

June 24, 2003  
Vol. 177, No. 25

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SBC



**Motions** Messengers sent a variety of motions to SBC agencies for consideration, including ones on chaplaincy, an extra missions offering and where the convention meets. *Page 2.*

**Business** Messengers voted to cut funding to Baptist World Alliance by 30 percent. *Page 2.*

**Editorial** Pursuing Kingdom focus requires local and global commitment. *Page 5.*



**Reports** International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin asked for missions volunteers to help Southern Baptists reach the Muslim world for Christ. *Page 6.*

**Messages** Motivational speaker and author Zig Ziglar sought to motivate messengers to share the love of Christ. *Page 8.*

**Family** The Kingdom Family Rally, held prior to the annual meeting, unveiled seven pillars for stronger families. *Page 9.*

**Issues** An SBC task force promoted resources to help churches encourage homosexuals to leave their lifestyle. In his press conference after being re-elected, SBC President Jack Graham also said homosexuals can change. *Page 9.*



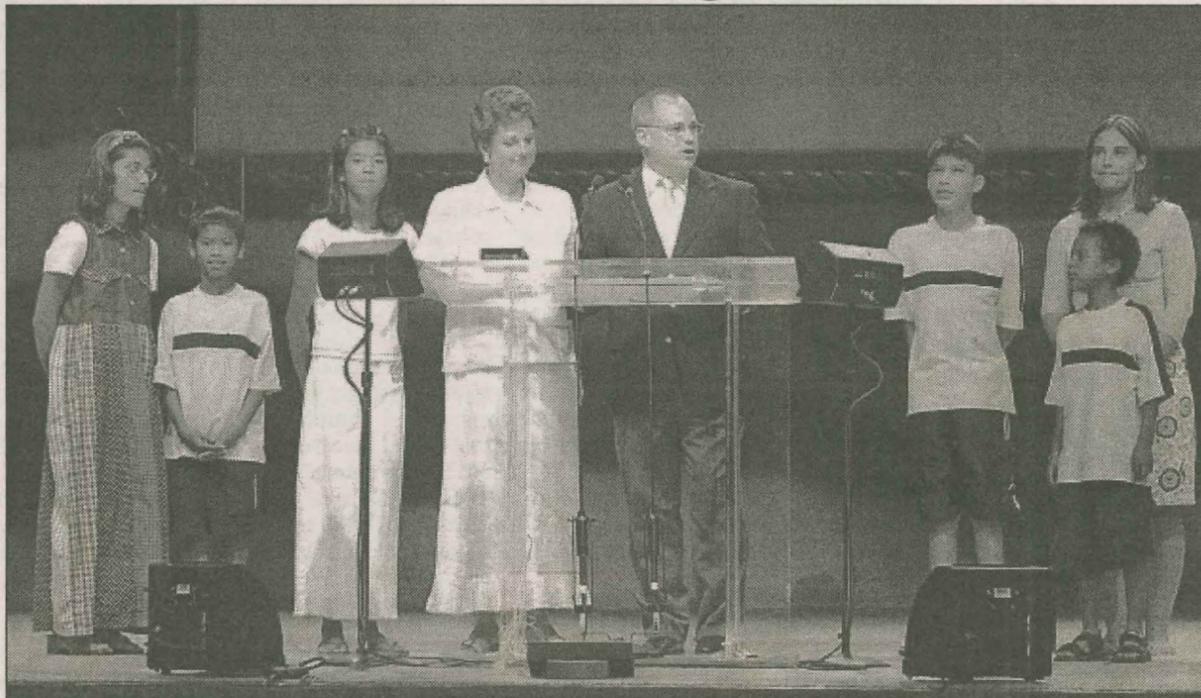
**Pastors' Conference** In a conference that adopted the "Kingdom Family" theme, Jerry Vines sought to give the media "what you came for" while urging pastors to stop sugar-coating the truth. *Page 10.*

**Woman's Missionary Union** In a meeting highlighting spiritual and physical survivors, Don and Teri Caswell announced they are heading back to Yemen, where he was shot by a gunman last year. *Page 12.*

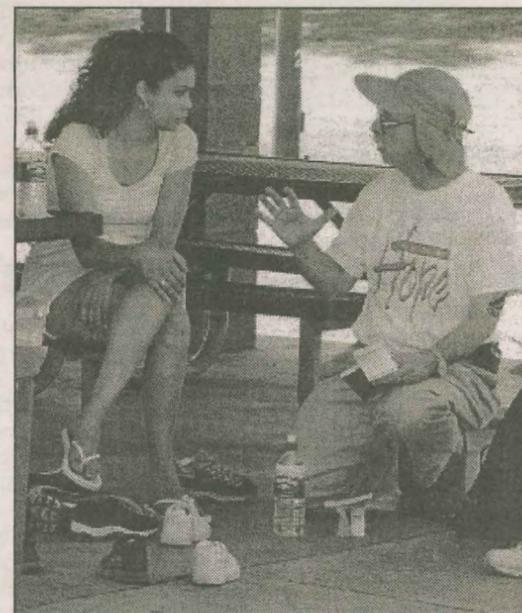


**Crossover Phoenix** Baptists from Kentucky and around the country gathered in Arizona before the annual meeting to perform ministries and share the gospel. *Page 13.*

## SBC takes family focus



A total of 7,078 messengers gathered last week in Phoenix for the 2003 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, making it the smallest convention crowd in more than 50 years. SBC leaders highlighted the theme, "Kingdom First: Exalting the King, Expanding His Kingdom." Related events included a first-ever Kingdom Family Rally and the 15th annual Crossover evangelistic emphasis. ■ **Above:** Pete and Debbie Livingston of Edmond, Okla., stand with their family as they speak during the June 16 Kingdom Family Rally in Phoenix. They shared candidly about how their marriage nearly dissolved due to work pressures and infidelity before they committed their marriage to Christ and adopted several children. ■ **Right:** Ron Mitchell of Foley, Ala., shares with a young woman who accepted Christ June 14 during a Crossover block party sponsored by Celebration Fellowship at Riverview Park in Mesa. About 3,000 Southern Baptist volunteers from across the country participated in Crossover. (BP photos by Kent Harville and Bob Carey)



## Kentucky Raceway Ministries sharing gospel with fans

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, June 25



**BALLOON FUN** Amy "Snickers" Alderman, a member of Piner Baptist Church in Morningview, makes balloon hats at the Kentucky Speedway June 14. About 170 people volunteered for projects connected with Kentucky Raceway Ministries during the weekend. "We're just scratching the surface," director John Roberts said. (Photos by John Foster)

By David Winfrey  
News Director

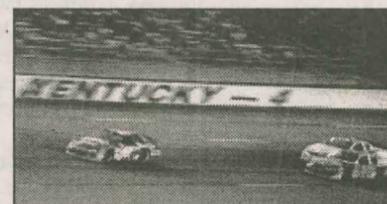
SPARTA—When nearly 70,000 race fans from throughout the country invaded Sparta earlier this month, Kentucky Baptist John Roberts had his own army of volunteers ready to minister to them.

Kentucky Raceway Ministries was started in 2000 and has been developing ever since, said Roberts, a member of Paint Lick Baptist Church.

"In three short years we've grown from two volunteers to well over 200," Roberts said. "We're just scratching the surface. It can grow and grow and grow."

Raceway Ministries organizes free meals, Christian literature distribution, children's activities and other events for four national series races held each year at Kentucky Speedway.

The NASCAR Busch Series race, June 14, drew what is expected to



**RACIN'** Drivers race through turn 4 at Kentucky Speedway during the Meijer 300 June 14 in Sparta. Almost 70,000 fans attended the evening race.

be the Speedway's largest crowd for the year, with 69,366 fans.

About 170 volunteers worked a variety of ministry projects during the race weekend.

Youth groups, clowning teams and puppet teams from Cave Springs Baptist Church in Albany, Piner Baptist Church in Morningview and West Hamilton Baptist Church in West Hamilton, Ohio, led much of the ministry.

□ See Raceway ministry ..., page 3

## Paige Patterson nominated to head Southwestern

PHOENIX—Paige Patterson, one of the chief architects of the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative shift, confirmed June 19 that he will be recommended as the next president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"What happens after that, nobody knows," Patterson, current president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., told reporters. "I don't know what they are going to do, but there is a fairly good chance they may extend the call to come to Southwestern."

Soon after Southwestern Seminary President Kenneth Hemphill announced his early retirement in April to become national strategist for the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative, speculation surfaced that Patterson was the leading candidate to succeed him.

A Southwestern Seminary spokesman confirmed that the school's trustees have been called to a special meeting in Fort Worth June 24. Patterson reportedly met with the presidential search committee three weeks ago.

Patterson, a native Texan, served as pastor of churches in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas before spending 28 years in theological education, including 17 years as president of Criswell College in Dallas.

Addressing concerns that he would recruit Southeastern Seminary faculty to follow him to Southwestern if he is elected president there, Patterson said, "I would not take any faculty from there even though I would cherish having every one of them."

*Based on reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press*

## Messengers cut BWA funds by one-third

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

PHOENIX—A proposal to reduce the Southern Baptist Convention's allocation to the Baptist World Alliance by more than 30 percent was approved June 17 with no discussion—almost. The funding cut, included in the SBC's 2003-2004 operating budget, initially was adopted without discussion or debate. Moments later, Jim Stroud of Knoxville, Tenn., asked whether the earlier action could be reconsidered and amended.

When told that would be out of order, Stroud requested "an explanation from the committee as to their reason for decreasing the allocation to the Baptist World Alliance."

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee and a BWA vice president, said a study committee recommended decreasing the amount contributed to the BWA because "it appeared Southern Baptists were not being ... heard adequately" on issues of concern to SBC leaders.

Sherry Reynolds, a messenger from Jonesboro, Ga., asked what the specific issues were that prompted the funding cut.

While press reports focused on the SBC's objection to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's pending application for BWA membership, Chapman said SBC leaders primarily were concerned about the membership application process.

The BWA membership committee "exceeded their authority by going to the full general council and relating

to them the conditions on which the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship would be accepted" as a member later this year, Chapman charged. He said he and other SBC representatives "took strong issue with the process."

As a result, the SBC's 2003-2004 operating budget of \$7.84 million includes a \$300,000 allocation for BWA, a cut of \$125,000 from the current \$425,000 line item. The remaining \$125,000 was earmarked for Kingdom Relationships, a proposal for the SBC to "look toward strengthening relationships with other like-minded Christian bodies" worldwide.

When the SBC Executive Committee initially approved the proposal in February, Chapman said the Kingdom Relationships emphasis "won't be a duplication of the BWA." He said initiatives might include Bible conferences and church-growth seminars that would involve "primarily Southern Baptist entities" around the world.

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said BWA leaders are "very sorry that the SBC has partially defunded the Baptist World Alliance." He said BWA "has been close to the heart of Southern Baptists in working together with Baptists around the world" since BWA's founding in 1905.

The SBC is a charter member of BWA, an umbrella organization of more than 200 Baptist unions and conventions worldwide that represents 46 million baptized believers in 193,000 churches.

After the June 17 vote, Lotz said, "We shall continue to work and pray for Southern Baptists and to express appreciation for their encouragement

and support over the years. ... We belong together because we belong to Jesus Christ. We want to work with all Baptists all over the world."

In other business, Executive Committee proposals adopted by SBC messengers include:

■ **Approving a 2003-2004 SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$182.3 million.** Budget allocations include International Mission Board, 50 percent; North American Mission Board, 22.79 percent; SBC seminaries and historical library and archives, 21.64 percent; SBC operating budget and Annuity Board, 4.08 percent; and Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 1.49 percent. The first \$250,000 of any budget overage will be allocated "to fund the enhancement of Cooperative Program education at the six seminaries."

■ **Revising the IMB's ministry statement.** IMB President Jerry Rankin called the changes "a restatement and updated wording that more accurately reflects the (IMB's) focus and work." The revision focuses on "nurturing church planting movements" to make the gospel accessible to all people. It also highlights "sending" rather than "appointing" missionaries, recognizing a growing emphasis on volunteer workers.

■ **A resolution of appreciation for the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life.** The eight-member council, chaired by former SBC President Tom Elliff, helped organize the SBC's June 16 Kingdom Family Rally.

■ **Selecting San Antonio, Texas, as the site for the 2007 SBC annual meeting to be held June 12-13.**

## Resolutions address family, marriage, war, AIDS

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

PHOENIX—Southern Baptists punctuated key themes of their annual gathering with statements affirming "Kingdom families" and condemning homosexual unions.

Those topics highlighted a slate of eight resolutions approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 18 in Phoenix.

Messengers zipped through the resolutions, pausing only briefly to defeat two amendments offered by Wiley Drake, a perennial fixture at SBC microphones, known for offering a spate of motions and resolutions.

Topics addressed by resolutions were:

■ **"Kingdom families."** A key focal point of the Phoenix meeting actually occurred the evening before the convention started, when the annual Pastors' Conference turned its final session into a Kingdom Family Rally. (See story on page 9.)

That emphasis telegraphed the SBC's first resolution, "On Kingdom Families."

Through it, messengers agreed to "renew our commitment to build Kingdom families by the recovery of the biblical understanding of family and the acknowledgement of the permanence and responsibilities of the marriage covenant."

■ **"Same-sex marriages."** The res-

olution denouncing "same-sex marriage" tied in closely with a new initiative to encourage churches to provide ministries to help people leave the homosexual lifestyle. (See story on page 9.)

The resolution states marriage can occur only between one man and one woman and puts Southern Baptists on record opposing "all efforts by any court or state legislature to validate or legalize same-sex marriage or other equivalent unions."

■ **Abortion.** The resolution declares the sacredness of human life and criticizes 1970s-era SBC leaders and resolutions, stating they "endorsed and furthered the 'pro-choice' abortion-rights agenda."

The resolution affirmed Congress for passing the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 and applauded President Bush's promise to sign the bill.

■ **War in Iraq.** "We believe Operation Iraqi Freedom was a warranted action based upon historic principles of just war," the resolution states.

■ **Religious liberty.** The resolution portrayed Southern Baptists, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, as a maligned minority.

"Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians have in recent months been increasingly portrayed by the media and by international government sources as intolerant and even dangerous because of our commitment to Christ as the only way of salvation."

It cited "a growing movement" that labels Christian preaching a "hate crime" and called on media, government and others "to recognize that Baptists have been and continue to be ardent advocates of religious freedom."

■ **Anti-Semitism.** Messengers noted that Southern Baptists "deplore all forms of hatred or bigotry toward any person or people group" and pointed out the Bible describes God's love for the Jewish people, "through whom God has blessed the world with His Word and His Messiah, our Lord Jesus."

■ **AIDS.** The resolution supports humanitarian efforts to combat the AIDS crisis around the globe and urges prayer for and ministry to AIDS victims. It also states that AIDS has been combated most effectively by an abstinence-based strategy that calls for sexual relations to take place only within marriage.

■ **Thanks.** The annual resolution thanked all the people whom God used "to bring about a convention characterized by grace, evangelism, worship, encouragement, unity and purpose."

