

October 21, 2003
Vol. 177, No. 41

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
Southern Seminary's master plan closes child care center. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
Annual meeting's theme: "Missions Beyond the Edge." *Page 3.*

Editorial
Warning: "Life is a temporary assignment." *Page 5.*

Missions
Baptist hospital takes Christ to the dying in India. *Page 6.*



Four-way cooperation
Churches unite for park revival. *Page 7.*

Funerals
What constitutes "a decent funeral"? *Page 9.*

Outreach
Sportsman's Safari connects churches with hunters. *Page 13.*

Study: Missions takes larger hit when churches cut budgets

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

ROCK HILL, S.C. (ABP)—Protestant churches often encourage their members to tithe 10 percent of their income to the church, but few churches apply the concept of proportional giving to their own missions giving, according to researcher Robert Stonebraker.

When churches lose members, for instance, giving to benevolent causes usually takes a disproportionate hit in budget cutting, according to a new study by Stonebraker.

"Instead of paying an off-the-top percent of local revenues as benevolence, congregations often pass along only what local programs and committees cannot grab first," he wrote.

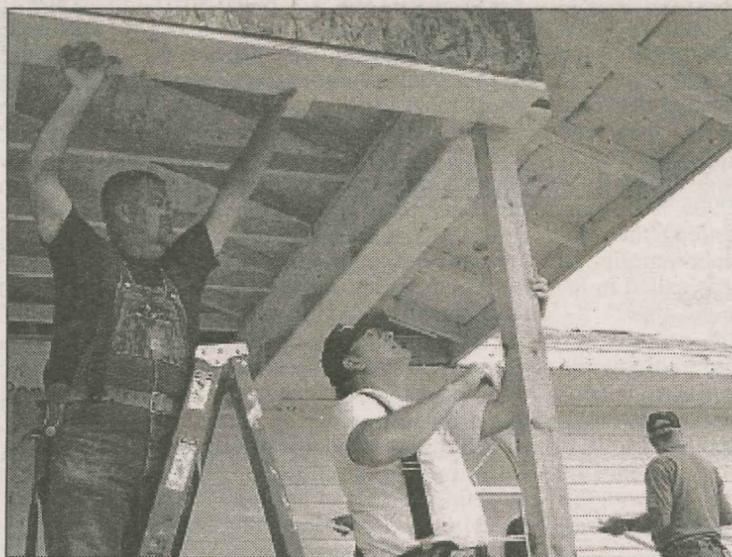
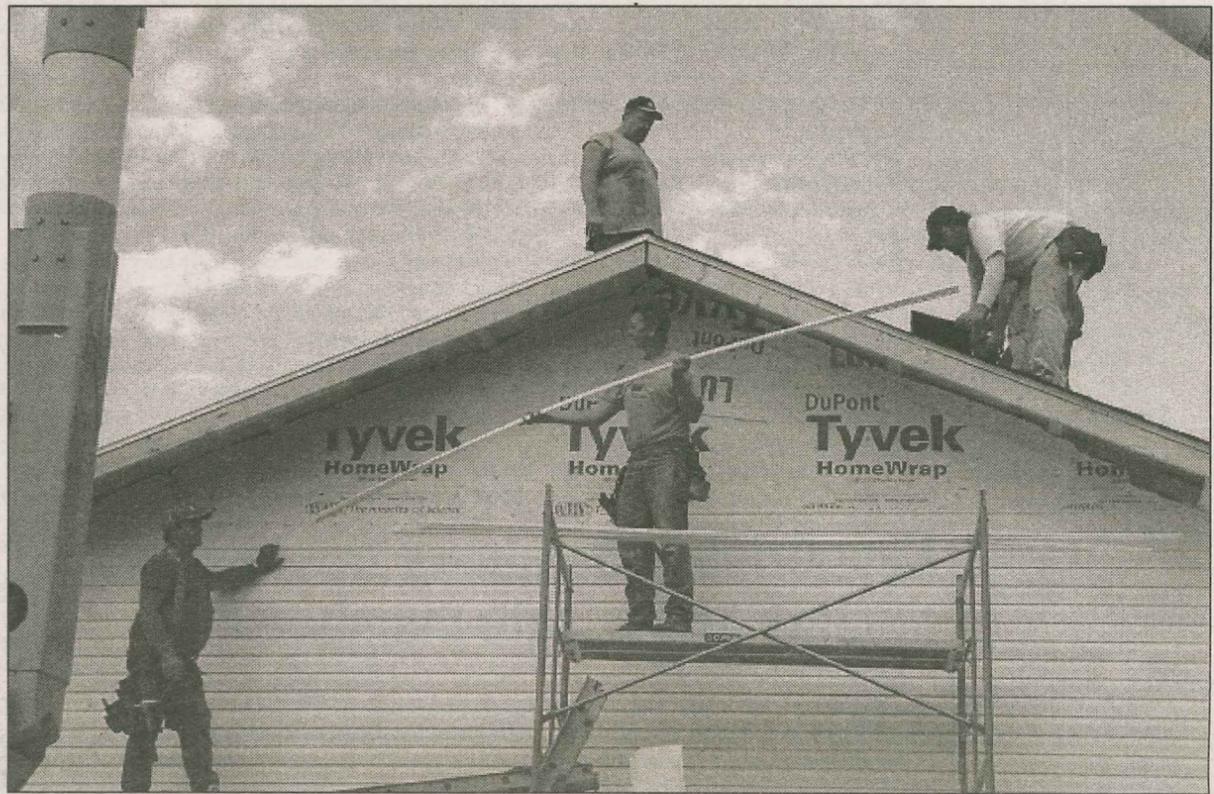
Stonebraker, associate professor of business administration at Winthrop University, published his study in a recent issue of the journal *Review of Religious Research*. His report cited previous studies documenting a decline in benevolence—or missions giving—as a percentage of church income.

That trend crosses denominational lines, the report states.

A recent study found that while giving to Southern Baptist churches has increased 112 percent in the last 15 years, the amount of money those churches give to missions causes has increased at only half that rate. An SBC task force recently issued

□ See Study: Church ..., page 8

Baptist Builders



Earlier this month, 21 Kentucky Baptist Builders worked 800 man hours to complete outside framing and wiring on a new educational building for Hazel Patch Baptist Church, near London. Volunteers from Owensboro, Perryville, Breckenridge County, Danville and Russellville worked Oct. 6-11 to build eight classrooms plus restrooms. Church members helped with the project and joined in a dedication ceremony. "We have just helped you with the building," said Kentucky Baptist Builders coordinator John Edwards said. "It is up to the church to find those who need Christ." Above: Ron French (left), a member of Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Breckenridge County, and Harvey Kidd, a member of Liberty Avenue Baptist Church in Berea, install siding while Joe and Joey Scalf, members at Hazel Patch, install roofing shingles. Left: Lowell Patterson (left) and Jim Routt, members of Sonora Baptist Church, brace an overhang for the building's porch. (Photos by Vicki Edwards)

Muhlenberg Association ministers link churches with community

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CENTRAL CITY—Soon after becoming director of missions for Muhlenberg Baptist Association, Roger Skipworth noticed constant activity along a paved, six-mile path connecting Central City to Greenville.

"I saw gobs of people walking along there and thought we could do something to reach them," said Skipworth, who recently celebrated his third anniversary with the association. "I wanted to let people know about our churches and (that) we weren't dead."

That observation became the impetus for "Jacob's Well," free water given away at a gazebo along the trail.

Volunteers from the association's 43 churches now distribute an average of 200 bottles of water every week. Each bottle carries a label with information about the church, associ-

ation and a brief gospel message.

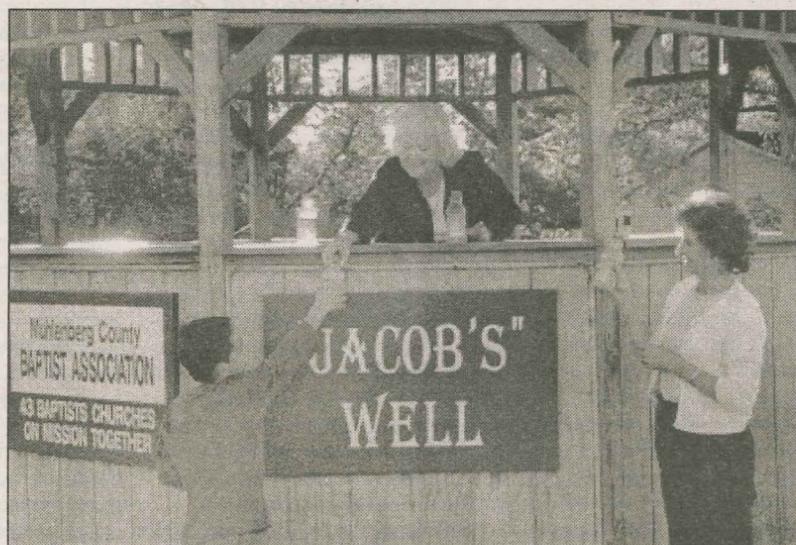
The project so impressed a visitor from Tennessee he insisted on making a donation. And while no conversions have been reported there, Skipworth said "Jacob's Well" has made an impact.

"This has been a wonderful public relations tool for our churches and gives us vision," said Skipworth, a pastor for 28 years before moving to Central City. "It tells people we care and do want to help the community."

This is only one of numerous initiatives formed the past three years. Association members credit Skipworth's hands-on leadership and friendly, casual demeanor for stirring excitement.

"Last week (in mid-September) I passed out popcorn with Roger at a drug-free rally," said Dan Yeager, pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church. "There's always something going on."

□ See Muhlenberg ..., page 12



WATER OUTREACH Volunteers from Muhlenberg Baptist Association distribute water from a gazebo near a popular Greenville walking trail as a cooperative outreach to the community. The "Jacob's Well" project is one of several started by Roger Skipworth since he became director of missions three years ago. (Photo by Vicki Yonts)

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, October 22

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Four Baptist schools** in Kentucky were among 46 member institutions of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and School listed among the leaders in American higher education in U.S. News and World Report's annual survey. Cumberland College in Williamsburg was ranked in the survey's second tier among the Best Universities-Master's in the South. Georgetown College was in the third tier among Best Liberal Arts Colleges-Bachelor's. Among Best Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's, Campbellsville University was ranked in the third tier and Mid-Continent College in Mayfield was in the fourth tier.

■ **A second year** of missed enrollment goals has led to a \$9 million cut in operating expenses at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The projected reductions represent about 3 percent of Baylor's \$320 million budget, according to David Brooks, chief financial officer. During Baylor's current fiscal year, unspent operating expenses will be cut by 25 percent and unspent capital budgets will be cut by 75 percent.

■ **Retired missionary** administrator Charles Willis Bryan died Oct. 11 at age 80. Bryan joined the home office staff of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., in 1980 as senior vice president for overseas operations. IMB President Jerry Rankin said Bryan's emphasis on research-based strategic planning ushered the IMB into a new era of strategic missions. Bryan previously was a missionary to Costa Rica, Peru and Columbia and was area director for Middle American and the Caribbean.

Southern revises master plan, closes childcare center

LOUISVILLE—Citing a need for classroom space, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary officials announced plans last week to close the school's Child Development Center.

The transition of Rankin Hall from daycare to teaching space was one of several changes detailed in a revised campus "master plan" approved last week by trustees at a meeting where they also adopted a resolution against "open theism."

The master plan also outlines:

■ Transforming a 76-year-old auxiliary gymnasium into two large classrooms.

■ Selling the 251-unit Village Manor Apartments to a private company, which will renovate the complex and maintain it as a low-income housing facility.

Seminary President Al Mohler characterized the Child Development Center's closing as a "forced option" based on the need for more classrooms.

"The moves reflect a concentration on our core assignment," Mohler said in a written statement. "We are forced by enrollment gains to make difficult choices and must look to other options for child care needs."

