as she races the kids to their next event while coordinating family schedules on her cell phone.

But Security Mom has grabbed the wheel of the national agenda.

Security Mom still cares about education, healthcare and other so-called women's issues. But in a world filled with real and potential threats to her family and country, she's more concerned about doing whatever it takes to secure the perimeter.

'The threat is out there'

We're not talking just duct tape and plastic, but laser-guided missiles abroad and anti-terrorist sweeps at home. And Security Mom is willing to put up with a temporary reduction in civil liberties to accomplish it.

"Personally, I think we need to close our borders," 42-year-old Denver mom Terri Brill told Time. "The threat is out there, it's coming after us (and) we need to protect ourselves."

Brill's attitude is understandable in a time of terrorism, war and economic trouble. Defense is the first (libertarians would say the only) responsibility of national government, and America has many shadowy enemies.

There's been no major domestic attack since Sept. 11. But the trauma of that event changed everything for Security Mom. The perimeter was breached, decisively and horribly. Her internal threat radar has remained on alert ever since.

The stark terror that shattered that day and permeated the days that followed has settled into a persistent state of generalized anxiety—which in some ways is worse than outright fear.

"Fear, as opposed to anxiety, has a definite object which can be faced, analyzed, attacked, endured," wrote theologian Paul Tillich. "But this is not so with anxiety, because anxiety has no object. ... He who is in anxiety is ... delivered to it without help."

Anxiety clouds the mind and paralyzes the will. It fills the heart with low-level dread. The danger may not be clear and present, one reason, but it's out there. Every new threat, however nebulous or theoretical, is magnified.

At the macro level, such uncertainty undermines societies and economies. Worried consumers don't buy things, so companies don't hire people to make and sell things. Anxious communities treat all outsiders with suspicion. Fearful institutions hunker down.

In May, the University of California at Berkeley, supposed bastion of enlightenment and diversity, banned all—repeat, all—summer students from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. Why? Because one of

them might be infected with the SARS virus.

The university modified the policy under critical fire, but the incident "illustrates how easily fear of SARS can degenerate into a generalized antipathy toward Asians, even on college campuses," wrote Chinese-American author Iris Chang in The New York Times.

On the micro level, anxious individuals and families shut their doors and their hearts to others.

Anxiety impacts churches

The dynamic plays out much the same way in churches. Anxious Christians don't welcome strangers. They don't reach out to the needy and the lost. They don't take mission trips. They don't cross borders. They cut back on financial support for missions and evangelism, especially when economic times are uncertain.

In Christian families, women often set the spiritual tone in the house, no matter how sincerely their husbands try to fulfill a leadership role. If she reaches out to others in love, the family will follow. If she withdraws from the world, the family will withdraw.

In such a time as this, the temptation for Christian mothers to become Security Moms can be overwhelming. But it can be overcome.

"God casts out all fear," says one mother of four who traveled to minister in a Muslim country near Iraq while the war was still in full swing. "I wasn't really apprehensive about it at all."

"But my mom was a wreck!"

Erich Bridges is a senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

FIRST PERSON

What are you thinking?

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

SBC annual meeting preview

A number of meetings are conducted by various entities prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. My wife, Kay, and I usually try to attend the pastors' conference and a segment of the Woman's Missionary Union meeting.

This year, the pastors' conference just ahead of the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix June 17-18, will feature a special emphasis on the family. I am personally grateful for this focus.

Karl Babb, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department, is helping coordinate support for public policy on marriage preparation in Kentucky. He is working closely with Campbellsville University's Heartland Institute on Public Policy. Karl has initiated plans that will assist local churches with marriage preparation and strengthening marriages. Please pray for this emphasis.

This year's SBC annual meeting emphasis on international and North American missions will focus on in-

spiring testimonies and life-changing experiences. I am grateful that young men and women continue to respond to God's call to missions although the risk is great. It seems that the compelling love of Christ overcomes all barriers.



Bill Mackey

LifeWay Christian Resources sponsors a dinner for state executive directors and their wives. LifeWay President Jimmy Draper is always a gracious host for this meeting. He has always been prepared to respond to any concerns expressed by state executive directors.

On Monday, Kay and I will attend the Leader Care Luncheon. Evangelist Freddie Gage launched the luncheon out of his concern for pastors and their families.

Here in Kentucky, efforts are under way, coordinated by layman Charles Barnes and a volunteer committee supported by KBC leadership development team leader Guy Futral and me, to strengthen what the KBC does to assist ministers and their families during transition. I am grateful for

another layman who has made available a matching gift for ministerial development in KBC churches.

Kay and I also plan to attend the Baptist World Alliance breakfast Wednesday and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary luncheon. The many events make for a busy schedule but a wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

When I think of attending the SBC and our emphasis on world missions, I think of a church like Panther Creek, where I spoke recently. The church gives 12 percent of its undesignated receipts to missions through the Cooperative Program.

Pastor Tony Rogers has led this church to reach out to the community in a big way. On a recent Saturday, members visited 150 homes and another area will be visited just before vacation Bible school. The church also will conduct its first mission trip this summer.

It is a joy to see God at work, especially in the local church. Please pray for all who serve Jesus Christ and for the annual meeting of the SBC!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Spending wisely remains a priority for 50-plus crowd

By Jeremy White

Bob and Dora, in their mid-50s, currently enjoy more discretionary income than ever before. Bob has reached his peak career earnings as a senior manager. Dora returned to

the work force as a teacher after their children completed college.

As empty-nesters, they have no orthodontics bills to pay, no ballet or piano lessons to fund, and, best of all, no young male drivers on their car insurance policies. Like many of their peers in their Sunday school class, they have more income, more time and less debt.

When Bob reviewed his year-end savings statements and investment accounts, he was surprised that he and Dora had not saved more. He is putting away more in his 401(k) at work, but it seems their other surplus is not as big as he expected. He would have thought that their income level would allow them to save even more and finish paying off the mortgage sooner.

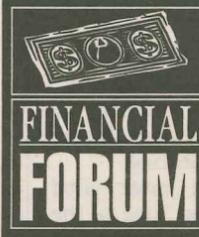
Like Bob and Dora, most people in their 50s still have to watch their spending habits—precisely because they have more income. There is an old saying that an increase in pay is the first step toward bankruptcy. It is so easy to spend away all the income increases.

After the expenses of raising children, it is the best time to build savings and pay off debt. During their 50s, people are in the best stage to prepare for their later years.

Besides limiting spending so that you can save more during the peak earning years, you also should monitor your spending as you transition to retirement. This is practice time. You should adjust your spending level to your anticipated retirement income level at least one year before you retire.

Many people think they can cut their income at retirement by 25 to 50 percent and live just fine. Those living expenses just do not go down as easily as people think. Conventional wisdom does hold that living expenses decrease after retirement. But as with most generalities, it depends. Expenses may stay the same or even increase depending upon your lifestyle choices, health needs and family support.

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



Creative activities help keep kids occupied while traveling

Q: As we prepare for our family vacation, how can I keep my children occupied while we travel?

"Are we there yet?" The question will echo inside many cars and vans this summer as families hit the road for vacation trips. Here are several ideas for making travel time more enjoyable for children:

Bethany Kandel suggests laminating a map and outlining your route with colored markers. You can use different colors to highlight various points of interest and places you will be stopping. Kandel says older children can help navigate, occasionally making announcements such as, "We'll be at the red circle in 10 minutes."

Here's another good idea from Kandel: Before you leave, give each child a stack of index cards and have them draw pictures of 50 things they think they might see on the trip. When the child spots something he or she drew, the youngster can pull that card from the stack and put it in a special scoring pile. The child with the most cards in his or her scoring pile wins.

Cracker Barrel restaurants offer free maps showing the location of their stores. This year the back of the maps have road games for children as well as rules for travel games.

"Adventures in Odyssey" stories can be purchased at most Christian booksellers or ordered directly from Focus on the Family (www.family.org). Produced as radio theater, the stories are 30 minutes in length and are available on CD or cassette. They are excellent.

Don't forget the local library. Most will have a summer reading program for children. If not, create one of your own just for your trip and designate "reading time" as part of your travel.—David Garrard

Q: It seems that one of the reasons my grandparents' marriage has been successful is because of their combined religious commitment. Does joint religious commitment for couples still play a significant role today in making marriages more stable and last longer?

Weekly church attenders generally have happier, longer marriages. Biblically, we know this to be true but is there other evidence?

Many things contribute to happy marital relationships. While religion is a source of conflict in some relationships where partners differ strongly in their religious views, it seems that regular attendance at religious services is related to stronger marriages.

Studies indicate that the odds of having a very happy marital relationship are 50 percent greater for those attending religious services weekly than for those who don't attend at all (after accounting for differences in age, education, religion, employment status and the decade when the marriage began). Interestingly, income appeared to have no influence on marital happiness, after the other factors were considered.

A study based in Canada found that women who attended church weekly were less likely to want to dissolve their marriage. A more recent study supported those findings, showing that compared with those who never attended religious services, the odds that a weekly attender's marriage would break down were less than half.

Marriage longevity of weekly church attenders also was greater than that of non-attenders, regardless of which decade they were married. For example, 89 percent of the marriages of weekly attenders who were married in the 1970s lasted at least 10 years, compared with 74 percent of non-attenders' marriages.—Jon Rainbow

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



Share the message of God's amazing grace

I vividly recall hearing the news about the bomb attack at Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. My family and I had spent the previous few days enjoying the sights and sounds of the Olympics, including leisurely strolls through Centennial Park, soaking up the flavor and fellowship of the festive international event.

The day after we returned home from our Olympic adventure, we turned on the television and were bombarded with reports about the early morning explosion that killed one person and injured more than 100 others. Domestic terrorism had shattered our personal comfort zone.

With the recent arrest of bombing suspect Eric Robert Rudolph, the emotions unleashed after the Olympic attack came flooding back. Why would anyone seek to disrupt a global sports competition by randomly targeting innocent people?

While every crime suspect in our nation has the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty, evidence in other bombing attacks appear to link Rudolph to the Olympic bombing as well. Though we may never know the motive for the Centennial Park assault, the motivation for the other attacks with which Rudolph is charged appear clear: prejudice-fueled hatred.

Rudolph is charged with the 1997 bombings of an abortion clinic and a lesbian nightclub in Atlanta as well as a 1998 abortion clinic bombing in Birmingham. Since then, he reportedly has been in hiding, eluding law enforcement officers during a five-year manhunt until his arrest May 31 in North Carolina.

Opposition to abortion and homosexuality are common stands for most evangelical Christians based on our understanding of Scripture. But bombing abortion clinics, gay nightclubs or other forms of violence are not acceptable responses.

Southern Baptists have taken frequent stands against abortion and homosexuality in recent years, including current Southern Baptist Convention bylaws that specify, "Among churches not in cooperation with the Convention are churches which act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

The homosexuality issue also is being addressed on the associational and state convention levels. A North Carolina Baptist association recently dismissed a church for baptizing two homosexuals and the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board dismissed a congregation for calling a lesbian associate pastor. Here in Kentucky, a suit filed against the Ken-

tucky Baptist Homes for Children for firing a lesbian employee in 1998 remains unresolved.

