



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Survey: 41 percent of adults worship at small churches

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—Despite the attention on the nation's largest churches, 41 percent of churchgoing adults worship at churches with 100 or fewer adults in attendance, a Barna Research Group survey shows.

In comparison, only 12 percent of churchgoing adults are found on the average weekend in churches where there are 1,000 or more adults in attendance.

The firm found that adults under age 35 are more likely than older adults to worship in small churches.

George Barna, president of the research agency, attributes that finding to the younger age group's general disinterest in large-scale organizations as well as the tendency of younger adults not needing the programs provided by larger churches.

Researchers also found that the smallest churches (average weekend attendance of 100 or fewer adults) are more likely than either mid-sized (301-999 adults) or large churches (1,000 or more adults) to attract people who are not college graduates and are more likely to interest people with lower household incomes.

Overall, conductors of the study found that the typical Protestant church has 89 adults attending during an average weekend. While 60 percent of Protestant churches have 100 or fewer adults on a typical weekend, a bit fewer than 2 percent have 1,000 or more adults.

Barna said he expects small churches to remain prevalent but said large congregations won't be disappearing either.

"If church leaders can maintain a focus on transformation rather than numbers, then we could enter an era of healthy churches at all sizes and shapes and shed the unhealthy spirit of numerical competition that currently distracts many churches," he said.

'Mission Adventures'



WILLIAMSBURG PROJECT Volunteers from Greenville, S.C., sort a mountain of clothes and other items at Cederidge, a ministry in Williamsburg. Their work was part of an effort involving more than 180 volunteers in the Williamsburg and Corbin areas this summer. (Photo by Bill Barker)

Volunteers form partnership in Eastern Kentucky

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

WILLIAMSBURG—Thirty-one home owners in Whitley, Laurel and Knox counties received housing upgrades this summer as South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association hosted "Mission Adventure."

The association's largest-ever mission project included two backyard Bible clubs and seven vacation Bible schools, the latter conducted

for seniors in nursing homes.

"We're only beginning to hear things in the community," said Janus Jones, director of missions for South Union-Mount Zion. "You can't do this big a missions project and not make an impact."

"This will make an impact on kids from the city, too," Jones said. "They've never seen anything they didn't get. They don't know what it's like to live in poverty."

Project co-sponsors included

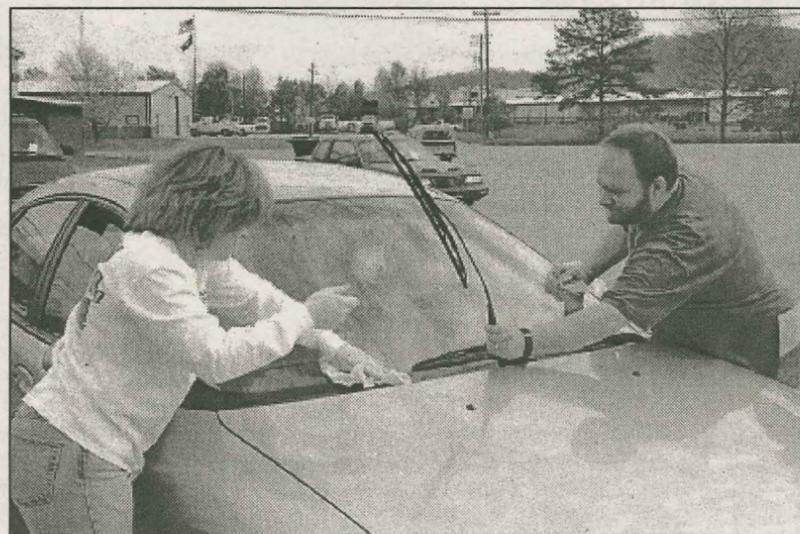
Youth on Mission, a North Carolina ministry that organizes mission trips throughout the nation; and Laurel Lake Baptist Camp.

The camp, which is funded by six southeastern Kentucky associations, provided lodging for 183 people from eight states, including 130 teens.

Volunteers came from Southern Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

□ See Summer mission ..., page 3

KBC mission statement urges ministry through 'connecting'



CROSS OVER KENTUCKY Dena Lambdin and Mike Lawson of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Williamsburg wash a windshield at the Sav-A-Lot parking lot in Williamsburg as part of Cross Over Kentucky. Cross Over is among the annual events the Kentucky Baptist Convention sponsors to help churches with evangelism and ministry. (KBC photo)

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—When Bill Mackey talks about the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new mission study plan, his enthusiasm is obvious.

Picking up a well-worn Bible from his desk, he quickly turns to several passages that reflect the ministry emphasis of the KBC mission.

"The key passage is John 15," Mackey noted, citing Jesus' teaching to His disciples that "I am the vine, you are the branches."

"I think that is one of the key passages describing what we mean by 'connecting,'" Mackey explained. "It describes connecting people in an intimate relationship to Jesus and the kind of relationship we're to have with Jesus if we're to connect other people to Him."

What does the future hold?

KBC MISSION STUDY PLAN

The KBC's role in helping Kentucky Baptist churches and associations connect people and associations spelled out in a 10-page Mission Study Committee report adopted in May by the KBC Mission Board. The 15-member study committee was established last year to recommend changes needed for KBC ministries "to be more effective in the 21st century."

The starting point, according to Mackey and committee chairman Scott Kilgore, was to craft a KBC mission statement to guide the work of the state convention in the coming years. The result was a one-sentence, 25-word statement: "The mission of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is to assist Kentucky Baptist Convention churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus." □ See KBC statement ..., page 6

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, September 10

Kentucky church among top Lottie Moon contributors

Kentucky Baptists contributed \$3.7 million to the 2002 Lottie Moon offering, an increase of 5.86 percent over the previous year.

LEXINGTON—Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington is among the top 100 Southern Baptist churches in the nation in giving to the 2002 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Immanuel's 2002 Lottie Moon gifts of \$110,000 placed the Kentucky Baptist congregation 40th among the SBC's 42,000 churches.

"With us being a church approaching our 100th anniversary in 2009, we've had a long history of being part of what Southern Baptists have done annually through the Lottie Moon offering," noted Immanuel Pastor Craig Loscalzo.

He said the church collects an annual "Christmas for Christ" offering each December that includes Lottie Moon gifts as well as other missions emphases. "Our emphasis on the Lottie Moon offering has been a way for us to talk about the whole global missions endeavor," he explained.

Citing the congregation's ongoing partnership with Shalom Baptist Church in Guatemala, Loscalzo added, "Our church always has had a real commitment to sending money to support missions and doing hands-on missions as well."

Immanuel was the only Kentucky Baptist church among the top 100. Other KBC churches among the top

250 givers are Highview Baptist Church in Louisville (148th, \$57,163) and Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown (192nd, \$50,000).

Five churches top \$300,000

For the first time, five of the top 10 congregations broke the \$300,000 mark for the Lottie Moon offering, which is named after the 19th century missionary who gave her life taking the gospel to the Chinese people.

Southern Baptist churches gave a record \$115 million to the offering, an increase of \$1.3 million (1.15 percent) over 2001 but almost \$10 million short of the \$125 million goal. To stay within the support provided by the churches, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board delayed appointing 100 long-term missionaries and reduced the number of short-term workers this year by 30 percent.

The cumulative total for the 115-year-old offering stands at \$2.3 billion. The offering provides 50 percent of the IMB's annual budget.

The top 10 churches in total-dollar contributions gave almost \$2.9 million—2.5 percent of the total and 16 percent more than last year. Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston led the SBC in that category with a collection of \$358,527.

The top 50 churches in total dollar

giving also surpassed the SBC per capita giving average of \$7 per member.

Even though they are larger churches with memberships ranging from 1,700 to more than 13,000, all but one congregation registered a double-digit per capita gift. More than half of them gave more than \$30 per member, and one church—2,100-member First Baptist of Rockwall, Texas—came in at \$153.58 per member.

While the top 100 Southern Baptist congregations gave more than \$12.2 million to the 2002 offering, 89.4 percent of the \$115 million total came from thousands of smaller Southern Baptist congregations.

"We are so grateful for the vision and generosity of Southern Baptist congregations when it comes to our world missions mandate," said Billy Hoffman, IMB director of development. "Missions is what it means to be Southern Baptist."

On a state-by-state basis, Texas led the states in total dollar giving, with a 2002 offering of \$18.2 million, an increase of .22 percent over 2001. Kentucky Baptists contributed \$3.7 million, an increase of \$200,000 (5.86 percent) over the previous year.

Southern Baptists in New York topped per capita giving to the offering with an average gift of \$13.60.

Mississippi, South Carolina and Hawaii also registered per capita gifts of more than \$10. Kentucky's per capita giving, far below the SBC average, was \$4.77 per member.

IMB President Jerry Rankin called on all Southern Baptists to catch a vision for missions giving that matches the challenges and opportunities God is giving them.

Rankin urges record increase

The goal for the 2003 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$133 million. However, Rankin has challenged churches to give \$150 million, a 33 percent increase over 2002, as more appropriate to the overseas challenges and opportunities God has given Southern Baptists.

"One-fourth of the world's people have practically no hope of hearing the gospel unless we take radical action," Rankin said. "God is calling out new missionaries in record numbers to do just that."

"It is imperative that those of us who hold the ropes here at home be as completely committed to God in our praying and giving as these new missionaries are in their willingness to go."

Based on reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson and Mark Kelly of the International Mission Board

NAMB introduces major revisions to Royal Ambassadors curriculum

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—A small change being introduced in the Royal Ambassadors pledge this fall is indicative of major changes in store throughout Southern Baptists' traditional missions education program for boys—the first significant alteration to the RA program in more than 30 years.

"We changed a line so that the whole pledge becomes proactive," said Rob Carr, children's mission education strategist for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, which produces RA materials for Southern Baptist churches.

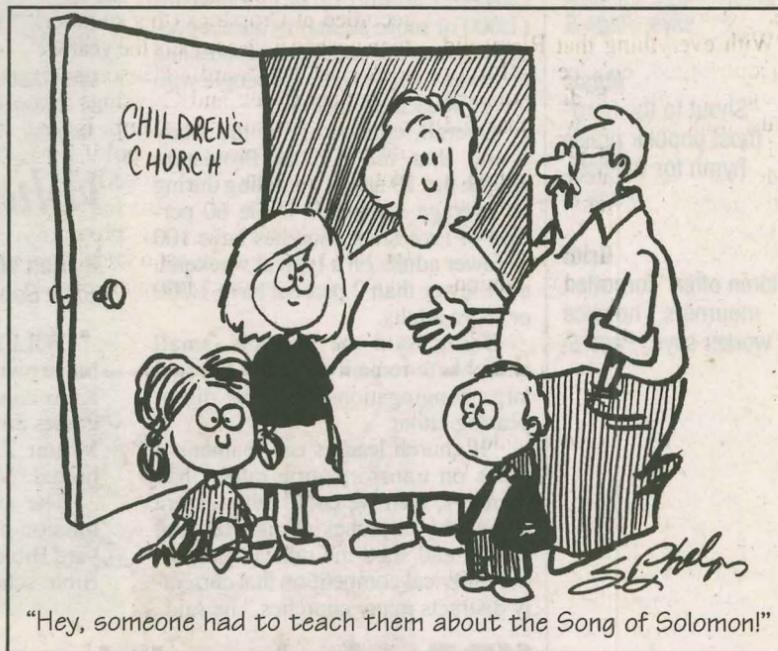
"Instead of just learning how the message of Christ is carried around the world, we are now learning how to carry the message of Christ around the

world. It's a subtle but significant change."

In the process, he said, Royal Ambassadors also is taking on an expanded role of character education, with a curriculum based on virtues such as loyalty, friendship, courage and responsibility.

The traditional church-based RA organization also is being supplemented by a new resource titled, "Sons of Virtue," that will allow fathers to lead their sons—and possibly friends—to study the same virtues in homes.

The new RA design is detailed in the revised "Leading Royal Ambassadors" book, available by calling (866) 407-NAMB. Information also is available at www.royalambassadors.org.



BAPTIST DIGEST

■ BGCT expands missionary support.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is making plans to expand its support of former Southern Baptist missionaries who were terminated or resigned over the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. The BGCT already offers a missionary transition fund to help former missionaries as they seek new positions. The new funding mechanism would help missionaries stay on the field after losing financial support from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. E.B. Brooks, coordinator of the BGCT church missions and evangelism section, said the funding plan comes "at the request of our churches who want to support their continued ministry."

■ Crabtree named Northwest editor.

Cameron Crabtree, public relations director for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., has been named communications team leader/editor of the Northwest Baptist Convention. He previously was news editor for the California Southern Baptist. In his new role, Crabtree will edit the Northwest Baptist Witness as well as lead the convention's communications strategy.

■ LifeWay offers military Scriptures.

Broadman & Holman, the Bible publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources, has released four editions of the New Testament—one for each branch of the armed forces. Copies of the Holman

Christian Standard Bible Military New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs will be stamped with the official seal of the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines, said Ricky King, B&H product development manager. "We want to honor those in our armed services in a way that will strengthen their faith and bring lasting hope and encouragement to them and their families," King said.

