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Teens: Church has little impact on worldview

VENTURA, Calif. (BP)—Most American teenagers attended church activities regularly when younger, but few of them became Christians or developed a biblical worldview while there, according to a recent survey.

The study, conducted by Barna Research Group, discovered that 62 percent of American teens had attended church-related activities at least monthly before age 13.

But only 53 percent of those teens said they understood "the Bible so that every decision you make is based on biblical principles."

"For most teenagers who have spent years attending church activities, their faith is not integrated into who they are and how they live," researcher George Barna stated.

The survey found that of those teens who regularly attended church activities:

■ 95 percent said they had exposure to Bible stories.

■ 92 percent said they learned about "great people" in the Bible.

■ 89 percent said they had "fun" or "positive experiences" related to religion.

■ 85 percent said they had developed a deeper relationship with Christ.

■ Eight out of 10 teens who attended church activities said they gained an important "insight" from their attendance.

■ 26 percent said they received general information about God.

■ 17 percent said they had gained core religious beliefs from the Bible.

■ 21 percent said they learned nothing of value.

Offering plate blues

Will decrease in tithers be wake-up call for churches?

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP)—Recent reports on the further decline last year of church tithers presents churches with both a warning and a challenge, say several specialists in the area of Christian finance.

In May, the Barna Research Group reported that the proportion of households tithing—giving 10 percent of income—to churches dropped from 8 percent in 2001 to just 3 percent in 2002.

"Different challenges have caused people to choose not to tithe," researcher George Barna said. "For some, the soft economy has either diminished their household income or led to concerns about their financial security. For others the nation's political condition, in terms of terrorism and the war in Iraq, has raised their level of caution."

But several leaders said the real root of the problem stems from a failure to educate people about God's plans for stewardship.

Howard Dayton, chief executive officer of Crown Financial Ministries in Gainesville, Ga., insists the church has made a strategic error.

By focusing solely on how members should handle 10 percent of their money from God's perspective, he said, church leaders neglect the other 90 percent and leave people unprepared for comprehensive stewardship.

"People don't know what God says about how to earn money, save it, spend it and invest it," said Dayton, author of a small-group Bible study on stewardship used by 5,000 churches nationwide. "Others aren't motivat-



OFFERING A recent study found that only about 3 percent of U.S. households tithe. (BP file photo)

ed to give because they don't know what God says about giving."

Doug Strader, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship office, agreed.

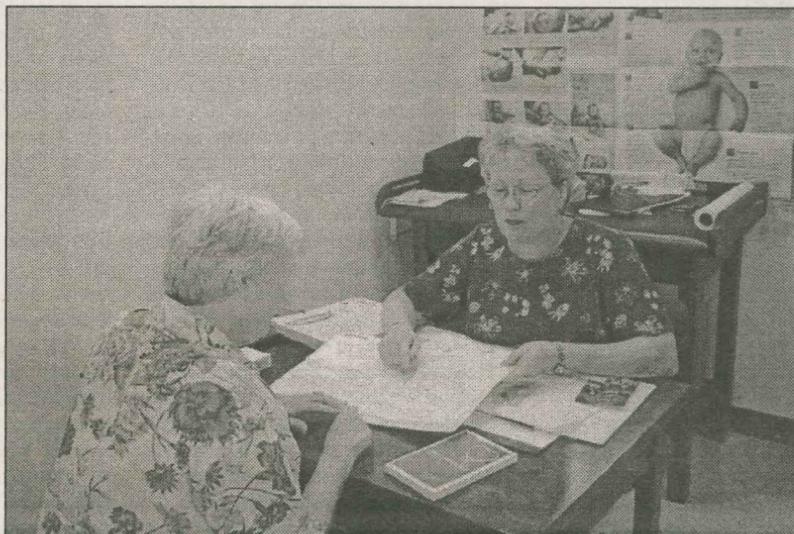
"A lot of pastors, for some reason, are reluctant to preach about tithing," he said, adding that a lack of stewardship training has resulted in a generation of younger adults who don't feel

as obligated to give to the church as the parents or grandparents did.

"They may give as much as 10 percent of their income sometimes, but it might not always be to the church," said Strader, who leads a variety of church stewardship and personal finance conferences.

Several leaders said the poor track
□ See *What does drop ...*, page 8

High insurance costs could shut down Henderson clinic



MEDICAL CLINIC Nurse Judy Hibbs (left) and volunteer Ruthie McCord at The Answer Center's medical clinic talk in a counseling room. The Henderson clinic might have to shut down Aug. 1. (Photo by Kathy Strange)

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

HENDERSON—A Henderson medical clinic for low-income residents is facing its own financial challenge.

Without miraculous intervention, the free clinic, operated for three years by Green Valley Baptist Association, will close Aug. 1.

Although some 11th hour alternatives are being considered, the clinic might have held its last examinations July 15.

The culprit is malpractice insurance, which would cost the clinic's 70-year-old directing physician, Dr. Russell Hibbs, upwards of \$35,000.

"My first reaction was anger," said Hibbs, a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Henderson. "We're trying to provide a service for people. Some are working fulltime, but only

making \$11,000 or \$12,000 a year; they can't afford anything."

"We're very concerned whether the people we serve are going to be able to get medical coverage," said Kathy Strange, associational director of community ministries. "We've filled a gap for patients. It's been very popular in the community."

The clinic has been part of The Answer Center, a community assistance agency that opened in September of 2000.

Given the 2001 "Luv Award" by the city's volunteer and information center, the all-volunteer medical clinic provided services every Tuesday at the county health department.

Because needy area children are served by another agency, the clinic sees adults without medical insurance who live in Henderson, Union and Webster counties.

□ See *High insurance costs ...*, page 3

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, July 23

IMB trustees honor Rankin for 10 years, review finances

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board recognized President Jerry Rankin for 10 years of service and appointed 70 new missionaries during a July 10-11 meeting in Richmond, Va.

They also received an update on IMB finances and studied a report on missionary attrition.

Since Rankin's election in 1993, IMB workers have seen church starts increase each year from about 2,000 in 1992 to more than 8,300 in 2002 and baptisms grow from almost 252,000 to more than 421,000. The number of people groups being reached with the gospel has grown from 584 to 1,497 in the past five years.

"No one is more amazed than I at how God has worked in these 10 years through the IMB," Rankin said. "It is not about us, but about God's glory."

David Steverson, vice president for finance, told trustees that increases in mission support from churches are still critical to ease restrictions on sending new missionaries, but the stock market's improved performance in the first six months of 2003 has helped some with the IMB's financial crunch.

Stock returns probably will provide the \$23 million of investment income budgeted for 2003, Steverson said. Combined with the \$10 million cut from the budget in June, the board now is watching church gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to see whether additional spending reductions still may be needed.

Youngsters offer budget solution

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Need a simple answer to a complicated problem? Just ask a child.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board began reporting in January that it was having to make major budget adjustments because support from Southern Baptist churches was not keeping pace with the record number of missionary candidates seeking appointments.

For a class of 8- and 9-year-old "missionary kids" at the IMB's Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, Va., the solution seemed simple: What if all 16 million Southern Baptist church members gave a dollar each?

The 19 second- and third-graders liked the idea so much that they

not only started the collection themselves, they challenged other youngsters in the school to help as well.

The 63 students at the Missionary Learning Center raised more than \$100 to help the IMB appoint missionaries who are on hold due to lack of resources.

Kathy Eaton, the teacher for the second- and third-grade class, was touched by the children's sensitivity and understanding.

"Their idea really shows how aware they are of the need," said Eaton, who also grew up as a child of missionary parents. "This project has been a reminder that the smallest person can make an impact when their efforts are added together."

The IMB's missionary count grew 8.7 percent from 2000 to 2002, but combined income from the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering increased 1.5 percent during the same period. Approximately 100 candidates who were seeking to begin long-term missionary careers this year have been deferred to next year or put on hold.

A study conducted by the IMB's global research department found that prior overseas experience significantly reduces attrition among long-term missionaries.

Missionaries with no overseas experience prior to appointment suffered a 6 percent loss rate in 2002, said department director Scott Holste. Missionaries with previous IMB service

experienced a 3.3 percent loss rate. The overall attrition rate for long-term personnel was 5.2 percent in 2002, compared to 5.1 percent in 2001.

The top three reasons for missionary resignations in 2002 were related to work (15.2 percent), calling (14.1 percent) and IMB organization (14.1 percent), the report said. Another 12.5 percent of resigning missionaries cited accepting a stateside job as a factor in the decision to resign.

In other action, trustees approved a change in the board's mission statement. The new statement, "Making Jesus Christ known among all peoples" clarifies and simplifies the previous statement, which read:

"The mission of the International Mission Board, SBC, is to lead South-

ern Baptists in international missions efforts to evangelize the lost, disciple believers, develop churches and minister to people in need. Leading Southern Baptists is done by mobilizing prayer support, appointing missionaries, enlisting volunteers, channeling financial support and communicating how God is working overseas."

Trustees approved a resolution of appreciation for Janette Shackles, an IMB missionary physician who was killed June 9 in a traffic accident in Ghana. The resolution expressed "deep appreciation for faithful service to God through this board" and pledged special prayer support for her family and coworkers.

Trustees also approved the termination of two missionaries and the resignations of 54 others. Among those resigning was Robin Hadaway, leader of IMB work in the Eastern South America region.

Hadaway and his wife, Kathy, were appointed as missionaries to Tanzania in 1983 and served in Kenya and Sudan before he became regional leader in 1997. His letter of resignation cited family needs as the reason for the resignation. He has accepted a faculty position, teaching missions at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

The meeting concluded with trustees convening an executive session to discuss personnel matters. After the meeting, trustee chairman Doug Sager of Knoxville, Tenn., said, "We had a wonderful spirit and a concern for the world. We're looking for great days ahead. Sometimes we have things that are sensitive, and we have to be careful about them. This was one of those times."

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Missouri leaders seek to defund college.** The Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board will recommend to messengers attending the MBC annual meeting in November that William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., be defunded. The proposal was sparked by the school allowing the presentation of a sexually explicit play on campus last year, among other concerns. "This was not a college-sponsored production, but rather it was presented as an individual student's senior thesis project," responded William Jewell trustee chairman Don Duncan. If the MBC proposal is approved, it will dissolve a 154-year relationship between the two entities. William Jewell is scheduled to receive approximately \$1.1 million from the MBC this year—about 3 percent of the school's operating budget.

■ **Baylor drops investigation of regent.** A Baylor University investigation has determined "insufficient evidence" exists to remove Jaclanel McFarland from the university's board of regents. The July 16 report to Baylor's regents ended speculation whether McFarland, a Houston attorney, would become the first board member impeached in the school's 158-year history. McFarland had been accused of telling students about an undercover drug sting on campus—an accusation she vehemently denies. McFarland insists she was targeted because of her outspoken criticism of Baylor President Robert Sloan.

■ **Campers relocate amid hurricane threat.** More than 400 youth evacuated the Texas Baptist encampment Palacios by the Sea July 14 amid threats of high winds and flooding from Hurricane Claudette. The campers relocated to First Baptist Church in Katy, near Houston, where they continued the weeklong camp. The Texas Baptist Men feeding unit from Dallas provided meals for the youth and a shower unit was dispatched to supply shower facilities.

■ **Brisco named theology school dean.** Thomas Brisco has been named dean of Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology in Abilene, Texas. He will succeed Vernon Davis who is retiring. Brisco has been a professor of religion at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, since 2001. He previously taught and was an administrator at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and was on the faculty at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

■ **Acteens converge on Nashville.** Thousands of teenage girls from across the nation will gather in Nashville next week for the National Acteens Convention. This year's NAC, July 29-Aug. 1, will highlight the theme, "SyncroNations." A party for Kentucky Baptist participants will be held July 29 at 10 p.m., at Nashville's Hard Rock Café. For information, contact LaRaine Dail, Kentucky WMU youth/college consultant, at (502) 244-6485, ext. 280 or toll-free at (888) 254-5726.

Muslim group claims evangelical rhetoric sparks anti-Muslim hate

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A Muslim-American civil rights group released a report July 15 that said "evangelical leaders and neo-conservatives" contributed to a 15 percent increase in reports of anti-Muslim incidents in 2002.

The report, conducted annually by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, compiled what the agency called "credible reports" of anti-Muslim discrimination, harassment and action in the United States during 2002. It also catalogued what the group considered public incidents of anti-Muslim bias, blaming conservative Christian leaders such as Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines, for inciting anti-Islamic actions with their statements.

"Calling this report 'Guilty by Association' is appropriate," Nihad Awad, the council's executive director, said. "Tens of thousands of people have been impacted in a negative way."

Regarding some Christian leaders, the report said, "Contributing to the rise of discrimination against Muslims is the continuing anti-Muslim rhetoric, especially by some evangelical leaders and neo-conservatives."

Vines, pastor of First Baptist

Church of Jacksonville, sparked a national controversy in a sermon at last year's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference when he called Mohammed a "demon-possessed pedophile."

Vines, who defends the historical accuracy of his comments, said after the sermon, "I love Muslim people. I have found many of them to be kind, gentle and loving people. Many Muslims have come to our church to hear of the love, joy, peace and saving grace available to all in Jesus Christ."