When discussing homosexuality in particular, Southern Baptists typically affirm our commitment to "hate the sin but love the sinner." Unfortunately, most homosexuals don't see it that way. They hear the condemnation for the sin, but fail to grasp that Christians are calling them to repentance out of a sense of love.

Comparing Southern Baptists to fundamentalist minister Fred Phelps who is known for his "God Hates Fags" protests across the nation, Soulforce, a gay rights organization, has released a brochure claiming that "Southern Baptists may not say 'God Hates Fags' as Fred Phelps does but the effect is the same."

Yet Scripture passages from Leviticus 18:22 to Romans 1:26-27 are clear that homosexual acts are "an abomination" to God. The challenge is how to stand firmly against the sin while still communicating sincere love and concern to individuals caught up in that sin.

Part of the problem is that Baptists tend to have favorite sins to condemn. While we speak out boldly against homosexuality and abortion, we seldom say much about gluttony or gossip. But the same passage in Romans 1 that opposes homosexuality also cites such sins as greed, envy, gossip, slander, arrogance and disobedience to parents.

The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message emphasizes that "Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality and pornography." Yet the only sin for which we tend to kick a church out of fellowship is acceptance of homosexuals. What does that say to the world about churches whose members include adulterers, embezzlers or racists?

"When we send the message that only one category of sinner is unacceptable in the churches, it gives the impression that other categories are OK," warns Tony Cartledge, editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder. "That is a mixed message at best."

Yes, we should hate the sin and love the sinner. But we must be careful to communicate that we hate *all* sin and love *all* sinners—whether it's a bombing suspect, a homosexual or a gossipy church member.

Remember that every Christian believer is a sinner saved by God's amazing grace. That's the message of love our world desperately needs to hear.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Do what you can for the glory of God

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—Jesus watched a woman break an expensive jar of ointment and pour it on His head. Many observers criticized this "extravagance," but Jesus said, "She has done what she could" (Mark 14:8).

It might have been her most expensive gift, and she gave it in deep gratitude to Jesus, who had made such a difference in her life.

In the life of Jesus, many simple and ordinary people assisted Jesus: the women who accompanied Him and provided for His needs; the man who opened his "upper room" to Jesus; Matthew, who entertained

Jesus and His friends with a meal; and Joseph of Arimathea, who gave his new tomb to bury Him.

So today, every one of us can do what we can to assist in the work of God: a financial gift; hosting a supper; doing some typing; volunteering to help in a youth or mission trip; making things comfortable for a special meeting of God's leaders who are discussing eternal matters; being kind, gentle and thoughtful. All of us need to look and see what we do have and release it in love. God Himself will put His value on it.

This woman did not realize at the time the significance of "doing what she could." Yet Jesus put God's re-

sponse on this woman's generous gift: "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her" (Mark 14:9).

You might feel that you have so little to offer from your life as you live it out in the marketplace. Perhaps you don't feel that you can speak effectively, or you are very shy. While you might think that what you can do is not very important, from God's perspective it can be eternally significant.

Don't withhold what you can do. Do it as unto God, and not as unto men, and God will receive it and use it thoroughly (Colossians 3:23-24).

Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," is president of Henry Blackaby Ministries in Atlanta.

COMMENTARY

NAMB promotes video as major witnessing tool

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—“The Hope,” an independently produced video project, has been tapped by leaders of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to become a flagship tool for Southern Baptist evangelism and church-planting efforts.

Using footage from some of Hollywood’s finest biblical epics and other sources as a visual backdrop, three contemporary on-screen narrators guide viewers through the “scarlet thread” of Christian truth throughout Scripture.

Under terms of a partnership with the nonprofit Mars Hill Productions, NAMB is distributing The Hope for North American audiences and helping develop future versions for languages other than English and varied cultural groups.

John Yarbrough, NAMB’s vice president for evangelism, said NAMB had been considering producing its own evangelistic video project last year. Then he saw The Hope.

“I watched it from beginning to end, and just basically wept as I realized this was exactly what we were looking for,” he said.

While praising the “Jesus” film for its effectiveness around the world since it was produced more than 20 years ago, Yarbrough said a postmodern culture often needs more background in considering whether to believe.

“It begins with Jesus and sin,” he said of the Jesus film. “In the culture that we’re living in, that’s not always going to work. People are asking questions that go beyond that, like ‘Why am I here? Is there any meaning to life? What is its purpose?’”

An informational Web site for The Hope, will be active June 16 at www.namb.net/thehope.

Lottie up but misses goal, budget crunch continues

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists set another record in giving to the 2002 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions.

However, the offering fell short of the \$125 million goal, complicating a financial situation already stressed by declining investment income and a rapidly increasing missionary force. As a result, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board will move ahead with plans to restrict the number of new missionaries appointed to overseas service.

Southern Baptist churches gave \$115 million to the offering, an increase of \$1.3 million (1.15 percent) over 2001 but almost \$10 million short of the goal.

“We are grateful that Southern Baptists have a heart for missions and continue to give so faithfully and generously to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering,” IMB President Jerry Rankin said.

“Because of the amazing growth in missionary personnel and unprecedented new opportunities all over the world, however, all of the \$125 million goal was included in the operating budget,” he added. “As a result, we are having to restrict the approval of available missionary candidates for the first time since the Depression years of the 1930s.”

In each of the past two years, the IMB has sent out more than 1,000 new

missionaries, Rankin said. Among the 1,032 missionaries appointed last year, 412 (40 percent) are career missionaries, associates or apprentices and 620 (60 percent) are two-year International Service Corps, Journeyman and Masters workers.

While the IMB’s total missionary count grew 8.7 percent from 2000 to 2002, combined income from the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon offering increased only 1.5 percent.

In addition to budget cuts announced in May, IMB leaders will limit the number of new workers being sent overseas by deferring appointments and putting candidates on hold, said Lloyd Atkinson, IMB vice president for missionary personnel.

“About 100 candidates who hoped to begin their missionary careers this year have been deferred to next year or put on hold,” Atkinson said.

“We had anticipated sending another record number of long-term missionaries this year, but that number is being limited to about 400,” he said. “In 2004, we will approve only 300 new long-term workers. This compares to 412 workers appointed in 2002 and 387 in 2001.”

The board also will restrict the number of short-term missionaries being sent out, Atkinson said.

“Two of the remaining three ISC/Journeyman conferences this year have been cancelled, and the number of short-term workers being approved will be limited to 400,” he said.

The net growth of 239 new missionaries appointed in 2002 exceeded

by 59 percent the 150 anticipated by the board’s budget, said David Steverson, IMB vice president for finance. The situation has been compounded by the impact of the stock market’s downturn on IMB reserves.

The board also has taken action to reduce overseas work budgets by \$2 million and the home office support budget by \$4 million, the latter mostly through staff reductions and sus-

pending some products and services, Steverson said.

Urging churches to continue increasing their support for the Lottie Moon offering, Rankin said, “We need to realize that one day we will be accountable. I hope Southern Baptists don’t have to stand before God and try to explain why so many did so little when He had blessed us with so much!”

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Camp time’s here, pray for us

By David Melber

Believe it or not, camp is here. At the time of writing, it hardly seems like summer with temperatures in the low 60s and cloudy skies, but the fun is not dampened in the least. Campers descended on the Creek June 1 and at Cedarmore June 9. This summer will definitely be exciting: We will be serving more than 1,100 people during the largest weeks on both campuses. We will have nearly 150 volunteer, summer staff and other employees who will be serving these great numbers.

With such large numbers comes an even larger stewardship. The opportunities are great for seeing large numbers of young people make decisions for Christ. The summer often has been called “Christmas time” in camp circles. The entire year revolves around what takes place in the summer, and in the blink of an eye it will be over. We need your prayers in many ways during the next nine weeks.

The staff at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek requests your prayers for the following areas:

First, pray for safety for all the staff and campers each week. Safety is a priority. Without God’s protection camp would be very difficult and quite frankly, it would be impossible. Pray also for the groups

that will be traveling to and from each camp. We have some groups that are on the road more than 12 hours each way, and we will have more than 300 groups coming to the camps throughout the summer.

Second, pray for the staff and their families at each location. Summer hours are long, and they can be stressful on spouses and children. Pray for God’s grace to cover the staff and their families.

Third, pray that we would be in true worship of God at all times. The priority of worship applies to us personally, corporately and in all areas of camp life. Camp is about pointing people to God, and people can be directed to God in a variety of ways. Camping is one of the few ministries that makes use of so many teaching methods. Pray that the staff will reflect the love of God in all they do.

We at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek thank you for your prayers. Your past prayers have helped unleash God’s blessing upon each camp as demonstrated by the great numbers of campers this summer. Your present prayers will sustain us through the upcoming weeks and into the future.

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

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Oneida Baptist Institute is distinctly different from typical public or private schools. Unlike public schools, we are a Christian environment where young people hear the gospel message every day. Unlike most Christian schools, many of our students are not believers when they enroll. Teens come to Christ each year at Oneida.

Other things that make OBI unique:

- We have an 11:1 student-teacher ratio and a Tutoring Lab with a 2:1 student-teacher ratio.
- Every student is required to have some kind of on-campus job.
- Our co-curricular programs do not "cut" students for lack of ability.
- A typical Kentucky private day school costs around \$6,400/year.⁽¹⁾ OBI students pay approximately \$4,650/year which includes housing and meals.

(1) Source: Kentucky day school websites

ONEIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE

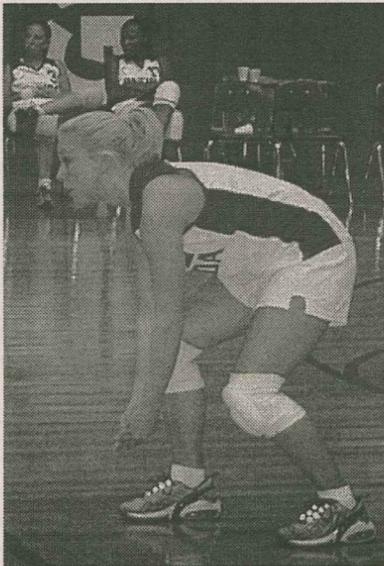
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Meet some of the class of 2003

Kyra: She found the academic help she needed



MOST IMPROVED Sports motivated Kyra to improve her grades

Kyra was born in Michigan but spent most of her childhood in northern Kentucky. She said her mother learned about OBI through church. "My brother was having problems. He came here, then my mom prayed about it and wanted to send my sister and me here for a better education," Kyra said. She enrolled as a freshman. She had been earning mostly failing grades in middle school. "I

didn't pay attention in school at all. I didn't put forth an effort," said Kyra.

Kyra had a difficult time being away from home for the first time in her life. "It was really hard...I was scared. I couldn't believe my mom dropped me off and left me," said Kyra. It helped having her sister here, and Kyra noted that their relationship became closer because of their time together at Oneida. Their first year, Kyra and her sister roomed with two international students from Ethiopia. She said, "It was pretty nifty. They were very nice and understanding. We became friends."