■ Texas group builds headquarters.

Five years after pulling away from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the conservative Southern Baptists of Texas Convention broke ground this summer on a \$3 million headquarters building. The group, which reportedly has grown from

120 churches to 1,300 since its split with the Texas convention in 1998, expects to move to its 30,000-square-foot headquarters next April. The convention now occupies leased space in Las Colinas.

■ Jenkins to head BP event.

Jerry Jenkins, coauthor of the best-selling "Left Behind" book series, will be the keynote speaker for the third annual Baptist Press Student Journalism Conference, Oct. 9-11 in Nashville. The conference will include breakout sessions on news and feature writing, broadcasting, graphic design, magazine feature writing, yearbook design, public relations and photography. Registration information is available online at www.bpnews.net.

New assemblies president looks to expand ministry

By David Winfrey
News Director

JONATHAN CREEK—As the newly elected president for Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, David Melber said he hopes he can strengthen the ministry's work at its two campgrounds while expanding its ministry beyond Kentucky.

KBA trustees elected Melber, 36, as the agency's new president last month. He previously was director of KBA's Jonathan Creek Assembly in Marshall County. KBA also operates Cedarmore Baptist Assembly in Shelby County.

Melber's business experience and his matching vision with trustees for the summer camping program at Jonathan Creek were two key reasons KBA's board of directors chose him, according to board chairman Willis Henson.

"We just felt like the survival of Jonathan Creek and Crossings was essential to the whole camping assembly future," said Henson, retired pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah. "And he was more involved in that than anybody else."

Melber succeeds Rusty Ellison, who resigned as president earlier this year to accept a pastorate in Louisville.

"With everything that Rusty did and contributed, he's certainly got KBA going in the right direction, and we just want to go on with that and build on that," Melber said.

Melber, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, also previously worked at Cedarmore as an associate director.

Previously, he worked for Nation-

al Equipment Services, a heavy equipment rental company that grew from one location to 24 during his tenure there.

When he left NES to attend seminary, he was vice president of operations. The company's annual gross revenue grew from \$1 million to \$75 million, he said.

Summer camps

As director of Jonathan Creek since October 2001, Melber has directed the Crossings at the Creek summer camping program for youth.

This past summer, 3,334 campers attended the nine weeks of Crossings, nearly 50 percent more than the previous summer, Melber said.

Henson said Jonathan Creek and Crossings has an "unbelievable future."

"The main thing is it's really doing what the board wants Jonathan Creek to do, and that's reach people for spiritual decisions," he said.

The Crossings camps recorded nearly 200 first-time professions of faith, Henson noted, plus campers who rededicated their life to Jesus and expressed feeling a call to vocational ministry and other spiritual decisions.

"We had more spiritual decisions recorded at Crossings (this summer) than we had total campers the year we took over the board," Henson said. "Jonathan Creek and Crossings has proved that summer camp is an unbelievable evangelistic tool if it is planned and conducted properly."

Still the board has instructed Melber to renovate Crossings' program for future campers, Henson said. "We want the program at Jonathan Creek



Melber



CROSSINGS AT THE CREEK Students sing during an evening worship service at Jonathan Creek Assembly in Marshall County. Nearly 200 youth made first-time professions of faith during the nine-week summer camp program called "Crossings at the Creek."

not to become stale. We want it totally reworked for 2005."

The board also wants to see growth at the Cedarmore summer camps, which are operated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood and creative ministries departments and by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

"We've set 2006 as a very pivotal year when we've got to turn around the summer weeks at Cedarmore," Henson said. "That's the ultimate objective of the board for the next two or three years."

Cedarmore's summer camps have lost significant amounts of money for the last five years, he added. "Something has to be done at Cedarmore and we're in the process now of deciding what that change will be."

"What our board 100 percent wants is to revitalize the programs as they are now at Cedarmore," Henson

said. The board has set a goal of having those camps at 75 percent occupancy by 2006, he said. "If we can do that, then it will become financially secure."

In addition to expanding the programming and use of both camps, Melber said he's excited about the opportunities to develop KBA ministry opportunities beyond Kentucky.

He noted that KBA recently completed a partnership with a camp in Trinidad. "We have a lot of opportunities in the future to partner with camps overseas, and we hope to get to the point where we send staff overseas."

He said he also hopes to partner with churches in large cities outside Kentucky to develop summer camp opportunities. "We are evaluating beginning 'mission focus camps' that would take place in inner city areas in large unchurched cities."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Convention** officials announced last week that University of Kentucky men's basketball coach Tubby Smith will bring greetings and speak at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board appointment service at Lexington's Rupp Arena, Nov. 11. The service, during the KBC annual meeting, also will feature a parade of flags, a 200-piece orchestra and a mass choir of approximately 1,200 singers.

■ **Cumberland College** will host a patriotic concert Sept. 11 on the Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center lawn featuring the Lexington Philharmonic. The school also will unveil a 2,200-pound structural beam from the World Trade Center, which will be permanently displayed on campus. The beam was donated by Andy Croley of Williamsburg, who served two weeks in New York with a mortuary operational response team. For more information, call Jan Webster at (606) 539-4521.

Summer mission projects net Eastern Kentucky partnerships

Continued from page 1

Housing repairs included building several new porches, more than 10 wheelchair ramps, roofing and floor repairs, painting, installing drywall and replacing electrical wiring.

Similar work was done in Hazard and Harlan as more than 200 volunteers with Youth on Mission also visited those areas this summer.

The group performed home repairs and staged block parties and backyard Bible clubs, according to Bill Barker, director of Appalachian Regional Ministry.

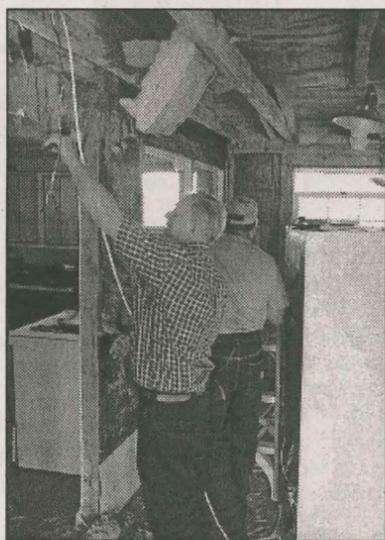
Barker said these two projects are the largest of more than 200 scheduled this year throughout the Appalachian Mountains.

Based in Teays Valley, W. Va., ARM works with state conventions, associations and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, matching mission groups with needs in the region.

"Both of these are a test to see how pre-packaged trips work with getting home repairs done," Barker said.

All groups were satisfied enough with the results to set plans for more work next year, Jones said.

There is no doubt the assistance was welcome, said a social worker with Professional Home Health, a pri-



EASTERN KENTUCKY MISSIONS Volunteers from Hickory, N.C. work to renovate a home as part of "Mission Adventures," a group of ministry projects in Williamsburg and Corbin this summer.

ivate agency making the referrals.

Barbara Moseley said most clients either are disabled or elderly people on limited incomes who otherwise couldn't afford to make home repairs.

"People are probably seeing all the work and wondering what they're

doing," Moseley said during one of the weeks of work. "I don't think the impact will be seen until they're done. Then it will spread by word of mouth."

Jones said Professional Home Health has estimated it sees two or three low-income people a month who need a wheelchair ramp installed. "Now I've got some of my churches that are picking up projects."

The summer work affected volunteers, too. Mike Landrum came to the area hoping 20 youth from Mountain Creek Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., would learn valuable lessons about doing without some things in order to help less fortunate people.

Half the students never had been on a mission trip. Seeing their reactions during the week told him his prayer had been answered, Landrum said.

Two reactions were especially moving, he said. One involved a man who had two broken hips and couldn't go outside because a gap between the porch and the bottom of the front door wouldn't let him roll his wheelchair through the door.

"The joy he displayed was worth the effort for the kids who worked at his house," said Landrum, interim youth pastor at Mountain Creek.

"Another woman we helped had a similar response. Her roof leaked, her sink didn't work and she didn't have any insulation under half of her house. She was ecstatic. The two biggest words she could say were, 'Thank you.'"

Nor is this the end of the cooperative effort between the local association and Youth on Mission.

The group's founder, Harry Fowler, said groups will return to the Williamsburg area in mid-October to do additional home repairs and nursing home visits. Jones said that mission project primarily will use senior volunteers.

A member of Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N.C., Fowler started Youth on Mission 12 years ago. It has since taken 33,000 volunteers on mission trips, with more than 30 trips planned this summer.

In addition to seeing some of the people they help accept Jesus as their personal Savior, converts also come from among volunteers, he said.

"With most of the Baptists, they (know Christ)," Fowler said. "But with some of these other churches, I don't think they hear the plan of salvation very often. We'll see 1,500 (people) accept Christ during the summer."

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

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Where do the Ten Commandments belong?

By Brent Walker

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In the emotionally volatile debate over whether "Roy's Rock" should stay in the Alabama State Judicial Building, one supporter of the display vowed, "They'll never be able to remove it from our hearts."

That is precisely the point.

The debate that led to the Ten Commandments being moved is not about whether the Commandments teach sound theology or wholesome ethics.

That is a given, particularly for Jews and Christians. The question is not whether the Commandments embody the right teachings; they certainly do.

Rather, the question is who is the right teacher—the government or the families, churches and synagogues? I can think of few things more desirable than for people to read and obey the Ten Commandments. I can think of little worse than for government officials to tell citizens to do so.

Indeed, writing the Ten Commandments "on our hearts" is the way to ensure that they will never be loaded onto a proverbial hydraulic lift and moved to a less visible place.

Theological & practical concerns

The Ten Commandments display in Alabama clearly violates the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. But important theological and practical reasons should convince people of faith to object to government getting involved in displaying, and thereby endorsing, holy writ.

First, it puts government officials in the role of secular high priests deciding which rendition of Ten Commandments will be enshrined as orthodox. Which one, Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 5? Which version, Jewish, Catholic or Protestant? Which translation, King James, New Inter-

national or New Revised Standard? Families, churches and synagogues, not Caesar, should make these fundamentally religious decisions.

Second, making such decisions will engender rivalry among religious denominations, sects and traditions. As has been recently demonstrated, governmental displays of the Ten Commandments are a quick way to generate a religious struggle that would make losers of us all.

In our religiously pluralistic nation, the worst thing government can do is to take sides in matters of religion. One of the reasons we have had precious little religious strife—despite our dizzying diversity—is that government has remained neutral in such matters. This neutrality ensures a future where Christians and Jews will not have to abide the display of other faiths' religious documents in government settings.

Third, one cannot properly interpret a text, including the Ten Commandments, without considering the context. The First Commandment states that, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, you shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2-3). Thus, the Commandments are part of a specific covenant between God and the Israelite people. The text is betrayed when we try to replace Moses and the Israelites with Chief Justice Roy Moore and the citizens of Alabama. The Commandments have fared quite well for sever-

al millennia without the help of American politicians.

Fourth, supporters seek to justify the displaying of the Ten Commandments by exhibiting them along with secular documents, such as the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence. While this in some cases may shore up constitutionality, it's terrible theology. Jews understand the Ten Commandments as a central tenet of their faith and their relationship to God. Christians highly respect the place of the Commandments in the Exodus story and the life of the church. To place the Commandments on equal footing with these secular documents depreciates the high regard placed in them by those in the Jewish and Christian traditions.

Civil discourse

Finally, it is quite proper for Americans—even American politicians—to "acknowledge God." As Justice William O. Douglas wrote, Americans "are a religious people." Our civil discourse is replete with religious talk. But, it is entirely something else for a government official (who must render justice to all citizens) to endorse a specific passage of Holy Scripture as orthodox and normative for all.

For those who take the Ten Commandments seriously, let us write them on our hearts, as the prophet Jeremiah instructed, instead of displaying them in courthouses. Then we'll be able to incarnate the love of God perfectly revealed in Jesus Christ, and make a real difference in our world.

Brent Walker is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington

COMMENTARY

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.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

A legacy of faithful support

Dr. A.B. Colvin, who passed away Aug. 27, left a legacy of faithful support for Kentucky Baptist Convention ministries. He spent more than 60 years of his life in ministry to KBC churches, associations and institutions.

At his memorial service, Oneida Baptist Institute President Bud Underwood said A.B. believed so strongly in the life-transforming ministry of Oneida that he made numerous trips with donations and represented Oneida at associational meetings by the hundreds. A.B. also served as interim administrator of Oneida following the death of Barkley Moore, the former president.

A.B. also was an awesome supporter of mountain missions and was present at the Mountain Missions Conference almost every year. He had missed only twice in 45 years, so he enlisted his daughter to drive him to the conference in late July. The family also drove him to the Owen County Association meeting in early Au-

gust, an annual meeting that he had not missed in more than 45 years.

