

September 23, 2003  
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Springhurst Pines  
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**Census: Despite drop, most kids still living with both parents**

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Despite the public perception that single-parent households are becoming the norm in America, seven out of 10 children under the age of 18 still live in two-parent homes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

But 30 percent of America's children live with one parent, most often a mother. Children living in single-parent homes are five times more likely to live with their mothers than with their fathers, according to census data.

The percentage of children living at home with two parents has decreased slightly over the last decade, to 69 percent in 2002 from 73 percent in 1991.

The statistics are drawn from a new Census Bureau report, "Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics," released this summer.

The report notes that not all children listed as living in single-parent homes actually live in homes where only one adult is present. For example, the census data does not fully capture data on children living in a home with a parent and a non-married partner.

In 2002, African-American children were 2.65 times more likely to live in single-parent households than Anglo children. That gap has increased slightly over the last decade. In 1991, African-American children were 2.57 times more likely than Anglo children to live in single-parent families.

In 2002, 53 percent of African-American children lived in single-parent families (up from 49.1 percent), compared to 20 percent of Anglo children (up from 19.1 percent), 30 percent of Hispanic children (down from 31.1 percent) and 15 percent of Asian children.

The census found that children of all races who live with a single father are significantly more likely to live in a household with a cohabiting partner than children with single mothers.

Among children with two parents in the home, 97 percent had at least one parent active in the labor force and 62 percent had two parents working outside the home.

Stay-at-home mothers were 56 times more prevalent than stay-at-home dads, although 1.5 million children lived in households with stay-at-home dads. In 2002, 18 percent of children lived in households with stay-at-home mothers, including 31 percent of children who were in two-parent households.

**Innovative outreach**



**CATS** David Lininger (left), minister to families at Middletown Baptist Church, portrays "Old Deuteronomy" in a scene from the Broadway show "Cats." The church, which has an average attendance of 150 people on Sundays, presented "Broadway on Main" shows, attracting 550 people during the Middletown Milestone Festival this month. (Photo by Evan Hoffman)

**Festival show gives church chance to shine**

By David Winfrey  
News Director

MIDDLETOWN—First Baptist Church of Middletown isn't content simply taking part in the local community festival. The church wants to stand out.

Middletown's Milestone Festival, which draws approximately 50,000 people each August, has become First Baptist's primary outreach to its community.

Pastor Jim Cobban enjoys telling the story of the church's growing work at the festival to encourage other churches to see how they can connect with their neighbors.

What started years ago as an

agreement that the city could use the church parking lot for some festival events has evolved into the congregation taking a leading role.

"We've gone from a church that was minimally involved to one where we're at the heart of the festival," Cobban said.

This year, 125 church volunteers comprised a staff of children's game booth, soda shop, "oasis tent" for seniors, bake sale and parade float.

But the church's marquee feature has become "Broadway on Main," a live music show involving a cast and crew of more than 60 people with homemade costumes.

The 150-member church hosted

three shows during the festival, attracting 550 people.

"I can identify people who came for the show who would not have come for the festival," Cobban said. "That tells me that the church and the festival are helping each other to succeed."

The increased participation started four years ago, when Cobban became pastor.

"When I came and interviewed with the church, they said, 'How do you feel about the community having a festival on our parking lot?'" he recalled.

"To me that was 50,000 potential church members."

□ See Community festival ..., page 6

**Adviser has 12 tips to improve kids' Sunday school**

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Saturday night is no time to start preparing to teach a Sunday school lesson, according to Jan Marler.

Marler, a childhood ministry specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources, said the most important advice she has for rookie teachers is to prepare a little every day for that next lesson.

"How many times have you picked up your leader's guide at 9 o'clock on Saturday night to get started?" Marler asked a recent conference at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. "That's not fair to your kids, and it's not fair to you."

Doing something each day to get ready for Sunday morning was just one of 12 tips Marler gave during a conference for children's Sunday school teachers.

Her other advice included:

■ **Pay yourself first.** "Never neglect your daily first. ... If you're relying on that Sunday morning adult experience to carry you, you're going to come up hurting."

■ **Beware of easy fixes.** Coloring books and videos might fill time, but can create future discipline problems.

■ **Pay now or pay later.** Handle discipline problems early, she advised.

■ **Know your score.** Teachers should know the answer to such questions as: Do the children look forward to Sunday? Do you look forward to Sunday? Are the kids growing?

■ **A lack of personal discipline has its price.** Prayer, preparation and ministry will suffer, she said.

■ **Do you really need it?** Know what you want to teach. Plan activi-

ties that directly relate to a lesson's "life impact statement."

■ **Be accountable.** Plan with other leaders weekly. Share ministry responsibilities. Delegate tasks.

■ **Mentor someone.** Teachers should have someone ready to take their place if the need arises.

■ **What's the start-up cost?** Having a job description helps others know the expectations of being a teacher.

■ **Be good to yourself.** Take care of your mind and body.

■ **Shop around.** Find the place God has called you to and get to it.

Teaching children's Sunday school is a big job, but not everyone is called to do it, Marler noted. "If this isn't the place God wants you to serve, find out where you should be and get there."

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, September 24

## Baptists deliver food to refugees on Sept. 11 anniversary

By Joni Hannigan  
Baptist Press

WADI HADADA, Jordan (BP)—On the second anniversary of Sept. 11, Baptist relief workers in the Middle East shared a message of hope and reconciliation as they delivered food and supplies to Iraqi and other refugees living in Jordan.

Working with local charities, 19 volunteers from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas delivered 50 boxes of food—a tiny portion of the 46,000 food boxes from Southern Baptists awaiting delivery to Iraqi families.

Initially, the work had been interrupted when security concerns arose after the terrorist bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Iraq in late August. Instead of going to Baghdad, the workers were diverted to Jordan Sept. 2 where they engaged in a variety of relief projects among the estimated half-million Iraqi refugees there.

In other projects over a 10-day period, the relief workers visited an Is-



**MOTHER'S HELPER** A Palestinian schoolgirl keeps an eye on her baby brother while her mother receives milk and diapers from Baptist relief workers at an Islamic women's center in Jordan. (BP photo by Joni Hannigan)

lamic women's center to deliver diapers and other baby items, went on home visits to help build relationships with families and assisted with health-care assessment among the poor. They also completed projects at the Amman Baptist School and delivered food and supplies to a nearby orphanage.

### God still in control

At the group's debriefing, the team coordinator said despite the logistical

challenges and last-minute changes, the volunteers had benefited from the experience.

Despite disappointment about not being able to go into Iraq, he reminded the team that God still had been in control.

In Jordan, though Arab and other Christians are allowed to worship and teach among themselves, proselytizing and direct evangelism of Muslims is strictly prohibited. In Iraq, the situation is complicated because of constantly shifting political pressures since the U.S. invasion there.

In both cultures, the need for relationship building is vital and drives the need for social ministry, especially among the displaced Iraqis.

"We were on Mount Nebo and I was thinking about the Son of God orchestrating world events—and the thought of our predicament came up," one worker recounted. "For all of that, it's a God thing that this trip came about, and one day I'll see it."

Another worker said it didn't take long for volunteers to focus on the needs in Jordan.

"I forgot about not going to Iraq," he said. "God has done some incredible things."

"We came to minister to people who were hungry, not so much to the Arab peoples," he said. "God makes no mistakes; His sovereignty is at work and it's up to me to look at what is happening."

### Seeking spiritual hope

Walking through the streets and coming face to face with the people in the culture prompted one volunteer to say he believes many of them are no different from the unsaved people who pack the streets in the United States.

"These people here are starving for the same sense of direction that only comes from the living God," he said. "We need to take this experience and learn from what we have seen every day."

"I truly believe we are on the forefront of a great spiritual awakening in the Middle East," he added. "God's hand is all over this and we have been at the forefront of that."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Man tied to attacks sentenced to death.** An Islamic extremist was sentenced to death Sept. 14 for assassinating a politician and coordinating the murders of three Southern Baptist hospital workers in Yemen, according to Associated Press. Ali al-Jarallah was sentenced to death for planning last December's attack on Jibla Baptist Hospital that killed hospital director William Koehn, physician Martha Myers and purchasing agent Kathleen Gariety. Abed Abdul Razak Kamel, the gunman in the hospital attack, also received a death sentence earlier this year.

■ **Annuity Board expands PPO options.** Participants in the preferred provider organization medical plans of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board will have access to Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO networks across the nation effective Jan. 1, according to an agreement between the two entities. Doug Day, Annuity Board executive officer of benefit services, explained, "With the addition of the Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO networks, more than 99 percent of our medical plan participants and prospects will have access to PPO doctors and healthcare facilities." In areas where two networks are available, he added, participants will be able to choose the one that offers them the best provider access.

■ **Baylor regent resigns over conflict of interest.** Houston pastor Duane Brooks resigned from the Baylor University board of regents Sept. 18, citing concerns raised about a potential conflict of interest. The Dallas Morning News reported Sept. 7 that Brooks' service on the board violated a policy of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which elected him to the post. His brother, David Brooks, is Baylor's chief financial officer. Allegations of regents' conflicts of interest are among a number of issues to be investigated by a newly appointed committee of Baylor regents.

■ **Draper listed among Nashville's top leaders.** James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, has been named by Metro Nashville publication among the most influential people in Nashville. Draper, president of LifeWay for 12

years and a former Southern Baptist Convention president, was listed 18th on the list. The top three names on the list are Colin Reed, president of Gaylord Entertainment; U.S. Sen. Bill Frist; and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen. Draper said the honor "is a tribute to the dedication of all the LifeWay family to the task of providing Christian resources around the world."

■ **Kelley honored for 20 years at NOBTS.** Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, was honored Sept. 4 for 20 years of service to the seminary. Kelley, who has served as president since 1996, previously was chairman of the division of pastoral ministries and director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health. Kelley's brother-in-law, Paige Patterson, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., was elected this summer as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Wingfield honored with ABP award.** Mark Wingfield, former editor of the Western Recorder, was honored Sept. 11 with Associated Baptist Press' inaugural ABP Writer's Award. Wingfield, managing editor of the Texas Baptist Standard since 1998, was lauded by ABP Executive Editor Greg Warner for his "skill, courage and tenacity" in covering Baptist-related news.

■ **Mission organization reduces staff.** HouseCalls International, a non-profit organization that promotes and manages mission trips, recently reduced its staff by more than half, from 17 employees to eight. The Atlanta-based organization, founded in 2000, was established by Mike Bailey and Andy Morris, who formerly worked in volunteer mobilization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. In 2003, HouseCalls managed a number of projects outsourced by other entities, including NAMB and state Baptist conventions in Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. Bailey, president of the group, said the layoffs were due to fewer volunteers for the year than anticipated.

## Southern Seminary, IMB establish East African mission partnership

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has entered a three-year partnership with International Mission Board missionaries in East Africa that will involve seminarians sharing the gospel with unreached people groups in the region.

Officials from the seminary and IMB signed the partnership during a Sept. 2 chapel service. Through the partnership, students and faculty members will assist IMB missionaries in East Africa with research and ministry.

"Southern Seminary has a goal to get 10 percent of the faculty and 10 percent of the students involved in overseas missions and preferably to East Africa," said Twyla Fagan, director of Great Commission ministries at Southern Seminary.

"Among the things we will do is send research groups to research people groups. The partnership will involve sending people to unreached people groups and seeking bridges to preach the gospel to them."

The East African region includes 144 subgroups that include more than 100,000 people. Of those, 105 have no gospel witness, and these have become a focus for the IMB, said John Sapp, regional director for East Africa. The region includes Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, the Congo and southern Sudan.

Southern Seminary marked the partnership Sept. 2-5 with a celebration that included a replica of an African village on the seminary lawn, an African worship service and various African-themed exhibits.

"Today is one of those historic opportunities for Southern Seminary as we are connecting to the purpose for which this institution was established, even as we are making a new partnership for the future," seminary President Al Mohler said.

"One of our responsibilities as a



**KENYA KICKOFF** Charles Abuyeka, a Southern Seminary student from Kenya, shares a song during an African-themed worship service to help launch a missions partnership between the seminary and International Mission Board missionaries in East Africa. (BP photo)

school is to seek not only to talk about missions and to teach missions, but to be involved in missions at the present, and we are very excited today to be starting something new."

One area in which students will be involved is leadership training, Fagan said. Seminarians will teach indigenous leaders of churches already planted by missionaries.

Sapp urged seminarians to gain encouragement from believers in East Africa who continually face persecution from other religions such as Islam, which dominates parts of Africa's east coast, including Tanzania.

"I hope you get to meet some of the believers who are now paying a dear price for naming Jesus Christ as the Lord of their hearts, who are wanting to follow Him in believer's baptism," Sapp said. He noted that many of them "live in a community that is 99 percent Muslim on the coast of Tanzania."

"I'll guarantee you those folks, as they go to bed at night, know what the term 'fear' means," he added. "I believe as you and I continue to be obedient to God's call upon our lives, we've got to remember that what He gives is peace that can overcome the fear that the world wants to hand out."

## KBC evangelism goals require 'major' priorities shift

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Achieving the Kentucky Baptist Convention's ambitious mission study goals will require a major shift in priorities, according to KBC evangelism leader Dan Garland.

Citing such challenging goals as baptizing 125,000 converts over a five-year period, Garland said, "Overall, the report is about changing the climate of Kentucky Baptist churches and getting a fresh vision of what the church is to be about."

In the area of evangelism, the primary objectives in the report are "to introduce all people to God's grace" through:

- Increasing conversion growth.
  - Training converts to reproduce themselves.
  - Connecting converts with mature followers in churches.
- Specific goals to fulfill those objectives by Jan. 1, 2010, include:
- "Encourage each church as led by the Holy Spirit to increase its baptisms by at least one each year."
  - "250,000 new members, including 125,000 baptisms."
  - "Achieve at least 80 percent of new members becoming active."

With the plan scheduled to be launched at the KBC annual meeting in November 2004, the goals cover a

five-year period in KBC life.

In recent years, Kentucky Baptist churches have averaged about 17,500 baptisms annually, said Garland, leader of the KBC's evangelism growth team. He acknowledged that seeking to increase that total to 25,000 per year is a major jump.

Affirming the report's call for training converts, he added, "If we've got a shot at doing those 125,000 baptisms over five years, the only way to do that is to teach the converts to reproduce themselves."

"We have focused more on getting them in than on sending them out," he said. "It has to be both/and. If you will take the time and effort to train converts to be witnesses, they will be the best witnesses you have, especially in the first three years" after their conversion.

### 'Intentional' mentoring needed

Garland said the strategy's focus on mentoring "is something we have not historically done."