During her first year, Kyra's grades improved. Once she was passing her classes, she was excused from one of her two hours of required nightly study hall. Her sophomore year, she made the honor roll and was excused from study hall altogether. Several factors contributed to Kyra's improvement. One was her newfound interest in sports. She had to be passing all her classes to be eligible. Secondly, Kyra said, "The smaller classes helped me a lot. I could ask questions." One of her new OBI friends also had a positive influence on her attitude toward education.

At the end of her junior year, Kyra was named the Most Improved junior girl, an award selected by the faculty. She also received the Brad

Dorough Friendship Award. Instructed to consider a peer who was the most friendly and helpful to them when they first arrived, the majority of OBI students voted for Kyra. The award provided free room and board for the following school year, which meant a lot to Kyra. "I prayed about it, and I knew I needed to be here," she said.

Kyra's volleyball coach for two years was Pam Contreras. She noted Kyra's dedication to learning the sport. "I have seen Kyra mature from last year to this year in many ways. She is a hard worker and was a joy to coach. She was very teachable and accepted correction humbly," said Contreras.

Kyra has a strong faith and testimony of what God has done in her life. "I see how God has worked," she said. Her first year at OBI, Kyra admitted that she "hung out with the wrong people." Her second year, she met a Christian friend who helped to restore her interest in church and closeness with God. Kyra renewed her commitment to the Lord during the fall revival her junior year. She believes she benefited from being in an environment where God is not excluded from daily life. She was impressed with a math teacher who often prayed in class. Kyra would like to open a Christian daycare someday and coach a softball team.

India: She developed leadership skills

From Georgia, India enrolled at OBI in 1999. "I was getting in trouble, and I had cousins here [at OBI] who were doing good." Like many, India thought Oneida was just a place for "bad kids," but once she got here she found, "Everybody here doesn't have a problem. Some people are here because they don't like public school at home." India had failed the eighth grade, and her mother wanted her to go someplace where she could make up classes and get back on schedule.

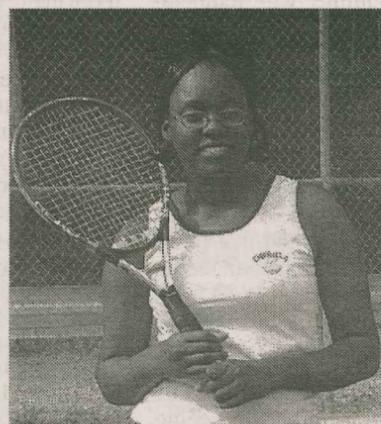
Despite her academic success her first year at OBI, India insisted that she would not return to Oneida. She was surprised later that summer when an OBI houseparent called her at home to convince her to give Oneida another try. She said her sophomore year turned out to be the year that she had a turn-around in her attitude and other areas of her personal life. She developed leadership skills and was asked to supervise a dining hall crew. "I was getting all this responsibility...They were giving me a chance!" India said.

India said she landed a summer job at home after her junior year because she brought an OBI bro-

chure about the work program to her interview. "They were impressed with a school that made kids actually work," India recalled.

India was new to co-curricular and elective involvement. At OBI she tried many different activities including sports, Student Government Association and Beta Club. She enjoyed the chance to see Kentucky traveling to sports or club events. She presented a bill for mock congressional debate at the Kentucky Youth Assembly, a Beta Club activity. Before this event, India had participated in OBI's annual Yearbook Queen pageant, reciting a poem for the talent portion. "That helped me get over my fear of speaking in front of people." India was voted the senior class secretary.

India's awards reflect her involvement and ambition. She earned the Academic All-State award and the Most Improved award in tennis. She was named Student of the Month and Good Worker. She also received two Outstanding Scholar awards in English class. India's tennis coach for four years, Ken McCain, was impressed with India's dedication. "She worked extremely hard and became one of my better tennis players," he



LEADERSHIP SKILLS

India participated in the OBI work program and in a variety of co-curricular activities.

said. "India also showed a lot of character in sticking with it through the ups and downs."

Looking back, India is glad she remained at OBI. "If I would have stayed home, I probably wouldn't have graduated. My mother is so happy," India said. An honor roll student for three years, she believes she is prepared for college. She would like to become an English teacher or a journalist.

Ryan: Oneida gave him a chance to focus on his studies



OUTSTANDING SPEAKER

Drama was one of Ryan's many areas of involvement at Oneida.

Ryan came to Oneida as a freshman from Ohio. He said his parents decided that between conflicts at home and Ryan's below-average grades, he needed a change. "There was not much problem with school. I was just lazy. I just didn't do the work."

Ryan had mixed feelings about leaving home for a boarding school. "I wanted to stay home, but I didn't like what was going on. It just wasn't a good environment at the time. I wasn't getting along with anyone." His first impression of OBI was positive, like being away at camp. His second and third years he struggled with what he called "the routine and the sameness of everything," but he said, "I realized that even though I may not like it, it was a better place for me. My parents and I got along worlds better. I think I did a lot of maturing."

Ryan said he enjoyed his last year at OBI. "I'm going to miss the place, the people and opportunities. I'll probably never play organized sports again, but I got to here." Ryan filled his after-school time with drama, sports, and other co-curriculars. He was the FFA regional impromptu speaking champion his freshman year. As a senior Beta Club member, he won the Outstanding Speaker award at the Kentucky Youth Assembly. He was voted the Most Improved junior boy by the faculty and was named in Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Ryan is ranked eighth in the graduating class academically. He made the honor roll the first quarter of his freshman year, and his GPA climbed each year. Having few distractions at Oneida helped him to focus on studying and completing homework. "If you want to waste time here, you have to actively waste time," Ryan noted. He made the decision early that he would improve his grades and have something to show for being here. He plans to pursue a college degree in biology that would allow him the option of becoming a teacher or continuing his education to become a doctor.

OBI teacher Dr. Glenn Phoenix said, "Ryan has been blessed with a brilliant mind. It has been a wonderful experience having him as my student the past three years."

Oneida Baptist Institute

A FEW MORE FACTS

- ◆ Our average enrollment is 350.
- ◆ We have approximately 150 full-time faculty and staff.
- ◆ Our classrooms have an average 1:11 teacher/student ratio.
- ◆ Oneida has a 700-acre campus which includes a 200-acre farm. We have a full agriculture program.
- ◆ Our student body consists of young people from the local community, across the state of Kentucky, the United States and around the world.
- ◆ We accept students throughout the year.
- ◆ OBI provides Christian education at an affordable rate.

EDUCATION FOR TIME AND ETERNITY

Every school deals with the mind of man, but few, like Oneida, minister to the soul as well. Day after day, our students hear the gospel message. Each year, many boys and girls make positive decisions of eternal significance.

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Academically gifted students get the preparation they need from the OBI curriculum



ACADEMICALLY PREPARED Chris, Tim, Noel, and Matt represented Oneida in the 2002 Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program.

Chris moved with his family to Oneida in 1999 from North Carolina. Chris's parents, both teachers, heard about Oneida at church and thought the opportunity to serve in such a ministry was an answer to prayer.

Chris had been home-schooled since second grade, and he admitted, "A big fear was going back to a school system with other kids. It was exciting, but it was fearful too." Once they were here, Chris began the process of making new friends and getting used to his environment. He said, "It took a while. Some of the staff kids helped out. A couple of dorm kids came down and helped us move in. They accepted us pretty well."

Though he should have started the tenth grade, his parents were concerned about his transition from home-school and enrolled him as a freshman. Chris was disappointed at having to be in school an extra year. That was before he discovered friends and baseball. He said, "I was kind of wishing my life away at first. I'm very thankful they did that now." Chris's love for baseball began when he was big enough to lift a bat. He earned four varsity baseball letters and several performance awards from his coaches at OBI. He also received the All-Conference team award all four years. His GPA earned him the Academic All-Conference and Academic All-State team awards. He also received the WYMT Mountain Classic Scholarship and the Commonwealth Diploma, and was a Kentucky Governor's Scholar.

Chris is committed to music ministry and says it will always be a part of his life. He played guitar and sang with OBI's chapel praise and worship team. He believes the Lord provided this valuable training to make him more comfortable in front of crowds. Houseparent and praise and worship team leader John Saldaris said, "Chris is a very respectable, very mannerly young man. He's going to

be a great asset to our world in whatever he does."

Chris admits that in the beginning, he did not understand his parents' desire to serve God in Oneida. "They said they felt led by God...I couldn't understand how they could come down here to help kids they didn't even know. I've come to respect how they feel about the kids," he said.

From North Carolina, Tim moved to Oneida with his family in the spring of 1998. He enrolled in time for the fourth quarter of eighth grade. He recalled, "My dad had been feeling the Lord leading him out of his business...[and] into teaching." Tim said that his dad was impressed with Oneida's diversity of students, the special help students can receive, and the outreach to young people who need a second chance or a different environment.

Having always attended a Christian school, Tim said, "This was my first time being around the public school type of kids." Tim also said, "It was kind of a shock to grow up in a city and to hear that you're going to move out in the middle of nowhere. It's hard to visualize until you're here."

Tim is thankful for the academic opportunities he found at OBI. "I feel like the education programs they have here are stronger than what I had before," he said. Co-vice-dictorian of his class and Commonwealth Diploma recipient, Tim always took advantage of the advanced placement and honors courses offered at Oneida. "Here, I had more of an opportunity to challenge myself in the classes I took." The Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program was also an opportunity that he would not have had at home. "That's helped with college as far as scholarships," he said.

Tim had the chance at OBI to develop his leadership and sports skills. This year, he was the vice pres-

ident of the senior class and the Beta Club. He was named Most Outstanding boy his freshman and junior years. OBI principal, teacher, and Beta Club co-sponsor Dan Stockton commented, "Tim was not only an asset to me and my class but also to our complete school setting...He was well-rounded and completely involved in helping others."

An athlete all his life, Tim played varsity baseball every year at OBI and soccer two years. Each year, he lettered and received All-Conference, Academic All-Conference, and Academic All-State team awards.

Tim found another unexpected opportunity. Though OBI is a Christian school, its students are not limited to professing Christians. "It challenges you to take a stand for what you believe in," Tim said.

Noel was seven years old when her family moved to Oneida from northern Kentucky. Her father is OBI's campus minister and her mother is the publications director. Noel remembers being excited about moving into a new house and going to elementary school in a one-room schoolhouse with other staff children. "It was different. I liked how all the kids were together," she said.

A Kentucky Governor's Scholar, the salutatorian, and recipient of the Commonwealth Diploma, Noel's success can be attributed to her academic talent, but she added, "I have taken the harder classes here...[and] it helps to have your family here to guide you." Noel plans to become an English teacher.

Describing herself as shy, Noel said being at OBI helped bring her out of her shell. She got to know students of all grades through electives and co-curriculars like newspaper, yearbook, and drama. Noel performed in eleven plays at OBI. Her senior year, she was a member of the Beta Club and was president of the senior class and Student Government Association. She was also crowned Yearbook Queen. "I think I've had more opportunities to do extracurricular activities. If I were at a huge school, there's no way I could be in so many things," she said.