Rankin Hall originally was built for the school of music and later was used as the seminary's school of social work.

Three years ago, the seminary announced plans to close the center but later reversed that decision after an outcry from those who had children enrolled in the center.

"We are very concerned for the well-being of the children and families currently using the Child Development Center's excellent program," Mohler said last week. "We will work with staff and families over the next several months to develop a transition plan."

Currently, 72 children are enrolled in the center, according to seminary spokesman Lawrence Smith. Of

those, 23 are students' children, 12 are employees' children and 37 are children of community residents.

The seminary currently has a "full-time equivalency" of more than 3,500 students, including more than 600 at Boyce College, Southern's undergraduate school, Smith said.

The childcare facility will be closed at the end of the academic year in May 2004, Smith said. The resulting classrooms will be used for Boyce College.

The sale of Village Manor will allow a private entity to receive grant funds for renovation of the apartments, Smith added.

Village Manor currently is 77 percent occupied. Of 193 occupied units, only 75 are leased by seminary students and their families, officials said.

Other changes forecast in the master plan were:

■ A technological upgrade of Alumni Chapel.

■ Installing sprinkler systems to

Carver and Mullins Hall.

■ Adding 136 parking spaces.

Trustees approved spending \$215,000 to repair and renovate the Olympic-size swimming pool. Mohler said the emergency repairs were related to the copper content in the water.

Trustees also approved a \$100,000 allocation as the first step in a \$1 million renovation for the Alumni Chapel organ. Mohler said organ renovations have been needed for more than 30 years, and he predicted the seminary's future budgets will include maintenance accounts for both the pool and organ.

Regarding open theism, trustees passed a resolution identical to one already adopted by seminary faculty.

"Open theism's denial of God's exhaustive definite foreknowledge constitutes an egregious biblical theological departure from orthodoxy and poses a serious threat to evangelical integrity," the statement reads, in part.

New Orleans Seminary trustees decline SBC's 'sole membership'

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary voted unanimously during their Oct. 7-8 meeting not to change its articles of incorporation to name the Southern Baptist Convention as the board's "sole member," making the seminary the lone SBC entity not to do so.

The board, however, approved a motion reaffirming its "deep and abiding commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Since the mid-1990s, SBC entities have been amending their respective articles of incorporation to make the SBC what is called in legal terms their "sole member."

Proponents of the process say that sole membership explains the legal relationship between the convention and its entities in terms with which modern courts are familiar and prevents an entity's board of trustees from breaking ties with the SBC by forming a self-perpetuating board.

In recent months New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley has asserted that sole membership goes against what he views as traditional Baptist polity.

Kelley said he believes in the "objective behind the recommendation"

but has "a profound problem with the proposed solution." He backs the current model of relationship between the seminary and the convention—what he calls "organizational autonomy." Under this, he said, all entities are on a "level plane." In that model, Kelley said, the convention has "decisive influence" but it does not have "operational control."

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman responded, "I deeply regret that the New Orleans Seminary board of trustees has chosen to pass on this opportunity to secure that institution for SBC posterity. Had the board adopted the Southern Baptist Convention as sole member it would have legally clarified the seminary's relationship to the convention, the seminary's parent corporation and benefactor."

Kelley described sole membership as a form of "connectionalism," which he defined as "direct lines of authority and control connecting the bodies and entities within a denomination."

He recommended that other options be explored, such as having seminary trustees sign a covenant pledging their loyalty to the SBC or putting in place financial penalties in case the seminary ignores the will of the convention.

Church bus accident leaves 8 dead

TALLULAH, La. (ABP)—A church bus accident in eastern Louisiana claimed eight lives and left seven passengers hospitalized Oct. 13.

The bus—taking 12 senior adults from First Baptist Church of Eldorado, Texas, and three of their friends on a tour of historic sites—slammed into the back of a parked tractor-trailer rig near Tallulah, La.

Kenneth Thomas, 66, was driving the church-owned bus at the time of the accident. Thomas reportedly told police he fell asleep.

Thomas, treasurer and past chairman of deacons at First Baptist

Church of Eldorado, was hospitalized in Vicksburg, Miss., following surgery on a broken leg.

"The folks on that trip are the reason this church has been so great all these years," said Eldorado Pastor Andy Anderson. "They are the backbone of the church."

The five deceased church members included two couples—Kenneth and Betty Richardson, both 81; Delia Pina, 72, and Domingo Pina, 65—as well as Mary Ruth Robinson, 63. Three non-members were killed: Jean Demere, Laverne Shannon and Jimmie Teel.

Crews resigns as Golden Gate president, named chancellor

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary elected President William Crews to the transition post of chancellor and charged the board's executive committee with the task of recommending a new president for the 59-year-old institution.

Crews, 67, set the process in motion for naming a new president during the board's semiannual meeting in Mill Valley, Calif., Oct. 14 in an effort to provide leadership continuity for the future.

The longest-tenured of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminary presidents, Crews was elected to lead Golden Gate in 1986.

The change "will allow a seamless transfer of responsibilities without the loss of a single step in our pursuit of the dream God has given us," Crews said.

Although officially vacating the office of the president after 17 years of service and moving to the post of chancellor, Crews will maintain the duties of president and chief executive until a new leader is elected and in place, officials said.

Crews and board leaders indicated starting the process now will allow the seminary to take the time needed to conduct a thorough search before his retirement at age 70.

"I chose to start this process based solely on what I believe to be God's will for my life and for the life of this seminary," Crews told trustees. "There has been no pressure coming from secret meetings in faraway places but solely a decision on my part as to what is best for the seminary and my family."

"His career is not done yet and he has plenty of work ahead of

him," said trustee chairman Gary Black of Novato, Calif. "What Dr. Crews has done, in my view, is put the seminary first, ahead of his own interest."

Kentucky trustee Bob Swift, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mayfield, is part of the 10-member executive committee who will recommend a new president.

Golden Gate, the only SBC entity based in the western United States, operates its residential campus near San Francisco and its four regional campuses in southern California, the Pacific Northwest, Arizona and Colorado.

"Golden Gate has forged a leadership training partnership with western states which has become central to accomplishing our shared vision for reaching the West with the gospel," said Jeff Iorg, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention. "A seamless transition of leadership for the seminary will ensure no loss of momentum in our shared mission."

Seminary trustees elected Crews as the school's sixth president in the fall of 1986, during a time of heightened tensions in the SBC between moderates and conservatives.

Early on, Crews established several markers for his administration. Among them, he said, was keeping the seminary within the "mainstream theological beliefs" of Southern Baptist life.

"We have successfully moved through the storms seminaries have faced in the latter half of the 20th century," Crews said. "We have done that in a fashion that has focused on our mission and not engaged in internal battles that could have distracted us from that mission."



Crews

KBC committee hears financial update, expands consultant role

LOUISVILLE—Good news on the economic front and preparing to implement key mission study plans were among major topics during the Oct. 14 meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board's administrative committee.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team, reported that Cooperative Program receipts for the first month of the 2003-04 fiscal year were up more than \$643,000 over the previous year's first month.

After two years of giving that fell below budget, however, he said the increase is necessary to seek to reach this year's CP budget.

Receipts for September totaled \$1,927,261, approximately \$6,000 short of the monthly total needed to reach the KBC's \$23.2 million CP goal.

Ashby said a midyear analysis next spring "will be a very significant time to see where Cooperative Program giving stands and where it is going."

Committee members approved expanding a contract for a mountain missions consultant from 19 hours a week to 30 hours. The position, held by Teresa Parrett since 1999, involves working with a growing number of mission volunteers as well as providing consultation to local churches on a number of ministry issues.

The expansion comes at the same time that other KBC programs and positions are being reduced due to budget restrictions.

"I see this as shifting resources to the place where we see the greatest growth in ministry need at the time," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "We've got to have the flexibility to address where the opportunities are emerging."

Randy Jones, director of the KBC state missions department, said Parrett's role "fits in with the mountain missions strategy that has been developed over the last few years."

He said the number of mission volunteers has nearly doubled during the past three years. He also cited a jump in regional ministry centers from four to 43.

"The growth rate is staggering," Jones noted. "This has been field-driven."

Mackey said administrative committee members also heard recommendations concerning adjustments in staff organization. He said the personnel discussion, held in executive session, is in preparation for presenting proposed organizational changes to the KBC Mission Board Nov. 10.

KBC meeting: 'Missions Beyond the Edge'

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptists will celebrate the appointment of more than 70 new missionaries, elect officers and be challenged to share their faith with people not being reached with the gospel when they convene for their 166th annual meeting Nov. 11-12 in Lexington.

"Missions Beyond the Edge" will be the theme of the two-day meeting. Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers also are expected to approve a new budget and hear reports from the KBC's colleges, children's ministries and other institutions and agencies.

Three of the annual meeting's four sessions will be held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. The Tuesday night, Nov. 11 session will be held in the Lexington Center's Rupp Arena. That session will feature a missionary appointment service, conducted by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, from 7-9 p.m.

Tubby Smith welcomes KBC

Tubby Smith, University of Kentucky men's basketball coach, will extend a welcome to his home court for the more than 7,000 Kentucky Baptists expected to attend. The special service will feature a 1,200-voice choir, 250-piece orchestra and a parade of world flags. Participants also will hear testimonies from missionaries being appointed to serve around the world and a message from IMB President Jerry Rankin.

The convention theme "Missions Beyond the Edge" was selected to fo-

cus Kentucky Baptists on groups of people who are not always ministered to effectively. Messengers will be challenged to step out of their comfort zones to minister to people of different races, ethnicities, income levels and lifestyles. Video segments highlighting cutting-edge ministries throughout Kentucky will be featured throughout the meeting sessions.

Approximately 2,000 messengers are expected for the daytime sessions.

Messengers also will hear a presentation of a Mission Study Committee Report approved by the KBC Mission Board in May. After a year of study, the committee recommended renewed commitments to evangelism, missions, leadership training, church growth, networking and relationships with agencies and institutions in an effort to be more effective in sharing the Christian message between now and 2010.

The KBC annual meeting in November marks the first time the committee's report and recommendations, as well as a report on implementation plans, will be presented to KBC messengers.

The convention also will feature addresses and sermons from several speakers:

■ KBC President Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, will give the president's address during the Tuesday morning opening session.

■ Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, will deliver the convention sermon on Tuesday afternoon.

■ Southern Baptist Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins will bring the Wednesday morning sermon.

Messengers also will hear on Tuesday the recommendation for budget goals from the KBC Mission Board for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Cross Over emphasis

Before the meeting, several hundred Kentucky Baptists will participate in the Cross Over the Bluegrass evangelistic emphasis Nov. 7-9. Volunteers will conduct community needs surveys, invite individuals to visit area Baptist churches for special services, participate in service projects and other ministry projects on the weekend prior to the convention. More than 1,000 volunteers turned out for Cross Over Kentucky, held last year just ahead of the KBC in Williamsburg.

Elections of officers will be held throughout the annual meeting.

At least two people are expected to be nominated for KBC president: Bill Hendar, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, and Eugene Siler, a federal judge with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg.

Messengers also will hear reports from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's agencies and institutions as well as several KBC committees.

For more information about the 2003 convention, contact the KBC communications/media department at (502) 254-4731 or (888) 254-5713 or visit the KBC Web site at www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

Chitwood to be nominated as KBC first vice president

LEXINGTON—Paul Chitwood, immediate past president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, will be nominated next month as Kentucky Baptist Convention first vice president.

Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, will be nominated during the Nov. 11-12 KBC annual meeting in Lexington by John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset.

Toby said he believes Chitwood "will make a good leader for us after his leadership at the Pastors' Conference."

Noting that Chitwood also served on the KBC Mission Study Committee, Toby added, "He has a good background of what we have had going on in the convention and he can provide some positive leadership."