The CAIR report noted that in 2002, there were 602 reported incidents of anti-Muslim discrimination, a 15 percent increase over the 525 incidents in the previous reporting period. Researchers also said reports of violent physical attacks on Muslims increased by 8 percent in 2002.

The report noted that since CAIR first started compiling such statistics in 1995 there has been a more than seven-fold increase in reports of anti-Muslim discrimination and bias.

While the report focused on increases in anti-Muslim sentiment, it noted that unreasonable searches and passenger profiling of Muslims decreased in 2002. In addition, council leaders said, nationwide there were nine successful prosecutions of anti-Muslim hate crimes last year.

Center offering 'Answer' to Henderson-area residents

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

HENDERSON—The Answer Center helped nearly 2,400 people last year by giving them free clothing and household goods. It also distributed 1,061 Bibles and 45 "Jesus" videos, while volunteers prayed with 37 people who accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

For director Kathy Strange, Green Valley Baptist Association's first ministry center also provides a solution to her desire to do more to tell others about Christ.

"I taught 'welfare-to-work' programs for 10 years," said Strange, a social worker for the state before taking early retirement several years ago. "I helped people get jobs, but I felt a burden to do more and to share Christ with the people I worked with."

Sensing that God wanted her to do more to help meet spiritual needs, she prayed for guidance. Soon, the state offered her an early-retirement package that matched the amount she had figured would provide for her needs.

During this time, former associational director of missions Steve Thompson—now with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive office—was laying the groundwork for The Answer Center.

Strange ultimately was named director of community ministries for the association, with the center as her primary responsibility. It opened in September of 2000 in a building owned by Immanuel Baptist Temple.

Clothing, kitchen gear, kids stuff

Most of the clothing and household goods given away are donated by Kentucky Baptist churches and others in the community.

The center also obtains some close-



KIDS KORNER Volunteers share their faith with parents at The Answer Center in Henderson during the Christmas toy giveaway. The center gave Christmas gifts and books about Jesus to 133 children last December.

outs and overstocked items from stores. Clothes run the gamut, from adults' pants, shirts and shoes to infants' and children's clothing. The center uses funds from the Eliza Broadus state missions offering to purchase special items, such as underwear and plus-size clothes.

Kits of household goods include such basics as toasters, skillets, pots and pans, silverware, towels and wash cloths. Besides those who come on Saturday mornings to pick up items, kits are given to families affected by fires and other disasters.

Three times a year the center operates "Kids Korner." Along with Christmas and Easter gifts, they give away books about Jesus. Last year it helped 133 children at Christmas and 155 at Easter.

This month it is sponsoring its first back-to-school emphasis, giving away nylon backpacks filled with school supplies and a full-color, illustrated children's Bible.

The center gave away 16 backpacks on July 12, leaving 84 more in stock.

Each person who visits the center receives counseling and information about Jesus. To date, more than 200 people who requested contact with a church have been referred to local pastors.

In addition to its medical clinic, The Answer maintains one other off-site ministry, a support group known as "The Widow's Mite."

Using information from a newspaper obituary section, female volunteers contact recent widows to offer personal support and tell them about Christ.

The group also visits nursing homes, makes crafts for children and holds periodic social activities.

"A lot of people are appreciative of the center and Baptist churches wanting to serve them," Strange said. "We've seen other churches outside the association wanting to help, like a

Catholic church across the street."

"I think the center has boosted our profile in the community," added Philip Basinger, associational director of missions. "When they come in, people know why we're there. We always direct them toward a church."

Specific focus

Strange said one secret to the center's success is avoiding branching out in too many directions.

For instance, the Christian Center Outreach—an interdenominational agency supported by local churches—helps the needy with food, utilities and prescription payments. The Answer refers any monetary requests there.

"Trying to minister through the association, we felt we needed to focus," Strange said. "With 30 churches, it wouldn't take long to be overwhelmed."

For the Henderson native, the center has brought many rewards. The most meaningful is seeing converts to Christianity, including a man she prayed with last year after his house burned down.

She also enjoys helping people in crisis and children whose parents otherwise couldn't afford clothing or back-to-school supplies.

"To see a smile is great," Strange said. "We have many people (we help) who say they're praying for us to be able to continue."

Larry Martin, leader of the KBC's missions growth team, credits her passion for establishing The Answer Center as a Henderson landmark.

"People from other associations in Western Kentucky have come to her to learn more about the Henderson model," Martin said. "From the beginning, she involved so many churches and people. They have a broad sense of ownership."

High insurance costs might force medical clinic to shut down

Continued from page 1

Last year doctors saw more than 600 patients on more than 1,100 visits—an average of 22 per week.

Methodist Hospital in Henderson donated about \$7,400 worth of X-ray and lab work, while local radiologists donated more than \$1,800 of their time to read X-rays.

Dunaway's Imperial Pharmacy filled 40 types of prescriptions for clinic patients, with the generic drugs' retail value totaling more than \$42,000.

"It's just a shame they had to stop, but that's the way the insurance industry operates," said Jeb Dunaway, who operates the drug store with a partner, Mike Farmer. Both are members of First Baptist Church.

"We were able to help a lot of people," Dunaway said. "It's just something we could do to give back to the community."

The clinic's last day originally was scheduled for July 29. But since Hibbs currently is on an association-sponsored mission trip to Germany, he decided to conclude the 15th.

Widespread impact

Philip Basinger, director of missions for Green Valley Association,

said a dozen doctors have given their time to staff the clinic. They include one Muslim who heard the gospel from co-workers.

"You'd be surprised at the number of people who have no insurance," Basinger said.

Hibbs, who helped operate the emergency room at Methodist Hospital for 20 years before retiring in 1998, said the situation is complex.

While he can get liability insurance to cover the clinic, to remain open Hibbs also must purchase secondary coverage.

The situation arose because a doctor who had covered Hibbs on her policy has left the state, and that insurance expires in 10 days.

Known as a "tail," the supplemental policy covers claims arising from past treatment Hibbs rendered as a part-time emergency room doctor in Morganfield and Henderson.

The coverage for possible past claims won't continue if Hibbs takes a new policy to cover clinic liability.

A policy for the clinic would cost him between \$8,000 and \$12,000. New supplemental coverage would cost at least \$25,000, Hibbs said.

Some people advocate legislating immunity from malpractice claims for



CLINIC Dr. Russell Hibbs (left) says \$35,000 worth of malpractice insurance might force The Answer Center's clinic to shut down. "I don't have an answer for this, but God does if He wants to keep it going."

free clinics, but Hibbs said lawyers have opposed such measures.

"People want to feel they are always able to sue," Hibbs said. "But in this area we've lost two ob-gyn's (specialists in obstetrics and gynecology) because of malpractice insurance; they've gone to Evansville (Ind.)"

"One doctor had a \$500,000 bill for (secondary) insurance," he said. "This situation is going to affect surgeons, orthopedic doctors and general practitioners. Kentuckians are going to have to travel to see a doctor,

especially a specialist."

There are two alternatives, although Hibbs isn't that confident that either will work.

The emergency room at Methodist Hospital has some new emergency-room interns and has proposed accepting patients from the free clinic, Hibbs said.

But Hibbs wonders whether volunteers would be as free to distribute Bibles and gospel tracts as they have been at the free clinic.

The other possibility is a state program that will reimburse malpractice insurance costs for doctors running free clinics.

Hibbs said that program normally pays only a percentage of those costs. Because he is no longer in an active practice, the state would have to pick up all his costs.

Even if the state had funds to do that, it still wouldn't pay for his supplemental coverage, Hibbs said.

In addition, he fears state involvement would include restrictions on gospel activities at the clinic.

"I guess we're trying to see if the state would do it and what strings would be on it," Hibbs said. "I don't have an answer for this, but God does if He wants to keep it going."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ A new LifeWay Christian Store in Bowling Green will celebrate its grand opening July 26-Aug. 2 with a series of special promotions, including appearances by popular characters from Veggie Tales, and musician Jim Witter. The store, which opens July 23, is the seventh in Kentucky. It is located at Greenwood Mall, 2625 Scottsville Road. Veggie Tales characters will be at the store Saturday, July 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jim Witter will perform and sign copies of his CD, "Forgiveness," at 2 p.m.

■ Super Saturday leadership training conferences will be held in six cities throughout Kentucky starting next month. The Kentucky Baptist Convention conferences will be a "farewell tour" of sorts for Church Growth Team Leader Vernon Cole who recently announced plans to retire at the end of the year. Cole was instrumental in launching Super Saturday, which has become Kentucky Baptists' largest training event for church leaders. Conferences are slated for:

- Louisville: Aug. 9 at Highview Baptist Church.
- Lexington: Aug. 16 at Immanuel Baptist Church.
- Corbin: Aug. 23 at Central Baptist Church.
- Madisonville: Aug. 23 at First Baptist Church.
- Ashland: Sept. 6 at Unity Baptist Church.
- Paducah: Sept. 6 at First Baptist Church.

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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Help support BWA

The messengers to the 2003 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix sent a mixed message to the world. While professing a desire to advance God's Kingdom, they slashed \$125,000 from the SBC's annual contribution to the Baptist World Alliance, a leader in advancing God's Kingdom.

It is unfortunate that our SBC leaders have chosen the BWA to be this year's target for their mean-spiritedness.

I urge all Baptists to help restore the BWA funding by sending a contribution to: Baptist World Alliance, 450 N Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. My check is in the mail.

L.C. Patterson
Corbin

Ministry to homosexuals

I have read with interest the coverage of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered issues as discussed at the Southern Baptist Convention this year.

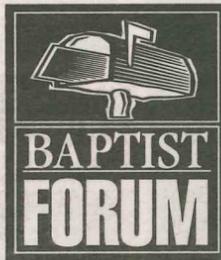
It is a wonderful thing that the SBC has voted to reach out in love to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. It is unfortunate that an issue like this had to be put to a vote. To this Christian, it seems that this should have been the practice all along.

For most of my life unfortunately, I sat and served in Southern Baptist services hearing hatred toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people preached under the guise of love. I don't expect that this will change overnight but pray that through this initiative Southern Baptists will grow in spirit to realize that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians are not evil or abominations but rather we are also God's children.

We have been active in Southern Baptist congregations for as long as the SBC has existed. We have taught in SBC Sunday schools, served as deacons, musicians, taught in SBC schools and no doubt even served as pastors.

Many of us, like myself, have reluctantly left, voluntarily or by force, the denomination that we grew up in and loved because of the hatred that we felt from men and women who claimed to preach and teach the love of God.

Tom Miller
Covington



Editor's Note: SBC messengers did not vote last month on whether to minister to homosexuals. They heard a report from the SBC's Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals encouraging churches to begin "ministries of compassion" to homosexuals to encourage them to leave the homosexual lifestyle. Task force member Richard Land told messengers, "Homosexuals can find freedom from this sinful, destructive lifestyle. They can be redeemed; they can be liberated, right now."

Institutional demise

I read with interest the July 1 article regarding the "election" of Paige Patterson as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Obviously, in typical fashion, Patterson and his faction have bullied their way to yet another position, noticeably absent of any other candidates. Such tactics are far from what one consid-

What are you thinking?

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

Steve O'Neal
Owensboro

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Celebrating 105 years of ministry

Archie Brock retired July 13 after 50 years of ministry. In conjunction with his brother, Clarence, the two have a combined 105 years of ministry!

Clarence retired in 1993 in Portland, Ind., and in 1997 moved to be near his brother and Locust Grove Baptist Church in Cadiz, where Archie was pastor. Clarence still does supply preaching in the area and serves as a wonderful encourager to young ministers.

Archie has held almost every associational leadership position, including moderator in two associations. He also has served three terms on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board. (Archie's wife, Ada, also has been very active in associational and church Woman's Missionary Union work.) Likewise, Clarence served in associations and on the state convention board in Indiana.

Clarence was used by God to lead

his brother to faith in Christ and had prayed for two years before that God would call Archie to preach. Archie ultimately accepted that call and graduated from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Cumberland College.



Bill Mackey

Archie served as pastor for 13 years in Harlan County, where he had spent the first 12 years of his life. He later served Mexico Baptist Church, and churches in Trigg County. For 17 years, he served as a bivocational pastor while teaching middle school. Archie says developing one-to-one relationships with people has been one of the most gratifying parts of his ministry.

Archie already had retired once (from Mexico Baptist Church) but accepted the Locust Grove pastorate after a one-year interim. He has seen that church through the tragedy of the destruction of the church building by fire and the construction of a beautiful new facility that will serve the

community for years to come.

When asked what he would do differently if he could start his ministry over, Archie said he would study God's Word more and do more personal witnessing. He believes the greatest need of the church today is dynamic personal and group prayer.

When asked about the future outlook for the church, Archie said the church must not change biblical truth but must change methods to reach the younger generations.

His final message to the church was "The Best Is Yet to Come," based on Psalm 30:5. He made the following points: Agonize with God over the unknown, adjust to change, adopt new methods and accept new responsibilities.

Archie acknowledges that there were dry times in ministry. But he learned to be patient, to keep doing the right things in the right spirit and to know that God would come through.