Of all the awards Noel earned through the years, she said, "I'm really proud of the years I was named Most Outstanding girl of my class. I'm really honored that out of all the girls, they picked me."

"God blessed Noel with a sweet spirit, and she was willing to share it..." said Laura Stockton, OBI teacher and Beta Club co-sponsor. "She handled challenging situations with grace and confidence."

Though she is a minister's daughter, Noel believes being at OBI helped her spiritual journey. "If I weren't at a Christian school, I would have attended church once or twice a week. Daily chapel definitely helped," she said. Noel liked the fact that OBI

seemed like any other school except, "I liked knowing that the teachers would not belittle you for stating your opinion as a Christian."

Matt came to Oneida seven years ago, the summer before sixth grade, from northern Kentucky. He recalled, "I guess my mom was looking for something new, so we came to check it out...I didn't have many options at home." From a single-parent home, Matt needed a more structured environment where he could excel to his full potential. "It had something to do with my grades and attitude," Matt said.

Though he was homesick like most other kids his age, Matt enjoyed a sense of freedom at Oneida and the many activities available to him. "I decided to make the best of things here," he said. Most of all, "I developed friendships here that were deep. We lived together. We spent all our time together."

Matt explained his desire to remain at OBI saying, "I probably didn't really need to be here after a few years, but my friends and the routine brought me back." Dean of students Harold Underwood noticed that over the years Matt's attitude and outlook changed. "This year, Matt was more appreciative of Oneida, for what it did for him...He finally turned the corner, and I saw a change in his spirit for the positive."

Matt explored a broad range of interests at Oneida. He participated in track, wrestling, soccer, and baseball. He was a member of the middle school academic team and student council, Student Government Association, Beta Club, and yearbook staff. He also acted in several school plays. Some jobs included cleaning the swimming pool, supervising a cleaning crew, and tutoring in study hall. He served as an officer in several organizations, and his awards included Outstanding Worker, Best Actor, Outstanding Scholar, and Student of the Week. "This place has a lot of opportunities for the students. I probably wouldn't have gotten involved in all the things I did if I had been at home," said Matt.

Matt's grades were a little low when he enrolled, but he made the honor roll every year at OBI. By his senior year, Matt was taking advantage of OBI's advanced placement and honors courses. "They're pretty challenging. That's why I joined them...to get to the next level," he said. This advanced study benefited Matt when he attended the Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program last summer. Matt plans to become a pharmacist.

Matt was a seventh grader when he got baptized in the OBI swimming pool. Like many students, Matt saw church, chapel, and Bible class attendance as requirements, but "somewhere along the line, Christ changed my perspective on things," he said.

Oneida Baptist Institute

Jamie: She needed to get away from negative influences

Jamie was a junior when she began the 2001-2002 school year at Oneida Baptist Institute. "There was some tension between my mother and me," she said. "She did not like what I was doing." At home in Wisconsin, Jamie never imagined she would one day be attending a boarding school in eastern Kentucky. Looking back, she said, "It was the best thing under the circumstances before I came." After a bad experience with some friends, Jamie admitted it was time to be separated from the negative influences around her.

Before high school, Jamie had been a top cross country runner at her school. She quit the team her freshman year, about the time she and her friends began getting into trouble. When she got to OBI and began working in the dining hall, she remembered how she had excelled in cross country. She joined the swim

team and said, "I really enjoyed it. It was a new challenge." In the spring, she played softball and ran track. Jamie said the physical activity that year proved to be a good distraction and a stress reliever. She earned the Coach's Award in swimming and the Rookie of the Year award in softball. Her senior year, she earned the Coach's Award in cross country and completed a second season in swimming and softball.

Also her senior year, Jamie joined the Beta Club and won first place in cross stitch at the state convention. She was named first runner up in OBI's annual Yearbook Queen pageant. "The pageant was fun, and I learned I'm not really intimidated by large crowds," she said.

Jamie appreciated the opportunity to attend church at OBI. "I never had a spiritual life at home," she explained. "I found something that I wasn't even looking for." She ac-

cepted Christ the fall semester of her junior year. This foundation will serve Jamie well when she is deployed to basic training with the Air Force in June. When she enlisted in January, she was well aware of the problems with Iraq. "It encouraged me to enlist knowing we had things unsettled. I thought we would be at war by February...I'm concerned about the welfare of the United States and the conflicts around the world; however, they need to be dealt with, and I'm willing to fight for my country," said Jamie.

After graduation, Jamie will get a few weeks' rest with her sister, a member of the Coast Guard stationed in Hawaii. She said, "I think I'll miss the safe environment, the security of Oneida. I've definitely grown stronger in the faith knowing I'm going to war. A lot of things are uncertain right now, so the most I can do is put my faith in the Lord."



FIRST RUNNER UP Jamie was first runner-up in the 2002 Oneidian Yearbook Queen pageant.

ANNUAL OFFERING

This is the ninth year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

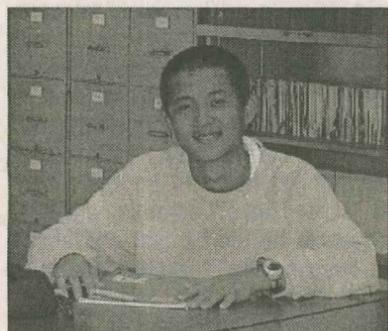
FUNDING

Approximately 9 percent of Oneida's funding comes from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

35 percent comes from student fees.

The remaining 56 percent comes from income from our modest investments, churches and individuals who choose to invest in the lives of young people. These gifts are the financial backbone of our ministry.

Phil: He learned English and prepared for college



FAR FROM HOME Phil enjoyed his boarding school experience, even though he was far from home.

Piyabud, "Phil" as he is known at OBI, came to the U.S. from Thailand in 2000 to learn English and get an education that would prepare him for college. He would like to become an engineer.

Phil did not always have such solid long-term plans. His family had wanted him to go to the U.S. for school since 1998, but Phil did not want to leave his friends. He said he "grew up" and considered what a good opportunity it would be and how improving his English would benefit his future.

Phil stayed with his aunt in California and attended a school there for two months. He learned about Oneida Baptist Institute from a

former student and friend of his aunt's. "He told me about it, and I thought it was a good idea," Phil said. He had attended boarding schools since the fifth grade. "I liked boarding school, because I got to see my friends every day. I got to have some fun," he said. He spent his OBI breaks in California, where he would get to see his mother one or two times each year. "I missed home sometimes, because I didn't have a chance to go home for three years...My parents were glad that I came to the USA to study, but they also missed me," said Phil.

His Oneida friends made it easier to be away from home. His first year

at OBI, there were two other students who were from Thailand. Phil enjoyed being able to communicate freely without having to struggle with language.

Phil got the most help with English from his ESL teacher, Caroline Valentine. He said, "She's a good teacher. At first, I didn't really understand English. She kept trying and trying and explaining...She never would give up." Valentine was impressed with what she called Phil's "impeccable notes" and commitment to learn English. "He did his best...and improved rapidly," she said.

Phil was an A student who worked on a cleaning crew and played for the OBI soccer team.

Joy: She made up classes and graduated on time

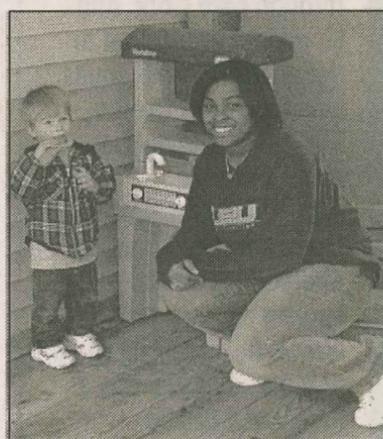
Joy enrolled in summer school just before her sophomore year. She is from central Kentucky. "I had bad grades. I didn't think that learning would help get me anywhere. I thought everything was useless," Joy said. Her mother found Oneida Baptist Institute on the internet. Joy was surprised to hear that she was going to a boarding school. "It scared me, but I wanted to get good grades. I also wanted my mom to be proud of me," she said.

Joy did not enjoy her first job washing dishes in the kitchen. When she learned she could try other jobs, she found a dorm cleaning crew position she enjoyed. Later, she got involved in sports. She said, "I liked being out there doing something new." She lettered in cross country, track, and cheerleading.

Joy had several classes to make up in order to graduate on time. Taking extra required classes meant Joy had a lot of extra studying to do. Her grades had been mostly D's and F's, but at OBI she earned A's, B's, and

C's. She said her teachers and smaller classes made the difference. "At my old school, they would focus on the people on the front row. Here, they talk to everyone. They ask everyone questions." Besides academic attention, Joy appreciated the personal support she received from her teachers. "That helped me get along in tough times," she said. Joy said her favorite subject at Oneida was art, which she took for three years. "I never thought I could draw, but Mrs. Walton helped bring out the artistic side of me," she said. Joy was named Most Outstanding sophomore and junior artist and the Most Artistic senior artist this year.

Joy would like to become an elementary art teacher or work in a daycare. OBI's Field Placement program provided work experience for Joy in the daycare for faculty/staff children. "I think it was the best thing ever...Seeing the babies and watching them learn...they just seem so ready for life," Joy smiled. OBI daycare director Cindy Waslewski



GAINING EXPERIENCE Joy hopes to become an elementary art teacher or a daycare worker.

said Joy learned the importance of health and safety for the children. She added, "Joy was always a 'joy' at daycare. The one-year-olds brightened up when they saw Joy come through the door every morning and afternoon."

Why do young people choose Oneida Baptist Institute?

- ◆ Some are struggling with academic setbacks.
- ◆ Others have been hurt by family conflicts and situations.
- ◆ Many need a change in peer group.
- ◆ Still others are seeking a distinctly Christian education.
- ◆ Often parents and grandparents are looking for a loving and structured environment for their teens.
- ◆ Young people enjoy the independence boarding school gives in preparation for college.

Oneida Baptist Institute

Experience the Difference

There really is a difference at Oneida! A difference that is made by a faculty and staff who serve for very modest salaries providing generous amounts of their professional and personal time in order to meet the needs of our students. A difference that can be seen in the lives of young people who are taught the responsibility and dignity of honest labor. A difference that provides our students with opportunities to be involved in our co-curricular activities, often for the first time.



W.F. Underwood

Oneida makes a difference in the learning environment for young people. Learning is made easier in smaller classes with teachers who provide instruction before, during, and after class time. Oneida provides a unique Christian school environment where students who already know Christ as Savior can grow spiritually. However, OBI has not lost sight of her responsibility to reach the lost for Christ. Every year scores of students, many of whom have never heard the story of Jesus and His love for them before enrolling at Oneida, invite Christ to be the Lord of their lives. There is a difference at Oneida. That difference is made possible by you.

