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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, October 8

## Couple offers 6 tips seeking to 'divorce-proof' more marriages

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

SOMERSET—With divorce rates rivaling those of the unchurched, Christian couples must find ways to divorce-proof their marriages, according to two Kentucky marriage ministry leaders.

Marriage is one of God's ways of helping people become holy, Dow and Mary Buford told a workshop audience at the recent MarriageFest conference in Somerset.

But in that process of becoming holy, some tension is inevitable, said the Bufords, volunteer marriage ministry leaders for Louisiana Christian Church in Canisville.

As romantic ideas of marriage give way to the everyday realities of making a home together, couples might find themselves growing distant. Over time, differences can push couples to divorce emotionally, even if they don't choose to separate physically.

"Divorce can take place without a legal decree," Dow Buford explained. Rather than hold divorce to a legal definition, the Bufords broadened their definition of divorce as "a degree of sustained and growing separation."

"The song says 'Love is a many splendored thing,' but marriage can be a many splintered thing," he said.

Such conflict can lead to affairs, but not just those of a sexual nature, they said. The Bufords define an affair as any involvement with someone or something else that satisfies an unmet need that should be met by the spouse.

Jobs, hobbies, addictions and other "affairs of the heart" can all pull apart a marriage as surely as any sexual affair, and that tearing is inevitably painful.

"(Divorce is) not like a Post-It note, it's like an envelope," Mary Buford said, describing the disintegration of a marriage. "It's a tearing apart. You take pieces of the other person with you."

Working to save a troubled marriage or keep a marriage strong is important, not only for the purpose of avoiding a painful divorce, but also as an example and encouragement to others.

"You give other couples hope when they look at you and see that it's working," she said.

See *Marriage mentors* ..., page 7

## Intentional evangelism



**EASTER PAGEANT** Members of Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown perform in an Easter pageant as part of their community outreach. Parkway is among several churches throughout the commonwealth that are growing through intentional outreach strategies. "We try to get and meet people so they'll know who we are," said Pastor Ed Benton said. "Part of it (growth) is the excitement of our people, and the expectation ... if they can get friends to church, God will do something."

## Kentucky's fast-growing churches have lessons for all

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

McVEIGH—Some of Kentucky's fastest-growing Baptist churches are in rural enclaves where a lack of major economic development makes their expansion even more remarkable.

Take, for example, McVeigh Baptist Church, a congregation named for an old Pike County coal camp that had a dozen worshippers when Tommy Reed became pastor in 1998. Today it averages 145 people in attendance and hopes to soon expand its increasingly-cramped sanctuary.

Other examples around the commonwealth include:

■ Hardin Baptist Church, which

has seen steady growth during the past 20 years. In a Western Kentucky town with fewer than 600 residents, the church has mushroomed from about 60 people to a recent high attendance of 1,000.

■ Northside Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. The church had dwindled to about 30 members before interim pastor Chad Burdette began serving in December of 2000. Last May the church moved into a 700-seat sanctuary, with average attendance surpassing 350.

■ Garner Baptist Church in Eastern Kentucky. What started as a mission in 1992 attracted 20 people to its first service. Since then, it has grown to 240 members with more than 105 baptisms the past two years.

■ Inside: Growing church seeks to stop 'back-door' departures. Page 6.

These congregations are among the 30 percent of about 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches that are growing, according to Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team.

Such large churches as Bowling Green's Hillvue Heights and Louisville's Valley View led the state convention last year in baptisms. But Garland isn't restricted to urban or suburban areas.

There is no particular model or activity all follow, Garland said. But

See *What can you learn* ..., page 6

## Study: 'Twentysomethings' less committed to church

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—Americans in their 20s are less likely to attend church or read the Bible than older Americans, a Barna Research Group study has found.

Thirty-one percent of twentysomethings attend a worship service in a typical week, compared to 42 percent of those in their 30s and 49 percent of all adults ages 40 and older.

The level of Bible reading also decreases by age group. Researchers found that 30 percent of twentysomethings read the Bible in the past week, compared to 37 percent of Americans in their 30s, 44 percent of fortysomethings, 47 percent of Americans in their 50s and 55 percent of adults ages 60 and older.

The comparisons on giving are more dramatic: 30 percent of Americans in their 20s donated to a church in the past year compared to 61 percent of older adults.

Despite the lower percentages in religious practice, researchers found that internal aspects of faith rank higher among those in their 20s.

For instance, 80 percent of twentysomethings said their faith is very important in their life; 75 percent said they had prayed to God in the past week; and 57 percent said they had made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life.

"The notion that these people will return to the church when they get old-

er or once they become parents is only true in a minority of cases," said David Kinnaman, vice president of the Ventura, Calif.-based research firm.

"More importantly, that reasoning ignores the real issue: Millions of twentysomethings are crystallizing their views of life without the input of church leaders, the Bible or other mature Christians."

The research for the overall study was based on nationwide telephone interviews with 14,091 adults from January 2000 through May 2003, with a margin of error of plus or minus 1 percentage point. A total of 2,660 adults in their 20s were interviewed, with a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

## SBC committee declines to add special offering

NASHVILLE (BP)—Members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee responded to a range of motions from the 2003 SBC annual meeting during their Sept. 22-23 meeting.

In various actions, Executive Committee members:

- Declined to recommend a one-time special offering for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to help fund "the missionaries waiting appointment, due to this year's shortfall of money."

The Executive Committee stated that "the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering already exists for this purpose and churches are encouraged to give sacrificially" to it.

- Responded to a motion for SBC entities "to accept all financial gifts and contributions from all Baptist individuals, churches, associations, groups, organizations and convention."

The response stated that the SBC "reserves the right to individually assess each financial gift or contribution ... to determine the appropriateness, relationship of the donor and the impact of each gift to the Southern Baptist Convention."

- Declined to take action on a motion calling for the SBC Resolutions Committee to provide its proposed resolutions to messengers at least one session prior to their consideration.

The response noted that "publication in the SBC Bulletin ... provides adequate notice and opportunity for conscientious reflection prior to messengers votes."

- Declined action on a motion to designate one Sunday each year to "focus our awareness ... on six-day creation and the worldwide flood."

## Iraq food distribution to resume this week

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist ministry projects in Iraq are scheduled to resume this week after a five-week delay caused by concerns for the safety of humanitarian workers in the country.

Small-scale delivery of food boxes packed by Southern Baptist churches has been going on, however, and a Southern Baptist worker in the region reports God is using the effort to help Iraqis understand how much He loves them.

The arrival of Southern Baptist volunteer teams was delayed after information was received that a remnant of Saddam Hussein loyalists in the country were intentionally targeting humanitarian workers for attacks. The Aug. 19 truck-bomb attack on the United Nations offices in Baghdad marked the first time a non-military humanitarian operation had been targeted since Hussein's regime was

overthrown last spring.

But during the past month the vast majority of attacks have occurred after dark and have been directed at military targets, the worker said. Ministry leaders believe risks can be minimized by exercising appropriate precautions.

### Reduced threat level

"We judge the situation to be sensitive, but we can continue to work," he said. "The threat level has decreased. We are hearing very positive things about foreigners from local people."

"We are resuming volunteer projects focused on the distribution of food boxes. Teams will be smaller, with fewer than 10 people."

The boxes of food packed by Southern Baptist churches in late spring began arriving in the country Aug. 21. Volunteers who had planned to begin distributing the 46,000 boxes in late August were rerouted to Jordan to deliver food and supplies to Ira-

qi and other refugees living there. Small teams of Southern Baptist workers and Arab Baptist partners have been distributing food in Iraq itself.

One worker reported that Iraqis who received the food boxes in two towns in central Iraq asked for New Testaments, which Arabs know as the "Injil." When the worker returned on subsequent days with Bibles, people who were waiting to receive food left the food line to get a Bible.

"We are grateful Southern Baptists were sensitive to God's leading in packing the food boxes," one worker said. "This tangible expression of God's love has broken through barriers of misunderstanding and created an opportunity for people to experience God's love and forgiveness for themselves."

"We're asking Christians everywhere to pray that God will reveal Himself to Iraqis and help them see that Jesus is, as the Koran says, the long-promised Messiah."

## BGCT expands support for fired missionaries

DALLAS (ABP)—Texas Baptists have taken another step to provide financial support for Southern Baptist missionaries forced to leave the mission field because they would not affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas is establishing a channel for donations designated for specific missionaries who choose to return to the mission field on their own.

The designated gift channel will be separate from a general \$1.3 million transition fund Texas Baptists set up last year. That transition fund gives stateside support for up to one year for missionaries who resigned, retired or were terminated by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board because of the Baptist Faith and Message controversy.

At least 77 missionaries have left the IMB over the issue. Some missionaries object to changes in the

revised statement, while others say the IMB's requirement that missionaries sign an affirmation of the statement is creedalistic.

IMB President Jerry Rankin said the issue "is not about individuals being terminated; it is about the credibility of the International Mission Board being doctrinally accountable to our denomination."

Instructing veteran missionaries to affirm the revised faith statement "is not a politically coerced initiative," Rankin added. "It is the simple bottom line of accountability to those we represent."

E.B. Brooks, coordinator of church missions and evangelism for the Texas convention, said the new channel of support will distribute only donations designated to specific missionaries, not establish a fund for distribution to missionaries in general.

Veteran missionaries Houston and

Charla Greenhaw, who took early retirement over the Baptist Faith and Message issue, have returned to serve in Brazil, using Texas Baptists as a channel for their support.

Houston Greenhaw said the support from churches, flowing through the Texas Baptist channel, "freed us from the necessity of either promising to conduct our ministries according to a document foreign to, and often irrelevant to, the culture in which we work, or walking away from that culture and our ministries."

Veteran missionaries David and Susie Dixon, terminated from their work in Madrid, Spain, have returned to Madrid, where he is pastor of International Baptist Church and a teacher at a Baptist seminary.

"Thank God they (Texas Baptists) are finding ways to move beyond convention politics, pettiness and controversy, and keep focused on God's good purposes," Dixon said.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

#### Witt earns ERLC service award.

Claude Witt, retired executive director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, has been named the first recipient of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's Richard Land Distinguished Service Award. Land, ERLC president, noted that Witt, a former ERLC trustee, has "labored tirelessly in the Lord's vineyard for truth and justice." U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas) was awarded the ERLC's 2003 John Leland Religious Liberty Award.

#### N.C. convention drops church.

A North Carolina Baptist church that was removed from its association in April has been quietly taken off the rolls of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina as well. McGill Baptist Church was

voted out of Cabarrus Association for baptizing two men who allegedly are homosexuals. Jim Royston, state convention executive director, said he and convention officers decided after hearing about the association's move that McGill also should be removed from the convention's membership. He said convention policy makes the church ineligible for state convention membership. McGill Church is the fourth church removed from the state convention in the past decade over homosexual-related issue.

#### EEOC files complaint.

Officials of the Missouri Baptist Convention have received a formal complaint from the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of a former employee. Former controller Carol Kaylor

filed a complaint after Executive Director David Clippard fired her in April. Kaylor's attorney said in June that the complaint likely would charge the convention with demeaning Kaylor on the job. Clippard claims she was terminated with just cause.

#### Holman translation online.

LifeWay Christian Resources' Holman Christian Standard Bible translation is available online. The HCSB, which will be released in print form April 15, 2004, features a "pre-release, preview edition" on www.LifeWay.com. The online release comes in conjunction with the introduction of the HCSB version in LifeWay's fall Sunday school curriculum. Touted for "accuracy with readability," the HCSB is the result of a seven-year, \$10 million Bible translation project.

## Baptist agency joins coalition to boost marriage amendment

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is partnering with a host of evangelical ministries to promote passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment, Richard Land reported to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee Sept. 23.

Declaring that America is at a critical juncture, Land said there is a "titanic clash of values" reflected in the battle to redefine marriage as something other than the union of one man and one woman.

Encouraging churches to observe Marriage Protection Week Oct. 12-18, Land said the ERLC is working with ministries such as Focus on the Family, the American Family Association and Prison Fellowship "to develop a cohesive and workable plan to aid and assist churches in responding to the well-organized and well-funded effort to redefine marriage."

"The best legal minds in the country have come to the conclusion that the only way we can protect ourselves from having the judiciary force same-sex 'marriage' upon an unwilling nation is to have a constitutional amendment that says specifically that nothing in the U.S. Constitution or any of the state constitutions shall be construed as requiring that marriage be anything other than the union of a man and a woman," Land said.

### Defending sanctity of marriage

"We are going to do our best to make certain that everyone knows Southern Baptists are opposed to same-sex 'marriage' and that Southern Baptists support what needs to be done to protect the sanctity of marriage in the United States," he added.

The Marriage Protection Week Web site (www.marriageprotectionweek.com) includes downloadable resources such as a sample poster, commentary on Scriptures related to the issue and bulletin inserts with action steps to get the amendment moving through Congress and to state legislatures.

Land also noted the ERLC has drafted a model resolution on the issue that is available at www.faithandfamily.com.

Tom Elliff, chairman of the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life, said the ERLC's sample resolution "calls upon us to courageously align ourselves with the biblical position that homosexuality is a sin. It further addresses the absolute legal nightmare that would be caused by affirming same-sex unions as 'marriages.'"

## Disaster relief workers make lasting impact on needy family

HOPEWELL, Va.—The couple arrived at the Kentucky disaster relief office in Hopewell, Va., somewhat skeptical that someone would remove the fallen tree from their yard for free.

"I know that there's hitch," the man told his wife, about a week after Hurricane Isabel dropped the tree.

Turning to volunteer Violet Hardison, the man asked: "What are you going to do, get on my property and pretend to get hurt and sue me for all of my insurance?"

Hardison responded that the workers all sign liability waivers and volunteer their time as a tangible way to show God's love.

When the couple learned that Hardison's husband was a pastor, they asked if she could get him to pray for their grandson who has cancer.