A.B. had been introduced to church and denominational life as a teenage boy at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Grant County. A.B. shared with me that he and his father went forward in the same revival service to receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

The evangelist said to him, "How are you going to respond to God's call for you to be a preacher?" That was the beginning of a wonderful journey with the Lord.

Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University, shared that A.B. was also a champion of Christian higher education. He was a long tenured trustee and supporter of Campbellsville and his extensive library has been donated to the university.

Bob Jones, who served many years with A.B. in KBC missions work, described him as a strong Bible student who used his knowledge of the Greek

New Testament in preparation for preaching.

A.B. baptized Floyd Price, pastor of First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg and a former KBC president. Floyd described A.B. as a pastor who valued each person and especially loved children.

A.B. had a wonderful memory and used it to serve Kentucky Baptists. He had traveled the commonwealth before the development of the interstate highway system. He knew all the small towns and the pastors. It was normal for him to stop by for a brief visit to see how things were going and provide encouragement.

I am confident that he knew more Kentucky Baptists and more KBC history than anyone else. We will miss him.

I pray that God will continue to raise up individuals all over Kentucky who believe and demonstrate that KBC churches and ministries are worth their very best commitment and support. May God bless us with the kind of positive attitude and sense of humor that made A.B. a contagious Christian!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Burkett's legacy includes diverse financial aids

By Jeremy White

The recent death of Larry Burkett, founder of one of the first ministries and radio programs devoted to equipping Christians to manage money in a



biblical manner, resulted in the loss of a great communicator.

In my opinion, Burkett was a pioneer. He paved the way for many other individuals and organizations to help Christians become wise steward and avoid the bondage of materialism.

Despite Burkett's death in July, many other avenues exist to gain wisdom for improving your financial stewardship. Consider this list of excellent stewardship resources for your family, including a description of each resource's specialties and Web sites:

■ **Crown Financial Ministries** (www.crown.org). Publisher of small-group Bible studies, family resources, broadcaster of "How to Manage Your Money." Burkett's ministry continues despite his death.

■ **Dave Ramsey** (www.dave Ramsey.com). Author of "Financial Peace," host of "The Dave Ramsey Show" radio program and teacher of the Financial Peace University curriculum used in many churches.

■ **Ron Blue** (www.master yourmoney.org). Author of many Christian personal finance books and founder of "Master Your Money Institute."

■ **Kentucky Baptist Convention stewardship department** (www.kybaptist.org). Doug Strader provides training and materials for churches and individuals to develop better stewardship.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Foundation** (www.kybaptistfoundation.org). Assistance in wills, trusts, charitable requests and investing.

■ **Generous Giving** (www.generousgiving.org). Information for givers, pastors and advisers about the value of giving.

■ **Mary Hunt** (www.cheap skatmonthly.com). Publisher of the monthly newsletter "Cheap-skate Monthly" and author of financial books catering to women.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Convention annuity department**. Director Don Spencer provides seminars and materials for pastors and churches.

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

Divorcing couples need to be honest, sensitive to children

Q: My husband and I have decided to get a divorce. What should I tell my children?

The awkwardness of telling children about a divorce underscores the wrongness of it all. Although philosophically opposed to divorce, many Christian couples often change their tune when they find themselves in the middle of relationship troubles. It is only natural to attempt to justify the difficult decision to separate. Children do not want or need to hear such excuses.

You are not a failure, but your marriage has failed. Harsh as that may sound, divorcing parents have to come to grips with this truth and resist the temptation to defend their decision to their children. Our society, which Barbara Dafoe Whitehead has called a culture of divorce, typically tries to sugarcoat the harsh realities of divorce. Children need to know that divorce is neither right nor good, and that it is not how God wants things to be. Ask God to help you communicate these truths to your children in ways that will not undermine their confidence in you.

Remind your child that although you will no longer be husband and wife, you always will be their mom and dad. Nothing changes that. Remind yourself of that as well, and let the reminder build in you a resolve to be parenting partners in as many ways as possible.

As you talk with your children about what lies ahead, promise only what you know you can deliver, remembering that the future holds uncertainties for you too. Reassure your children of your love and of your continuing commitment to them.—David Garrard

Q: Our church has experienced significant growth in the past few years. However, it seems that our older adult members occasionally have been overlooked along the way. How can we effectively involve and value them?

The Bible is filled with wonderful stories and references about the blessings of aging. In Genesis 12, we read about the call of Abram. He was 75 years old when God called him to leave his homeland and depart for Haran. In Exodus, we read about Moses at age 80 being told by God to return to Egypt and free God's people from slavery.

The Bible is quite clear that God does not stop involving people in ministry when they reach older adulthood, nor does God take away His blessing when people reach the age of 65. Psalm 92:14 reminds us, "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap."

Older adults have faith needs that might be overlooked by active, growing congregations. We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and this doesn't mean just making disciples of children, youth and young adults. Older adults need to experience a new or renewed relationship with God through Jesus Christ and to grow in faith maturity, too. Older adults need to:

- Know that God loves older people.
- Experience a church that cares about older adults as individuals and as a group.
- Remain a vital part of the church by making significant contributions (beyond financial) to its ministry.
- Find new ways of serving others, even when health and physical strength decline.
- Serve as mentors and role models for the benefit of succeeding generations.
- Have support systems available for coping with losses.

Make sure that your church is intentional in its ministry with older adults.—Jon Rainbow

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



Four words that can make ministry impact

If you were asked to describe the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in just four words, what words would you choose?

While there are numerous appropriate responses, the theme for this year's season of prayer for state missions offers one clear answer: "Many Ministries, One Mission."

"Our theme is significant because it describes in four words what Kentucky Baptists are about," noted Joy Bolton, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union executive director. "We have many ministries that are all driven by one mission—to share Christ with the lost. Many Ministries, One Mission is about connecting people to Jesus."

"Connecting" is another word that's getting lots of play in Kentucky Baptist life these days. A KBC mission statement adopted earlier this year emphasizes that the mission of the KBC is to assist "churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

Taken together, the state missions theme and the KBC mission statement point out what Kentucky Baptist priorities can and should be—using a variety of ministries to accomplish the mission of connecting people to Jesus Christ. It sounds a lot like Christ's Great Commission to His followers to "go therefore and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

As churches throughout the commonwealth observe the state missions season of prayer this month, it provides an excellent opportunity to highlight practical ways to put the Great Commission into action. In addition to studying about ministry efforts across Kentucky, congregations and individual Christians can become

involved in state missions through prayer support, financial gifts and personal participation.

This year's Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, the annual offering collected in conjunction with the season of prayer, has a base goal of \$900,000 with an additional \$100,000 challenge goal for new work and special ministries.

Among the ministries being supported by this year's Eliza Broadus Offering are:

■ **State missions, \$300,000.** Includes funding for a mountain missionary in Eastern Kentucky, funds to assist 44 Kentucky Baptist associations and assistance to 20 churches and four regional state missionary workers.

■ **Church and community missions, \$112,000.** Includes funds for appointed missionary personnel in the mountains and cities of Kentucky, church and community ministry supplies and Baptist Fellowship Center personnel.

■ **Student work, \$82,000.** Includes international student ministry, student mission action projects and Kentucky student summer missions.

■ **Language missions, \$77,000.** Includes Eastern Kentucky Regional Deaf Ministry, Hispanic ministry, ministries to other language and ethnic groups in Kentucky and training for literacy volunteers.

■ **Missions education camping, \$70,480.** Includes staff, missionaries and materials for Missions Adventure Camp for Girls, camp scholarships for needy children, Mother/Daughter Overnight, GA Overnight and Acteens Splash camps.

As you pray, give and get personally involved in state mission ministry projects, you and your church can become a vital part of "Many Ministries, One Mission"—four words that can make an eternal difference in the Bluegrass State.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

What would Jesus do in Alabama?

By Dwight Moody

A two-ton rock and a new tax code present the people of Alabama with a clear and present opportunity to ask the question that counts: "What would Jesus do?"

The rock is a 2.6-ton granite display featuring the Ten Commandments. It was set up in the lobby of the state Supreme Court building in Montgomery by Chief Justice Roy Moore.

When the federal judges told Moore to remove the rock, he refused; and thousands of Bible-waving, hymn-singing people came to his defense. "I must acknowledge God," he said, explaining his position.

This raises the question: How do we "acknowledge God" as citizens of these United States?

Some in this southern state think it has nothing to do with the two-ton rock but rather with the new tax proposal that will be on the ballot this fall.

"It has been well documented that Alabama's state tax structure is the worst in the nation." So begins the 21-page brief written by Professor Susan Pace Hamill, of the University of Alabama School of Law.

High rates of sales tax and low rates of property tax, she explains, places an unequal burden upon the poor, who own no land but must buy groceries and clothing.

The tax rate for the vast stretches of timberland averages one dollar per

acre. This keeps rural school districts from securing sufficient funds to support schools, leaving Alabama's public education at the bottom on the national pile.

The system is not fair, Hamill contends in an open letter to political leaders; it favors the rich and oppresses the poor. "Biblically based Judeo-Christian ethical principles hold you to the highest level of accountability to eliminate this injustice poisoning our state."

Her crusade for justice in the name of Jesus arose out of a mid-career course in theology at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham. Her awareness of social inequities was confronted by the plain teaching of Holy Scripture. In an appeal to Christians in the state, she wrote: "The Bible has a great deal to say about how individual people and their communities must treat the poor, powerless and needy among them."

Her most important convert was Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, like Moore and Hamill, a devout Christian. He has presented to the people a proposal to transform the tax structure of the state.

The ballot initiative will not only raise taxes, but will do so by distributing the responsibility more evenly among the citizens and corporations of Alabama. "We have no other choice," Riley said, giving testimony to the role his own Christian principles have played in this process.

The tax has not received as much

attention as the rock. This is unfortunate; for it is the equitable distribution of the wealth of the land and the proper care of those in need that more surely represents the values of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

Jesus had much to say about generosity, justice and the poor. The questions of Judgment Day bear this out: "I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was sick and you cared for me; I was in prison and you came to see me."

Jesus also had much to say about the public display of religion, mostly in the way of warning.

One of His most famous stories describes the religious man coming into the public place and declaring his faith in God while the sinner stood afar off and humbly sought forgiveness. Religious hypocrites love to be seen in public, He said, showing signs of their devotion. Beware of such people, Jesus warned.

The rock is the public symbol of faith. The tax is the substantive act of faith.

If those who expend their energy defending the need for the two-ton symbol of God would give equal time and talent to the cause of economic and social justice, they would be acting, it seems to me, in accordance with the spirit and practice of Jesus.

In other words, they would be "acknowledging God" exactly as Jesus would do!

Dwight Moody is dean of the chapel at Georgetown College

KBC statement urges ministry through 'connecting'

Advisory committee named

LOUISVILLE—Nine Kentucky Baptist leaders have been appointed to serve on an advisory committee that will help the Kentucky Baptist Convention implement recommendations from a Mission Study Committee report adopted earlier this year.

Committee members, who will serve a three-year term and may be reappointed, include:

- Chairman Charles Barnes, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green.
- Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset.
- Dorothy Crace, a member of Oakland Avenue Baptist Church in Ashland.
- Les Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Ava Reynolds Bingham, a member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Rick Robbins, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association in Erlanger.
- Chris White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton.

All but one of the advisory committee members—Dorothy Crace—served on the original Mission Study Committee.

The Mission Study Committee's report established goals and objectives for the 2,400-church state convention to bring a sharper focus on evangelism, missions, leadership training, church growth, networking and the organization's relationships with its agencies and institutions.

The newly appointed advisory committee was established to help KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey as he leads the KBC to achieve the report's goals and objectives.

Continued from page 1

Christ."

Once that was finalized, the committee put together a series of objectives and goals addressing such issues as evangelism, missions, leader training, networking and strengthening churches.

"The mission statement grew out of our initial discussions," said Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green. "As we were trying to come to grips with difference pieces of the puzzle, the concept of connecting was put forth.

"For me, the whole idea of connecting carries the meaning of a conduit and how can we streamline, structure and network so that the power of God is not impeded?" Kilgore added. "It became a statement of how we can get out of the way and allow God to use these various entities and ourselves."

Emphasizing that the mission statement "speaks more of direction and relationship vs. structure or program," he noted, "It's a very intentional statement about recognizing that our strength and effectiveness relies on how we're connected to each other and connected to God—and that is something you can't program."

KBC President Paul Badgett said he is pleased that the mission statement includes a strong focus on evangelism.

"If you look at the whole mission statement, that is the direction we're headed in," said Badgett, pastor of

First Baptist Church of Pikeville. "It is so biblical and so right. It is something I think all Kentucky Baptists can rally around and support."

Citing the need for strong evangelistic efforts in many unevangelized counties in Eastern Kentucky, Badgett added, "As a pastor in Eastern Kentucky, I have become keenly aware that I am on a mission field."

He said the convention's new mission statement "gives direction for Kentucky Baptist ministry not only here in Kentucky but around the world as we connect people to Jesus."

What does the future hold?