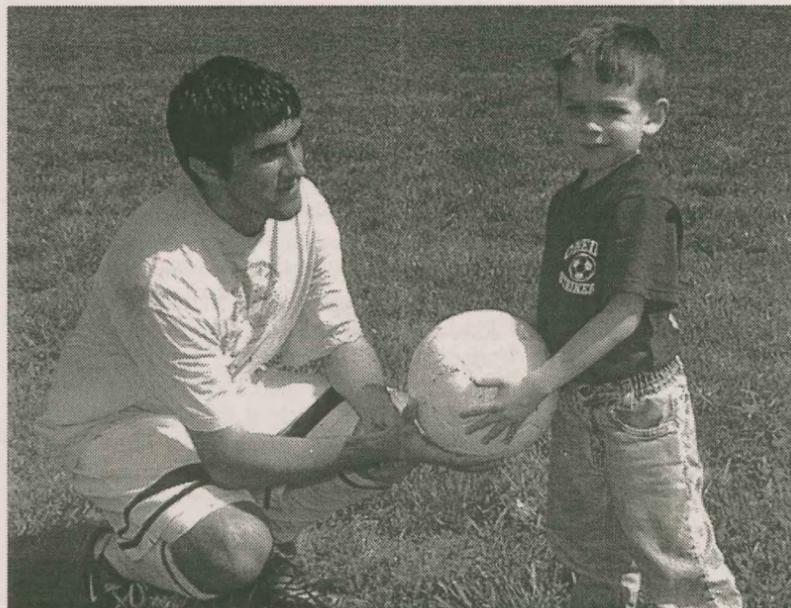
—Dr. W. F. Underwood, class of 1963, president of Oneida Baptist Institute

Ben: He continued a family tradition by coming to Oneida

Ben is a second-generation student to OBI. Just like his father, Ben was born in Iran and came to Oneida for two years of high school. Also like his father, he will attend college in the U.S.

How did this family learn about Oneida Baptist Institute? Former OBI president Dr. Barkley Moore, a '58 OBI graduate, served with the Peace Corps in Iran from 1965 to 1971. Ben recounted the story he was told, saying that Dr. Moore helped to open a library in his father's community. "My dad was very interested in reading books, but his dad wanted him to be a priest," said Ben. Dr. Moore asked the young man if he would like to come to OBI. "My dad was old enough, so he made his own decision," Ben said.

After Ben was born, his family moved to Sweden. He and his father came to Oneida to visit in 1995. They missed seeing Dr. Moore, who had passed away in 1994. When Ben was a junior in high school, his father asked him if he was ready to return to OBI as a student. He would get a better education here and have the option of attending college in the U.S. Ben recalled, "At first I didn't want to go and leave all of my friends. I thought about it a lot, and my sister really wanted to



LENDING A HAND Ben assisted OBI's soccer coach with the varsity team, as well as a team for faculty/staff children.

come. I thought this might be the better thing to do, something new." It was difficult for Ben being so far from home, but having his sister here helped. He also noted that the two of them had never gotten along very well. Being at Oneida, "We got so much closer," Ben said. She graduated in 2002 and now attends Berea College.

Ben was most impressed with Oneida's rural surroundings. His dad had told him there would be a lot of nature and no big cities. Ben said, "I had never seen so many mountains and trees. It is incredible!" Ben said living on his own in the dormitory "taught me to be more independent for the future."

Ben believes Oneida's work program is good, because it prepares students for holding real jobs. He worked after school cleaning in the middle school building. He was a hall monitor in the dorm at night. Ben has a love for soccer but was ineligible to play at OBI. He found

his outlet as an assistant to coach Scott Self with both the varsity team and the faculty/staff child team. Self said, "Ben is an extremely talented soccer player and a very conscientious young man. He was extremely helpful with the soccer program."

Ben plans to study chemistry or a related field in college. Since he was not yet fluent in English when he came here, science classes proved to be his biggest challenge. He speaks both Turkmen, the language spoken in Iran, and Swedish. In Sweden he had taken an English class each year, but it was not the same as being immersed in the language. He enrolled in OBI's English as a Second Language class with Ms. Valentine for his first year and summer school. "She helped me a lot," he said. "Ms. Valentine went over everything slowly. She saw that I understood everything."

Ben will get to go home for the summer following graduation. "I'm very glad I came (to OBI)," he said.

'God had His hand on my life'

When God brought a 14-month-old orphan from Columbia to Arizona, it was a miracle. When God brought a 12-year-old boy who was obstinate, disobedient and hard to get along with to Oneida, it was also a miracle.

...It was at Oneida that I found acceptance through friendships with other young people with similar situations as mine. I was provided with many opportunities which challenged me to grow. In the dorms I learned how to negotiate and compromise so that minor inconveniences didn't escalate into major ordeals between my roommates and myself. I realized that the rules Oneida set forth were there to teach me accountability for my actions and that by following them I would gain the satisfaction of knowing that the houseparents and teachers would be proud of me; these feelings are still proving today to be some

of the most important in my life. Being in the band, belonging to the BSU, playing on the soccer team and swimming on the swim team gave me nurturing experiences

in which to grow.

Working in the dorms and on the yard crew sold me on the idea of satisfaction through hard work. And let me not ever forget to mention the loving adults who worked at Oneida. The hugs, pats on the back, words of encouragement, smiles, time, dedication, and offered-up prayers spoken on my behalf will always be treasured and a part of me. There was a time that I viewed my stay at Oneida as simply a hole I dug for myself. Now I understand that God had His hand on my

life the entire time. So that I could grow up in Christian love, God saw fit for me to be at Oneida...

—Scott Self, class of 1993 teacher and coach at OBI



SMILE

Meeting to address international adoptions

While Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's ministry is based in this great Bluegrass State, we are not limited to it. Where kids and families are hurting and in need of help, we'll be there. Nothing proves this more than the work of KBHC's pregnancy & adoption services.

The program, based in Louisville, offers information and emotional support to birth parents facing unplanned pregnancies across the state and to couples interested in adoption.

Whether unborn or halfway around the world, all children matter to God, and all children matter to KBHC.

Lately KBHC's pregnancy & adoption services program has been working to unite children from foreign countries with local families eager

to love and nurture them. In countries such as the Ukraine, orphanages house hundreds of kids in need of loving homes.

From the very earliest steps in the adoption process, we'll be there for you, and for the children in need of a home.

KBHC is available to assist adoptive families even after the adoption is finalized to help new families make a smooth transition into parenthood and to provide oth-

er services when needed.

If you've ever considered adoption, we have a program you'll be interested in. KBHC is hosting a June 21 meeting presented by America World Adoption Association that will offer an overview of what God's Word says about adoption. You'll also get to hear families share their personal and profound experiences, along with having your many questions answered.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

America World Adoption Association is a Christian-based, non-profit organization dedicated to helping families adopt children from around the world, specifically from China, Russia, Ukraine and Vietnam.

The meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 21, in Louisville. Families should call (800) 928-5242 to make reservations and get directions.

KBHC staff will be there to explain how we help families understand the different types of adoptions and provide guidance throughout the process. Come find out how we are ministering worldwide and how you can be part of it.

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

Recognizing superior staff

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's annual Faculty/Staff Banquet we recognize a staff member who has given service far above and beyond her or his job description. This year we recognized Faye Partin, secretary in the History and Political Science Department.

Partin began working at Cumberland College in November 1987. In her position in Cumberland College's History and Political Science Department she works with five professors and many students. In addition to her daily responsibilities, she helps make Cumberland's annual Honors Day program a special

day for recognizing the academic accomplishments of students. She also prepares the notebook for the annual "Best Chapter" competition for the national Phi Alpha Theta history honorary and the student journal of our chapter. Her work has helped our chapter win the "Best Chapter" award 25 times in the past 26 years.

The comments of her colleagues speak highly of her ability and commitment. One staff member said, "She does her job excellently in every regard and embodies all of the qualities for which Cumberland

College stands."

An alumnus who worked as a work-study student for Partin wrote, "It is her character that makes her unique and indispensable, that manifests itself hourly in a host of attributes that transcends any job description." The alumnus further states that she uses in her classroom today the lessons Partin taught her.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Partin faithfully serves in her church. For more than 15 years she has taught Sunday school.

Partin and her husband, Bruce, have been married for 36 years. They are the proud parents of daughters Melissa and Pam and the proud grandparents of grandsons Nathan and Joshua.

Partin well represents the quality of the staff of Cumberland College. She provides a sterling example of Christian commitment that inspires all of us as we seek to provide a liberal arts education with a strong Christian emphasis.

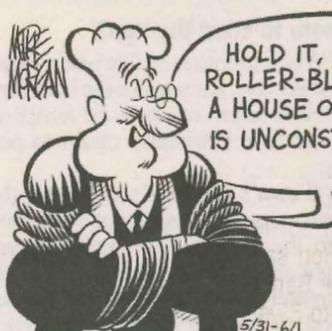
Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, KY 40769

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 Enemy (Luke 12:58)
- 7 "He is a ___ creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- 10 "He turned the ___ into dry land" (Psalm 66:6)
- 11 "Upon ___ stone shall be seven eyes" (Zechariah 3:9)
- 12 Meaning abundant flow of water; John was baptizing near there (John 3:23)
- 14 "___ us not into temptation" (Matthew 6:13)
- 15 "Woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye tithe mint and ___" (Luke 11:42)
- 16 "It shall ___ given him" (James 1:5)
- 17 God cannot live in its presence (Isaiah 59:2)
- 18 "And ___ the sacrifices of the dead" (Psalm 106:28)
- 19 "The race that is ___ before us" (Hebrews 12:1)
- 20 "The kingdom of heaven is like a ___ cast into the sea" (Matthew 13:47)
- 21 "___ his feet in the blood of the wicked" (Psalm 58:10)
- 23 "Light of the body is the ___" (Luke 11:34)
- 27 Collection of 27 books, abbr.
- 28 "Felling a ___, the axe head fell into the water" (2 Kings 6:5)
- 29 The only son of Abraham by Sarah (Genesis 17:17-19)
- 32 The coarse and broken part of flax ready for spinning (Judges 16:9)
- 33 "I the Lord search the heart, I ___ the reins" (Jeremiah 17:10)

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10						11		
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32			33			34	35	36
								37
	38	39		40				
41			42					
43				44				

- 34 "Of the ___ of Benjamin" (Philemon 3:5)
- 37 Place in the land of the Chaldees (Nehemiah 9:7)
- 38 "Shall be as an oak whose ___ fadeth" (Isaiah 1:30)
- 40 "The ___ of the disciples was multiplied" (Acts 6:1)
- 42 "Your eyes shall see, and ___ shall say" (Malachi 1:5)
- 43 "And ___ about the paps with a golden girdle" (Revelation 1:13)
- 44 "Breastplates of fire, and of ___" (Revelation 9:17)

- 7 "The multitude of ___" (Jeremiah 46:25)
- 8 Hostility, hatred (Luke 23:12)
- 9 "Therefore ___ conclude that ..." (Romans 3:28)
- 13 That is, Lat. abbr.
- 16 "Bring forth the ___ robe" (Luke 15:22)
- 17 "If any man among you ___ to be religious" (James 1:26)
- 19 Make holy (Ephesians 5:26)
- 22 Temporary dwelling (2 Kings 7:8)
- 24 Another name for "bishop" (1 Timothy 5:1)
- 25 "Fall into a ___ on the sabbath day" (Matthew 12:11)
- 26 "The earth ___, and trembled" (Psalm 97:4)
- 30 "Lusts, which war against the ___" (1 Peter 2:11)
- 31 Religious ode (Matthew 26:30)
- 35 Title given by Jews to teachers of their law (John 1:38)
- 36 "I hate robbery for ___ offering" (Isaiah 61:8)
- 39 "And smote off his ___" (Matthew 26:51)
- 41 Example, Lat. abbr.