Pray that we can learn from, and be encouraged by, the faith journey of others!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

ers to be a democratic process. Additionally, of no surprise, is Al Mohler's endorsement of Patterson's "election" as "one of the great moments in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Sadly, the demise of our once great institutions can be attributed to the radical transformation enacted by these men under the guise of Southern Baptist leadership.

Gwinn T. Hahn
Mount Washington

Musical impact

Thanks for your July 1 article about the Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra tour.

It has been my honor to tour with the orchestra for several years. My wife, Jean, travels with the choir. Both of our sons have been members of the choir and interns with the choir or orchestra. These groups have had a great impact on the spiritual and musical development of our family.

I would like to commend the Kentucky Baptist Convention for sponsoring and underwriting such quality groups. The lives of many young people have been changed through the years through the influence of the choir and orchestra.

Special thanks to Jim Cordell, KBC church music department director; Greg Brewton, youth music consultant; Charles Priest, instrumental music consultant; and many others for their efforts in making this experience possible. I look forward to a continuing relationship with these groups either as a chaperone or observer.

Steve O'Neal
Owensboro

CHURCH

Christ's teachings on money provide timeless insights

By Doug Strader

In his book, "A Biblical Theology of Material Possessions,"



Gene Getz summarizes Christ's teachings on money and possessions:

■ Jesus referred to investments in jewels and

treasures to illustrate the importance of investing in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:44-45).

■ He referred to saving new treasures as well as old treasures to illustrate the importance of storing up both old and new truth (Matthew 13:52).

■ He used indebtedness to illustrate the importance of forgiveness (Matthew 18:23-35).

■ He referred to hiring procedures and wage structures to illustrate God's sovereignty and generosity in treating all with equality, forgiving sins and rewarding people with eternal life (Matthew 20:1-16).

■ He told a story about a fruit farmer who leased his property to illustrate the way the chief priests and Pharisees were rejecting God and His Son (Matthew 21:22-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19).

■ He discussed capital, investments, banking and interest to emphasize our human responsibility to utilize God's gifts in a prudent and responsible way (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27).

■ He referred to money lenders, interest and debt cancellation to illustrate the importance of love and appreciation to God for canceling our debt of sin (Luke 7:41-43).

■ He spoke of building barns to store grain for the future while neglecting to store up spiritual treasures as a very foolish decision (Luke 12:16-21).

■ He used architectural planning, building construction and cost analysis to illustrate the importance of future planning and counting the cost before we make decisions in building our spiritual lives (Luke 14:28-30).

■ He referenced wealth, dividing up an estate, irresponsible spending and a change of heart to illustrate repentance and forgiveness (Luke 15:11-32).

Sometimes we fail to realize how much Jesus spoke about money and possessions during His earthly ministry. Evidentially, people in biblical times wrestled with money and possessions and what to do with them as much as we do in our day.

Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department

Baptism questions often mark early step in spiritual journey

Q: Our grade school-age son has begun expressing an interest in being baptized. How should we respond?

Christian parents pray for the day their child will choose to follow Jesus. In that sense, "I want to be baptized" is music to a parent's ears! However, as much as we want our children to be baptized, we also must want them to have the understanding that must precede baptism in order for baptism to have any meaning.

While most young children are more than ready to get into the baptistry, most are not yet ready developmentally to make such an important decision. Questions about baptism or the stated desire to be baptized often are only the beginning points for a child's journey of faith. Parents should affirm interest, but they also should carefully evaluate and assess the child's level of understanding. Failure to do so does a great disservice to the child, and often leads to spiritual confusion later in life.

My response to young children always is, "I'm so glad you want to be baptized. I want you to be baptized too, but there are some important things that have to happen first. Let's plan a time to get together and talk."

In "When Can I?," Thomas Sanders writes, "Helping a child understand the gospel should not just be a presentation of facts but rather a dialogue that takes time and involves parents, teachers and ministers." Parents must pace their child's investigation into what it means to be a Christian. Parents must be willing to take time to help children move from simply knowing who Jesus is and knowing lots of facts about His life to understanding what Jesus has done for them and how they can respond.—David Garrard

Q: Our son graduated from high school in May and has yet to determine what he plans to do next. How can we encourage him without nagging?

College freshmen who are asked what kind of book they would most have appreciated at graduation tend to emphasize the following themes:

- How to choose a college.
- How to choose a career.
- How to choose a life partner.
- How to be successful.
- How to know God's will for one's life.

It is likely that your son is thinking along some of these lines. You can help him by listening when he desires to talk and spending more time listening than lecturing. Remember the words of Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Be willing to provide him with the opportunity to reflect and discuss.

Another way you can help your son is to pray for him in this critical time of transition. Solicit his counsel about how you should pray for him. Remember that while you might have strong desires and opinions for the direction that your son's future should take, it ultimately should be your prayer that God will direct his steps.

Encourage your son to carefully consider his talents, gifts and passions. Remind him that talent must be trained and desire should be disciplined. In the parlance of the Living Bible, "A dull axe requires great strength; be wise and sharpen the blade" (Ecclesiastes 10:10).

Even as you listen and help him discern his long-term plans, encourage him to actively pursue short-term plans as well. This might include working a part-time job, staying active in sports or church activities, or volunteering in some capacity.—Scott Wigginton

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@earthlink.net.



BWA's diversity offers glimpse of heaven

During the opening moments of this month's Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting, participants heard a Brazilian Baptist choir, a welcome from BWA President Billy Kim of South Korea and a prayer by a Nigerian Baptist leader.

A few days later, during the gathering's closing moments, BWA representatives formed a prayer circle around Kim and BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and voiced words of thanksgiving and intercession in more than a dozen languages.

In between those spiritual bookends, Baptist brothers and sisters from more than 30 nations gathered for worship, fellowship and Kingdom business. The July 9-12 General Council meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, offered a refreshing glimpse of the kaleidoscope of races, colors, languages and cultures that will celebrate eternity together in heaven.

Hopefully, Southern Baptist Convention leaders will encourage the SBC to remain an active, vital part of this global family of Baptists. Unfortunately, there are growing indications that some SBC leaders will push for withdrawal from BWA and seek to establish their own international network.

Why? The short answer is that SBC representatives are upset that BWA admitted the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a member body. Even before CBF was elected to BWA membership on a 75-28 General Council vote, Southern Baptist messengers voted in June to slash the SBC's annual allocation to BWA by more than 30 percent.

In an apparent effort to compile other reasons for leaving BWA, SBC representatives frequently stood and questioned the doctrinal views and priorities of BWA leaders during the Rio meeting. J.D. Greear, a recent graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, even asked whether BWA leaders could affirm salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

When it comes to trying to label BWA as liberal,

however, the simple fact is that dog won't hunt.

"I would be ashamed as a Baptist if I did not affirm that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation," Lotz told Greear. The BWA executive added that one of the priorities of BWA gatherings is to "proclaim why Baptists need to be involved in evangelism."

Tony Cupit, BWA's director of evangelism and education, emphasized that BWA leaders "are unequivocal about the need to win the lost to Jesus Christ. That's the bottom line."

"Call to Mission," a 24-point document adopted earlier this year by BWA mission leaders, declares: "It is our conviction that God has acted decisively and supremely in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ." It goes on to urge "our churches to rededicate themselves to the mission that reaches out with the healing and restoring love of Jesus Christ."

As a member of BWA's communications committee, I have had the privilege of observing the organization's global ministry impact. It has strengthened my personal commitment

to BWA's work in cooperation with 211 Baptist convention and unions around the world.

Among their major ministry efforts, BWA leaders frequently intervene on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world as they champion the historic Baptist principles of human rights, religious liberty and biblical ethics. They also have been deeply involved in Baptist reconciliation efforts in such challenging settings as Cuba, India and South Africa.

Despite the tension at the recent meeting in Rio, both Lotz and Kim expressed hope that the SBC will maintain its partnership as a founding member of BWA. "I pray that even though there are differences," Kim said, "in the larger sense we can work together in world evangelism, church planting and saving souls."

Anything less would be a loss for the Baptist World Alliance, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Kingdom of God.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Long-term success starts at home

By Zig Ziglar

DALLAS (BP)—From my perspective, long-term success is the only way you can really measure success.

Occasionally, a heroic act by an individual may make him or her a professional success. For example, Colin Kelly sacrificed his life at the beginning of World War II to sink a Japanese war ship and

save the lives of countless Americans. Colin Kelly's character made his sacrifice possible, and that's the kind of character you will always find in truly successful people.

Without character there is no trust. Successful people are men and women of integrity. They do the right thing, which means they are trusted and they have no guilt to deal with. With integrity they have nothing to fear because there is nothing to hide.

Another quality I attribute to people who are long-term successes is the quality of faith. There comes a time in every person's life—and in most cases it happens many times—when he or she encounters difficulties or problems for which there are no human answers. This is where faith in God is critically important.

Other qualities that are important are pure, dogged persistence and overwhelming desire. According to The

Executive Speechwriter Newsletter, "Desire kept young W. Clement Stone on Chicago's street corners selling newspapers. Desire later made him one of the wealthiest people in America as principal owner of Combined Insurance Corporation of America.

"Desire made Jim Marshall one of the most indestructible players in professional football. Marshall started 282 consecutive games and played defensive end until he was 42. Teammate Fran Tarkenton once described Marshall as 'the most amazing athlete to play in any sport.'

"Desire energized John Havlicek to earn the nickname 'Mr. Perpetual Motion.' As a player for the Boston Celtics, Havlicek gave 200 percent every game for 16 straight seasons. Hustle, leadership and guts made Havlicek a player by which others were measured. People with desire work harder, are passionate about their goals and are driven by an intense thirst to be better."

It is also essential to believe that what you are doing with your life makes a difference in the lives of others. Our corporate mission statement is to be the difference-maker in the personal, family, professional and spiritual lives of enough people to make a positive difference in the

world. I recognize it is a presumptuous mission statement, but with the advent of modern technology, we can communicate in ways never dreamed of just a few years ago. I get a substantial amount of mail from people who tell me that our concepts have made a positive difference in their lives.

I hasten to add that if you are staying home full-time to raise your children, you are most definitely making a difference in the lives of others.

The long-term success of our country depends on the difference you make in the lives of your children. An article in the October 1999 issue of Readers Digest states: "According to the U.S. Department of Education, two out of three high-schoolers won't make it to college if they belong to a single-parent household, have an older sibling who dropped out of high school, repeat a grade, change schools more than twice or have lower than average grades."

The obvious solution to helping your children be all they can be is to offer them a secure home life with both parents, pay close attention to how they are doing in school, and do what it takes to see that they always make the grades they need to make. In fact, everyone's potential for long-term success starts at home.

Zig Ziglar, a Dallas-based motivational speaker, is the author of "Zig Ziglar's Life Lifters," published by Broadman & Holman Publishers

BWA adopts 'bare-bones budget,' seeks added revenue

"One of the basic rights of each human being is the right to worship openly and freely according to the dictates of one's own heart."

BWA resolution on religious liberty

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Responding to ongoing financial challenges, members of the Baptist World Alliance General Council adopted a zero-growth budget for 2004.

The action during the council's July 9-12 meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, came after the 2003 budget already had been reduced by \$425,000.

Noting that BWA has operated with a "bare-bones budget" for several years, BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz told council members, "This is not only bare-bones. This is leukemia. We are bleeding."

In addition to reduced income due to a weak economy, Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted last month to cut next year's allocation to BWA by \$125,000 due to concerns over BWA's membership process. That process resulted in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship being elected this month as a BWA member body.

The past year "has been a very challenging year financially," noted Wallace Charles Smith, chairman of BWA's budget and finance committee. He said preparing next year's budget required "a great deal of stress, strain, agony and prayer."

Despite the financial hardships, Lotz said, "We believe God is going to provide for us."

The \$1.69 million budget includes more than \$520,000 from member bodies; \$780,000 from individuals, churches and other groups; and more than \$300,000 from administrative fees, investments, rental income and other sources.

BWA program expenses include efforts in global evangelism and education as well as work in the areas of religious freedom, human rights and Christian ethics.

Global Impact Churches

Efforts to increase revenue for the international Baptist alliance include recruiting Global Impact Churches—congregations that contribute at least \$1,000 annually to the work of BWA.

BWA leaders also introduced proposed bylaw changes that would expand BWA membership to include associate and individual members. Associate members would include local churches and other Baptist bodies such as colleges and seminaries as well as associational, regional or state Baptist organizations.

The proposals will be considered during next year's BWA General Council meeting in Seoul, Korea.

In addition to BWA's operating budget, council members approved a 2003-2004 funding goal of \$2.66 million for Baptist World Aid, BWA's relief and development arm.

Baptist World Aid Director Paul Montacute noted that the funding goal is a significant drop from the current year's \$3 million goal. The relief ministry received only \$1.2 million last year, resulting in several unmet ministry needs.

Among proposed ministry projects for the coming year is \$100,000 each for hunger relief and HIV/AIDS ministry efforts. Proposed development projects from Bangladesh to Liberia to Nicaragua include such efforts as housing for street children, AIDS prevention programs and water and sanitation projects.

Religious liberty issues

In other action, council members adopted resolutions addressing such issues as religious liberty and Middle East conflict.