This year, a new convention bylaw required messengers to submit proposed resolutions in advance of the annual meeting. Resolutions Committee Chairman Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., declared the procedure a success.

## Motion targets NAMB policy on ordination

By Bob Terry  
Alabama Baptist

PHOENIX—Should all Southern Baptist military chaplains be ordained ministers?

Navy Capt. Al Hill thinks so. At the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix, Hill offered a motion that would require ordination for all people endorsed for military chaplaincy by the convention's North American Mission Board.

Hill, a messenger from Alexandria, Va., and some other chaplains contend the current NAMB policy of not requiring ordination for military chaplaincy reduces Southern Baptist chaplains to "religious social workers."

NAMB changed its policy on chaplains to avoid endorsing female chaplains who have been ordained. NAMB officials contend they will find a way for women to continue serving as chaplains without ordination.

In other business, a motion to reconsider the reduced budget allocation to the Baptist World Alliance was offered by Jim Stroud of Knoxville, Tenn. The motion was introduced and soundly defeated.

Motions referred to the SBC Executive Committee related to:

■ **Accepting state convention money.** Brian Kaylor of Elkland, Mo., offered a motion seeking to get the Executive Committee and other SBC entities to accept funds from Baptist individuals, churches, associations, conventions and organizations.

The motion appeared aimed at the decision by the Executive Committee not to accept funds from a recently formed state convention in Missouri.

■ **Meeting location.** Two messengers moved that the SBC annual meeting be held in their respective areas. Bob Mackey of Parma, Ohio, asked that the annual meeting be held in Cleveland. Ben Brazal of Bronx, N.Y., moved that the convention meet in New York City.

■ **Creation and the flood.** Bobby Greene of Kents Stone, Va., asked that the convention calendar include an annual emphasis on God's creation being done in six 24-hour days and on the worldwide flood.

■ **Summer missions offering.** Greg Hyland of Lebanon, N.H., proposed a motion requesting a special offering in July to help the International Mission Board make up for budgeting shortfalls.

Two motions referred to NAMB related to increased "attention and funding" for ministries to Middle Eastern immigrants and cooperation between NAMB and the IMB to reach international students in the United States.

## Raceway ministry takes gospel to weekend fans

Continued from page 1

Ministry can be planned throughout the weekend because many race fans camp out for the event.

On Saturday morning before the race, volunteers served 225 biscuit and gravy meals, 700 cups of coffee, 225 cups of orange juice and 50 dozen donuts. Musicians entertained the fans and invited them to two worship services later that morning.

In the middle of the afternoon, children took part in a Hot Wheels derby competition. Children receive the miniature cars and race for trophies. Dwight Sisk of Raceville, Ala., works with racing ministries around the country to coordinate the competitions. Kids are encouraged to bring their parents to the finals, which includes a short devotional mixing racing and faith.

Just before the race, workers staff an information tent near the main entrance to the racetrack. There and elsewhere, volunteers handed out 10,000 pieces of Christian literature, including 1,000 racing-theme Bibles, which include testimonies from famous racing drivers.

A popular item is a flier that lists the ministry in the race along with speedway rules and track facts. It also offers information about the ministry and a racing metaphor illustration of "How to meet the Savior in pit stops." "It if was all just Christian stuff, they might throw it down instead of looking at it," Roberts said.

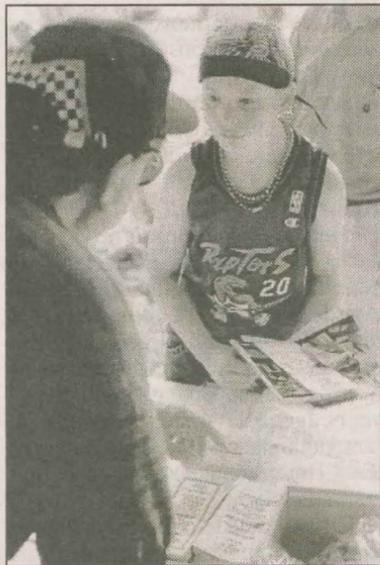
Ron Lasley, director of chaplain/ministry for Kentucky Speedway, said Roberts' ministry in the campground has been a welcome extension of the work Lasley does mostly inside the track.

"There's no doubt in my mind that God's brought us together," said Lasley, pastor of Meadow Hill Baptist Church in Louisville. "What he does is phenomenal."

### An illness and a trip to Bristol

All of this might never have come together if Roberts wasn't convinced God kept him from dying so he could start the ministry.

"I feel that God saved my life in order for me to do this," he said, matter-of-factly. "And He had worked in



**INFORMATION BOOTH** David Marlow, director of missions for Owen County and Ten Mile Baptist associations, talks with a boy at the Kentucky Raceway Ministries information booth.

my life long before I even knew there was a speedway coming here."

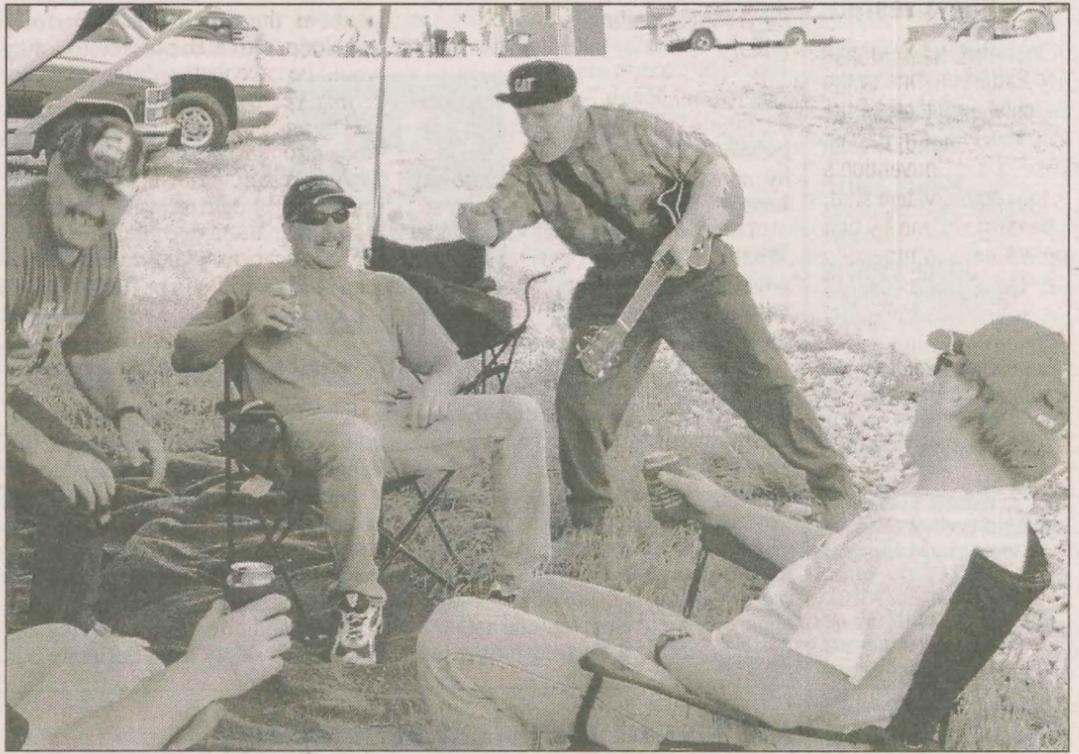
Roberts lived with hepatitis C for more than five years, convinced he some day would die from the disease that was destroying his liver.

In 1996, he said, the seriousness of his health situation led him back to church, where he and his wife dedicated their lives to Christ.

Three months later, he was heading to a NASCAR race in Bristol, Tenn., with friends. Concerned the surroundings would test his commitment to his new faith, he and his wife prayed before he left.

"Sure enough, the first night the drinking started and everything else. ... It was very tempting," he recalled. "I wanted to get away from it. ... I had seen a raceway ministry tent down at the bottom of the hill where we were camping."

There he ate homemade cookies, drank soft drinks and talked with Christians about his new faith, the temptations at the racetrack's campground and his health. "They invited me to come to a worship service the next morning, and I got up before anybody else did and went to the worship



**DULCIMER LESSONS** Zack Kendrick (foreground) and Andy Compton learn to play the dulcimer from volunteer teachers.

service."

Back home, after the race, his wife was shocked that he had "hung out at the church."

Shortly afterward, he said, he learned about the plans to build Kentucky Speedway and became convinced that he needed to help start a Raceway Ministries program.

Roberts began organizing track organizers, churches and his Promise Keepers small group to work on establishing the ministry. "In the meantime, my health had started to deteriorate."

In February 1999, doctors urged him to consider a liver transplant, but Roberts said he hadn't heard many success stories for those who had had the operation.

Roberts said he turned to his spiritual mentor for counsel on the subject. "We prayed about it, and he looked up at me and said, 'Well John, ... if you don't have this transplant, there's not going to be a Raceway Ministry.' That was all I needed to hear," he recalled.

"I prayed to God that if He got me

through this, that I would dedicate my life to this Raceway Ministry."

Eight months later, a matching donor was found. Roberts said that alone was a miracle because only 1 percent of people who die are eligible organ donors and he had a condition that would match his liver needs with only 5 percent of the general population.

"That was just God telling me, 'I've done this. You go for that Raceway Ministry.'"

Today he's on disability, which he says allows him to dedicate his time to the ministry.

He said the track officials have welcomed him now that they are familiar with the ministry and its potential.

"They have seen that it's an asset to their venue." It just helps good public relations.

Nearly every race, more ministries are being offered, Lasley added.

"It's almost scary how fast it's grown, and we need more people to get involved," Lasley said.

Volunteers willing to get involved will "feel more appreciated out here than anywhere you will in the ministry," Lasley said. "I guess it's because they know you don't have to be here. In the church it's expected."

### Help from associations, WMU

The ministry receives funding from Ten Mile, Owen County and Whites Run Baptist associations as well as from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

Local church groups are involved through both prayer and contributions, Roberts added, especially local Woman's Missionary Union groups, who bake cookies and do other volunteer work. "The WMU is just the backbone of our ministry, to be honest."

Roberts insists the ministry's scope is limited only by the number of volunteers willing to help.

"We need groups that are dedicated to taking over a campground four times a year," he said. "It's got the potential of being the largest ministry in the state."

**JOKING AROUND** Barry McGee, dressed as "Harvey Garvey Tater," laughs with campers as he invites them to a concert and worship service at the Kentucky Raceway Ministries tent. McGee, a chaplain with Motor Racing Outreach, mixes humor with the gospel at his performances. (Photos by John Foster)



**RACE FAN** Joe Williams cheers as the cars head into the final five laps of the Meijer 300. Kentucky Raceway Ministries had a dozen chaplains in the stands during the race to minister to fans needing medical attention or facing other emergencies.

## 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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## God calls & equips

I take issue with the article appearing in the June 3 publication written by James Dotson. He quoted Lyle Schaller, listed as "one of the nation's foremost experts on congregational health."

First of all, I question Schaller's credentials. Has he served a "small" church? Has he served in a bivocational pastorate? What is wrong with "personalized pastoral care" being employed in any size congregation?

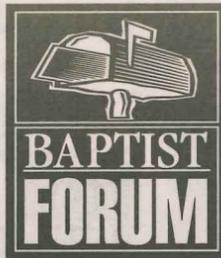
I have served 33 years as a bivocational pastor and director of missions, after being called by God at the age of 31. I enrolled in a seminary extension program and earned a pastoral ministries degree not to preach, but to preach more effectively. From the day of Moses to the present day, I am not aware of anyone God called that He did not equip and provide the sufficient vehicle to carry out the call.

How could a "gifted pulpiteer"

from a metro megachurch 50 miles down the road or across the country possibly know or have any feeling for the needs of the congregation? How could he possibly address the issues of the day and feed the flock as they sat there waiting to be nurtured and fed?

I am of the opinion that these statements and any program such as this that would be instituted should insult every man called by God to preach His Word.

*Tom T. Prather  
Covington*



## Theological dangers

Gene Iglehart's June 3 letter to the editor offers a great example of the dangers in theological liberalism.

He states that "music, writings, declarations and... even sermons" are just as inspired as Scripture. This is the primary reason for the revision of the Baptist Faith and Message. If our theology and principles for living are not derived solely from Scripture but

include any song, speech or statement that claims God's inspiration, then there would be no God-given standard for faith and practice.

We cannot base our beliefs on songs or speeches. Every time an author or speaker claims God's inspiration, his or her words should line up with God's Word. If the words don't line up, there is good cause to disregard them. God will not contradict Himself.

Another point Iglehart makes concerns the context of Scripture. He states that "Scripture must be taken in context, always." I couldn't agree more. But then, the closing statement reads as follows, "We should not be hearing traditions from hundreds of years ago." If we don't hear them, how can we know the Scriptures' context? These two statements seem quite contradictory.

Please know that my only concern is the devaluing of Scripture and the increased theological value of individual "inspiration."

*Chuck Luke  
Lexington*

## Are you fit for effective ministry?

By Branda Polk

NASHVILLE (BP)—Are you able to do what God calls you to do whenever He calls you to do it? Are you ready spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically for effective ministry?

A wonderful biblical example of physical fitness and ministry readiness is found in Acts 8:26-39, in the account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.

Philip was prompted by the Holy Spirit to start walking down the road between Jerusalem and Gaza. We are not told how far he walked before he saw the eunuch and was prompted by the Holy Spirit to approach his chariot. Scripture tells us that when Philip was told to go, he had to run along-

side the chariot and talk to the man before he was invited into the chariot to share Christ. Remember, chariots were pulled by horses and even at a trot, Philip would need to run at a good pace to keep up.

While running, Philip spoke in a loud enough tone that the eunuch heard him over the road noise and horse hooves. Running and talking at the same time indicates good cardio-respiratory fitness. Philip was physically and spiritually fit to accomplish this mission from the Holy Spirit. The result of Philip's readiness was the salvation and baptism of the eunuch.

Notice that Philip didn't argue with the Holy Spirit about the assignment. He didn't say, "That's great, I'd love

to share Christ with that man. Could you just have him pull his chariot up beside me? I don't think I can run that fast." No, Philip just did as the Spirit said.

How often do we use excuses and negotiations to alter a call to minister? God has equipped us with everything needed to do anything He calls us to do. Yet many of us find ourselves diseased, stressed, fatigued, weak and wimpy. When we are not in good physical shape, we cripple our ministry effectiveness.

Improving your fitness level requires commitment, discipline and the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to reveal to you the areas that are not in top shape for His service. Accept the answer and develop a plan for improvement.

*Branda Polk is a wellness coach and conference leader in Memphis, Tenn.*

## COMMENTARY

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Son Teams launch summer ministry

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Son Teams are composed of some of the most talented college students in Kentucky. They will be leading youth during Discovery Camps at Cedar-more and in local churches during weekends this summer. They have a very intense schedule, so please pray for their safety in travel and for their spiritual and physical energy.

Please pray as well that they can keep their focus on Jesus Christ. Many youth will come to camp with all kinds of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual challenges. It will require the power of the Holy Spirit for the collegiate team members to stay positive, relational and focused on the mission of our Lord for each person.