Chitwood is a graduate of Cumberland College in Williamsburg and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Pastor of First, Somerset, since 1999, he previously was pastor of First Baptist Church of Owenton and South Fork Baptist Church of Owenton.

He currently is a trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and an adjunct professor for Southern Seminary's Boyce College.

Chitwood noted that his work on the Mission Study Committee "has given me a sense of optimism for what can happen in Kentucky Baptist life as that vision unfolds."

"I've felt blessed to be a part of Kentucky Baptists," he added. "I would be honored to serve if that's what Kentucky Baptists saw fit."

Mission plan expands college trustee options

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A major change in the qualifications for some Kentucky Baptist Convention college trustees is part of the KBC's mission study plan.

Current guidelines require that all trustees be "members in good standing of cooperative Baptist churches." The mission study plan approved in May by the KBC Mission Board will allow Campbellsville University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Cumberland College and Georgetown College boards to include up to 25 percent of trustees who are not Baptist.

Since that proposal requires a change to the KBC constitution, however, the new wording will be presented to messengers during next month's KBC annual meeting and voted on the following year.

The proposal emphasizes that all trustees "are to be Christians who are sympathetic with historic Baptist beliefs" and whose "intentional commitment" is for each college to remain affiliated with the KBC.

Leslie Hollon, a member of the KBC Mission Study Committee, noted that "nearly half of the alumni of our colleges are non-Baptists. In order for the colleges to have a constituency of alumni that is a reflection of the colleges on their board of trustees,

there should be an opportunity for Christians interested in the life of our colleges to be trustees."

Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, said expanding the schools' base of Christian trustees "best positions our colleges to be financially and programmatically viable for the 21st century."

Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University, emphasized that all of the KBC-related schools "are committed to remaining Baptist and Kentucky Baptist."

Citing the benefit of involving trustees from other Christian denominations, Carter said, "By being able to have a little bit of leeway, we could find those committed Christians who fully endorse the mission of our respective colleges while allowing us to find some very talented members to serve on our boards of trustees."

"It could be a wonderful next step to allow us to garner the resources we need in order for Baptist education to continue to improve and to excel to even greater heights," he added.

Bill Crouch, president of Georgetown College, echoed Carter's views. "This proposal allows us to bring into the inner circle of the college some very successful alumni who really love and care for the institution but who don't happen to be members of Baptist churches," he said.

What does the future hold?

KBC MISSION STUDY PLAN

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey pointed out that "a lot of these people are already helping the schools but if they become involved at the level of trustees, they're learning more about the needs of the schools and they are inspired to give even more to help the schools."

"The other side of it," Mackey said, "is that the schools are making strong commitments to support Kentucky Baptists, to continue their ties to Kentucky Baptists and to work to help implement the mission study report."

In addition to the proposed change in trustee qualification, other goals call for:

■ "The convention and colleges to strategize goals and action plans for each student generation" in order to maximize available resources and minimize duplication of services.

■ The KBC and schools to use "the most effective financial resources to assist students who are called to vocational ministry."

■ "Each of the colleges to pursue a first-class Baptist student ministry."

■ A partnership designed to "create passionate bonds of shared purpose" to help graduates "serve in God's Kingdom work and feel their place of importance in the Kentucky Baptist family."

Describing the mission study goals as an investment in future ministry, Hollon said, "By investing in each student generation, we also are investing in the life of our local congregations."

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
(USPS 679-380)

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.19 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.75 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters from subscribers on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Laura Beville, Bowling Green, chairman; Bill Thurman, Lexington, vice chairman; Mike Harmon, Princeton, secretary; Skip Alexander, Campbellsville; David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville; Ken James, London; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Bill Marshall, Louisville; Linda Polley, Elizabethtown; Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

When you open your Bible to teach

By Rick Warren

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP)—Application answers two questions: "So what?" and "What now?"

If your Bible teaching doesn't ever answer these two questions, you haven't applied the Bible to the lives of your listeners. Many of us struggle in this area. We're taught to find the central idea of a passage, but we aren't shown how to apply this truth to the lives of our students.

I've found the following three ways of applying Scripture to be very helpful:

The application pyramid

I adapted this from Dave Veerman, the senior editor of "The Life Application Bible." He suggests you ask nine questions of the text:

People: Who are the people in this passage and how are they like us today?

Place: What is the setting and what are the similarities to our world?

Plot: What is happening? Is there any conflict or tension? How would I have acted in that situation?

Point: What was the intended message for the first people to hear this passage? What did God want them to learn or feel or do?

Principles: What are the timeless truths?

Present: How is this relevant in our world today?

Parallels: Where does this truth apply to my life at home, at work, at school, in church?

Personal: What attitude, action, value or belief needs to change in me?

Plan: What would be my first step of action?

The application window

The next tool is the application window, which I borrowed from my friend, Bruce Wilkinson, the founder of Walk Through the Bible and author of "The Prayer of Jabez."

He believes 2 Timothy 3:16 describes this application window, showing four kinds of application. In this passage the Apostle Paul says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Simply put, the Scripture is given to change our beliefs and behavior. When you find answers to these four questions, you'll have an application:

■ **Doctrine:** What should I believe?

■ **Reproof:** How should I not behave?

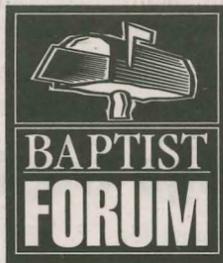
COMMENTARY

Changing priorities

In a recent edition of the Western Recorder, an article released by Baptist Press stated that the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reported a financial crisis looming because of a lack of commitment to biblical giving by large numbers of Southern Baptists and SBC churches are sending decreasing

percentages to the Cooperative Program due to a lack of knowledge or widespread ignorance about the program.

The article printed beside that one was an appeal from the president of the Baptist World Alliance for the SBC to "stay with us" after the SBC reduced that organization's allocation. That article further states that Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said the SBC "is reviewing



■ **Correction:** What should I not believe?

■ **Instruction in righteousness:** How should I behave?

The application acrostic

A third way of looking at application is what I call my APPLICATIONS acrostic. I ask 12 questions related to the text:

■ Is there an Attitude to adjust?

■ Is there a Promise to claim?

■ Is there a Priority to change?

■ Is there a Lesson to learn?

■ Is there an Issue to resolve?

■ Is there a Command to obey?

■ Is there an Activity to avoid or stop?

■ Is there a Truth to believe?

■ Is there an Idol to tear down? (That's a big one.)

■ Is there an Offense to forgive?

■ Is there a New direction to take?

■ Is there a Sin to confess?

Remember, for some people this might be the only pastoral care they ever get in their lives. What you teach them in a Sunday school lesson or during small group time could be the very thing that helps them with a problem.

That's why it is so critical that you deal with the personal application of Scripture.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is the author of "The Purpose Driven Life"

and evaluating the affiliation of the convention with the BWA. ... As we all know, objectives, priorities and purposes change over time within all of our organizations and periodic evaluations become necessary."

Perhaps that is just what SBC churches and Baptists are doing with their offerings since it appears many of the objectives, priorities and purposes of the SBC and its Executive Committee seem to have changed within the past several years.

*Florence Johnson
Frankfort*

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Manchester Baptist celebrates 125 years

In the year of its 125th anniversary, Manchester Baptist Church is active and vital. It is reaching out to young people in remarkable ways and serving the Lord faithfully in reaching its community.

In a recent revival service I attended, about 75 youth filled one side of the sanctuary. Pastor Ken Bolin credits the church's outstanding youth minister, Dusty Grubb. Grubb is a native of Manchester who served the church part-time during his college days at Eastern Kentucky University before becoming full-time youth minister.

In its efforts to reach all people, the church offers a contemporary evening service led by a praise team. On the evening I attended, skits were used to help illustrate the messages delivered by Pastor Bolin and Dr. Terry Bryant, a lay preacher and dentist at the Federal Correctional Institute in Manchester. The name for the service is L.I.F.E. It stands for the Lord's Invi-

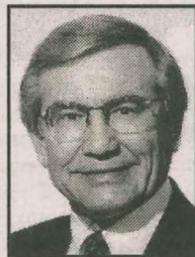
tation For Everyone.

It was so rewarding to learn that the church has a very high commitment to youth. Obviously, adults are willing to forego having some of their needs met in order to reach a younger generation for Christ. That includes a significant financial commitment in addition to support of the Cooperative Program.

The church also has a strong emphasis on Sunday school, vacation Bible school and mission groups for all ages and other educational opportunities.

In 1989, construction was completed on a multipurpose education/recreation building. It provides Sunday school classes as well as a gymnasium and walking track.

It's a wonderful story of faithfulness over the long haul. The church began in a home in 1878 and has at times struggled. In fact, when attendance dropped off from 1911-1915, three churches in town had to meet



Bill Mackey

together. And, without use, the Baptist church building began to fall apart.

Concerned about this, Brit Little, a devout charter member, wrote to the secretary of the State Board of Kentucky Baptists, Dr. W.D. Powell, and asked for help. In July 1914, it took F.R. Walters 12 hours to make the trip from Corbin. He preached two services and the Baptist people decided to repair their building and make a new start. In 1917, Walters was called as pastor, and with the help of the State Board of Baptists he became full-time pastor and a missionary worker in Clay and Jackson counties.

More recent pastors have included I. Houston Lanier (1967-1970); Maurice Barnes (1970-79); D.L. Boatman (1980-81); and Roger Darrell Williams (1982-89). Serving as pastor since 1990, Pastor Bolin and his wife are both Baptist preachers' kids. Their children are active in the church praise band and numerous mission trips sponsored by the church.

Please pray for families like the Bolins who are serving in ministry.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Have you lost any investment funds in recent years?

By Don Spencer

Are the funds in your retirement plan invested in stocks? Do you have money in a mutual fund? Do you own stock in individual companies?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you've probably been concerned about volatility and declines in the stock market in recent years. Stock market volatility is no fun, but it is a natural part of investing.

How you react to stock market declines will play a crucial role in your long-term investment success. Investors who get frightened into making big changes in their investment approach usually end up with mediocre investment results.

There are three important things you should remember about market declines:

■ No one can consistently predict when market declines will happen. Likewise, no one can consistently predict when market advances will occur.

■ Although the past three years have been an exception, market declines generally have been brief. Long-term investors generally come out ahead invested in stocks even when some periods have been somewhat painful.

■ Successful market timing during a decline is extremely difficult because it requires two near-perfect actions, getting out at the right time, and getting back in at the right time. Few people are successful in doing one of these consistently. Even fewer can do both.

A common mistake many retirement plan participants make is to get out of the stock funds near the bottom of a downturn. They become disillusioned with all the bad news and the losses they've experienced. Generally those same people move back into stocks as they approach their highs. Human nature causes them to feel better because they get out of the market when the news is bad and get in when the news is good. Their financial results suffer significantly because they have gotten out at the wrong time and back in at the wrong time.

Know why you are investing. Investing in stocks should be based on long-term goals. Don't change your long-term investment strategy based on short-term market events.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department



What qualities should a young man seek in his future wife?

Q: Our oldest son is beginning to talk with us about the qualities he should look for in a wife. Any ideas?

Encourage your son to read through the following passages of Scripture as he considers the second most important decision of his life—second only to his own decision about giving his life to Christ.

Beside each text is a brief summary of some things he should consider. These, of course, are in addition to the ability to make good coconut cake, a benefit from my wonderful wife of almost 18 years.

■ 2 Corinthians 6:14—personal commitment to Christ.

■ Amos 3:3—faith commensurate with each other.

■ Ephesians 5:22—agreement to spousal equality while affirming different roles.

■ Genesis 24—a servant heart.

■ Proverbs 31:1—noble character/excellent reputation.

■ Proverbs 31:2—trustworthy.

■ Proverbs 31:13-15, 19, 27—industrious worker.