The resolution on religious liberty affirms that "one of the basic rights of each human being is the right to worship openly and freely according to the dictates of one's own heart."

Noting that "this basic right is denied in many countries and areas of

the world," the resolution emphasizes that "religious freedom is not merely the right to continue to worship in the faith in which one was born but also the right to examine fully the convictions and beliefs of others." It calls for "all peoples to recognize this basic right of all human beings and allow its full expression in each and every society."

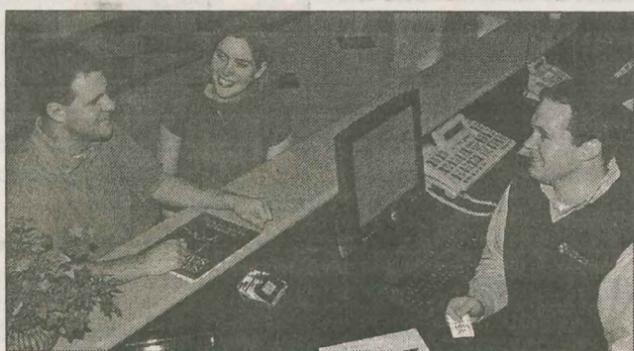
The resolution on the Middle East describes the proposed "Road Map to Peace" as "an opportune moment for all parties involved in the Middle East conflict." It urges all involved parties "to work diligently toward the cessation of violence and a just and lasting peace for all peoples."

Other resolutions adopted by the council include:

■ Congratulating the World Methodist Council as it celebrates the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

■ Affirming former U.S. President Jimmy Carter for receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in honor of his "tireless efforts ... to bring about peace and justice in the world."

■ Encouraging BWA member churches "to stand with the churches of Africa against the violence, corruption and political upheaval" in several African nations.



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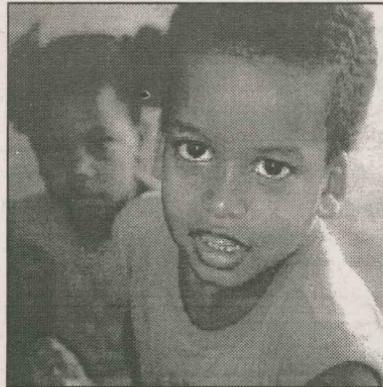
Baptist family reunion



WORSHIP A choir from Sao Paulo, Brazil, performs during the opening session of the Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting at First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro.



TESTIMONIES BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz (second from left) interviews representatives from Bulgaria, Nigeria, Hong Kong and Nepal during a "Windows on the World" emphasis. Participants from more than 30 nations attended the July 9-12 meeting.



DAY CARE MINISTRY Youngsters play at a day care sponsored by First Baptist Church of Niteroi, Brazil, one of the host congregations for the July 9-12 Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting.



BAPTIST HARMONY A Korean Baptist quartet provides special music during a BWA General Council session. (Photos by Trennis Henderson)

BWA leaders issue call for compassion and reconciliation

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Baptist unity and compassion for the world's needs were primary themes during the Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting July 9-12 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

BWA President Billy Kim of South Korea cited the parable of the Good Samaritan to appeal to Baptist leaders to address the needs of fellow believers around the world.

Speaking to more than 350 participants during the council's opening session at First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro, Kim declared, "We as Christian workers must go where the needs are. There are hundreds of thousands of Baptist brothers around the world.

"Somehow, we as Baptist brothers and sisters have lost compassion," he said. "I am so wrapped up in my nation, family, area, church that I have blind eyes to the needs of the world. A lot of time we give lip service. ... They want a demonstration of our love."

Kim recounted a conversation with a pastor from Turkey last year. The pastor reported that his church has been burned and his people were persecuted. "I long to sit next to him, pray with him and weep with him," Kim noted. "That is what the world is asking us to do. May God help us."

During a message at First Baptist Church of Niteroi, Brazil, Kim emphasized the compelling need for Baptist leaders to preach the gospel.

"Woe is me if I preach not the gospel," he declared. "We are too slow to tell people about the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Reciting a litany of social ills including AIDS, prostitution, drug abuse, homelessness and international conflicts, he added, "The gospel is the answer to our needs. ... We must preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at all costs."

Kim: Pursue peacemaking

During the council's closing session, Kim again challenged Baptist leaders to respond to the world's physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

"I want to be known as a little peacemaker in a difficult, conflicted fighting world," he said. "I cannot help everybody but I can help one person. ... Work becomes worship when done for the Lord."

Speaking after the General Council voted to grant membership to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship despite strong opposition from Southern Baptist Convention leaders, Kim told council members, "I leave here with a heavy heart. We do not know the outcome of the SBC



BWA President Billy Kim

decision, but they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We love them and we will work with them in the BWA.

"We need to pray not only for the SBC but those who cannot afford to come to our meetings," Kim added. "We need to support and encourage them.

"Let's go back to our respective places with a high note of hope that God will bless us if we stay in His will."

Tomas Mackey, a seminary professor in Buenos Aires, Argentina, urged Baptists to take on the character of Christ in humility.

Maintaining a non-divisive spirit in the midst of diversity is a personal struggle, Mackey acknowledged. He added, however, "it is the hope that we have that pushes us to reach for the goal of humility, unity and love in Christ."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz also emphasized the need for reconciliation

and peacemaking. He highlighted BWA's recent reconciliation efforts in Cuba and among the Telugu Baptists in India.

While reconciliation efforts among Telugu Baptists remain unresolved, Lotz said reconciliation between the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba and the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba led to the acceptance of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches as a new member body of BWA.

He also cited efforts in South Africa where five Baptist groups have formed an alliance to work together.

Lotz: Promote reconciliation

Affirming the grace of reconciliation, Lotz added, "So many people around the world hate each other and there is the same lack of reconciliation in the church. ... One of the joys of the BWA is when we go out and see reconciliation.

"How can we call the world to reconciliation if we ourselves are not reconciled?" Lotz asked. "We do not preach Christ because our culture is better but because God revealed Himself in Christ.

"The Baptist World Alliance is founded on the rock that Jesus Christ is the one and only Savior," he said. "Let us go away knowing that we have been called to be ministers of reconciliation."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

Consultant: Tithing helps both homes and churches

"One of the leading causes of divorce is money problems."

Marriage-enrichment speaker J.B. Collingsworth

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

DALLAS (BP)—As a marriage-enrichment speaker, J.B. Collingsworth knows how crucial money matters are to couples' unions.

Everywhere he travels, Collingsworth sees marriages threatened by out-of-control spending, particularly with families whose house and car payments are too high for their income.

"One of the leading causes of divorce is money problems," said Collingsworth, founder of Marriage and Family Matters. "Eight of 10 times, there's a money problem in a marriage. We have many people who don't know biblical principles (who are) getting strapped with debt."

Collingsworth knows personally the difference that biblically based personal finance education can have on families.

The former associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Orlando gained training through Crown Financial Ministry and spearheaded a move to implement classes at the church.

Since then, more than 900 couples

have completed the material. Classes are offered three times a year.

Teaching tithing

Requiring regular homework and Scripture memorization, the study teaches stewardship in the areas of personal finance and church donations.

"It teaches you to give by tithing," Collingsworth said. "I saw people who had never tithed before begin to tithe. I saw people in debt pay off debt."

Most Christians don't know the Bible contains more than 2,000 verses on money and stewardship, compared to only a few hundred on prayer, he said.

The concepts taught in the course made a noticeable impact on students, judging by the letters and messages that came to the church office.

People wrote such things as, "We've been cheating God," "We've paid off credit cards," and, that since they had started tithing "now we have more money at the end of the month," he recounted.

"It's hard to explain the impact until you see what happens when peo-

ple are taught the truth," Collingsworth said. "I know so many people from Orlando who have gone through it, and it has been a huge blessing to them."

Impacting the bottom line

The educational thrust also enriched First Baptist, which has seen record giving growth in the last three years, Collingsworth added.

Media minister Steve Smith said budget gifts have increased 19 percent during the past three years, and a total of 54 percent since the studies began.

"We definitely are breaking the trend," Smith said. "Contrary to what's happening (in many churches), as of June 15 we were at 103 percent of budget (for 2003)."

Smith credited the strong giving to the grassroots educational effort. Other than a five-week sermon series earlier this year about giving, Smith said Pastor Jim Henry hasn't aggressively promoted tithing or the small group studies.

"But looking at it from a spiritual and practical standpoint, there's no doubt it (the class series) has had an impact," Smith said.

What does drop in tithers mean for churches?

Continued from page 1

record for stewardship training sounds an ominous warning for the church during the coming 10 to 15 years.

Dayton recalled one Southern Baptist pastor who told him during the 1990s that members over age 65 accounted for 58 percent of his church's donations. As the average senior died, it took five people under age 35 to replace that elder's giving.

"His question to me was, 'What's going to happen when these dear old saints go home?'" Dayton recalled. "He said, 'We won't be able to fund the work.'"

But proper stewardship education can reverse this trend, Dayton and others said.

Surveys of 60 churches within the past year found that people completing the Crown Bible study made significant strides personally and in their church. Within three years after completing a study, the average participant reduced debt by \$20,000, saved \$10,000 and increased giving by 62 percent, Dayton said.

A different stewardship strategy

Too many churches address money only when the pastor speaks about a capital campaign or stewardship budget drive, Dayton added. "That's totally wrong. If you seek to equip people and there's no asking for money when you get to the end (of the message), people are more receptive to God's Word."

Such an emphasis should include more than money, said Jack Wilkerson, vice president of business and finance for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

A trained Crown financial counselor, Wilkerson said a believer has a stewardship responsibility for the wise use of time, talents, temple (physical body), testimony, truth (God's Word) and treasure.

The latter includes all possessions

and begins with the idea that God has given to Christians so that they can give to others, Wilkerson said. Giving won't impact Christians' lives until they embrace the principle that God owns everything and experience the blessing of biblical giving to others through the ministry of a local church, Wilkerson said.

The challenge facing many churches is to continue teaching biblical principles, he added. Too often churches are looking for ways to raise funds instead of telling people the reasons for giving to God first, and then trusting Him to take care of their needs, he added.

Such teaching needs to address the prevalent worldview that bases happiness on acquiring possessions and property, Wilkerson said.

The debt factor

"Many Christians are in financial trouble because their debt levels are too high," Wilkerson added. "Most people live in too big of a house, drive better cars than they can afford and are killed by improper use of credit cards. We want it now and decide to pay for it later."

Thom Rainer, dean of the school of missions, evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, sees decreased giving to churches as a symptom of a two-fold problem.

The first is generational, with older people more faithful in giving. That was a factor mentioned in Barna's report, which noted that people over age 60 who had the habit of tithing are diminishing in number.

The other is expectations, which Rainer calls equally serious for the church's future.

Over the past 30 years, many people have approached church with a consumer mentality, a selfish outlook that asks what services can be found there, Rainer said. As churches fo-

cused on meeting people's needs instead of challenging them to go on mission, giving has dropped, he said.

Younger adults & giving

Rainer said another reality is that young adults are less committed to the institution of the church and more concerned about how their giving fulfills a particular purpose.

"I believe the younger generation can be motivated to give and see the mission of the church as important in society and the world," Rainer said. "But leaders must understand we have dumbed down membership to where it means nothing."

Strader noted that young adults are less interested in church "buildings and budgets and salaries. ... They don't just give their money. They're getting involved in some kind of project to help somebody."

Gary Aylor, former church stewardship service director for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, has trained 500 leaders for financial management seminars. He said the church must be a strong voice for tithing.

For 25 years, churches have ignored teaching tithing as an important act of worship, said.

"Most people don't tithe and people are afraid others will leave the church if they talk about money," said Aylor, who now is LifeWay's director of central operations. "But we have to be prophetic. God's people need to fund God's work."

Teaching is a vital component of increasing giving in a congregation, he said. At the heart of giving lies a dependence on God.

"Are we going to trust God or not?" he asked. "Fifty percent of the people who come to church don't give a dime. If everyone in the church gave like God wants them to give, the church wouldn't need to have debt either."

Resources available

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship office offers a variety of resources and seminars to help churches develop better stewards, including:

■ **Budget promotion emphases.** Three sets of materials offer everything from Sunday school lessons and sermon ideas to dramas and commitment cards.

■ **Budgeting help.** One-evening workshops help committees develop, set up and implement the church budget.

■ **Successful Christian Financial Management seminars.** The one-day events are designed to help Christians understand the biblical principals of money, including tithing, grace giving and debt-free living.

■ **"Challenge to Build."** This consultant-led, three-month emphasis helps churches seek God's will and give sacrificially.

■ **"Seize the Day."** The one-day emphasis is designed to help churches raise funds quickly for smaller capital projects or missions fund.

■ **Individual consultations.** For issues big or small, consultants can help churches respond to specific challenges.

For more information, call the KBC stewardship office at (888) 254-5708.

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention also has a variety of resources for personal development, or small-group and church-wide studies:

■ **"Jesus on Money."** This series was written by financial counselor Larry Burkett, who died earlier this month. The three books contain six lessons each and reviews money management in various stages of life.

■ **"Money in Marriage."** Also written by Burkett, this workbook helps couples strengthen their financial position.