"It has to be intentional," he added. "I think the churches that are going to be successful in this millennium are going to have to connect converts with maturing followers. With connection comes accountability."

Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, served on the Mission Study Committee and recently was named to a nine-



**EVANGELISTIC SURVEY** Students perform an evangelistic interview with a fellow student at Murray State University during a Cross Over evangelistic event two years ago. The Kentucky Baptist Convention organizes Cross Over in conjunction with churches near the host city for the KBC annual meeting. (File photo)

member Mission Advisory Committee that will help implement the plan.

Describing the mission study plan as an effort to "regain the focus of the Great Commission," Ayers said the primary goal is for Kentucky Baptists "to go and tell and have conversations about Jesus—and that would be a driving purpose of the churches within our state."

Noting that dramatically increasing baptisms "sounds like a pretty lofty goal," Ayers added, "There's a reason it's a lofty goal. It will take every church in the state convention to make that happen. The committee wanted to emphasize that every church we have in the state is an important church."

Ayers said the plan's ambitious goals are designed to "awaken us to

our accountability to be a mission force in our own state."

"The KBC needs to be known as a group of people who want to connect disconnected people to the gospel," he declared. "Our present identity is not our evangelistic zeal. I'm praying that will be a surge of energy that runs through our churches."

Garland agreed that the state convention and local congregations need to gain a new vision for effective ministry in the 21st century.

"As a pastor, I was so concerned with baptism numbers," he reflected. "Maybe we're asking the wrong question. Maybe we need to say, 'How many converts are sharing their faith and are connecting with other believers?' and not be so concerned about the numbers."

On the state convention level, "if we just keep doing events, we're not going to change the climate," he pointed out. "The events have to take into consideration how this will help change the climate and achieve our objectives rather than just perpetuating what we've done in the past."

"The key is not just coming up with new stuff," Garland said. "The paradigm shift is that we've got to get out of the event business and get into the networking business."

Emphasizing that "there's a big dream to this report," Ayers added, "This is a vision that only God can accomplish—we can't pull it off this time."

## Disaster relief volunteers needed after Isabel

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers have been called to go to Virginia to assist with cleanup and feeding after Hurricane Isabel.

Kentucky is one of seven state Baptist conventions asked to send help to those who were hit by the hurricane.

Workers are based at First Baptist Church of Hopewell, Va., about 30 miles south of Richmond, Va.

Volunteers will be needed to relieve the first wave of workers, according to Larry Koch, Kentucky Brotherhood disaster relief coordinator.

Those who can respond are asked to call Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood at (888) 254-5720.

## Henderson area churches unite for mission trip to Germany

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

HENDERSON—Carol Lesh said she saw God at work in Germany this summer when she prayed for nails to finish work on a desk. Seconds later, she spotted several.

Glenn Riggs said he sensed God's presence through worshipping with 25 nationalities at Bethel Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Bob Hardison said he feels that God gave his 30-member mission team a sense of accomplishment and an awareness that they could accomplish more together than individually.

While their experiences varied, many volunteers from Green Valley Baptist Association around Henderson agreed that their summer trip overseas showed them the value of missions.

"Our people have something to give," said Hardison, pastor of Sebree Baptist Church and leader of a group that worked at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern. "I think it gave a sense of unity, that we were able to do a big project together."

Working through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with the European Baptist Convention, members of eight churches split into two groups of 15. One worked in Kaiserslautern, the other in Frankfort.

In Frankfort, the Kentucky Baptist volunteers preached, testified and sang in evening revival services.

During the day they renovated the building, performed prayerwalks and conducted leadership training sessions

for the youth pastor and members planning to lead home Bible studies.

Riggs, team leader in Frankfort, said the latter is important because many people drive 60-90 minutes each way to attend the church.

Located near a former military base, the church had shrunk from 200 members to 25 when the base closed in 1994. Though it has rebounded to 100, the church never had held renewal services, according to Riggs, minister of students at Immanuel Baptist Temple, Henderson.

### Spiritual decisions

During the services, one German made a profession of faith and two team members reported sensing God's call to full-time ministry or missions.

Finding nails was an answer to prayer for Lesh, but she said the highlight of the trip came from observing the Germans' faith.

"I learned I could be involved in ways I'm not at home," said Lesh, who played the piano, sang and gave her testimony. "I need to spend more time listening to what God tells me to do and then know He will provide the ability or strength to do it."

Jeff Coursey, pastor of Hyland Baptist Church in Henderson, preached at half the renewal services.

But his biggest spiritual lift came from bonding with the family who hosted him and three other church members.

After returning home, Coursey reminded his congregation that Americans tend to get complacent about their faith. While there are fewer

churches and people in their congregations, the Germans demonstrate incredible faith, he told them.

"Prayer is key to them," Coursey said. "They put commitment and faith to prayer and believe God is going to answer. I will use that to encourage our people here (to) take time to develop godly relationships."

Kentucky volunteers at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern oversaw a vacation Bible school, did building renovations, taught a women's Bible study and led two Sunday services.

Though the largest of 67 churches in the European Baptist Convention, Faith Baptist faces challenges, Hardison said.

With 88 percent of its members coming from a nearby Air Force base, the congregation's membership turns over every three years, he explained.

"There was some strain because soldiers were called out and had to leave immediately," Hardison said.

The child-like faith of the fifth and sixth graders she taught—particularly a boy who was facing a serious medical problem—encouraged Melissa Coy of First Baptist Church of Henderson.

"My most vivid memory is when he stood in front of 22 kids and was such a bold witness to them," Coy said. "It affected a lot of kids. We're fairly involved in church, but the trip renewed me."

### Partnership missions

The 30 volunteers from Green Valley Baptist Association were the largest mission team traveling to Europe



this year, according to Ross Bauscher, KBC partnership missions director.

Including two upcoming projects, this year Kentucky Baptist churches will send 88 people on nine trips to Europe. The largest overseas participation is in Poland, where more than 140 volunteers participated in 18 projects.

Others include: Malta (15 volunteers on two projects), Brazil (42 people on three projects) and Greece (38 people on four projects). In total, 323 volunteers will participate in 35 projects.

Green Valley's next major project will be preparing for World Changers volunteers to invade the association next summer.

"We'll have over 300 World Changers coming in July," Basinger said. "It will take a lot of energy to get ready for them."

**SIGN REPAIRS** (From left) Jeff Coursey, pastor of Hyland Baptist Church in Henderson; Fred Wallstead, a member of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfort, Germany; Glenn Riggs of Immanuel Baptist Temple in Henderson; and Peter Snowdon of Bethel Baptist repair and paint the church sign outside Bethel Baptist. (Photo by Larry Rogers)

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## 'Accountability' tactics

I commend you for printing the opinion articles by Jerry Rankin and Keith Parks in the Sept. 16 issue of the Western Recorder. This open exchange of ideas demonstrates that our state paper has not come under the control of those who share the ideology of Rankin.

The agenda of Rankin and his small circle of denominational leaders is the suppression of dissent and the exclusion of all those who disagree with their doctrine and practice. They use the code word "accountability" to refer to their efforts to control what people think and believe.

The new Baptist Faith and Message has functioned primarily as a tool of political power, identifying and rebuking those who are not on the fundamentalist bandwagon. It is not a document of consensus and encouragement.

Many missionaries who signed the document did so to maintain their ministry or support their family, and not because it expressed their convictions. This fact alone contradicts not only the pretensions of Rankin but also the basic tenets of the Baptist way of being Christian.

I concur with the need for strong doctrine and clear teaching. I disagree with the spirit and substance of the "accountability" tactics of Rankin and his friends.

Even in the midst of this mess, Baptist missionaries (including those who signed the document and those who did not) are doing powerful and important work around the world. May God protect and prosper them!

*Dwight A. Moody  
Lexington*

## Visual reminders

Whose paternosters? Judeo-Christians? Muslims? Buddhists? Atheists? Ad infinitum. The halls of government would be crowded, as

would the schoolrooms, if we all had a place. That's the trouble with a pluralistic society.

Don't be too hard on Judge Roy Moore. Reformers seldom look good at the moment. Around 40 years ago, Rosa Parks flouted "the rule of law" by sitting up front on a bus. Martin Luther King violated the assumptions (laws) of the dominant culture, and now his near apotheosis is due to his obedience to a law higher than "the rule of law." Remember Moses?

I agree with Paul Whiteley that likely there will be no wholesale turning to God because the Ten Commandments are posted in public places. My concern, however, is that we not throw the baby out with the bath.

Is it wise to discount the impact of what we see? The ipso facto of the advertising industry is that we buy or do what we see. Who knows what takes place in those quiet corridors of the soul when one sees a Gideon Bible in a hotel room or watches a worship service or television? "God is not dead, nor does He sleep!"

I know the issue at hand concerns "where" we see. The best way is to follow the Constitution that anticipated these times. Still, we need reminders that there is another world, another Kingdom beyond this world of blatant consumerism.

We need help to envision that "other realm." We need visual aids that do not infringe on others' freedoms, granted; aids that will "nurture, nourish and evoke consciousness and perception that is alternative to the dominant culture." The Dow Jones Averages and the pages of Playboy won't get it done. Remember R.G. Lee saying, "You can't live skimmed milk all week and preach cream on Sunday"?

*John C. Huffman  
Louisville*

## Missions impact

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your gifts to the 2002-03 Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. We are excited to report that the total of \$867,510 is the largest Eliza Broadus Offering ever given!

The basic offering goal for 2002-03 was \$850,000. The overage of \$17,510 will be divided between new work (starting churches) and special ministries (missions ministries that apply directly to Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union for funding assistance).

Our 2003-04 state missions theme, "Many Ministries, One Mission," emphasizes the variety of ministries that we as Kentucky Baptists are doing for the one mission of connecting people to Jesus.

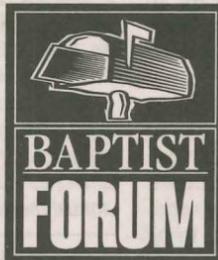
The basic offering goal for 2003-04 has been increased to \$900,000 because the ongoing needs are so great. Our challenge goal of \$100,000 is once again designated for new work and special ministries. We are seeking to reach the \$1 million level in our giving to state missions.

An exciting part of our 2003 state missions emphasis has been Operation Missions LINK. Reports are coming in of the involvement of churches and associations in hands-on ministry. Our thanks to all who are "putting feet to their prayers." It is so important that we pray, give and get personally involved in Kentucky missions.

Please contact Kentucky WMU if you would like to receive a "Many Ministries, One Mission" video, teaching materials, posters or prayer guides.

Thank you again for your support of Kentucky missions through the Eliza Broadus Offering.

*Joy Bolton  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union*



## GIVING

## Foundation can help facilitate charitable giving

By Laurie Valentine

Making charitable gifts to your church and other Baptist causes through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation provides advantages to you and the causes you wish to support.

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

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Experience church turnaround

I recently had the privilege of worshipping with Hall Street Baptist Church in Owensboro. The church is an example of outstanding growth under the leadership of pastor/teacher/leader Joe Kitchens.

Three and a half years ago the church attendance, which had declined for years, was about 100. There were only half a dozen or so in the choir and few youth and children. The church has experienced a tremendous turnaround, however.

When Joe and his wife arrived, they knew that they had to focus on young adults so they provided fellowship times after church. Young adults responded. In fact, the young adult class that Joe teaches has now formed another class, and he still has 35 members.

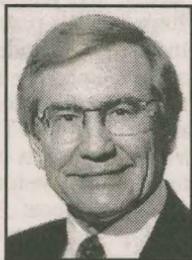
In visiting this class it was obvious Joe loves to teach. He was well prepared, involved the students in dialogue and knew everyone personally.

Joe also takes time to prepare an interactive Bible study for Wednesday nights and has more than 100 adults in attendance, with children and youth in special activities.

Joe also led the church to select excellent staff members who have provided effective leadership with dynamic worship and youth ministries. The church uses its family life center for special youth, children and young adult ministries, with excellent participation.

The day I attended, I arrived in time to enjoy breakfast and great fellowship with the people. Members were in place to serve as greeters. The people follow their leader, who is very welcoming and friendly.

The worship service was dynamic and included great music. The minister of music was worshipping as he led the congregation using the ministry of a choir of 43 young adults and a praise team.



Bill Mackey

## Marital commitment requires more than physical attraction

**Q: I feel like I have fallen out of love with my wife. Does that mean it's OK for me to move on and find someone new?**

In an age of "reality TV" where relationships are presented as simply sexual chemistry and attractiveness, your question is not surprising. However, its premise reflects neither biblical norms nor psychological reality.

"Falling in love" before marriage is largely a modern Western concept. In most cultures even today, falling in love is something you do with your spouse after the wedding. There typically are four stages in a love relationship:

■ **Codependence.** Psychologically, falling in love is the chemical reaction with an ideal picture in your head of a person you find attractive, and it lasts anywhere from two minutes to two years. When you finally get to know the other person, you might be shocked to discover that reality does not match your ideal image.

■ **Counterdependence.** This phase often involves a power struggle in which each person's position in the relationship is established, and each person determines his or her own boundaries in relationship to the other person.

■ **Independence.** This phase is more mature as each person achieves independence from one another. This allows each one to have a fuller sense of being available for the other person.

■ **Interdependence.** This is the powerful bonding of two individuals, where definitions and limits do not come close to capturing the relationship's essence. This is the goal and it often takes at least 20 years to achieve.

Obviously, if love is something you can "fall" into, it is something you can "fall" out of as well. That's why love must be based on more than just chemical and physical attraction.

When you intentionally build a relationship over many years, the bonding that occurs becomes real love rather than mere infatuation.—James Stillwell



**Q: What can I do to help my teenager have a strong Christian witness in the public school system?**

Christian families who keep their teenagers in public schools—rather than home schooling or private Christian schools—are wise to remember several important things:

■ **First, choose your school and teachers carefully.** It is possible to find fine Christian teachers in many of the public middle and high schools. Interview teachers. Find out who the sponsors are for groups such as Young Life and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Check with your pastor and church staff to find out about the school.

■ **Second, remember that your teenager will need a Christian subculture within the school if he or she is to "contend for the faith."** Help your teenager identify and connect with other committed Christian teens. This might happen through organized Christian groups on campus or it might be that you begin a weekly Bible study in your home to help bridge the gap. If your teen attends public school, remember that it is essential that he or she connect in meaningful ways with the church youth group. An added bonus will be if members of the youth group go to the same school and if you can encourage your youth minister to regularly visit and have a presence on the campus.