The Son Team members will not only provide an example of what it means to be fully devoted to Jesus Christ, but will engage youth about their journey with the Lord. The Son Team members have been trained by

Tom Smoot, the KBC's creative ministries department director, and by selected leaders, including campus ministers who coordinate the work of the teams throughout the summer. We are grateful for these dedicated leaders.



Bill Mackey

A brief description of each of the Son Teams includes:

■ **Son Bound**, a sports and creative ministries team, is made up of five members chosen for their commitment and ability to communicate the reality of a personal relationship with God in Christ Jesus.

■ **Son Burst**, a five-member creative ministries team, seeks to communicate the gospel through creative arts in ministry.

■ **Son Celebration**, a six-member music and creative ministries team, is selected on the members' ability to live out and communicate their faith in Jesus Christ.

■ **Son Praise**, a six-member praise and worship team, will spend each

week of the summer at Cedar-more Baptist Assembly, ministering through the Discovery Youth Camps. The members' weekends will be spent in local churches around the state.

■ **Son Share Players**, a drama and creative ministries team, is made up of four students and seeks to communicate the gospel through drama.

■ **Son Reach** is a four-member vacation Bible school team, ministering primarily to smaller churches in Eastern Kentucky.

In addition to the Son Teams, 39 college and seminary students will serve on staff at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly where hundreds of youth will make life-changing spiritual decisions as led by the Holy Spirit. Pray for the parents and youth workers as they follow up with the decisions in the local churches.

Adult counselors who accompany youth at camp will provide tremendous support. My hat is off to thousands of volunteer youth workers in local Baptist churches across the commonwealth. The impact of these ministries will be eternal!

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## GIVING

### Family business decisions impact stewardship plan

By Laurie Valentine

Planning is the key to being a good steward of your estate. One aspect of estate planning that may

not receive the time and attention it deserves is planning for succession of a family business.

A recently published

survey of 1,143 family businesses revealed that 68 percent of the companies surveyed said the senior generation of family owners had a good understanding of the amount of estate taxes that would be due at their death and 81 percent had completed their estate planning. The MassMutual Financial Group/Raymond Institute American Family Business Survey titled "The Face of Family Business" also found, however, that fewer than half of owners conduct regular formal valuations of company share values or have a formal redemption/liquidity plan.

Failure to keep tabs on the current value of the business can result in your family being faced with a larger-than-expected death tax bill at your death. Lack of a formal redemption plan can result in family disharmony, lack of sufficient financial resources outside the business to pay the death taxes and/or the possibility the business might not stay in the family.

Buy-sell and shareholder agreements can play an important role in accomplishing your wishes for succession of the ownership of a family business and help avoid some of the pitfalls a lack of planning can create.

Such agreements can create a right or an obligation of the business and/or the other owners to purchase the deceased owner's interest, thereby providing the funds needed to pay death taxes and helping assure the remaining owners have some say about whom they will be in business with after an owner's death.

If the deceased owner's estate is obligated under the agreement to sell the business interest at a fixed or formula-determined price to the business or other owners and that price applies for lifetime sales as well as those at death, the price established in the agreement should be honored in establishing the estate tax value of the business interest.

Take time to plan so that your family business succession objectives will be accomplished.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation*



## Parents' actions impact kids' views of successful marriage

**Q: In light of the prevalence of divorce in our society, how can my husband and I best influence our son toward building a healthy Christian marriage?**

I am reminded of a poem attributed to John Wooden, the legendary basketball coach of UCLA. Coach Wooden wrote:

"No written page, nor oral plea,  
Can teach our kids what they should be,

Nor all the books on all the shelves;  
It's what the teachers are themselves."

What is your son learning through your life and marriage? The Bible reminds us in Ephesians 5:31-32 that Christian marriage is to be an example to the world of God's faithfulness to His people. We are reminded in James 1:2-3 and Ephesians 5:21-25 that marriage is to be a crucible to develop maturity in the partners and to help them grow up.

Christian parents have the opportunity to "flesh out" the very presence of an incarnate Christ as they live in the community of family.

Apart from what your son is seeing, what is he hearing from you? It is very important that you help him confront common myths about marriage. Help him consider the biblical messages to the following marital myths:

- My mate should meet all my needs (see Philippians 4:19).
- I will live happily ever after (see 1 Corinthians 7:28b).
- There is no need for a leader (see Ephesians 5:22).
- I shouldn't have to change (see Hebrews 12:14a).
- You should be like me (see 1 Corinthians 12:18-19).
- You owe me (see 1 Peter 5:5b).

Remind your son that his practices in dating and relationships now will set the pattern for a lifetime.—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: My daughter is generally healthy and active. Is there any need for her to take vitamins?**

As children grow, they naturally need increased amounts of nutrients in order to be strong and healthy. The official position of the Council for Responsible Nutrition, a group that represents the supplement industry, is that most people benefit from taking a multivitamin every day.

However, in their 1998 book, "Fit to Serve Him Longer ... and Better," Dr. Dick Couey and Dr. Tommy Yessick quote a statement released by the American Medical Association that sound dietary practices should eliminate the need for vitamin supplements after infancy for almost all healthy children.

"Iron deficiency is the most prevalent nutritional disorder among American children," Couey explains, but he points out that iron needs can be addressed through diet. He emphasizes that the adult or child who eats a variety of wholesome foods will have no need for vitamin supplement pills.

While experts sometimes disagree on the value of taking vitamins, they agree that vitamins and vitamin supplements cannot make up for a poor diet. Make sure your child eats plenty of fruits and vegetables, all of which are good, natural sources for the vitamins your child needs to be healthy. Remember that skipping meals and eating foods high in sugar can rob your child of needed nutrients.

Your pediatrician should be able to tell if your child has a specific nutritional need that should be addressed in a specific way, and can make recommendations accordingly.—*David Garrard*

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



## Kingdom focus requires local, global view

The highlight was the sharp focus on family values. The low point was partially defunding the Baptist World Alliance.

As messengers gathered last week in Phoenix for the 2003 Southern Baptist Convention annual, convention leaders explored the theme, "Kingdom First: Exalting the King, Expanding His Kingdom" based on Matthew 6:33.

The most dramatic interpretation of this year's theme came the night before the annual meeting officially convened. The pre-convention "Kingdom Family Rally," presented during the closing session of the annual Pastors' Conference, culminated three years of work by the SBC's Council on Family Life.

The ad hoc council, chaired by former SBC President Tom Elliff, unveiled "Seven Pillars of a Kingdom Family" designed to help strengthen American families. The seven principles call for families to honor God's authority, respect human life, exercise moral purity, serve the church, use time wisely, practice biblical stewardship and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"There is no Plan B for our marriages," emphasized Debbie Livingston, who candidly described how God healed her spiritual life and marriage after she committed adultery. "There is only God's radical plan."

"This whole Kingdom Family movement is not meant to dictate anything to anybody," Elliff told reporters. "It's an attempt to explore biblical principles. Marriage was thought up by God. He planned it. He wrote the book on it."

One issue on which messengers apparently failed to put God's Kingdom first was the decision to slash the SBC's annual financial contribution to the Baptist World Alliance by more than 30 percent.

The renowned international umbrella organization of Baptists for nearly a century, BWA takes the lead in addressing such crucial areas as human rights, religious freedom, world hunger and evangelism.

With more than 200 member bodies around the globe, many of BWA's affiliates are in Third World

countries with scarce financial resources. As the largest contributor to BWA ministries, the SBC's decision to cut \$125,000 from the alliance's annual allocation will hamper BWA ministry efforts among fellow Baptists in such settings as Angola, Bangladesh, Haiti and Romania.

Why would SBC leaders urge reduced funding for BWA? Primarily because they are offended that BWA leaders are considering the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's application for membership. While SBC officials insist the main issue is the BWA membership process, it's doubtful they would have pushed to cut BWA funds if the membership process involved the application of a Baptist organization from Indonesia or Zimbabwe.

It sounds somewhat hollow to talk about building Kingdom families when the global family of Baptists is treated so poorly. Political grudges should never take precedence over such worthy goals as "Exalting the King, Expanding His Kingdom."

Despite the financial setback, BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz responded with his typical graciousness. Stepping to the microphone to present the BWA annual report immediately after messengers rejected an effort to reinstate the alliance's full funding, Lotz quipped, "The Lord has a wonderful sense of humor, doesn't He?"

Urging ongoing unity between the SBC and BWA's 205 other member bodies, Lotz declared, "We belong together because we belong to Jesus Christ."

As Southern Baptists pledge to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," it is imperative that our efforts reach beyond our own homes and neighborhoods to encompass the vast spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our nation and world.

Imagine how pleasing to God it would be if Southern Baptists truly made a fresh commitment to put His Kingdom first in our individual families, our church families, our denominational family—and our global Baptist family.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Impacting generations through VBS

By Rebecca Powell

NASHVILLE (BP)—Hurray! It's time for vacation Bible school! More than half of my 36 summers have included VBS, as either a student or a teacher.

It's been said that children learn in a week's worth of VBS what it takes Sunday school six months to accomplish. For five straight days, kids are immersed in the culture of the church—songs, crafts and stories about God.

My childhood memories of VBS hinge on the crafts we made. I remember beautiful wastebaskets created from recycled ice cream tubs. Then there was the wall hanging of ceramic corn I painted that my mother actually hung on the wall in our kitchen.

My adult VBS memories, however, are not of the crafts or even of all the preparation time spent gearing up for the week. No, for the rest of my life I will remember a group of kids in Paducah whenever I think of VBS.

When my husband, Rich, and I lived in Paducah, I had the privilege of teaching the fifth- and sixth-grade students one summer in VBS. On my volunteer application, I had marked that I would serve "wherever needed."

I later learned that my application

was quickly tagged. I was assigned to teach the fifth and sixth graders. Known for being a rowdy group by every other adult on the planet, I had no idea what I was in for. I found that they weren't too bad, actually, just loud. In truth, we had a great time together.

### FIRST PERSON

For parents' night, the culmination of VBS, I had chosen a popular Steven Curtis Chapman song for the kids to sing. Chapman is from Paducah, and most of the kids would be going to his alma mater, Heath High School, when they were freshmen. We practiced singing "Heaven in the Real World" for five days.

The kids did a great job performing for their parents. I knew that if they hadn't learned anything else that week, they certainly had learned that song, which they sang from memory.

Rich and I moved our family to Nashville later that summer. Several years passed. On a day when the last thing I was thinking about was tied-dyed T-shirts and macramé key chains, I received a phone call from a family member in Paducah, informing me there had been a gunman at Heath High School. A student had opened fire on the school's morning prayer group. As he listed names of prayer from my former church who were

involved in this informal prayer group, I recognized the names of several freshmen because they had been a part of my VBS class.

I quickly turned on CNN and waited for news reports of the shooting. Suddenly, Chapman's song began to play in my head. In my mind's eye, I saw those kids singing it with their big smiles and great enthusiasm. During the television, I popped the CD in the stereo and began to listen.

It was as though I had never heard the words before. "Heaven in the Real World" begins, oddly enough, with the voices of news commentators reporting crime statistics, illegal drug use and gang activity. They are interrupted by the voice of Chuck Colson who asks, "Where is the hope?"

As I thought about the living room and wept, I thought about the five days I spent teaching VBS in Paducah. I had no idea of what the future held for those kids.

Where is the hope? Chuck Colson says, "Our hope is in the power of God working through the hearts of people."

If you are working in vacation Bible school this year, please keep in mind that these five days are influencing a future generation. If you can't offer your time, offer your prayers. The One who holds their future—and yours—is listening.

*Rebecca Powell is a Christian author and speaker based in Nashville*

## Reccord highlights efforts to evangelize young adults

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

PHOENIX (BP)—The priority of reaching and equipping students and young adults highlighted the North American Mission Board's report to the Southern Baptist Convention.

NAMB President Bob Reccord presented an overview of the agency's efforts to reach the United States and Canada with the gospel—as well as a challenge for Southern Baptists to answer the call on their own lives to be a part of that same mission.

To reach youth, NAMB will sponsor two "Elevate" conferences next year featuring some of the nation's most prominent leaders in business, entertainment and government.

The events, Jan. 22-24 in Dallas and Feb. 19-21 in Charlotte, N.C., are designed to reach those in the critical age group of 18-29.

"It is the impact zone of life," Reccord said of the focus age group. "It is in that area that most of the time your mate, your mission, your ministry are determined."

Among the scheduled speakers are ABC news reporter Peggy Wehmeyer, author Josh McDowell, comedian Victoria Jackson and Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

In a related new initiative, Reccord announced "The Impact Zone," a one-week training opportunity next summer in Chicago based on servant leadership.

"The first thing they are going to receive is a carpenter's apron and an assignment to go do something for somebody who can't do anything for them in return," he said. "In addition to that, we are going to bring in some of the renowned names of leadership to give them a world-class leadership training event."

Reccord added that 4,000 schools currently are using the FiSH strategy for student-led Christian clubs that NAMB helped develop.

NAMB's World Changers ministry—in which students learn to be on mission while rehabilitating substandard housing—also continues to show how God is working among students, he said, with 25,000 participants this summer.

"Since its beginning the North American Mission Board has been focused on building the next generation, teaching them the gifts of evangelism and missions—and to say, if you embrace them, you can change your world," Reccord said.

The agency's presentation included video highlights of the ministries of people who have answered God's call on their lives.

Reccord's challenge to messengers and all Southern Baptists was to do the same—taking seriously the spiritual crisis at hand.

"For too long Christians have treated the enemy like he's not real, or at least not a credible threat," Reccord said. "It's an attitude that has turned us into toy soldiers, rather than Special Forces for the Lord Jesus Christ. We say we are answering His call, but we load up with so much safety gear, we can't jump out of the plane and into the lives of those who are on the edge of destruction."

Reccord also challenged pastors and church leaders to live out God's call on their lives just as they are asking their people to do.

"As you look back at the last three months, how many people have you one-on-one shared the gospel with?" he asked. "Men and women, I'm not talking about teaching a Sunday school class. I'm not talking about giving a sermon. I'm talking about you with one other person. ... Before we can lead our congregations, folks, it's got to be heated-hot in our own life."



Reccord

### NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

## Rankin: Help break down wall of Islam

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
Alabama Baptist

PHOENIX—International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin sent out an urgent plea to help "break down the wall" of Islam during the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 19.

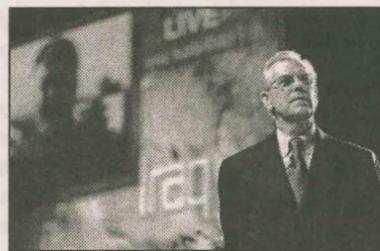
Using video presentations and interviews with IMB representatives, volunteers and friends, Rankin told how missionaries and missions volunteers are needed to reach the Muslim world for Christ.

"It is God's time for the gospel to penetrate those barriers in the Muslim world," Rankin said. "It is the providence and power of God, moving to fulfill His purpose that He will be exalted among all nations and people and tongues. The only question is: Will we be found faithful?"