KBC MISSION STUDY PLAN

As convention leaders prepare to implement strategies to fulfill the KBC mission, Badgett has named a nine-member Mission Advisory Committee to assist and advise Mackey in that process (see related article). Eight of the nine members, including chairman Charles Barnes, also served on the initial Mission Study Committee.

Affirming the KBC's future ministry direction, Mackey declared, "Our potential is far greater with this proposal than without it."

Emphasizing that "God will provide the resources" for the plan's ambitious goals, he added, "I believe that money follows God's leadership."

Part of that money will come from a \$300,000 transition fund made available from excess KBC post-retirement fund resources.

Mackey said initial goals include launching new ministry strategies by

the fall of 2004. "One of the dreams," he added, "is for every church to look at every street, every neighborhood to discover people who need a touch from God and who would respond to a witness."

Among ways the KBC will help support such goals is to provide four church development strategists based regionally across the state.

"I see it more as a shifting of resources," Mackey said. "We're trying to get personnel closer to the churches so they can customize to the regions as they learn more about the needs of the regions."

Other goals include providing more customized consultation services to churches "rather than them coming to a conference to receive the services of the convention." Church-to-church networking and Web-based resources also will be part of the mix.

"Drawing upon people resources is going to be the great strength of this plan," Mackey said. "God working through people is the foundational principle."

As Kentucky Baptist leaders seek to implement the mission plan, Kilgore pointed out, "There's really nothing new in what we're saying; what can be new is how we go about our mission."

"This is something that has grown out of grassroots observation," he added. "We hope it will be embraced by those who are in the trenches, doing the front-line work—our people, our churches, our associations and all those under the KBC umbrella."



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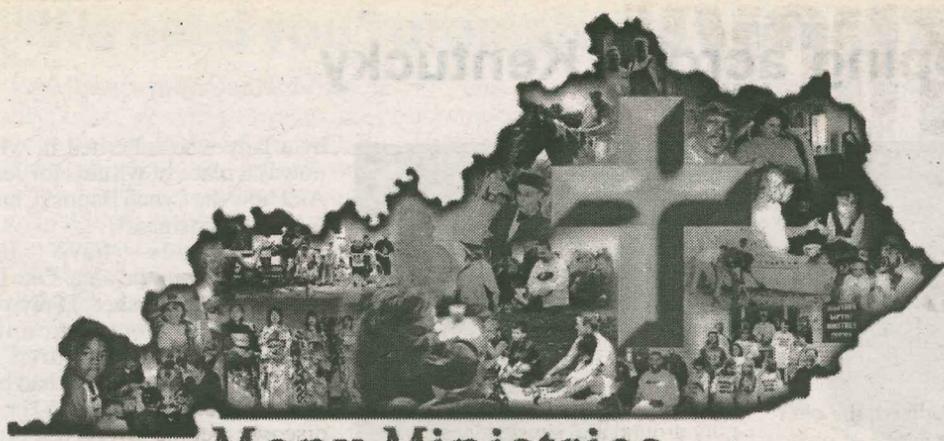
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Many Ministries *One Mission*

By June Rice

It happened suddenly, unexpectedly. In one instant her world was shattered. Her son murdered his wife and life would never be the same. In another community, a family from Mexico has come with hopes and dreams for a new life. But the language is hard, there are forms to be completed, and regulations they never knew existed. They are lonely and desperate for help. In yet another town, a family has fallen on hard times. Unexpected medical expenses and car repairs have taken all of their money, yet they still need food and the electric bill must be paid. Who will help?

Across Kentucky, people of every race and status in life need to know Jesus. Some are deaf and have limited written language skills. Others speak languages other than English and need to hear the gospel in their heart language. Some are in prison or have an incarcerated family member. They are filled with shame and anger, and need a loving touch.

Many Kentuckians live in poverty and struggle to feed their children. They need food and clothes, but their greater need is the hope that Christ can give. There are many other needs and ministries. What unites these many ministries to so many different people and needs? The answer is one mission.

By means of a variety of ministries that all have one mission, to share Christ's love and lead people to a saving relationship with God through Christ, Kentucky Baptists are sharing the gospel. Through the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering, you support the many ministries of Kentucky Baptists. There are also many opportunities for you to put feet to your praying and giving through hands-on ministry.

Join us as we meet people who have been called by God to be His hands and feet as they go about obeying Jesus' command to "Feed my sheep."

The Answer Center is meeting needs and sharing the gospel

Kathy Strange is the director of The Answer Center Ministry in Henderson, which serves Green Valley Baptist Association encompassing Henderson, Union and Webster counties. The Answer Center reaches out to children in the neighborhood with free gifts, goodies, Bibles, and back-to-school supplies. They minister to those in need through a clothing and household goods ministry where people can come and shop free.

The Widow's Mite Ministry involves other widows' going to the funeral home when a husband has died and offering friendship and companionship to the widow. Through the Widow's Mite, widows reach out to new widows and invite them to come to a monthly luncheon meeting where they meet, eat, visit, and share Christ with each other and visit other widows. These widows then do various ministries in nursing homes and other places.

Until recently, the center also had a free medical clinic one day a week for people with no insurance and who met 180% of poverty guidelines. Due to the escalating cost of medical malpractice insurance, the medical clinic is closed for the foreseeable future.

Kathy is excited about the ministry God has opened to her. "My background is in social work. I became frustrated because I was not allowed to share my faith in Christ in my job, and so many of my clients needed a relationship with the Lord more than they needed physical help. When an opportunity came for me to take early retirement, I jumped



Kathy Strange talks with a family at The Answer Center

at the chance, and in six months The Answer Center was up and running. Every person who is helped at the Center has an exit interview, and last year we had 37 decisions for Christ, and often the new Christian becomes a member of the church of the person who witnessed to him or her."

"When a person or family has problems that we are unable to help with, my background in social work helps me to know where more help can be found and to refer them to other agencies that deal with their problems."

Last year a Special Ministry Allocation from the Eliza Broadus Offering helped The Answer Center make up disaster kits for people who had fires, floods or other disasters as well as victims of domestic violence. Some of the kits went to Providence, where a tornado touched down last year.



Volunteers at The Answer Center share the gospel as they meet needs.

Please pray for The Answer Center as they expand the back-to-school ministry, for the Widow's Mite Group as they minister to the grieving, for the clothing and household supplies to keep coming in, and for more volunteers to help with the sorting of clothes and other mundane jobs around the center. Kathy asks us to pray "that through this ministry hurting people will be comforted by coming to know Christ personally - which is our ultimate mission."

2003 Season of Prayer for State Missions

and

Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2003

Offering Goal:
\$900,000

Challenge Goal for New
Work & Special Ministries:
\$100,000

**TOTAL GOAL:
\$1,000,000**



A packet of materials has been sent to the WMU director or contact person in every KBC church. It includes State Missions teaching plans for all ages and suggestions for churchwide promotion of the Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering. Each church will also receive a copy of the 2003 State Missions Video with their order of additional posters, prayer guides, and offering envelopes. You may request this packet by calling Kentucky WMU at 502-244-6485 or toll free, 1-888-254-5726; or by email: kywmu@kybaptist.org. These materials are provided by the gifts of your church to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program.

Contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering should be mailed to: Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. Checks should be made payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention and designated "EBO." Church Treasurers may also include EBO contributions with other contributions through the Kentucky Baptist Convention using the KBC church contribution form and designating the amount for the Eliza Broadus Offering as "EBO."

Contributions for the 2003-04 Eliza Broadus Offering will be received from September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004.

Baptist Centers developing across Kentucky

The needs not met by government agencies have been so great that we now have 38 ministry centers in eastern Kentucky.

Associational missionary Jerry Tooley is enthusiastic about the Baptist Center ministry of Daviess-McLean Baptist Association. The Baptist Center in Owensboro is on Lancaster Avenue across the street from the Davco Nursing Home and is run by Doris Slaton, a remarkable lady who loves people. The people she loves include those from the nursing home, who often drop by for love and encouragement, as well as the children from the nearby low income housing complex who come after school to work on their homework with a volunteer "Study Buddy."

The Daviess-McLean Baptist Center also has a Team Kids group, and a Ladies Day Out in which ladies can come and buy clothing for a quarter an item. Doris has found that the ladies shop more meaningfully and feel less beholden if they have to pay at least a small amount. Churches often bring people to the store to shop, and those people are given what they need.

One lady who attended the Ladies' Day Out devotional meetings for several years found out that she only had six months to live. The first people she called were the ladies from that group. They were able to give her care, love and support before she passed away.

The Eliza Broadus Offering helps pay the insurance of Jerry Tooley and many other associational missionaries who are working hard



Baptist Centers make needed clothing and household items available to persons in need.

all over the state in many ministries, with one mission – to share Christ with a hurting world.

Larry Martin, team leader of the KBC Missions Growth Team, understands the growing need for Baptist Center ministries. He works with individuals and groups who see the need for a ministry in their area by providing help and advice.

Larry passionately explains the growing need. "When the Welfare to Work legislation was passed in 1998, we had 4 centers in eastern Kentucky. The needs not met by government agencies have been so great that now we have 38 ministry

centers in eastern Kentucky."

One inspirational story is that of Lonnie and Belinda Riley, who sold their home in another state and left a comfortable lifestyle to return to Belinda's hometown of Lynch, in the eastern Kentucky county of Harlan. The Lynch Baptist Church had closed because most of its members had died or moved away because the coal industry had moved out of the area.

The Riley's have experienced miracle after miracle, having acquired a recently-renovated hospital, which they now use to house volunteers who come to work. They have been given a bar

by a lady who inherited it, which now is a place of witness for Jesus. And now the Lynch Baptist Church is back in business!

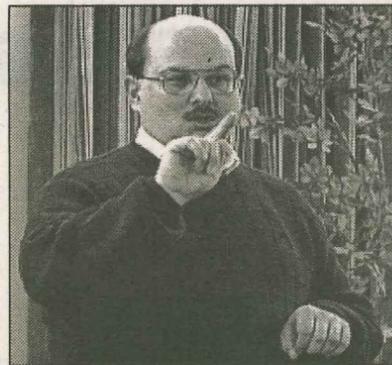
Thousands have been ministered to in the area. One lady was sleeping on a sheet of plywood on concrete blocks. Lonnie's group took her a bed, mattress and bedding, and told her she had been given a bed by one who, in His life on earth, did not have a bed of His own. They witnessed to her, and she committed her life to the Lord. Thus, along with a comfortable bed, she received eternal life!

Pray for the many Baptist Center ministries that are developing all over Kentucky. Pray for more volunteers to tutor, sort clothes, and work in the centers. Pray for increased donations of goods and for better ways to get information to the people in need.

Please pray for the workers in the new central warehouse in Berea that can receive tractor trailer loads of needed materials. Pray for volunteers who will help in the day-to-day work of administering this warehouse and distribution center.

Language missions includes American Sign Language

There are 300,000 deaf people in Kentucky. Who will reach them for Jesus?



Tim Bender, Kentucky missionary to the deaf

We readily think of Spanish, Korean, and many other languages of the world when we hear about Kentucky Baptist language ministries. American Sign Language (ASL) may not come to mind, yet it is one of the vitally needed language ministries for reaching lost persons in Kentucky.

Just ask Tim Bender, pastor of the Louisville Baptist Deaf Church, the only KBC Deaf church in Kentucky. Tim was born in Oregon, the last of eight children. He has a 50% hearing loss which his mother attributes to being born prematurely. In telling about his growing up years, Tim says, "Because my parents could not bear to send me away to deaf school, I had a hard time in elementary school, having been mainstreamed with the hearing children. I did go to a high school that had a Deaf program. They did not allow sign language, but we depended on lip reading. I did better in high school, and met my wife, who is also deaf, there."

"After we graduated from high school, we got jobs in Portland, Oregon, and were members of the First Baptist Church of the Deaf. Every time I came into the church there was a big sign staring me in the face. It said, 'There are 5,000 deaf people in Oregon. Who will reach them for Jesus?'"

"One evening, during a revival, I surrendered to the call to the ministry to the Deaf. In 1976, I enrolled in California Baptist College, and later did graduate work at Golden Gate Seminary."

In 1988 the Benders came to Erlanger to begin a deaf ministry. Tim has been a pastor in Louisville since 1992. In 1997, Tony Hough, director of KBC Extension Ministries, invited Tim to help in Kentucky's Deaf Ministry. In addition to his work as pastor, Tim also works with deaf and hearing persons across Kentucky who want to bring the gospel to the deaf.

There are various kinds of KBC deaf ministries. Besides the one constituted deaf church, there are deaf ministries which are set up as part of a hearing congregation. Some have Deaf Church Councils, some Deaf Departments, and others have an Interpretive Ministry, where someone interprets the worship service by signing. Tim reports that most deaf people have only a third grade reading level, so the Bible stories are best taught by Bible storying in American Sign Language (ASL).

Richie Noble, who is deaf, and his hearing wife, Keva, minister in five preaching points in three associations in eastern Kentucky through the Eastern Kentucky

Regional Deaf Ministry. This ministry is jointly sponsored by Enterprise, Pike, and Three Forks associations.