She said she would but added they could pray for him right there. She took their hands, bowed her head and prayed with them. When she lifted her head, the man was in tears.

"Violet," he said, "if I don't ever get that tree taken out of my yard I wouldn't take a million dollars for being here."

Later in the week, 14 volunteers came to their home to remove the tree and pray with the family again.

"I've never seen anything like this in all my life," the man told Hardison, whose husband, Bob, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Sebree. "I never knew people like this even existed."

More than 114 people like this traveled from Kentucky to eastern Virginia to volunteer in the post-Isabel disaster relief efforts.

The mobile kitchen closed Oct. 3, but Kentucky Baptist volunteers continue to work on chainsaw teams and other cleanup crews with Virginia families impacted by Hurricane Isabel.

Crew chief Harold Moore said workers prepared more than 67,000 meals during the two weeks the kitchen was operating.

More than 60 families have been helped with tree, limb and debris removal.

Chainsaw and cleanup volunteers continue to be needed in Hopewell, said Moore, a member of First Baptist Church of Ashland. "As long as we've got 6-7 to make a crew, we'll be sending them out."

Trained volunteers willing to serve are asked to contact Kentucky Brotherhood before traveling to Virginia, in case the team is deactivated or moved to another location. For more information, call Brotherhood at (888) 254-5720.

## CP drop, reorganization affect KBC staff

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A Cooperative Program budget shortfall—coupled with an anticipated state convention reorganization—is making a direct impact on staffing at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Building.

One staff position was eliminated last week, some leadership positions being vacated by retirement will not be filled and some staff responsibilities will be transferred to regional strategists, according to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

The changes are due in part to a \$1.4 million shortfall in the KBC's 2002-03 Cooperative Program budget. KBC staff are seeking to reduce expenses by as much as 12 percent this year and anticipate a reduced budget for the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Mackey said he anticipates presenting proposed reorganization plans to the KBC Mission Board for consideration in November. He added that he and other KBC leaders are seeking to eliminate as few staff positions as possible in the process.

"We are trying to keep it to the minimum number of positions," Mackey said. "We are grateful we can provide transition support for the very few persons who may be impacted by the current adjustments in budget."

A secretarial position eliminated last week in the KBC Sunday school department is the first staff cut attributed to reduced CP receipts and staff reorganization.

Doris Cissell, who had served four years in that position, concluded her work on the KBC Mission Board staff Oct. 1.

"Due to the decrease in CP and the pending reorganization, we deeply regret ... the need to eliminate the position of office secretary in Sunday school," KBC church growth team leader Vernon Cole wrote in an Oct. 1 e-mail to convention staff members.

Cissell will receive full salary and benefits through Dec. 31, Cole said. "We will work with Doris to assist her in finding other employment, should she choose to do so," he added. "We have greatly appreciated her contributions."

### "Painful" decision

Mackey noted that such a decision "is tough to deal with. It's painful. It's a grief experience to deal with loss of programs or persons you've come to know and love and appreciate as fellow workers."

Darryl Wilson, KBC Sunday school department director, said the decision to eliminate a staff position "was emotionally difficult."

"It came down to some hard decisions," he noted. "Looking at the financial picture alongside the reorganization, that seemed to be a necessity at this point."

Affirming Cissell's work, Wilson said, "I appreciate Doris and her contributions to the department and the number of Kentucky Baptists she has touched."

The proposed staff reorganization, part of the KBC's mission study plan

adopted earlier this year, includes adding four regional church development strategists by 2005.

Mackey said he expects to fill at least two of those positions—one full-time and one part-time—by the beginning of 2004.

In addition to their roles in church development, Mackey said the strategists will fill "lead function" responsibilities currently assigned to Baptist Building staff.

Citing the retirement this month of stewardship department director Doug Strader as an example, Mackey said one of the regional strategists likely will assume responsibility for stewardship education.

Acknowledging that "we don't have enough staff to handle all these lead functions," he said as other Baptist Building leaders "retire from key positions on staff, the lead function will be transferred to a person on the field."

Shifting such assignments to the regional strategists "has been part of the concept all along because I knew we had limited personnel," Mackey said. "There are several functions I think can be done better closer to the local church."

"In order for our adjustments to work, we're anticipating that Kentucky Baptists will continue to support missions and ministries and evangelism in Kentucky and around the world through the Cooperative Program," he added. "We're moving forward in faith, believing that Kentucky Baptists will do their best to support vital ministries."

## 'Intentional networking' vital to KBC ministry

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—"Networking" is more than a catchphrase in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission study plan.

According to KBC leaders, plans for intentional pastor-to-pastor, church-to-church and association-to-association networking are essential to achieve the convention's overall ministry goals and objectives.

Citing the plan's objective to "connect KBC staff and church leaders with other church leaders for encouragement, coaching and resourcing," Mission Study Committee member Ava Bingham Reynolds explained, "I see it being very aggressive, yet methodical and very intentional. It's not going to be a laid-back approach to things."

As churches and leaders share expertise and resources, "the pressing thing is the urgency of winning people to Christ," added Reynolds, a member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville. "The main thing is to help churches, pastors and leaders know that when they're connected to Christ and to one another, that produces learning and growth."

Networking objectives outlined in the study plan include:

- Providing KBC church development strategists.

- Building community fellowship among Baptists.

- Connecting churches across different racial and/or ethnic backgrounds.

- Mentoring.

- Connecting churches in racial reconciliation ministries.

Specific goals to accomplish those objectives include recruiting and funding four regional church development strategists and enlisting 100 networking churches to assist other congregations in effective church development.

"We sense that pastors and staff members are longing for connections with others who are fellow servants in ministry," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. He noted that 15 to 20 pastors already have volunteered to serve as mentors to fellow ministers.

Mackey said he expects to have at least two of the regional strategists in place by the beginning of 2004.

The strategists will work with pastors, churches and directors of missions "in encouraging them, resourcing and networking," Mackey said. They also "will be spending some significant time with some churches who really want to focus on development and growth," he added.

Dan Garland, leader of the KBC evangelism growth team, said the plan's networking emphasis is closely tied to training and connecting

church leaders and congregations.

"The key to this report is the understanding that churches have to teach other churches, that the denomination is to connect these churches that are doing well and provide resources and keep a focus on the vision."

Noting that "a lot of our focus has been to get people to do what they aren't doing," Garland said the networking goal includes "focusing on those who are getting it done."

Identifying, recruiting and connecting effective churches "with churches that want to do it and providing them resources—I see that as one of our main tasks," he added.

Study committee member Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, emphasized that "the key piece of the Mission Study Committee report is that the KBC begins to reframe itself as a networking agency."

Ayers, also named to the plan's follow-up Mission Advisory Committee, added, "We've done well at organizing a program or event, but the networking is really going to strengthen the local church body in ministering to its people."

Envisioning the state convention as "a catalyst of connectivity," Ayers said, "We haven't been as together as churches as we should be. If we can make an improvement there, I think we will really begin to see things move forward."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's** Cornerstone Counseling offices in Ashland, Erlanger, Frankfort Harlan, Harold and Owensboro will offer free mental health screenings Oct. 9 as part of National Depression Screening Day. For more information and exact times and locations, call (800) 981-7493 or visit [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org).

■ **At the September** annual meeting of the Kentucky Fellowship of Retired Directors of Missions, W.O. Willham of Danville was elected to serve as president of the group for the 2003-04 year. W.D. Sharp of Elkton is the outgoing president.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College** will host its 11th annual James Barry Lectures on Preaching and Worship Oct. 29, featuring author and professor James Shaddix. Shaddix, dean of the chapel and preaching professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, is author of "The Passion-Driven Sermon." For more information, call the college relations office at (606) 337-3196.

### What does the future hold?

KBC MISSION STUDY PLAN

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## In times of trouble, shout for joy

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—David expresses his enormous faith in God throughout the Psalms, but especially in Psalms 32, 33 and 34.

In these Psalms he expresses a much-needed approach to suffering and trouble. Twice he says, "Shout for joy." And in Psalm 32:7 he says, "You will surround me with songs of deliverance." In other words, in the midst of trouble, God Himself will surround him with songs of deliverance, or victory. This is David's way of describing his faith in God.

Hebrews 11:1 expresses this another way: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." As the old hymn states, faith is the victory that overcomes the world. So David is bearing witness to the faithfulness of God in his life. In times of trouble, he can "sing to the Lord and shout for joy" because he is confident that God not only will give him victory, but already has given it to him. It is

only a matter of time until he possesses this victory of God for his life.

I sense that the "shout of joy" is a victory shout. Such a shout does at least two things: It unnerves the enemy and it encourages and emboldens God's people.

Perhaps we could picture this in terms of teams about to go into "conflict" in a game. They gather together, put their arms around each other (sometimes with the coach in the middle) and utter the loudest shout they can. It is a shout of anticipated victory over their rivals. When the opposing team hears this shout and sees their confidence, it is hoped that this will in some way unsettle them. It also gives courage to the team even if they are playing the strongest team in their league.

David constantly expresses this joy in victory, even when in the midst of trouble. In Psalms 33 and 34 he declares, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me ... and delivered me from all my fears. ... O taste and see that the Lord is good. ... Those

who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. ... (Sing) to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy."

Now, let's look at the application to our lives in the midst of our workplaces, homes and communities.

Every believer walks in victory, all the time. There should be songs of deliverance and shouts of joy on our lips. A watching world knows nothing of this victory in the believer's life.

But God is honored when there is a constant "shout of joy" on our lips, when we together shout out the coming victory we are expecting from our Lord, in whom we have placed our faith.

What a witness this will be: joy, in the midst of trouble, because of our God. How greatly encouraging this will be to the ones who may have become discouraged or even disheartened among God's people. And how deeply honoring to God this is, when His children believe Him, trust Him and live according to such faith.

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

## COMMENTARY

## A dose of 1 Cor. 13

After reading several articles in some of the latest issues of the Western Recorder, I have come to the conclusion that Southern Baptists need a good dose of 1 Corinthians 13.

It seems to me that instead of being in one accord with Christ and each other, many are bent on dividing and splitting the denomination. 1 Corinthians 1:10 speaks against division in the church, but to be completely united in one accord. It seems that the undershepherds want to usurp the Head Shepherd who

is Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 tells us that no matter how smart we are, even if we can speak in the language of angels, have the gift of inspired preaching, faith to remove mountains and help feed others, if we do not have agape love that any of these gifts is to no avail.

1 John 4:7 tells us that God is love and 1 John 3:14 tell us the way to know that we have eternal life (passed from spiritual death) is that we love the brethren. Christ loved us enough to die for us. Do we love our brothers and sisters enough to die for them? Do



## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

## Revival impacts Campbellsville

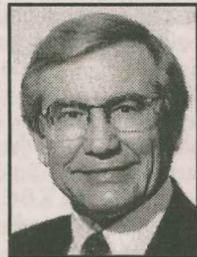
Let me tell you about an exciting revival that has occurred among the students at Campbellsville University. It's a wonderful story of how God is moving among our young people and reminiscent of other times when God has sent spiritual awakening.

Students had prayed for weeks in preparation for this recent revival. A tent was raised on campus and filled for three nights. Service times had to be extended as many decisions were registered, lives were changed and students took steps to eliminate compact discs, videos and literature that would hinder their Christian walk.

During convocation the following Tuesday, an additional 12 students made commitments to Jesus Christ. All of these new converts will need special prayer, personal guidance and equipping as new believers until they gain their spiritual perspective and identify with a church family.

I am grateful for Ed Pavy, our Bap-

tist Student Union campus minister, who has guided the students during this time. Pray for Ed and for those who will assist him in follow-up. I am also grateful for Campbellsville University President Michael Carter and the administration and faculty who are willing to encourage students in their unique spiritual journey.



Bill Mackey

Students who have experienced revival like this will be impacted for a lifetime. Fortunate is the person who has an opportunity to be impacted by a movement of God at some point in life, especially if it is early.

Gene Parr, the BSU campus minister at Morehead State University, experienced the revival at Asbury College and the seminary there in the early 1970s. Today, his goal is for every college student to have a life-changing experience with God during his or her college days at MSU.

He leads a basic discipleship class for every freshman he can enlist. He

we love Christ enough to live for Him?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says love is kind and patient, is not jealous, conceited, proud, ill-mannered, selfish or irritable, nor does it keep a record of wrongs. Love never gives up and its faith, hope and patience never fail.

I think if we would give heed to 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land," that Jesus would send a revival upon our land.

R.J. Teems  
Salt Lick

also has an advanced class for students who lead Bible study classes for other students.

There are many Christians who can point to a significant movement of God that touched their lives and they were never the same. The Jesus Movement and its impact among college students and youth in the late '60s and early '70s has been documented in a book, "Revival—The Story of the Current Awakening in Brownwood, Fort Worth, Wheaton and Beyond," edited by John Avant, Malcolm McDow and Alvin Reid.

One of the places where God touched down in revival was Whitesburg where I was a pastor in 1972-73. When I talk with people whose lives were impacted by that revival, it is as though it were yesterday. Many of those people have become strong Christian leaders.

Pray that God will engage this student generation in such a way that they can be used to transform churches, communities and this country, as well as the world, for Christian values and the mission of our Lord!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

## Explore 10 easy ways to find an extra \$1,000

By Jeremy White

The economy is a bit tougher these days. Interest rates are low. The money ends before the month.



If you feel like cash is tight around your household, consider

these 10 easy and practical ways to find as much as \$1,000.

■ **Cash in that coin jar.** You might be surprised to find out how much you have on top of the dresser, in the car and in the kitchen jar.

■ **Reduce your federal withholding if you typically get refunds larger than \$1,000.**

■ **Cancel whole life insurance policies on adult children.** Obtain the cash value from those small policies you took out on your children years ago.

■ **Clean out the attic or garage and have a yard sale.** Turn the junk into cash and reduce your space needed for storage.

■ **Barter a service you can provide to receive something you usually pay for.** Offer to tutor, sit with an elderly person to allow a caregiver a break or give lessons in exchange for lawn services, lessons or car maintenance.