■ **Third, as a parent, become actively involved in the weekly life and activities of your teenager's school.** Join the PTA. Get to know the office staff. Support the school where you can. Don't expect your teen to be salt and light in the school system if you're not.—Scott Wigginton

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

## KBC pursues 'Missions Beyond the Edge'

When Kentucky Baptists gather in November to highlight "Missions Beyond the Edge," it will be much more than just a catchy convention theme.

Both during and during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, participants will have the opportunity to help strengthen mission efforts at home and around the world.

During the weekend prior to the Nov. 11-12 annual meeting, hundreds of volunteers will take part in the KBC's third annual Cross Over missions and evangelism emphasis. Coordinated by the KBC evangelism growth team, Cross Over the Bluegrass will involve mission projects in Lexington and surrounding communities in Elkhorn and Tates Creek associations.

Dan Garland, leader of the evangelism growth team, said Cross Over will include 10 major projects in the two associations, including one-day or weekend revivals in several churches; community/prayer needs surveys, "Jesus" video distribution and one-on-one witnessing throughout the region; prayerwalks and Bible distribution on the campuses of the University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University; and a Saturday night youth rally.

Additional projects in Elkhorn Association will include "Blanketing the Bluegrass with Love," an effort to provide blankets for homeless and low-income families; construction and repair projects for families in need; a free car clinic and car wash; an international food fair to benefit the Kentucky Refugee Ministry; and an international worship rally. Tates Creek Association will host several servant evangelism projects such as leaf raking, free car washes and minor repair projects.

"We believe that much of what will happen will be divine appointments God has already set in place," Garland noted. "We'll just be joining Him in what He is already doing."

Garland said one the goals of Cross Over is to "en-

courage people to build relationships that will carry over into the future."

"A lot of these churches have never done surveys in their communities to find out who lives there," he added. "In every area we have been in, this has been extremely effective. We've had several professions of faith as a result of it and we think that will happen again."

Cross Over involves "a focus on churches sharing their faith, helping people and displaying the love of Christ in tangible ways," Garland emphasized. "I see it portraying in the community who Kentucky Baptists really are."

Individuals and churches interested in participating in Cross Over the Bluegrass can call (502) 254-4737 or (888) 254-5722 or register online at [www.kybaptist.org/crossover](http://www.kybaptist.org/crossover).

Another feature of this year's KBC annual meeting will be a missionary appointment service coordinated by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The Nov. 11 event, set for 7 p.m. in Lexington's Rupp Arena, is expected to feature the appointment of more than 70 international missionaries.

The appointment service will include a welcome by Tubby Smith, University of Ken-

tucky men's basketball coach; a parade of world flags; a 1,200-voice choir; missionary testimonies; and a missions challenge by IMB President Jerry Rankin.

The experience will help personalize Southern Baptists' global missions effort for thousands of Kentucky Baptists. In addition to providing visible support and encouragement for new missionaries, participants will gain a heightened awareness of the need to provide ongoing prayer and financial support as faithful workers answer God's call to spread the gospel around the world.

Whether participating in Cross Over or attending the IMB appointment service, Kentucky Baptists will be challenged to explore and enhance their own missions involvement "beyond the edge."

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Hope overcomes 'new world disorder'

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Hope in the face of evil bewilders those who live without hope.

In the world's eyes it seems strange, even irrational, to respond to violence with love. To Lyn Hyde, it's the only response that makes sense.

A Southern Baptist missionary, Hyde lost her husband, Bill, on March 4. He was among 44 people killed by the terrorist bombing of an airport in the Philippines. They had been married for 37 years and had served as missionaries together for 25 years.

She still grieves, but next month she will return to visit the Philippines—via the airport where her husband died—to seek God's will for her future.

"The bomb that killed Bill did not kill the call to missions on my life," she told Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees. "I know God still has a purpose for me."

Gladys Staines would understand. It's been nearly five years since Staines' husband, Australian missionary Graham Staines, and their two sons, Philip, 10, and Timothy, 8, were burned alive in their vehicle by Hindu extremists in India.

It is a "wound that will never heal," she admits. Yet the 52-year-old missionary remains in India, directing the

home for lepers her husband served for many years. Why?

"When Christians show that they are determined to continue in their faith, when people see that believers have a peace that others don't have, and when people see a complete lifestyle change on the part of believers, they start asking, 'What is this all about?'" she explained in a recent article in Decision magazine.

Such determination is becoming a requirement for continued engagement in many places. The world that was supposed to fall into neat, tidy and quiet order after the end of the Cold War instead has become more violent and chaotic.

"Welcome to the new international disorder," writes Fareed Zakaria in Newsweek. "When historians look back, they will point to certain dominant realities—most obviously terrorism and radical Islam—that have created this post-9/11 world. ... Of course, terrorism has existed forever, but 9/11 symbolized a new reality: the democratization of violence on a large scale."

On a macro scale, that means the United States and other global powers will continue to face guerrilla assaults by a variety of enemies. The more sophisticated opponents, such as Osama bin Laden, will use the tools and technologies of globalization in their attempts to destroy it.

On a micro scale, it means individuals who venture into the world to serve others will encounter more complex crises—and fewer open arms.

"Increasingly, aid workers are being threatened with attack," according to a New York Times report. "Between 1985 and 1998, 382 aid workers died—two-thirds from intentional violence."

However, there's a fundamental difference between secular humanitarian workers and Christian missionaries. Humanitarian workers focus on nation-building and the relief of suffering. Missionaries, even those directly involved in relief work, focus on building God's Kingdom—and sharing hope. Nation-building often fails. God's love does not fail; His hope does not disappoint.

"After Graham's death, everyone expected me to go back to Australia," Gladys Staines reflects. "They also expected me to take the bodies back and bury them in Australia. It never occurred to me to do such a thing. ... So we buried them in the cemetery at the leprosy home. It is a tremendous witness now as people come to the cemetery."

"When I was explaining to my daughter that Graham and the boys had been killed, we agreed that we would forgive those who did it. And I can say from my own experience that forgiveness brings healing." And hope.

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

## Pastors' Conference to feature Loscalzo, Mohler, Hemphill

LEXINGTON—Three Southern Baptist Convention leaders are among the lineup for this year's annual Pastors' Conference preceding the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Speakers for the conference, Nov. 10 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington include:

■ Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist.

■ Dean Haun, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga. Haun is a graduate of Cumberland College and previously was on staff at West Corbin Baptist Church, noted Bill Henard, president of this year's conference.

■ Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville.

■ Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ Claude Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church of Eules, Texas. Thomas formerly was pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

■ Ken Hemphill, director of the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative.

The theme for this year's Pastors' Conference is "His Kingdom: Our Mission," according to Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

The theme combines the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis with the KBC's "Missions Beyond the Edge" theme for the annual meeting, he said.

Henard said he invited younger Kentucky pastors to present theme interpretations to attract younger pastors to the conference and the KBC annual meeting. "Sometimes it just seems the older guys are the ones who do the Pastors' Conference," he noted.

"I really want to get a large number of our younger guys involved in the Pastors' Conference but also in our convention," Henard said. "When you come on Tuesday (to the annual meeting), you don't see a lot of people 30 and younger."

Theme interpreters will be Adam Greenway, pastor of the Baptist Church at Andover in Lexington; Steve Bruce, pastor of Stamping Ground Baptist Church near Georgetown; Adam Douley, pastor of Red House Baptist Church in Richmond; and Kevin Hamm, pastor of Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.

The Pastors' Conference also will feature a vote on whether to change the bylaws to elect a president-elect instead of a vice president. Henard said a president-elect would have two years to put together a strong conference.

"It's very difficult to get speakers when you only have less than one year to do it," he said. "We'll be able to put together a quality program each year."

## Party with a purpose



Pleasant View Baptist Church in Waynesburg held a free yard "sale" and a free car wash for the community Sept. 6 as part of Woman's Missionary Union's Operation Mission LINK, a program to promote local missions. Seventy church members interacted with approximately 400 people, who received free refreshments, clothing and/or car washes. Adults staffed the tables, greeting people and helping to find sizes. Others talked with guests, sharing their Christian testimony. The youth washed cars, and children served Kool-Aid and cookies, which were baked by senior adults. Wiley Faw said outreach was the sole purpose for the event. "We just want people in our community to know that we care about them. We want them to know that Jesus loves them and they can find peace in Him." **Above:** Students wash a car. **Left:** Geneva Faw presents the gospel to a participant at the event. (Photos courtesy of Amy Liddle)

## Community festival provides chance to be 'Church Without Walls'

Continued from page 1

A former associate pastor at Walnut Street Baptist Church in downtown Louisville, Cobban said he'd seen the impact the annual "Singing Christmas Tree" performances had on the community and church members.

"The benefit was not just the outreach, but in the church learning to work together," he said.

"When I came here, my goal was to find something as a unique way to connect with this community," Cobban said. "The natural place was to see that there was a festival in our parking lot that 50,000 people came to."

Working with other members, Cobban said he developed a "Church Without Walls" logo to help members understand the rationale behind taking part in the festival and other activities beyond the church building.

"That 'Church Without Walls' theme has become the way we perceive ourselves in the community," he explained.

That was borne out earlier this year, he added, with mission trips to Switzerland, Oregon and Nashville.

Planning begins in February for the Broadway on Main show, according to Laurel Stephens, who produces the show with her husband, Mark. "It just seems to grow, as we've tried to spread the word of God in Jesus," she said.

This year's show theme was "Out of the Darkness, Into the Light." It featured songs from the shows "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oliver," "Cats" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Performers closed out each show with the songs "Jesus, What a Loving Savior," and "We Have Seen the Light."

### Involving everyone

From stage building and lighting to performers and ushers, the show involves "everybody in the church, almost," Stephens said. "One thing

that is wonderful is to see the church come together as a fellowship and a family.

"It's not just a show as a part of the festival," she added. "It's our gift to them, but it's also a way to reach the community with the message of God."

Brainstorming already has begun for next August, she added.

"Mark and I have an idea that we're already talking about, but we're not telling anybody yet."

The church's participation in the festival now is paying off in several ways, Cobban noted.

Cobban is a vice president on the local chamber of commerce. The church recently struck a deal with the city to pave the church's parking lot in return for letting the city use the lot during the week.

"It has just bloomed into relationships all over the place," he said. "For a small church, we have become a player in this one small part of Louis-

ville in Middletown."

Cobban insists every church can find similar opportunities in their own community. It might not be a festival, but some other outreach event or ministry, he said. "Look in your own situation to find something that'll work for your community."

Churches can't be afraid to have strangers in their building and get a little dirty along the way, he added.

Increased traffic will have its costs, but Cobban insists those are minimal compared to the expanded opportunity to interact with the community.

"A church that opens itself to the community has to recognize that more people means more mess, more congestion. But, golly, that's what we pray for."

Cobban touts the increased wear on the building as a good thing. "I choose to see that as God's blessing on us," he said. "What good is it for carpet to be sitting there that no one sees and no one cares about?"

**"What good is it for carpet to be sitting there that no one sees and no one cares about?"**

Pastor Jim Cobban of First Baptist Church of Middletown

## Telling it in the mountains

### London churches report Rick Gage crusade still impacting community

LONDON (BP)—Area pastors say the four-night "Share Jesus Celebration" featuring evangelist Rick Gage continues to pay dividends in and around London.

Attendance totaled more than 10,000 during the Aug. 24-27 outreach.

Corinth Baptist Church Pastor Jim Blaylock said reports abound that the crusade sparked a revival that is still going strong. Leaders continue to follow up with people who made decisions, helping them get involved in area churches.

More than 500 spiritual decisions were recorded, including 220 first-time professions of faith.

"Last Sunday night we had a tremendous testimony service that went on for one and a half hours as people spoke who had made decisions at the crusade," Blaylock said.

Businessman David Altizer, an organizer for the crusade, said God moved mightily throughout the county as a result of the event. "A mighty revival started here as God changed

and transformed lives. I don't see how one life could have been left untouched."

During the day, Gage and his team conducted "On Track" assemblies in 13 area high schools, talking about life's choices and issues such as drugs, alcohol abuse and teen suicide.

More than 5,000 students were in the assemblies, and many subsequently attended the crusade's youth night.

He said one young man confided that he was planning to commit suicide but became a Christian as a result of Gage's assembly and youth night.

Gage has been involved in more than 500 crusades, revivals and conferences in small towns throughout America. His Georgia-based ministry, Go Tell, has recorded more than 250,000 decisions for Christ.

Rick Stanley, an evangelist and step-brother of Elvis Presley who often travels with Gage, said Gage has a heart for the smaller towns "that most people overlook."

"His mentality is that there is



nothing small in the Kingdom of God," Stanley said. "And God moves in mighty ways like He did here in London."

More than 40 churches of various denominations cooperated to host the London event, beginning their preparations many months before the crusade team showed up.

The churches and supporting businesses raised the entire budget in advance of the meetings.

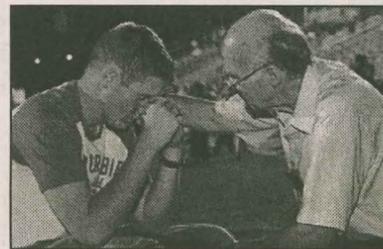
"We had decided not to ask one lost person for a financial contribution," Altizer said. "We raised all the money up front over many months so that we wouldn't have to take one single offering."

#### A friendly response

Rhonda Napier, her husband, and daughter, Bethany, were in the service at Corinth Baptist. Napier, who works at the hotel in London where Gage and his crusade staff lodged, said that each day the Gage team engaged in friendly talk with her.

Their friendliness persuaded her to attend the crusade one night. "God was there and He spoke to my heart," she said. "Both my daughter and I accepted Jesus Christ into our lives that night. It has been so wonderful."

Now the whole family attends Corinth Baptist, she said. "I joined the new believers class," Napier contin-



**RICK GAGE** More than 500 spiritual decisions were recorded during the four-night event in London, Aug. 24-27. **Above:** Gage instructs those responding to the message to talk with counselors. **Left:** A counselor prays with a teenager. (Sweetlight Images photos by Michael Williams)

ued. "We are all going to join the church. Bethany and I are going to be baptized together."

Pastor Brian Cheaks of New Life Christian Fellowship baptized 14 people Sunday morning as a result of decisions made at the crusade.

Ken Felty, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bernstadt, reported that decisions continue to be made in his services, which are lasting longer than usual. "Never in my Christian life did I ever expect to see such a move of God in our local community as we have seen in the Laurel and Tri-County area of southeast Kentucky."

London Mayor Ken Smith said: "Reports keep coming in from young people who were delivered from drugs. City policemen were saved. Whole families were united in Christ. The stories go on and on."

"The old-time gospel still works," Gage said. "Mass evangelism still works. The days of evangelistic crusades and revivals are not over."