At the same time, Rankin reported the IMB will appoint only 100 long-term missionaries for the rest of the year due to financial constraints. The 100 will be chosen from among 308 applicants, he said.

"The \$115.1 million given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering last year was the most ever given, but the increase in giving (has) not kept pace with the numbers God is calling from our churches," Rankin said. "Southern Baptists gave \$9.4 billion (to their churches) last year, but less than 2.5 percent was channeled into overseas missions through the International Mission Board."

"How will we give an account to God for our failure to send those



LIVE FROM IRAQ IMB President Jerry Rankin listens to a live report from Iraq during the agency's report to the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

called out of our churches for such a time as this?" Rankin asked.

Noting the recent termination of missionaries for not affirming the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, Rankin said, "Much has been published about missionaries

who have resigned or been terminated, but the largest number of missions personnel to serve (is right now). We have 5,545 doctrinally sound missionaries who are fully responsible to the churches that support them."

Those missionaries are engaged in successful ministries, he added.

"Last year your missionaries gained access to 146 new people groups who had the opportunity to hear the gospel for the first time and planted congregations of indigenous believers as an ongoing witness and ministry," he reported.

Rankin also noted that through the ministry of IMB workers and their ministry partners, 421,436 new believers were baptized in 2002 and 8,369 churches were started in East-

ern Europe.

During a question-and-answer time, Tom Higginbotham of Judson Baptist Church in Walker, La., asked for clarification about whether Scripture was included on the food boxes recently collected for distribution in Iraq. During the convention sermon O.S. Hawkins had referenced "liberals" protesting Scripture citations in the boxes.

"Dr. Hawkins said the liberals did not want Scripture in them," Rankin responded. "He did not say we did not accompany them with Scripture. Scripture is on the box, and there are wonderful opportunities to share the gospel."

Bob Arthur of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., also talked about the Iraqi food boxes live via satellite from Baghdad. With a group of 30 volunteers in Iraq, Arthur asked Southern Baptists to send teams to Iraq during the next 120 days.

"Food cartons are going to arrive in late July or early August," Arthur said. "We need Southern Baptist teams there to distribute those boxes in Baghdad and surrounding communities."

Arthur cited needs for volunteers to help with cell-church training, structural repairs and water filtration systems. "There are 100,000 people living without an operating sewer system in one area," he said.

"The military liberated Iraq externally, but only Christ can liberate it internally," Arthur said. "The needs are phenomenal. We cannot fail at this point in history. We must respond as God leads us as individuals and churches."

### INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

## Draper: Programs and projects changing lives

By Chris Turner  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

PHOENIX (BP)—From Bible studies to outreach and abstinence programs, LifeWay Christian Resources is focusing its vision on the lives of people, President Jimmy Draper told messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Citing a range of examples of how resources produced by LifeWay have positively impacted people's lives and ministries, Draper punctuated his report to messengers by noting the global impact of the True Love Waits strategy and the ministry of a LifeWay Store employee who led a young couple to personal faith in Christ.

The report's focus on personal testimony takes LifeWay's vision statement from a corporate slogan to daily application, Draper said.

"Ten years ago we sketched True Love Waits out on a paper napkin from our cafeteria," Draper said. "We had no budget or staff for the campaign, but I said, 'Go for the dream and let's see if God is in it.' It caught on fast and 10 years later has transformed an entire culture."

Larry and Sharon Pumpelly, International Mission Board missionaries to Uganda, 10 years ago introduced

the biblically based sexual abstinence program to that country. Studies show that AIDS/HIV has decreased by more than 30 percent over the decade, Draper reported.

Uganda is the only African nation that has seen such a dramatic change in the health crisis. Draper's report included a video testimony of Uganda's first lady, Janet Museveni, crediting True Love Waits as the program that has saved thousands of lives in her country.

Draper's report returned to America when he shared the story of the impact

FAITH had in resurrecting a dying church in West Point, Ga. FAITH is a five-year-old strategy designed to train Sunday school classes how to incorporate and evangelize the unchurched people in their communities.

Two years ago Bethel Baptist Church in West Point, Ga., was down to five members and had decided to dissolve. Evangelist Tom Owensby was asked to serve as interim pastor. Owensby had been through FAITH Sunday school evangelism training and decided to implement what he'd learned. A year later the church has grown to nearly 50 members, is financially sound, has a choir and fulltime pastor, and will host a vacation Bible

school this summer.

LifeWay's commitment to helping people and churches goes beyond the church to individuals, Draper said. Beth Moore's online Bible study has built a community of 35,000 people participating from 50 countries. Draper said one participant told him in a letter she recently had been divorced and that her life "had been a mess." Because of her work schedule, she can't attend church. The online study has helped her get her "life together for the first time."

LifeWay's technology division developed and launched an online Bible Reference Library to make readily available studies such as Beth Moore's, Draper said. The site also includes commentaries, devotionals, Bible dictionaries and Strong's Concordance.

One of the translations featured online in the reference library is the new Holman Christian Standard Bible, a project initiated by Broadman & Holman, the book publishing arm of LifeWay. The translation, a decade-long endeavor, will be featured in LifeWay's Sunday school curriculum lines this fall. Draper said the new translation "emphasizes accuracy, readability and trustworthiness."

There currently are 115 LifeWay Christian Stores located in 21 states, Draper reported.



Draper

### LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

## Land outlines need for fathers in home, praises SBC family focus

PHOENIX (BP)—SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land praised the convention's recent focus on families while warning not to be consumed with worshipping the ideal.

"We've conducted a 30-year experiment to determine if fathers are an obsolete accessory in the rearing of a child," Land told convention messengers.

All great movements of God start with God's people getting right with Him, he said, but "unfortunately too many of us are not right with God."

He cited a 10-year Duke University study that revealed it was not only the absence of fathers in a household but also the timing of their departure that made a critical difference in their daughters' future behavior.

Girls reared in a home where the biological fathers left before their sixth birthday were five times more likely to become sexually active before age 15 than girls whose fathers were in the home, Land said.

"It is time to return to a child-centered society," Land said. "It is time we put first things first."

While praising the SBC's renewed push to preserve and protect families, he warned that an emphasis on the family should not turn into worship of the family.

"It is idolatry to worship the family," Land said, adding that is what Mormons do. "Our family is

not our god. We do not find our salvation in our family.

There is only one true God, and Jesus Christ is our salvation," he said.

"Our ultimate goal is not to become an effective and loving husband or wife," he said. "Our ultimate goal must be to know Jesus Christ and serve Him."

Land said he looks forward to an American society that affirms and practices "Judeo-Christian values rooted in biblical authority."

"We have to start with individuals, then families and outward to our nation," Land said. "Most importantly, we have to do it God's way."

### ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

## Mohler praises seminaries, answers Calvinism question

PHOENIX (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries are among the strongest and fastest-growing seminaries in the nation, Al Mohler told messengers gathered at the SBC annual meeting last week.

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and current head of the SBC Council of Seminary Presidents, said in his report that one of the keys to the seminaries' success is that they are accountable to members of Southern Baptist churches.

"Your Southern Baptist seminaries understand what theological education exists for (and) whom they serve," Mohler said. All of the seminaries adhere to the principles of the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, and are proud of that fact, he continued. "We are the only six (theological) schools that are bound by that confession, because we answer to you."

Total enrollment at the six seminaries continues to climb, with students being trained in a variety of ministries, Mohler said.

Speaking specifically about Southern Seminary, Mohler noted that the modern church is at a "turning point" and seminaries must be prepared to produce graduates ready to deal with the challenges of a modern culture that treats biblical truth

as out of step with the times.

A messenger asked Mohler if "five-point Calvinists" are on Southern's faculty, and, if so, how that coincided with the Baptist Faith & Message's article on God's purpose of grace.

Mohler said that he sees "no conflict between" the BF&M and the seminary's Abstract of Principles. Every faculty member is held accountable in teaching what the BF&M states, he added.

Southern Baptists have always had different "streams" of belief concerning the relationship between God's sovereignty and human freedom, Mohler said.

God "saves by the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and salvation comes to all who call upon His name," Mohler said. He added that when addressing the issue he likes to quote 19th-century preacher Charles Spurgeon, who, when asked how he reconciles sovereignty and free will, said he would not "reconcile friends."

Doctrinal discussions are "a sign of denominational health. Dying denominations don't care," Mohler said, while challenging Southern Baptists to learn and study the gospel and to "take the gospel to the ends of the earth."

### SEMINARIES

## Hawkins: Annuity funds rising and insurance options growing

PHOENIX—Amid the recent downturn in the investment markets, Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins had some good news to report to the SBC annual meeting.

"Since the trough of that market back in October of 2002, every retirement equity fund we have is up over 25 percent," he said. "We're having one of the greatest years in investments we've had in a long, long time."

Hawkins cited the benefits of the protection section of the Annuity Board's retirement program, stating that all participants in the retirement program automatically receive a \$100,000 survivor benefit and a \$500 per month disability benefit.

He rebuffed the assessment that churches might do better buying programs on the open market.

"Insurance continues to be our biggest challenge," Hawkins acknowledged. "We're in a national crisis. We have been giving strategic focus to these insurance issues."

Since moving administration of health-insurance claims to the Principal Life Insurance Co., more than 90 percent of claims have been processed within 10 days, he reported.

He outlined three steps the Annuity Board is taking to address health-insurance issues.

"First, we're taking responsibility," he said. "We've totally revamped our program for 2004. Since we get no money to subsidize our program, it becomes a matter of claims paid out versus premiums received. Some peo-

ple couldn't get in because of underwriting issues. Unfolding in 2004, we hope to provide a limited benefits program to get those folks in as well as their families."

Second, a wider range of deductibles and plans will be available, Hawkins said, with options to move from plan to plan.

"The deductibles will make a big difference in the premiums," he explained. "People who are paying a thousand dollars a month in premiums can choose a higher deductible and have their premiums decline by 40 to 50 percent."

Third, Hawkins said he has written letters to deacons in SBC churches, telling them the church needs to take responsibility for providing the best staff benefits they can. Churches also should provide benefits such as annuity and insurance separately from the minister's pay, he advised.

Churches that fail to provide adequately for their ministers leave those ministers to struggle in old age, he warned, noting that "our biggest heart-beat is our relief effort."

Hawkins also admonished Baptist ministers to take responsibility for the health insurance crisis by taking better care of themselves.

"Forty percent of the claims we paid out last year were due to preventable diseases," he said. "If we would get ourselves in physical shape by exercising and eating properly, it would be astronomical how we could reduce the rate of medical insurance."

### ANNUITY BOARD

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## SBC officers elected without opposition

PHOENIX—Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, was re-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention June 17 without opposition.

Graham won by one vote but it was the only vote that counted. With no other nominees, Registration Secretary James Wells was instructed to cast the vote on behalf of the messengers, giving Graham the traditional second term.

At the time of the election, 6,830 messengers had registered during the first day of the annual meeting.

Graham will serve this year with two Californians who were elected vice presidents without opposition.

Rob Zinn, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif., was elected first vice president. Zinn is pastor of the only church of which he has ever been a member. Zinn was a member, youth minister and associate pastor before becoming pastor of the 7,300-member church. He serves on the SBC Executive Committee and is a former trustee chairman at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California.

William Wagner, professor of evangelism and missions at Golden Gate Seminary, was elected second vice president.

Two other SBC officers were re-elected without opposition: Recording Secretary John Yeats, editor of the Baptist Messenger in Oklahoma City, and Registration Secretary James Wells, director of missions for Tri-County Baptist Association in Branson, Mo.

## Ziglar: Share Christ, claim victory, demonstrate love

By Karen Willoughby  
Baptist Press

PHOENIX (BP)—With his usual wit and style, acclaimed motivational speaker Zig Ziglar energized more than 7,000 messengers at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting at the Phoenix Civic Center.

Whether it be teaching Sunday school at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, or addressing an audience of salesmen, Ziglar said he's made a point to share the gospel in some fashion every time he speaks.

"Really all I do is paraphrase the Bible, throw in some funnies and tell some stories," said Ziglar, author of such books as "See You at the Top" and "Success and the Self Image." "God's Word even when paraphrased does not return void.

"From day one I have made it crystal clear where I was coming from," Ziglar said. "The reason I love

to follow the Great Commission is because this is our business. It's the last thing our Lord told us to do. We need to be out there telling people about Jesus Christ."

Christian people are on the winning side of the battle between good and evil, but they often act as though they are losing the battle, Ziglar noted.

"We need to let people see in us something different," Ziglar said. "We simply must understand we need to take Jesus with us everywhere we go."

Ziglar said personification of Jesus in a Christian is attractive to others. "How can you not love, admire and respect somebody who practices the Golden Rule, follows the Ten Commandments, who takes seriously what Christ said when He said you should love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and you should love your neighbor as yourself? And the fruit of the Spirit comes in there somewhere. How on earth could you not love somebody and follow somebody who is following those rules?"

Compared to sharing the gospel, "Everything else we do is bells and whistles," Ziglar said.

"People really want to hear the truth," he said. "They are starved for the truth, no question about it. We need to tell it with love, understanding and compassion, and build relationships along the way, particularly with those we are working with.

"Words alone may sometimes fail, so demonstrate to make the sale," Ziglar said, applying a sales motivation snippet he said he often uses. "Let your life be the witness to what the Bible is talking to us about."

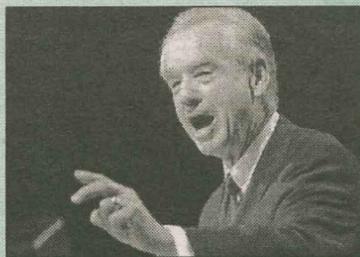
Ziglar said he generally bathes faith in humor. He spoke of an atheist father and son walking on the beach. The son says, "Dad, do you think God knows we don't believe in Him?"

No ethical business can survive unless it follows biblical principles, Ziglar said, noting that biblical principles work in every setting.

One way he witnesses is by a lapel pin he wears, the motivational speaker said. It's a fish outline with a number seven inside. When people ask him about it he tells them, "There are seven days in a week. They all belong to Jesus. I do not worship a part-time Lord, so I do not serve Him on a part-time basis."

Ziglar continually stressed the seriousness of Christians' calling to share Christ. "I have a tremendous sense of urgency right now," he said. "Our country is in crisis. ... We can't blame the government, politicians or the media. We've got to go out and follow the Great Commission.

"But understand, we have already won the war," Ziglar added. "We need to claim the victory."



**CLOSING ADDRESS** "Let your life be the witness to what the Bible is talking to us about," Zig Ziglar told messengers.

## Graham urges SBC to be salt & light

By Michael Clingenpeel  
Virginia Religious Herald

PHOENIX—President Jack Graham urged the Southern Baptist Convention to penetrate a decaying culture and illuminate a dark world rather than retreat into a subculture that makes no difference in the world.