■ **Turn a hobby into a business.** Use your fishing skills for a guide or instruction service, take aerial photographs and sell them as you enjoy your flying hobby or offer quilting lessons to younger women.

■ **Take the cash generated from the above projects and pay off debt.** This saves even more money by lowering your interest costs.

■ **Give your excess property to charity.** That old car, used couch or extra television can be given to charity. If you itemize your deductions for income taxes, you receive a charitable deduction.

■ **Sell some or all of that collection.** You may have old baseball cards, coins or antique plates. If they are gathering dust and you have little interest in them now, sell them and gain the cash.

■ **Check with the unclaimed property department for your state.** You might have property—such as bank account balances, stock certificates or utility deposits—that is legally yours.

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

## Study examines top priorities among strong, happy families

**Q: What are the key elements that help make a strong, happy family?**

As part of a 25-year research project that included more than 14,000 families, Nick and Nancy Stinnett and Joe and Alice Beam studied families that weren't falling apart to find out what made them different. Here's what they discovered:

■ **Strong families are committed to each other.** The parents are committed to their marriage. Within the family, there is commitment to each individual. Family members know they can depend on each other. In the midst of busy schedules, they make family time a priority.

■ **Strong families show lots of appreciation and affection.** They take advantage of frequent opportunities to show how they feel about each other.

■ **Strong families share positive communication.** They allow enough time for communication to happen and they learn to listen with their hearts, as well as with their ears.

■ **Strong families spend time together.** When surveyed about what makes a family happy, children's most common response was not about money or cars or fine homes or televisions; the answer they most frequently gave was doing things together. Strong families eat together, work together and play together. They make memories and build traditions.

■ **Strong families nurture spiritual well-being.** They recognize the spiritual dimension to life and the difference faith makes in family relationships.

■ **Strong families learn how to cope with stress and crisis.** They know how to pull together. They know when to ask for help. They know how to draw on spiritual resources to help them survive tough times.—David Garrard



**Q: How can our church enhance its understanding and response to older adults' faith needs?**

Some people assume that older adulthood is a time in which the pinnacle of faith is reached and one has all the spiritual answers. On the contrary, most older adults still have significant spiritual needs.

Among those needs are a need for meaning, purpose and hope; support in dealing with loss; a sense of continuity; validation and support of religious behavior and views; a sense of personal dignity and worth; unconditional love; affirmation that God is on their side; a sense of forgiveness; and preparation for dying and death.

While some older adults might think that they no longer need help in coping with these needs, it is important to understand the significance of gathering support from family and friends.

Entering old age is like entering another country or culture. The coping methods we have used in the past might not always apply.

While older adults might hesitate to call on family members or friends during times of need, the ledger can be more than balanced by realizing that those who are younger have a much greater need for older adults to help them fulfill their spiritual goals. A society that ignores the past can easily run the risk of repeating its mistakes. Older adults are like a living library both for our families and society in general.

Every family and nation needs pieces of oral history and oral tradition to maintain its bearings. Just as Jesus taught in parables, many older adults today teach younger generations through the stories they tell. Meaning is created for younger generations through the life experiences their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents recount.—Jon Rainbow

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

## Hey, Christ followers: Click responsibly

OK, here's my latest pet peeve: obnoxious e-mails. (I wanted to use the phrase "stupid e-mails," but my sweet, sensitive wife suggested that sounded too harsh, so I'm going with the slightly watered-down but still accurate adjective "obnoxious." Feel free to substitute the word "stupid," if you prefer. Just don't tell Pam.)

Anyway, where was I? ... Oh, yes, stup ... umm, obnoxiously e-mails. Now, I'm not talking about factually inaccurate e-mails such as Madalyn Murray O'Hair trying to get Christian programs off the air (Remember FCC petition RM-2493 that was dismissed back in 1975?) or that Microsoft (or Disney or AOL or GAP, etc.) will pay you for each e-mail you forward to family and friends, resulting in you eventually becoming a millionaire (now there's one that's certainly believable).

While such e-mail rumors are both false and a complete waste of time, concerned friends who forward them to you at least *think* they're accurate. Why they think that, I have no idea, but they do mean well.

The kind of obnoxious e-mails I'm gently lambasting today are ones that start with something like, "Don't believe in the luck thing, but it does make one think ..." (Coincidentally, I received one with that exact wording a couple of weeks ago.)

This particular e-mail went on to explain how Kelly's boyfriend proposed to her during her lunch break from work (Who proposes over lunch? How incredibly romantic!) She had to rush back to her office for a meeting, opened this same e-mail and deleted it without reading the part that said: "You must send this on in three hours after reading the letter to 10 different people (not great sentence structure, but you get the idea). If you do this, you will receive unbelievably good luck in love. ... If you do not, bad luck will rear its (sic) ugly head at you. THIS IS NOT A JOKE! ... You MUST send this on or face dreadfully bad luck."

Poor Kelly. According to the e-mail (and you might want to skip this part if you're squeamish or soft-heart-

ed): "Later that evening, she received a phone call from the police. It was about (her fiancé) DAVID! He had been in an accident with an 18-wheeler. He didn't survive."

But that's not all! Katie also received a copy of the e-mail "and being the believer that she was, she sent to a few of her friends but didn't have enough e-mail addresses to forward the full 10 that you must." (Gasp!)

Can you imagine what happened next to unsuspecting Katie? Read on: "Three days later, Katie went to a masquerade ball. Later that night when she left to get in her car to go home, she was killed on the spot by a hit-and-run drunk driver." (Which begs the question: If it was hit-and-run, how do we know it was a drunk driver?)

Don't get me wrong. I have no intention of trivializing real-life human tragedy. If Kelly's fiancé and Katie actually are real people (which is highly unlikely) and they were killed in accidents, that is tragic. But does anyone on your e-mail list in 21st century America sincerely believe that such events are directly linked to whether or not someone forwards

an e-mail to 10 other people? Surely not.

Even worse, what "friend" would e-mail you such a curse? If you never receive the e-mail, hopefully you're safe from its deadly power. But if you receive it and fail to pass it along to 10 others, your friend's reckless click of a mouse button apparently has doomed you or someone you love. Thanks a lot, good buddy!

The moral is: Use common sense when you pass along information to others, whether by e-mail, phone, hallway banter or other gossip-prone communication techniques. Log onto TruthOrFiction.com (my personal favorite), snopes.com or some other reputable e-mail rumor research site and track down the truth before hitting the "forward" key.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth," declares 3 John 4. As a follower of Christ, click (and speak) responsibly.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Give your pastor the gift of prayer

By Leo Endel

Across the nation, October is designated as Pastor Appreciation Month. Let me add my voice to those who are calling on churches to bless their pastors in unusual and tangible ways.

Consider some startling statistics that will help you understand the pressures experienced by your pastor:

■ 80 percent of pastors say that isolation/loneliness is the No. 1 problem they face. (Source: Focus on the Family)

■ 70 percent of pastors don't have what they consider a close friend. (Fuller Institute)

■ 90 percent of pastors say the hardest thing about ministry is dealing with uncooperative people. (Bill Bright)

■ 2.3 years is the average length of service at one church for a Protestant pastor. (Alabama Baptist newsjournal)

■ 80 percent of pastors say ministry had negatively affected their families. (Leadership Journal)

■ During one 18-month period, 2,100 pastors were fired from Southern Baptist churches. (Annual Church Profile)

■ 41 percent of terminated pastors don't go back into a church-related ministry. (Baptist General Convention

of Texas)

■ 8 of 10 seminary graduates will not be in the ministry five years after graduating from seminary. (Bill Bright)

■ The majority of pastors' spouses surveyed said the most destructive event that has occurred in their marriage and family was the day they entered the ministry. (Bill Bright)

My heart aches when I read such statistics. They aren't simply numbers on a page to me, but are the anguished faces of my friends. I am grateful for Focus on the Family's emphasis on the pastor and have been encouraged personally by the emphasis. However, I am convinced that the greatest gift you can give your pastor is regular prayer support.

Some churches have organized a prayer team to pray for their pastor. Some churches with two worship services have organized people to pray for the pastor and the worship services while in progress.

Several years ago, during Pastor Appreciation Month, I received a prayer pager. Business cards were printed with my prayer pager number on them. When someone from our congregation prayed for me, they dialed the pager number and hit three or four keys on their phone; I quietly

received a vibration telling me that someone had just prayed for me. It was an incredible encouragement!

One afternoon I was with a family in a crisis. I called them together for prayer, and as I called out, "Father ..." my prayer pager vibrated. I knew God was working!

John Maxwell, in his book "Partners in Prayer," suggests that we pray specifically for pastors in four areas:

### Personal needs:

- Humility.
- Wisdom to know God's agenda.
- Positive relationships.
- The fruit of the Spirit.
- Health.

### Family needs:

- Priority of family.
- Provision for the family.

### Spiritual needs:

- Time alone with God.
  - Integrity.
  - Protection from spiritual warfare.
  - Accountability.
- ### Congregational needs:
- Evangelism.
  - Personal growth.
  - Mobilization of the laity.
  - Intercession.

Whatever else you do for your pastor this month, begin praying for him. He will appreciate it even more than the gift certificates to Olive Garden—but go ahead and give those to him too!

Leo Endel is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention

## Growing church has strategy for closing 'back door'

**"Deacons and others are meeting to come up with ideas of 'This is who we are and what to do.'"**

*Ben Williams, pastor of Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Louisville.*

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Ben Williams has baptized about 110 people at Mount Nebo Baptist Church over the past two years, swelling Sunday attendance to around 250. That is 100 more than when the influx began.

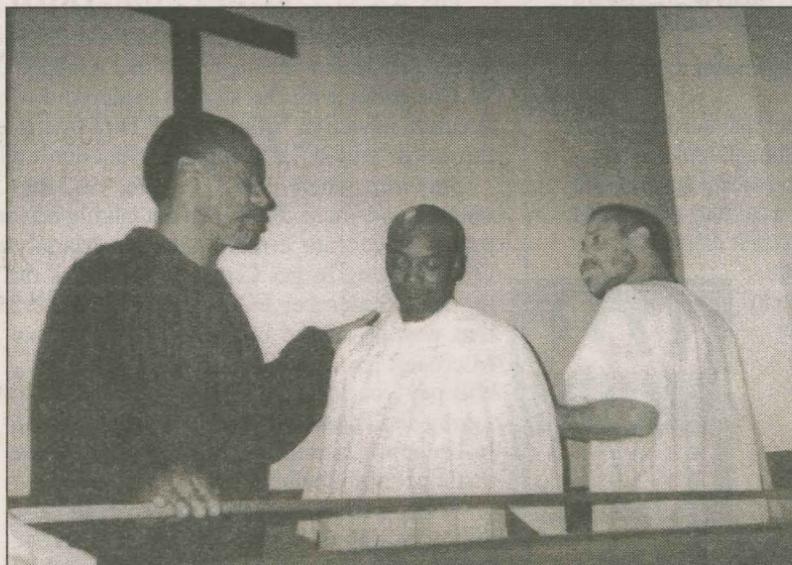
Williams is pleased, but not thrilled. He saw such growth about 15 years ago, when an even larger spurt boosted attendance to 385.

Since Mount Nebo's sanctuary was under construction, the crowd crammed into the basement. But over time many of those converts drifted away. Williams doesn't want to see that happen again to the 89-year-old church.

"That's the hard part to deal with in any growth situation," said Williams, a bivocational pastor and a sales associate at LifeWay Christian Stores in suburban Louisville.

"If you look at it from the standpoint of baptisms, it looks great; it's awesome that lives are being changed," Williams said. "But there's still a back door. There's some slipping through the back door while you're ministering to others and trying to get them ready."

The veteran pastor credits the latest growth to a strong prayer movement for non-churched people inspired by 2001's terrorist attacks.



**BAPTISM** Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Louisville has baptized about 110 people during the past two years, but Pastor Ben Williams says the church now is focusing on how to retain members.

The effort includes an intercessory prayer team that gathers at the start of services and sometimes remains in Williams' office during worship.

In addition to converts in the immediate area, some have come through the church's street ministry at several homeless or transitional shelters. Two women lead a weekly jail ministry that has brought others to accept Christ as their personal Savior.

To close that "back door" through which many new members eventually leave, Williams is working to get people involved in discipleship and ministry. Mount Nebo has formed leadership teams to oversee administration, education, worship and evangelism.

Historically, the pastor has been the pivotal person in African-American churches, Williams said. The teams

are designed to get more people involved in making decisions and to get teams functioning as a unit, he added.

The church also has invested in computer software to provide more efficient tracking of membership information.

Training seminars and educational materials are being offered to help members prepare to better disciple new Christians.

Establishing a clear vision is another weakness Mount Nebo needs to correct, the pastor said. A student from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville came to that conclusion after surveying members as part of a class assignment.

"Our mission statement is not really clear," Williams said. "Deacons and others are meeting to come up with ideas of 'This is who we are and what to do.' We want to design what Mount Nebo is, not what somebody else says we should be."

Williams sees getting a clear understanding of purpose for a church body, and pastors individually, as a key to making sure growth lasts.

"You've got to know who you are in Christ and who you can minister to according to the giftedness of your congregation," he said. "If a person has the gift of teaching and you have him driving a bus because you need that position filled, you miss out on the giftedness of that person."

## What can you learn from Kentucky's fast-growing churches?

*Continued from page 1*

most are characterized by a pastor and leaders who have a passion to reach people for Christ, he added.

"One thing these churches have decided to do is live rather than die," Garland said. "Once you've decided to live, you can. These guys aren't afraid to fail, try new methods or stretch beyond where they are."

Not only do they use non-traditional methods, most of these churches' activities are relationship-driven and arise from community needs, Garland added.

The pastors of these growing churches say the Holy Spirit is bringing non-Christians to their churches, but none profess to know why.