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## Christian clubs growing on campuses

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As millions of students gathered around flagpoles for prayer Sept. 17 in an annual religious rite on public school campuses, other evangelical activities affirming on-campus faith appear to be on the increase.

Child Evangelism Fellowship, which promotes "Good News Clubs" at elementary schools, has seen its after-school clubs more than double in the last two years.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes has about 8,000 "huddles," the majority of which meet in school buildings, compared to about 5,600 in 1996.

Here in Kentucky, so many Baptists have started such groups that Randy Record has lost count of them.

"There are so many people who have taken this on their own and started doing their own stuff," said Record, youth evangelism specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He added that self reliance for the clubs has been the goal.

Of the commonwealth's 536 public high school and middle school campuses, he said, "I know of about 150 campuses that are really doing a good, consistent job."

David Overstreet, co-coordinator of See You at the Pole, estimated that the 14th annual event last week drew at least as many participants as last year, which was more than 2.5 million secondary school students across the country.

In some cases, court decisions have played a key role in the increase in



activity. But, at the same time, additional lawsuits are being sparked by the interest in—or the protests against—religion crossing the path of public schools.

Lawyers on both sides of these issues are taking phone calls and preparing briefs as the church-state divide continues to be a jagged line outside the classroom door.

John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, sent a memo to more than 15,000 school superintendents at the start of the school year to remind them of the "Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools" issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

"In view of the federal government's guidance to state and local educators and the Supreme Court precedent on religious expression, it is clear that school districts have an affirmative obligation to understand and respect the rights of all their students, including religious students," he wrote.

### Lawyers keeping busy

Tom Hutton, a staff attorney for the National School Boards Association, said the Supreme Court settled the issue of religious clubs having access to school facilities in a 2001 case involving a Good News Club at a Milford, N.Y., school. But its ramifications have kept school boards—and their lawyers—busy.

"The case is invoked by sort of advocacy and litigation groups ... in support of a wide variety of things they would like to see schools doing

and that are very, very difficult for schools to negotiate," said Hutton, whose organization is based in Alexandria, Va.

"The guidelines that the federal government issued really raised as many questions as they purported to settle," he added.

Myron Tschetter, vice president of USA ministries for Child Evangelism Fellowship, said the Good News Clubs have increased as awareness built after his group's 2001 court victory. That year, there were 536 after-school clubs, while at the end of the most recent school year, there were 1,310.

"Before, there was a lot of feeling that nothing religious can be in school," he said. "And what the Supreme Court said is, 'No, you cannot discriminate based upon viewpoint. If any club can be in, a religious club can be in.'"

But church-state separationists plan to continue to watch which activities enter the schoolhouse door.

"If it's student-run and student-initiated, that's OK," said Joseph Conn, spokesman for the Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "If it's orchestrated by outside adults, we think that's not OK."

Record said he advises school groups to remain student led, with the only adult involvement being a sponsor. "As long as it's before school or after school, it stays within the guidelines of the equal access law."

## Judge Moore wants 10 commandments displayed in D.C.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (RNS)—Suspended Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore said last week he will offer his Ten Commandments monument to Congress for display in the U.S. Capitol.

Moore and the Birmingham-based Foundation for Moral Law, which receives donations for his legal defense, said the monument, which was removed from the state judicial building rotunda Aug. 27 under a judge's order, should be in Washington because it has national significance.

He said if Congress voted to accept the monument, it "would restore the balance of power between the branches of government and would send a message to federal courts that we, the people, have the final word on our inalienable right to acknowledge God."

Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala., who supports displaying the Commandments in context with other important historical documents, was cautious about whether the monument should be allowed in the Capitol. He said he would defer to the legal opinions of congressional lawyers.

Randy Record estimates at least 150 of Kentucky's 536 public high school and middle school campuses have evangelistic clubs.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE  
An estimated 2.5 million high school students took part in the 14th annual See You at the Pole event Sept. 17. (RNS photos by Mike Kittrell)



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## A Half Century Later, BHI Vision Fulfilled

By Ken Walker

**V**isions can take a long time to unfold. But if members of the original Long Run Baptist Association committee behind Baptist Homes, Inc. (BHI) could see the development today, they would undoubtedly be smiling.

With the completion of Parr's at Springhurst personal care center last year, BHI now features a continuum of care. It includes Cornell Trace, a group of patio homes for seniors, 62 and older, able to live independently; and the Baptist Home East nursing home.

This project originated in 1953 with a committee formed to investigate building a Baptist nursing home. Nine years later the group incorporated as Baptist Homes for the Elderly, with the first facility opened in downtown Louisville in 1967.

That center closed when Baptist Home East opened in 1979. The second link to a fully-integrated seniors community followed in 1996 with the first homes at Cornell Trace. The final patio home was built in 2000, and two years later the personal care home opened its doors.

"Parr's Rest completes the complex

and gives us the multiple levels of care we always envisioned," BHI CEO Bill Wallen said. "We're already seeing that work. We had someone living at Cornell Trace who became ill and is recuperating at Baptist Home East.

"We've seen another person get sick and go to the nursing home while his spouse remained at Cornell Trace. She can go to visit her husband easily, since it's practically right next door. She doesn't need a ride to get there. If the situation isn't as serious, but some nursing care is needed, there's Parr's Rest."

Built on 20 acres in northeastern Jefferson County, this multi-home development defines pastoral setting. The attractive buildings have multi-colored brick facings, yellow siding accents, and large windows encased by hunter-green shutters. Spacious porches and manicured lawns give the development a campus-like appearance.

Even the nursing home, set in a ranch-style building with a hotel-like entry way and gently sloping roof, has the look of a retreat center.

The three components of Springhurst Pines are:

• **Cornell Trace** includes 58 two-

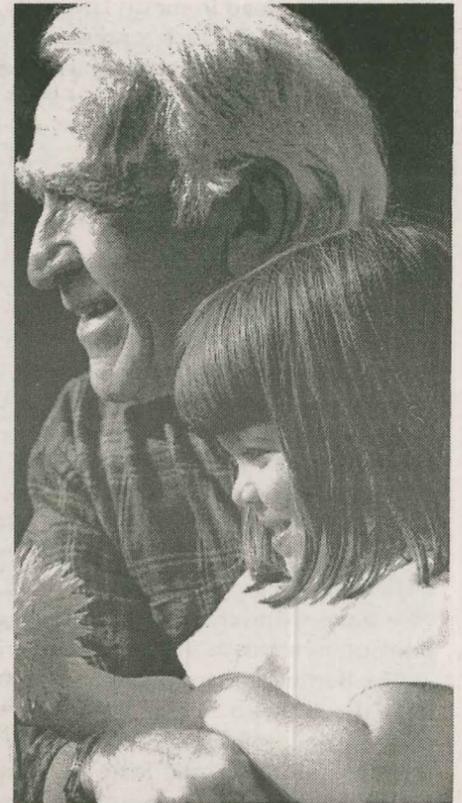
bedroom patio homes for singles or couples. Ranging in price from \$152,000 to \$197,000, units contain between 1,382 square feet and 1,855 square feet of living space plus spacious sunporch. At present all homes are occupied, with a turnover of two to three units per year. There is a short waiting list for vacancies.

• **Parr's at Springhurst** has 79 apartments, including 65 one-bedroom and 14 two-bedroom units. If a spouse needs nursing assistance and the other is functional, the couple can both live in this building. While often termed "assisted living," this facility offers a higher level of care, such as medical attention and other assistance.

• **Baptist Homes East** has 90 beds and an occupancy rate of 95 percent.

While a religious affiliation is not required for admission, a Christian influence is a vital component of BHI's management philosophy, according to Jim Lewis, chairman of BHI's board of directors.

"We see ourselves in keeping with the teachings of Jesus," said Lewis, a retired Kentucky Baptist pastor who last served at nearby Westport Road Baptist



Church. "We're not a Christian institution, but we're Christians trying to maintain a Christian atmosphere."

Many seniors think their only choices are living independently in the home they've occupied for years or going to a nursing home, Wallen said.

"Most people wait until they are in crisis to make a decision and that makes a transition very traumatic," he said. "The transition can be much easier if it is planned."

## At Home Close to Home: Care Reaches Across Kentucky

**W**hile Baptist Homes, Inc. has no room to expand at its 20-acre site in Jefferson County, the organization has branched out to serve additional Kentucky communities during the past year.

The step forward came with the acquisition of four assisted living homes. The most recent, in Danville, was completed in late April. BHI purchased the others, in Bardstown, Glasgow and Russellville, in May of 2002.

"What attracted us to these facilities is they're small and the residents get a lot of personal care and attention," said BHI CEO Bill Wallen.

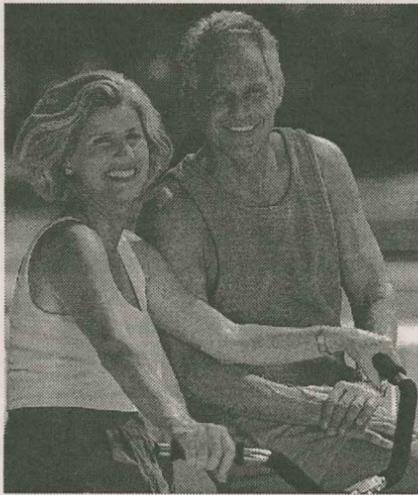
"They're very homelike. Our first concern is quality," he emphasized. "We're not looking to cut corners to make a dollar."

Between two and three years old, these homes are overseen by the Kentucky Office of Aging Services, which monitors them to insure residents are receiving proper care. This office must certify that the units meet certain requirements before it can advertise itself as a personal care community.

Under these guidelines, residents have a separate living unit that includes a lockable door and private bathroom. Residents also receive assistance with various daily living

activities and services such as meals, housekeeping, transportation and laundry.

They may directly arrange with an outside agency or person to receive



health care services. Employees can help residents with self-medication (such as reminding them when to take it or reading labels), but cannot administer medication.

With Kentucky's 65-and-over population surpassing the 500,000 mark in the latest U.S. census, such facilities are becoming more common in the state. There are now 74 homes, compared to about 25 five years ago, according to John Underwood, executive director of the Kentucky Assisted Living Facilities Association.

"Not many residents of these four communities may be aware that Baptist Homes has purchased the assisted living facilities," Wallen said. But he hopes to see Woman's Missionary Union and other church volunteers "connect" with residents and take steps to show them Christ's love.

# Community Members Set the Pace At Cornell Trace

By Ken Walker

After 41 years of living just off LaGrange Road in metro Louisville, moving to Cornell Trace represented a major lifestyle change for Mary and Clarence Barton. Nearly five years later, Mary reports it has been positive.

They love their spacious, livable home and not having to

worry about maintenance. For example, when an errant tornado swept through, damaging their roof and windows, they received immediate help. When snow comes, their driveway and roads are cleared.

But above all, they love the community. "It was difficult to make up our mind to move here, but once we did we never had a regret," Mrs. Barton said. "We have wonderful neighbors. We think of ourselves as a family here."

The Bartons like to swap stories with neighbors who stop to admire Clarence's vegetables and flowers. A former chaplain at Central State Hospital and adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he and Mary also teach an adult Sunday school class at Lyndon Baptist Church.

They enjoy the clubhouse, which they used for a 50th wedding anniversary celebration last December. The facility recently hosted a wedding and is

**CORNELL TRACE**

used for monthly potluck dinners and other special occasions.

These social aspects are just one of many advantages to living at Cornell Trace, according to Jim Lewis, president of Baptist Homes, Inc. (BHI.)

Others include the access to additional health care, never having to pick up a rake or snow shovel, proximity to several shopping centers and churches, and the stability of a community with low turnover.

Currently ranging between \$152,000 and \$192,000, the 58 patio homes offer a unique, money-back guarantee.

If a homeowner leaves, for whatever reason, their purchase price is refunded — less one percent for each month they live there. After 18 months, the refund remains fixed at 82 percent of their purchase price. The homeowner, or the person's estate, also receives half of the appreciated value of the new selling price.

In addition, if residents need temporary care at Parr's or Baptist Home East, they can still return to Cornell Trace.

And the homes are inviting, said Betty Thornton, who moved there in June of 1998 with her husband, Edward.

"The high ceilings are very nice," Mrs. Thornton said of the nine-foot heights (12' in their great room). "It's very open."



Members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, where they are still active, the couple appreciates the diverse religious make-up and geographical backgrounds of residents.

They also are fond of the relaxed social atmosphere. In addition to the monthly potluck, small groups meet for such activities as sewing, exercise or going to dinner at a restaurant.

A group of men known as the "Romeo's" (which stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out) like to gather regularly at a nearby McDonald's for coffee and conversation.

"The neighbors are available most any time of the day," Thornton said. "We're out of the race. We can live at

another pace and still have a lot of freedom.

"A number of people like to travel around the world or go see their kids and grandkids in the country. We're free to go anywhere and we don't have to take care of the yard, pets or picking up mail."

He also likes the fact that builders were attuned to seniors' needs, such as making all doorways wide enough for wheelchairs, giving all rooms an open feel, and insuring plenty of access to the outdoors.

"You need to come and see," Thornton said. "You can't appreciate what's around if you don't look at it."

# Tradition of Care Continues at Parr's at Springhurst

By Ken Walker

Parr's at Springhurst is new as a personal care home, but its link with Kentucky Baptist history goes back to

the early 1900s. The facility's name comes from Captain Daniel Parr. A steamboat captain, realtor and bank director, he was a trustee and

active member of Walnut Street Baptist Church.

When Parr died in 1904, he left one of the largest estates in Louisville. A major part of his endowment went to establishing the original Parr's Rest on Cherokee Road in 1914.

Though the home for needy women was later sold, its spirit of caring continues at the new home. A trust Parr established provide subsidies for 18 women at Parr's Rest.

Although many label it "assisted

**Parr's at Springhurst**

living," Bill Wallen, administrator of Baptist Homes, Inc., points out that as a licensed personal care facility it offers a higher level of care.

"The most obvious difference is medication administration," Wallen said. "Parr's has nurses and assisted living does not. We also have a doctor who comes in every

Thursday and personnel who are more highly trained to deal with individuals who need help."

Staffed 24 hours a day, Parr's offers three meals a day (plus snacks), house-keeping services, laundry facilities, beauty salon and electronic security. It also has an ice cream parlor, activity rooms and lounges on each floor.

The three-story building includes 65 one-bedroom apartments with 580 square feet of space. The 13 two-bedroom units vary between 800 and 900

square feet. The latter are suited for couples, particularly when one spouse can function without help.

"That is the case with one couple at the facility. The wife needs help but providing all those services would wear down the husband," the CEO said.

"So his quality of life is enhanced," Wallen said. "He's being supported by having her needs met."