■ Proverbs 31:16-18—has good business sense.

■ Proverbs 31:20—generous/helps needy.

■ Proverbs 31:23—helping spirit.

■ Proverbs 31:28—loves children.

■ Proverbs 31:25, 30-31—substance, not show.

The other crucial passage that comes to mind describes the “fruit of the Spirit” as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Often it is a good idea to ask others what they know about someone before taking the next step to ask that person out on a date. Remind your son that taking his time and setting careful boundaries in the dating and courtship stage will serve him well in the long run.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: A child I know has mentioned the possibility of committing suicide. What should I do?

—Because individuals who commit or contemplate suicide almost always tip their hand first, statements of a wish to die must be taken seriously, even when coming from a child.

At the very least, such statements are an expression of deep pain and hurt—a desperate, discouraged, perhaps depressed child crying out for help. Either way, professional help should be sought immediately.

Ministers, doctors and other helping professionals will be able to recommend competent counselors who work with children. As part of this process, parents or other adults who are responsible for the child need to be made aware of what has been mentioned. At the same time, appropriate confidentiality should be maintained.

Even as professionals intervene, parents, teachers and friends should look for ways to encourage the child and help him or her make the decision to live in the midst of circumstances that perhaps seem hopeless. Pastoral counselor Wade Rowatt urges those who would seek to help to evaluate the stability of the child and be especially responsive to his or her need for love. Talk with the child about his or her worth and let the individual know you care. Remind the child that God loves and cares too.

If you can get the child to talk about the things that are troubling him or her, listen carefully. Don't dismiss a child's problems as trivial. The attention you give might make the difference. In addition to showing love and concern, your interest will help the child who might be simply seeking attention know and understand that suicide is not a joking matter.—*David Garrard*

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



Warning: 'Life is a temporary assignment'

After spending the past few years attending an adult Sunday school class, my wife, Pam, and I are teaching a class of high school seniors this year at Crestwood Baptist Church. It's spiritually invigorating to spend time planning, preparing and participating together with a room full of approximately 25 young people who are facing major life choices and transitions during the next several months.

An added bonus is the opportunity to spend more time interacting with our 17-year-old daughter Emily and her peers. Coupled with the small-group home Bible study we host each week for Crestwood's ninth grade girls—including our 14-year-old daughter Audrey—Pam and I have the privilege of being involved in in-depth Bible study with both of our daughters and their friends each Sunday.

During the past few weeks, we've been leading the seniors in a study of Rick Warren's best-selling book, “The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?” With chapters on such topics as “It All Starts with God,” “What Drives Your Life?,” “Developing Your Friendship with God,” “Defeating Temptation” and “Becoming a World-Class Christian,” the book addresses a number of timely issues high school students are facing.

One of the recent chapters we explored was “Life Is a Temporary Assignment.” While that sounds like a basic, obvious statement that could be covered in a matter of minutes, the way the chapter unfolded left me—and hopefully the teens—captivated by the significance of that simple truth.

During our discussion time, I invited the youth to list the five most important things in their lives. Encouraging them to move beyond the typical “Sun-

day school answers” of God, family, church, etc., I urged them to compile their lists based on their individual attitudes, actions and time priorities. While God, family and church still were included on most of their lists, they also noted that sports, TV, music, jobs and other activities were high on their priority lists.

While such responses are both expected and understandable, it was a clear reminder that sometimes the things we spend the most time on aren't always that important and sometimes we don't give sufficient time and energy to those things that truly are most important to us.

Noting that “it's easy to forget that the pursuit of happiness is not what life is all about,” Warren emphasizes that “we are preparing for something even better.

“Realizing that life on earth is just a temporary assignment should radically alter your values,” he writes. “The abundant life has nothing to do with material abundance.”

Rather than storing up treasures on earth “where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,” Jesus urged His followers to “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there your will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

Anticipating our new priorities in heaven, Warren noted, “You will not be in heaven two seconds before you cry out, ‘Why did I place so much importance on things that were so temporary? What was I thinking? Why did I waste so much time, energy and concern on what wasn't going to last?’”

What are the five most important things in your life—based on your daily attitudes, actions and time priorities?

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Honoring authority honors God

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—“Render therefore to all their due ... honor to whom honor (is due)” (Romans 13:7).

We are living in a very dangerous time. In some ways we are living close to a time of “anarchy.”

More and more evidence is surfacing that we are not giving honor to whom God says honor is due. All too often it is our leaders, secular and religious, who are modeling this form of rejecting those God has commanded us to honor.

God has placed everyone in a position of authority. The Apostle Paul had just stated: “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” (Romans 13:1). Paul added that existing authorities are “God's ministers” (Romans 13:4, 6).

Those in authority today are under great pressures, especially in the nature and magnitude of the deci-

sions they have to make. Their decisions often affect us all, even to succeeding generations. And I sense they feel the awful weight of their decisions.

They also are seeking the finest, most mature and tested advisers to assist them. Rarely do leaders today make decisions alone, even when the final decision is theirs. They believe that “in the presence of many counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14).

But too often today when a leader makes difficult decisions, those who themselves want to be the leader, or who feel their suggestions are not being considered or followed, are very critical, even demeaning, of the current leaders.

Paul warns those who “resist the authorities” that have been placed over them. He cautions that “those who resist authority resist the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Romans 13:2).

Any nation that fosters or encourages resistance to authority is putting their nation under God's judg-

ment. And if this resistance is perpetuated as “politically justified” (in secular society or in religious circles), this will foster a “rebellious spirit” on all levels of society, including our schools, universities and our homes.

So what are we to do?

■ Model before others, especially our family, thoughtful examination of decisions made, but guard against the appearance of “rebellion.”

■ Pray for our leaders that they will seek, receive and obey God's guidance for their authority, and seek to be transparent “ministers of God.”

■ Strive to be godly leaders ourselves in any sphere of influence God may grant us.

■ Be content to live in the area of spiritual authority God has entrusted to us.

May God grant us the courage to express our views, even when they conflict with others, and to have the grace not to break fellowship with our brothers merely because we differ. God will be honored, and others encouraged and helped.

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

FIRST PERSON

Baptist hospital & hospice take Christ to dying in India

"I've seen many facing death with cheer after they get inspired by the life of Jesus Christ."

M.P. George, chief chaplain for Bangalore Baptist Hospital

By Joshua Newton
Baptist Press

BANGALORE, India (BP)—Little Williams always had longed for a blue toy car to play with. But his parents had no money to buy one.

Dr. Anuradha says she considers herself blessed for delivering the toy to the boy hours before he died.

"Williams had a twinkle in the eye before he passed away," said Anuradha, who heads the hospice and home care team of Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India. (Many residents in this culture are known by only one name.)

"I'll never forget that 13-year-old cancer patient," said Anuradha. "I'm sure he had the same feelings about us too."

Many of the staff members at the Baptist hospital today remember similar instances as they have ministered to hundreds of people dying in pain.

When the Indian Ministry of Health invited Southern Baptists in 1973 to offer medical service to the rural poor in India, some enthusiastic Baptists here managed to find an old chicken coop to start the clinic on the outskirts of Bangalore in India's Karnataka state.

Karnataka encompasses nearly 55 million people, most of them in 33,000 villages. Spanning 300 people groups, the majority of the population worships the countless gods of Hinduism; only 1.9 percent claim Christianity, in any form, as their religion.

The 80-bed venture has now grown into a busy but calm hospital with a 150-bed acute care facility. Adding its modest inpatient and outpatient facilities, the hospital cares for more than 80,000 patients annually.

Sharing the Christian message has been a priority of the hospital throughout its three decades, resulting in 900 churches across the state over the years. Experts from the Christian Medical College in Tamil Nadu guide the hospital in management and services. Dr. Santosh Benjamin, the hospital's director and chief executive officer, said care for the underprivileged will continue to be the driving force of the institution.

"The challenge we face is to remain competitive and remain spiritually relevant to present daily health needs," Benjamin said. Currently, the Baptist hospital is hoping to raise



TOUCHING THE TERMINALLY ILL Dr. Anuradha (left) of the hospice and home care team of India's Bangalore Baptist Hospital discusses their home visits with a colleague. (BP photo by Joshua Newton)

funds for intensive care units, a postpartum recovery facility and a central sterile supply department.

"Our hospice and home care team is emphasizing improving the quality of life and adding life to days," Benjamin noted.

Making house calls

A team consisting of a doctor, two nurses, a social worker and a chaplain visits homes in the suburbs of Bangalore to look after patients facing life-limiting illnesses such as cancer and AIDS.

"Such patients prefer to be at home instead of being in a hospital," the doctor said. "Our home care team strives to make this possible by providing palliative care at home."

Anuradha's team visits 25 homes every week from Monday through Friday. They spend two hours in each home, providing free medicines as well as answering questions and giving counsel to relatives and patients themselves about the stage of a particular disease.

"Many of them don't know what to do about a patient who vomits or shows symptoms of pain," Anuradha said. "So we plan ahead the method and medication for each family. (The) chaplain either does counseling or teaches them to pray."

The hospital began its hospice and

and home team, who has been at the hospital for 30 years. "Some people readily accept the message of Jesus when we impress them that death does not mean defeat," he said. "We fill those minds with courage and hope. I've seen many facing death with cheer after they get inspired by the life of Jesus Christ."

Many families have turned to Christ after their service for the dying, George recounted. "Isn't this what Jesus wanted us to do?" he added.

"A fresh lease of hope"

"Fear and confusion reign the minds of the dying," said Nityanand, a Baptist pastor with the home care team. "To them we show the beauty of Jesus' message. Then they become ready to build relationship with God. Once they believe, they get a fresh lease of hope."

While some Christian mission groups have threatened by Hindu militants, the Baptist home care team has so far been welcomed wherever they visit. But the chaplains are well aware that the situation may change at any time.

"In Jesus we walk and we have no fears," Nityanand said. "We believe in the beauty of our mission."

The Unhindered Gospel

A Conference on Creeds and Confessions

Saturday, October 25

10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Melbourne Heights Baptist Church

3728 Taylorsville Road

Louisville, Kentucky

Featured Speakers:

Dr. David Currie

Coordinator, Texas Baptist Committed

Dr. Mark Medley

Associate Professor of Theology
Campbellsville University

Don & Angie Finley

Former IMB Missionaries to Brazil

Special Music by D.E. Adams

Lunch will be provided

Registration or information (502) 454-4681

Sponsored by Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky

15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

LifeWay has the solution—a 15-passenger mini-bus that meets Federal safety standards.



- Mini-Bus
- 15 Passengers (No CDL)
- 2/1 Seating
- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- Raised Roof
- Longer Wheelbase
- Dual Rear Wheels
- Steel Construction

- SERIOUS CONCERNS-**
- How much financial liability can your church bear?
 - Insurance rates are going up!
 - Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
 - Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
 - Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

• Call us: 1-800-370-6180
• Visit us: carpenterbus.com

LifeWay
CHURCH BUSES
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.
Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

Fellowship leads pastors to launch joint park crusade

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Four pastors in southern Louisville recently linked their churches for a unique revival service at a local park as a way to connect the Christian message with their community.

The pastors say the four-night revival at the Iroquois Park amphitheater was simply an extension of the fellowship they have been sharing for nearly two years after they started meeting for prayer and encouragement.

"If pastors can let down their guard long enough to make these kinds of relationships with their brothers, ... then they will find the burden of ministry easier and the enthusiasm stronger," said Randal Pollock, pastor of Rockford Lane Baptist Church.

The revival united Rockford Lane with Carlisle Avenue, Ormsby Heights and Parkwood Baptist churches at the newly renovated amphitheater. Each pastor preached one night at the "Faith for Today—Hope for Tomorrow" crusade.

"It's a great venue," Rick Bowden, pastor of Ormsby Heights, said of the 2,400-seat facility. "It's just a bit more massive than we imagined."