Out of 1,000 to 3,000 deaf persons in that area, the Nobles only reach about fifty. It is difficult, discouraging work. Deaf ministries are scattered so far apart, it is hard to get together to encourage each other. Tim tries to visit the Nobles every two or three months to offer support and fellowship.

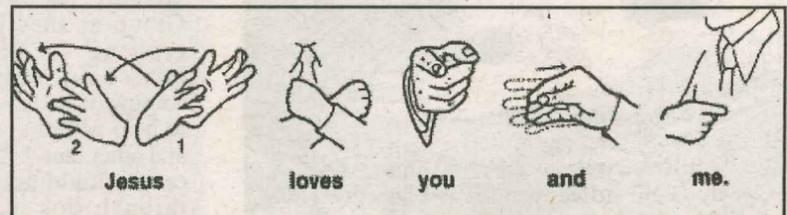
Each summer Eastern Kentucky Regional Deaf Ministry provides a camp for Deaf children, adults and

youth at Camp Nathaniel in Three Forks Association. In addition to crafts, games, and fun, they teach the Bible, and present the gospel to the campers. This is funded from the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

Please pray for leaders for deaf ministries and for people who will get involved with and befriend a deaf person. There are 300,000 deaf people in Kentucky. Who will reach them for Jesus?



Signing in the Louisville Baptist Deaf Church



"We need you" prompts MSC missionaries to return to Kentucky

Ministry to Hispanics is one of the fastest growing ministries of Kentucky Baptists. The growing Hispanic population of our state, coupled with a receptiveness to the gospel, has given rise to more opportunities than ever to share Christ with these new residents of our state.

In the late eighties, Kentucky was hosting approximately 250 Hispanic workers in the state. Now the numbers have swelled to between 25,000 and 35,000, many of whom have become year-round workers.

Hispanic missions have grown from two or three in the early nineties to sixty missions, several of which have become constituted churches. Grundy Janes is the Ethnic/Language Consultant for the KBC.

To help with this growing ministry, Gus and Gloria Reyes have come to Kentucky as volunteer missionaries to the Hispanic population in the Bowling Green area. They are working out of Forest Park Baptist Church there.

The Reyes' were previously missionaries in Oldham, Trimble, and Henry County, but health problems forced them to go back home to Corpus Christi, Texas. However, their hearts were still in Kentucky. As their health improved, they were excited to receive a call from Eric Allen, KBC Mission Service Corps (MSC) director, saying that the Hispanic ministry was booming and they were needed.

Gus and Gloria returned to Kentucky in the late summer of 2002. Gus shares enthusiastically about their new ministry. "On September 1, 2002, we started work at Forest Park, with fifteen in attendance—the only Baptist Hispanic mission in Bowling Green. My job is to establish missions and disciple pastors. We solidify missions that are already started, go to malls, parks, Wal-Mart—anywhere we can strike up conversations with Hispanic people. We hand out fliers, steer them to lessons in English as a Second Language, taught by Pat Howard. Gloria works to help get their legal documents in order, takes Hispanic ladies to the doctor to help translate between the doctor and the patient."

"I go to court with the men who may have celebrated too much and got in trouble with the law. As I am a retired police officer, I can understand both sides."



Gus and Gloria Reyes, Mission Service Corps missionaries, are seeking to reach Hispanics with the gospel.

Gus has a special appreciation for those who reach out to Hispanics. "I grew up a migrant worker in the cotton fields in Texas. There were some little white-haired WMU ladies who used to come and teach the Bible to my parents when it was almost a sin for them to be speaking to Hispanic workers. They brought

Kool-Aid, cookies and sandwiches made of white bread, which was a treat to us, as we only had corn tortillas for our meals. My parents became Christians as well as the whole family. My three brothers are deacons in Baptist churches, and my sisters are active members also. My three sons are all in the ministry, so you do not know how far your commitment is going outside your church to witness will go in the Kingdom of God."

For their first Christmas in Bowling Green, the new Hispanic ministry had a Christmas program where church members donated gifts for all the children under ten. There are plans to have a coffee house as a place to show Spanish movies and where Hispanics can congregate and not go to the bars.

This new Hispanic ministry in Bowling Green is funded by the Forest Park Church and the Warren Association of Baptists. In addition, the Eliza Broadus Offering provides funding for Language Missions in Kentucky.

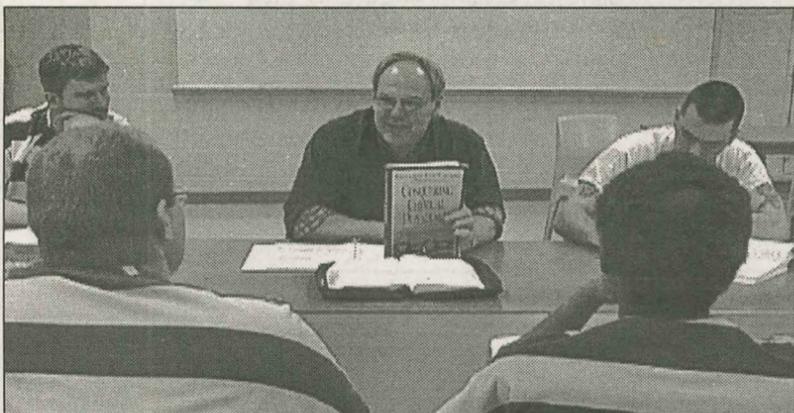


Pat Howard, Mission Service Corps missionary, teaches English as a Second Language with Hispanics and others in Bowling Green.

Please pray for all of the ministries to Hispanics in Kentucky. Pray that we will be able to reach more people for Christ, that more people will get involved, and that money for needed Hispanic ministries will be provided.

In the late eighties, Kentucky was hosting approximately 250 Hispanic workers in the state. Now the numbers have swelled to between 25,000 and 35,000, many of whom have become year-round workers.

Taking prison ministry a step further through Restorative Ministries



Bible study at the Green River Correctional Complex

The purpose of Project HELP: Restorative Justice is to bring healing, wholeness and peace to victims of crime; to educate God's people to the needs of the prisoners and their families; and to bring peace, healing and salvation to the prisoners. At the very time that WMU was developing the *Restorative Justice: Ministry Resource Guide*, the Kentucky Brotherhood department had called together a task force to see how Restorative Ministries in Kentucky could be coordinated and expanded.

Randy Foster, KBC Brotherhood Director, reports that Kentucky Baptists are partnering with Bill Glass, Chuck Colson, and other national ministries to inmates. There is cooperation between many churches and with prison chaplains. "We provide mentoring, aftercare, family counseling, scholarships to camp for children of prisoners, help for families trying to survive, and weekly Bible studies for those who wish to come."

The Restorative Ministries Task Force endeavors to coordinate all the KBC ministries to prisoners and pull together everyone who is working to help them. This includes prison chaplains, churches, and associations who are helping rehabilitate prisoners as they reenter society. The scope is large, the needs are great.

David Parker serves as Coordinator of Kentucky Restorative Ministries. "We work with incarcerated people in prisons in Kentucky. Prison chaplains invite us to come into their prisons and bring Experiencing God weekends to the inmates who want to participate. We are also involved with the Brotherhood and the WMU in their emphasis on Restorative Justice.

We try to help the prisoners give their lives to the Lord while they are in prison so that when they get out they will choose another lifestyle."

Aftercare is the special focus of David's ministry. He says that "We have found that only 10% of the prisoners find Christ in jail. Of that

10%, only 20% find a church home after they get out of jail." Because of the volume of prisoners, the aftercare ministry can only deal with those who ask for our help.

Kentucky Restorative Ministry is working with Prison Fellowship Ministries to develop a new aftercare ministry. They are working with inmates in the Green River Correctional Complex at Central City and are preparing to help the prisoners after they get out of jail. This ministry will require the assistance of many churches throughout the state.

Another prison related ministry is being conducted by Madisonville First Baptist Church. In this ministry, a local judge recommends that his probationers attend church once a week while they are on probation. Church members are befriending the offenders while they are on probation and legal professionals in the area have been impressed with the success of the program.

Restorative ministry also includes getting involved with juveniles who are on the road to crime. Through mentoring and other ministries, volunteers are trying to prevent these young people from getting in trouble. Through the Eliza Broadus Offering, camp scholarships are provided for the children of

inmates. Through "Angel Tree" camp, these children have a summer camp experience surrounded by loving camp staff who minister to their special needs.

Haven of Rest

A new restorative ministry in Eastern Kentucky developed out of one family's tragedy. Haven of Rest Family Ministries is a hospitality house for the families of inmates of the Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary which has recently opened in Martin County, in far Eastern Kentucky. This ministry furnishes free housing and food for the families who come for a three-day visit with their incarcerated loved ones.

Eileen Mullins shares how the Haven of Rest ministry began. "My thirty year-old son, who had never had even a speeding ticket, was sentenced to a twenty-year prison term for manslaughter for shooting his wife during a bitter divorce. When my husband, Carl, who has been a Baptist pastor in Kentucky for over thirty years, and I started visiting our son in prison, we realized how much the family members of the other prisoners were needing help. We were not able to stop and help at that time, but I prayed Romans 8:28, that God would make some good come

(continued next page)



Haven of Rest Family Ministries is a hospitality house for the families of inmates of the Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary which has recently opened in Martin County, in far Eastern Kentucky.

The purpose of restorative justice ministries through WMU's Project HELP: Restorative Justice is to involve God's people in bringing healing, wholeness, and peace to victims, offenders, law enforcement, and communities affected by crime.

out of the grief our family was going through."

"God told me that I would minister to families of prisoners, and it would be called the Haven of Rest. Three years later, when I read in the Martin County paper that a Federal Prison was to be built on strip-mined land in our county, I shouted all over the house."

Eileen shared the vision of the ministry at the Mountain Missions Conference at Oneida that year. Then she was asked to speak at various chaplains' meetings, and at the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The KBC gave the ministry \$2,000 seed money and it began to grow. The owner of much of the strip-mined land in Martin County, whose wife is a member of Inez First Baptist Church, gave Haven of Rest almost three acres of land on a mountain with a breathtaking view just over a mile from the prison.

Haven of Rest has an Advisory Board, which consists of the Enterprise Associational Missionary, Rev. Tom Biddle, and seven other local people, who meet monthly to pray and make decisions concerning the work.

Eileen is animated as she shares how the ministry has developed. "We have been blessed to have services donated by a civil engineer who surveyed the land and two architects who planned the two buildings. We have a six-room dormitory that sleeps 24 and a lodge building that contains an office, kitchen, dining area, small chapel, and a great room for meetings and counseling. Other donations have been: a logo designed by a commercial artist, services of lawyers and a CPA, and virtually all the labor for the construction of the buildings. Buck Grove Baptist church in Brandenburg raised the money and built the dormitory. A group from the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association built the lodge. Others have dug footers, laid block for foundations, and many, many people and groups have donated money, furniture, quilts, toilet articles, curtains, sheets, and other necessities too numerous to mention. Last year the Eliza Broadus Offering paid for a truckload of paper products and cleaning supplies as well as Bibles and tracts."

One special story that Eileen likes to tell concerns how the siding for the buildings was provided. "My brother remembered that fifteen years ago a friend of his had been sent two shipments of metal siding and that the company told this man that he could just keep the overshipment. The extra siding was still stored in his friend's barn. Thus, God provided enough metal siding for both buildings 15 years before it was needed."

Others share Eileen's vision. For instance, two ladies from Warfield started a variety store called Heavenly Treasures and are donating the proceeds to the Haven of Rest. All the labor for the store and for the Haven of Rest is donated.

Families may visit for a three-day period, and they are allowed to stay for that period only. Haven of Rest provides free food that families may prepare in the kitchen. There is also a ministry with the children if the parent wishes to visit her spouse alone.

Haven of Rest was featured in the April issue of *Missions Mosaic*. Eileen is a Missions Service Corps volunteer and requests that Kentucky Baptists join her in prayer for the Haven of Rest ministry. "Please pray for the continued monetary support, prayer support, and worker support. We need groups willing to clean, care for children, do laundry, witness to the visitors, and man the phones in the office. Please pray for a consistent income so that we can pay our utility bills. We plan to build a caretaker's cottage when funds become available."

Eileen's testimony says it all: "When God tells you to do something, I have found that the support and materials will come.

ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING

for Kentucky State Missions, Special Ministries, and Missions Education 2003-04 OFFERING ALLOCATIONS

Kentucky Baptist Convention State Missions & Evangelism	\$600,000
State Missions	300,000
Includes funding for a mountain missionary in Eastern Kentucky; funds to assist 44 Kentucky Baptist associations in providing salary and insurance benefits for their associational missionary, assistance to 20 churches and four regional state missionary workers; funding assistance for the Freeda Harris Baptist Center van; retreat for Mission Service Corps missionaries; resort missions training.	
Language Missions	77,000
Eastern Kentucky Regional Deaf Ministry; Hispanic ministry; ministries to other language/ethnic groups in Kentucky; training for literacy volunteers.	
Church & Community Missions	112,000
Includes funds for appointed missionary personnel in the mountains and cities of Kentucky; Church and Community ministry supplies and materials; Baptist Fellowship Center personnel and office expense.	
Evangelism	4,000
Understanding Other Beliefs Conferences, Creative Ministries Festival/Youth Missions Workshop.	
Student Work	82,000
Includes International Student Ministry, Reach Out Campus Revivals, Student Mission Action Projects, Kentucky Student Summer Missions; Kentucky Reach Team.	
Brotherhood Special Projects	25,000
Includes Disaster Relief, Kentucky Changers, and MissionAdventure Camp for Boys (equipment and program needs, scholarships for children of incarcerated persons, and scholarships for other needy children).	