"Taking the step into a personal care home is difficult decision; no one wants to give up their independence," Wallen said.

"It revolves around acknowledging when one is no longer able to live independently," he said.

Moving to Parr's can mean a step up in one's quality of life, pointed out Betty Thornton, a resident of Cornell Trace. One of her neighbors was adamant about not going into personal care, but now that she has the adjustment is going smoothly, Thornton said.

"She was isolated before," she said. "Now that she's moved over there with other people around, she's 'coming out. She just loves it."

Part of the reason is a full social calendar at the facility. Among the events



are exercises classes, bingo, outdoor walks and board games. Worship services are held on Sunday and Tuesday afternoons, led by retired Kentucky Baptist pastors Jim Lewis and Delbert Butts.

"Some still go to their own church and their pastors visit here," Lewis said. "Even though we come out of the Baptist fold, there's no difference in treatment. We look at everyone as an individual loved by God."

# Bittersweet Journey: Spiritual Needs Met at Nursing Home

By Ken Walker

When Baptist Homes Inc. President Jim Lewis asked Delbert Butts to replace the late D.E. Jones as chaplain of Baptist Home East in the fall of 2000, the longtime pastor resisted the idea.

Despite his misgivings, Butts agreed to speak once at the nursing home — and has never stopped.

## Baptist Home East

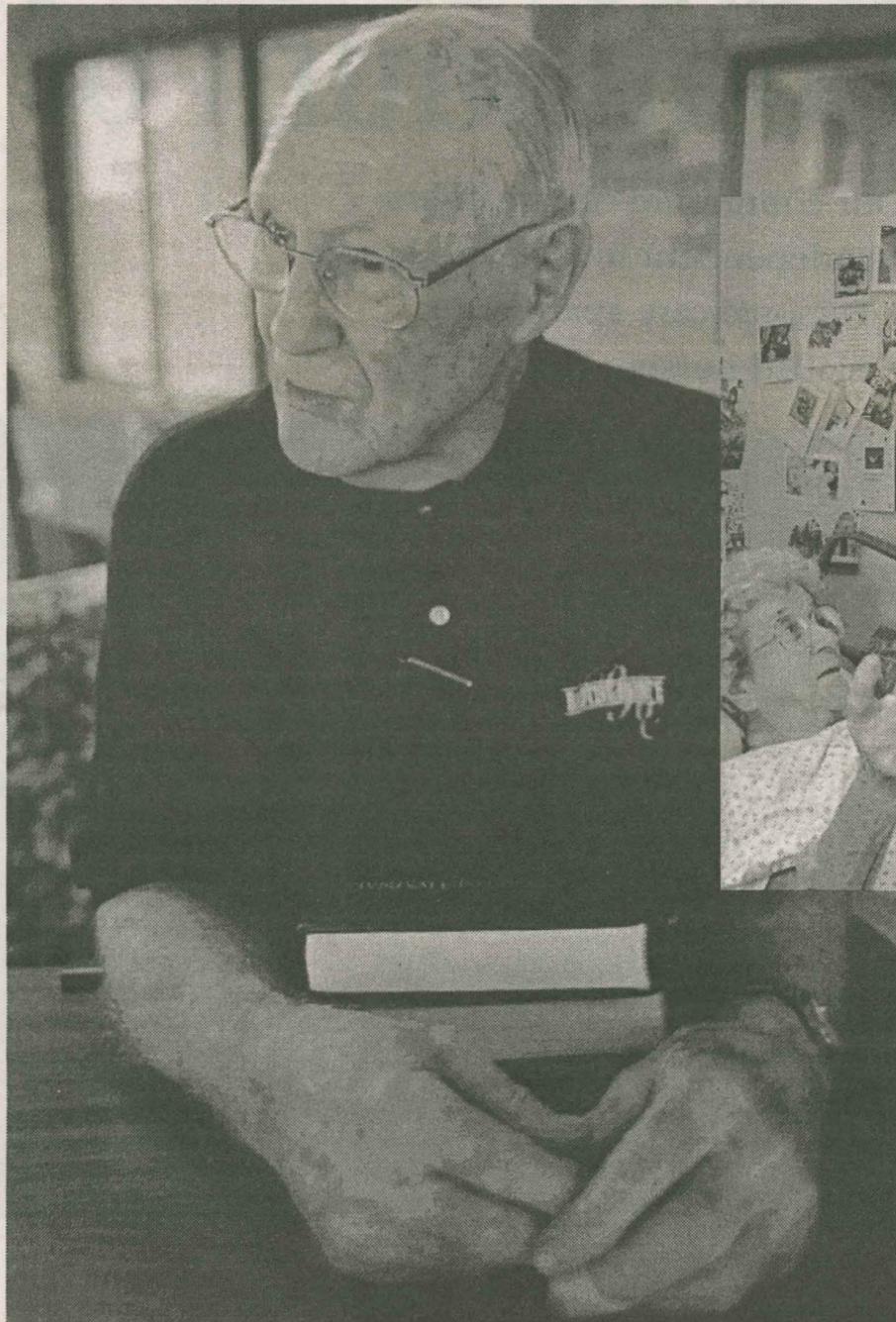
"This is one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had," said Butts, who moved to Cornell Trace two years ago. "I'm the one who gets the blessing working with these people."

A retired pastor who still preaches each Sunday at Hopewell Baptist in Henry County, he and Lewis help lead three services a week.

Butts also visits with many of the res-

*"I try to remind them of God's strength and the hope they have in Him. That's the reassurance and hope they need."*

idents. He is on call whenever a bereaved family needs consolation or prayer amid lingering illness or death of a loved one. In addition, Butts provides similar spiritual support for Parr's Rest.



Butts has grown fond of many of the residents, such as a woman recently admitted to the hospice unit at Audubon Hospital. Such experiences can be bittersweet, but the chaplain reminds his nursing home congregation that no one is promised smooth sailing in life.

"God never guaranteed everything

would be all right, but he did promise it would work out all right," he said.

"I try to remind them of God's strength and the hope they have in Him. That's the reassurance and hope they need. The people I talk to and who come to chapel like to be reminded about the strength of God."

First opened in 1979 with 110 beds, Baptist Home East has since been through remodeling that has reduced the number of beds to 90.

However, the change increased the number of private rooms to 14; some have private baths. Additional remodeling, such as painting and wallpapering, is currently in progress.

Residents have access to a spacious sunporch and enjoy meals in a large, pleasant dining room. All meals are prepared under the supervision of a licensed dietician.

Staff members are prepared to deal with the full spectrum of residents' needs, including physical, occupational, speech therapy and spiritual.

"I really like it here," said Kathleen Despain, who moved into the home eight years ago. "We have a nice activity

department (led by) three nice ladies. We go somewhere every month; either for a ride or out to eat. All the department heads are very nice. If you have a problem, they will listen."

"My mother was in Baptist Home East

for eight years before she died (in 1998)," said Lewis, who lives at Cornell Trace.

"That's a good indication of how I feel about it. The compassionate care of the entire staff is one reason. It's always a joy to be able to do something for those who can't take care of themselves."

Two-thirds of the residents are on Medicaid, and nursing home administrator Larry Dauenhauer said the non-profit operation puts its emphasis on quality care rather than profit.

"We try to meet people's needs every day where they are," said Dauenhauer, former controller for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. "It's a home for people."

For Butts, the spiritual element is what distinguishes Baptist East from other nursing homes. He recalled a church group's visit to one government-affiliated nursing home where they were warned, "Now you're just here to encourage them."

"Here there's a real spiritual impact of concern and a close fellowship," the chaplain said. "In homes that aren't related to churches, you have to be careful. This is just an enjoyable experience."

His rewards include the smiles and appreciation he receives whenever he visits residents.

"To go and say good morning and see how much they appreciate any attention you give them and that you care about them thrills your heart," Butts said. "There's one lady; every time I see her, she says, 'I love you. Do you love me?'"

Needless to say, he always replies, "Yes."

### BHI QUICK FACTS

**Name:** Baptist Homes Inc.

**Founded:** 1962

**Mission:** The mission of Baptist Homes, Inc. is in keeping with the Spirit and teaching of Jesus Christ, in whose name this ministry was founded, and sustained, to provide for the needs of those entrusted to us by Him. It is our purpose to supply care — physical, spiritual and emotional, in a Christian atmosphere, to enhance the highest quality of life attainable to all persons involved — residents, employees, staff and administration.

**Services:** Independent living community, assisted-living facilities and nursing homes

**Location:** 3001 North Hurstbourne Lane, Louisville, KY 40241; (502) 420-7710

**Employees:** 218

**President:** Dr. Jim Lewis

**Chief Executive Officer:** Bill Wallen

**Board members:** Jim Lewis, John Hicks, Lawrence Dauenhauer, William Galloway, Steve Danzinger, Bonnie Abner, Ken Strebler, Ted Boehm, Joseph Day, Bill Wallen, William Mulloy, Billy Lowdenback, Mark Mulloy, David McClure

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Avenue  
(502) 350-0842

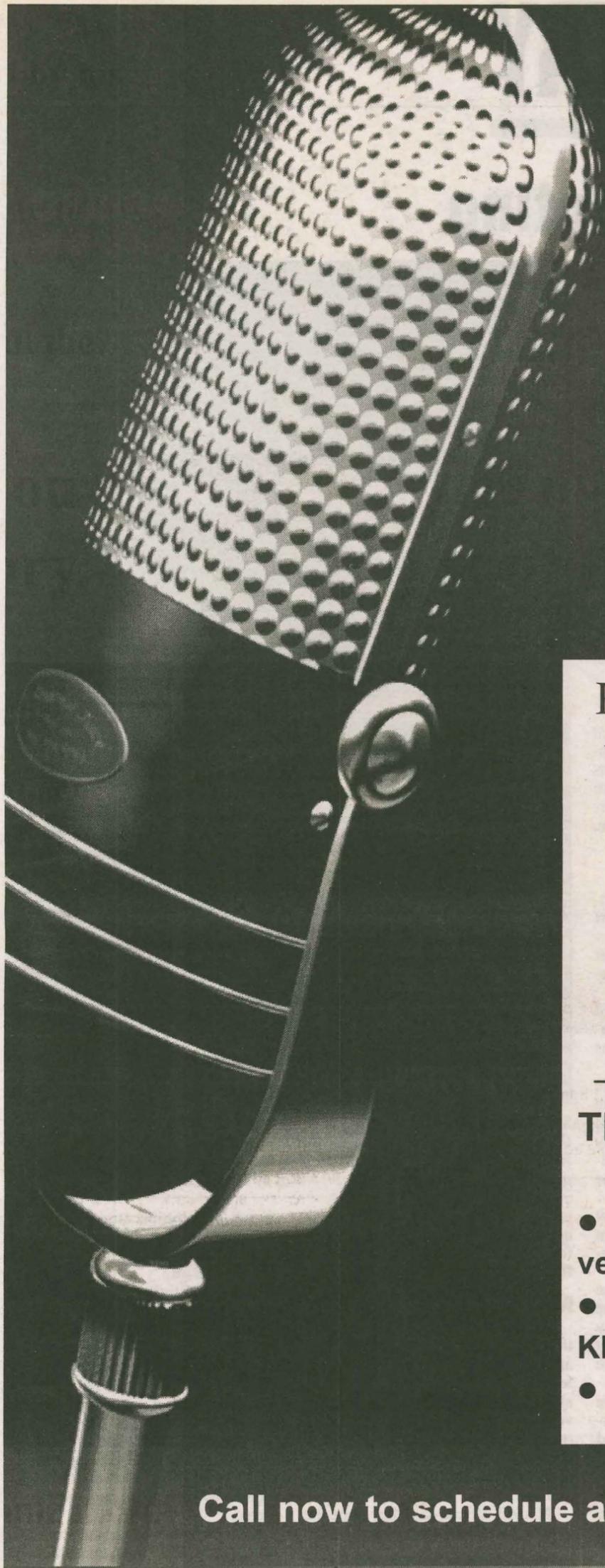
Glasgow  
201 Trista Lane  
(270) 659-9167

Russellville  
108 Boyles Drive  
(270) 726-4187

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## Teaching church planting

*Innovative youth missions program planning Cadiz project next year*

**“Who wouldn’t want 150 people to show up and do ministry?”**

*Geoff Baggett, pastor of Crossroads Fellowship in Cadiz*

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Youth often return from mission trips with a new enthusiasm for Christian ministry, but they don’t necessarily have a burning desire to go out and start a church.

That’s the concept behind PowerPlant, a missions experience that’s coming to Cadiz next summer.

The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board introduced the program this summer, borrowing the model of prepackaged large-scale mission trips from its World Changers events.

World Changers unites students to develop a ministry lifestyle by rehabilitating housing.

PowerPoint participants are involved in vacation Bible schools, neighborhood surveys and other aspects of getting a new church off the ground.

The youth group from Big Bone Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky drove more than 1,000 miles to Ontario, Canada, this summer to take part in one of PowerPlant’s two pilot projects. They were part of more than 100 students helping church planters Joe and Linda Ledford.

Big Bone Church Youth Minister David Denna said the project was different from other mission trips that focus on construction.

“Most of the time, the kids spend their energies painting or rebuilding a house or building a wheelchair ramp and occasionally have the opportunity to witness,” he said. “This was primarily about having an evangelistic voice in the community. Every one of my kids witnessed and several of them led someone to the Lord.”

Another difference from other mission trips is that students also receive training each morning in both the theory and practice of church planting.

“I’ve taken church planting courses at Southern Seminary. What they were teaching the kids was no different from what they’re teaching us,” Denna noted. “They didn’t water down a thing.”

Madisonville native Jim Burton said PowerPlant is designed to get church planting on youth’s “radar screen.”

Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for NAMB, said officials are



**PRAYER PREPARATION** Students pray during a PowerPlant morning worship service in Cornwall, Ontario.

launching PowerPlant “with the goal of seeing church planting become a part of the DNA of a younger generation.”

Southern Baptists have set a goal of 100,000 Southern Baptist churches by 2020, Burton noted. That means young adults must be exposed to church starting and given the opportunity to adopt it as a ministry lifestyle, he said.

### Coming to Kentucky

Next summer, as many as 150 students will come to Cadiz to help Geoff Baggett, pastor of Crossroads Fellowship. Crossroads was started last year by New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville.

Baggett, a 10-year veteran of World Changers, took part in the Canadian project this year and saw it as natural fit for his church.

“Who wouldn’t want 150 people to show up and do ministry?” he asked. “The idea is local people don’t know what PowerPlant is and they never hear the word. The people (volunteers) are there to do ministry in the name of the local church.”

Baggett said he was skeptical that youth could help with a church plant before he saw them in action this summer.