"I firmly believe in God's sovereignty," Hardin Baptist Pastor Ricky Cunningham said. "He's chosen to touch people through us. My style is very practical. We take the Bible and relate it to people's lives."

"This has all been the Lord," Reed

said regarding the 120 baptisms he's performed in McVeigh. "God has worked many wonders in people's lives. It's nothing but a God thing."

While there isn't necessarily a universal pattern of growth, there are some qualities that characterize these churches:

■ **Evangelism revolves around members sharing their faith, not an annual revival.**

Some use the FAITH witnessing program, although Hardin Baptist is still following the "Continuing Witness Training" that it adopted 20 years ago.

"We have a real relational kind of evangelism," Cunningham said. "Very few people get saved at the end of a service. We preach more toward the congregation and people going into the community and sharing their faith."

"We have people trained in how to share the gospel and people are excited about opportunities to have divine appointments," said Gary Arrington, pastor of Garner Baptist, which uses FAITH. "Weekly I get calls from people who say, 'I got to share the gospel today.'"

■ **Members are willing to change.**

Those changes are evidenced in a variety of ways: Churches offer contemporary or blended music styles to reach youth and young adults; leaders launch new ministries; and members accept that the church might grow to the size that is no longer a "family" where everyone is on a first-name basis.

"The older people in our church are phenomenal," said Cunningham, who estimates only a third of the congrega-

tion is above college age. "If we try something new, they're behind it 100 percent."

"The fast pace of growth means a lot of change," noted Chad Burdette, pastor of Northside Baptist. "We have to stay on our knees adapting to that change. We've got to give a message that never changes to a world that never stays the same."

■ **Members take part in community involvement and outreach.**

When Pastor Ed Benton encouraged staff and members at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown to be part of their community, he took the lead by serving as a volunteer high school track and cross country coach.

The church also lends its facilities to a weekly community Bible study that attracts 150 women.

"We try to get and meet people so they'll know who we are," Benton said. "Part of it (growth) is the excitement of our people, and the expectation ... if they can get friends to church, God will do something."

The strategy has paid off. Parkway started in 1996 with 150 people in a Bardstown elementary school. Now located near the Bluegrass Parkway, it has grown to more than 600 people in two services. Members will break ground this fall on a 1,000-seat auditorium.

Garner Baptist Church now has 22 ministry projects in the countryside about 15 miles south of Ashland.

Among them are seven Bible studies at nursing homes and seniors centers, summer services at a campground and a weekly jail ministry.

"Once we stepped outside the walls of the church with the gospel, God

started blessing inside the walls," Arrington said. "We're truly blessed of God. Everything we do is with this question: What will it do to help us win people to Jesus?"

■ **Members take part in servant evangelism.**

Northside Baptist's members have washed cars in its own parking lot and a site in town, but the response is always better in a neutral setting, according to Burdette.

Members also have filled windshield fluid tanks for free. That's a popular project after winter leaves slush and mud on central Kentucky highways.

The church also has set up booths at parades and other community events, giving away Bibles and other items imprinted with the church name.

A year ago, members started "SWAT (Servant With a Testimony) meetings, a weekly support group for people with alcohol and drug problems. The effort has been so successful that it now attracts referrals from the county court system.

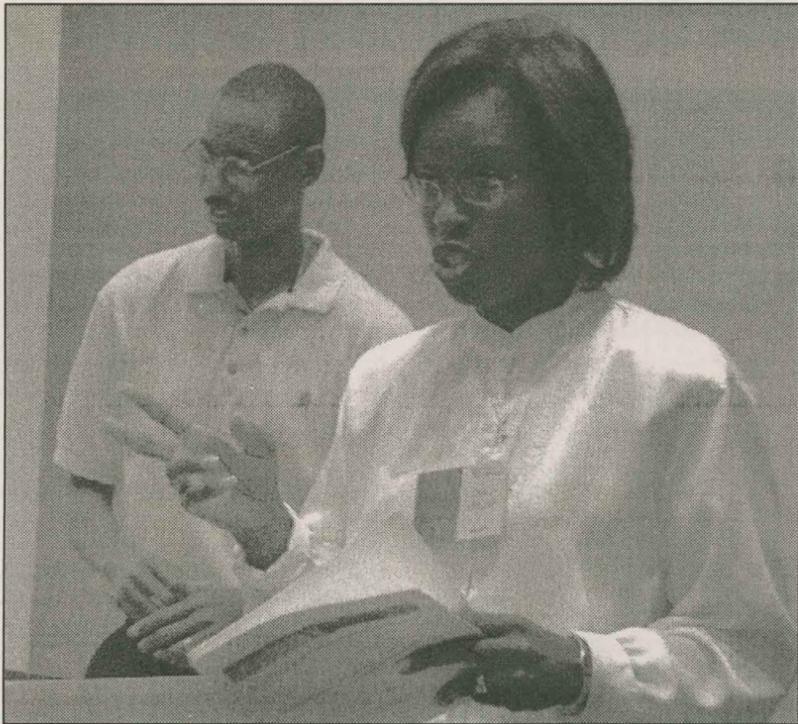
"As long as we're submissive to God, He has great work He wants to do through us," Burdette said. "God only shows up in God-sized projects. We try to stay out of the way and let Him work."

All these pastors agree the key to seeing growth is following God, not programs or manmade plans.

"I know God loves our community and will draw people to Him," Cunningham said. "I want to be part of that, but I can't do it my way. Like Henry Blackaby says, if you want to experience God, find out what He's doing and get in on it."

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
*Members of Northside Baptist Church in Mount Vernon hand out water at a community fair. The church credits its servant evangelism efforts, in part, to its growth from 30 members in 2000 to an average attendance now of more than 350 people.*





**MARRIAGE RETREAT** Dow and Mary Buford, volunteer marriage ministry leaders for Canaan Christian Church in Louisville, lead a workshop at MarriageFest last month in Somerset. "Divorce can take place without a legal decree," Dow Buford said. (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

## Marriage mentors offer 6 tips to divorce-proof Christian couples

Continued from page 1

The Bufords encouraged couples to view marriage as ministry that needs daily attention.

They offered six steps to safeguarding against affairs and divorce:

■ **Get in touch with God.** God designed marriage, and He wants you to succeed in marriage, said the Bufords, because marriage is a reflection of Him. Couples should study and heed God's instruction on marriage as presented in Scripture.

■ **Know your own needs, and your spouse's needs.** Spouses should take stock of their needs and be able to communicate these needs with their spouses. They also should explore their spouse's needs and know what they can do to meet those needs.

Men and women typically have different needs, the Bufords noted. Wives often look to their husbands for leadership, affirmation, affection, intimacy and security while husbands look to their wives for admiration, sexual fulfillment, home support and companionship.

"You are the one anointed to minister to your spouse," Dow Buford explained, cautioning that others may try to meet those needs if the spouse doesn't.

■ **Guard your heart.** Couples should monitor the health of their marriage and stay focused on keeping it healthy, the Bufords advised. That includes being aware of weaknesses and tempting situations. If mistakes are made, the Bufords advise against trying to hide them from God or the spouse; face the situation together.

"When Adam messed up (in the Garden of Eden) the first thing he did was run (from God)," Dow Buford said. "Sin uncovers us and makes us not want to talk to God."

■ **Guard your spouse's heart.**

Wives must recognize the challenges their spouses face in the world and provide a place of safety and comfort, Mary Buford said. Wives should seek to honor their husbands. They should offer unconditional love and commit themselves to their husbands and God.

Husbands should listen to their wives, Dow Buford added, and make time just for her. They also should give her time for herself and offer practical help. Finally, husbands should demonstrate good spiritual leadership and pray with and for their wives.

■ **Establish and check boundaries.** As much as possible, remove temptations to stray, they advised. Married people should avoid having lunch alone with co-workers of the opposite sex, with works answer cell phone calls when working late, and should wear wedding rings at all times. Romance novels and pornographic material should be banned from the home, and filters should be installed on computers, they said.

■ **Value the marriage.** Couples should make it a habit to celebrate the benefits and blessings of marriage. Couples also should intentionally plan ways to improve their marriages.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's MarriageFest conference is organized each fall by the family ministry department. This year's event, Sept. 26-28 at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, featured workshops and conferences by 22 faculty members and attracted 76 couples.

For more information about MarriageFest or other marriage-related topics, contact the Family Ministries Department at (502) 254-4719, call toll free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5704 or go to [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org).

## 2004-2005 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET GOALS AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN SBC/KBC CAUSES

The annual Cooperative Program goals and percentage division between KBC and SBC causes is determined by the KBC in annual session.

1. That the 2004-2005 Cooperative program Operating Budget goal be reduced to \$22,504,000 a 3% reduction (-\$696,000).
2. That the percentage for the division between KBC and SBC causes remain the same as the 2003-2004  
SBC = 36%  
KBC = 64%

That this division be subject to the Mission Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990, which stated:

"In case of a financial crisis, allocations be reduced proportionately to the SBC, Kentucky Baptist institutions of Christian Education and the Executive Board staff and/or programs."

3. That the 2004-2005 Cooperative Program Challenge Budget goal remain the same as 2003-2004, \$1,300,000.
4. That 36% of any Challenge funds be distributed to SBC causes and 64% to KBC causes.

	Actual 2002-2003 Receipts	Approved 2002-2003 Budget	Approved 2003-2004 Budget	Proposed 2004-2005 Budget
Cooperative Program Goal				
A. Operating Budget	21,811,696	23,200,000	23,200,000	22,504,000
1. SBC Causes (a)	7,852,211 36%	8,352,000 36%	8,352,000 36%	8,101,440 36% (d)
2. KBC Causes (b)	13,959,485 64%	14,848,000 64%	14,848,000 64%	14,402,560 64% (d)
B. Challenge Funds (c)	0	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
1. SBC Causes (a)	0	468,000 36%	468,000 36%	468,000 36% (d)
2. KBC Causes (b)	0	832,000 64%	832,000 64%	832,000 64% (d)
Total CP Goal	21,811,696	24,500,000	24,500,000	23,804,000

- (a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.  
 (b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.  
 (c) If Challenge Goal is attained, total CP through the SBC would equal 36%.  
 (d) Subject to Mission Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990.

\*Subject to approval of recommendation by Mission Board to Convention in November.

## Church asks if 'spirit of Satan' constitutes slander

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Iowa United Methodist churches have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether the phrase "spirit of Satan" is enough to warrant a slander suit.

The Methodists are appealing a June 11 ruling by the Iowa Supreme Court that found for a church member who said she was defamed in a letter from a church official that used the phrase "spirit of Satan."

The case has attracted interest from church-state separation groups who say it could threaten religious freedom. Courts traditionally have shied away from churches' internal disputes.

The letter was written in 1999 by Jerrold Swinton, who was then district superintendent over the Shell Rock (Iowa) United Methodist Church. Swinton appealed for an end to church divisions, noting that the "spirit of Satan" was at work in the congregation.

"Folks, when is enough, enough? When will you stop the blaming, negative and unhappy persons among you from tearing down the spirit of Jesus Christ among you?" Swinton wrote.

Swinton also urged the church to call a meeting to consider removing parishioner Jane Kliebenstein from leadership positions. Kliebenstein and her husband sued, claiming the letter falsely attacked her "integrity and moral character."

Kliebenstein, who reportedly has left the Shell Rock congregation, asked for damages in a "fair and reasonable" compensation.

A lower court dismissed the suit, saying it had no jurisdiction in internal church affairs. But the state's high court ruled for Kliebenstein because the letter had been circulated publicly, which the court said "weakened the shield" that protected the church from secular intervention.

"We conclude ... that the phrase 'spirit of Satan' has meaning in a secular as well as sectarian context," that results in an "unflattering secular meaning," the seven-member court ruled.

Church-state groups are concerned the court ventured too far into internal church discipline. The Liberty Legal Institute, based in Plano, Texas, filed its appeal to the high court on Sept. 9.

"It's clear that secular courts do not have jurisdiction to adjudicate these ecclesiastical matters," staff attorney Hiram Sasser said. "The only way a court can get involved in what's going in a church is if it involves matters that are purely secular." Sasser said he expects supportive legal briefs from two prominent church-state experts.

The Supreme Court has not decided whether to hear the case. Until then, Bishop Gregory Palmer said "there is much to be done to further God's realm here on earth."

"It is truly unfortunate that this internal matter of church governance has become such a public issue," Palmer said.

## Poll: Most OK with Commandment displays

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Most Americans approve of the display of a Ten Commandments monument in a public building but disapprove of a similar display featuring a verse from the Koran, Islam's holy book, a new USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll shows.

The poll, taken Sept. 19-21 and reported Sept. 30 in USA Today, found that 70 percent of U.S. adults approve of the display of a monument to the Ten Commandments in a public school or government building, while 29 percent disapprove and 1 percent had no opinion.

But the percentages were practically reversed concerning display of a monument with a verse from the Koran in a government building or a public school. In that case, 64 percent of those polled disapproved of display of a verse from the Koran, while 33 percent approved and 3 percent offered no opinion.

A similar disparity in views was displayed in answers to questions about funding of social programs such as those providing day care or drug rehabilitation.

Asked about the use of federal funds for such programs if they are run by "Christian religious organizations," 64 percent approved, 34 percent disapproved and 2 percent had no opinion.

But responses to a similar question regarding use of federal funds for social programs run by "Islamic religious organizations" showed that 56 percent disapproved, 41 percent approved and 3 percent had no opinion. In general, public displays of religion met approval with those contacted for the survey. For example, 90 percent approved of the inscription "In God We Trust" on American coins and 78 percent approved of a non-denominational prayer as part of an official program at a public school's sporting event or graduation.

Views were mixed about the possibility that the government might be harming people's rights when it promotes religion. Fifty-four percent of respondents said they lean toward the view that "any time government promotes the teachings of a religion, it can harm the rights of people who do not belong to that religion." Forty percent said they would more likely agree

## Judge Moore appeals to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Suspended Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore has formally asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear his case concerning the placement of a Ten Commandments monument in his state's judicial building, his lawyers said.