■ **"Snapshot Gold."** The CD software lets users get a quick picture of their financial picture, develop a custom spending plan and get out (or stay out) of debt.

■ **"The Five Phases of Stewardship Development: Sized to Fit Your Church."** This resource helps church leaders develop a customized program to help members become better lifestyle stewards.

■ **"ABCs of Church Budgeting, Promotion and Stewardship Education."** This annual planning book guides a church through the budgeting process and outlines a strategy for year-round stewardship training.

■ **"Managing Your Church Finances ... Made Easy."** This book covers the most common financial issues churches face, from budgeting and contribution records to purchase orders and ledgers.

Who would Jesus tax?

Alabama governor describes state's tax hike as Christian duty to assist poor

By Bob Smietana
Religion News Service

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (RNS)—First there was "What Would Jesus Do?" Then there was "What Would Jesus Drive?"

Now Christians in Alabama are asking, "What (or Who) Would Jesus Tax?"

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, a conservative Republican and Southern Baptist, has proposed a \$1.2 billion tax package that raises taxes on the wealthiest residents and businesses and cuts taxes on poor families.

Riley argues that he has a moral obligation to do so, according to David Azbell, the governor's press secretary.

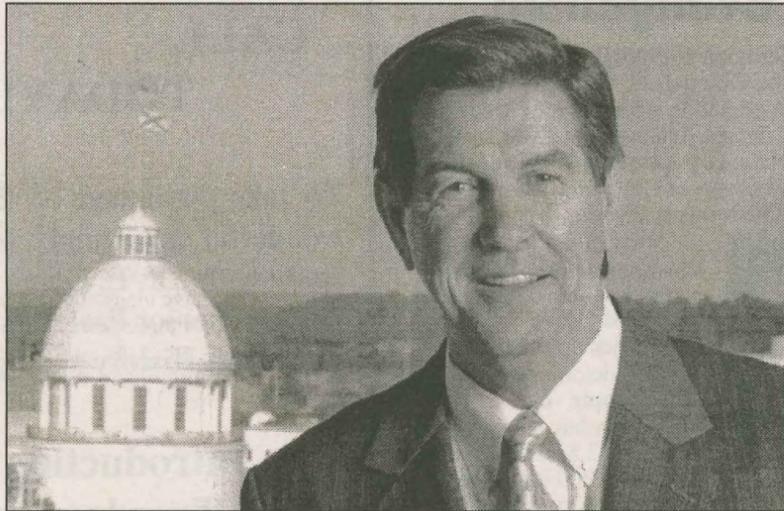
"Gov. Riley has said many times that there are three things he has found in reading the New Testament," Azbell said. "We are to love God, love our neighbor and take care of the poorest of the poor."

Azbell said the tax plan helps make "an immoral tax system moral." He notes that in Alabama, a family of four that makes as little as \$4,600 a year still has to pay income taxes. In neighboring Mississippi, that figure is \$19,000. "I just don't think you can find a justification in the New Testament for taxing a family that makes \$4,600 a year," he said.

Riley's plan, which fills a \$675 million shortfall in Alabama's budget and provides new money for education and other state services, passed the state legislature in June. It now faces a Sept. 9 referendum. Azbell said that Alabama's churches will play a key role in getting the tax package approved.

In recent years, Alabama's Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Methodists all have passed resolutions calling for tax reform, and the idea has been supported by Catholic and Jewish leaders.

One of the leading advocates for



TAX PLAN Alabama Gov. Bob Riley has proposed a \$1.2 billion tax package that raises taxes on the wealthiest residents and businesses and cuts taxes on poor families.

tax reform is University of Alabama law professor Susan Pace Hamill. Hamill's interest in the issue was sparked by a newspaper article she read during a sabbatical at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, which labeled Alabama's income tax as "the least fair" in the country.

Before that time, Hamill, a former IRS attorney who teaches tax and business law, she said was just "too busy" to notice the inequities in Alabama's tax system.

Discovering regressive taxes

"There were lots of little signs that should have tipped me off that something was seriously wrong here," she said. Like the sales tax on groceries that was "abysmally high," she said, while "the property tax on my house was ridiculously low, and the school that my kids attend was constantly begging for donations to meet things that ought to be part of the regular budget."

That combination, Hamill said, means that Alabama's poorest residents pay almost 11 percent of their income in state taxes while the richest pay less than 4 percent. Most tax codes, she said, are progressive—the more income someone has, the higher rate they pay.

"There is no defense for putting a greater proportional burden on the poor, known as regressive taxation," Hamill said.

Hamill has become a kind of evangelist for tax reform—speaking in churches, writing op-ed pieces and publishing a law review article titled, "An Argument for Tax Reform Based on Judeo-Christian Ethics," based on a year-long study of Alabama's tax system.

John Giles, president of the Christian Coalition of Alabama, said that he supports the idea of giving tax relief to the poor. But a \$1.2 billion tax increase "is a separate issue."

"Some of the governor's advisers are trying to make this (tax increase) more palatable by adding the issue of tax relief for the poor," he said.

Giles argues that the state's budget shortfall is caused by mismanagement by the state legislature, and that the cure is "good stewardship." Taxpayers should not be asked to make up for mistakes of the past, he said.

"What are the taxpayers supposed to do?" said Giles, "Go back to the legislature and say, 'Well done, now here's another \$1.2 billion for you to waste.'"

But Pastor James Evans of Crosscreek Baptist Church in Pelham, who supports the governor's plan, said that one of the most important things Jesus did was "to take care of people's past mistakes."

Alabama's Christians should do likewise, Evans said. "To say that we are not responsible for the mistakes of the past keeps us tied to those mistakes and keeps in place a system that hurts people," he said. "That's not good theology or good civics."

Taxes or gambling?

Dan Ireland of the conservative Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP) doesn't like "the idea of paying more income tax," but still supports the governor's plan. Ireland, who led a 1999 campaign that defeated a proposed state lottery, said that if the plan fails, that may mean a push for more gambling.

"If we don't pass this plan, what are we going to do?" he asked. "Cut (state) services? Or are we going to start listening to the gambling folks who say that gambling is the salvation for economic development?"

A 'Veggie' sale

Bob & Larry's company to be sold after lawsuit, too much expansion

LOMBARD, Ill. (BP)—Big Idea Productions, the creators of the popular Christian children's cartoon "VeggieTales," is for sale after losing a breach of contract lawsuit and expanding the company too soon, according to Christian Retailing Online.



A federal judge in Texas upheld a jury verdict against Big Idea in favor of its former distributor, Lyrick Studios, Inc., the industry online publication reported.

Lyrick, the Texas-based distributor of children's properties such as "Barney" and "Wishbone," sued Big Idea for allegedly breaking a verbal contract when the company moved its mainstream market distribution to

Warner Home Video in 2001.

The judge upheld the jury's \$11 million award and added court fees, attorney fees and interest, which was expected to cripple Big Idea without outside financial help or a sale of the company.

Big Idea's CEO and chief creative officer Phil Vischer told Christian Retailing Online that Big Idea made the change to Warner after Lyrick's owner and mission statement changed. Vischer believed the action was justified because the two companies had failed to produce a signed contract after three years of negotiations.

"We thought we were right in leaving Lyrick for three reasons," Vischer told Christian Retailing. "No. 1, we had never signed a contract. No. 2, we had inserted a 'key man' clause in the contract we were negotiating that would allow us to leave Lyrick if the Christian owner Dick Leech left the company. Third, we had also put in a 'change in control' clause to allow us to leave if the company was sold. When Dick sold Lyrick and died two months later, we clearly felt that both of those clauses had been invoked."

Vischer said Lyrick's attorneys persuaded the jury to believe Big Idea left Lyrick because the VeggieTales company wanted more money, which Vischer insisted was not the case.

In addition to the crippling lawsuit penalties, Big Idea is suffering from a premature move to expand the company, Christian Retailing reported. Just before the release of its first full-length feature film, "Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie," Big Idea employed more than 200 people. The company is now down to 45 employees.

"We got ourselves upside down financially when everything was working wonderfully," Vischer said. "When things were doing so well, I thought that was God wanting us to expand, so we grew like crazy. Now I think it was more me having all these great ideas in my head and being so excited that I wanted to do them all at once."

Despite the company's challenges, Vischer said that the original creative team is still in place and plans to move forward even under a new owner.

"We are just as dedicated as we ever were," Vischer told Christian Retailing. "The future is not going to look exactly like the picture I had painted in my head, and I don't know exactly what it is going to look like. But I think I am supposed to let God shape it, and if He wants to shape it with more than just me, so be it."

Big Idea, based in suburban Chicago, is moving forward with the August release of a new VeggieTales video, "The Ballad of Little Joe," a re-priced "classics" line on video and DVD, marketing partnerships with other companies, and several new VeggieTales titles in 2004.

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Robertson starts 'prayer offensive' on Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Religious Right leader Pat Robertson has launched a 21-day "prayer offensive" to persuade the Supreme Court's oldest or most infirm justices to retire so that a more conservative court can emerge.

The TV preacher recently e-mailed an "urgent call for prayer" to viewers of his CBN network, asking them to pray that several justices will retire.

"One justice is 83 years old, another has cancer and another has a heart condition," said the letter on the CBN Web site. "Would it not be possible for God to put it in the minds of these three judges that the time has come to retire?"

The identity of the judge with a heart condition is uncertain, but Robertson apparently meant Justice John Paul Stevens, 83, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who had colon cancer surgery in 1999.

"With their retirement and the appointment of conservative judges, a massive change in federal jurisprudence can take place," Robertson said in the letter announcing "Operation Supreme Court Freedom."

Critics responded with dismay.

"There is something ghoulish about praying for the removal of some of the Supreme Court's justices while noting their age and health problems," Barry Lynn, president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said in a statement.

Conservatives blasted the court's June decision to overturn state laws that ban certain gay sexual acts. Robertson's letter said the court's ruling "opened the door to homosexual marriage, bigamy, legalized prostitution and even incest."

Campus Crusade founder Bright leaves legacy of evangelism

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. (RNS)—Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, the world's largest evangelical ministry, died July 19 from complications related to pulmonary fibrosis. He was 81.

Bright, who co-founded Campus Crusade with his wife, Vonette, in 1951, spent more than five decades building and leading the Orlando, Fla.-based ministry. Campus Crusade has ministries in more than 190 countries through a staff of 26,000 full-time employees and more than 225,000 volunteers.

In a 2001 interview with Religion News Service, Bright sounded a positive note about his declining health.

"I've learned that life and death are not that much different and, you know, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord so a Christian can't lose," he said.

Evangelist Billy Graham, a long-time friend of the Brights, noted that Bright "has carried a burden on his heart as few men that I've ever known—a burden for the evangelization of the world.

"He is a man whose sincerity and integrity and devotion to our Lord have been an inspiration and a blessing to me ever since the early days of my ministry," Graham added.

Former Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt said Southern Baptist leaders have long admired Bright, who he considers a great follower of Jesus' command to evangelize the world.

"I can say without question or qualification that Southern Baptists have a tremendous love and respect for Dr. Bright," Merritt said. "I don't know of any man in the 20th century that did more to promote the Great Commission than Bill Bright."

A native Oklahoman who once owned a confections business, Bright liked to refer to himself as a former "happy pagan." He studied at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., but chose to remain a layman because he thought some people would be more comfortable around him without the ordination credentials.

Global ministry impact

His ministry expanded from the focus on campuses to include outreaches to diplomats, professors, executives, military personnel, athletes and families. In addition to overseeing Campus Crusade, Bright authored more than 50 books and booklets.

Bright's work will continue under the leadership of Steve Douglass, a long-time associate whom Bright tapped in 2001 as his successor. "Not only have I lost a dear and lifelong friend in Bill Bright, but the world has lost one of its greatest visionaries and faithful servants of Jesus Christ," Douglass said.

Bright, the winner of the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in

Religion in 1996, also was honored by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association with its Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Association of Evangelicals which chose him for its first-ever Lifetime Ministry Award.



Bright

Among his most noteworthy evangelistic accomplishments was the creation of a tract titled "Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?" The booklet, which explains how people can become Christians, has been printed more than 2.5 billion times in more than 200 languages.

His ministry also has been known worldwide for the distribution of a movie about the life of Jesus. The film, simply called "Jesus," is available in more than 650 languages.

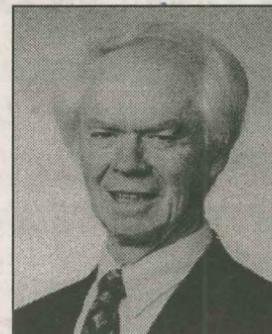
Call to Christian unity

Other Christian leaders have lauded Bright for his role in fostering Christian unity through such efforts as "Fasting & Prayer" conferences that began in 1994 and his endorsement of "Evangelicals and Catholics Together," a controversial statement addressing issues on which Christian leaders from different perspectives found agreement.

"This idea of division is not of God," Bright told Religion News Service. "Criticism and fault-finding and anti-anything in the life of believers on the part of another is wrong."

In addition to his wife, Bright is survived by two sons, Zachary, pastor of Divine Savior Presbyterian Church in California and Bradley, who is on staff with Campus Crusade; and four grandchildren.