“It’s like anything else—you raise the bar higher, they move higher,” he said. “Students are bold. Especially where you create an environment where it’s cool and expected to share your faith.”

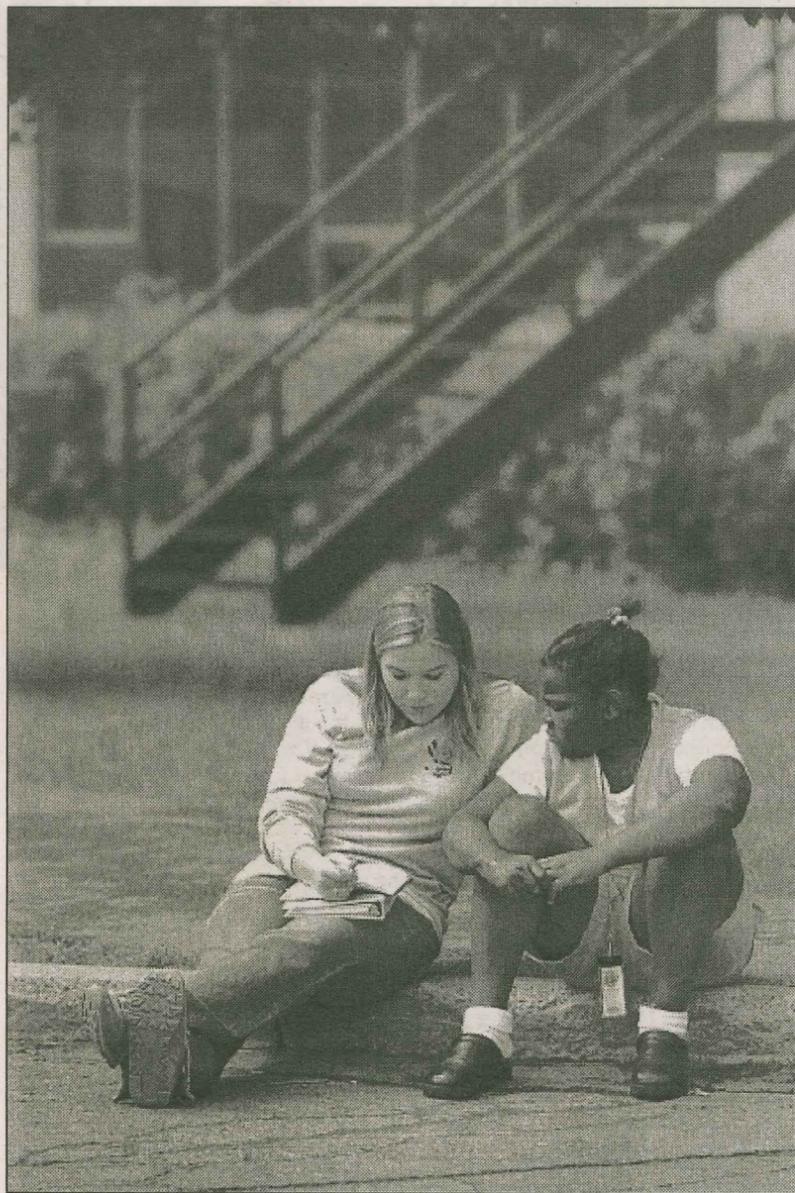
Planning is preliminary but the work likely will involve a lot of “servant evangelism” projects in parks and nursing homes, Baggett said.

A retiring chaplain also is looking at planting a church in the Oak Grove area near Hopkinsville, he noted. “We may have a pretty good involvement there as well.”

Ledford, the church planter in Cornwall, Ottawa, said PowerPlant gave their work a much-needed boost through backyard Bible clubs, door-to-door surveys, servant evangelism, and other events.

By the end of the week they had a list of about 120 people who had expressed interest in the new church and 20 individuals who had made professions of faith in Christ.

“It would have taken years for two people to accomplish what they did,” Ledford said, noting that he and his



**SHARING SCRIPTURE** PowerPlant participants Mallory Sullivan, left, of First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., and Cateara Hamilton, 12, of Westside Baptist Church of Flushing, Mich., pause to read the Bible during the PowerPlant church planting event this past summer in Cornwall, Ontario. (BP photos by Gibbs Frazier)

wife now are visiting each prospect and beginning Bible studies. The effort also has helped in raising the profile of the church in the community.

### Basic training

The students, meanwhile, learned that new churches historically are among the most effective ways of leading people to faith in Christ. They also learned about demographics, surveys, special events and a range of other church planting information commonly introduced in NAMB’s own “Basic Training” for church planters.

NAMB official said they hope the experience involves more laypeople in

church planting because reliance on seminary-trained leaders will never meet the need for new churches in North America.

Van Kicklighter, a member of NAMB’s church planting group, said: “As they get to be young adults it’ll become more natural. ... Instead of asking the question, ‘What church do I join?’, they’ll start asking the question, ‘How do I help start a new church?’”

Jonathan Wilson, who coordinates PowerPlant for NAMB, said he already is hearing from participants about how their lives have been impacted.

One student went home from the Atlanta project with a commitment to start a church for skaters, Wilson said, and another is working to start a new church on the campus of Mississippi State University.

Denna said Big Bone Baptist’s youth are ready to go again.

“We’ve already contacted them about signing up for next year.”

For more information about PowerPlant, visit [www.studentz.com/powerplant](http://www.studentz.com/powerplant).

Compiled from reporting by James Dotson of the North American Mission Board and News Director David Winfrey

**RIDING IT OUT** Michele Bresson, 9, of Cornwall, Ontario, rides down a ramp at a skate park with PowerPlant participant Nick Brown, a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss. The outreach also yielded opportunities to share Christ with students at the park.



**BACKYARD BIBLE CLUB** Participants at PowerPlant lead a children’s backyard Bible club as a way to impact neighborhoods around the church plant.



## Publisher offers 'Coolest Story Ever Told' as teenzine

**"Even kids who come from a Christian subculture are very media-savvy."**

Kate Etue, managing editor of Revolve

By Alexandra Alter  
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Where are teenage girls turning for advice about fashion, dating and getting along with their parents? Would you believe, the New Testament?

After years of trying to sell Bibles to one of the nation's savviest, most cynical consumer groups, Bible publishers at Thomas Nelson have developed a new way to snare adolescents' interest: turning the sacred book into a magazine.

Revolve, the new Bible for girls between the ages of 12 and 17, offers the complete New Testament in a fashion magazine format, replete with images of stylish, smiling young women, quizzes and celebrity birthdays (but no horoscopes).

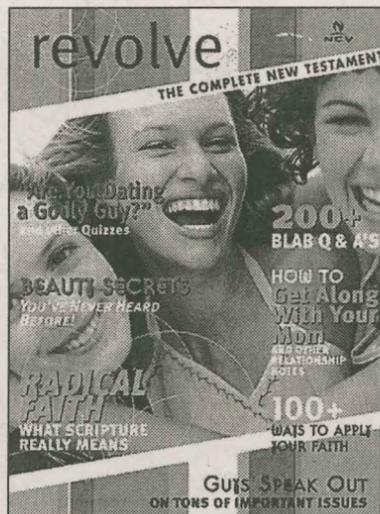
Gushing effusively over Revolve, Brooke Nichols, 15, of Nashville, could only think of one flaw: the omission of the Old Testament.

Nonetheless, Nichols said Revolve has been a big hit with her friends at public school.

"My friends, they don't like to read the Bible, but once they saw it they were like, 'I'm going to have to get me one of those,'" she said.

Laurie Whaley at Thomas Nelson publishers said the idea for Revolve developed after market researchers discovered a shocking truth about teenagers: They don't spend a lot of time reading the Bible.

"We've made a great industry out of selling Bibles to teenagers, and



they're not reading them," Whaley said. "The intent is to both make the Bible more interesting and to attract girls who would never pick up a leather-bound Bible but who would certainly pick up Revolve."

The magazine format was intended to appeal to media-saturated teenagers, said Kate Etue, the managing editor of Revolve.

"A lot of times, we've put the word 'teen' on something and thought that would be enough," she said. "Even kids who come from a Christian subculture are very media-savvy."

To meet discriminating adolescents' standards, Thomas Nelson brought in Thor 5 One, an Irish firm that designs the album covers for the rock band U2. The result: a glossy cover photo of three smiling teenage

girls under florescent pink and blue headlines promising beauty secrets, quizzes and Q&As.

"They're great because they don't make things look churchy or Christian," Etue said of the designers. "They have a real fresh perspective on Christian products."

When the product suits them, adolescents have proven to be avid Bible buyers. The Extreme Teen Bible, which Thomas Nelson published in 1999, sold more than 800,000 copies in four years. The average Bible sells 40,000 copies a year, said Etue.

Study Bibles and other Bibles directed at teens account for 25 percent of all sales at Family Christian Stores, a chain with more than 315 outlets nationwide that recently started selling Revolve.

Mark Beyer, Bible buyer for Family Christian Stores, said he has seen mixed reactions to Revolve.

"There are some people who look at it and go, 'What's that?' and other people look at it and get it," said Beyer, adding that he was sure the product would be a hit when his 15-year-old daughter deemed it "cool."

### Taking a risk

Revolve was a risk for the publisher, Whaley told The Seattle Post newspapers. "We thought either it would be really, really ridiculed and flop, or be wildly successful. So far, we have had the wildly successful experience."

More than 30,000 copies have been shipped since Revolve's mid-July release, the Post reported, and the

Christian Booksellers Association lists it as one of the five top-selling Bibles.

Mike Hollifield, a youth pastor at Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, said he had reservations about Revolve at first.

"My first reaction was, 'Wow, I'm not really sure about this, what are we doing to the gospel?'" he said. But once he flipped through a copy, he decided the publishers had "taken God's Word and tried to make it relevant to a young lady."

But while some observers applaud efforts to make the Bible more attractive to teenagers, others have voiced concerns that tailoring the Bible to appeal to a particular group might send the wrong message.

In a commentary for Baptist Press, Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville praised the publisher's motivation to reach teen girls but said Revolve is an inappropriate format for the New Testament.

"Packaging the New Testament as a glamour magazine crosses an important line," he wrote. "That line represents the trivialization of the biblical text and confusion about God's design for happiness and wholeness in our broken lives."

Russell Dalton, author of "Video, Kids and Christian Education" and director of the Religious Communications program at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, said he worries "niche Bibles like Revolve might encourage kids to look at the Bible in a myopic way."

### Have you recently thought about a trip to Oneida?

The fall of the year traditionally is a good time to visit our campus. The weather, of course, plays a key role in when the trees are the most colorful, but usually by mid-October the leaves are starting to adorn the mountains with their splendid array of autumn colors. The weather is still warm, and a walk across our campus normally will uplift the heart of just about anyone.

Perhaps a Sunday school class, other church group or a group of just two or three people would like to spend part of the day with us. We would be honored to have you as our guests. Our daily chapel services are at 11 a.m. on school days. Plan to arrive around 10:30 a.m. so you can stretch your legs before chapel begins. A short distance from the chapel is the dining room, where you will eat lunch. For our honored guests the meal is always free and normally is pretty good.

After lunch you will finish the tour and end up at the craft shop. We admit that it does not have quite the selection of your local Wal-Mart, but the ladies have a good time looking at all the crafts that have been made by our volunteers.

All the proceeds from the sale of those gifts go into the scholarship fund to help our students.

While the ladies are browsing in the craft shop, the men are welcome to visit our farm. A three-minute drive will place you right in the middle of our farm complex. There you can see part of our cattle operation. From the comfort of your van or bus you can see everything from young calves to cattle that are being grain fed and are about ready for butchering.

If you don't mind a little odor, you are welcome to visit the hog houses, where you can see everything from very large hogs to piglets that are

only a few hours or days old. This will require getting out of the vehicle, but I assure you that you will find the breeding and gestation complex interesting. A stroll across the walkway will take you to the farrowing house and nursery where the piglets are weaned. Another short walk will take you to the growing and finishing barn where hogs are being fattened for use right here on our campus.

Right now, the corn fields are full, and we will harvest our corn when conditions are right. One of our greatest blessings is the number of men from several churches who graciously visit our campus each spring and fall to help with the planting and harvesting.

Two families from California come for a month each fall to help with the harvest. Unfortunately, one of these men passed away this month. A barber by trade, Don loved working on the farm, especially helping with the corn harvest. Watching him last year bush-hogging the corn stocks was a special blessing. You never saw a happier soul than Don driving the tractor. We will

miss Don!

If a weekday does not work for you, we gladly will give you a tour on Saturday. If you arrive around 10 a.m. we can have you on your way by 1 or 2 in the afternoon. Whenever you come, letting us know you plan to visit would be a great help. Call us at (606) 847-4111, ext. 248, and speak to Missy Nichols. If she is not at her desk, just leave a voice message and she will be happy to return your call. I hope we have a date this fall!

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### Dick Ham music scholarship established

In the Sept. 18 chapel, the campus family expressed appreciation for the life and ministry of Dick Ham. Dick shared his testimony in word and song.

The service also recognized Dr. and Mrs. James Salter for their 2000 gift to launch the Richard W. (Dick) Ham Music Scholarship. Mary Lou Salter has served many years as a

Clear Creek trustee. Other friends contributed to surpass the \$10,000 level and enable the scholarship to begin grants in the current academic year.

Born in Louisville, Dick Ham graduated from Louisville Male High School, Georgetown College and Southern Seminary. He secured additional study in choral conducting at Murray State University.

On Aug. 18, 1956, he married Nancie Truman of Owensboro. They have two daughters: Terry Beth teaches theater and music in the American School of Shanghai, China; Wendy Sue is a manager for Hastings Entertainment Inc., in Jacksonville, Fla.

Dick served as minister of music at four Baptist churches: Walnut Street in Owensboro; Immanuel in Lexington; First Baptist in Pine Bluff, Ark.; and 17 years at

First Baptist of Richmond. For 16 years he was a consultant for the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, giving leadership in clinics, workshops, camps, festivals and other leadership training events in 46 states and Canada. He is the author of two books published by Convention Press.

In June 2000 he retired after 45 years in church music ministry but stays busy as an ambassador for Georgetown College and as an interim minister of music, most recently at First Baptist of Williamsburg. He was elected second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2000. He writes a bi-weekly column for the Richmond Register and assists at a local funeral

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

home. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is one of Dick Ham's favorite hymns. Because of God's great faithfulness, Dick has faithfully surrendered his life to Christ and he faithfully continues to serve with enthusiasm and love. Clear Creek is honored that future students will be encouraged because of this faithful Christian musician.