In a legal document made public last week, Moore seeks the high court's interpretation of the First Amendment concerning church-state disputes about public displays of religion.

"This court has failed to discharge its duty to provide a uniform rule of law governing Establishment Clause cases," reads the document. "As a consequence of this failure, the lower federal courts are floundering in a sea of precedents with no legal rudder."

In a statement, Moore said he hopes the Supreme Court justices

will permit him to acknowledge God in his public capacity.

"As our petition makes clear, the Federal District courts of our land have been led to believe the First Amendment prohibits the acknowledgment of God," Moore said. "The U.S. Supreme Court should now clarify the Establishment Clause to show that the acknowledgment of God was not only the very basis for the First Amendment, but also provides freedom of conscience for all people."

Robert Boston, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, one of the groups that sued to get the monument removed, said he did not expect the high court to take the case.

Experts on both sides of the case predicted it could be two months or longer before the high court determines whether it will hear the case.

with the view that "government can promote the teachings of a religion without harming the rights of people who do not belong to that religion." Six percent offered no opinion on that question.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins said the poll revealed that "Americans are overwhelmingly thumbing their noses at liberal judicial activists who seek to strip the public square of all references to God."

But Alan Wolfe, director of the

Boston College's Center for Religion and American Public Life, said the results were more complex. "The mood of the country in general is that God is very important and religion is very important," he told USA Today. "But I would make a distinction between religion in general and specific religions. People think it's quite proper to have religion in public if it's broad and inclusive."

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

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## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Baptist new Promise Keepers CEO.** Promise Keepers has named Thomas Fortson Jr., its executive vice president, as its new president and CEO. Fortson, a deacon at Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, succeeds founder Bill McCartney, who resigned in September so he could take care of his ill wife and later pursue other interests. Fortson has been an executive vice president for the Denver-based ministry since 1996.



Fortson

■ **Hallmark offers Muslim holiday card.** For the first time, Hallmark is offering a greeting card to celebrate the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr. The holiday is observed on the first day of the month that follows the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast during the day. The holiday will fall on Nov. 24-25 this year, depending on when the new moon is sighted. The card features the phrase "Eid Mubarak," which means "happy holiday" in Arabic on the front. Hallmark also issued a card for the Hindu holiday of Diwali this year.

■ **Abortion procedure closer to ban.** A conference committee version of a "partial-birth" abortion ban was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last week and is expected to pass the Senate after a recess is completed Oct. 13. President Bush is expected to sign the bill when it arrives at his desk. Abortion-rights advocates have pledged to take the measure to court.

■ **National Asian prayer breakfast held.** Dozens of clergy and leaders of nonprofit organizations gathered Oct. 1 for the first National Asian American Prayer Breakfast to worship and foster networks across denominational and ethnic lines. Breakfast organizers estimate there are now 4,000 Korean-American churches in America.

■ **Fast food outpaces poor in U.S.** Americans spend almost 50 times as much money on fast food in a year than they do on helping poor children, a Barna survey shows. The typical respondent reported that his or her household spends about \$240 a year on fast food. In that same period, a typical household spends \$5 a year on assisting children in poverty. Six in 10 Americans said they don't think it's their job to aid poor children abroad.

■ **Past Ky. seminary leader suspended.** The former president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary has been suspended from ministerial duties for 14 months after admitting to extramarital affairs with women. John Mulder, who resigned abruptly last October citing "health problems," asked forgiveness from the seminary he led for 21 years.

■ **"Jesus" brick excluded from park.** A Washington state couple who wanted to inscribe the message "Thank you Jesus" on a commemorative brick in a state park has filed a discrimination suit against state officials after the request was denied. Dan and Olga Buchanan of Lynnwood, Wash., had sought to buy the fundraising brick for a playground in Kenmore, Wash.

■ **Marriage amendment has 90 sponsors.** The Alliance for Marriage announced Sept. that 90 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have signed on as sponsors for the Federal Marriage Amendment. The amendment would add language to the U.S. Constitution declaring that marriage in America is only between a man and a woman—thus banning same-sex marriage.

■ **Suit continues over anti-gay ads.** A federal appellate court has given new life to a lawsuit by Focus on the Family against a Florida bus system that would not advertise its anti-homosexuality conference. The U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a Tampa federal judge was mistaken when he threw out the group's 2001 lawsuit against the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Associated Press reported. The appeals court said Focus on the Family can pursue its claim that the system violated its First Amendment rights by refusing to display ads for the ministry's "Love Won Out" convention in St. Petersburg, Fla.

■ **PAC urged for church-state separation.** Christians who support the separation of church and state should step up their battle against forces that are eroding that principle, said Rep. Chet Edwards. In an Oct. 1 speech, Edwards (D-Texas) called for Christians who believe that church-state separation is good for both democracy and religion to make their voices heard. He suggested Baptists and other Christians should form a political action committee that would champion church-state separation and support political candidates who do.

# Are You Ready To Take... missions beyond the edge

What group is your church not reaching?  
Who will miss hearing the Gospel if you don't find a way to share? Don't expect the usual at this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention. Come expecting to be challenged to get outside your comfort zone and learn ways to reach out like never before!

## Nov. 11-12, 2003

### Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington

#### Nov. 11 Highlights

Session 1 - 8:30 a.m. -Noon

- Theme interpretation & special prayer time
- Signing of Brazil Partnership Covenant Agreement
- Challenging President's Address by Paul Badgett

#### Nov. 11 Highlights

Session 2 - 1:30-4 p.m.

- Election of President & 1st VP
- Convention Sermon by Skip Alexander

#### Nov. 12 Highlights

Session 3 - 9-11:45 a.m.

- Election of 2nd VP and Secretaries
- Inspirational Message by O.S. Hawkins, SBC Annuity Board

## Nov. 11, 2003

### Rupp Arena, Lexington, 7-9 p.m.

#### International Mission Board Appointment Service



You won't want to miss this exciting opportunity to be a part of the appointment of more than 70 international missionaries!

#### Highlights Include:

- Special challenge by UK Basketball Coach Tubby Smith
- 1,200 voice choir and orchestra
- Parade of world flags
- Missionary testimonies
- Message by IMB President Jerry Rankin



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# MISSIONS

## Houses & lives changed by World Changers volunteers

Students worked on 46 projects in Pikeville and Madisonville during World Changers events this summer.

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—When the World Changers crew in Jackson, Miss., arrived on Monday morning at their worksite to start roofing a home, their materials had not yet arrived.

But with World Changers, the unexpected doesn't always mean that God isn't working.

Rather than just sitting and waiting, the teens went to a nearby YMCA and discovered multiple opportunities for making a difference.

Through the relationships they formed, by the end of the week 40 children had made professions of faith in Jesus as their personal Savior.

While that incident was unusual, the principles it illustrates are at the heart of World Changers, which this summer involved 23,672 students and adults in 87 projects in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

While serving at 1,674 construction sites and 154 ministry sites, students saw 1,298 individuals make professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

World Changers is a summer missions experience organized and sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Throughout the summer, students donate a week of their time to rehabilitate substandard housing, develop missions skills and grow in their faith. Many projects also include ministry efforts such as vacation Bible schools.

John Bailey, student volunteer mobilization manager for NAMB, said the report from Jackson is just one of many inspiring stories that have emerged from the 14th year of World Changers. Others include:

■ In Thompsonville, Ill., students working with First Baptist Church saw nine individuals make professions of faith.

■ In Miami, one student came up with the idea of using a lemonade stand as an evangelistic opportunity. Volunteers distributed 300 Bibles and presented the gospel to about 150 people. About 15 made profession of faith.

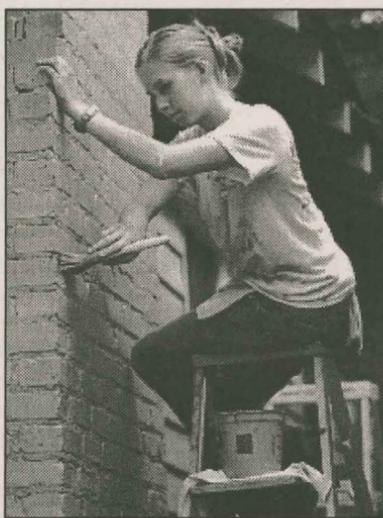
■ In Port Nikiski, Alaska, students pitched in to buy a water pump for a local community coordinator. When he asked how he could help the ministry, local churches recruited him to be a crew chief for another World Changers project.

### Kentucky World Changers

Kentucky hosted two World Changers events this summer. In Pikeville, 316 volunteers worked at 21 sites, June 21-28. Participants there shared their faith 136 times and saw four professions of faith and 10 commitments.

In Madisonville 342 volunteers worked at 25 project sites July 5-12. The week produced 11 professions of faith and 90 participants made commitments.

For next year, plans call for 96 projects—including nine new cities, Bailey said. One of the flagship projects will be in New York City,



**BRUSH IN HAND** Krista Anderson, a member of Riverland Hill Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., paints a World Changers house in Atlanta. Students saw 1,298 people make professions of faith in Jesus Christ during their ministry projects this summer. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

which will be the focus of other missions efforts next year through NAMB's Strategic Focus Cities initiative.

World Changers also will be working with NAMB's Next Level Leadership Network to sponsor The Impact Zone, in which college students participating in a World Changers project in Wheaton, Ill., also will receive leadership training.

"They're going to learn to be a servant leader during the day, and at night they're going to learn how to be a better leader in other ways," Bailey said. "It's a whole new paradigm for World Changers and training leaders."

Heritage Week 2003 • October 14-16

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O. S. Hawkins  
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10 AM



R. Albert Mohler, Jr.  
OCT 15  
10 AM



Jimmy Draper  
OCT 16  
10 AM

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Thursday, October 16, 11:30 AM, Chiles Hall

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# Bright IDEAS

## SENIOR ADULT LEADERSHIP Summit

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2003

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## Money and happiness

I love it when the results of research in a non-religious context confirm what the Scriptures teach. That is exactly what occurred with Jean Chatzky, who has written a book titled, "You Don't Have to Be Rich: Comfort, Happiness and Financial Security on Your Own Terms."

According to her testimony in a recent issue of "USA Weekend," she sought to pinpoint the money management habits of Americans who said they were happy with their financial lives. Once discovered, she then could write a new prescription that, if adopted, could make a significant difference in the financial happiness, and perhaps overall happiness, of Americans.

The results of her research were intriguing. First, she discovered money does play a part in happiness; everyone needs a certain amount of money to live comfortably. Beyond that, however, she discovered more money does not buy more happiness. Remember Jesus' encounter with the one called the rich young ruler? Even though he had great wealth, he was not happy. So, he went to Jesus seeking a solution. Jesus prescribed the only solution to his problem of materialism. Regretfully, the young man rejected Jesus' solution and decid-

ed to remain unhappy. Unfortunately, many Christians today do the same thing. But the point is money does not buy happiness.

Jean Chatzky also discovered better money habits can make a person happier. She found people who manage their money in productive ways are content. They don't let their money manage them. The

Apostle Paul said something like that in Philipians 4:11, "For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." Hebrews 13:5 adds, "Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have."

Chatzky's conclusion became the title of her book, "You Don't Have to Be Rich," a notion she found comforting given today's economic realities. In other words, she stated, "It's not how much you make that matters, it's how you handle it."

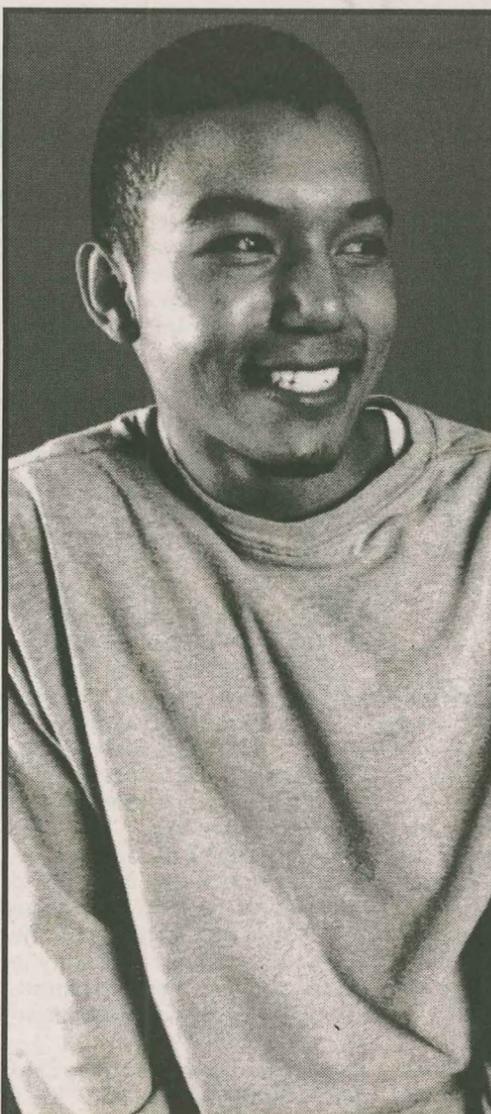
The Kentucky Baptist Foundation offers financial planning seminars to high schoolers, college students and adults. Invite us to your church or group. There is no cost to you.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen



## He needs you to help tell his story.

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## Kudzu

Doug Marlette



## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Bible Crossword

Teri Grottko

### Across

- 1 "But whoso hath this good" (1 John 3:17)
- 6 Ratio of the weight of a given volume of a substance to that of an equal volume of another substance (abbr.)
- 8 Operatic solo
- 9 Mother of Hezekiah
- 12 Kind; sort (pl.)
- 15 Gorged
- 17 Tall spar
- 18 Time frame? (abbr.)
- 19 O.T. bk.
- 20 Crush
- 22 Angered
- 27 Frequent follower of what or as
- 28 Good buy (colloq.)
- 29 Great Commission verb
- 30 Relative of corp.
- 31 Teacher
- 32 Near
- 33 Capital of Moab
- 34 Father of Heber (Luke 3:35)
- 35 Cried
- 37 Pile
- 39 "And he (Josiah) defiled \_\_\_\_" (2 Kings 23:10)
- 42 Absalom rode one
- 45 \_\_\_\_ down
- 46 "False teachers ... who ... bring in \_\_\_\_ heresies" (2 Peter 2:1)
- 49 Noxious weed
- 52 Outside; outer (prefix)
- 53 Those not included in the clergy
- 55 Conjunction
- 56 Benign skin tumor

1	2	3	4	5	6	7						
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46	47					48			49		50	51
52					53			54			55	
56					57						58	

- 57 Greek letter
- 58 Engineering field (abbr.)