PARK PRAISE Two members of Parkway Baptist Church in Louisville raise their hands while singing at Iroquois Park in Louisville. Parkway united with Carlisle Avenue, Ormsby Heights and Rockford Lane Baptist churches for the four-night event last week. (Photos by David Winfrey)

Bowden said they hoped the park setting would encourage members "to bring unchurched friends who might not want to come to a church setting but might come to a venue like that."

Benny Phelps, pastor of Parkwood, said the four pastors began meeting a year and a half ago to pray, talk about

their ministries and encourage each other. "We just feel as though the Lord brought us together," he said. "What we've experienced is there's no competition."

Thinking outside church building

Those meetings led to joint worship services among the churches and brainstorming sessions by the pastors for joint outreach projects. Last year, the churches hosted a tent revival, and this year they decided to take the churches to the community by meeting at the new and improved amphitheater.

Shawn Merithew, pastor of Carlisle Avenue, said residents' curiosity about the renovated facility drew about 70 people with no connection to the four churches for the first service on Sunday evening, Oct. 12. An estimated 700 people attended that night, he said.

The churches raised more than \$7,000 in advance of the four-night crusade, allowing planners to not take up an offering during the worship services, Merithew added.

"It's just awesome again to see what God's done," he said.

Marshall Kellum, minister of worship at Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, led the music each night.

Pollock said the amphitheater posed a challenge he doesn't have in



SERMON Rick Bowden, pastor of Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, preaches at the "Faith for Today—Hope for Tomorrow" crusade.

his own pulpit. "When I stood to preach, they killed the house lights, so I was preaching to the dark."

All four pastors cite their growing friendship as a source of strength for their own ministries, and their combined work.

"When you've got a cheering squad out there encouraging you on toward the goal, saying, 'You can do it. Go for it,' it tends to build that enthusiasm to go forward for the Kingdom's sake."

Merithew noted that too often churches have a spirit of competition instead of cooperation. "We're so afraid that some of our members might like somebody else's church," he said. "But that's not having a proper Kingdom perspective."

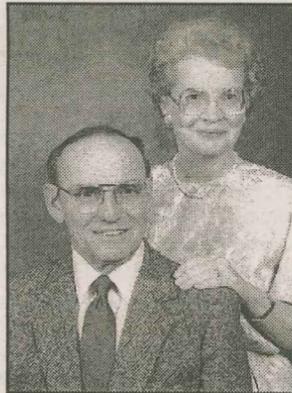
Pollock said the four of them are diverse in their ministry styles but he sees two traits in his fellow pastors: "First of all is just the most intense love for the Lord Jesus that you can imagine. And flowing out of that, the second thing that they have in common is they have a deep and passionate desire to see God do something with their churches. ... Out of that comes creativity like this."

Phelps said he hopes their cooperation can attract other local churches in evangelism projects. "Our hope is to expand and at some other point for other fellowships to come alongside us."

Pollock said the group will wait on God to show them whether to host such an event again next year. But he added that the one crusade night when the temperature dipped to 50 degrees and the wind was blowing, he turned to Merithew and made one prediction: "If we do this again next year, we're doing it in August."

Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Is pleased to announce the establishment of an Endowed Scholarship in recognition of



Paul J. & Christine B. Godsey

This scholarship will be awarded annually to students preparing for the ministry as a way of maintaining the legacy of Paul and the continuing heritage of Christine.



You are invited to affirm the faithful witness of two of God's servants whose roots in Kentucky are deep.

We hope you will make a commitment to the Paul James and Christine Booth Godsey Scholarship.

For more information on how you can participate, contact:



BAPTIST SEMINARY OF KENTUCKY

150 E. High St.
Lexington, KY 40507

859-455-8191
www.bsky.org

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION 2003 MESSENGER CARDS

ATTENTION PASTORS:

Messenger cards for voting privileges at the KBC are available **upon request** from the KBC Executive Office. Avoid long lines at the convention—request your messenger cards now.

Please make your requests to:
Kentucky Baptist Convention
PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433
Attn: Wanda Karolyi

Phone: (888) 254-5712, ext. 254
Wanda.Karolyi@kybaptist.org

Deadline: November 5, 2003

Study: Church budget cuts take bigger dip from missions

Continued from page 1

a warning that the convention will face a funding crisis if this trend continues.

Researchers suggest a variety of factors contribute to the trend, including declining interest in denominational programs, lack of vision, lack of understanding of worldwide needs, discontent with denominational leadership and direction, and increasing costs to pay and provide benefits for church personnel.

Size affects giving

Stonebraker's study suggested church size also is a factor. He examined a random sample of 2,085 congregations affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Like most other mainline Protestant denominations, the ELCA has experienced membership loss—from an average of 275 members in 1990 to 265 in 1996.

At the same time, the real value of average benevolence giving—what Baptists would call missions giving—from ELCA congregations dropped from \$17,674 to \$16,091, and the share of church income going to benevolence fell from 12 percent to 10.3 percent.

Stonebraker's detailed analysis of the Lutheran data proved his hypothesis true: Smaller congregations give less per member to benevolence than larger congregations. And changes in benevolence giving correlate to changes in church membership, he found.

"When congregations lose members, revenues fall, and they fall faster than expenses," the study said. "A loss of members means leaner offering plates with few offsetting drops in cost. The pastor must still be paid, the church must still be heated, and the organ must still be repaired. The re-

sulting financial squeeze raises the opportunity cost of sending benevolence dollars on to the larger church."

When churches grow, their benevolence giving per member tends to increase because of better economies of scale, Stonebraker noted. This is true despite documentation that larger churches tend to receive less income per capita than smaller churches.

The latter trend is known as the "free-rider" effect. Stonebraker explains it this way: "The larger the group, the easier it is to hide. Shirking one's proportionate responsibilities is tough in a group of two but easy in a group of 2,000. For those seeking only marginal commitment, large congregations are the places of choice."

Per member costs

Free riders raise the costs of operation for more committed members because while they don't give, they tend to demand services at high levels.

On the flip-side, the larger the church, the less expensive it is to deliver services on a per-person basis, Stonebraker added. For example, building and maintaining a structure to seat 1,000 worshippers is not twice as expensive as building and maintaining one to seat 500.

Therefore, the larger the congregation, the larger the percentage of budget made available for discretionary use.

Stonebraker's study documented the actual impact of size on benevolent giving: "A congregation with twice as many members as another devoted about a 21 percent larger share of its receipts to benevolence than did its smaller counterpart in 1990 and 17 percent more in 1996. In other words, if a small congregation

Study: Members' giving grew in 2001

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (RNS)—Giving by church members increased in 2001 for both internal operations and activities beyond the local church level, a new study by empty tomb has found.

Giving as a percentage of income increased for total contributions from 2.63 percent in 2000 to 2.66 percent in 2001, based on data from a group of denominations studied by the organization since 1968.

Sylvia Ronsvalle, co-author of the study, said the findings indicate church giving was generous in the year when the nation was rocked by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"The data suggests that church members continued to support their congregations even during a year of social upheaval," she stated. "The upturn in benevolences may suggest that church members chose to help victims of the 9/11 tragedy through their church structures."

The study by the Champaign, Ill.-based research organization found that giving was higher among

mainline Protestant denominations studied than evangelical Protestant ones from the 23-year period of 1968 to 2001.

Among denominations tied to the National Council of Churches, per member giving as a percentage of income to congregational finances increased from 2.67 percent to 2.78 percent, a 4 percent jump. There was a 38 percent decline in the category of benevolences, or activities beyond the local congregation, from 0.63 percent in 1968 to 0.39 percent in 2001.

Among denominations affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals, per member giving as a percentage of income to congregational finances declined from 5.01 percent in 1968 to 3.56 percent in 2001, a decline of 29 percent. Giving to benevolences dropped 38 percent from 1.14 percent in 1968 to 0.71 percent in 2001.

"The State of Church Giving through 2001" was released Oct. 15, the 13th in a series published by empty tomb.

allocated 10 percent of its receipts to benevolence, a congregation twice as large, on average, would have been sending about 12 percent of receipts into benevolence."

But even larger congregations have demonstrated the same drop in benevolence giving as a percent of total income.

"Ultimately, it is a matter of priorities," Stonebraker said. "Denominational loyalties have declined, and with few parishioners directly affected by benevolence, benevolence is rarely the priority. The self-interest of

congregations is often to keep their own staff and committees happy."

But exceptions do exist, and those exceptions often relate to pastoral leadership, he added.

"One mainline church official commented privately that pastors held the key to benevolence; that he could trace the movement of pastors from congregation to congregation merely by looking at shifts in congregational benevolence payments," Stonebraker said. "Different people do have different priorities and, in the end, people determine budget allocations."

Supreme Court to hear 'under God' pledge case without Justice Scalia

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has recused himself from the Supreme Court's upcoming consideration of the constitutionality of the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scalia did not state why he would not consider the case, but the filer of the suit regarding the pledge had requested that he do so, Associated Press reported.

Michael Newdow, a California atheist and parent, had asked Scalia to recuse himself because of comments he made criticizing the appeals court decision that the phrase "one nation, under God" in the pledge was unconstitutional.

If the high court makes a 4-4 decision in the case, the lower court ruling would be upheld, affecting millions of schoolchildren in nine Western states.

In remarks at a "Religious Freedom Day" event in Fredericksburg, Va., in January, Scalia said that courts have exceeded their authority in keeping religion out of public schools and the Pledge of Allegiance question should be answered by legislators instead of judges.

Brent Walker, director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, defended keeping the pledge with the reference to God. "Including the words 'under God' does not render the pledge unconstitutional because it just acknowledges that we are a religious people."

The court will hear oral arguments in the case sometime next year.

Extended Teaching Care

Available for Kentucky Baptist Convention & Pastors Conference



Extended teaching care for a limited number of preschoolers and children (ages 6 weeks-5th grade) will be available during the sessions of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors Conference and the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Nov. 10-12 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Care will be provided by
ADVANCE RESERVATION ONLY!

Call 888-254-5709 or 502-254-4730 to make reservations. There is no charge for this service.

This service made possible by the
Cooperative Program.



What is 'a decent funeral'?

Increase in America's unchurched citizens means fewer religious funerals

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (ABP)—In a society where half the population claims no religious affiliation, a growing number of people don't want a minister conducting their funeral.

In fact, many are forgoing any memorial service. When they do, it leaves "a gap" in the grieving process for loved ones left behind, according to Perry Kite, a Baptist layman who served more than 40 years with the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, first as dean and later as president.

"People end up feeling a loss in not getting to say 'goodbye' and having the opportunity to communicate about the person who is deceased," said Kite. "When they play like it didn't really happen, it ends up being hard on people."

Author Doug Manning put it in even starker terms. When there is no funeral, he said the deceased person remains "missing and presumed dead" to loved ones.

To fill that void, Manning is leading a movement to provide a meaningful secular alternative to religious funerals. Funerals have healing power, and they don't lose that power just because they are not overtly religious, he said.

When non-religious people die, their families and friends need a significant service that reflects the values and life of the deceased, said Manning, writer and publisher of widely distributed resources on grief, including "Don't Take My Grief Away from Me."

"They deserve funerals. They hurt just like we do. But for the most part, all we have offered have been religious funerals," said the former Baptist preacher.

A meaningful alternative?

An alternative that emerged more than 10 years ago in Australia and New Zealand is the civil celebrant, a layperson trained to conduct non-religious funerals and weddings. Currently, in parts of New Zealand, civil celebrants perform six out of every 10 funerals.

Christians help by understanding 'layers of grief,' author says

DALLAS (ABP)—Grief is like peeling an onion, says author Doug Manning. "It comes off one layer at a time—and you cry a lot."