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

## Sharing the peace

*Author focuses on helping others live debt free*

By Sara Horn  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—“If you will live like no one else, later you can live like no one else,” says Dave Ramsey, author of “Financial Peace” and, new this fall, “Total Money Makeover.”

It’s a motto Ramsey repeats often during his radio show, in his live events and in his books. But it’s a lesson he had to learn the hard way.

At 26, by all appearances, Ramsey was living like no one else. With a net worth of more than \$4 million, Ramsey had accumulated in four years what many take a lifetime to achieve. His knack for buying and selling real estate had catapulted him and his wife, Sharon, into success and riches beyond their wildest dreams.

But when the bottom dropped out of the real estate market, banks started calling in his loans. Within three years, the Ramseys lost everything and declared bankruptcy.

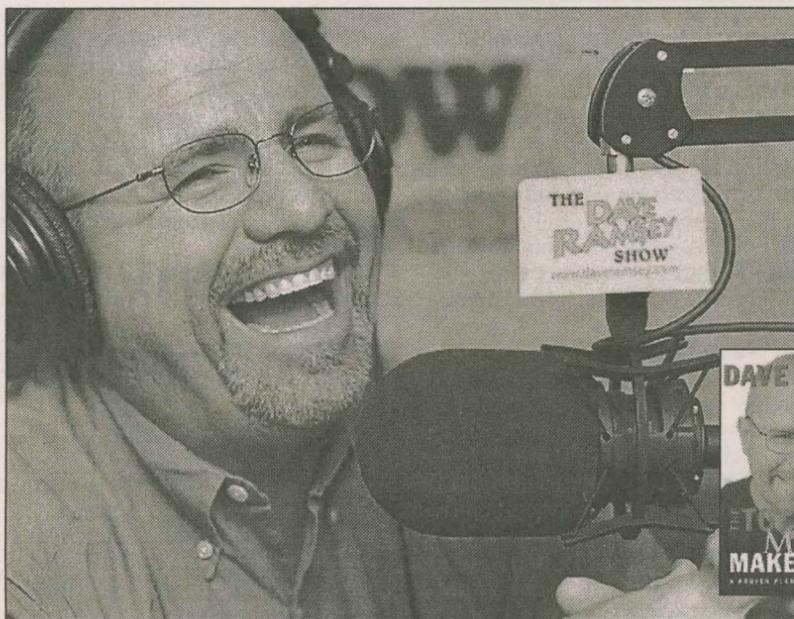
Ramsey was faced with a choice: be controlled by money or learn how to control money. By studying biblical principles for money and following the examples of others, Ramsey turned his family’s financial situation around.

He worked 18-hour days. They shopped consignment shops and garage sales. They sold everything that didn’t matter. After three years, they had paid off their debt.

Ramsey later counseled a friend over coffee who was experiencing financial problems. He soon began counseling families at his church, which then developed into a Sunday school class.

Fifteen years later, he has helped change the lives of thousands.

“We’re able to give a cool drink of water in the name of Jesus,” Ramsey reflected. “We teach somebody how to get out of debt, answer some con-



**‘FINANCIAL PEACE’** Dave Ramsey said he wrote his book “Financial Peace” after losing millions, declaring bankruptcy and rebuilding his finances according to the Bible. (Photo courtesy of Lampo Group)

fusing question and help them get a budget together. In that context, it also gives us a chance to look for what’s behind the question—and many times that’s the need for a relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Live events, five-hour financial seminars, are held throughout the year in major cities throughout the country. Ramsey makes it a point to close each event talking about God. Free audiocassettes with Ramsey’s personal testimony and an invitation to accept Christ are given away to all participants. The spiritual invitation has been accepted by thousands of people, evidenced by the e-mails and phone calls he’s received.

Ramsey recently was signing books after a speech in Huntsville, Ala., when a young woman, “dressed pretty radically,” broke in line in front of a man who turned out to be her father.

“She said, ‘I took this tape out to the car and listened to it ‘cause I was bored waiting for my dad,’” Ramsey recounted. “She told me she just wanted me to know she’d just accepted the

Lord.”

Changing lives is a common theme in Ramsey’s ministry. His latest book, “Total Money Makeover,” offers more than 50 testimonies from singles, couples and families who have become—or are working to be—debt-free.

All, or most, followed what Ramsey calls “the baby steps”:

1. Set aside \$1,000 in an “emergency fund.”
2. Pay off all debt (except the mortgage) using the “Debt Snowball.”
3. Set aside 3-6 months expenses in savings.
4. Invest 15 percent of household income in Roth IRAs and pre-tax retirement.
5. College funding.
6. Pay off the house early.
7. Build wealth.

Ramsey admits that people find step two the most challenging.

“People have so much debt to pay off—it’s not hard emotionally, it’s actually kind of fun,” said Ramsey, who compares paying off debt to working in the yard.

### Need a ‘makeover?’

NASHVILLE (BP)—Author and radio host Dave Ramsey’s latest book, “Total Money Makeover” offers plenty of advice for adults at any stage in life:

■ **College students.** “Forget the credit cards. Don’t be afraid to live on campus and eat the campus food to avoid debt. Pile up as much cash as you can pile up coming out of school. Statistically, you’re more likely to move and get married within two years after you get out of college.”

■ **Newlyweds.** “Together, you must manage money together. You’re not a joint venture. The preacher said now you are one. Make the decisions together and leave mom and dad out of it.”

■ **Married couples.** “The No. 1 cause of divorce today is fights over money and money problems. There’s no reason why you can’t work together when it comes to money. It’s vital you share a budget and a checking account you both can agree to.”

■ **Parents of young children.** “Be very gentle and have lots of grace teaching them about money. Parents get so enthused about our program for kids that they want to teach them about cars when they’re 4. Money is a life skill—little guys can learn to work by learning to pick up toys and getting a big ‘atta boy’ as a reward.”

■ **Parents of teens.** “If you don’t teach them about money, they’ll move back home. Don’t let them get into car payments and credit cards. Do give them lots of responsibility. When my kids turn 13, they start managing a checking account and budget. We don’t buy their clothes. The other day one of my kids bounced a check. We didn’t beat them, but we did make fun of them to no end! But that’s the time to learn, when you’re 15 and you have dad to walk you through your mistakes.”

■ **Retirees.** “The same exact steps apply for retirees as anyone else. You’re just a little late for the party. You can still come and join in, you just have to play a lot of catch up. Maybe we can get you to the point of dignity. Hopefully we can get it so you don’t have to work at 89. But what’s the alternative? To keep doing what you’re doing?”

“You know when you mulch the bushes, edge the sidewalks, when you’re right in the middle of it, you’re dirty, dusty, you’re hot,” he said. “But when you’re in the middle of the battle, you know at the end you can step back and say, ‘Man, it looks good.’ You can feel yourself winning the same way when it comes to getting rid of debt.”

## America’s clergy reading broad range of theologians, poll finds

CHICAGO (RNS)—America’s clergy are reading a broad range of theologians, Bible scholars and inspirational writers, at times crossing liberal-conservative and Protestant-Catholic divides to share spiritual writers from different traditions.

That’s the finding of a survey of pastoral reading habits conducted for the Pulpit & Pew research project at Duke Divinity School.

C.S. Lewis, an Anglican layman who thrilled children with his “Chronicles of Narnia” series and generations of Christian thinkers with such works as “Mere Christianity,” was the top writer, crossing over the favorite lists of all Christian clergy.

Texas pastor Max Lucado, author of such books as “He Chose the Nails” and “Traveling Light” was atop the list of authors named by

conservative Protestant pastors. Leadership author John Maxwell, theologian and devotional writer Charles Swindoll and biblical scholar John MacArthur also led the list of those read by conservative clergy.

Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest known for searing honesty and personal vulnerability, was the favorite author of both Catholic priests and mainline Protestant clergy.

More than 800 clergy from 80 denominations responded to the 2001 random telephone survey conducted for the Duke research project by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago. The results are to be part of a book to be published next year.

Each pastor was asked, “Other than the Bible, what three authors do you read most often in your work as

a pastor?”

Nouwen, Pope John Paul II, the biblical scholar Raymond Brown and spiritual writer William Bausch were the top four authors selected by Catholic clergy.

Nouwen, United Methodist theologian William Willimon, spiritual writer Frederick Buechner and Lucado were the top four of mainline Protestants.

In addition to Lucado, popular inspirational writer Philip Yancey, Lewis and Maxwell were on the Top 10 lists of both mainline and conservative Protestants. Lewis was No. 11 on the Catholic list.

Overall, the results suggest clergy from the three main Christian groups live in distinct intellectual and cultural worlds, said Jackson Carroll, director of the Duke research project.

### What pastors are reading

Conservative Protestant pastors named the following authors when asked “Other than the Bible, what three authors do you read most often in your work as a pastor?”

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Max Lucado       | 6. Philip Yancey     |
| 2. John C. Maxwell  | 7. Rick Warren       |
| 3. Charles Swindoll | 8. C.S. Lewis        |
| 4. John MacArthur   | 9. Matthew Henry     |
| 5. Warren Wiersbe   | 10. Charles Spurgeon |

The Episcopal spiritual writer Barbara Brown Taylor was the first woman to show up on any list—No. 12 in the favorite authors of mainline Protestant clergy.

The popular black Pentecostal writer T.D. Jakes was No. 11 on the list of writers conservative Protestants turn to in their work as pastors.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **Urgent request:** The Eagle School of Language, in conjunction with Second Baptist Church of Wrockaw, Poland, needs an English language teacher for the 2003-2004 school year. Applicants must have school experience or experience in teaching English as a second language or teaching English as a foreign language. For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.

■ Victor, pastor of a church in Birobijan, Russia, who is excited about planting churches in his area.

■ A group of children in an interior Amazon village in Brazil who recently heard the gospel message.

■ Mission opportunities for four Romanian students who recently completed an "Experiencing God" Bible study.

■ That the sewing class for the Pogoro people group in Tanzania would lead many women to an understanding and personal relationship with Christ.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **AURORA**—Ferguson Springs Church will host a benefit singing Oct. 3, 7 p.m., to raise funds for the medical expenses of **Mae Barrett** who recently received a heart transplant. **James Keeling** is pastor.

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church called **Chip Miller** as interim pastor and **Mark Williams** as part-time youth minister.

■ **BENTON**—Union Ridge Church recently called **George Culp Jr.** as pastor.

■ **BIGHILL**—Owsley Fork Church recently called **Kenneth Wilder** as pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church will hold revival services Nov. 16-18 with **Jim Barnett** as evangelist. **Mark Hopper** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Palestine Church celebrated its 160th anniversary Sept. 14 with former pastor

**Brooken Campbell** as guest speaker and a gospel music concert by the **Bowman Family**.

Salem Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 5 with an 11 a.m. worship service, noon potluck meal and 2 p.m. service. For information, call (270) 465-4544.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church called **Mike Rodgers** as interim pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Latonia Church will host a fall festival Oct. 4, noon-4 p.m. **Steve Holloway** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Faith Church recently called **Michael Sanders** as minister of youth and spiritual formation. **Robert Fox** is senior pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will present "An Evening of Praise" Oct. 5, 6 p.m., featuring the sanctuary choir and worship team. **Rodney Travis** is pastor.

■ **HORSE CAVE**—Horse Cave Church ordained **Randy Turner, Kevin Vance** and **Philip West** as deacons Aug. 31. **Kevin Denton** is pastor.

■ **KENTON**—Kenton Church will host homecoming services Oct. 5 with former pastor **J.B. Spegal** as guest speaker. Activities include dinner on the grounds and music by **Don Ramage** and **Lisa Sherwood** at 1:30 p.m. **Steve Watkins** is pastor.

■ **LEWISBURG**—Mt. Pleasant Church recently called **Joe Simmons** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church called **Ron Wilburn** as supply music minister. **Phil Schultz** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Hart Church recently ordained **Bill Creech** and **Ron Kidd** as deacons. **Jeff Jackson** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethlehem Church will host a "Rock the Block" community party Sept. 27, 4-10 p.m. For information, call (502) 964-6403. **David Hughes** is pastor.

Broadway Church will host high attendance Sunday Sept. 28 in honor of the church's pastors emeriti **Ronald Higdon, Duke McCall** and **Edwin**

**Perry** who will be guest speakers in the 11 a.m. worship service. Activities also will include a 5 p.m. picnic on the grounds. **Chris Caldwell** is pastor.

Clifton Heights Church will celebrate its 55th anniversary Sept. 28. **Jeff Smith** is pastor.

Gethsemane Church will host homecoming services Oct. 5. **Jason Clark** will be the guest speaker in the morning service and **The Nelons** will perform at 2 p.m. **Robert Wright** is pastor.

■ **MILTON**—**Shawn Bruce** resigned as pastor of Corn Creek Church Aug. 24.

■ **MOUNT EDEN**—Mount Moriah Church called **Jay Tigner** as youth minister.

■ **OAKLAND**—Friendship Church will hold revival services Oct. 5-8, 7 p.m., with **Jimmy Williams** as evangelist. **DaWayne Capps** is pastor.

Oakland Church will hold revival services Sept. 28, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Sept. 29-30, 7 p.m., with **Deon Benson** as evangelist.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Doug Crawley**, minister of music at First Church, has resigned to become minister of music at Hickory Grove Church in Charlotte, N.C.

■ **PURYEAR, TN**—Oak Grove Church recently called **Martin Sevrens** as pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Red House Church recently called **John Martin** as minister of youth/education.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—First Church called **Joe Williams Allen Jr.** as pastor, effective Aug. 17.

■ **SMITHFIELD**—Smithfield Church recently ordained **Tim Caldwell** and **Mike Crowder** as deacons.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—First Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary Sept. 27-28. Former pastor **Paul Grossman** will be the guest speaker Sept. 28. **Timothy Waits** is pastor.

### What's going on?

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



Mike Huskey



Diana Huskey



David Nam



Mi-Sook Nam

## IMB appoints 2 couples with Kentucky ties

AUSTIN, Texas—Two couples with Kentucky ties were among 61 missionaries appointed Sept. 7 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board during a commissioning service at Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

Mike and Diana Huskey will serve as missionary associates in evangelism and church planting in the Western Pacific region. David and Mi-Sook Nam will be missionary associates in theological education in the Central and Eastern Europe region.

Huskey, a native of Louisville, is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. Mrs. Huskey, a native of Winchester, also is a graduate of ECU.

Nam is a graduate of Korea Baptist University in Taejeon and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He is a former pastor of New Life Baptist Church in Radcliff.

The IMB's next missionary appointment service will be held in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington. The service will be Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. in Rupp Arena.