Kentucky Special Ministries **\$50,000**
 Requests for Special Ministries Funds are made through an application process.
 The deadline for submitting an EBO allocation request for the 2003-04 offering is December 31, 2003.
 Contact the state WMU office for an allocation request form.

Kentucky WMU: Missions Education & Ministries to Missionaries	\$250,000
Missions Education Leadership Development	26,145
Includes training events for church & associational missions leaders, Resource Team training, leadership materials for new missions organizations, associational leadership materials.	
Missions Education Events and Materials	45,695
Includes StateActeens Conference, Youth on Mission Night, Women on Mission Retreats, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting and Children's missions event, Collegiate missions education, Associational, age-level, language and general missions education development.	
Missions Education Camping	70,480
Includes Staff, missionaries, adventure recreation expenses, and materials for MissionAdventure Camp for Girls at Cedar Crest (weeklong camps and overnights); camp scholarships for needy children; Mother/Daughter Overnight, GA Overnight, and Acteens Splash at Jonathan Creek.	
Missions Education Promotion	47,300
Includes State Missions Week of Prayer Materials and Video, <i>Kentucky Notes</i> , <i>Associational Newsletter</i> , Yearbook Supplement, Joint promotion with other KBC agencies.	
Missions Education Administration	54,980
Includes postage, telephone, printing, staff development, equipment, computer services, internet, office operation, Kentucky WMU Executive Board.	
Missions Education Scholarships	1,900
Seminary Field Education, Simmons Bible College, Campus Women on Mission Facilitator Scholarships.	
Ministries to Kentucky Missionaries	3,500
Includes MK Re-entry retreat, Missionary event during the KBC, subscriptions to the <i>Western Recorder</i> for international missionaries, Missionary Parents Fellowship.	

ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING GOAL **\$900,000**
CHALLENGE GOAL: To be divided between New Work/Special Ministries **\$100,000**
TOTAL ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING GOAL **\$1,000,000**

Church contributions to this offering should be made payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and designated "Eliza Broadus Offering."

For the past two years a group of women and I have prayed each Monday morning on the mountain where Haven of Rest was to be built. God has been faithful to provide the buildings and land. We need to pray fervently that the ministry will win the souls as well as help the bodies of the families of the prisoners in the Big Sandy Federal Penitentiary."



Heavenly Treasures welcomes volunteers

There are many restorative ministries with one mission. Please pray for more workers and more churches who are willing to get involved in helping the people who have been released from prison. Pray for those in WMU and Brotherhood, who are emphasizing Project HELP: Restorative Justice this year. Pray that God will remove fear from people who are reaching out to the incarcerated. Pray that they will feel free to share Christ with those who are hurting. Above all, pray for those in prison that they will commit their lives to the Lord and forgo a life of crime.

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SMILE

Privacy laws mean change for everyone

Visit a doctor's office anywhere in the United States and you're bound to learn of one little acronym that is making for some big changes. That acronym is HIPAA, and it stands for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act—a law that went into effect in April and is meant to protect your security and confidentiality when seeking medical care.

But HIPAA goes beyond doctors' offices, and even affects Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children because we provide care for hurting children and their families.

We've always been sensitive to privacy issues, of course, and HIPAA regulations have only strengthened our procedures and rules to honor this commitment to our children and families.

Internally, this means a bit more paperwork and planning. For you, our supporters, this means a few more changes, including the discontinuation of impromptu visits or tours. Instead, we are planning open houses for each of our campuses to be spread out in 2004. You will be invited to our campuses for each open house and other special occasion that we're able to schedule and prepare for well in advance. You

can read more about these changes in next week's Western Recorder column.

I realize such changes might be an inconvenience. We certainly don't want any of our loving supporters to feel as though they are no longer needed or valued. Quite the opposite is true, but the newly enacted federal law necessitates this action.

No, HIPAA won't always make sense.

I was recently watching a football game on TV when a player got hurt. Not so long ago, TV commentators would have gone into great detail describing the player's injury and how that might affect the game. Because of HIPAA, however, the commentators could only issue a vague comment such as,

"Someone is hurt." No names and no details were allowed.

So even when these new rules seem a bit out of character for us or a bit overboard, please understand we're doing everything we can to protect the children's privacy while also protecting their relationships with you.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Dragon Lake?

History repeats itself, people say. Based on questions regarding our properties, I agree.

During the past 18 months, we have been researching and processing all past information about Cedar more and Jonathan Creek. The research will equip us to make the best possible decisions for the master plan for both properties. The master plans would set forth a conceptual development guide for the next 20 years.

As we review past documents, reports and needs, we find that in most cases the exact same questions were being asked of the camps 10, 15 and even 20 years ago. By far, the most attention and controversy has centered upon the lake at Cedar more.

The lake, officially named Dragon Lake, was a tremendous asset to the property at Cedar more. Built in the 1930s, the design, aesthetic contribution and literal size contributed an amount beyond measure to the Cedar more property. Dragon Lake covered approximately 171 acres on the Cedar more property and allowed guests opportunities for recreation and enjoyment, as many of you remember. Due to many significant factors, the lake no longer exists, but questions

about the lake continue to this day.

Our research has revealed that the lake does pose many difficult issues and would require significant financial investment. It is our anticipation that we will finish our background study within the next six months. We don't know if the return of the lake is feasible, but it would be an injustice not to explore the lake's potential return.

Some people might say that we are simply revisiting old business that was closed many years ago; some might say it could never happen, but we will be able to answer the question fully after our study is completed. I believe the size of the task before us represents an opportunity for God to work a miracle. Without question, if

the lake can be restored at Cedar more, all of us will say that it was of God.

The lake restoration is only one of many seemingly impossible tasks that are before our ministry. We continually need your support by prayer and participation, and we eagerly anticipate the future that is to come.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



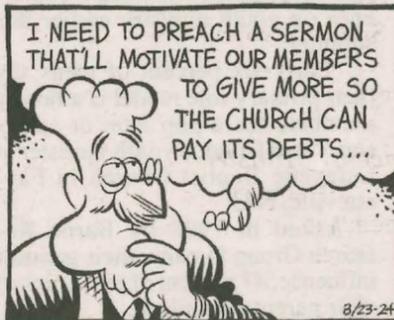
David Melber

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 Disney deer
- 6 Giver
- 11 Belonging to Robert E.
- 12 Girl's name
- 14 "I am like an _____ of the desert" (Psalm 102:6)
- 16 Wipe clean
- 18 Adam's companion
- 20 Peach state, abbr.
- 21 The main central parts of churches
- 22 Impersonal pronoun
- 23 Exodus author, Leon _____
- 26 Price mark-down
- 28 Esau's pottage was made from this legume (Genesis 25:34)
- 30 Cain did this to the ground (Genesis 4:2)
- 32 Digital audiotape, abbr.
- 33 Tree trunk
- 34 Horned African mammals
- 37 "Yea, the sparrow hath found an house ... even thine _____, O Lord of hosts" (Psalm 84:3)
- 40 "Thou anointest my _____ with oil" (Psalm 23:5)
- 41 "It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his _____" (Genesis 3:15)
- 42 You, KJV English
- 43 Stay away from
- 46 Nickel, chem. symbol
- 47 Physicians, abbr.
- 49 Naaman was one of these because of his disease (2 Kings 5:1)

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	55					56				

Janet Kennedy

Last week's solution

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	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	58	59	60

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- 50 "My tongue is the _____ of a ready writer" (Psalm 45:1)
- 51 Social equal
- 53 "The wringing of the _____ bringeth forth blood" (Proverbs 30:33)
- 55 "A time to mourn, and a time to _____" (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
- 56 Game

Down

- 2 "Israel loved Joseph more than _____" (Genesis 37:3)
- 3 Myself
- 4 Existed
- 5 God's chosen nation
- 6 To abandon
- 7 Metals
- 8 A silver-white metal, abbr.
- 9 "Ye are all _____ in Christ" (Galatians 3:28)
- 10 A bump in a ski slope
- 13 Doled
- 15 "A certain man, which had devils long time, and _____ no clothes" (Luke 8:27)

- 17 Address abbreviation
- 19 Foul
- 24 Asian nation
- 25 "_____ fast therefore in liberty" (Galatians 5:1)
- 26 Slow-moving mammal
- 27 Seaweed
- 29 International Trade Organization, abbr.
- 31 Sick
- 34 Poem
- 35 Pay attention to
- 36 Harsh
- 37 Strangers
- 38 French name
- 39 What David used to kill Goliath
- 43 Man's name
- 44 Kind of modern art
- 45 Fall
- 48 Health facility
- 50 Apiece
- 52 Printer's measure
- 54 Therefore

RESOURCES

License survey: 'Shout to the Lord' top Baptist praise song

PORTLAND, Ore. (ABP)—"Shout to the Lord" and "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" are the two most popular songs sung in Baptist churches that use contemporary worship, a new survey says.

According to Christian Copyright Licensing International, which licenses more than 150,000 songs for congregational use, those songs topped the list in a survey of Baptist churches with CCLI licenses.

For an annual license fee, 140,000 Christian churches in North America receive permission to copy the songs for printing, displaying and projecting lyrics, among other uses.

The Baptist churches, surveyed earlier this year, listed as their top 10 songs:

1. "Shout to the Lord," Darlene Zschech.
2. "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High," Rick Founds.
3. "Open the Eyes of My Heart," Paul Baloche.
4. "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship," Brian Doerksen.
5. "You Are My All in All," Dennis Jernigan.
6. "Breathe," Marie Barnett.
7. "He Is Exalted," Twila Paris.
8. "I Love You, Lord," Laurie Klein.
9. "Give Thanks," Henry Smith.
10. "Awesome God," Rich Mullins.

Songs that made the CCLI's national Top Ten but not with Baptists are: "You Are My All in All" by Dennis Jernigan, "As the Deer" by Martin Nystrom and "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever" by Martin Smith.

Worship songs rise in popularity a lot quicker than they used to, said industry insider Steve Parolini, because of their availability on radio stations and in retail outlets like Wal-Mart.

"Were it not for the current popularity of worship music performed by (contemporary Christian music) artists, the top 25 list would look a lot different," said Parolini, a music critic in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Minister: Youth work needs parental input

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (ABP)—Because parents are three times more likely to influence their children than is the church, youth ministries must involve parents if they want to change teens, youth minister Spencer Good says.

Surveys of teens emphasize the importance of parents and family in shaping young people's lives, Good told participants attending a conference on youth ministry earlier this summer.

"Forty-six percent of teens say their primary role model is a family member, not a pop icon or sports star," said Good, a youth minister at Lafayette Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C.

Asked in 1998 by Barna Research Group to name their greatest influence, 47 percent of teens picked their parents, he added.

The second-greatest influence is church (cited by 16 percent), followed by peers (8 percent) and a relative other than a parent (4 percent), he said.

"Teens care and want parents involved, whether they admit it or not," Good said. "We need to get parents to 'pack the stands' (at church events for youth). If youth look to parents as role models, we need to get parents involved."

"If we're working with youth only, and not their parents, then we're sidetracking and trying to be-

come (their) parents, which we're not," he said.

That means that youth ministries must reach out to parents and partner with them in training and developing their teenagers, he said.

During dialogue, Good and many ministers in his seminar agreed a surprisingly high percentage of teens attend church without their parents. This factor limits the depth of influence possible among teens, Good acknowledged.

The best way to get parents involved in church youth activities is to "plan good stuff," Good said.

He also suggested letting parents help plan some youth ministry

events, as well as sponsoring meetings and ministry projects with and to parents without their children present.

A motivation for ministry to parents is the fact many parents need to develop parenting skills and need more information to help them help their children, he said.

"If parents are the influence," Good emphasized, "then we've got to educate parents first."

Youth ministry should "fuse" with family ministry in the church and focus on the five purposes of the church—worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship and ministry, he said.

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A work in progress

Working with young people often is very challenging. In the past 20 years, I have interviewed thousands of students who were enrolling at Oneida or seriously considering it. The first part of the interview is spent with the student; no other adults are involved. Then the parents or guardians are invited to join us.

Between the information we have in the prospective student's folder and what the student tells us about himself, we have a pretty good idea about whether or not he can do well at Oneida Baptist Institute. Often I tell the parents on a scale of one to 10 if I think OBI is the right choice for their son or daughter. I wish I could always say eight, nine or 10, but I can't because there are times when I don't feel that way. Often the single biggest reason for a much lower number is the negative attitude of the student.