The former Baptist pastor said Christians can help grieving family members and friends by understanding their pain. The first thing to recognize is that grief is a messy process, not a clear-cut series of stages that each person passes through in a prescribed time period, he said.

"Grief is as unique as a fingerprint," said Manning, author of "Don't Take My Grief Away from Me." "Each experience is unique unto itself. There's no schedule, no right way to think, and no right way to peel away

About five years ago, Manning started writing about the "celebrant" concept in funeral home trade publications. In response to the interest expressed, he developed the curriculum for a training program, and about 300 certified celebrants have completed the 16-hour course.

Celebrants offer personalized services focusing on the life of the deceased individual in a way that reflects that person's beliefs and lifestyle, he explained. The services include recollections about the person who died, as well as meaningful readings or songs consistent with that person's values.

Saying something about a life

Manning said too many ministers have one or two prepared funeral sermons they use in every instance, without making the effort to spend time with family members and learn about the person who died, he said.

"A funeral can be such a healing thing if it is personalized," Manning said. "If you don't make it personal, you've missed them."

Veteran pastor James Semple agreed. "Something ought to be said about the significance of the life that has been lived. It shouldn't be a non-event when any person passes on," he said.

Semple said he often conducted more than 50 funerals a year during his quarter century as pastor of First Baptist Church in Paris, Texas. He lost track of how many funerals he participated in, but said he remembered frequently leading three a day.

"My main objective has always been to bring comfort to the family," Semple said.

Semple customarily met with family members before he prepared his funeral message. He encouraged them to tell stories about the deceased, and he asked if any of those remembrances might be included in the service as a tribute to their lives.

"Nearly everyone has something good that can be said about them," Semple said.

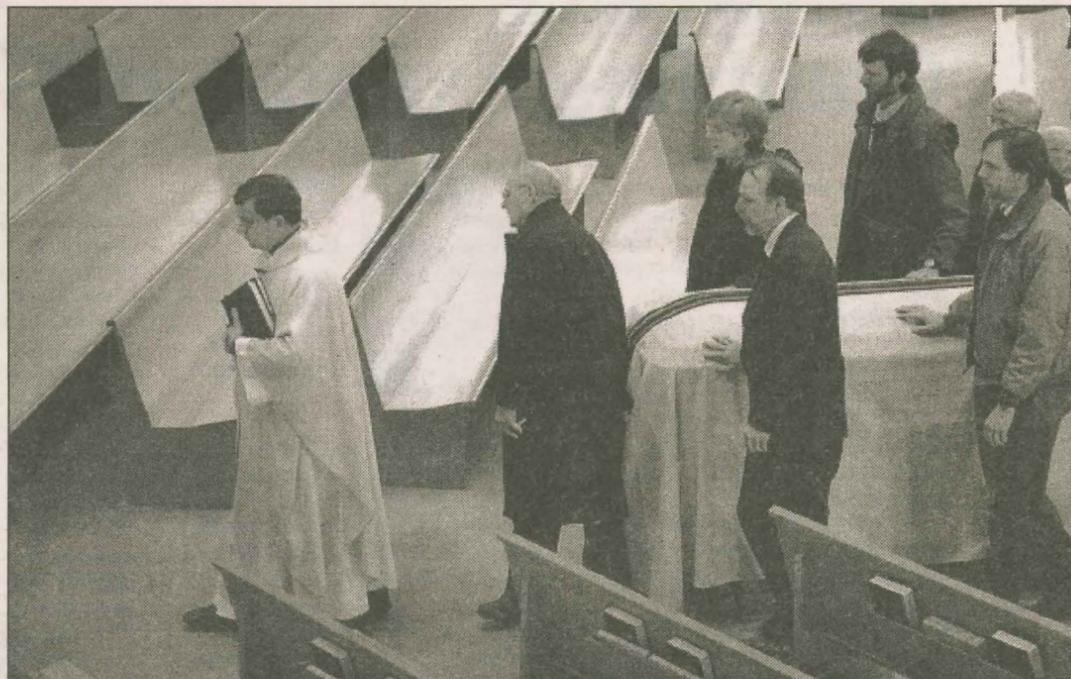
But not every minister takes the time to show that level of personal interest, particularly in non-church

the layers."

The days between a death and a funeral are like the paper-thin outer skin of an onion that comes off easily and blows away, he explained. Those are the days when the bereaved person is in shock and is surrounded by caring people carrying casserole dishes, he added.

"We give people the most help when they can receive it the least, when they are all awestruck. But the funeral is often the climactic event in the care and comfort offered by friends," he said.

Once that superficial outer skin is removed, he said, the real grieving process begins in three identifiable



members, Manning noted. Instead, they sometimes impose their beliefs on people who are not receptive, or they offer the hope of life after death to those who don't even believe in it.

"If all we do is talk about heaven, we've missed them," he said.

Some people feel emotionally abused by ministers, Manning noted. "Most people aren't anti-God. But many of them are anti-religion or anti-clergy."

Future ministry opportunities

Establishing a relationship that can lead to ministry later is one thing that draws some ministers to celebrant training events, Manning said.

"They see it as outreach," he explained. If a Christian celebrant provides a meaningful memorial service for a non-religious person that honors the life of a deceased and the wishes of survivors, then the believer has earned the right to offer a gospel witness to the bereaved family later in the grieving process.

"But I can think of no greater open door you could have for ministry to a non-Christian," Kite noted.

"Minister to them at their time of loss. Then when you go back to see them later, that's when some may be ready to say, 'I see that you have something better than what I've got. Tell me about it.'"

What makes a funeral meaningful?

DALLAS (ABP)—Doug Manning, a former Baptist pastor and author of several widely distributed books about grief, offers several observations about the proper purpose of a funeral:

■ **It offers a safe place to grieve.** "People need permission to grieve," he said. "A funeral is the last place on earth where it's OK to grieve publicly. And too often, we try to hide it, to sanitize it, to get through it without anybody crying."

■ **It underscores the reality of the loss.** "I believe it is best for the family to view the body, whether anybody else does or not," he said. "It's not real until you see it. That which we leave to the imagination comes back to haunt us."

■ **It establishes significance, both of the life that has ended and of the loss to those who survive.** Funerals provide the bereaved a chance to "inventory their loss," Manning explained. By talking about the deceased, and hearing others talk about that person's contributions, family and friends can establish the significance of the loss and begin to "move on," he said.

■ **It offers bereaved survivors a specific time and place to recall where a deceased family member or friend was honored.** It provides "roots" and "connection" to the one whose life has ended. "There needs to be a place where the loved one is remembered," Manning insisted.

■ **It provides a place where the ministry of presence is practiced.** Bereaved people need companionship, Manning emphasized. "It's not what we say. It's where we are. Folks just need somebody to be there with them."

layers:

■ **Reality.** A few weeks after the funeral, the shock wears off and the reality of loss sets in. "That's when you crash," he noted. Manning maintained that Christians can help at this point by doing three things: "Hang around, hug them and hush."

■ **Reaction.** At some point, anger emerges. "Anger is a natural reaction to being hurt. When the anger comes out, it means the grieving person has hit bottom and is starting to fight back," Manning said. "The problem with anger is that it doesn't float well. It needs a place to focus."

The object of anger may be the deceased person, a physician, a min-

ister, a surviving family member or even God. Anger only becomes unhealthy when it becomes internalized and self-directed, Manning said. At this point, the main thing the grieving person needs is a companion who will walk with them through the process, he said.

■ **Reconstruction.** Eventually, the grieving person will move on with life, but Christians can help them realize that life will never be like it was before the loss. "A chunk has been bitten out of your heart, and it will never grow back," Manning said. "But we can offer assurance that the sharp pain will eventually become a dull ache."

Perspective: It really is common sense

Gambling Expansion: Getting It Straight

The question of whether Kentucky should expand gambling is a *public policy issue* – not a “private policy issue.” This means that whether you plan to gamble or not, it will affect you. It also means that many people who gamble will be against expansion because they recognize the complications it will bring.

The Family Foundation, as a public policy organization, has researched the issue thoroughly and has concluded that there are four aspects of society that will absolutely be changed forever—and not for the better. . .

I. FAMILY: Expanded gambling targets families. Corporations can't gamble, businesses can't, institutions can't, schools can't, churches can't, nonprofits can't, clubs can't – only moms and dads, and a few singles—not to mention that grandparents, regularly pay big at the gaming tables. . . In other words, all the BILLIONS of dollars that they say will be raised over the years through gambling is just a shift of assets FROM the hands of the family INTO the hands of the gambling industry. Government gets its share simply by heavily taxing the money as it changes hands. The bottom line is that family picks up the whole tab, and tragically, government,



Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

charged with protecting families, is maneuvering to get in on the action.

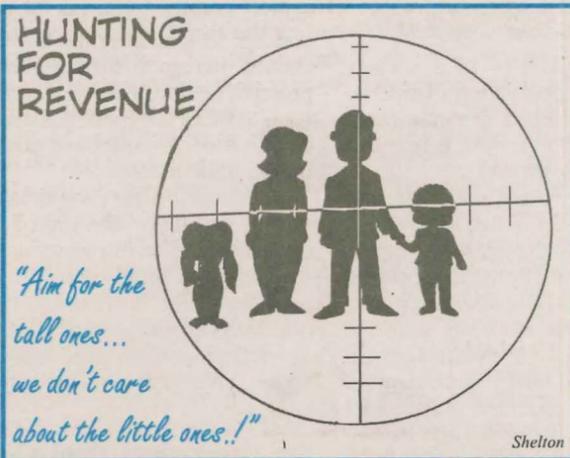
II. BUSINESS: Once families lose, businesses lose. Once families lose they can't eat out, buy their children new clothes for school, purchase a new refrigerator, or . . . fill in the blank. In other regions of the country where casinos/racinos have opened, the losses to business have been clearly documented. Further, jobs that gambling expansionists often boast will increase do so only briefly (2 to 3 years). At that point there is an overall loss of jobs. Only the gambling industry, and newly opened pawn shops, continue to prosper.

III. GOVERNMENT: Government will be corrupted. This is scary, folks. Think about it. . . With literally billions of dollars going into the hands of the

gambling interests, who will become the greatest contributor and most influential group in the political process? If our legislature is “gambling friendly” today, how much more “friendly” will it be ten years from now, when all of its members have received sizeable legal contributions from the gambling interests? And how easy will it be for them to “replace” anti-gambling legislators? Now imagine that there's a debate, as Nevada had, as to whether to legalize prostitution in order to embellish the “good times.” What about making strip bars and pornography more available? If gambling interests want it, what will the legislature do?

The gambling world is all about two things – A good time and the bottom line. “Good times” demand prostitution and strip bars, and of course, when good times go awry, you'll need abortion to be readily available. “Nice” legislators that will vote for gambling today will themselves be replaced within ten years by pro-gambling legislators that will not care one iota about family values. We must ask ourselves, if government comes under the heavy hand of gambling interests, how likely is it to escape that corruption?

IV. THE VULNERABLE: There will be some human beings, those poor in spirit, as well as poor in financial assets, whose lives will be totally destroyed – suicide, spouse abuse, divorce, child neglect and abuse, embezzlement, alcoholism, and crime, both victim and perpetrator. The family will be ravaged financially, but its fortunes will turn even worse as the pressures mount and the *individuals* in that



family are hurt by the one who is ensnared and who flails like an animal caught in a trap.

When families or businesses need money, the first thing they do is cut their expenses. Why can't our state government learn from its people? The second thing government should learn from families and businesses is *NOT* to go to a casino in hopes of generating more income. Why is govern-

The bottom line is that family picks up the whole tab, and tragically, government, charged with protecting families, is maneuvering to get in on the action.

ment suggesting that this is good for its people? Why is government assuming it's good for itself? If government truly needs money, let it pursue it along the route that it

lawfully is allowed to: through taxation, not through unsavory partnerships with the gambling industry that allow both to fleeced the people.