Last week's solution

1	C	O	R	N	E	T	7	P	I	B	E	S	10
11	Y	I	E	L	D	A	B	L	E	13	S	E	A
14	M	T	B	B	O	H	A	R	P				
B	U	O	R	G	A	H	L	I					
A	F	A	E	N	E	T	22						
L	F	L	U	T	E	25	26	27	A	R	E	28	D
29	S	U	N	M	31	T	A	R	U				
32	S	A	C	K	B	U	T	34	V	I	O	L	
36	A	U	E	R	37	O	G	E	E	C			
39	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	41	N	S	I		
43	I	P	S	44	T	W	A	S	O	45	A	M	
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49	T	I	M	B	R	E	L	S	50	S	T	A	R

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Can you take a joke? Satirists ask, 'What's sacred?'

Continued from page 1

Two Baptist specialists in theology and ethics say healthy Christians should be able to laugh at themselves, but satirists should consider what boundaries should govern their humor.

"We ought not to take ourselves so seriously that we can never laugh at ourselves. The fact is we do some funny things, some odd things," says Danny Aiken, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

But satirists also should recognize the fine line between satire and sacrilege, he adds. "My experience has been some of these guys that do it don't always know where that line is."

One example, he notes, was a "What Would Jesus Do?" thong. "I find that to be offensive and I don't feel that I'm a prude," Aiken said. "It's

just being silly in a crass sort of a way."

Dave Gushee says that he has laughed "uproariously" at some Christian satire.

"Just because our faith is sacred and our relationship with God is sacred, that doesn't make us not human," says Gushee, a professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. "And it doesn't make us, as a community, above needing to laugh at ourselves sometimes."

Where to draw the line?

When it comes to Christian satire, Gushee says, sometimes the harshness of the medium needs to be tempered by the love Christians claim to possess.

"There's a level of viciousness that satire can reach that is out of keeping with the gospel," he says. "So you might ask yourself 'Even in fun, is this ultimately edifying, if properly understood, or is it ultimately destructive?' and try to stay on the edifying side."

Aiken notes that new Christians especially might not be able to distinguish between the funny and the hurtful. "If any particular kind of activity would be a stumbling block to my brothers and sisters, I'm going to probably let love regulate my liberty and I'm going to stay away from that."

Kilpatrick said Larknews seeks to write satire with a Christian spirit. "We have one rule: No being mean. Having the proper spirit makes the difference in endeavors like this."

Mike Yaconelli, who was an edi-

tor at the religious satire magazine *The Door* for 25 years, says satire "is for people who have become too nice."

"Because we are Christians, we don't want to hurt anyone's (feelings)," he says. "We lose our ability to be honest because we don't want to upset anyone."

A meaning in the message

In 1984, Yaconelli and the staff at his magazine, then called *The Wittenburg Door*, wanted to get evangelicals to talk about racism. So they designed a cover that looked like it had been photocopied, and stamped it with this message: "Attention Readers: Due to a shortage of printed issues, we have sent this photocopy of the rough layouts to you and others like you."

A message inside the magazine added that, "We would've simply copied one of the finished, printed issues, but we needed to get all of those in the mail to our other customers."

"We were making them feel like second-class citizens," says Yaconelli. "People wrote in and said, 'But I am a really good customer.' We shocked them into thinking they got the Xeroxed copy."

That simple tactic got readers to think about the topic of racism in a way they had not before, says Yaconelli. "It was one of the best things we ever did," he said.

'Truth stranger than fiction'

The Door was an inspiration to Simon Jenkins and Steve Goddard, editors of *Ship of Fools*. The two met in

London in the 1970s while studying theology and started a "magazine of Christian unrest" in 1977. The print version died in 1983 but was reborn as a Web-zine in 1998.

Ship of Fools "celebrates the best and worst in church culture," says Goddard, with regular features such as *Mystery Worshipper* (reviews of church services), *Gadgets for God*, *Signs and Blunders*, and the *Fruitcake Zone*. Some of the "truth is stranger than fiction" items reviewed on the site include the talking tombstone (with a recording of the deceased), the 110-foot-tall Jesus: *The Hot Air Balloon* and the inflatable church. "We just don't have to make anything up," Goddard says.

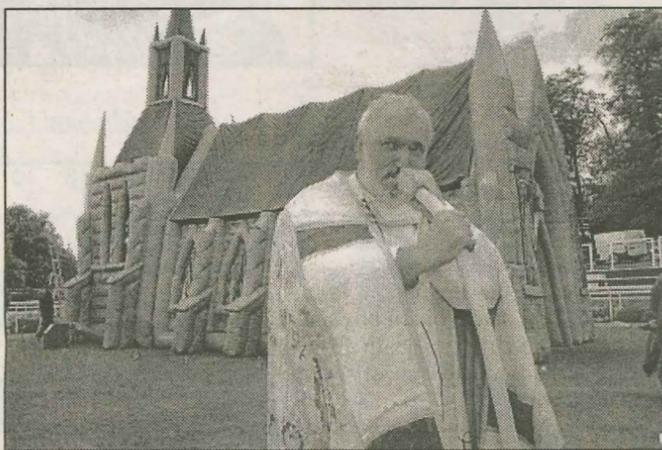
The site's latest project is "The Ark," an Internet reality game show, featuring a dozen familiar Bible characters—from Eve and Esther to Samson and Simon Peter—on a digital Noah's Ark for 40 days.

The identity of each character was not revealed until he or she "walked the plank" after being voted off the show by the Internet audience.

Highlights of the Ark were posted each day, along with character journals and fan bulletin boards. "Youth groups in particular are following the onboard debates," Goddard says, "dissecting the contestants like soap (opera) addicts, and coming to their own conclusions about how you translate the stories of the Bible into the world of the 21st century."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

INFLATABLE CHURCH
Ship of Fools, a British "Web-zine" of satirical Christian humor, "celebrates the best and worst in church culture," says editor Steve Goddard. Anglican priest Mick Elfred and his inflatable church (pictured) has appeared among the "truth is stranger than fiction" items reviewed on the site. (Ship of Fools photo)



Summer jobs no problem for Oneida students

Many high school students are having difficulty finding summer jobs. A sluggish economy and a tight job market have eliminated many jobs typically available to students during the summer months. A visit to our campus these days would indicate that there is no such shortage of jobs for our students.

Our situation is a little different. Virtually every Oneida Baptist Institute student receives financial assistance. Full paying students actually pay less than half the actual cost of meeting their needs. Traditionally, less than half of our students are what we call "full paying students." Full paying means they have sufficient income to pay the modest fees we require. The last national figures I saw indicated that Oneida was the third lowest priced boarding school in America. The two lowest priced schools were both parochial schools and they had a much smaller enrollment than ours. One of them was only \$100 per year less expensive than OBI.

Most of our friends are aware that our work program is a vital part of our ministry because it teaches students the importance of work. We seek to instill in students the importance of getting to work on time, a principle foreign to many of them. We teach them to do the jobs they are assigned, and it does not really matter that they prefer not to clean restrooms or mop halls or wash windows. We try to teach them the importance of getting along with their peers, including those who are quite opposed to work in general. Then there is the problem of working for the students in charge. In life we often find ourselves working under the supervision of someone we do not particularly care for—a person who we

are sure has it out for us and gives us every dirty job there is to do. No matter; that person is in charge and we must follow his directions.

The work program is vital in another area as well. We cannot afford to hire custodians to maintain our buildings and grounds. Our philosophy is quite simple: If the students are qualified to make the messes, they are qualified to clean them up. If they know they have to clean up the mess, they are less likely to make a mess in the first place.

The Monday after graduation about 50 students who were on full or substantial scholarships stayed to work for three weeks. If all of our students left when school was out, we would lose our work force. The grass still needs mowing and the hogs and cattle still need tending. Additionally, it is much easier to paint classrooms and dormitory rooms and wax floors when we do not have nearly 400 students underfoot.

I admit these are not the types of summer jobs these students would have looked for. It might be difficult for them to understand why they are working for three weeks but there is no paycheck for their efforts. What they have earned is a scholarship for next year. They are exchanging three weeks of work for literally thousands of dollars of scholarship money. They won't fully understand the value of their efforts until later in life. Oneida has been doing this for many years, and it seems to be a win-win situation. If a student refuses to help for these three weeks (and that does not often happen) he will not be eligible for scholarship money this fall.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Meeting needs in Letcher County

"Things are chaotic today," Winston McCarty said, greeting me from his small office in Fleming Baptist Church.

The third Tuesday and Wednesday of each month are some of the busiest days for East Letcher Ministries, as 350-400 families receive food and clothing.

The 1986 Clear Creek graduate has been pastor of the Fleming church for 14 years. In 1999 the ministry took a new turn. "People knew us as the brick church across from the ball field," McCarty said. "For a fall festival we distributed small loaves of bread, a bottle of water and a New Testament. A Maryland man heard about the bread and wanted to send us a dollar for each loaf. We distributed 552 loaves, but he sent \$1,000. It had always bothered me that we helped a few people at Thanksgiving and Christmas and did nothing for the rest of the year. Two weeks after the bread gift, we discovered the SBC World Hunger Fund was available, and now we serve 1,286 families."

McCarty is quick to point out that it is not a food and clothing ministry. "Our ministry is to meet needs. We serve mind, body and spirit. If the Lord puts it before us,

we try to do it."

A network of supporters helps keep the ministry going. Members from four churches assisted the day I visited. A Louisville counselor comes once a month. Computer specialist Mel Brown brings a team from Northern Kentucky Baptist Association to conduct annual computer training classes. Two trucks belonging to the ministry recently traveled to Eastern Kentucky collection points, gathering food for Iraq.

In the nursery a volunteer worked with four children. Preschooler Ashley greeted McCarty with a hug, "Hello pastor!" At 14 months of age she was not walking but was now full of energy. Church member Diane Honchel directs the baby ministry. Social services gave her custody of three children.

In the food distribution room, church member Darlene Vance pushed a grocery cart as another member filled a client order. "This is a great thing," Darlene said. "People are in need, and we try to help. That's what God wants us to do."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MedSend helping doctors in debt get to mission field

By Deann Alford
Religion News Service

ORANGE, Conn. (RNS)—Africa needs doctors, and in 1997 Tracy and Patty Goen were Christian physicians ready to respond to the need as medical missionaries.

But like most medical school graduates, the couple was saddled with student debt. Together they owed \$100,000.

Mission agencies, however, insist that candidates be debt-free before sending them into the field. For the Goens, that would mean a five-year delay to work and repay the money before they could move to Africa.

That is, unless somebody paid their debt.