This past summer "Mickey" (not his real name) enrolled for summer school. In many ways his situation was typical of many of our students. He and three younger siblings were being raised by a single mother who had to work in the evenings to make ends meet. Not having a father obviously had taken its toll on Mickey. The added stress of caring for the younger siblings while Mom had to work was a responsibility that Mickey did not need.

These conditions and others created a stressful climate for him at school. Academically, Mickey was a disaster. When school was out this past spring at his old school he had failed the seventh grade for the third time! A family member encouraged the mother to consider OBI. When Mickey came for the interview, he told me that nearly all of his grades were F's. When I asked

why his grades were so poor, he told me that it was mostly the result of two things. He said that he was "angry about things ... and I just do not understand the classroom work." His lack of interest and understanding caused him to have many visits to the principal's office and nearly a dozen "home suspensions" in the last two years.

We had no choice but to put Mickey in the tutoring lab to repeat the seventh grade for summer school. This would let us see where he needed the most help. Attitude is always a crucial element in every student's success. Happily, Mickey was tired of failure. He worked hard during the summer and it paid off. Improved grades coupled with a positive attitude put him in the eighth grade for the fall term. I don't have to tell you how happy he was to get out of the seventh grade.

I checked on Mickey today. I was happy to find out that he is in regular eighth grade classes and is only in the tutoring lab one period each day for extra help with math. He was not sent to the office a single time during summer school and has not caused even a little disturbance so far this academic year.

When I talked to Mickey during the initial interview, I asked him what his two most important goals were. He said that he wanted "to learn how to get my school work completed" and go to college. Mickey has taken a giant step in the right direction to achieve his goals. He is still a work in progress, but if Mickey were your son or grandson, wouldn't you be proud of him?

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

25 years of good fellowship

Fellowship Baptist Church of Harrodsburg lives up to their name. This month marks 25 years of good fellowship between them and Pastor James Harley. He came to the congregation after his graduation from Clear Creek; it was his first church to serve as pastor.

"When I surrendered to the call, my parents didn't understand at first and said, 'Jamie, you've got what you've always wanted.' Yes, I had a good job at IBM. We lived in a new house, and I served through the church at Lawrenceburg as a deacon and in many other ways," Harley said. "All that was what I wanted, but God wanted more." Harley commuted three years to Clear Creek, leaving home at 3:30 a.m., arriving at Kelly Hall in time for breakfast.

The church recently ordained Seth Miller to the ministry. He attends Clear Creek and is pastor of Stony Fork Baptist Church in Bell County. In the ordination message, Harley described the life of a pastor as "taking orders from Jesus." He revealed a key factor in his longevity, "discovering together with the church what His will is for us. Prior to consideration of any major task, the church prays for two to

three months."

Fellowship members find unity in missions and evangelism. Harley has made 14 trips to Haiti (taking 15 other members with him) and recently went with members to help a church in Romania. The team saw 22 adult professions of faith. The congregation has strong Brotherhood and Baptist Women groups.

At Lexington's HOPE Center the youth group recently cooked a meal and served the homeless and distributed \$500 in clothing and personal supplies. The church contributes 10 percent to the Cooperative Program and supports several other ministries.

Seven men of the church form The Joyful Men of Fellowship; Pastor Harley plays a banjo. Men from the church join

men from other churches in a Friday morning prayer group. Most of them play instruments and share music at three to four rest homes each month.

Oneita Trevallian said of Pastor Harley, "He's wonderful." Dorothy VanArsdall agreed. "There are plenty of good pastors, but we couldn't find one any better than Bro. Harley."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Shaping future leaders

Evangelist hopes to prepare youth for challenges ahead

By James Smith
Florida Baptist Witness

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—What does Sea World's Shamu, the cosmological argument for the existence of God and techniques for proper time management and goal-setting have in common?

Each is featured during "SLU 101," an entry-level student leadership program developed by Orlando-based Southern Baptist evangelist Jay Strack.

Student Leadership University 101 is the first stage of a four-part developmental program that uses the sights and sounds of the world's capitals as its "edutainment" classrooms to increase the "leadership capacity" of young people.

Part apologetics boot camp, part motivational pep rally, part blow-out fun at some of Florida's most popular theme parks, organizers describe Student Leadership University's "Orlando Experience: SLU 101" as a weeklong adventure tailored for middle and high school Christian kids who aren't willing to settle for second-best.

"Student Leadership University is a four-year program based on the belief that the books you read, the places you go and the people you meet will change your life," Strack said.

After the first class in Orlando, students can advance through SLU's three other weeklong youth leadership-training excursions in Washington, London-Paris-Normandy and Rome. Each week, designed to be taken in four successive years before youth enter college, focuses on three major objectives:

- Time and life management, people skills, future-tense thinking, motivation and goal-planning.

- Discernment between the agenda of tolerance and the truths found in the Bible.

- Learning to defend one's faith with certainty and grace through the understanding of a Christian worldview.

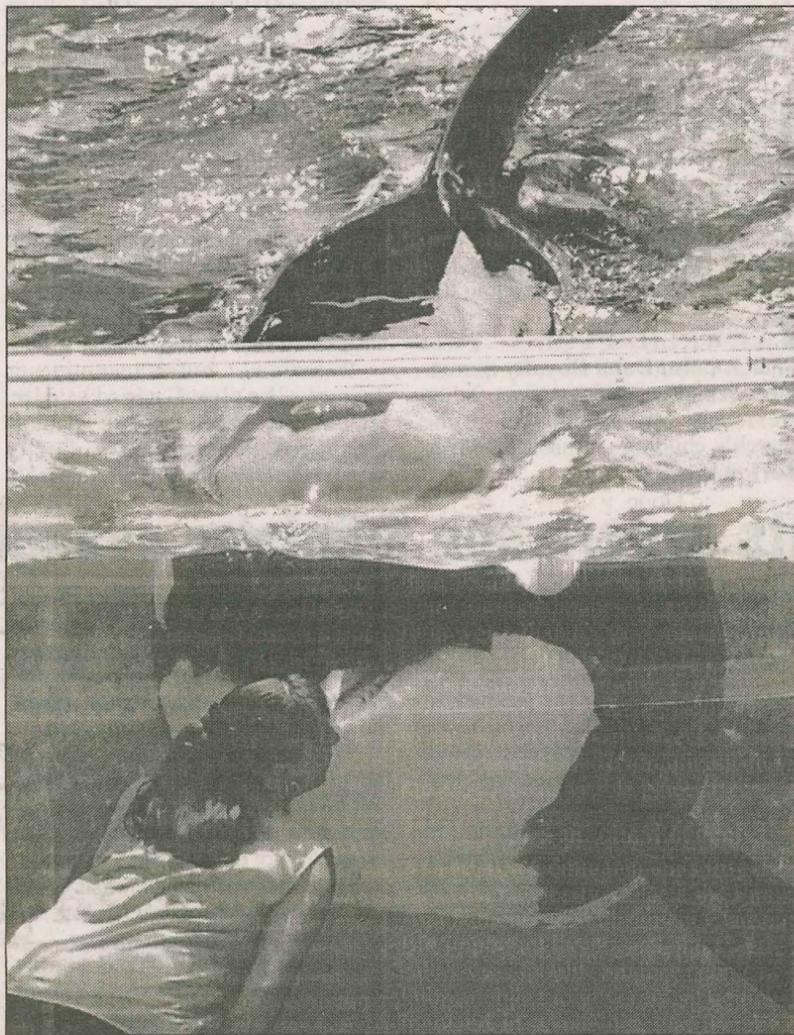
'Sunday-morning Christians'

Strack said he began SLU after more than 20 years of youth ministry experience in which he and other leaders found their best students were "just Sunday-morning Christians" who sometimes were losing their faith after leaving home to go to college or join the workforce.

Strack asked himself, "Where are our leaders? Where are our impact players? Where are those really making a dent in the universe?"

Since starting SLU nearly 10 years ago to address this weakness, the program has trained about 12,000 youth from at least 26 evangelical denominations.

When SLU graduates are confronted by a college professor who



STUDYING WITH SHAMU Sea World in Orlando is among the settings for youth studying Christian apologetics, leadership, goal setting and other life skills at Student Leadership University, a program spearheaded by evangelist Jay Strack. (BP photo by James Smith)

mocks their faith, "Jay wants that kid to think back to SLU and remember some of the most brilliant minds that he or she has ever been around know Jesus is Lord," said Tim Grosshans, SLU's director of training and development.

Among those whom students have met are Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A restaurants; Pat Williams, senior vice president of the National Basketball Association's Orlando Magic; Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; and Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Other classes include "How to make a splash" overlooking Shamu Stadium at Sea World and "How to swim with the sharks" at the theme park's shark tank.

'Biggie-sized' goals

Organizers said students consistently say their favorite portion of the program is Strack's challenge to dream about God's future for them. Strack asks students to identify goals they want to accomplish for God, defining a goal as "a detailed dream with direction and a deadline."

One young woman who "biggie-sized" her goals, Strack said, was Nikki Finch who attended SLU 101 in 1996.

At SLU, Finch decided she wanted to "meet and witness to the president of the United States," work un-

dercover for the Central Intelligence Agency and become a national leader of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).

Within one year of setting the goals, Finch had become National SADD Student of the Year, resulting in a meeting with President Clinton where she lobbied for a lower blood alcohol content standard.

Finch now is the coordinator for the 201 program in Washington, while pursuing a master's degree in public administration at George Washington University—with the CIA still on her mind.

Strack hopes to see success stories in the field of creative ministries and the scientific community. This summer, SLU held its first Creative Outbreak Workshop, a new program designed to reach students gifted in the arts. In the next 18 months Strack hopes to launch a program to train students who are gifted in science.

"We're radically convinced that anyone can increase their leadership capacity," Strack said.

"We're constantly trying to say to these students, 'If God be for you, who can be against you?' and 'Build a solid foundation under your life and remember what you do today determines your tomorrow.' I'm trying to give them the rules and tools of leadership," he said.

"That's really what we're trying to do—give students a quantum leap of about 20 to 25 years so that they can make an impact for the glory of God."

Kids often ignored in grief process, hospice worker says

By Mark Wingfield
Baptist Standard

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Although Helen Harris has years of experience as a hospice worker and social worker, she learned an important lesson about grieving by taking her 10-year-old daughter to a funeral home.

The young girl, after walking by her grandmother's casket, was overcome with grief and began sobbing. An older woman, apparently desiring to be helpful, came to the girl and spoke directly into her face: "Stop that crying! You just stop that crying!"

After assuring the girl that her grandmother was in a better place with Jesus and she ought to celebrate the homegoing rather than grieve the loss, the woman concluded with a fully loaded message: "Jesus doesn't want you crying."

That was it for Harris, who teaches in the Baylor University School of Social Work. She laid aside her own pastoral counseling demeanor and told the woman to leave them alone.

Harris and her daughter knew the grandmother was in a better place, and they knew she was free of pain, Harris explained. But they also knew that they were sad for themselves and that they needed to cry.

The experience with this woman who thought she was offering help with her stoicism illustrates common misunderstandings about how children grieve, Harris told a conference of church social workers.

Children, she said, often become the "forgotten mourners" at the time of a death. "They are expected to play and go to school while the adults grieve." But children should be allowed to grieve themselves, she advised. Grieving children need to receive information appropriate for their age level, and they need to be prepared for what they will see and hear, she said. "When kids don't know, they speculate. And what they speculate is always worse than reality."

Children should be included in the care-giving directed toward a grieving family, and they should be included in family rituals related to death and grief, Harris advised. "Children need a cultural context in which to grieve."

Supporting kids in grief

Children, she noted, are more perceptive about what's happening around them than most adults realize. She cited another observation by her daughter, who examined the church prayer list and asked: "How come the only way people get off the list is by dying?"

Parents and other adult care-givers should understand that children might grieve in bursts of emotion, events she compared to sudden cloudbursts of rain followed by sunny skies. This is normal behavior for children, she reported.

But children might need special attention from adult family members and friends because they will not find a natural connection and support for grieving among their peers, Harris said.

She also warned against using trite phrases that easily confuse children, phrases like "asleep in Jesus," "God took her" and "God needed an angel."

Among both children and adults, grief is a journey rather than a defined task, Harris said.

Grief, she said, takes time—not just six weeks or six months or even a year. "Uncomplicated mourning" might last two to three years, she explained, and "complicated mourning" might span up to seven years. "Grief continues for a lifetime through major life milestones."

Grief, Harris said, is hard work. But it's also necessary in order to achieve a healthy perspective again, she added, comparing grief to the lifesaving but sometimes painful impact of an automobile airbag in a crash.

"Experiencing the pain will make you feel worse for a time. But you've got to go through the pain. There's no way over, under or around it."

Churches face many options for ministering to grieving people, Harris concluded. "What's not an option is to ignore this."

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 missionary couple in Bulgaria planning to relocate to a part of the country where there is little or no evangelical work.