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RECOGNITION OF DECEASED KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The 2003 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Date of death
4. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
5. Name of church where member, association, state where located
6. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before September 2 to:

Executive Office
Kentucky Baptist Convention
PO Box 43433
Louisville KY 40253-0433
ATTN: Wanda Karolyi

e-mail address: Wanda_Karolyi@KYBaptist.org

These obituary entries will be reported to the 2003 KBC annual meeting in Lexington. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

SMILE

Owensboro auction to benefit KBHC

If you think the only reason to visit Owensboro is for its famed barbecue, we're about to give you another.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is hosting its third annual "We'll Be There" benefit dinner and auction in Owensboro next month. Proceeds benefit our programs for abused and neglected kids or families in crisis.

The auction is a must-do event. After all, where else can you eat Moonlite Bar-B-Q for a good cause?

Last year's event raised \$20,000 to support KBHC programs, including Cornerstone Counseling and the Dixon Center, a residential program for abused and neglected teenage girls.

We hope to bring in even more during this year's event, which is catered by Moonlite and will include entertainment by the Kids for Christ praise band and KBHC staffers.

An auction will follow the dinner and include a handmade quilt, a day at a spa, a basketball autographed by University of Kentucky coach Tubby Smith, season tickets to Kentucky Wesleyan games, crystal items, a lady's watch and club memberships.

Whether you live in Owensboro or across the state, it's worth your time to attend this event. I'll even give you the top five reasons you should participate:

5. Jump on the bandwagon. More than 300 people attended last year.

4. During the auction, you'll have a chance to bid on everything from golf balls to vacation packages.

3. Raise money for KBHC's programs, which care for abused and neglected children.

2. We need you. 1. The children in our care need you.

When and where: The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. (Central time), Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Owensboro Sports Center. Tickets are \$40 each or \$300 for a table of eight.

For details, or to purchase tickets, call Joann Mason at (270) 685-0110.

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

Thank God for safe summer, busy fall

By David Melber

As you read this, the summer camping season is rapidly drawing to a close. From all employees of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, we want to thank each of you who have prayed for the camps this summer.

God has blessed us in many ways, the staff has survived the strenuous schedule, campers have been kept safe, and most importantly, many have been added to God's Kingdom. We have many goals for what takes place during summer, but the prime directive of all we do centers upon seeing kids and adults accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Fall is lining up to be our busiest ever. At both locations, we have groups booked every weekend through Thanksgiving, and many weekends throughout the winter and spring already are filling up with conferences and retreats. Anyone who might be considering a retreat at Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek should call soon; the days of any weekend being open are over. Praise God for what He is doing.

The planning and preparation for the coming year is under way. The pre-registration for 2004 is far ahead of what has taken place historically. At the time of writing, we already have more than 1,200 reservations for Crossings 2004. At

this pace, we anticipate being at capacity early this fall. We have learned much this summer, and the most obvious realization is that Jonathan Creek is now operating beyond capacity during the summer months. The most obvious example is the dining hall, which was designed for 160 people, but now serves more than 500 during five of the nine camp weeks.

The coming years will be exciting as we seek to accommodate the surging number of people. Only God will be able to provide the means to keep pace with the growth.

We want to offer a special thanks to all the people who make summer camp a reality. Most importantly, we want to thank the youth ministers and their adult leaders who lead and train these students week in and week out the entire year. Many times youth leaders can be overlooked, but they are developing the leaders of our churches for the coming years. If we as Kentucky Baptist do not make the youth a priority, what will our churches of tomorrow look like? Take time to encourage your youth leaders, and thank them for investing their lives into the lives of our youth.

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

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crossword

Mary Louise DeMott

Across

- 1 "Seeking goodly _____" (Matthew 13:45)
- 6 Bible treasure—the last stone in the High Priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 12 Be
- 14 People or things close at hand
- 15 Department of Defense, abbr.
- 16 Seventeenth letter of the Greek alphabet
- 18 American Kennel Club, abbr.
- 19 Commercials, in other words, for short
- 20 Bible treasures: plants with leaves or seeds used for food
- 22 A statement the speaker knows to be untrue
- 23 Thirteenth letter of the Greek alphabet
- 24 Rather gray
- 26 Doctor's degree
- 27 Emperor of Russia
- 29 Woodwind instrument of treble pitch
- 31 Woman church leader
- 32 A coagulated mass
- 34 Every one
- 37 Abbreviation of 34 Across
- 38 Bible treasure: the first stone in the second row of the High Priest's breastplate, rich green color (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 43 Old English, abbr.
- 44 Ribonucleic acid, abbr.
- 46 Iridescent gems
- 47 Opposite of nay
- 48 Yards, abbr.
- 49 "And _____ did that which was right" (1 Kings 15:11)
- 50 Creator and ruler of the uNIVERse

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13		14			
15					16		17			18	
19				20			21		22		
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27		28						29	30		
		31									
32	33							34		35	36
37			38	39	40		41	42			43
44		45		46						47	
48				49						50	
51			52	53				54	55		
56								57			

- 51 A rope with a running noose
- 54 Bible treasure: beautifully veined, semi-transparent, a variety of quartz (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 56 A guarantee
- 57 Trapped

- 24 A diving bird
- 25 Watered or sprayed
- 28 Fuss, trouble, excitement
- 30 Boy Scouts of America, abbr.
- 32 Bible treasures found in the High Priest's breastplate—identical to emerald except a light or bluish green in color (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 33 A four wheeled carriage with a folding top
- 35 North American prairie wolf
- 36 Paid careful attention to
- 39 Central state whose capital is Jefferson City, abbr.
- 40 Environmental Protection Agency, abbr.
- 41 Montgomery's state, abbr.
- 42 Left side, abbr.
- 45 Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, abbr.
- 47 A gelatinous substance, from seaweed, used as a laxative
- 52 Selenium, chem. symbol
- 53 Writings that belong to both Jews and Christians, abbr.
- 54 Article used before a vowel
- 55 Peach state, abbr.

Down

- 1 Boring teacher
- 2 Second book of the OT
- 3 Helps
- 4 Recording Secretary, abbr.
- 5 Lieutenant, abbr.
- 7 Preposition
- 8 Hush
- 9 Loud ringing of a bell
- 10 People who live near the arctic coast of North America and eastern Siberia
- 11 Shrink back
- 13 Apple-green chalcedony
- 16 Rural Electrification Administration, abbr.
- 17 A bright broad sash worn with a kimono
- 20 House of Representatives, abbr.
- 21 Religious education, in other words, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	S	R	A	E	L	S	R
M	L	14	15	R	I	G	H
P	U	A	H	B	R	I	E
O	M	R	I	N	E	W	I
S	B	22	23	K	Y	24	25
S	E	C	H	U	26	A	N
I	R	P	E	E	31	D	32
B	33	S	O	U	R	34	A
L	O	F	T	40	41	42	43
E	V	E	45	E	G	Y	P
E	A	R	49	R	E	50	F
I	R	R	E	F	U	T	A
F	57	D	E	B	A	T	E

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Report: Views on marriage make homes unstable for kids

"Children are less able to count on their parents' marriage as the secure foundation for their family lives."

National Marriage Project report

By Hannah Lodwick
Associated Baptist Press

RUTGERS, N.J. (ABP)—Americans value marriage more for romance than child-rearing, and the result is less stability for children, according to a recent study by Rutgers University.

"Though most adults continue to prize marriage and to seek it for themselves, children are less able to count on their parents' marriage as the secure foundation for their family lives," the report said.

The report, part of an annual initiative from the National Marriage Project, found that increases in divorce rates, out-of-wedlock births and unmarried cohabitation have contributed to high percentages of children growing up in volatile families.

An estimated 40 percent of children today will live in a cohabiting household sometime during their developing years, the Rutgers study said.

In a recent international comparison, 70 percent of Americans disagreed with the statement that "the main purpose of marriage is having children," while 51 percent of Norwegians and 45 percent of Italians disagreed with the same statement. Among Americans ages 20-29, the rate of disagreement reached almost 80 percent.

According to the Rutgers study, titled "The Social Health of Marriage in America," the decline of attention to children in a marriage has contrib-

Poll: Half of Americans say out-of-wedlock births acceptable

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—Half of Americans now believe it is morally acceptable to have a baby outside of marriage, a Gallup Poll shows.

Pollsters found that 51 percent of U.S. adults polled in May said out-of-wedlock births were morally acceptable, compared to 46 percent who said they were morally wrong.

One year ago, slightly fewer—45 percent—thought such births were acceptable, while 50 percent thought they were wrong.

Views on the subject varied greatly depending on respondents' church-attending habits.

While 26 percent of those who attend church weekly said out-of-wedlock births were morally acceptable, 71 percent of those who seldom or never attend church agreed.

Married Americans are less likely than unmarried Americans to say such births are acceptable, 45 percent to 58 percent respectively.

Almost three-quarters (73 percent) of liberals think having a baby

outside of marriage is morally acceptable, compared to 55 percent of moderates and 38 percent of conservatives.

While 64 percent of respondents ages 18 to 29 think out-of-wedlock births are morally acceptable, lower percentages of older age groups voice approval. For example, 53 percent of 30-49 year olds, 51 percent of those ages 50 to 64 and 33 percent of those 65 and older said having a baby outside of marriage is acceptable.

uted to the weakening of marriage as a whole. Whereas people used to look for a potential spouse who displayed qualities conducive to future parenting, now single adults tend to evaluate partners based on more exacting, emotional requirements.

Dichotomy & discord

The report said the dichotomy between adult desires for intimacy and privacy with their "soul mate" and the children's needs for security and attention causes tension in the marriage and can lead to high levels of discord.

Researchers found that while teens, especially boys, desire a long-term marriage, both boys and girls have become more accepting of marriage alternatives, perhaps attempting to lessen the likelihood of discord and eventual divorce in their own lives.

Many young people have foregone marriage altogether, opting either to remain single or to choose unmarried cohabitation. Since 1960, the number of cohabiting couples with children has increased by 850 percent, and roughly half of unmarried women ages 25-29 have lived or currently live with a partner.

"The belief is that living together before marriage is a useful way to find out whether you really get along," the report said. "In fact, a substantial body of evidence indicates that those who live together before marriage are more likely to break up after marriage."

David Popenoe, co-director of the project, said homes with two married parents provide the best environment for children.

"If you look at studies and com-

pare child outcomes from a single-parent family to those with a two-parent family, the children in the second group have lower levels of emotional distress and anxiety," Popenoe said.

Indeed, the report found that children who lived in separated families had more than twice the risk of social and behavioral problems than those who lived in two-parent families. It also said children in single-parent families have negative life outcomes at two-to-three times the rate of children in two-parent families.

Despite what critics call an "unnecessarily gloomy" report, Popenoe and co-director Barbara Dafoe Whitehead found declines in child poverty and teen pregnancy and a slight increase—from 68 percent to 69 percent since 1990—in the number of children living with two married parents.

A busy week, a busy month and a very busy summer

My regular readers know that volunteers are a critical part of all that we do. The first volunteers of record began coming to Oneida Baptist Institute in the 1930s from Cincinnati.

Their trip was more challenging than today's three-hour, air-conditioned ride. Back then it took about two days to arrive at Manchester, our county seat. The 17-mile trip from Manchester to Oneida took nearly a day, depending on whether the creeks were low or running full. How things have changed!

We already have had about 250 volunteers in 21 groups this year. We expect another 250 this summer and fall. They will have come from a dozen states, and most have been here many times before. We just can't get along without our volunteers!

Most of our summer improvements are planned around the arrival of volunteers, who bring a host of skills and willingness to work. Two groups helped replace two shingle roofs with new metal ones. Another group is replacing a third roof. It can be difficult to find men who know how to install metal roofs and are willing to work that high.

Other men helped with a wide range of needs in the maintenance department. Men who have plumbing, electrical and general repair skills help to reduce the seemingly impossible load of our maintenance department. Their responsibilities include not only the 15 major buildings on our campus, but also the housing we provide for 120 of our 150 faculty and staff. Men who have a wide range of skills are ideal for those projects. Several additional men worked on the farm, where the longest day never provides enough daylight to complete all of their tasks. Others are kind enough

to take on some seemingly insignificant responsibilities, but are a tremendous help to us.

And I would never forget the help of the women! One of the greatest services they provide is painting. There normally is an endless list of things that need to be painted, including recently vacated staff housing or newly remodeled housing. Not many men willingly agree to paint. Many of the women would rather do something else, but they normally are more accommodating. Sometimes,

I can tell the ladies would rather not paint from the expressions on their faces. But if that is our greatest need, they usually will paint. The men, on the other hand, normally remind me of that old back injury or the bad knees they have which simply prevent them from painting. I never knew so many men had bad back and knee problems.

The ladies also clean, shampoo carpets, work in the food pantry and work with our used clothing. Others help in the craft shop and some, who are a little less mobile, help to cut, trim and count the thousands of soup labels. Still other men and women help with a variety of

needs in the print shop. I have not listed all of the ministries these wonderful friends provide to our school. They come from far and near with a desire to help us in areas we simply cannot do ourselves. We provide their housing and all meals, and we do our best to make sure we send them home tired and spiritually rewarded. At the end of the summer when we have time to get our second wind, we marvel and rejoice at all they have accomplished!