Enter David Topazian, a missionary and retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon on Yale University's medical school faculty. He knew that if doctors such as the Goens had to go into private practice to repay their debts, chances are they would settle into comfortable lifestyles and never make it to places that desperately need them.

So in 1994 he and Daniel Fountain founded Project MedSend. The next year, MedSend made Nepal-bound missionary physician Martha Carrough its first grant recipient. In 1997, MedSend accepted the Goens.

The deal: Project MedSend would partner with a mission agency—in the Goens' case, the South Carolina-based evangelical SIM International—and take over their monthly student loan payments for as long as they remained in the field—potentially adding years of service to a missionary's career.

MedSend has given grants to 185 other physicians, nurses, dentists, physician assistants and other health professionals, each of whom serves under the authority of one of 49 mission boards that now collaborate with MedSend. These medical missionaries work in more than 55 countries, many of which are "creative access," or restrictive of missionary activity.

Half of the world's people have no access to health care, yet dozens of church and mission hospitals have

closed in India and Africa—including one in Egbe, Nigeria, that the Goens have reopened—in part because of a lack of medical professionals to staff them. Diseases once thought to be virtually eradicated, such as tuberculosis, are on the rise. AIDS has killed 20 million people, and experts note that the worst of its death toll has yet to come.

Empty hospitals & doctors in debt

Topazian, who has served as president of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations, said that the association's missionary members took note of the crisis in the mission field—the dearth of caregivers.

"We started receiving reports from missionaries in the field who were overworked, who were due for furlough, and couldn't come home on home assignment because there was no one to replace them," Topazian said. The rising costs of health education, and the need to pay that off before going into the mission field, were shrinking the replacement pool.

The association asked Topazian to look into the issue. A survey of 33 mission boards with health ministries, hospitals or health-development ministries revealed that 49 physicians were partly through the candidate process but had been told to work off their debt and then return. Meanwhile, 30 clinics and hospitals represented in that group of missions had no health professional in charge. "They were empty and closed," Topazian said.

Topazian and some CMDA members asked those same mission boards to tell them what type of organization could best help relieve what he terms the "increasing educational debt barrier" for those wanting to be missionaries. What he and the others learned at the meeting laid the groundwork for Project MedSend.

MedSend isn't a sending agency, but rather partners with Christian ministries, including the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, that send medical professionals. After a ministry pays MedSend a one-time participation fee, MedSend looks at candi-



dates' qualifications and financial situation. MedSend assumes the debts for as long as they're in the field. The average grant is \$30,000, but grants for physicians can be more than \$100,000. Most donors are Christian doctors.

Topazian said two families left mission work for health reasons, but no one has left to pursue a more lucrative career after MedSend repaid their loans. "We're picking people who have an open-ended calling to a career in the mission field, and they just stay," he said.

A practice and a prince

Egbe Hospital, where the Goens practice—he as a surgeon and she as a pediatrician—offers the only health care available for nomadic Muslim Fulani cattle-herders in southwestern Nigeria. At first, the Fulani had nothing to do with the hospital because the Goens are openly Christian. They did, however, take up an offer by Tracy Goen—who had finished part of a

veterinary medicine degree before he switched to human medicine—to vaccinate and treat the cattle, which are key to the Fulani's culture and livelihood.

But not long after the physician couple arrived in the area, he saved the lives of a snake-bitten boy and a teenager bleeding to death from a sword slash that had almost severed his arm.

The boy turned out to be the grandson of a powerful Fulani leader. After saving the teen's life and arm in a five-hour surgery, Goen learned that he was a prince. His father was the new king, who then invited the Goens to share their Christian faith as they wished among the Fulani.

"We had built a house in the middle of a cousin's ranch in College Station, (Texas)," Goen said. "We'd have lived happily ever after. I really don't think we'd have gotten to the mission field had I gone into private practice to pay off the debt. MedSend made it possible."

MEDSEND Medical missionary Ann Hall, serving in Cambodia, is among the 185 doctors, nurses and other health professionals who have benefited from MedSend. The agency works with mission groups, including the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, to help medical missionaries with their school bills while they serve on the field. (MedSend photo)

Scam alert: Nobody in Nigeria is sending money to your church

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Mrs. Sikiratu Seki Adams of Nigeria doesn't really want to donate \$6 million to your church.

In fact, the e-mail that says she does probably wasn't sent by anyone with that name. It's just another variation on one of the most prevalent frauds perpetrated over the Internet, according to the FBI, Secret Service and a host of other scam-watcher groups.

Last year, Nigeria ranked first among all countries beyond the United States as the source of Internet scams, according to the Internet Fraud Complaint Center, a joint effort between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center.

Most frauds were variations on what law-enforcement officials call a "419 scam," a reference to the section

of Nigerian law that covers advance-fee fraud.

One of the latest variations begins by offering "Calvary greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." The writer then claims to be a new Christian convert dying of breast cancer and the widow of a former military official killed in the Gulf War. She wants to donate \$6 million of her late husband's money to your church or ministry to further evangelism and ministry to the poor.

Another new version claims to be from the legal adviser to a Nigerian Christian couple who died in a plane crash last year and left him \$20 million to distribute to Christian ministries. If you will use these funds "honestly for things that will glorify God's name," then he would like to give you the money.

Previous versions of the Nigerian scams have outlined a person's urgent need to get money out of the country

before it is seized. The writer wants to deposit millions of dollars in the recipient's bank account for safekeeping and pledges to pay 10 to 15 percent to the recipient.

The scam-busting Web site Urban Legend Zeitgeist (www.urbanlegends.com) explains the set-up: "If you take the bait, you'll be contacted by the perpetrators, who'll attempt to establish their credibility as government officials, businessmen or bankers. They will offer you apparently valid bank accounts and documentation. But before you can collect your money, some problem arises. A bribe must be paid to an official or a fee or tax must be paid so the money can be transferred. And you as the victim will be asked to pay up in order to receive the promised big payoff. There is no end to the fees, bribes, even outright blackmail, that will be extorted from you."

In some cases, those caught up in

the scam have traveled to Nigeria or other African or European countries to try to collect their money and have met with violence, the Web site reports.

The Internet Fraud Complaint Center says that Nigerian scams like this produced the highest median dollar losses among all Internet fraud last year. The median loss of all reported cases was \$3,864, higher than reported cases of identity theft (\$2,000) and check fraud (\$1,100).

The FBI warns Internet users to "be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as Nigerian or other foreign government officials asking for your help in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts. Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation."

Further, the FBI warns Internet users not to give personal financial information to people who solicit you by e-mail.

For more info

Information from the Internet Fraud Complaint Center is available at <http://ifccfbi.gov/strategy/nls.asp>.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionaries in Bulgaria ask prayer that all Bulgarian believers will be burdened with the need to reach their country with the gospel.

■ "G," a Buddhist in Budapest, Hungary, with whom a missionary has been sharing the gospel.

■ Missionaries who are working with refugees in Rome, Italy.

■ Eight Roma/Gypsies who currently are enrolled in a new members' class in Jilava, Romania, in preparation for their baptism.

■ Several young Polish Christians who will spend July working in a coffeehouse ministry in Czestochowa, Poland.

■ A Bible study for international students recently begun by missionaries Earl and Robin Pinkston in Malta.

■ Students in the English Club led by missionaries Marcy and Doug Shaw in Rzeszow, Poland. Three of the students have shown a strong interest in becoming Christians.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ALBANY**—First Church recently called **Mike Watts** as interim pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Wallonia Church called **Bill Bursztynski** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—**H.E. "Jim" Coker**, longtime professor of theology at Campbellsville University, died April 17 at age 82. A former pastor of First Church of Hodgenville, he was chairman of Campbellsville's Christian studies department and vice president for advancement.

South Campbellsville Church will celebrate "I Love My Church Day" July 6, 10:45 a.m. For information, call (270) 465-4261.

■ **COVINGTON**—**Terry Dawson** recently resigned as pastor of Decoursey Church.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge Church called **Ronald Lee** as pastor effective June 29.

■ **HENDERSON**—Zion Church called **Matt Pinkston** as interim student minister.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill Church honored **Louise Blythe Dorman** June 1 on her 100th birth-

day. **Winford Hendrix** is transition pastor.

Green Acres Church recently called **Tom Boles** as minister of music.

West Broadway Church called **Sherman Ramsey** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Gano Avenue Church in Georgetown.

■ **MANCHESTER**—New Zion Church recently called **Dale Wyatt** as pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—**Jeff Hughes** resigned as minister of youth at Buena Vista Church effective June 30, to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Walnut Memorial Church recently honored **Frank Cook** for five years as minister to youth. **Odell Beauchamp** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church called **Joey Hawkins** as minister to children and youth.

First Fitzpatrick Church celebrated its 50th anniversary May 18.

Lancer Church called **David Butler** as minister to youth and **Randy Reno** as minister of prayer and spiritual awakening.

Emeritus missionary dies at age 89

RICHMOND, Va.—Cornelia Frances Leavell, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Hawaii, China and Hong Kong, died May 27 at age 89.

Born in Wuchow, China, to Southern Baptist missionary parents George and Frances Peay Leavell, she was appointed by the former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1942 and retired in 1982.

Leavell directed the kindergarten ministries of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu before transferring to

Shanghai, China, in 1947 to direct the Sung Tak Kindergarten. In 1949, she returned to Hawaii to direct the kindergarten ministry of University Baptist Church in Honolulu. She became the registrar at Hong Kong Baptist Hospital in 1964 and later served in business management for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong and Macao.

Leavell was a graduate of Blue Mountain (Miss.) College and the former Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville.

Kentuckians earn seminary degrees

Six people with Kentucky ties recently were awarded degrees at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Graduates, their hometowns, degrees and schools are:

■ **Rhiannon Marie Gray**, Owensboro, master of arts in Christian education, Southeastern.

■ **Bradley Charles Hambrick**, Bardwell, master of theology, South-

eastern.

■ **Charles Wayne Henry**, Murray, master of divinity with counseling ministry, Southeastern.

■ **Angela Rae Marshall**, Hopkinsville, master of arts in ministry-based evangelism and master of arts in Christian education, Southwestern.

■ **Jay Richard McIntosh**, doctor of ministry in Christian leadership, Paducah, New Orleans.

■ **Michael Lee Neal**, Madisonville, master of arts in theology, Southwestern.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SEEKING: Full-time youth/college minister. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, 230 South Fifth St., Williamsburg, KY 40769.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor. First Baptist Church of Woodlawn, Ill., is seeking a minister of evangelism and education—the primary focus will be on evangelism. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Woodlawn, PO Box 295, Woodlawn, IL 62898.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and worship. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Woodland Baptist Church, 809 N Pope Lick Road, Middletown, KY 40243.