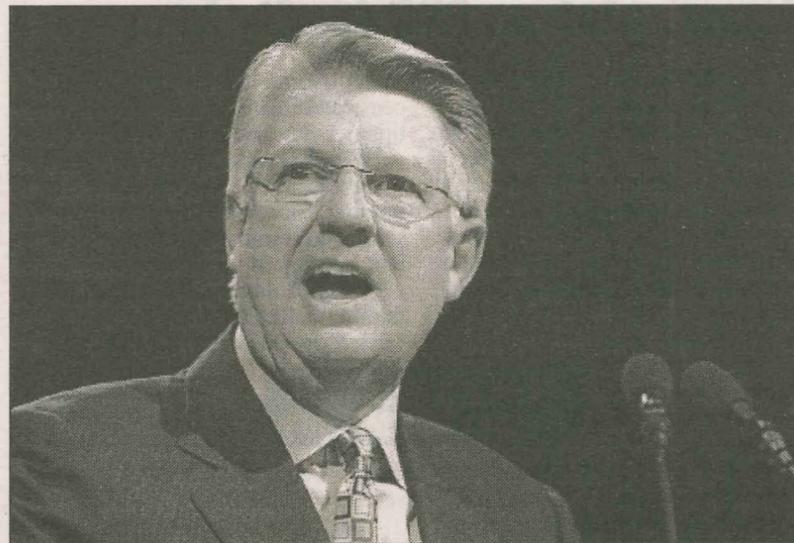
During his address to about 7,000 messengers and guests at the opening session of the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix, Graham asked his audience to make "Kingdom First" a way of life, not just the convention's theme.

"Our priority, our prayer, our purpose, our passion is exalting the King and expanding the Kingdom," said Graham, who delivered his 40-minute address based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Southern Baptists, said the Plano, Texas, pastor, must seize an opportunity to demonstrate God's Kingdom, not just define it.

The world is "a decaying, dark place," where man is "inventing new ways to demonstrate his sinful depravity," Graham warned. Recalling truths he learned as a Sunbeam, a former missions group popular in Southern Baptist churches, Graham said Southern Baptists can "engage our culture and maximize our influence" by becoming "salt and sunshine."

The president lamented the so little difference between how Christians live and how the world lives, citing a divorce rate among Christians that rivals divorce among non-believers. Southern Baptists cannot "retreat from the battle," he said.

Playing off Jesus' metaphor for disciples as "the salt of the earth," Graham invited the crowd to preserve, irritate and stimulate the culture rather than compromising or keeping the



**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS** "The world doesn't expect perfection in us, but they should expect consistency from us," Jack Graham told messengers.

gospel to themselves.

"Can you imagine the moral condition of our world without Bible-believing, Kingdom-living Christians?" he asked. In a veiled reference to the SBC's revision of the Baptist Faith & Message in 2000, he congratulated the convention for preaching Jesus' "salty truth without compromise."

Graham, pastor of the 21,000-member Prestonwood Baptist Church, also asked messengers to become lights in a dark world by being conspicuous, consistent, compelling and consumed in their witness. Believers walk the fine line between being "audio-visual for Jesus Christ" without "turning the spotlight on us."

"The world doesn't expect perfection in us, but they should expect consistency from us," said Graham, who cited the International Mission

Board's campaign to collect food for Iraqis, the ministry of Southern Baptist military chaplains during Gulf War II and the North American Mission Board's disaster relief teams in New York City following Sept. 11, 2001, as examples of ways "Southern Baptists are glowing for Jesus Christ."

Graham applauded the efforts of Southern Baptists in opposition of abortion and commended legislation outlawing "partial-birth abortion," which President Bush is expected to sign soon. But he said the best way to be light is "not to shout out the darkness, but to outlive the darkness."

The most important question Southern Baptists face, Graham said, is whether they will "shine and salt the culture in the extreme darkness and decay of our time" by becoming "companies of salt and light."

## Hawkins: Pluralism threatens Christian doctrine

By Charlie Warren  
Arkansas Baptist

PHOENIX—"God has raised up Southern Baptists to be a certain sound in our culture," O.S. Hawkins told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix.

"There is a war on truth and on the trustworthiness of the Word of God," Hawkins, president of the SBC Annuity Board, said during the convention sermon June 18. "If Southern Baptists don't make a certain sound in this culture, who will?"

Every epoch of Christian history has faced a different question, he said, and 21st century Christians face the biblical question asked by Jesus in Matthew 16:15, "Who do you say I am?"

First century Christians, Hawkins said, faced the question of John 13:38, "Will you lay down your life?" and many met a martyr's death.

Later Christians, he added, faced the question of Matthew 22:42, "What think ye of the Christ, whose Son is He?" The modern missionary movement brought the question of Luke 18:8, "When the Son returns, will He find faith on Earth?"

After that, Hawkins said, the influence of 20th century liberalism, plu-



**CONVENTION SERMON** "Had Paul been an inclusivist, he would have told the Philippian jailer he probably was saved already," O.S. Hawkins said.

ralism and inclusivism affected the church and raised the question of Luke 17:23, "Will you go away?"

Many mainstream denominations left the faith of their forefathers, he said, bowing instead to pluralism, inclusivism and political correctness.

"Now we minister in the 21st century," Hawkins said. "All seminarians about to embark on ministry will face the single most important question of our time, the question of Matthew 16:15, 'Who do you say that I am?'"

He identified two kinds of contemporary leaders:

"Those who lead by public consensus lead people to do what they want to do," Hawkins said. "Those who lead by personal conviction lead oth-

ers to do what they ought to do. ... Jesus knew the tendency we all would have to leave personal convictions for the convenience of public consensus."

He said Jesus' question of Matthew 16:13, "Who do men say I am?" is a question of public consensus, but the next question, "Who do you say that I am," is one of personal conviction.

"Some have pushed the mute button on the exclusivity of Jesus Christ," Hawkins said. "They say Jesus is not the only way to heaven. ... Had Paul been an inclusivist, he would have told the Philippian jailer he probably was saved already. Instead, he said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.'"

Pluralism threatens Christian doctrine, and inclusivism impacts Christian mission, Hawkins declared.

"Does anyone wonder about the need for the conservative resurgence and the need for a revised faith statement?" he asked, referencing the effort to move the SBC in a more conservative direction since 1979 and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

"Southern Baptists are unapologetically trying to Christianize America," he said. "Southern Baptists are leading the evangelical world today not by public consensus but by personal conviction. ... We are busy telling the world that Christ is the only way."

## Rally unveils 7 'pillars' for stronger families

PHOENIX—After three years of planning, the Southern Baptist Convention unveiled seven "pillars" leaders believe will strengthen American families.

A Kingdom Family Rally held June 16, on the eve of the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix, took a time slot normally given to the SBC Pastors' Conference. The rally attracted more than 4,000 participants, about half of whom remained through the nearly two-and-a-half-hour program.

An opening video portrayed the decline of the American family and described the SBC's attempt to reverse the trend.

In 2000, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman called for formation of a council on family life to develop a comprehensive strategy to "call families back to God."

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was named chairman. The council studied statistics related to American family life, brainstormed with people such as James Dobson of Focus on the Family and Dennis Rainey of Family Life Today and searched the Bible for texts relating to family issues.

Building on principles Elliff has used in his family counseling, the council developed a statement of Christian family principles called "The Seven Pillars of a Kingdom Family."

Elliff reviewed statistics describing sharp increases since 1960 in the rates of divorce, cohabitation and children born out of wedlock as evidence of a need for change in American families.

In a video presentation, James Dobson said the "anti-family" trend that began in the 1960s has peaked. Evidence of a shift toward pro-moral, pro-family values include the decline of favorable attitudes toward abortion and the growth of teens accepting sexual abstinence.

Rainey said his organization's research shows that fewer than 3 percent of Christian couples pray together. "I believe we could slash the divorce rate if we could just get husbands and wives to pray together every day."

The seven pillars introduced during the event are:

- Honor God's authority.
- Respect human life.
- Exercise moral purity.
- Serve the church.
- Use time wisely.
- Practice biblical stewardship.
- Share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Those attending the rally were encouraged to sign a covenant card declaring they will encourage their families to "build their lives" on the seven emphases.

## SBC resources offer a 'Way Out' for gays

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

PHOENIX (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention is asking its churches to begin "ministries of compassion" to homosexuals to encourage them to abandon the gay lifestyle.

The SBC's Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals, which reported its findings to the annual convention in Phoenix, said it identified 40 to 50 Southern Baptist churches that already have "intentional" ministries to homosexuals.

Likewise, many resources already exist to help homosexuals and churches that want to minister to them, task force members said. Several Web sites have been established to link interested Baptists to resources.

Jimmy Draper, a task force member, said the initiative is a first step. "We are trying to get churches to get a heart for this, and the resources are there if they will do that," said Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

While encouraging compassion and grace, task force members concede the new initiative will not likely silence critics who accuse the SBC of gay bashing because of its insistence that homosexuality is a sin. Protesters from Soulforce, a pro-gay group, rallied outside the Phoenix Civic Plaza earlier during the convention.

"My guess is they will continue to say we are anti-gay because we ... say that the lifestyle they are living is inconsistent with the gospel," said Richard Land, a task force member and president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

## Graham talks to media about homosexuals, BWA

PHOENIX (ABP)—Homosexuals are able to change and leave the gay lifestyle, Jack Graham told reporters soon after his re-election as Southern Baptist Convention president.

Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in suburban Dallas, threw his support behind a new SBC emphasis to convince homosexuals to become heterosexual.

"We do not believe a person is captured by a lifestyle that does not please God," Graham said during a press conference at the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

This year's convention emphasized a "biblical view" of the family, which Graham and others said does not include homosexuality.

Southern Baptists "oppose the homosexual lifestyle" but want "lovingly" to persuade gays to change, Graham said. "We want every person to know that Jesus loves them and that the message of the gospel is for every person."

Graham and other speakers held up a traditional view of the family as the answer to multiple social problems.

"I believe (the breakdown of) the family is the greatest social issue of our time," Graham said. Broken families are a problem both inside and outside the church, he added.

He noted the elevated importance of the family in the recently revised Baptist Faith & Message. While the doctrinal statement takes no position

Task force members insist gays can abandon homosexuality by the power of God.

But Brenda Moulton, coordinator of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, told Associated Baptist Press that programs to help gays leave the lifestyle "are hurtful to the gay individual."

"If one believes that sexual orientation or gender orientation is part of the diversity of God's creation, then to try to change that would be hurtful," she said in a telephone interview.

Moulton said the American Psychological Association says "ex-gay reparative therapies," such as those proposed by the task force, not only can be harmful but don't work. Moulton said she herself tried to change her homosexual orientation. "I didn't feel as close to God as I did when I finally came to terms with my sexuality and accepted it as part of God's creation."

### 'Hard to leave this lifestyle'

Land, who served as pastor of a church near the French Quarter in New Orleans in the 1970s, said "a third to a half" of the church's members were former homosexuals. "It is hard to leave this lifestyle," he said.

"I have found it to be one of the loneliest, one of the saddest, lifestyles that I've had the misfortune to observe," he added. "I felt nothing but compassion and sadness for people who found themselves in this lifestyle."

Tim Wilkins, another task force member, is a former homosexual who said God's power enabled him to abandon homosexuality. "I did not consciously choose to have same-sex



attraction but I did choose to give in to it," said Wilkins, founding director of Cross Ministry, a North Carolina-based ministry to homosexuals.

When he was involved in homosexuality, Wilkins said, if someone had suggested he would one day be married, he would have laughed. After deciding to leave the homosexual lifestyle as a matter of Christian obedience, he said, he later experienced "a dramatic change" at age 33 and developed an attraction to women. He now has a wife and two daughters.

"There is no such thing as a gay Christian," Wilkins said. At least one task force member disagreed with that assertion.

"Neither I nor the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission believe it is impossible to be a homosexual and a Christian," Land said. But as with Christian racists, Land said, it is impossible to be gay and live a life consistent with the gospel.

Task force members tried to distance Southern Baptists from anti-gay groups that preach hate. "That is nauseating to me," said Draper, who suggested Southern Baptists should apologize to gays who have been the targets of hate.

For more information, visit [www.lifeway.com/thewayout](http://www.lifeway.com/thewayout).

**TASK FORCE** Members of the SBC's Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals talk about their report during a press conference. "We are trying to get churches to get a heart for this," said Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

he said. "Southern Baptists will do everything we can, with integrity to our own denomination and in stewardship of our own funds, to make this work.

"I think we'll know more after this year as to where we stand," he added.

Graham also said he is not concerned about the rise of five-point Calvinist doctrine among SBC seminary professors and students. "I believe we have a healthy balance among various views," he said. "I am confident that our Baptist Faith & Message encompasses both streams on that issue."

But he added he would not want to see Southern Baptists embrace "an elitist doctrine" or to minimize the importance of evangelism, which are common criticisms of five-point Calvinism. Fully developed Calvinism teaches that God has predestined only some people for salvation, thereby also condemning all others to hell from the start.

Graham also said he is not worried about the future of missions in the SBC despite a funding shortfall at the International Mission Board. He said the shortfall was due to the economic downturn and added the mission agency had suffered only "a small fallout" from its decision to require missionaries to sign the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. "I have a great deal of confidence in our International Mission Board," he said.



**"We do not believe a person is captured by a lifestyle that does not please God."**

SBC President  
Jack Graham

## Jerry Vines gives media 'what you came for'

PHOENIX—Just in case America didn't hear him the first time, Jerry Vines made a point of speaking clearly at this year's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference: "All religions are not the same. All religions are not equally true."

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, drew the ire of Muslims and others when at last year's Pastors' Conference he called the founder of Islam a "demon-possessed pedophile" as he marched toward declaring that Christianity is superior to Islam.

That led to a later segment aired on the "NBC Nightly News" in which anchor Tom Brokaw described Vines as "preaching hate."

Speaking in Phoenix this year, Vines acknowledged the media waiting to hear whether he would address the topic again. He didn't disappoint, although he did not speak specifically of Islam.

"I'm going to give all you media what you came for, and I'm going to say it slowly, so that even Tom Brokaw can get it," he said to a round of applause. "All religions are not the same. All religions are not equally true. There is no other name under heaven given to men whereby we must be saved except the name of Jesus."

In a conference organized around a family emphasis, Vines preached on the Old Testament prophet Enoch, whom Scripture says "walked with God."

He urged pastors to "walk on" and live "in step with God," continually preaching the Bible rather than sugar-coating the truth.

## SBC Pastors' Conference adopts 'Kingdom Family' theme

PHOENIX—"Kingdom families" captured the spotlight of the 2003 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which started on Father's Day.

Headlining the two-day meeting, June 15-16 in Phoenix, was the first-ever Southern Baptist Convention Kingdom Family Rally held during the closing session June 16.

Leading up to the Monday evening rally, many conference speakers focused their sermons around the family theme.

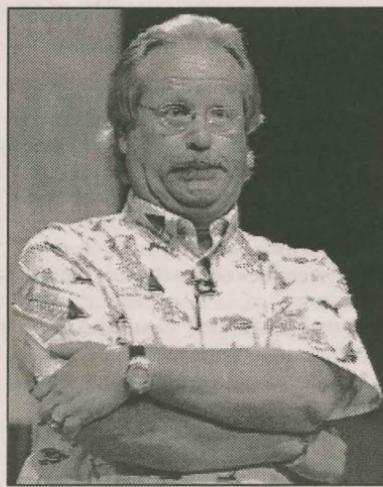
**Adrian Rogers**, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, and a perennial Pastors' Conference speaker, said Satan is attacking American families.