### Down

- 1 "Before Abraham \_\_\_\_, I am" (John 8:58)
- 2 Mouth (pl.)
- 3 Traditions
- 4 Father-in-law of Michal (1 Samuel 25:44)
- 5 What Lot did in the gate of Sodom
- 6 "\_\_\_\_ called Zelotes" (Luke 6:15)
- 7 Mirror
- 10 Chem. symbol
- 11 Part of the psyche
- 13 Midwest state (abbr.)
- 14 State or Main (abbr.)
- 16 Preposition
- 19 Father of Mary's husband (Luke 3)
- 20 Minor prophet
- 21 Prior to this (arch.)
- 22 Type style (abbr.)
- 23 Father of Solomon's adversary (1 Kings 11:26)
- 24 Thing to hail
- 25 Land of Moses' birth
- 26 Kind of doctor (abbr.)
- 28 Spanish matron (abbr.)
- 32 One of the sons of Zophah (1 Chronicles 7:37)
- 34 "And all the women ... brought that which they had \_\_\_\_" (Exodus 35:25)
- 35 Reporter's question
- 36 Chem. symbol
- 38 "I will not give thee of the land of the children of \_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 2:19)
- 40 Is in debt (arch.)
- 41 Favorite school subject, for some (abbr.)
- 43 \_\_\_\_ land
- 44 Son of Shobal (Genesis 36:23)
- 46 What washed Nebuchadnezzar in the wilderness for seven years
- 47 Hatchet
- 48 \_\_\_\_ service
- 50 Fish eggs
- 51 Before (poet.)
- 54 How one pronounces ja

### Last week's solution

A	P	P	L	E	S	P	A	G	E	B	O	Y
L	O	A	N			O	R	A	N	G	E	
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D	A		I	R	E	I	G	N		O		
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E	Z		L	O	D	E		L	E	M	O	N

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## WORLD VIEW

■ **Group counters Jews for Jesus campaign.** A tense three-week game of theological warfare played out in Toronto last month as local Jews sought to thwart a campaign by Jews for Jesus. The evangelical group is conducting a worldwide, five-year, \$22 million campaign to spread the Christian gospel in 66 cities outside Israel with Jewish populations of 25,000 or more. A group calling itself Jews for Judaism deployed daily volunteers to shadow Jews for Jesus workers in Toronto, handing out their own leaflets and engaging in occasional conversations with passersby.

■ **Is Barbie 'Jewish?'** Barbie dolls have been deemed a "threat to morality" by the Saudi Arabian religious police, along with Valentine's Day gifts and perfume bottles in the shape of a woman's body. The country's Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice said the "Jewish" dolls are offensive to Islam and must be kept out of the hands of children, Associated Press reported.

■ **U.S. officials: Vietnam still repressing religion.** Three members of Congress and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom are calling on the Bush administration to crack down on Vietnam for its continuing violations of religious freedom. Last month, Reps. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.) and Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) joined the panel in calling for measures against Vietnam's government. This followed the recent conviction and prison sentence for the niece and nephews of a Vietnamese Catholic priest who is already imprisoned.

■ **Court sentences 13 for deaths of missionary, sons.** An Indian court sentenced one man to death and 12 others to life in prison Sept. 22 for the 1999 murders of an Australian Christian missionary and his two sons. In January 1999, Graham Stewart Staines and his sons Philip, 10, and Timothy, 8, were torched alive by a mob as they slept outside a church in the tribal village of Manoharpur.

## Panel: Afghanistan's religious freedom in peril

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Members of a federal panel are warning that religious freedom and other human rights remain seriously imperiled in Afghanistan—even under a United States-backed government.

Members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, reporting on an August visit to Kabul, said the U.S.-backed interim government is in danger of allowing the nation to return to the patterns of severe repression of religious freedom that characterized the Taliban's rule there.

The Taliban were deposed by U.S.-led forces in 2001 for harboring Osama bin Laden and other members of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization.

Noting that the country is in the "crucial period" of preparing a pro-

posal for a permanent constitution, the report said "there are indications ... that the gains for human rights achieved by the U.S.-led coalition's victory over the Taliban are in peril."

The commission cited reports of abuse of religious freedom and other human rights taking place in areas of the country that have not yet been brought under the transitional government's authority.

"The security situation both within and outside Kabul is precarious and perhaps even deteriorating," the report said. "Taliban and al-Qaida remnants remain active and have been joined by others hostile to the internationally recognized transitional administration led by President (Hamid) Karzai. Regional warlords and local military commanders operate independently of the

central government and abuse human rights with impunity."

The report also noted "there have been troubling signs that Afghanistan's reconstructed legal system and the new Afghan constitution might be used by extremists in the transitional administration to deny universal human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, to the Afghan population."

The commission has noted before that an Afghan judge—whose salary is subsidized by the U.S.—has handed down blasphemy rulings. The latest report also notes that, in Afghanistan, "journalists have recently faced prosecution by the U.S.-supported transitional administration for allegedly having 'offended Islam,' when the real offense is political."

## Eritreans in U.S.: Persecution prevalent back home

DALLAS (ABP)—A group of Eritrean Christians in the United States and Canada is soliciting support, public-policy advocacy and prayers for persecuted Christians in their East African homeland.

"The people there are very scared to talk," said one Eritrean Christian now living in Texas, who asked not to be named. "Even on the telephone, they are afraid. They have no freedom to talk. But they can send e-mail sometimes, and they tell us, 'We are afraid for our lives.'"

Eritrea, a small country of 4 million people bordered by Ethiopia

and the Sudan, won its independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

In May 2002, the Eritrean government ordered the closing of all Christian churches other than the officially recognized Coptic Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran parishes.

That action was taken "without any public announcement or legal basis," an Amnesty International report states.

About 20,000 evangelical Christians from non-recognized churches have been denied legal status since that time. More than 200

Christians have been imprisoned, and many have been threatened with death.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has established an "Eritrean Support Fund" to help Eritrean churches collect money for families in need.

"If American leaders would put pressure on the Eritrean government, that can help," added one Eritrean Christian in Texas. He encouraged Christians to contact elected officials in Congress, registering concern for the plight of persecuted Protestants.

## The three R's: readin', ritin' and rest

We have three scheduled breaks during the academic year: a nine-day fall break in October, a two-week Christmas break and a nine-day spring break in March. Faculty, staff and students look forward to each break. However, I believe the fall break is the most anticipated one.

There are several valid reasons why the fall break is so important. For new students who have just enrolled this year, being at Oneida was most likely their first experience of being away from home for a prolonged period of time. The past six or seven weeks have been especially difficult for them. They have survived the homesickness, but they are anxious to see family, friends and pets. Even students who are not new look forward to being home to relax and take it easy.

Most of our students believe we have our breaks scheduled for their benefit, and that's OK. But the breaks are scheduled more with the needs of our faculty and staff in mind. Caring for 300 students 24/7 is a very demanding responsibility. Most of our staff members do not have an eight-hour-a-day, five-day-a-week job. Nearly all of them have responsibilities that go well beyond the regular work day, or night, as the case might be. While they love their jobs and are dedicated to them, they are still human and begin to run out of steam. They need time to recharge their spiritual, physical and emotional batteries. We know that the first week in October is just about the breaking point and the time for a well-deserved rest.

I am writing this article on Saturday morning after the big exodus yesterday afternoon. Some of the students had not completely packed Thursday evening and needed a few minutes after

school on Friday. But our faculty and staff who were going to be traveling had their cars packed and ready to go Thursday night. Many came to school Friday morning with everything in the trunk so they could leave as soon as possible.

They experienced one little delay. The Fridays of fall break and spring break are set aside for parents to visit with the teachers, house parents and others who work with their child. The very nature of a boarding school makes it difficult for parents and teachers to communicate. Since most of our students will be picked up on campus for these breaks, it is a convenient time for parents to visit with teachers and staff. So, even though school was out at 11 a.m. on Friday, the teachers remained in their rooms until 2 p.m. to give parents time to see them. But as soon as the last parent left, the teachers and staff were on their way.

The campus will be very dreary this week. It has no life or purpose when the students and staff are not here. No doubt, some guests will visit this week who have no idea that our students are gone. As they come to the office they will wonder what is going on. We will see the bewilderment on their faces. After we explain, we will see a sense of relief, but also a little frustration that they have missed seeing the students.

This week the schoolbooks will remain closed. Maybe the books need a rest too. Thank goodness that in nine days everyone will be back. Believe it or not, they will be as excited to get back as they were to leave!

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

## Preparing to plant churches

San Antonio native David Osbourne grew up in a rough part of the city and became involved with street gangs. As a 19-year-old school dropout he felt hopeless. "God reached down and grabbed me out of that miry pit and set my feet on a rock," David said. First Baptist Church of Lavernia, Texas, gave him opportunities that culminated in a ministry call.

Seeking God's will, David did an Internet college search. "I received about 20 different brochures from colleges across the U.S. and knew God wanted me at Clear Creek," David said. He made arrangements for someone to meet him at the Knoxville airport. "I remember Dean of Students David Wade said on the phone, 'Are you sure you want to come? We've got about two feet of snow on the ground.' Being from San Antonio I had never seen snow before," David said. He moved to campus that December, without making a prior prospect visit.

On Aug. 4, 2001, David married his high school sweetheart, Rebecca Rhoads. She teaches first grade at Gateway Christian Academy in Middlesboro.

San Antonio is about 90 minutes from the border with Mexico. In the

summer, David joined a team from the Lavernia church on a mission to Zacatecas, Mexico. "We walked across the border carrying our luggage and rode a chartered bus 13 hours inside Mexico," David said. The team did face painting and balloons for the children, distributed free Bibles and tracts to parents, and completed servant evangelism projects.

"We worked with the only Baptist church in a town of 500,000. Lavernia has a continuing link with the area. Missions is a vital part of the church life." David's summer also included two youth camps and several supply preaching opportunities.

At Clear Creek, David serves in the community through servant evangelism projects. "I want to show the love of God through practical ways," he said. This ministry is sponsored by The Gap Fellowship, a new contemporary church in Middlesboro. After graduation next May, David and Rebecca head to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He will pursue a master of divinity in church planting. The program involves two years in class and a two-year apprenticeship.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Can John Eldredge 'wake the dead?'

*'Wild at Heart' author wants to start new spirituality movement*

By Kristen Campbell  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—It's one thing to lose the car keys.

John Eldredge has a graver concern.

The best-selling Christian author fears believers have lost the gospel.

"Bottom line: I'm after a new reformation," Eldredge said. "I want to restore the drama and the supernatural reality to our cynical, post-modern, post-enlightenment world."

The task might seem like a little much for one person to undertake.

But so far, things seem to be going well for the Martin Luther wannabe.

It's not the first time Eldredge has sought to turn conventional Christianity on its head. Two years ago, the Colorado counselor up-ended the evangelical men's movement by encouraging men to fulfill their dreams, an idea seemingly antithetical to the obligation-minded Promise Keepers movement.

In late August, sales of Eldredge's "Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secrets of a Man's Soul" reached 1 million copies.

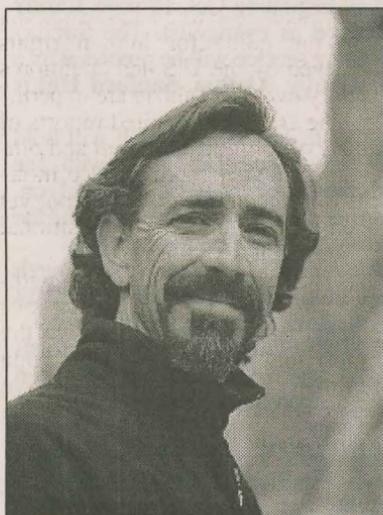
"Nationally, he's real strong," said Ken Summerlin, owner of The Good Book in Fairhope, Ala. "He does paint this vision of a passionate God that makes you want to have that relationship with Him."

The emphasis on expressing unbounded compassion for one's family, one's God and oneself is one that Eldredge explores further in his latest book, "Waking the Dead: The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive." Released in July, 175,000 copies of the book already have been sold.

In the space of 244 pages, Eldredge beckons readers to examine their lives from a new perspective—one that casts them as characters in a battle of good vs. evil that would make J.R.R. Tolkien and J.K. Rowling proud.

### Reviving belief in supernatural

"In the U.S., most people say they don't believe in a spiritual world," said Eldredge, 43. "That's



**ELDRIDGE** The author of "Waking the Dead" has ambitious goals for his book. "Bottom line: I'm after a new reformation."

why we want to downplay 'Star Wars,' 'Harry Potter.' ... Those stories are captivating to children and adults because they open up the possibility again that the world is more than we thought it was. ... That's the worldview the Bible has been trying to give you."

If believers dare to pursue their dreams and adopt such a mindset, they're often invigorated by the perspective, according to Eldredge.

Still, such a step is scary for many, he said.

"We don't want to risk hoping that there really is that good of a God and He really does come through that dramatically. We've made the Bible a book of exceptions—'Oh well, Moses. Oh well, David. Oh well, Queen Esther. Oh well, Deborah ... That's the exception.'"