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Still making progress

From each graduating class, the faculty presents the Claude Fox Award to the student who has demonstrated the most progress. The 2003 award went to Forrest Hearn, now pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Ohio County.

"The award was very much a surprise," Forrest said. "I was not expecting it at all, although my English and writing needed improvement. I was a high school graduate but only had a third-grade reading level."

Forrest benefited from tutoring by Mayfield friend Joe Bagwell. Clear Creek tutor Jean Slinker and others also helped.

"All of these people were a great encouragement," Forrest said. "I've received a good solid biblical education at Clear Creek; very practical training."

During most of his time at Clear Creek, Forrest had a campus workship position on the security patrol. "I enjoyed cruising around at night, seeing the peace and protection that God gave us," he said. "I worked swing shift with another student, and we provided security during weekends and holidays. We had a few confrontations with prowlers checking things out, but when they saw the patrol car they took off."

Forrest contacted local law enforcement officials and obtained a donation of security lights for the campus security vehicle. The security patrol doesn't carry guns; the Pineville police or sheriff's department is called in on any serious problem. "It was a great help to work on campus," Forrest said. "My wife was also employed. We were able to take care of our financial needs."

The Hearn family was active in East Jellico Baptist Church, where professor Bill Helton is pastor. Forrest went on mission trips to Bosnia, Tanzania and Brazil. "Toni and I did prayer walking with Bro. Helton in Bosnia and had many opportunities to evangelize in Brazil," he said. "I hope Pleasant Grove will want to do mission trips."

The Hearn family were willing to serve anywhere, especially back to Brazil, but the Lord took them to a rural community near Fordsville, 90 minutes from their families. "God has blessed us with a loving church. We also can see the sun rise and set," Forrest said.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

Seminary prof offers resources to reach 'radically unchurched'

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—A lot of Christians are good at sharing their faith with people who are like the traditional church goer, according to Alvin Reid.

But "we're not reaching people who are not like us," said Reid, a professor of evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

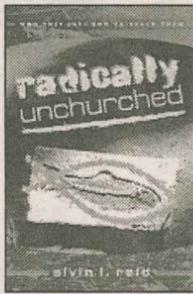
That's why he said he wrote "Radically Unchurched: Who They Are and How to Reach Them."

Reid writes that the radically unchurched come from all walks of life, and are oblivious to the claims of Christianity. Some might even be hostile toward those claims, and many churches simply do not make an effort to reach these groups of people, he said.

"Radically Unchurched" is part "how-to" and part "why?" Reid said, noting that some of his motivation for writing the book was to help pastors who had told him that many books on the unchurched were all theory, with little or no practical advice.

Reid's first 100 pages explain, from his research, who the un-

churched are and then lay out a biblical case for the need to reach them. The second 100 pages give practical advice on such topics as using personal testimonies, planning a worship service with the radically unchurched in mind and building a church to reach the unchurched.



With both practical examples and academic research, Reid seeks to demonstrate that Christians can reach out to those who have no concept or familiarity with the Christian message to fulfill the commands of Christ and penetrate the larger culture.

"Truth is what will reach people," Reid said. "This is a call for Christians to be radicals."

Rather than watering down the gospel, Reid advocates a greater emphasis on the truth of Christ and exclusivity of Christianity. A higher level of dedication among Christians will attract those searching for the answers to life's toughest questions, he states.

"It's not the message that has driven people away from the church," Reid said. "It's the messenger."

The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with The Apocrypha. Abingdon Press, 2003. 2,322 pages. \$45 hardcover, \$85 leather. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five).

For years "The Interpreter's Bible" commentary set was a staple in the library of most preachers. In the 1990s Abingdon Press completed the process of thoroughly updating this classic by releasing the final volumes of "The New Interpreter's Bible."

Like the original, it combined sound exegetical work on the text of Scripture, with thought-provoking exposition by some of the world's leading Bible scholars and preachers.

Building on the model of the commentary series, Walter Harrelson and a team of editors and contributors (including Lisa Davison of Lexington Theological Seminary, Carol Grizzard of Pikeville College and Joseph Trafton of Western Kentucky University) have crafted a thorough, yet accessible study Bible.

While this study Bible shares many common characteristics of most others—including maps, book introductions and general articles—the real strength of this study Bible is in the notes that accompany the text. Unlike some study Bibles, which try to be relevant by focusing on life application issues or devotional ideas, or whose running textual notes are too sketchy to be useful, "The NIB Study Bible" provides notes that help the reader gain a real sense of the richness of texts. Nor did the editors shy away from dealing with difficult issues of translation and interpretation in the textual notes.

In many ways, Harrelson and his editorial team have done an excellent job of blending the strengths of "The New Interpreter's Bible" into a study Bible format. Any serious student of the Bible will find this to be a valuable and accessible tool. I am amazed they have packed as much into the volume as they have. *Jim Holladay*

The Good of Affluence: Seeking God in a Culture of Wealth. John Schneider. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002. 233 pages. \$24. ♦♦♦♦♦

This book wades full force into the debate over the Christian's proper attitude toward wealth and riches. More pointedly, the book seeks answers to whether a Christian should have personal guilt because of his or her financial success and whether wealth is incompatible with true Christianity.

The short answers are no. But think again before you label this book as coming from the "prosperity gospel" stream of evangelical Christianity. Likewise, Schneider does not dismiss the work of radical evangelicals like Ron Sider out of hand either. What Schneider has produced is a provocative book that will leave most everyone feeling a need for some adjustment in thinking on the subject.

Schneider considers mostly what he labels the "wealth as blessing" passages in the Old Testament. He does

not propose a spiritualization of these passages and he also does not see them as running contrary to New Testament teaching. In the New Testament he primarily looks at the Lucan writings, while also spending time with some Pauline passages.

Schneider engages insightfully with contemporary writers on the subject. Sider is his favorite thinker to interact with, but he also has significant dialogue with Stanley Hauerwas. His interaction with liberation theology and capitalist economic theory provided this reader with many "could be right" moments. His conclusion about affluence neither discounts the role wealth does, and perhaps should, play in a Christian's life nor does it release Christians from a profound sense of stewardship and compassion.

Schneider proposes a model he calls "moral proximity" in order to determine the scope of stewardship and compassion. Any future work on this subject will have to deal with Schneider before its conclusions can be judged valid and intellectually sound. *Wayne Hager*

Progressive Christians Speak: A Different Voice on Faith and Politics. Editor John Cobb Jr. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. 341 pages. \$19.95. ♦♦

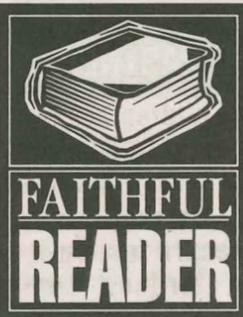
A project of Progressive Christians Uniting, "Progressive Christians Speak" attempts to speak to the political and social issues confronting our society.

Members of this project believe that a key reason for the decline of many mainline congregations is their failure to address the pressing issues of our day. Consequently, "our own youth do not take our churches seriously as agents of God's salvation." They are convinced that "if we cannot show the connection between our faith and our politics in a well-reasoned and persuasive way, we do not deserve to be taken seriously."

From religion in the public schools to homosexuality to the war on drugs to corporate culture, the authors leave few stones unturned. In each chapter, they present the issue, lay out key facts and figures, seek to demonstrate how Christian faith speaks to the issue, offer some suggestions for actions and provide questions for discussion or further exploration.

I gave up on this book early on, but to be fair kept trying to come back to it to see if it would get better. I came away unsatisfied, and not because I disagreed with the authors on every issue.

In the political marketplace, where one voice representing the Christian worldview gets all the attention, I hoped that a viable alternative might be presented here. Unfortunately, while the authors do a good job of documenting the issues, and generally outlining a valid Christian perspective, they are weak when it comes to documenting their conclusion from Scripture or the broad stream of Christian tradition. *Jim Holladay*



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

Wouldn't it be great ...

... if churches had a resource to help families with the challenges they're facing?

You're holding it.

Every week, the Western Recorder offers Family Forum, a faith-based column to help with the variety of issues families face today. Specialists on parenting, seniors, singles, teenagers and relationships can help equip your congregation to live out their Christianity where it matters most. Shouldn't your members be getting Family Forum?



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ A new Sunday school class for younger preschoolers that recently began at Bunavestire Baptist Church in Romania. "Many (Romanians) believe that children, especially preschoolers, cannot learn spiritual principles," missionaries Larry and Peggy Carnes write. "Pray that Romanians will see this as a ministry and an opportunity to teach young children about the love of God."

■ Baptist representatives in the Netherlands, as they work with many displaced families from political hot spots around the world.

■ A focus on prayer in the Baptist church in Sofia, Bulgaria. "Pray that this church will truly become a house of prayer in Sofia from which the Spirit can flow," a missionary writes.

■ Follow up to the work of a team from Kentucky on Malta in late June. The group led children's activities.

■ Julie Bradfield and Martha Moore who work with students in Germany.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ANNVILLE**—Glenn Chasteen recently resigned as pastor of Anville Church.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Mount Zion Church called Joe Mobley as interim pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Donaldson Creek Church is holding revival services July 20-25.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will celebrate Homecoming 2003 Aug. 24. The Kelleys will be in concert for the afternoon service. John Chowning is pastor. For information, call (270) 789-0082.

■ **CENTERTOWN**—Smallhouse Church recently called Rossie Stewart as pastor.

West Point Church recently called George Darnell as pastor.

■ **CRESCENT SPRINGS**—Crescent Springs Church recently called Dan Flowers as pastor.

■ **CUNNINGHAM**—Bethlehem Church called David Hardy as pastor.

■ **DEXTER**—Dexter Church recently ordained Robert Young as a deacon.

■ **FAIRDALE**—First Church called Josh Powell as interim pastor.

■ **FLORENCE**—Greenview Church recently called Steve Turner as pastor. He previously was pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church in De Mossville.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church called Chad Caddell as minister of spiritual development. French Harmon is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Greasy Creek Church recently called Jamie Bennett as youth pastor.

South Greensburg Church recent-

ly called Duane Orange as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Dupey Church recently called Glen Morris as pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Greenbriar Church recently called Jeff Ryder as pastor.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—Roger Shepard recently resigned as pastor of Dunningville First Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the Journeymen in concert July 27, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

New Cut Road Church called Ricky Lee as minister of music. Greg Smith is pastor.

Parkland Church honored Beth Turpin June 29 for 10 years of service as youth/activities minister. Tom Curry is pastor.

■ **MACEO**—Yelvington Church celebrated its 190th anniversary June 29.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Morgan Owen resigned as minister of youth at Bellevue Church to become Baptist collegiate minister at the University of Tennessee in Martin.

Odell Beauchamp resigned as pastor of Walnut Memorial Church to accept a pastorate in Missouri.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—Jennings West recently resigned as pastor of First Fitzpatrick Church.

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@earthlink.net.

Kentucky native among workers appointed as IMB missionaries

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—Kentucky native Jim Jordan and his wife, Ute, were among 70 international missionaries appointed July 13 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

The new workers, appointed during a service at London Bridge Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va., represent diverse vocational, ethnic and geographic backgrounds.

Appointees included a warehouse supervisor, a grocery store manager, an electronics technician and an engineer as well as a psychologist and a former ballet dancer.

The new missionaries include ethnic Asians, Hispanics and African-Americans as well as Anglos. They came from Oregon, California and New York, as well as Kentucky, Alabama and Texas.

"God has placed in your life His indwelling presence, the Light of the world, ... and we are sending you out to light a dark world," said IMB President Jerry Rankin. "Our world is filled with dangers and risk. Yet God has placed a passion in your heart to carry that light into the darkness of a world without Christ."

Jordan, a native of Louisville, and his wife will serve as associate missionaries in general education in the IMB's Southeast Asia and Oceania region. They previously served as IMB International Service Corps workers in Thailand.

Jordan is a graduate of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He has served as a psychol-



Jim Jordan



Ute Jordan

ogist with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and as director of institutional research for South Carolina State University in Orangeburg.

Mrs. Jordan, a native of Germany, has served as an elementary teacher. The couple has four children: Elizabeth Price, James Ansley, Philipp Howard and Michael Thomas.

The 70 new missionaries brought the total number of long-term Southern Baptist international workers to 5,495, including more than 3,400 career missionaries.

The appointment of this group already was set when IMB leaders voted in May to restrict future appointments in response to a growing budget deficit. Trustees approved plans to reduce 2003 spending by \$10 million after the 2002 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering fell \$10 million short of its \$125 million goal. IMB leaders also withdrew approximately \$37 million from reserve funds last year to cover budget shortfalls.

Approximately 100 candidates who had planned to begin long-term missionary careers this year have been deferred to next year or put on hold.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Sanibel Island, Fla. 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.

FREE: Pulpit furniture: Four large chairs; two small chairs; two lecterns; choir railing. If interested, contact Jeff Barbour, Erlanger Baptist Church, (859) 727-2588, ext. 337.

AVAILABLE: In-home private-duty service in Louisville area. Experienced RNs and non-medical caregivers available, including end-of-life and Alzheimer's care. (502) 593-3265.