"Satan is a home-wrecker," the former SBC president said. "He knows if he can hurt us at home, he knows he will hurt us all over."

In contrast, he said, "Jesus Christ is the greatest home builder. He built the first home in the garden of Eden. He is now building us a heavenly home. He builds church homes, and He also builds family homes."

Evangelist **Hank Williams** listed what he called the biblical priorities of a minister—God, family and church.

But many ministers struggle to maintain these priorities, he added. "If you don't have a family, you don't have a ministry," he warned. And if pastors can't manage their own family, "you have no business managing the church and the people of God," he added.



**LIGHTEN UP** Telling funny stories from his family, humorist Dennis Swanberg challenged those attending the SBC Pastors' Conference to live with laughter, love and without limits. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

**Howard Hendricks** of Dallas Theological Seminary drew from Nehemiah 3 to offer three characteristics of winning teams in marriages and families: members must be totally cooperative, completely organized and successfully competing for a single objective, he explained.

Christian apologist **Josh McDowell** cautioned parents of temptations facing their children—particularly temptations to believe non-Christian doctrine.

"We are losing our kids not because they are not hearing the truth, but because we are not building rela-

tionships with them," he exclaimed.

Parents must "help kids become so convinced that Christianity is the truth they will take a stand regardless of the consequences," McDowell said. "If we don't, we have failed this generation."

**Chip Roberson**, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Va., warned pastors about the dangers of letting the flesh rule. Preaching from Ecclesiastes 10:1 and 1 Samuel 25, Roberson said, "When you let the power of the flesh overlord the power of God's Spirit, you are in danger."

A minister can spend years doing the right things, but it can all be thrown away by one bad decision such as looking at Internet pornography, he warned.

**Johnny Hunt**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., pleaded for Baptist families to increase their financial support of the SBC's International Mission Board. "It is time for the Southern Baptist Convention to rise up and say, 'We believe in missions.'"

**Ergun Caner**, assistant professor at Criswell College in Dallas, addressed political correctness and its impact on the church. Political correctness has shaped the church's teaching on God and gender, Caner

said, causing many Christians to miss the point.

"God is not male in relation to His gender," the professor asserted. "God is Father in relation to His children. This is a theological issue, not a biological issue. To remove God as Father robs us of our divine rights as His children."

Away from the convention hall, ministers took advantage of a free family counseling service organized by Pastors' Conference President Mac Brunson of Dallas.

"We know pastors are experiencing difficult days," Brunson said as he urged participants to take advantage of the counseling. "If Satan can cause our families to fall, he will affect a church for a generation."

New officers for the 2004 Pastors' Conference were elected without opposition: President Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla.; Vice President Bryan Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Van Buren, Ark.; Secretary Hal Kitchings, pastor of First Baptist Church of Eustis, Fla.

Compiled from reports by Stella Prather of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Jennifer Rash of the Alabama Baptist and Stacey Hamby of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

### The camp season is upon us

With Cedarmore's three campuses and Jonathan Creek campus all in full operation, we are serving more than 1,000 people per week. Your prayers are appreciated, and your continued prayers are needed as the summer progresses.

At Cedarmore, the Mission Adventure Camps at RaBro and Cedarcrest will embark on their first week of camp and week two of the Discovery coded camps will hit the ground running with a sold-out campus!

From year to year, the pre-summer air here is filled with a sense of eager anticipation as we prepare for the camping season. The pace is quick, the hours long, but the excitement of camp is evident when the first bus disembarks at the office to register. The vehicles roll onto the property with kids hanging out of the windows shouting with the same enthusiastic expectation of what camp will hold for them.

We would like to extend a hardy thanks to the program leadership on all three Cedarmore campuses for all of their hard work and their commitment to the youth. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve our Lord in such a vital role. Even though our staff isn't directly involved with Bible studies or leading worship, we are every bit as much a part of how God uses this

property to impact His Kingdom.

At Jonathan Creek, we already have seen many first-time decisions for Christ in addition to commitments and calls to full-time ministry work. God is good and faithful to bless that which we have committed to Him (Proverbs 16:3). Being a witness to kids standing in proclamation of their new Lord

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES

cannot be expressed in words. It is absolutely amazing to see kids stand literally all over the worship center to claim Jesus as Lord. God has blessed us in so many ways, most apparently in the fact that the A.M. Johnson Worship Center (15 months new) is standing-room-only in worship. To God be the glory for what He has done. We are simply called to bear testimony to Him and His work.

This summer has just begun, but as you read this, the season will be almost half over. It is amazing to be allowed the opportunity to participate in a ministry like camping. May we be faithful with the campers God sends to our properties.

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



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## Changes coming to food round-up

Summertime means plans are already under way for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's annual food round-up. Things will be a tad different this year, though, as we try to lighten your load.

For years, Kentucky's Baptist churches have spent the early part of October collecting canned goods and other food items for our residential facilities across the state. You've packed peanut butter, crated cases of canned corn and hauled a host of other veggies to our campuses to make sure the kids in our care don't go without the basics.

You never fail to meet the kids' needs.

But those needs are changing, and our food round-up program is changing with them. This year we're asking our supporters to provide grocery gift cards instead of donating canned goods. And for good reason. KBHC's residential campuses are smaller these days, with limited storage space. And for our foster homes, which is where a majority of kids in our care live, space is an even bigger issue.

Grocery store gift cards—from places such as Kroger, Winn-Dixie, Wal-Mart, Meijer or Target—are great ways to help KBHC without

overloading our storage facilities. It'll also be a lot easier on your backs!

The cards allow us a lot more versatility, too; our programs and foster families can use the gift cards throughout the year to purchase exactly what they need in manageable amounts, including perishable items such as meat, dairy and produce. Gift cards also make it easy for KBHC's staff to purchase personal items for the kids, including shampoo, toothpaste, shaving supplies, acne preparations, etc.

Will we stop accepting donations of canned goods or other food items? Of course not. KBHC welcomes any and all donations. Gift cards simply make the process easier for you and our programs.

We'll be at most of the usual spots picking up food, and hopefully a lot of gift cards, this fall.

For a complete list of most-needed items and this year's food drop-off points, visit [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org) or call (800) 456-1386.

## HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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

## Outstanding seniors

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's Honors Day convocation, we present an award to a male senior and a female senior who have demonstrated outstanding leadership on campus and who will continue to be leaders in their community.

Michelle Helton, daughter of Sidney and Faith Helton of Wallins, received the Gorman Jones Campus Leadership Award. Helton has distinguished herself academically through membership in the mathematics honor society Kappa Mu Epsilon and the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta.

During her time at Cumberland College, Helton served as a resident assistant, a student life assistant and secretary-treasurer of Cumberland's chapter of the Kentucky Education Association. She has ministered to children through Appalachian Ministries as a team leader and student coordinator and has participated in summer missions and revival teams.

Helton graduated this May with a degree in education. She will pursue her master's degree at Cumberland College this coming year while she serves as a residence hall director.

Jeremiah Tudor, son of Roy and Debbie Tudor of Georgetown, received the T.J. Roberts Campus Leadership Award. Tudor, who graduated with a degree in vocal music and a minor in theatre, has appeared on stage as a singer and actor in many Cumberland College productions, including "The Mikado," "Oklahoma" and "The Sound of Music."

For two years, Tudor served as president of the chamber choir and for four years sang with the Cumberland College chorale. He also performed with a variety of other student groups such as Saved by Grace, One Voice and Sacred Vision. He also served in summer missions in South Carolina and New Orleans.

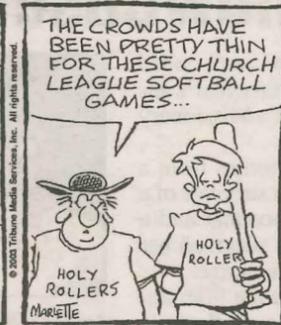
Helton and Tudor have provided leadership on the Cumberland College campus and in the local church. We know they will continue to provide leadership and service for Christ throughout their lives and we pray God's blessing upon them.

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

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

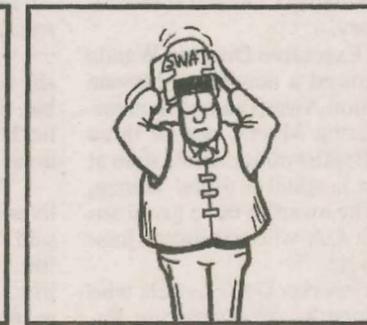


## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## Church of the Covered Dish



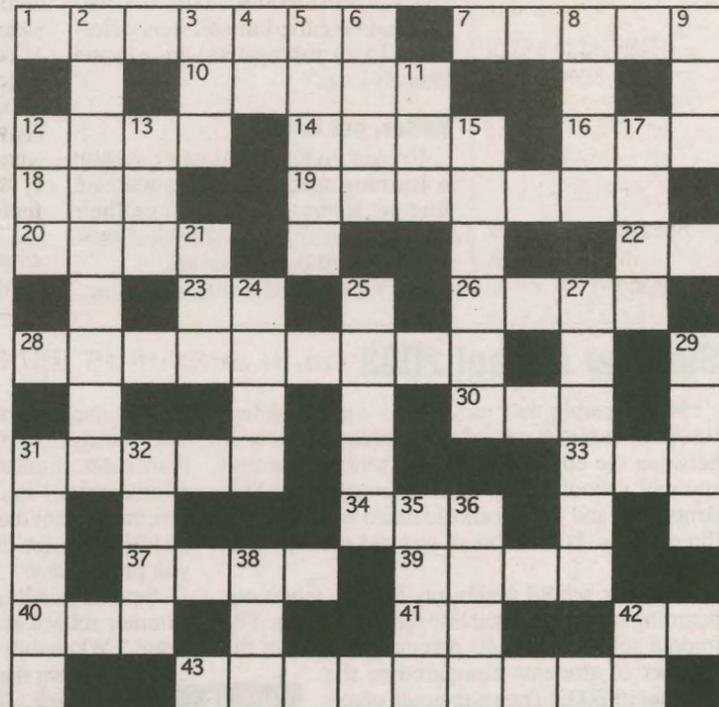
Thom Tapp

## Bible Crossword

Michael Landi

### Across

- 1 Sister of David (1 Chronicles 2:15-16)
- 7 "Unto ten virgins which took their \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 25:1)
- 10 City of Asher (Joshua 19:30)
- 12 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord" (Proverbs 9:10)
- 14 "So let it be" (Matthew 6:13)
- 16 "\_\_\_\_\_ no man any thing" (Matthew 13:8)
- 18 Acted as both judge and high priest in Israel (1 Samuel 1:9)
- 19 "\_\_\_\_\_, yet regarded as imposters" (2 Corinthians 6:8 NIV)
- 20 A priest who returned from Babylon to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 12:1)
- 22 David's book, abbr.
- 23 Physician, abbr.
- 26 "\_\_\_\_\_ their swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4)
- 28 "For \_\_\_\_\_ to the faith among all nations, for his name" (Romans 1:5)
- 30 Loyal member of David's court (1 Kings 1:8)
- 31 "He threw him into the \_\_\_\_\_" (Revelation 20:3 NIV)
- 33 Last book of the Bible, abbr.
- 34 "Upon the tip of the right \_\_\_\_\_ of Aaron" (Exodus 29:20)
- 37 "Yet have I set my \_\_\_\_\_ upon my holy hill" (Psalm 2:6)
- 39 "Turned about with a very small \_\_\_\_\_, whithersoever the governor listeth" (James 3:4)
- 40 Light of the body (Matthew 6:22)

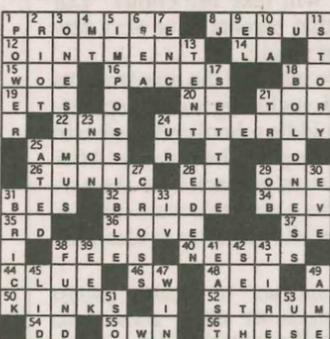


- 41 Associate in Arts, abbr.
- 42 "Thou shalt not muzzle the \_\_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 25:4)
- 43 "\_\_\_\_\_ block" (Romans 14:13)

### Down

- 2 "If they have called the master of the house \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 10:25)
- 3 When King Ahaziah fled from Judah he went here (2 Kings 9:27)
- 4 "I \_\_\_\_\_ Alpha and Omega" (Revelation 1:8)
- 5 "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great \_\_\_\_\_" (Daniel 2:31)
- 6 "Then shall the \_\_\_\_\_ man leap as an hart" (Isaiah 35:6)
- 8 "The sun and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the eleven stars" (Genesis 37:9)
- 9 "I was blind, now I \_\_\_\_\_" (John 9:25)
- 11 Son of Zephaniah (Zechariah 6:14)
- 12 "Every prostitute receives a \_\_\_\_\_" (Ezekiel 16:33 NIV)
- 13 "Not as one that beateth the \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 9:26)
- 15 "More in \_\_\_\_\_ than the sand" (Psalm 139:18)
- 17 "Peter went out, and \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 22:62)
- 21 "Shall not \_\_\_\_\_ unto the word" (Deuteronomy 4:2)
- 24 "A second, like to a bear, ... and it had three \_\_\_\_\_ in its mouth" (Daniel 7:5)
- 25 "They will lick dust like a \_\_\_\_\_" (Micah 7:17 NIV)
- 27 Firstborn of Hiel (1 Kings 16:34)
- 29 Son of Alphaeus (Mark 2:14)
- 31 "Satan himself is transformed into an \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- 32 "Thy father made our \_\_\_\_\_ grievous" (1 Kings 12:4)
- 35 Son of Omri and seventh king of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 16:29)
- 36 "For my flesh is \_\_\_\_\_ food" (John 6:55 NIV)
- 38 "In vain the \_\_\_\_\_ is spread" (Proverbs 1:17)
- 42 Amorite king of Bashan (Deuteronomy 31:4)

### Last week's solution



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## WEMU showcases survivors during annual meeting

**"On Aug. 1, we plan to go back to Yemen."**

*Missionary Teri Caswell, whose husband, Don, was shot last year*

PHOENIX—"Survivor" could have been the theme of this year's annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union.

Women heard testimonies from a breast cancer survivor, a survivor of a shooting in a mission hospital and a former missionary who survived her husband's death at a young age.

They also celebrated the 90th anniversary of Girls in Action, the mission organization for pre-teen girls, and re-elected Janet Hoffman as president and Yolanda Calderon as recording secretary.

WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee announced a new GA Alumnae of Distinction Award named in memory of Martha Myers, one of three Southern Baptist missionaries slain at the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen, Dec. 30. The award will be given annually to a GA who exhibits a missions lifestyle.

Mission worker Don Caswell, who was wounded by the gunman in Yemen, and his wife, Teri, testified of their call to return to Yemen.