Can the progression described above be stopped? Sure, that's why you've received this publication. But do remember this reality: “All that it takes for evil to triumph is for good men (and women) to do nothing.” Sign up and act. . . and together we'll stop this expansion – this predictable calamity – in Kentucky.

Please Act!

Both candidates for governor, Democrat Ben Chandler and Republican Ernie Fletcher, are being courted by those who want to expand gambling.

Please take a moment (two minutes max) and call both campaigns. Simply leave a kind, but firm message that says something like. . .

“Please work against any expansion of gambling”

You'll likely leave this message with a campaign worker or on an answering machine. Either way, you can trust that your words will have an impact.

Chandler campaign 502-223-0003
Fletcher campaign 859-296-6761

And. . .

Please sign up to help us in your community. Much is going on regarding the expansion of gambling and much more needs to be done – the Action Item above is just the beginning. We can work together and we'll keep you abreast.

Call us at: 859-255-5400
Contact us via: www.SayNoCasino.com
Mail to us at: TFF P.O. Box 22100
Lexington, KY 40522
Email us at: tffky@mis.net

For more information, visit:

www.SayNoCasino.com

www.kybaptist.org The official web site of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

www.kentuckyleague.org The web site of The Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems

www.kycage.org The web site of the Coalition Against Gambling Expansion

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SMILE

Planned givers

A recent survey released by the National Committee on Planned Giving, of which I am a member, provided some interesting revelations about planned gift donors. I wanted to share some of the findings with you for whatever value they may be in your stewardship considerations.

Although charitable bequests were the most popular of all planned gifts, only 8 percent reported having a charitable bequest in their wills. Only 42 percent of the responding households had a will. While planned giving donors were spread across all income levels, they tended to enjoy higher income levels than the general population. This was particularly true in the case of charitable remainder trust donors. The majority of bequest donors were women, while charitable remainder trusts were more likely to be completed by men. Planned giving donors overall were older and less likely to have children at home. The vast majority also supported charitable interests with cash gifts.

The top five reasons given for making a charitable bequest were: (a) desire to support the charity (97 percent), (b) the ultimate use of the gift by the charity (82 percent), (c) desire to reduce income and estate taxes (35 percent), (d) long-range

estate and financial planning issues (35 percent) and (e) creation of a lasting memorial for self or loved one (33 percent).

Only one in three donors had informed the charity of a bequest. The most common reasons for not telling the charity in advance were lack of desire for attention and privacy concerns. While most bequest donors had some affiliation with the charity, a surprising 21 percent had no prior affiliation. The conclusion was these 21 percent chose the charities that addressed the causes in which they were most interested regardless of whether they gave to the charity during their lifetimes. The majority of bequest donors included more than one charity in their wills.

Charitable intent continued to provide the most important motivation for making a planned gift. The role of financial advisors and tax planning issues has increased the importance for charitable trusts.

These results were consistent with our experiences in serving Kentucky Baptists. Let us help you to become a planned giver. Call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free.

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

Adoption an option?



International Adoption Meeting

10:30 a.m. - Noon, Saturday, Oct. 25

Families interested in international adoptions are invited to attend an Oct. 25 meeting hosted by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and presented by America World Adoption Association.

Call (800) 928-5242

to make reservations and for more information.

KBHC's Pregnancy and Adoption Services offers information and emotional support to birth parents facing unplanned pregnancy and to couples interested in adoption. The office in Louisville works with individuals and families throughout Kentucky.



Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 66 or 80, for example (abbr.)
- 4 Father of Ethan (1 Chronicles 6:44)
- 9 Laughing sound
- 11 Jether's son (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 12 One of two
- 13 Preserve
- 14 Compass dir.
- 15 "Bread corn is bruised; ... nor break it with the ___ of his cart" (Isaiah 28:28)
- 16 Ancient entrance
- 17 One of the families of the tribe of Benjamin (Numbers 26:39)
- 19 "They made their lives bitter ... and in all ___ of service" (Exodus 1:14)
- 21 Certain vessels
- 22 ___ fried
- 23 Laziness
- 24 Achieve
- 27 Poetic contraction
- 28 April correspondent
- 30 Together with (prefix)
- 31 Wife of Joseph (Genesis 41)
- 34 Possessor
- 37 Commit larceny
- 38 Son of Roboam (Matthew 1:7)
- 39 Note on diatonic scale
- 40 Reluctant visitor to Saul in Damascus
- 43 "Surely Moab shall be as Sodom ... even the ___ of nettles" (Zephaniah 2:9)
- 47 Biblical verb, KJV
- 48 Drum or drop

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	
11				12						13		
14			15						16			
17		18					19	20				
		21						22				
23							24			25	26	
27					28	29					30	
31			32	33				34	35	36		
			37					38				
				39			40				41	42
43	44	45				46			47			
48					49			50		51		
52					53					54		

Teri Grottko

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
E	H	I	O	R	P	A	H	M	E
H	E	N	R	O	U	S	E	A	Y
U	Z	T	A	B	L	E	H	I	D
D	E	B	A	T	E	R	I	N	E
K	E	R	O	S	S	E	A		
W	I	S	E	R	K	E	L	I	A
E	A	T	A	B	S	O	R		
T	H	I	R	S	T	Y	H	U	K
R	I	E	T	I	R	E			
B	E	S	I	N	G	I	N	G	
C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	L	O
O	R	E	N	E	B	A	T	A	S
L	O	W	G	N	A	S	H	H	E

© 1999 Barbour Publishing

- 49 Son of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 51 Bind
- 52 She may be out to pasture
- 53 Identifies
- 54 Occurrence (arch.)

Down

- 1 Measles symptom
- 2 "For my soul is full of ___" (Psalm 88:3)
- 3 Apiece (abbr.)
- 4 Son of Levi (Genesis 46:11)
- 5 List components
- 6 Pronoun
- 7 Ship steering
- 8 European isle (abbr.)
- 9 Loathe
- 10 Unit of measure for manna
- 13 Father of Melchi (Luke 3:24)
- 15 "___ meanest thou, O sleeper?" (Jonah 1:6)
- 16 Tiny winged insect
- 18 More destitute
- 20 Likely
- 23 Red or Dead

- 24 Simile component
- 25 "Out of whose womb came the ___? and the hoary frost of heaven" (Job 38:29)
- 26 Conjunction
- 28 Pronoun
- 29 With "factor," a group of antigens
- 32 Memo
- 33 Son of Gideoni (Numbers 1:11)
- 34 Minor prophet (abbr., var.)
- 35 "Who hath gathered the ___ in his fists?" (Proverbs 30:4)
- 36 Refuge for David, when first fleeing Saul (1 Samuel 19)
- 38 Hook
- 40 City of the tribe of Issachar (1 Chronicles 6:73)
- 41 Continent
- 42 Instruction manual word
- 43 Competition
- 44 Weather beaten
- 45 Before (poet.)
- 46 Gershwin
- 50 Linking verb

Muhlenberg Association links churches to community

"I made ministry needs known to several churches. When I did, they were more than willing to help."

Roger Skipworth, Muhlenberg Baptist Association director of missions

Continued from page 1

The association is giving away more than free water and popcorn. Since 2000 its benevolence ministry has expanded more than 10-fold.

In June of 2001 its food pantry moved into a 20-by-40-foot addition. The outreach now helps more than 250 families a month, compared to 20 families previously. That is a significant boost to low-income residents in the county, which ranks high in state unemployment statistics.

Expanding benevolence ministry

To supplement the food outreach, the association has added a financial assistance ministry to help people with medical and high winter heating bills. The program dispensed more than \$3,800 during the 2002-03 fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31.

Meanwhile, its clothes closet helped 890 families last year and gave toys to 200 children of jail and prison inmates.

The latter is part of a new ministry to inmates at the Muhlenberg County Jail and the state-run Green River Correctional Complex.

The jail program includes a trio of Sunday services for men and women, plus three mid-week Bible studies for men, women and work-release inmates. Churches provide speakers for Sunday worship and for a monthly worship service at the state prison.

A year ago, the association secured the services of a Mission Service Corps worker for a ministry at the Job Corps campus in Greenville.

Harrell Riley of Princeton visits the site regularly to do Bible studies, tutoring and counseling. In August the agency allowed the association to start using an old mobile home as a library. Association leaders also hope to start chapel services there.

This summer, the association leased a privately-owned skating rink in Central City, where it has been holding monthly skating outings for children the past three years. A separate outing for 75 teens from Job Corps started last November.

Drawing between 50 and 300 youth each month, the children's skating events include a devotional. Last June the rink saw its first youth rally, which featured a Christian ventriloquist.

Three children accepted Jesus as Savior, bringing to 14 the number of young converts in 2002-03. The numbers are even higher for the jail and prison ministries (127) and at the Job Corps campus (150).

Vickie Yontz, Muhlenberg's director of children's ministries, said skating provides a needed social outlet.

"In our county if you're not involved in athletics or music, like band, there's not a whole lot for you to do," said Yontz, a member of Roland Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville.

New life for local Brotherhood

Local Baptists also have resurrected their associational Brotherhood group.

In the past year, men renovated six mobile homes and houses. They in-

stalled an assortment of materials, such as gas heaters, a roof, ceiling tiles, siding and insulation.

Gary Hines, pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church, oversees the Brotherhood and food pantry. While he would like to see more volunteers involved in Brotherhood, Hines said churches generally have responded to community needs.

After learning more about the benevolence ministry, some congregations increased donations from \$20 or \$30 a month to between \$100 and \$300, Hines said.

Leaders acknowledge some setbacks, such as a seminary extension program in the Green River prison that was curtailed after last spring.

Yeager, who also serves as chaplain for the Muhlenberg County Jail, said too many students dropped out and failed to return textbooks, making it too expensive.

But he and another volunteer are preparing to start a mentoring program in January. Designed for prisoners who are soon to be released, Yeager hopes to match them with churches and jobs.

Teamwork and "go-getter"

Yeager said Skipworth helped stimulate ministries to inmates. A former chaplain at Green River had rejected Yeager's offer of conducting services there. But after arriving, Skipworth suggested visiting the new chaplain who proved to be receptive.

"Roger always gets alongside people and helps get things established,"

Yeager said. "He says, 'Let's do it together.' It's a different approach that works here."

"Roger is a go-getter," Yontz added. "His sense of humor has a way of breaking down walls. He helps us see the light side of life and not take everything so seriously. When people do that, they can be less critical of others."

This kinder, gentler style was needed after a mid-1990s controversy surrounding the ouster of a church that listed the pastor's wife—a Christian counselor—as an ordained member.

The conflict resulted in a second church voluntarily leaving the association.

Skipworth said he could sense lingering problems when he arrived.

"It was a difficult time," said the missions director, who said he tried to overcome discord by getting people involved in meeting others' needs.

"I made ministry needs known to several churches," Skipworth said. "When I did, they were more than willing to help. Volunteers come along a little slow, but it's getting better all the time."

Randy Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions department, said Muhlenberg illustrates how purpose and direction can benefit any association.

"The model would be to contextualize whatever opportunity exists for ministry in your community," Jones said. "Be sensitive to needs and answer the question, 'How can we be serving God in this community?'"

Cancelled due to ice

It was Saturday evening, Feb. 15, 2003, when I got a call from the pastor of Cave Springs Baptist Church in Horse Cave. He was not sure if our choir should try to make the trip Sunday morning.

The weather is always a factor when it comes to transporting students. The forecast for that Sunday was not good, but it appeared that most of the really bad weather would be to our north. I had been watching the Weather Channel. We had rain, but not the freezing rain they were forecasting. So I was ready to go.

Another call came Sunday morning; Cave Springs had to call off services because of freezing rain. The real challenge was trying to reschedule the choir since we were booked a year in advance with no Sundays open. Nearly anyone who lives in the northern half of Kentucky remembers the huge ice storm of Feb. 15-16. Many businesses and residences were without power for a week or longer. Boy, was I ever glad the pastor called off the services.