"It really is our refusal to risk hoping in a God like that. It is our refusal to take evil seriously. We don't want to fight for our life and we don't want to trust in God that deeply. We live a very cautious life and we go to church, we do our deal ... but we don't really hope for much."

Too often, Eldredge said, people believe that their hearts are wicked, and that bad things happen because they're inadequate and lack faith.

Such sentiments began to take root during the Enlightenment, Eldredge said, and have since done much to drown out Christianity's

good news.

"The Enlightenment really exalted the mind," Eldredge said. "It tried to place the mind at the center of human experience. ... People have been trying to live that and it's absolutely killing them. We know more, but we're not necessarily leading better lives."

Ultimately, he said, "we end up not really living from the heart."

Eldredge contends human beings can't carry on that way for long.

Like the prodigal son Jesus spoke of in the Gospel of Luke, Eldredge said, the men and women of the 21st century reach a point at which they don't like their lives anymore.

### Engaging in battle

"We don't understand why life is so hard. Really, that's the biggie," Eldredge said. "The Scriptures tell us that life is hard because it is war. We don't understand that our journey is through a battlefield and a war primarily against our heart. If we would just begin there, it begins to interpret an awful lot."

Eventually, he said, many Christians decide "enough is enough," he said, and say to themselves, "I want whatever it was that God was offering, and I am going to go after that."

While Eldredge is best known for his ministry to men, his latest book addresses the challenges faced by both men and women of faith. So far, he said, women seem to be responding to the message—battlefield analogies and all—as eagerly as men.

"Women don't want to be bit players," he said. "I had a woman tell me recently, 'I feel like a household appliance. I'm useful. I'm helpful.' A woman wants to be an irreplaceable part of a great story, not an afterthought, not something helpful to have around."

It's not that Eldredge has something against people being helpful to one another. He just reminds readers that they ought to help and care for themselves as well.

"Caring for our own hearts isn't selfishness; it's how we begin to love," Eldredge writes in "Waking the Dead." "When it comes to the whole subject of loving others, you must know this: How you handle your own heart is how you will handle theirs."

## Book's borrowed sermon gets leader in controversy

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has come under fire a second time for publishing a sermon that contained significant portions of borrowed and unattributed material.

The sermon, "How Can Everything Be All Right?" by Alvin Jackson, contains passages from a 1982 book by the late theologian Lewis Smedes, The Washington Post reported.

St. Louis-based Chalice Press said it has suspended a book, "Shaken Foundations: Sermons From America's Pulpits After the Terrorist Attacks" that featured Jackson's sermon along with 18 others.

In August, Jackson apologized after he admitted he "borrowed liberally" from at least 17 sermons by other prominent pastors. Jackson said sermons should be held "to a different standard" than other published work.

"I take full responsibility for what I've done," Jackson, pastor of Washington's National City Christian Church, told The Post at the time. "It was poor judgment on my part."

Jackson will conclude his term as the denomination's highest-elected official in October after chairing the Disciples' General Assembly meeting in Charlotte, N.C.

An analysis by The Washington

Post also found significant portions of the sermon were taken from a Baltimore Sun article by Michael Ollove. The Post found that 21 of 22 sentences in Jackson's sermon were copied from a Sept. 12, 2001, story by Ollove.

"I don't remember where I got that," Jackson told The Post, adding that Smedes' material had been in his files for some time. "I don't dispute it, but I don't remember it."

Cyrus White, publisher of Chalice Press, said he typically asks authors to sign a statement verifying that their material is their own. That was not done in this case because of a desire to get the book published by early 2002.



"THE GOSPEL OF JOHN" Narrated by actor Christopher Plummer, the movie features 75 actors and 2,500 extras, most of them from Canadian and British stage. (Visual Bible International photo)

## Film takes Gospel of John word-for-word to big screen

By Ted Parks  
Associated Baptist Press

HOLLYWOOD (ABP)—Jesus in the movies is nothing new.

But allowing an entire New Testament gospel to speak word-for-word in the glossy idiom of the big-screen is unique, say the producers of "The Gospel of John," now showing in select theaters.

A production of Toronto-based Visual Bible International, the new film "follows the gospel precisely, neither adding to the story from other gospels, nor omitting complex passages," explain the movie's makers.

Unlike other movies about the life of Jesus, the filmmakers insist, "The Gospel of John" sticks to one New Testament account rather than borrowing episodes elsewhere in Scripture or from extra-biblical sources.

Producer of "The Gospel of John," Garth Drabinsky, believes the fourth gospel provides an ideal text for translation from page to screen. A film and theater veteran, Drabinsky called John "a magnificently ... structured story on a dramatic basis."

"The Gospel of John" is not Visual Bible's first attempt to translate the words of Scripture into images. Earlier projects by the company include video versions of the New Testament books of Matthew and Acts. But the earlier productions were made under previous owners, explained Visual Bible vice president of consumer marketing, Alex Panousis.

The latest film, produced under new ownership, is a step up from the made-for-video Matthew and Acts, said Panousis, who emphasized the extensive research behind every aspect of the latest production.

"We went to incredible lengths to meticulously recreate that period," producer Drabinsky said of the filmmakers' attempts to accurately reproduce the look of the first century. With filming in Israel difficult because of Middle East unrest, the creators of "The Gospel of John" shot the movie in southern Spain, Drabinsky said. The producer added that "John" was filmed in the same area where famed British director David Lean shot portions of his 1962 epic, "Lawrence of Arabia."

Drabinsky also said the filmmakers sought stage performers free of the "baggage" likely to be carried by big-name Hollywood personalities.

Though well-known Christopher Plummer narrates the movie, other cast members are less familiar to moviegoers, reflecting the producers' focus on talent from stage rather than screen. Henry Ian Cusick, who plays Jesus, performs with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Actors Stuart Bruce (John) and Daniel Kash (Peter) also have done Shakespeare.

"The Gospel of John" follows in the footsteps of other movies about the life of Jesus and precedes Mel Gibson's much-anticipated "The Passion," scheduled for release sometime next spring.

Reviewing the film on his Movieguide.com Web site, Christian film critic Ted Baehr said the movie "brings ... John's gospel alive in a powerful, profound way." Baehr said scriptwriter John Goldsmith did "a superb job of staging and setting the story in such a way that it is constantly compelling."

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By David Platt

In central Nigeria, the common greeting is, "How is your tiredness?" The assumption is that the one being asked the question must be tired to some degree because of the burdens of work and responsibility.

How is your tiredness? What about your wellness? In South Africa, a common admonition is, "Stay well, keep well, my friend." Not a question, but a word of encouragement. And how everyone needs that.

The good news of Jesus Christ is the best news for our weariness and our wellness. The Bible teaches that God has revealed Himself to us in Jesus (John 1:1, 14), Who has provided salvation (wholeness/wellness) for sinners. This salvation is a free gift of God. It cannot be earned no matter how hard we try (Romans 3:22-24; Ephesians 2:8-9).

The response to this good news belongs with us. We can be made right with God by faith (Romans 1:16-17; 5:8; John 3:16) and live under God's rule in His Kingdom.

God's love in Christ offers new life to all—freely, graciously, generously. And the gift also is an invitation. We must respond, repent, trust God and embrace His love and purpose for our lives and for the whole world.

There is both the gift of God's offer of love and the demand to follow Christ's example by living in love, peace, justice and unity with others (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:10).

This good news is the surprising, merciful, unstoppable reach of God in Christ for us—that we may be well.

David Platt is pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church will hold revival services Oct. 5-8, with **Billy Compton** as evangelist. **Dwain Rogers** will direct music. **Edwin Talley** is pastor.

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church recognized **Eleanor Groger** Oct. 5 in honor of her 90th birthday. **Terry Wilder** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will hold revival services Nov. 2-5 with **Bobby Boyles** as evangelist.

Liberty Point Church will hold revival services Oct. 19-23 with **Jeff Perkins** as evangelist.

**Kevin Willie** resigned as pastor of South Union Church effective Sept. 28.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Acton Church will hold revival services Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 7 p.m., and Nov. 2, 11 a.m., with **Tom Coffey** as evangelist.

**John Batcher** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Latonia Church recently honored **Dorothy Menefee** on her 90th birthday. **Steve Hollaway** is pastor.

■ **FINCHVILLE**—Finchville Church recently called **Leslie Conner** as music minister.

■ **FLORENCE**—Kento-Boo Church will host **Jim and Katye Campbell** in concert Oct. 12, 6 p.m.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Central Church will hold a tent revival Oct. 19, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Oct. 20-22, 7 p.m. with **Chad Burdett** as evangelist and **Eddie Sherrow** as song leader. **Rick Clark** is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—**Scott Proffitt** recently resigned as pastor of Macedonia Church.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Alton Church will host **Frank Carter** and

**Shari Farmer** in concert Oct. 19.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Jeffersontown Church will hold a homecoming revival beginning Oct. 12 with **Randy Record** as evangelist. The Sunday evening service will be preceded by a concert by **Alethia Sanford Hill** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will hold revival services Oct. 12-15 with **Joe Moberly** as evangelist. **Tim Talyon**, former minister of music, will lead the music. **Danny Haynes** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—New Home Church will hold revival services Oct. 22-24 with **Mark Burnett** as evangelist.

■ **MUNFORDVILLE**—Munfordville Church ordained **Donald Green** as a deacon Sept. 28. **Kevin Coulter** is pastor.

■ **WALTON**—First Church will hold revival services Oct. 19-22 with **Gene Livingood** as evangelist and **Mike Bryant** as music director.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church called **David Etter** as interim music minister. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.



**GOLF TOURNEY** Jack Acree, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fulton, tees off at the recent Kentucky Baptist Ministers Golf Tournament at Cherry Blossom Golf Club in Georgetown. Looking on (from left) are Tom Smoot, director of the KBC creative ministries department; Jerry Lester of Danville; John Tussey of Richmond; and Steve Coleman of Hopkinsville. The event drew more than 50 ministers.

### 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.

## BEAT Hunger Weekend highlights urgency of hunger relief

**NASHVILLE (BP)**—In the midst of a sluggish economy and the war on terror, the issue of world hunger has moved off center stage, according to Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty officials.

According to recent studies, an estimated 800 million people in the world deal with chronic malnutrition on a daily basis. Despite such overwhelming needs, giving to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund has declined steadily over the past three years, resulting in less food aid being available on the field.

In an effort to help raise the profile of world hunger needs, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has unveiled an updated resource to mobilize churches—and especially student groups—to lead in the fight

against world hunger.

Students across the United States are being encouraged to take part in BEAT Hunger Weekend Oct. 10-12. The emphasis, sponsored by the ERLC, challenges Christians of all ages to get involved in ministry to hungry people. The BEAT Hunger emphasis stands for Believers Everywhere ATtack Hunger.

"God cares about people in need and calls His people to demonstrate His love as we share the good news of the gospel," said Steven Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the ERLC.

### Local, global response

BEAT Hunger Weekend participants are encouraged to respond to local hunger needs through projects

such as delivering food boxes or serving a meal at a homeless shelter. Participants also are challenged to raise support for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. The fund uses 100 percent of donations to support hunger projects.

To help groups interested in working to combat world hunger, the ERLC developed a BEAT Hunger resource kit to guide student leaders in conducting a hunger retreat. The kit includes videos, Bible studies, posters and other hunger relief resources.

"Even though it is designed for high school and college age groups, it can be easily modified for any group," Nelson said.

Mike McCrary, a youth leader at First Baptist Church in Kennesaw,

Ga., said his youth group plans to participate in the hunger relief emphasis.

"We saw God do mighty things through the event last year and are eager to see what He is going to do this year," he said. "Last year, our kids raised over \$2,000."

Lewis Thomas, president of When Will We Cry Ministries, said the project can challenge youth groups to make a positive ministry impact.

"Any student group that does not get involved in BEAT Hunger misses out on a real blessing," he said. "BEAT Hunger absolutely changed our youth group and really infected the whole church with enthusiasm to help others on a deeper level."

For more information, visit [www.beathungerweekend.com](http://www.beathungerweekend.com) or [www.worldhungerfund.com](http://www.worldhungerfund.com).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Religious books (thousands). Send e-mail for list: dudley@dam.net. Evangelist Bill Dudley, 1116 Lacy Drive, Lebanon, MO 65536. (417) 532-2665.

**FOR SALE:** Sohmer console piano. 20 years old, one owner, excellent condition, appraised at \$3,300, willing to negotiate. (502) 966-4026, leave message.

**SEEKING:** Eastview Baptist Church of Henderson, Ky., is seeking a pastor to shepherd a loving, praying, compassionate church. Send resumés to: Eastview Baptist Church, 1017 Earl St., Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Beverly Miller, search committee chairperson.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, N.C., an SBC congregation with a membership of 3,500 and average worship attendance of 2,000, seeks two full-time youth ministers—one for middle school and one for high school. Advanced degree preferred; experience and passion for evangelism and discipleship essential. Send resumés to: Youth Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 312 5th Ave. West, Hendersonville, NC 28739, or via e-mail to fendleys@fbchnc.org.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for North Fork Baptist Church. Please send résumé/profile to: Search Committee, 46A South Webb Ave., Whitesburg, KY 41858.

**SEEKING:** Adult consultant/camp director. Requires experience in the work of Woman's Missionary Union and in camping programs for children and youth. Seeking expertise and enthusiasm, especially in the area of Women on Mission. Supervisory experience with camping programs a plus; master's degree required. Send résumé to: Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

**SEEKING:** Communications assistant for the Communications/Media Department. Position requires 3 to 5 years related experience. Responsibilities include writing, technical and clerical assistance in the areas of video/audio production, Web site maintenance and general media services. This full-time position offers competitive salary and benefit package. Contact the Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Positions for new, non-profit Berea (Ky.) Health Ministry Clinic: registered nurse, certified nursing assistant. For information, call Dr. Ida Slusher, (859) 986-5898.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister needed at South Elkhorn Baptist Church in Lexington. Please call Phil Schultz at (859) 333-4615.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor. Community Baptist Church of Henderson, Ky., affiliated with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, seeks full-time pastor to succeed retiring pastor. Submit resumés and references to: Pastor Search Committee, Community Baptist Church, 1026 Pebble Creek Drive, Henderson, KY 42420. For more information about the church, go to [www.CommunityBaptistChurch.org](http://www.CommunityBaptistChurch.org).