"On Aug. 1, we plan to go back to Yemen," Mrs. Caswell said. "By His grace and mercy, we will stand. God will walk us through. He has proven Himself to us."

### 'Better, not bitter'

Brenda Ladun, a TV news anchor in Birmingham, Ala., and author of "Getting Better, Not Bitter," said the day she learned she had breast cancer was the worst day of her life.

But God turned it into a blessing,



**ANNUAL REPORT** WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee (right) and President Janet Hoffman present the agency's report June 17 to messengers at the SBC annual meeting. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

she added. God used cancer, "a terrible, despicable thing," to bring her to her knees, thanking God for all He had done in her life.

"The only thing we need in our lives is the Lord Jesus Christ," Ladun said. "God took the worst day of my life and made it the best day of my life. I learned I'm not in control anymore. God is in control."

Christina Beatty Olson, whose missionary husband, Charles, addressed the SBC annual two years ago before dying of cancer, said God likes happy endings.

After the pain and grief of losing her husband, she was not looking for a happy ending, she admitted. But God placed in her path a missionary whose wife had died.

"With all the pain we had both experienced, God gave each of us someone who truly understood," she said.

They married in December, blending their eight children into a new fam-

ily. Now, they believe God has called them to return to North Africa and the Middle East as missionaries.

"God's goal is not about making us happy," she said. "It is not about us. It's about Him. His plan, through our pain and our sorrow and our joy, is to see people all around the world come to know him. His plan is to bring glory to Himself."

### God's calling

Testimonies included missionary Lucy Driggers, who serves in West Africa, tracing her pilgrimage from her call to missions at age 12 through various places of service. "Don't park your car beside the road," she said.

"Keep going down that winding road" with God.

In her address, WMU President Janet Hoffman recounted the calls of Samuel, Saul and Moses to illustrate both the differences and similarities in God's call to different people.

God's call comes in different places and in different ways, she said, noting that call is always unique and is "empowered by His Spirit."

"God is calling," she said. "While the souls of men are dying, the Master calls for you."

*Compiled from reporting by Charlie Warren of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, John Loudat of the Baptist New Mexican and Bill Webb of the Missouri Word & Way*

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

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## Summer school 2003

Is it possible that we already have had two weeks of summer school? The three-week break between the end of the regular school year and summer school seems to have evaporated. Students, staff and volunteers did much work in those three weeks, but the break just did not last long enough.

Summer school began on June 8, when our boarding students moved into the dormitories. The middle school had a 40 percent increase in the number of students compared to the summer of 2002. The sixth grade classes had the highest number of students in the middle school. The high school had a 10 percent increase compared to summer school last year. Overall, our summer school had an increase of about 20 percent over last summer.

On the first day of summer school, we had 41 new students. The increase of 40 percent in our middle school means we have a lot of younger students this summer. With one or two exceptions, all the sixth graders are 11 years old. Can you imagine the emotions of an 11-year-old as he or she packs to leave home for the summer? Consider their feelings as they move into a dormitory room with three other students they have never met before. I have seen very few homesick students this past week, but that does not mean next week will be as calm. Normally, there are one or two students sobbing in my office every day the first week or so. They assure me that they are *not* homesick; they just want to go home. As emotionally challenging as it is for an 11-year-old to be away from home, normally by the end of the second week most of the students have settled in and are finding lots of things to occupy their time.

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

It is also a tremendous challenge for our staff. The younger children need much more attention than older students normally do. Teaching our middle school students how to do laundry, convincing them of the need to keep their rooms clean and making sure that they shower daily can keep you pretty busy.

Several middle school students have described summer school as "kinda like going to summer camp." When they make that statement, I remind them that summer camp usually lasts a week, and summer school lasts a lot longer. They normally smile and tell me they know that. However, when they get a little homesick, they begin to understand that six weeks of summer school is a lot longer than five days of summer camp.

You would not believe the number of calls we receive from parents wanting to enroll students much younger than 11. Parents are often disappointed when we tell them that we do not take students below the sixth grade. The next question is always, "Do you know of a school that will take my child?" Our

experience indicates that parents have very few options for a child that young.

All this week, I have watched the new students go about their routines, including work responsibilities. If you have a middle school child, ask him or her to vacuum the carpet. Then watch. After you have a laugh, you can go back over the carpet yourself to get all the places that were missed. Better yet, tell your middle schooler to clean the bathroom!

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

## Providing shelter for the homeless

The Clear Creek faculty recognized 1989 alumnus Richard Witherite during our graduation ceremony with membership in Delta Epsilon Chi, the honor society of Bible college graduates. "I was certainly surprised and humbled," Witherite said. Recipients must exhibit "outstanding intellectual achievement, Christian character and leadership ability."

Witherite became director of Interfaith of Bell County in 1991. The agency started as a result of the 1977 flood to meet the needs of flood victims. The founding churches saw the need to continue an organization for united ministry and incorporated in 1978.

Interfaith works with people in all of Bell County and the ministry extends into the Kentucky counties of Harlan and Clay; Claiborne County, Tenn.; and Lee County, Va.

The primary emphasis for Interfaith is on the homeless, he said. Does Bell County have a homeless problem? "We don't have many of the street people," Witherite observed. "Our homeless are displaced families because of eviction, or they can't make rent payments. Overcrowded housing also exists; an argument erupts and the next

thing a family is on the street. We are seeing an increase in domestic violence incidents."

The Interfaith shelter opened April 1, 2001, and in two years has helped 254 people, 94 families and 64 children under age 18.

Volunteers help staff the shelter and the Interfaith Thrift Store, located on Kentucky Avenue. The store sells used clothing and merchandise with the proceeds supporting Interfaith.

Witherite described other programs, as funds are available. "We can help those facing a utilities disconnect notice, some assistance with cost of medications, transportation to physicians, transient assistance and comprehensive case management to help locate other resources," he said. A

food pantry provides food for shelter residents.

Interfaith hopes the federal faith-based initiative will help them develop a tenant-based rental program to help with utilities and first-month rent deposit. "At Interfaith, we are fulfilling Jesus' command to help the least of His creation. And doing that, we are ministering unto Him," Witherite said.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Crossover Phoenix

*SBC evangelism emphasis exposes city & volunteers to missions work*

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

PHOENIX (BP)—Water is a big issue in the Valley of the Sun, an area known for its dry, hot climate.

So when several thousand Southern Baptists shared the Living Water of Jesus Christ as part of Crossover Arizona, it made perfect sense to douse their message with the conventional hydrating variety.

"Would you like some water? It's free, and it's cold—I promise you," said Clyde Besson, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Phoenix, as hikers came off nearby Camelback Mountain early June 14.

"Has this bottle been blessed?" quipped one hiker as she grabbed a bottle.

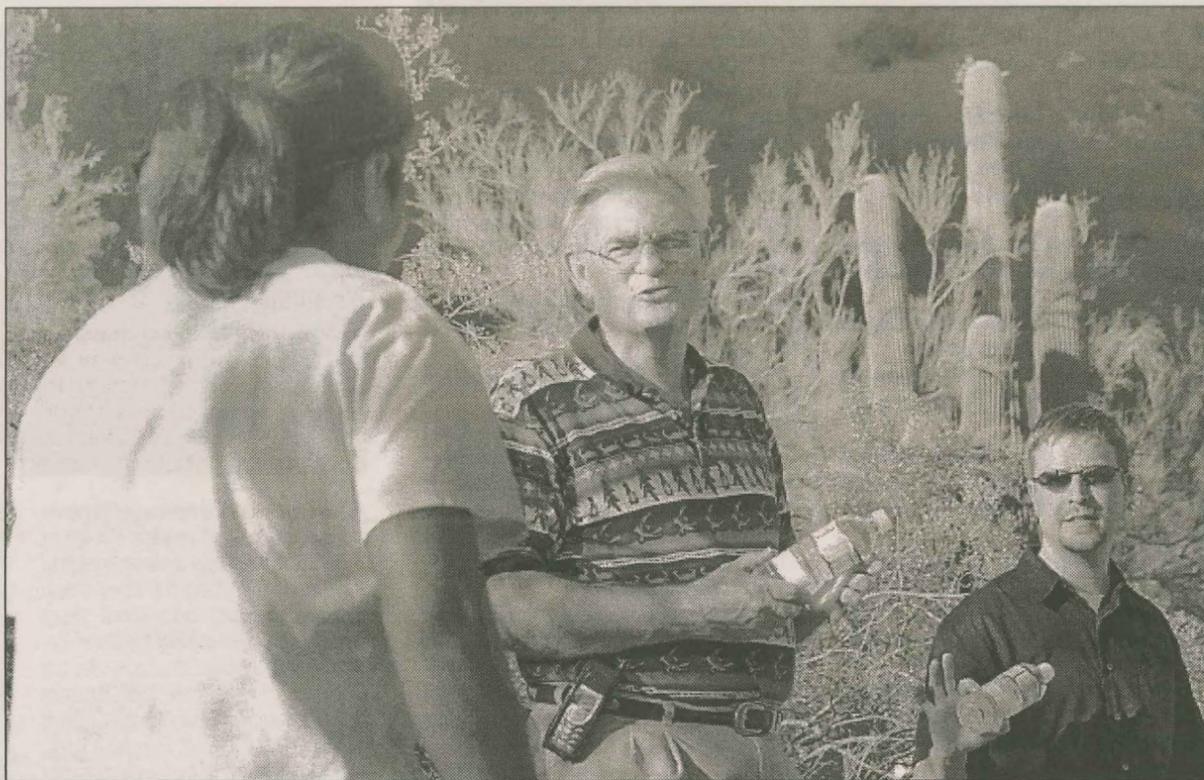
Volunteers bestowed such blessings on more than 300 hikers. Each bottle was marked with the church's name and the text of John 4:14, in which Christ promises, "Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst again."

The water giveaway was one of 62 events scheduled for a June 11-22 Crossover evangelism effort involving 42 Arizona churches. Approximately 990 people made spiritual commitments to Christ.

### Helping churches

Various "compassion in action" events touched skate parks, a shopping mall and other venues, while block parties offered free food and fun in neighborhoods throughout the region. Other volunteers shared Christ door-to-door as opportunities arose during spiritual opinion surveys.

"It's mainly a way of building bridges to the community, but also out of it we had a couple of oppor-



**LIVING WATER** Clyde Besson (center), pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Phoenix, hands out a free bottle of chilled water to one of many hikers attracted to Camelback Mountain's trails outside Phoenix. The "compassion in action" ministry was coordinated by Mountain View Baptist Church and was one of many events comprising Crossover Arizona. The annual Crossover evangelism project is held the weekend before the SBC annual meeting in the host city's metropolitan area. (BP photos by Bob Carey)

tunities to share," Besson said of the bottled water outreach.

The "living water" analogy also was part of an evangelistic television advertising campaign airing in Phoenix June 12-20.

"We're excited," said Jerry Martin, coordinator of Crossover Arizona and director of missions for the local Valley Rim Baptist Association. "Brown Road Baptist Church (in Mesa) had their first block party, and they had 25 professions of faith."

A Crossover emphasis is held each year on the weekend before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. This year churches in other parts of the state also sponsored events June 21 in partnership with participating Phoenix-area churches.

Prayerwalking was critical to many of the Crossover events. Some churches prayed over communities before the out-of-state volunteers came to town, while others used incoming volunteers to pray for individual homes.

### Kentucky connection

At Wellspring Baptist Church in Chandler, a group of national Challengers and Acteens leaders found a variety of responses in a neighborhood outreach.

"We had a good conversation with a woman who was out of church and looking to get back into church and was looking to get her children and grandchildren back in church. And that was neat," said Amanda Warden of Russellville, Ky.

Malcolm Cheek, director of missions for Pulaski Baptist Association, and his wife, Barbara, also were among Kentucky Baptist volunteers taking part in Crossover projects.

Cheek, a member of Buena Vista Baptist Church in Somerset, led revival services for First Baptist Church of Tombstone, Ariz., on Thursday through Sunday after last week's SBC annual meeting.

Participating for the second year in Crossover, Cheek said one of his goals was to provide encouragement to the pastor and his wife of the small Arizona congregation.

"In Arizona, where Southern Baptists are not as prominent as they are in our neck of the woods, Crossover is a means of strengthening and encouraging churches as well as the possibility of new church starts," he explained. "I'm hoping God will do a God-sized thing there and there will be a revival and not just a series of meetings."

Block parties also remained a mainstay of Crossover, blending multiple evangelistic opportunities around

free food, carnival games and entertainment in city parks.

In northern Phoenix, a party sponsored by Love Baptist Church offered vacation Bible school registration and an opportunity to get to know families visited earlier by survey teams.

Pastor Dan Coker said 10 individuals made professions of faith during the visits, and about 100 expressed an interest in learning more about the church.

The engine for all of the events was an army of about 1,200 out-of-state volunteers.

B.P. Nachtigall, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Pampa, Texas, said his group drove more than 800 miles to participate in a Crossover block party.

"The people that have been involved in the past have found this is something we can do, and we've really enjoyed it," he said.

### Teaching opportunities

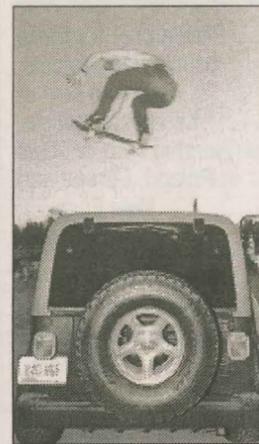
Others noted that Crossover events help them introduce their children to missions involvement.

"I brought my 12-year-old daughter, and the Lord just spoke to my heart about getting her involved," said Justine Browning, a member of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Las Vegas. "And I thought it would be nice for us to do it together as a team."

And on the trail down from Camelback Mountain, Beth and Larry Robertson of Hilldale Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tenn., were joined by their two daughters in handing out cold water on the hot trails.

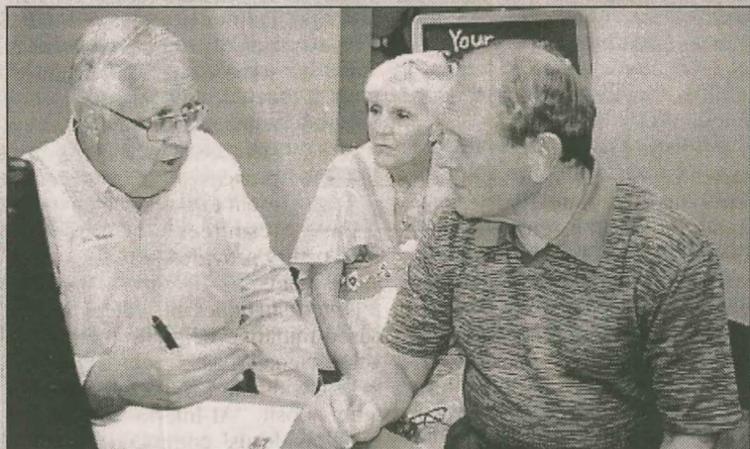
"They're a little young to do the door-to-door evangelism," Beth Robertson said, "so we thought this was a good way to get the whole family involved."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson



**SKATEBOARDING FOR JESUS** Luke Braddock of Santa Cruz, Calif., was one of five professional Christian skateboarders at a demonstration June 14 at Hamilton High School in Chandler, Ariz. First Baptist Church of Chandler sponsored the event.