■ Praise God for five Romanian literacy classes being taught in Gypsy communities. More than 100 participants have learned to read and heard the gospel presented in classes in the past year.

■ Missionaries Jason and Almee Martin recently led a concert of prayer focusing on non-Christians in Extremadura, Spain. They ask for prayer "that God will open doors so that we can effectively communicate the gospel."

■ The family of Kentucky native Arlee Searcy who died Aug. 25 at age 61. Her husband, Doyle, is pastor of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany. Her funeral service was Sept. 5 at Northside Baptist Church of Science Hill.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ ALEXANDRIA—Grants Lick Church recently called **Michael Huff** as pastor.

■ BROADHEAD—Mount Zion Church recently called **Darren Cupp** as pastor.

■ DeMOSSVILLE—Wilmington Church recently called **Bill Scott** as pastor.

■ EDMONTON—Pink Ridge Church recently called **James Howell** as pastor.

■ GREENSBURG—Greensburg Church recently called **Mike Akridge** as pastor.

■ GREENVILLE—Second Church will hold revival services Sept. 14-17 with **Jeff Eaton**, pastor of Hope Com-

munity Church in Lawrenceburg, as evangelist.

New Cypress Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 28.

■ HEIDELBERG—Heidelberg Church celebrated its 105th anniversary Aug. 31.

■ JEFFERSONVILLE—Jeffersonville Church recently called **Steve Creech** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Beech Grove Church in Irvine.

■ LAWRENCEBURG—First Church called **Dana Royalty** as minister of children, effective Sept. 2. She previously was a volunteer in the church's children's ministries. **Greg Burton** is pastor.

Southern students experience 'ministry evangelism' firsthand

By David Roach
Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE (BP)—A lesson in how meeting physical needs and proclaiming the gospel can work in tandem to lead people to Jesus Christ was taught to 14 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students who ventured to a Florida church this summer.

The students traveled to First Baptist Church in Leesburg as part of a Southern Seminary class titled, "Ministry Evangelism." During their time in Leesburg, the students observed the extensive network of ministries in place at First Baptist, including men's and women's shelters, a crisis pregnancy center, benevolence center, medical clinic and children's home.

They also attended classroom sessions co-taught by Don Cox, associate professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern, and Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist, Leesburg.

Participating in several of the church's 70-plus ministries gave stu-

dents the opportunity to learn how social ministry can provide an entree for the gospel, Cox said.

"I think for the students it helps them begin to see that as we seek to share the gospel with people in the world that there's a great need to meet the personal physical needs that people may have," he said.

"The main learning objectives were to form a biblical foundation for doing ministry evangelism and to learn how to do ministry evangelism practically by looking at not only the (assigned readings) of the class, but also actually experiencing a model where that's being done."

Personal perspective

Gayle Fee, a master of divinity student from Rochester, N.Y., saw firsthand how meeting physical needs opens a door for the gospel when she got the opportunity to witness to a client at the church's crisis pregnancy center.

Two weeks before Fee arrived in Leesburg, the woman had given birth to a child she might have aborted had

■ LEXINGTON—Boone's Creek Church called **Matt Perry** as pastor, effective Sept. 7.

Chevy Chase Church will hold revival services Oct. 19-22 with **Steve Ayres**, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, as evangelist.

■ LOUISVILLE—Beechwood Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 12 at 10:45 a.m. For information, call the church office at (502) 895-3439.

Lakeside Church recently called **Sarah Odom** as part-time minister to children. She is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. **Wes Brockway** is pastor.

Woodland Church recently ordained **Charles Gregory**, **Jim Grider** and **Wilma Pence** as deacons. **Mike Sharp** is pastor.

■ MOREHEAD—First Church

called **Jeremy Colliver** as youth leader. **Don Mantooth** is pastor.

■ SOMERSET—Bethany Church recently called **James Harris** as pastor. He previously was interim pastor.

■ SUMMERSVILLE—Summersville Church recently called **Chuck Pollard** as pastor.

■ WILLIAMSTOWN—Williamstown Church honored **Lena Raisor** on her 95th birthday Aug. 3. and **Carrie Hubbard** on her 95th birthday Aug. 15. **Steve Rice** is pastor.

What's going on?

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it not been for the counseling she received through the church. When the woman returned to the crisis pregnancy center with her two-week-old baby, Fee and the center's director shared the gospel with the woman.

"We had the opportunity to share the gospel with a woman who had chosen not to abort her baby, and we were able to hold the baby and just see the fruit of that ministry," Fee said.

Ministries such as the crisis pregnancy center exemplify what Cox described as "ministry evangelism."

"Ministry evangelism is simply caring for persons in the name of Jesus Christ," he said. "It is meeting persons at the point of their need and ministering to them physically and spiritually."

Over the years, First Baptist of Leesburg has developed a reputation for successful ministry evangelism.

When Roesel arrived in Leesburg 26 years ago, the church averaged approximately 300 people on Sunday mornings and Roesel had contacted every person on the church's prospect list within six months.

Then the church initiated a number of ministries designed to meet physical needs in the community, and the congregation exploded to more than 7,000 members. Today Roesel says he never runs out of prospects.

Invaluable educational tool

Fee's husband, David, also a master of divinity student, said Roesel's expertise in ministry evangelism served as an invaluable educational tool.

"From a pastor's perspective, what was really nice about this trip was Dr. Charles Roesel," Fee said. "He's been in the ministry for 50 years, so we had an extended amount of time where people fired off just any and all practical questions they had about ministry. He covered a lot of things, and he had a lot of great things to say."

Cox said the class was such a success that there may be similar travel classes offered in the future.

"One thing the students saw," he reflected, "was some of the people who have actually been led to Christ in the ministry."

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SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Meta Baptist Church in Pikeville, Ky. Sunday school attendance is 80 and Sunday morning worship attendance is 130. Please send resumé to: Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church. We have a fast-growing congregation and a Sunday school enrollment in excess of 325. We are looking for the man God has prepared for this position. Prayerfully submit your resumé to: Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 400 Olive Branch Church Road, Hanson, KY 42413, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Temporary workers—individuals with secretarial experience and computer application skills to work in temporary positions. Competitive hourly wage; no benefits. Contact: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. (502) 244-6468.

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: Accounting supervisor of general ledger and payroll. Requires bachelor's degree in accounting with at least two years supervisory experience, preferably for a not-for-profit organization. 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@sbt.edu.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth with some education responsibilities for Lakota Hills Baptist Church, West Chester, Ohio. This is an exciting, rapidly growing congregation located in the beautiful northern suburbs of Cincinnati. If prayerfully interested, please send resumé and cover letter to: Search Committee, 6300 Tylersville Road, West Chester, OH 45069.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for young youth group with a lot of potential at Durbin Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Please send resumé to Pastor Chuck Luke at 8650 Durbin Lane, Lexington, KY 40515, or call (859) 351-1333.

SEEKING: Interim minister of worship for Glasgow Baptist Church, Glasgow, Ky. Responsible for planning Sunday morning worship, rehearsing instrumentalists (multiple instruments), choir, leading a blended worship style and coordinating multimedia. All responsibilities could be accomplished on Sunday to facilitate travel. \$475-\$550/wk. Contact Pastor Scott Mackey, (270) 651-2186.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister (paid position; grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC 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. Ordination and some seminary training required; ministerial experience also necessary. Two Sunday morning services, one Sunday evening service and a Wednesday evening service. Sunday school average attendance: 250. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Cecilia Baptist Church, PO Box 73, Cecilia, KY 42724.

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Developing 'Passion' for God

Movement urges college students to deeper worship and discipleship

By Leann Callaway
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Unknown to most Christians over the age of 30, a worship movement is sweeping many college campuses.

"Passion," a combination of local events and national assemblies had 2,000 students at its first event in 1997. Earlier this year, more than 30,000 young adults converged on a north Dallas ranch to better connect with God.

"People call it a movement," explained Chris Tomlin, a regular worship leader at Passion events, "but it's really just an idea of how we should live our lives as Christians."

Louie Giglio began Passion Conferences in 1995 with a vision to evangelize the 80 percent of America's 16 million college students who have no personal relationship with Christ and to deepen the discipleship of Christian students.

Giglio's roots in college ministry date back to 1985, when he established Choice Bible study at Baylor University. After graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Giglio returned to Baylor for further graduate studies.

A new vision planted

After leading Baylor's Choice Bible study for 10 years, Giglio and his wife, Shelley, believed God was calling them to Atlanta to care for his father, who was near death.

After transferring leadership of the student ministry and preparing to move, Giglio's father died, leaving him with no idea what he should do.

"We had already told everybody we were leaving, and we had already told our staff they were taking over," Giglio said. "It's kind of hard to come back at that point, and say: 'Well, guess what, we're not leaving after all. We're back!' So, we felt like we needed to keep going to Atlanta."

That summer, he said, a picture flashed in his mind while on a flight. "It was a picture of not just one campus, but the campuses of the nation."

Giglio said God was telling him to take his eyes off a single campus and think about all college students. He said God gave him the name "Passion" for the movement and reminded Giglio that he was now available.

"I was like: 'That's true. I am available. I have no job. I have no ministry. Shelley and I are completely available.' We took the first step, and the rest is history."

Armed with the vision, Giglio searched for a starting place. Eventually, he sought the help of 25 like-minded campus ministry leaders from around the nation. "We pulled



those guys together and said: 'We want to birth something new. We're going to have a four-day gathering, and it's going to be about the glory of God.'"

The "Passion '97" event attracted about 2,000 students to Austin, Texas, in January of that year.

The next year, 5,000 people attended a similar event. By 1999, the Fort Worth Convention Center filled with 11,500 students from six continents for four days of worship and renewal. Speakers included Giglio, Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright and Bible teacher Beth Moore.

"All of a sudden, we're sitting in Fort Worth and looking at 11,500 students," Giglio said. "We're thinking: 'This is great. But if we just keep growing incrementally, it's going to take us a long time to impact 16 million students.'"

From that, leaders of Passion Conferences reshaped their vision to create OneDay. "We didn't want to call it Passion 'something' because we wanted to take our name off of it. We wanted it to be totally about the Lord," Giglio said.

40,000 students in Memphis

In May 2000, OneDay became the largest collegiate gathering of its kind in the United States in more than 25 years. Forty thousand students from around the world met on a field in Shelby Farms, Tenn., to join in worship and prayer for spiritual awakening.

After the first OneDay, Passion embarked on a nationwide tour of 25 cities. In the spring of 2002, Passion hosted the Thirsty Conference, its first gathering specifically for campus ministers.

By 2003, Passion organizers realized there were a lot of students

who weren't in college for Passion '99 or OneDay 2000. So OneDay 2003 was planned for them. Nearly 30,000 students descended on a field outside Sherman, Texas, on Memorial Day weekend, which introduced a new generation of college students to the Passion vision. "We feel like now they're going, 'Oh, I get what this is about,' and they're going to walk with us on the next leg of the journey."

The nationwide Passion Experience Tour is scheduled for this fall.

At Passion Conferences, the music combines traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs. Since creating their own recording label, Sixsteps, in partnership with Sparrow Records, Passion has sold more than 1 million records.

But staging massive worship events is not the only goal. Leaders of Passion Conferences encourage students to serve and support the local church and local Christian ministries on campuses across the nation.

Giglio, in addition to traveling the world speaking to students, also leads a citywide Bible study in Atlanta, which has more than 3,000 young adults attending each week.

Living sacrifices

One of the key messages at Passion events focuses on worship being more than a song, but a lifestyle that glorifies God. "Worship is our response—both personal and corporate—to God for who He is and what He has done, expressed in and by the things we say and how we live," Giglio said.

"It says in Romans 12 to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, that is your spiritual act of worship," Tomlin

Local tour dates

The Passion Experience Tour dates in Kentucky and nearby states include:

- Indianapolis, Oct. 18.
- Cincinnati, Nov. 1.
- Nashville, Nov. 8.
- Louisville, Nov. 9.
- St. Louis, Nov. 23.

For more tour dates and information, visit the organization's Web site, www.268generation.com.

noted. "Everyone was created to worship. Worship is our response to what we value in life, and God must be the center."

At each Passion event, students spend a significant time in prayer, both privately and as a group.

In messages, Giglio stresses the importance of centering one's life around God, not vice-versa. "Our lives exist for God. God doesn't exist for us," he said. "I think if we can really grab onto the thought that life is not about us ... it frees us to really live in the full potential of what we were created to do."

"When it's all said and done, Passion would like to see not any monument to a ministry or to our name," Giglio said, "but what we would like to leave behind in the generation is a bigger, louder anthem of the name of God. ... What the world needs from us is to know that we've found our happiness in God, that we really do take delight in Him, and that He is the best thing going on in our lives."

"We want His name to be echoed in the whole world—not just in America, not just the college campuses of America, but to the whole world."

LOUIE GIGLIO *The organizer of Passion and OneDay events, exhorts students to develop a deeper relationship with God. "Our lives exist for God. God doesn't exist for us." (ABP photo)*

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