**SEPT. 11 TRIBUTE** *Cumberland College leaders dedicated a twisted beam from the rubble of the World Trade Center during a Sept. 11 memorial service on the school's Williamsburg campus. College officials said the display is a reminder of both the tragedy and the persevering American spirit. (Cumberland College photo)*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**FOR SALE:** 1985 International 71-passenger school bus. Diesel; runs and looks good. Price: \$4,000. Phone: (270) 765-6294.

**HAWAII TOUR:** Adults from your church are invited to join Christian Life Tours on a 12-day tour of Hawaii. The cost of only \$2,624 each includes round-trip air, sightseeing on each island, several meals, shows, a luau and an unforgettably fun time with a group of Christian friends. The price is based on double occupancy. For a free brochure and to make reservations, call toll-free: (877) 557-0073. If necessary, please leave message.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist, Mayfield, Ky., is seeking a full-time worship/music minister. Average atten-

dance: 500+. Blended worship style with praise team. Position will give leadership to graded music program, 65-member sanctuary choir, praise team and worship planning. Send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, First Baptist Church, 118 W South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

**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:** Full-time minister of music/education and a part-time youth minister for Broadway Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, BBC, 2500 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, KY 40503.

**SEEKING:** An energetic, dynamic pastor for strong, growing church with blended services and multi-media. Requires experience and some college. Send resumé and audio and/or video tape to: Pastor Search Team, HC 83 Box 468, Cloverport, KY 40111. Resumés need to be received by Oct. 1, 2003.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth for small Southern Baptist church in southwestern Kentucky (includes some music responsibilities). Experience preferred (not required). Salary/benefit package available. Please mail resumé to: Minister Search Committee, Crofton Baptist Church, Drawer E, Crofton, KY 42217, or e-mail: crofbc@hesenergy.net.

**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:** 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.

**SERVICE:** America's fastest-growing Christian long distance company. 4.9 cents/minute; no monthly fees; no codes or restrictions; 6 second billing; 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com. Home agents needed.

## A pealing sound



**PULLING DOWN SOUND** Change ringers met recently at Kalamazoo College in Michigan to hone their craft and learn from one another. Above: Ringers pull on belt ropes inside the bell room beneath the bell tower at Stetson Chapel. (RNS photos by Chris Meehan)

## 'Change ringers' celebrate with 'joyful noise'

By Chris Meehan  
Religion News Service

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (RNS)—Matt Farmer and Kristine Fowler waited eagerly for a chance to ring the English-style bells at Stetson Chapel.

Farmer came from Boston and Fowler traveled from Minneapolis to try their hands at making music inside the only bell tower of its kind in Michigan.

They were among more than 50 people who were at Kalamazoo College at the end of August for the annual general meeting of the North American Guild of Change Ringers.

The meeting helped bell ringers such as Farmer and Fowler hone their craft by attending classes as well as manning the ropes inside the chapel tower. "Change ringing" is a patterned bell-ringing technique that uses several bells.

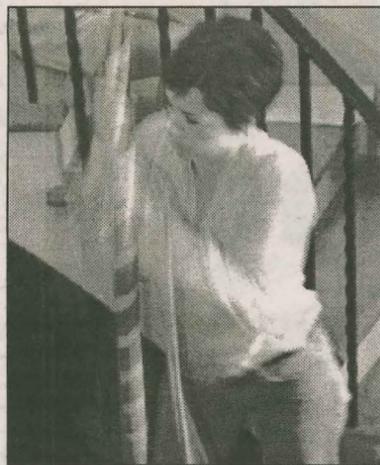
"I love ringing. I love the sound of the bells," said Farmer, 19, who rings the bells every Sunday at the historic Old North Church in Boston.

"I came here to learn and ring and meet other ringers," said Farmer, a classics major at Tufts University.

Farmer stood with Fowler just outside Stetson's bell room, where a handful of ringers were pulling ropes and causing the bells in the tower to chime out a lively syncopated tune.

Soon they would have the chance to step inside and get guidance in the particulars of this essentially British form of marking occasions with resonant sound.

"I like the joyful-noise part (of ringing the bells)," said Fowler, a librarian at the University of Minnesota. "They can be solemn or be rung in celebration. ... I also appreciate the heritage of this practice that goes back hundreds of years."



Part of a history dating to the Middle Ages, change ringing uses bells hung on sturdy wooden frames that allow the bells to make a full, 360-degree circuit. Unlike the one or two bells in most church or municipal towers, bells in change-ringing towers can number as many as a dozen. Stetson Chapel's tower holds eight.

"This is a very English sort of thing," said Margaret Miller, tower captain for the Kalamazoo chapter of the change ringers' guild. "These bells are only found in the British Isles or former English colonies."

### A growing musical trend

About 6,000 change-ringing towers exist worldwide, and most are in England, said Bruce Butler, president of the North American Guild of Change Ringers.

There were only a handful of active towers in the United States and Canada until the past few years, when interest in this form of ringing has picked up. (A search of the guild's Web site uncovered no Kentucky change-ringing towers.)

"We find we're rapidly expanding

as people have more leisure time (and as word spreads about change ringing)," Butler said. "We're rapidly heading toward 50 towers."

Commonly, bells in churches or municipal buildings can play hymns or familiar songs. Change ringing is a different process altogether.

"A person listening to the ringing will not recognize any tunes, because change ringers do not play tunes," local guild member Kit Almy said.

Although they don't chime out familiar songs or hymns, change ringers do present music in predetermined, sequential patterns. These patterns are composed of "rigorous methods based on mathematical principles and the physics of the bells," said Ron Kakuk, a member of the local guild. "The patterns can be extremely complex. People who have a sense of symmetry and pattern are attracted to this."

The key to change ringing is to pay total attention to the sound and rhythm of the bells—to the one you are operating and those being rung by others.

"It's all about timing with the bell itself and with others," Miller said. "It is very much about finesse and not brute force."

Mental focus is the draw for Fowler. She said she enjoys the way in which a ringer must block out everything but the job of ringing. The skill comes in pulling the rope at just the right time, allowing your bell to chime at the exact interval.

"I try to hear my bell to see if I'm in the right place," she said.

Farmer, the young man from Boston, said he loves the mental gymnastics involved in ringing.

But he added that he appreciates the spiritual dimension of it as well. "Every Sunday we pray to bring hope and healing to those who hear our bells."

## Pierce & Patty promise tour will entertain and encourage

By Cecile Holmes  
Religion News Service

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (RNS)—One is a songbird with the stage presence of a diva; the other so unpretentious a Christian she reminds you of the classic girl next door.

On tour, Sandi Patty and Chonda Pierce promise to be engaging and funny. They're longtime acquaintances who've become good friends.



Pierce & Patty

Last weekend, they launched a 31-city tour with an opening performance in Asheville, N.C. (In addition to a tour date in Louisville next month, nearby performance locations include Knoxville and St. Louis.)

Someday they may be known as the "Thelma and Louise" of the Christian

circuit. Fortysomething, likable and so down-to-earth that you want to keep them talking, they're breaking with convention in their "The Girls are Back in Town" tour.

Despite their blond tresses, this tour is no platinum, come-hither altar call. Nor is their God the sort of deity one approaches only in heels and white gloves. Patty and Pierce are too honest for that. Their Jesus is a Savior to be called on at home or in the workplace—even if one's calling requires scrubbing down the family bathroom with Ajax.

"I don't see life as very funny all the time," Pierce says. "My favorite word in the dictionary is 'balance.' There are times when life to me really is hysterical. There are times when it is not.

"Take these (electrical) blackouts across the country. I had to laugh over some of it. ... I started laughing thinking about all those news people going to work today. I started laughing thinking about how many of them will have bad hair days. No hair dryers!"

Pierce, whose new video, "Have I Got a Story for You," hits retail stores this week, doesn't take herself too seriously. Obviously neither does her performing partner. Pierce's video opens with a comical clip of the pair belting out music with Patty playing keyboard. In style and costume, they'll make middle-aged fans laugh and younger folks (including their children) shake their heads in amazement.

"We're excited," Patty says. "I have children, I'm a mom. Us moms just need time to gather together and encourage one another. While we hope many people come (to the shows), we're really gearing it to women. Hopefully women will have a time of recharging and laughter."

Patty, whose successful career has cast her as the sort of talent who has sung before heads of state and symphony orchestras, has a knack for recordings featuring sweeping orchestrations and tear-producing endings.

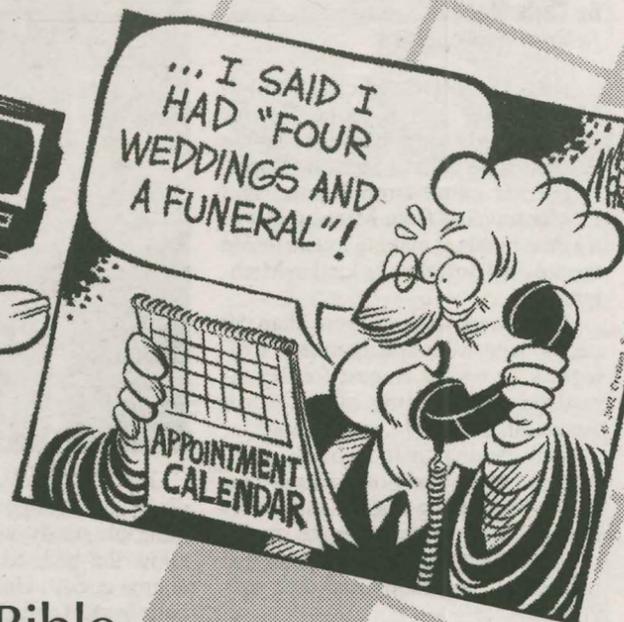
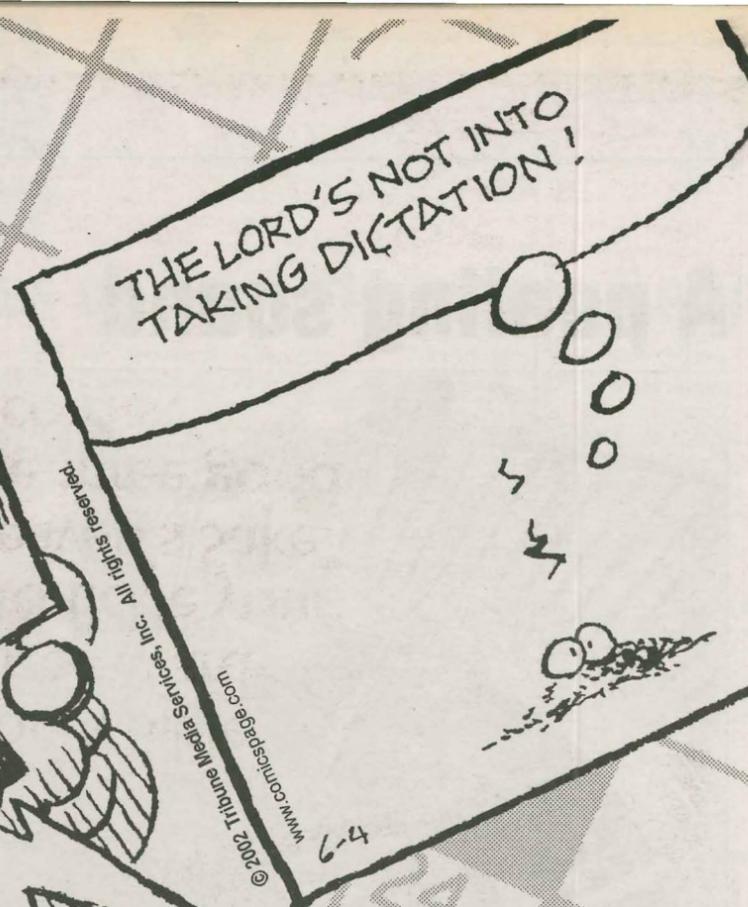
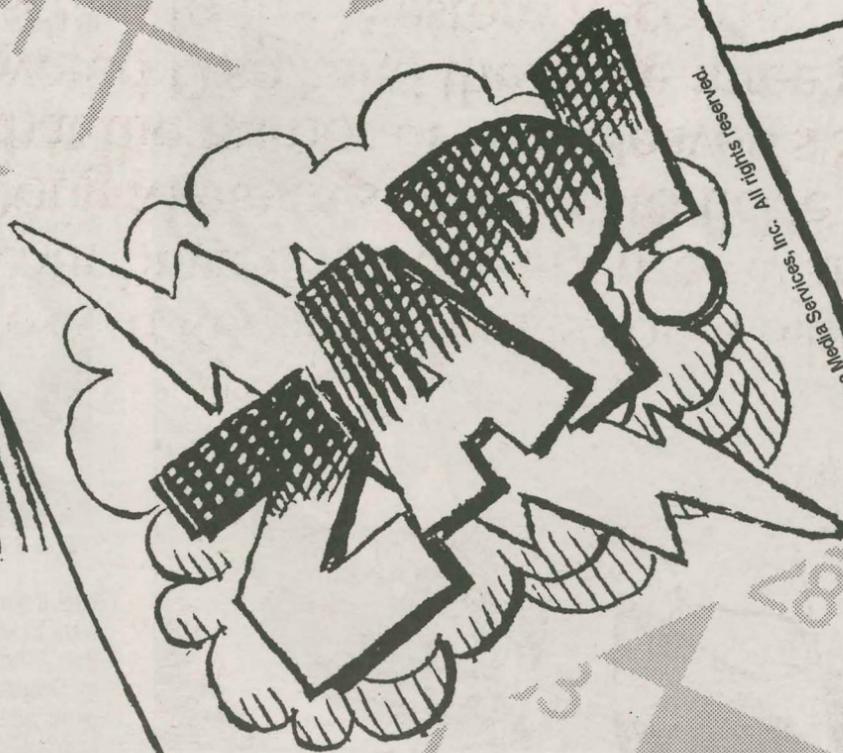
Her new CD, "Take Hold of Christ," is no exception. It features the sorts of songs that have made Patty one of Christian music's most acclaimed performers. She's the winner of 39 Dove Awards, five Grammys and four Billboard Music Awards. Her 23 albums—including three platinum and five gold recordings—have sold more than 11 million copies.

So what do she and Pierce have in common? Life, say both performers when asked.

"I met Chonda when she was traveling with (comedian) Mark Lowry. That was about 10 years ago," Patty said. "I just thought she was absolutely wonderful. Then I lost touch with her. Over the last two or three years, our paths have crossed. It just seemed as we would share what God was doing in our lives—it seemed we were on the same page. So we combined forces."

Pierce said getting to know Patty proved an education in friendship. "Sometimes we laugh. Sometimes we cry. Sometimes we really blow it," she said, adding that the concerts are attempts to "just have a night about where we are."

# SMILE!



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