**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 resumés to: Minister Search Committee, Crofton Baptist Church, Drawer E, Crofton, KY 42217, or e-mail: [crofbc@hesenergy.net](mailto:crofbc@hesenergy.net).

**SEEKING:** Minister to youth (mostly middle-school). Loving church with a passion to grow. Part-time (15-20 hours per week): Sunday mornings, Sunday and Wednesday nights, some weekend activities and summer camp. Send resumés with references to: Search Committee, Buckner Baptist Church, 3714 West Highway 146, LaGrange, KY 40031.

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

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

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## Happy birthday

*300th anniversary prompts look at life & legacy of preacher Jonathan Edwards*

By Jeffrey MacDonald  
Religion News Service

BOSTON (RNS)—America's most notable Puritan is back in the public eye. This time, however, it's not just hellfire-and-brimstone preachers who are walking in his footprints.

October marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Jonathan Edwards, the bigger-than-life theologian, philosopher and pastor who quarter-backed the First Great Awakening in the American colonies.

Events at sites from the Library of Congress to the Minneapolis Civic Center will celebrate his life and vast legacy, the extent of which is still being discovered and debated.

Scholars say most Americans know just one thing about Edwards: he preached the terrifyingly famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Yet at this tercentennial, many are discovering the instrumental role he played in shaping the institutions and culture they take for granted.

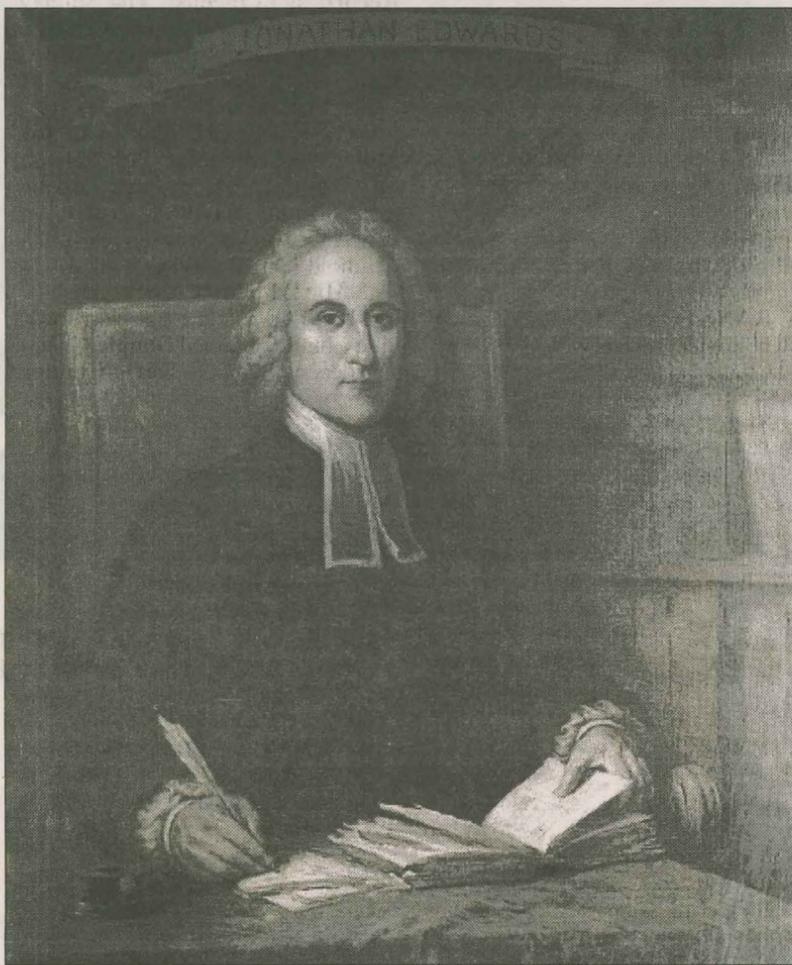
"Edwards is a person who is largely forgotten about or caricatured," said George Marsden, professor of history at Notre Dame University and author of "Jonathan Edwards: A Life." "But Americans need to pay attention to their spiritual founding fathers because the culture is very secular and spiritual at the same time. A lot of people will find things in him that are really fascinating."

For instance, Marsden points out, Edwards figured prominently in America's endurance over the centuries as a nation of believers while Europe became increasingly secular. By launching a tradition of revivalism to stir up a love for God, Marsden argues, Edwards passed on a passion for saving souls that has re-emerged somewhere in every succeeding generation.

### Bridging Calvinism, Enlightenment

Born on Oct. 3, 1703, Edwards came of age in New England as a Puritan theocracy was giving way to a revolutionary democracy. Through this titanic shift, Edwards' writing and preaching bridged two worlds of thought: one of Calvinist trust in a sovereign God, the other of burgeoning Enlightenment trust in the powers of science and sheer reason.

With help from itinerant preacher George Whitefield and others, Edwards revived a waning Calvinism with a vengeance by rigorously defending orthodox doctrines and leading his sometimes resistant flock to tearful conversions in the 1730s. But it was Edwards' ability to understand and incorporate the cutting-edge of science and philosophy that made him a formidable intellect on the international stage and ensured him a spot among the standouts of Christian history.



**JONATHAN EDWARDS** Although best known for his fire-and-brimstone sermon "Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God," Puritan preacher Jonathan Edwards played an instrumental role in shaping early America. (RNS/Yale University Art Gallery)

"In his letters to Europe, he was always asking, 'What do you see as the latest scientific book just published? Will you send it to me,'" said Elise Bernier-Feeley, archivist for the Edwards Collection at the Forbes Library in Northampton, Mass., where Edwards served as pastor for more than two decades.

"He was always thriving on new knowledge. ... He felt compelled to tell his congregation the truth. I love him for that."

Today, Edwards fascinates scholars and evangelical Christians alike. In universities, the number of graduate dissertations written on him doubles every 10 years, Minkema said, with recent interest primarily in his writings on ethics and moral virtue. Meanwhile, movements such as the Charismatic Toronto Blessing in the late 1990s have used Edwards' writings on "Religious Affections" to legitimize and advance their own history-making projects.

### Love versus fear

Even the great spiritual question caused by Sept. 11—why would God allow this to happen?—makes Edwards especially relevant to today's culture, according to Alan Johnson, organizer of "Awakening Hearts and Minds to God," a two-day Edwards conference Oct. 25 & 26 at First Church of Christ, Congregational at Wethersfield, Conn.

"He faced turbulent times. There was terrorism all around him with hostile Indians in the Connecticut River Valley," Johnson said, noting that Edwards often feared for the safety of

his wife and 11 children. "But he had such confidence in God's overall plan for the destiny of man that he brings a certain perspective of solidarity, of calm, of faith to everything."

Such reassurance might seem surprising from the preacher of "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," in which Edwards tells a quivering crowd, "'tis nothing but God's mere pleasure that keeps you from being this moment swallowed up in everlasting destruction." But Marsden and others interviewed contend that "Sinners" is not typical Edwards.

"His primary emphasis in preaching was the love of God," said Bob Davis, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Millers Falls, Mass., and lecturer on Edwards. "The goal of his preaching was to move the soul of the individual hearer to change. It's (logical) thought that then moves the heart to change you. I follow Edwards, and that's what I try to do in my preaching."

When Bernier-Feeley considers why Edwards draws so many admirers 300 years after his birth, she says his unique blend of heart and mind for God is only part of the answer. Many people wish to see his original handwriting, she said, because it came from a man who stood by his beliefs and suffered greatly for them, enduring scorn, dismissal from his post and a dangerous life as a missionary to Indians in his final years.

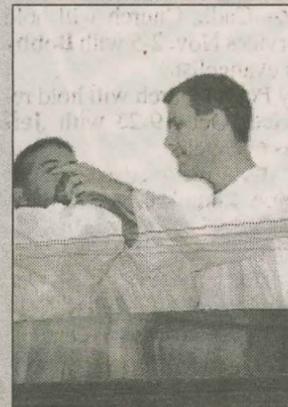
"He was authentic and unwavering," Bernier-Feeley said. "That's what they are looking for these days. If you're looking for someone worthy of being emulated, he is."

## Love of people leads student to Ballardsville Hispanic church

By Jeff Robinson  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

BALLARDSVILLE (BP)—Seminary student Brad White is pastor at a church where many of the parishioners are still learning English as well as Baptist polity.

In July of 2002, White was named interim pastor of New Dawn Baptist Church, a Hispanic church in Ballardsville.



White

Last May, 'interim' was dropped from his title and White—a master of divinity student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville—became the church's pastor.

"There are several baptized believers in the church now and most of them have a Roman Catholic background," White said. "They are not familiar with a Baptist understanding of the local

church and of church membership.

"I am preaching a series now on the church and have just finished writing material for a new members' class, so we will be able to give people an opportunity to join the church."

New Dawn has eight members and averages 30 adults and 10 children in attendance each Sunday. The church still relies heavily on its sponsor church, Ballardsville Baptist Church, so the first goal is to help New Dawn become an autonomous church, White said.

The church also is helping its members learn English, holding weekly classes.

A native of Paducah, White graduated from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in biblical studies.

White studied Spanish throughout high school, but it was a mission trip to Peru after his sophomore year at Union University that planted in White the desire for missions. It also caused White to change the focus of his studies.

"I came back with a passion for Hispanic missions," he said. "My major at Union up to that point had been biblical studies and Spanish had been my minor. After that trip, I switched and made Spanish my major and biblical studies my minor."

Upon graduating from Union, he took a full-time ministry position in Jackson, Tenn., serving in the Hispanic ministry of Poplar Heights Baptist Church, where he remained in 2000-2001. He worked part-time at the church in 1999.

His wife, Cassie, also a Paducah native, shares his love for Hispanic people and culture. She studied Spanish for three years in high school and majored in the language at Union University, where the two of them met.

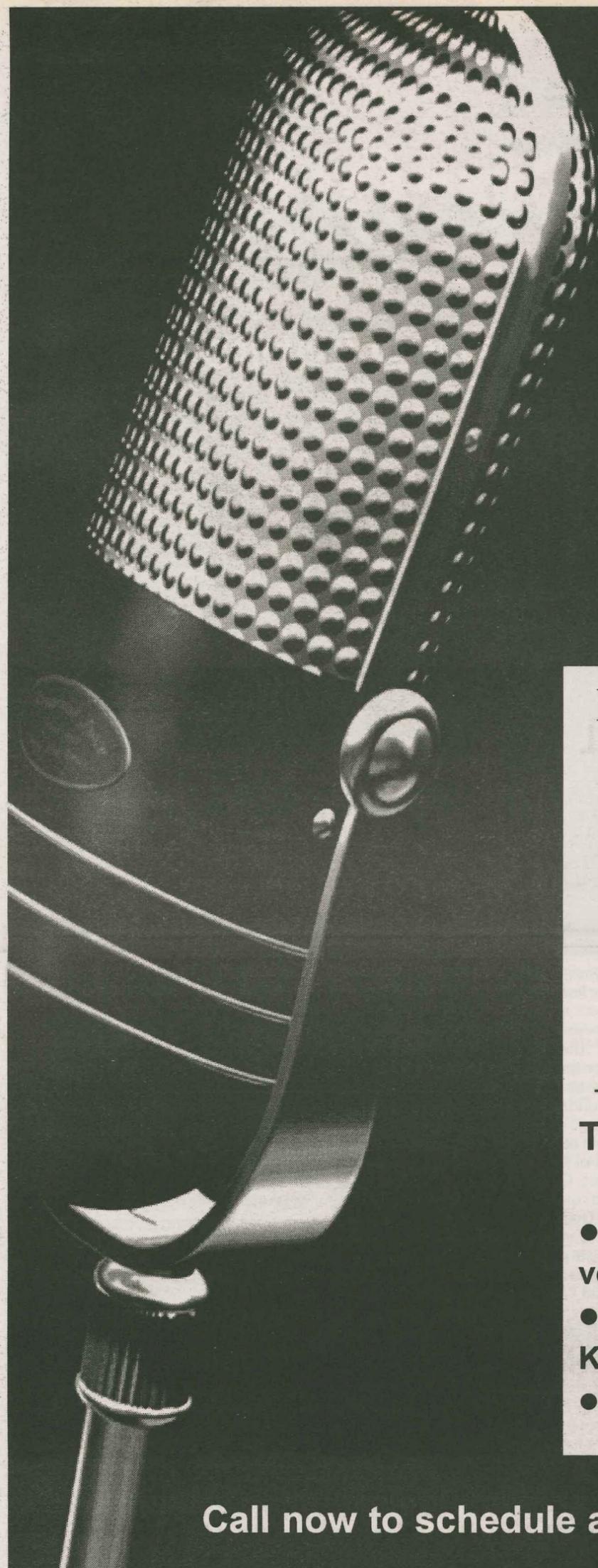
Mrs. White also was shaped by a mission trip. She traveled to Nicaragua the summer after her senior year in high school. It sparked an interest in missions and an appreciation for Hispanic culture.

"After learning about the culture in my classes and after many more trips to Latin America, I knew that I wanted to be involved in ministry to Spanish-speaking persons in some capacity," she said.

A missionary from Venezuela planted New Dawn in October 2001. White planned on serving the church as interim until it found a pastor. After calling one candidate only to see him fall through, White became their prime choice.

While the church is growing, the Whites still see their long-term future on the mission field in Latin America.

"I knew after that mission trip my sophomore year in college that that was where God ultimately wanted me to be," White said. "We have been happy to come here and meet a need. It is great to have an opportunity to do ministry here with these people."



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