SEEKING: Cedar Creek Baptist Church of Louisville, Ky., is looking for a qualified individual to serve as music and worship leader. This is a part-time position that will involve the weekly planning and leading of our Sunday morning and evening worship services. Cedar Creek currently has one worship service on Sunday morning that is blended and involves a 40-voice choir. Our Sunday evening worship service is led by our praise team. Wednesday evening consists of brief music at the beginning of our prayer meeting, followed by our weekly choir rehearsal. Cedar Creek is a growing, conservative, Bible-based Southern Baptist church that desires to lead believers into true worship and is seeking to reach and disciple people for Jesus Christ. Contact information: Personnel Committee, Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 7709 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; (502) 239-2129; www.cedarcreekbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Leonardtown Baptist Church in southern Maryland is accepting resumé for a full-time youth pastor. Ministry description available at www.leonardtownbaptist.org. Send resumé along with the position questionnaire found on our Web site, or call (301) 475-2131 to have a questionnaire sent. Mail these to Leonardtown Baptist Church, PO Box 1757, Leonardtown, MD 20650, Attn: Youth Pastor Search Committee, or e-mail to: search@leonardtownbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Jamestown First Baptist is seeking a full-time students pastor. Undergraduate education required. Forward to: Youth Search, JFB, PO Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629; jfb@duo-county.com.

SEEKING: Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., is searching for a full-time minister of youth and activities. Individual will be responsible for leading the church in planning, coordinating and directing the youth program and a program of Christian activities for all ages. College graduate is preferred. Baptist training and/or experience is desired. Olivet is a suburban church with an average of 228 in S.S. Please send a resumé to OBC, 5186 Hinkleville Road, Paducah, KY 42001.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Bells, Tenn. Send resumé to Youth and Children's Minister Search Committee, FBC, PO Box 206, Bells, TN 38006. Any questions, call (731) 784-3807.

SEEKING: Outside salesperson needed for Louisville area. Salary plus commission. Training provided. Fax resumé to (828) 264-7926, Attn: Bill.

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: Part-time director of missions for Gasper River Association of Baptists. The association has 26 churches and is located in Butler County. Please send resumé to: Gasper River Association of Baptists, PO Box 148, Morgantown, KY 42261-0148. For more information about the association, call (270) 526-6913, or e-mail gasperbc@logantele.com.

SEEKING: Associate/family pastor. Highland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Thomas, Ky., has been blessed with the need to call a full-time associate/family pastor whose overall responsibility will be for planning, implementing and directing the children and family ministries (preschool-grade 5). The pastor will seek to lead children and their families to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as well as a deeper spiritual understanding of Christianity. Visit us at www.highlandhills.org. If interested in receiving a detailed job description, please send an inquiry to office@highlandhills.org, or fax (859) 442-6055.

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: 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: Pastor for Bethel Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. (Pulaski County). Send resumé to: Ed Epperon, 8955 Highway 39, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Buena Vista Baptist Church has an immediate opening for an associate pastor with primary responsibilities over the youth department. All interested applicants please send resumé to: Associate Pastor/Youth Search Committee at 324 Clifty St., Somerset, KY 42501.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and youth. Unity Baptist Church, Stephensburg, Ky. Please call (270) 234-4606 for more information.

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 children for Tunnel Hill Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Terry Caudoin.

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

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

The gospel reloaded

Some Christian observers dissecting 'Matrix' for new illustrations of faith

By Angela Aleiss
Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Cynics about Hollywood's big-budget science-fiction extravaganzas take note: "Matrix" mania has gripped the nation. Everywhere, it seems, are "Matrix" sequels, "Matrix" ads, "Matrix" product tie-ins and "Matrix" fan clubs.

And everyone, it seems, offers a commentary on the movies' various layers of myth, metaphor and meaning.

Just glance through a few recent books that attempt to dissect the movies' deep underpinnings of philosophy and religion:

- "Taking the Red Pill: Science, Philosophy and Religion in 'The Matrix.'"

- "Exploring the Matrix: Visions of Cyber Present."

- "The Matrix and Philosophy: Welcome to the Desert of the Real."

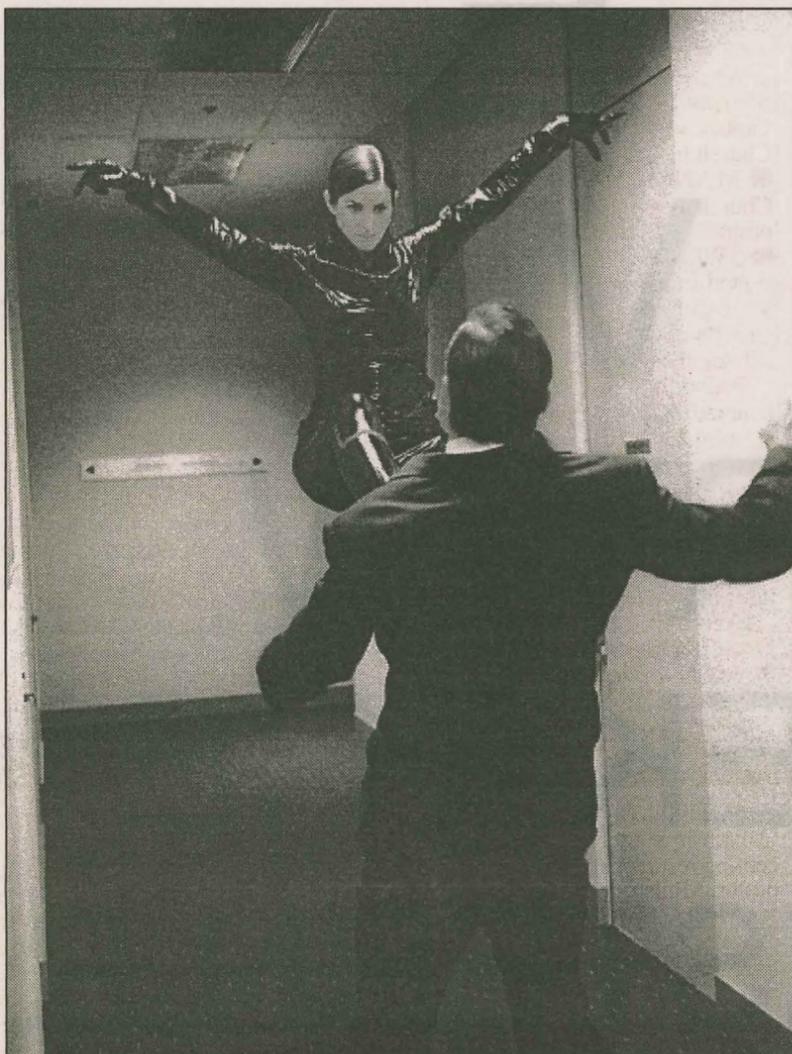
There's also the forthcoming "How Movies Helped Save My Soul: Finding Spiritual Fingerprints in Culturally Significant Films," by Gareth Higgins (with a chapter on the film).

Don't forget the many articles and Web sites, each attempting to navigate through the maze of "Matrix" movies.

As if that weren't enough, Princeton scholar Cornel West turned tables in a recent Los Angeles Times interview and said the themes in the sequel, "The Matrix Reloaded," undercut those in the original.

Puzzled "Matrix" fans might turn to the movies' creators, Larry and Andy Wachowski, for some clarification. But the brothers are mum on the subject, save for a 1999 interview with Time magazine in which Larry said, "We're interested in mythology, theology and, to a certain extent, higher-level mathematics."

Indeed, "The Matrix" is eliciting about as many interpretations as that puzzling monolith in "2001: A Space Odyssey."



MATRIX Carrie-Anne Moss and Matt Colm fight in a scene from the futuristic thriller, "The Matrix Reloaded." The film has spawned a host of theologically oriented interpretations of its myths and metaphors.

But English professor Greg Garrett, co-author of "The Gospel Reloaded: Exploring Spirituality and Faith in 'The Matrix,'" says that along with all the religious and philosophical motifs, the movies dramatically illustrate the importance of choice.

"A postmodern work like 'The

Matrix' shows us how we can synthesize different stories (of religion and philosophy) and still make a faith choice," said Garrett, who teaches at Baylor University, a Texas Baptist school in Waco.

Garrett co-authored "The Gospel Reloaded" with Chris Seay, pastor of

Ecclesia, an innovative church in Houston. The book will be released this month.

For Garrett, "The Matrix" offers a bundle of religious, literary and philosophical thought, from Christianity to Greek mythology, Buddhism to Gnosticism, and Alice in Wonderland to Plato.

The character of Trinity (played by Carrie-Anne Moss), he says, can symbolize Mary the Mother of God, the Holy Spirit, Mary Magdalene, the Jewish spirit of the God Ruah, a female love interest or simply a righteous Kung-fu babe.

Philosophy, not special effects

Does the movie rise or fall on all those razzle-dazzle special effects, pulsating post-modern orchestral tunes, Kung-fu-like action scenes and cool hip sunshades?

Not according to Garrett.

"We know from experience from so many people that they continue to think about (the "Matrix" movies) long after the action had faded from their minds," Garrett said, citing the 1,000 or so Web sites devoted to "Matrix" discussions. Audiences might be coming for action and special effects, he says, but these movies get "people to think in ways that a typical 'The Fast and the Furious' doesn't."

The movie not only raises the age-old question of what it means to be, the story line from "The Matrix Reloaded" also offers the postmodern quandary of equal but opposing "truths": the Prophecy is true and the Prophecy is not true.

Perhaps we'll have to wait for "The Matrix Revolutions" (to be released in November) to explain that one. Garrett, at least, is optimistic.

"We're looking at a redemptive ending and the Wachowski brothers are in some way going to save the world," he says. "What they're doing is upping the stakes: there's going to be more philosophical talk and more visceral action."

"The Matrix" is eliciting about as many interpretations as that puzzling monolith in "2001: A Space Odyssey."

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'Aussie Bible' putting gospel in natives' tongue

LONDON (RNS)—Most Bibles present the baby Jesus as a "babe wrapped in swaddling clothes." In a new Bible from Down Under, the babe of Bethlehem is "a nipper wrapped up in a bunny rug, and lying in a food trough."

"The Aussie Bible (Well, bits of it anyway!)," a new 90-page volume to be published in August by the Australian Bible Society, also presents the Three Wise Men as "three eggheads from out east" who go in search of the baby Jesus.

"We saw His star out east, and we've come to say 'G'day Your Majesty,'" according to the new translation.

This new version is the work of Australian broadcaster and journalist Kel Richards. It carries a foreword by the Anglican archbishop of Sydney, Peter Jensen, as well as one by the country's deputy prime minister, John Anderson. The initial print run is 30,000.

The Christmas shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night become drovers.

"Their eyes shot out on stalks when an angel of the Lord zapped into view, and the glory of the Lord filled the air like a thousand volts of electricity," the version states.

"The angel said: 'Stop looking like a bunch of stunned mullets. Let me give you the drum, the good oil, it's top news for the whole crew—everyone, everywhere. Today in that little town on the hill a rescuer has been born: He is the Promised One, the King, the Lord.'"

The Good Samaritan becomes "a grubby old street sweeper you wouldn't look twice at" who uses his first aid kit to patch up the bloke left as good as dead by a bunch of bushrangers who had attacked him and stolen his dough.

A year ago the Australian Bible Society launched the Surfers Bible, a New Testament with testimonies by well-known figures in the world of surfing. It has sold more than 35,000 copies, and plans are afoot for a copy to be sent to every surf shop in the United States.

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