## Annuity analysis



Don Spencer (left), director of the Kentucky Baptist annuity department, reviews financial information at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board booth with Lonnie and Bill Day of Birmingham, Ala. Day is former pastor of DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church in La Grange.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Eleven German adults who soon will be baptized in the Baptist church in Cham, Germany.

■ Follow-up to the city-wide revival led by Tennessee Baptist volunteers in Strassfurt, Germany, on June 1-13.

■ Follow-up to the ministry of American volunteers who led church growth seminars, prayerwalked and distributed Scripture in Liege, Belgium, on June 6-14.

■ Katya, a university student in Khabarovsk, Russia, who has invited fellow students to her home to watch Christian films.

■ Kyle Zuber, a summer missionary working on Malta.

■ Follow-up with the 500 students who attended a youth rally in Wroclaw, Poland, in May.

■ Direction for St. Petersburg Immanuel Baptist Church in Russia. The congregation, which has been without a pastor for more than two years, stopped meeting in May. A few of the members now are meeting in homes for Bible study.

■ Baptist workers in Italy request prayer that the less than 1 percent of the Italian population who are evangelicals will have "a hunger and thirst to know the Father personally, whatever the denomination."

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church called **Mark Williams** as summer youth intern.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Hillview Church called **Todd Phelps** as pastor.

White Stone Quarry Church recently called **Michael Welch** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—**Archie Brock** resigned as pastor of Locust Grove Church effective July 13.

■ **CALVERT CITY**—First Church called **Bruce Watts** as pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Decoursey Church called **Calvin Perry** as interim pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—**Bobby Allen** recently resigned as pastor of Centerfield Church. **Bill Jagers** is interim pastor.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church recently honored **Don Phillips** and wife, **Janis**, on his 30th anniversary as minister of music. **Bob Sutton** is pastor.

■ **LA GRANGE**—Eighteen Mile Church called **Tony Wolfenbarger** as associate pastor. **Cory Williams**, a student at Southern Seminary, is serving as a semester intern.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Chevy Chase Church called **Ellen Burt** as minister of music effective June 11. **Jim McKenzie** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host "Naomi and the Segos" in concert June 29, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218.

**Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Midlane Park Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary June 29. For more information, call (502) 491-7966. **Gary Bozarth** is pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—First Church recently called **Bill Thomas** as minister of music. He previously was minister of music at First Church of Hodgenville.

■ **MAYFIELD**—**Bob Swift**, pastor of First Church, celebrated 30 years of ministry June 1.

New Vision Church recently called **Bob Dowdy** as interim pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church recently honored **Steve Florence** for five years as minister of music.

■ **MOUTHCARD**—Mouth Card Church called **Ken Davidson** as pastor effective June 10.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Bellevue Church will present "Judgement House, Tour Your Final Destination," July 13-19. For information, call **Morgan Owen** at (270) 685-5103. **Greg Fauls** is pastor.

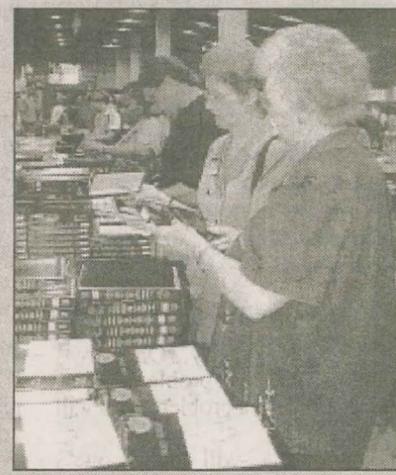
### What's going on?

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

## SBC fellowship



Approximately 420 Kentucky Baptists registered for last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix. Visiting the convention exhibit hall and bookstore were among activities during the June 17-18 event. ■ Above: Kentucky Baptist Convention President Paul Badgett (right), pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, visits with Hershael York, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. ■ Right: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union staff members Anna Mary Byrdwell (right) and Brenda Price browse at the SBC's LifeWay bookstore. (Photos by Trennis Henderson)



## 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.

**NEEDED:** Church van. Pine Knot Southern Baptist Church is looking to purchase a 12-passenger van. PO Box 327, Pine Knot, KY 42635, or call (606) 354-2720.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (paid position; grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Brent Highfil, or call (270) 965-2149. turnerchandler@hotmail.com.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister for established and growing youth program. Please send resumé with references to: Search Committee, Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420.

**SEEKING:** Broadway Baptist Church, a CBF affiliate in Louisville, Ky., is seeking an experienced minister of adult education and discipleship with an emphasis in developing small-group ministries and outreach. For more information, go to www.broadwaybaptist.org/search.htm, or write to the church c/o Education Search Committee, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207.

**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:** Associate pastor of education and administration for growing church in western Kentucky. Please send resumé with references to: Personnel Committee, Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420.

**SEEKING:** Salvisa Baptist, a growing church in North Mercer County, is currently seeking candidates for three part-time staff positions: minister of music/education; youth minister; and children's minister. Please send resumé to: Salvisa Baptist, PO Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372, Attn: Mike Jones.

**SEEKING:** Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky., is seeking a full-time associate pastor to provide spiritual leadership for our youth and assist with children and education. Please send resumé to: Cadiz Baptist Church, PO Box 606, Cadiz, KY 42211.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth pastor. Pay and benefits commensurate with position. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 302 North Magnolia St., Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to Trinity Southern Baptist Church, 309 E Shelby St., Falmouth, KY 41040.

**SEEKING:** Simpsonville Baptist Church is currently accepting applications for the position of music minister. This is a 3/4-time position. Deadline for application is July 4, 2003. Send resumé to: PO Box 56, Simpsonville, KY 40061. Phone: (502) 722-5246. E-mail: fran@simpsonvillebaptist.com.

**SEEKING:** Part-time nanny for infant in our Louisville home. Experience and references required. Begins mid-July. Laurel, (502) 896-8321.

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

**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:** Full-time minister of youth and education to lead a well-established and growing youth group and give direction to the educational ministries of the church. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 123 East Main St., Morehead, KY 40351. Inquire by phone to Don Mantooth, (606) 784-5768.

**SEEKING:** Pastor. Union Baptist Church, located 25 minutes south of Cincinnati, Ohio, in Northern Kentucky, offers the best of a rural and suburban setting. The city with its culture and professional sports is surrounded by rolling hills and pastures. UBC is looking for a pastor to take care of its flock of 265 average in Sunday school attendance (high Sundays—more than 400). This 100-plus-year-old Southern Baptist church has a new (2-year) 500-seat sanctuary ready for its next pastor. Please submit all resúmes along with tapes to: Union Baptist Church, U.S. 42 and Mt. Zion Road, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091, Attn: Mike Webster.

**SEEKING:** Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister to children. Please send resumé to Belinda Berry, PO Box 130, Elizabethtown, KY 42702, or call (270) 765-7822 for more information.

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

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

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

**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.

## Higgs to wives: Laugh more and give burdens to God

By Stacey Hamby  
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

PHOENIX (BP)—Liz Curtis Higgs delivered her trademark humor to nearly 1,000 women at the Ministers' Wives Conference luncheon June 17 during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Phoenix.

The popular author and speaker kept the women laughing while sharing a message of joy and beauty drawn from God.

"Does it not thrill you that we are God's crown of creation?" Higgs asked, referencing the luncheon's "Jewels in the Desert" theme.

"We are the last thing He made, and He said we are very good," Higgs said. "Women were not an afterthought; we were uniquely created and uniquely equipped. I love to encourage women to embrace that and run with it."

She told every woman to jump in front of a mirror after she's ready for the day and say, "Ta-da!"

"What happens is, we look in the mirror and find something wrong," she said. "Most women don't stop in front of a mirror to say, 'Oh, baby.' We stop to look for a problem, and if you're looking for a problem, you will find a problem."

Saying "ta-da" will change one's attitude, she said. "It will change how you think about you and how you think about God and trust that He



**WIVES CONFERENCE** "When (shock DJ) Howard Stern tells you you need to clean up your life, it's time to pay attention," Kentuckian Liz Curtis Higgs told pastors' wives when recounting her testimony. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

knows what He was doing when He made you. I want you to see yourself as God sees you, and you are gorgeous."

Higgs said she regularly encourages women to laugh more.

"We do carry a lot of burdens, and you may think it's your job as a minister's wife to carry people's burdens. We put it in a backpack and tell God, 'I got it,'" she said. "But wouldn't it just be awesome if you could just lay your burdens down for 40 minutes? Why don't you just throw it at the foot of the cross?"

The author of "Bad Girls of the Bible," Higgs said she enjoys study-

ing the bad girls of the Bible because she was a bad girl.

"In 1980, I was working at a radio station doing an afternoon show at the same place (shock DJ) Howard Stern did a morning show," she recalled.

"(Stern) told me I needed to clean up my act—not my on-air act, my life. When Howard Stern tells you you need to clean up your life, it's time to pay attention," she said. "But I didn't. I met two dear people who loved me into the Kingdom. They told me I was beautiful, lovable. I couldn't believe them."

She went to church with them one day to see for herself if there were oth-

er people like them, and she said there were "pews and pews" full of funny, loving, friendly people. The first sermon she heard was from Ephesians 5.

"Here I was single and a feminist, and here's this message on wives submitting to their husbands," she recounted. "But it goes on to say, 'Husbands love your wives and die for them.' When I heard that, I said to my friends if a man would die for me, I'd marry him in a minute. They told me a man already died for me, and His name is Jesus."

Seven weeks later, Higgs said she wanted a fresh start in life, and she got it through Jesus. "All of you have bad girls in your congregation," she said. "Be patient with your bad girls, make sure they know what an invitation means. Show them your joy. Nothing will bring people like joy."

The ministers' wives group honored Joyce Rogers with its J.M. Dawson Award for outstanding service and devotion to God, her husband, her family and her calling as a minister's wife. She is the wife of Adrian Rogers, pastor of the Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church.

The group recognized Nancy Sullivan for establishing a fund in 1996 to help reduce luncheon costs, making it more affordable for ministers' wives to attend. She is the wife of John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Next year's featured speaker is Bible study author and speaker Beth Moore.

**"I was single and a feminist, and here's this message on wives submitting to their husbands."**

Kentucky humorist  
Liz Curtis Higgs

## Theme interpreters discuss Kingdom, crises facing church

By Tony Cartledge  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

PHOENIX—Theme interpreters focused on the Kingdom of God and crises facing the church during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 17-18.

"Jesus Christ is King," Adrian Rogers told messengers in the opening message on Tuesday morning "We didn't vote Him in; we will not vote Him out."

Rogers, a former SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., said Jesus Christ has been maligned and minimized in America, but Jesus remains King of kings.

"You'll never really appreciate the Kingdom until you see His King," Rogers said.

Appreciating Christ as King should lead believers to respond with total submission and unquestioned obedience, Rogers said. Christians don't need to ask God for more money for missions, he said, but need to give God the money they already have.

Obedient Christians share their faith, Rogers added. "If you're not interested in soul-winning, if you're not interested in bringing people to the Lord Jesus Christ, God sent me here to tell you you're not right with God. ... To refuse His Great Commission is a clenched fist in the face of God; it is high treason against heaven's King."

Christians should live in glad anticipation of Christ's return, Rogers

said, explaining that the antichrist gives people a number, while Jesus gives a name

"When He comes, the big question is, will your name be called, or will your number be up?"

Danny Akin, vice president and academic dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, declared that men who want to be faithful to Christ must begin at home.

Akin pointed to Ephesians 5:25-6:4 as a call for men to love their wives and bless their children.

The 1998 "family amendment" to the Baptist Faith & Message gained media attention for a statement calling for wives to be submissive to husbands, he noted.

"We don't apologize for that," Akin said, but added that people should read the rest of the article, which says the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and "to provide for his family servant leadership."

Husbands should "love sanctifyingly," Akin said, encouraging their wives to walk more closely with Christ. "If there's anyone that you disciple in your life, you ought to begin with your wife and then your children," he said.

As fathers, men should bless their children, Akin said, educating them to obey their parents. It is not enough just to tell them what to do, he said, but why they should do it.

"When it comes to winning the world for Christ, I'm going to make sure I start where I need to start," Akin

said. "I'm going to start with my home."

Effective evangelism requires sharing both the words and the music of the gospel, Ed Young told messengers.

Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston and a former SBC president, said many of today's churches focus on teaching or praying but don't emphasize evangelism.

Even among Southern Baptists, he said, while the U.S. population virtually doubled in the past 50 years, the SBC has annually baptized about the same number of people.

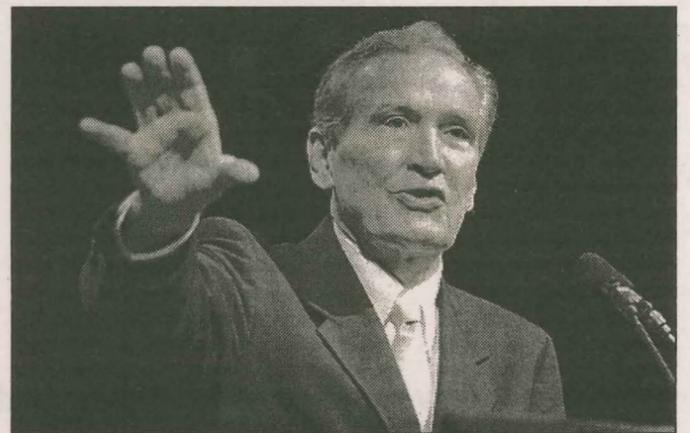
Churches are lost in the 1950s, using methodologies that no longer work, he said, a practice he called "insane."

The answer lies in a first-century strategy for evangelism, Young said. The Apostle Paul and other early evangelists faced ignorance and hostility, the same cultural conditions the church faces today, he said.

To confront ignorance, the church must proclaim the gospel, Young said.

To confront hostility, the church should serve through social ministries, he said, explaining that the church exploded numerically in the first few centuries because the early Christians gained a reputation as people who served the poor, the suffering and the diseased.

Jim Richards, executive director of the five-year-old Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, said Jesus offered insights into "Kingdom living" in Luke 9:57-62.



Richards said Kingdom living calls for believers to trust in the provisions of God's providence. To one who offered to follow Him, Jesus cautioned that "the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

"God is not as concerned about our happiness as He is our holiness; He is not as concerned about our comfort as He is about our cross," he said.

Kingdom living calls for an appreciation of the pre-eminence of Christ's person, Richards said, urging that Christians should not be consumed by popular opinion or controlled by personal agendas.

Finally, Kingdom living involves following the priority of Christ's plan, he said.

Following Christ's priorities requires getting alone with God every day, he said, and doing God's will: "Kingdom living today is all about living for the King."

**THEME INTERPRETATION**  
"If you're not interested in bringing people to the Lord Jesus Christ, God sent me here to tell you you're not right with God," Adrian Rogers told messengers. (BP photo by Van Payne)

# Encouraging, Educating, and Enabling



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