FOR SALE: Handicap lift for the side door of a church bus (also could be used to lift equipment into the van). Asking \$1,500. For more info, call Victory Baptist Church at (606) 864-4117.

SEEKING: Director of accounting. Requires bachelor's degree in accounting and at least five years supervisory experience, preferably not-for-profit experience and CPA license; strong communications and computer skills also required. Send resumé with salary history and requirements in confidence to: Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, or personnel@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Two positions: Pastor and 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 Pulpit Committee or Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: James Penn (pastor) or Brent Highfill (youth minister), or call (270) 965-2149. turnerchandler@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead, Ky. The church averages 125 in Sunday school and 160 in worship. If interested, send resumé to Ricky Holloway, 12978 Orndorff Mill Road, Olmstead, KY 42265.

SEEKING: West Broadway is accepting applications for administrative assistant. Knowledge of MS Office and prior church-related experience preferred. Send resumé with salary requirements to: Personnel Committee, West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to children for First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Ky. Experience in children's ministries preferred; pay commensurate with position. Please send resumé to Children's Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 107, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

SEEKING: Kirkwood Baptist Church in Salvisa, Ky., is looking for a youth minister. For information, call (859) 865-4231.

SEEKING: First Baptist, Sonora, is searching for a part-time youth minister to work with grades 7-12. Some musical ability would be helpful. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 187, Sonora, KY 42776. Fax: (270) 369-8867.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Zion's Cause Baptist Church, 1532 Highway 68 West, Benton, KY 42025.

SEEKING: Fairlane Baptist church is seeking a full-time minister. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Fairlane Baptist Church, 5913 South Herring Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Green River Memorial Baptist Church. Send resumé to: GRMBC, 3441 Old Columbia Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to children for Chevy Chase Baptist Church. Duties include managing and implementing children's ministries. Experience working with children preferred. Send resumé to: Minister to Children, Chevy Chase Baptist Church, 200 Colony Blvd., Lexington, KY 40502. ccbc_cmcs@yahoo.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: 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: 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.

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.

What does Jesus look like?

Evansville exhibit explores how artists think Christ looked

By Chris Herlinger
Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—To paraphrase St. Augustine: No one knows Jesus' face, just as no one knows how tall Mary stood.

Their external appearances still elude us.

So why do we think we "know" what they looked like?

Because painters and sculptors have represented mother and son in a tradition that spans centuries and languages, across continents and cultures.

"Today, as in the Middle Ages, most people 'know' what Jesus looked like," said art scholar Ena Heller.

What we actually know is a prototype—one that varies from place to place, from time to time and can depend on variations of race, ethnicity and geography—but is also related in what Heller calls "purpose, message and, in the case of the adult Jesus, even details of physiognomy."

An exhibit that originated at the American Bible Society gallery in New York and currently is touring the United States examines the ways in which the prototypes for Jesus and Mary developed into what is perhaps the most recognizable tradition of art in the world.

Extensive collection

"Icons or Portraits? Images of Jesus and Mary from the Collection of Michael Hall" will be on display starting next week at the Evansville, Ind., Museum of Arts, History and Science.

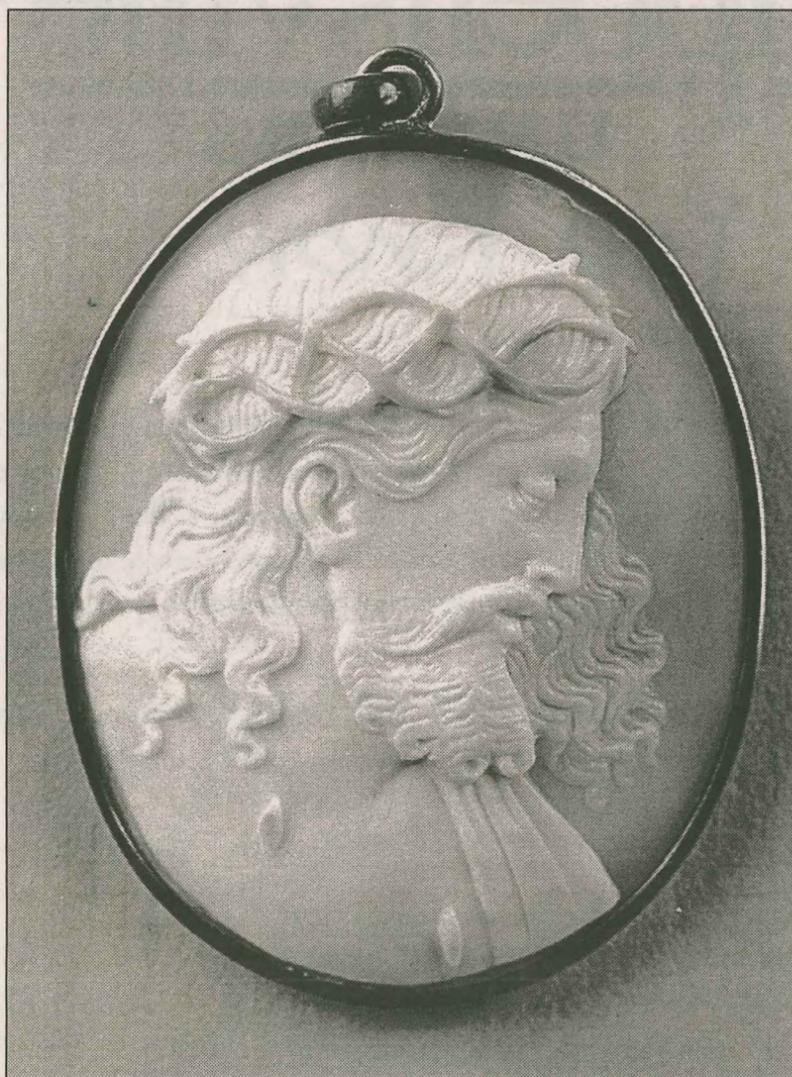
It is gleaned from the private collection of a noted New York art collector who says he is motivated less by religiosity than by collecting "beautiful things."

The full exhibit features 114 works spanning nearly eight centuries—works at once strikingly different but all related, Heller said in her introduction in the exhibit's catalog.

Hall, an almost cherubic, youthful looking man in his mid-70s, does not fit anyone's image of a collector of religious art: visiting the Saturday flea markets of Manhattan's Chelsea district is his self-described religion.

But his collecting is serious to a fault. During a leisurely interview while on one of his weekend rounds, Hall recalled discovering one of the rarest pieces in the exhibit—a depiction of Jesus on the cross flanked by His mother and the Apostle John believed to date from the early 1100s. "What's that doing here?" he thought.

While the occasional bit of luck might enter into it, persistence and discriminating taste have proven the foundation for a collection Hall had long wanted to exhibit publicly.



ICONS OR PORTRAITS? A cameo of Jesus is among the many images of Jesus at the Evansville, Ind., Museum of Arts, History and Science July 29-Aug Oct. 5.

"He has an amazing eye," Heller, who is the director of the American Bible Society Gallery, said of Hall. "And he cares about these objects deeply."

While eschewing a religious motivation for his collecting, Hall said that when he began collecting art he recalled a question that grew out of his childhood Episcopal Bible class. Seeing a typically Germanic depiction of Jesus—a man with blue eyes and blond hair—Hall asked his father, who had the same features, if his family shared a similar background with Jesus. No, his father said, Jesus came from a different part of the world and probably looked very different.

Recognizable images

Despite different visages portrayed in different cultures, the depictions of Jesus and Mary, he said, are always "somehow recognizable"—and that is particularly the case with Jesus.

The collection provided the framework, and also the limits, of the inquiry, Heller said.

Since most of the exhibit centers on Renaissance and Baroque periods in Italy and, to a lesser degree, Northern Europe, the visage of Jesus is a bit uniform—noticeably European, like the Jesus that Hall recognized as a child—though at different moments in His life: as infant, as young man being baptized, as tragic figure dying on the cross.

Some moments Jesus is serene,

others unsettled; at times He is a man like other men, at others He is a figure of veneration who knows He is set apart from His fellows.

Mary fares differently. She remains a decidedly more elusive figure—nearly always serene, but represented in quite different ways.

A 20th century African ivory piece—"Virgin In Prayer"—is distinctly African in physical features; a 15th century Florentine "Madonna and Child" carved in marble depicts a very different woman, yet always with the same sense of serenity and dignity.

Heller said she thinks that given Jesus' place in history, He is, paradoxically, a more "constricted" figure in art than Mary, of whom far less is known.

As to the question posed by the exhibit—are these pieces icons or portraits—Heller said she believes they are iconic images which, at different times and places, were considered to be portraits. Consequently, they were "handed down as such from generation to generation."

"The bottom line as regards to portraiture, of course, is that we still can't tell," she said, recalling St. Augustine's dictum. "We still don't know what either Jesus or Mary looked like."

"Icons or Portraits?" will be exhibited from July 28-Oct. 5 at the Evansville, Ind., Museum of Arts, History and Science. For more information, call the museum at (812) 425-2406 or visit www.emuseum.org.

Former Mormon shares Christ with other LDS members

By Jeff Robinson
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—John Divito has a passion for proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ to Mormons. It's a passion driven by an insider's perspective.

For the first 19 years of his life, Divito—a master of divinity student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville—was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Divito spent a week handing out gospel tracts and discussing the gospel with Mormons at the church's annual Mormon Miracle Pageant in Manti, Utah, in June. Divito worked with Mormonism Research Ministry, an apologetics group for which he serves as a staff member.

MRM is one of many Christian groups that offered outreach during the 37th annual pageant, with the hope of seeing Mormons saved from a false gospel to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The pageant essentially is a two-hour Mormon play during which 2,000 years of the church's history is played out on stage. The drama runs nightly for two weeks each June and draws thousands to the small town of Manti, the site of the Manti Temple, completed in 1888.

Though the message of MRM and other Christian groups was not warmly received, 11 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

"Quite frankly, many of the Mormons were not interested in taking the literature, and many refused to talk," Divito said. "There were periodic announcements coming out of the sound system, one of which warned people about reading the information not published by the LDS church."

"The Mormons I did talk to believed they were Christians, so they wanted to understand why we were out there saying that they were not true believers. I would show them that our understandings of who God is is different and our gospels are incompatible."

Divito learned the difference between the false message of Mormonism and the true gospel of Jesus Christ after spending much of his life as a Mormon.

He completed many of the steps necessary to progress in the Mormon faith. Many of Divito's family members remain Mormons.

College conversion

When he turned 18, Divito faced a difficult choice: go on a mission expected of men his age or go to college. He opted for college, which turned out to have profound eternal implications.

While attending Southwest Missouri State University in 1996, Divito began to date an evangelical Christian. He sought to convert his new girlfriend to Mormonism. To shore up his missionary efforts, Divito decided to read Christian materials designed to refute Mormonism.

Soon, Divito's studies took a strange turn: He began to see the fallacies of Mormon doctrine alongside the veracity of Christian teaching. Soon, he began to attend a campus ministry and regularly heard the gospel.

Before long, he was convinced of the truth of Scripture, convicted of his sin and converted to Christianity.

"The evidence they gave me was well-documented and easily verifiable," Divito said. "As a result, I began having a crisis of faith. Was everything I had ever been taught through the Mormon church wrong? After my studies, I found out what I believed was indeed wrong."

In 1997, Divito married Jennifer, the girlfriend who had been pivotal in his pilgrimage into the light of Christianity.

Divito said he hopes to continue dialoguing with and ministering to Mormons and others following false gospels.

"I get the impression that some individuals believe Mormons are harder to win to Christ than others," Divito said. "But all unbelievers are dead in their trespasses and sins, as Ephesians 2:1 says, and the salvation of Mormons is no more difficult for God than that of any other believer."

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

Did You Know...

1. Main Campus

Campbellsville University is proud of its affiliation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and churches all over the Commonwealth. This partnership continues to grow with over 60% of our current students coming from our Baptist family. That's why we have been listed as one of the South's leading Christian universities, providing an exceptional education featuring more than 40 areas of study with pre-professional programs having an average acceptance rate of 98%.

Financial Aid is still available for the fall semester. Fall registration at Campbellsville University is Aug. 18 with classes beginning on Aug. 20.

2. Graduate Programs

Master of Arts in Education
Master of Arts in Special Education
Master of Arts in Social Sciences
Master of Business Administration MBA
Master of Arts in Music
Master of Music in Church Music
Master of Music in Music Education
Master of Theology

Sign up now for any of our graduate programs with tuition rates that are affordable and competitive.

3. Louisville Education Center

Campbellsville University's Louisville Center offers adult learners an accelerated program where classes meet only one night per week, Monday-Thursday. Furthermore, students may move progressively through the program taking a prescribed sequence of courses that can lead to the completion of a degree in only 18 months, with associate, bachelor and master degrees.

The Center is located at the intersection of Bardstown Road and Breckenridge Lane on the third floor of the Bardstown Road Business Centre, 4400 Breckenridge Lane. Contact us at 502.753.0264 or e-mail us at louisville@campbellsville.edu.

Visit us online at www.campbellsville.edu or give us a call today at 270.789.5220 or 1.800.264.6014.

Campbellsville University - It's a great place to "Find Your Calling."

And You Thought You Didn't Have Options!