We rescheduled the trip for Oct. 12, our first choir trip of the new school year. What a difference eight months can make. It was a delightful fall day, great for traveling. After the morning service at Cave Springs we made our way to Corbin, where the choir sang at Hopewell Baptist Church. Both churches fed us and treated us like royalty!

Our choir will be on the road nearly every Sunday from now until the first of May. We consider it a great privilege to be invited to share in song and testimony. We always appreciate a pastor who is willing to give up his pulpit for the Sunday morning service. We realize that not every pastor wants to do that, but in order for our students to

get back to campus at a reasonable hour, we normally only sing during the morning worship time.

If you and your pastor would like to have someone come to your church to tell about the Oneida Baptist Institute ministry—how your mission dollars are being used and how OBI might be able to meet a need in your church—we would be happy to come. Someone from my staff or I am available to come on a Sunday or even a Wednesday evening. There is no cost to the church except allowing us the privilege of sharing a little of the Oneida story during the regular worship time.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Many Kentucky Baptists do not know much about the ministry Oneida provides to young people in grades 6-12. It is not uncommon to visit a church and hear someone say he had heard of Oneida, but didn't know just what we do. Others tell us they always thought OBI was only for "troubled" boys and girls. We understand why people might draw those conclusions, but it is not a fair appraisal of our ministry. Our young people do come to us because of needs in their lives. But to categorize them as "troubled" is not a fair assessment.

Your Cooperative Program dollars help support this ministry. We have students from all across Kentucky and the U.S. If you do not understand what we do, you most likely are missing opportunities to direct young people to our school. You also may wish to have someone from OBI share during a missions emphasis. Just call and we will do everything we can to meet your request.

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

Preparing for ministry in drama and music

Ohio student Kevin Zell considered several options to fulfill his ministry calling. Why did he choose Clear Creek?

"Actually, this was the last place I saw myself," Kevin said. "God chose it for me. He spoke to me one night before church and said, 'You go there or I won't use you.' So it was a done deal at that point."

Kevin came to Christ at age 8 and surrendered to the ministry a year later in his grandparent's church. "My uncle was the first preacher I remembered, so I grew up in a family church," Kevin said. "I spent some time away from that, and a friend got me hooked on theater and film and I always loved music." Kevin did some college theater, then dropped out for a few years. "God got a hold of me in 2000 and said, 'It's now or never' and pointed me in the right direction," Kevin recalled. "I saw how theater, film and music could all be used eventually in ministry."

At Grace Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio, Kevin directed the adult choir and was responsible for the sound system. The last two years he produced a Christmas drama/music program involving the youth group and the choir. Pastor Doug Criswell

is a 1992 Clear Creek graduate. Kevin is prayerfully seeking an opportunity to work with a local church in music and drama. During the recent community block party, he helped set up the stage and sound equipment.

Is it an issue being single in a school where most students are married? "No, it has been quite surprising because many times that diversity creates splinter groups. At Clear Creek we come together for projects like the community block party," Kevin said. "The best part, so far, is getting to know the people here. I've already made a great group of friends. Kelly Hall is like living in the Hilton."

Dayton is different from Clear Creek. "I grew up on a farm but lived in Dayton the last 15 years," Kevin said. "The biggest adjustment here is driving at night where you don't have streetlights. And there are a few more curves in the road."

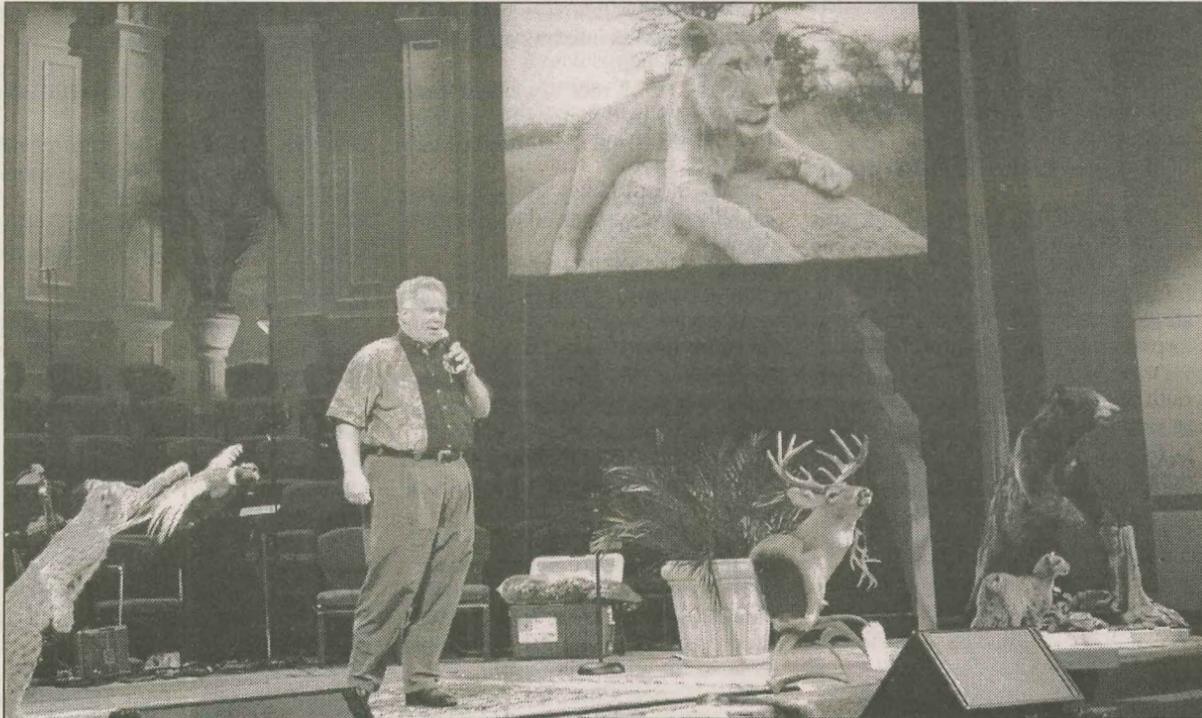
CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

Sportsman's Safari



A WORD TO DADS Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson exhorts men to turn to Christ at a "Sportsman Safari" at First Baptist Church in Lavaca, Ark. (BP photos by Matthew Miller)

Outreach helps churches connect with hunters

By Gregory Tomlin
Baptist Press

LAVACA, Ark. (BP)—What do muzzleloaders and trophy bucks have to do with evangelism? Everything if you're ministering in Lavaca, Ark.

More than 1,300 men and boys gathered at First Baptist Church of Lavaca, a rural church near Fort Smith, Ark., for its Sportsman's Safari Sept. 15.

The turnout was especially large for a town with a population of 1,800.

The goal of the event was "to get guys to see the things at church that they're normally looking for in the woods on Sunday," said Pastor Grant Ethridge.

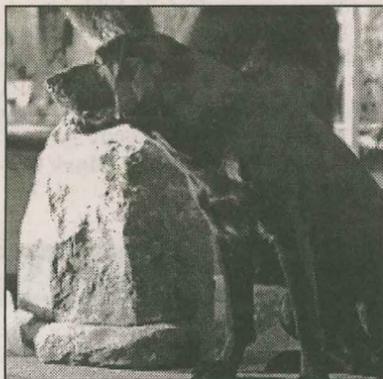
Associate Pastor Stuart Smithson said the church wanted to offer an exciting outreach to men. "Men, hunters in this area, are one of the most unreached groups of people. We see a lot of single moms, even married moms, in church each week. But the fathers are not involved. They're out hunting."

Enter the church, which sought to use the passion for hunting to stir in the men a passion for Christ.

The Sportsman's Safari included exhibits by outdoor sports vendors, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and trophy buck hunters. Ministers at First Baptist estimated that 75 percent of those in attendance were not members of the church.

Exhibits included "monster bucks," archery equipment and firearms. African big game hunter and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson followed up with insights on hunting plains game in Zimbabwe.

After displaying photos of his African trophies, Patterson encouraged men to help address "America's No. 1 problem," which he described as a "war against boys."



CHAMPION DOG Boomer, winner of ESPN's 2003 Great Outdoors Games hunting dog competition, sits on the stage during First Baptist Church of Little Rock's sportsman's banquet last month.

Patterson said the establishment of laws to prevent men from hunting and owning guns has produced a generation of fathers disconnected from their sons.

"Today there is a war against boys. ... You've got to make little girls out of your little boys," Patterson said.

A dog, a gun & a dad

He said dads can still give boys what they need. Little boys, he said, need three things: a dog, a gun and a dad.

"Every little boy needs a dog," Patterson said, "and not a little 'yip' dog, but a big dog that he can be proud of." By learning to care for the dog and providing its food, grooming and veterinary needs, Patterson said, the boy will learn responsibility.

Similarly, the boy will learn responsibility and respect for the safety of others if he has a gun. "Get him a gun," Patterson said. "Not a play gun, but a real gun. Play guns are the most dangerous guns in the world."

Patterson recalled that when he was teaching his son how to shoot his first rifle, he took him out on a west

Texas ranch at dusk. "I put a can up on the fence and he aimed. When he pulled that trigger, fire flew from the end of that gun and lit up the place, and he thought he'd been kicked by a mule." The event reinforced in his son the danger of using guns irresponsibly.

Patterson said that every boy also needs a father, because without a father there "is no image in the house they can relate to. He needs a daddy who doesn't just bring home the bacon, but who develops a relationship with him."

Sons follow after their fathers no matter the kind of persons they are, Patterson said, noting the spiritual implications: "No little boy needs a daddy or granddaddy who will take him to hell. He's going where you're going. ... When you go to hell, look back over your shoulder, he'll follow you there."

Patterson asked the men to prepare for the future. By becoming Christians, he said, God would make each one a "real man" and guarantee him eternal life; then, their sons would follow their example.

"You won't go to hell and you won't take your kid there. You'll go to heaven and your kid will follow you there."

Patterson presented a similar message at a second sportsman's banquet at Little Rock's First Baptist Church the following evening. More than 600 attended the church's second annual outreach.

Twenty-seven men made professions of faith in Christ at the Lavaca banquet. Another 36 men made professions at the Little Rock banquet.

"This is men reaching men," Ethridge said. "I tell them, 'It doesn't matter if you have your name in the record book for having killed the biggest buck. The real question is whether or not your name is in the Book of Life.'"

Counselor: Parents should start early to deal with empty nest

By Kima Jude
Alabama Baptist

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ABP)—As Martha Smith drove away from the Auburn University campus after helping her youngest daughter settle in as a freshman, she burst into tears.

"I was surprised because I wasn't expecting it," she said.

For Pat Pickett of Montgomery, the empty nest meant more than the absence of her only son, now at college. His moving out of the family home highlighted another problem she'd been aware of for some time—the distance in her marriage. "I'm experiencing the empty nest by myself," she said.

Kathie White dreaded the departure of her youngest, Cheryl, who joined the military. "It just wasn't what I had planned for her life," said White of Montgomery, Ala., who also has a 24-year-old son. "It's not only that they're gone ... but where they've gone to."

For virtually all parents, the empty nest represents a huge life transition, according to Jerry White, Kathie's husband and director of Counseling Care, a ministry of First Baptist Church of Montgomery. "When your kids leave home, it's like the role that you had for 20-something years has ended," he said.

The empty nest can affect a family's health, White added. "You have to change, and a lot of people have a hard time changing."

Mothers in particular feel vulnerable to an empty nest because their identity often becomes entwined with their children's, he explained. Not only do their children's friends see them as "Susie's mother" or "Matt's mom," the mothers begin to identify themselves that way. Many women put aside careers and other activities to raise kids, only to realize with something akin to shock that they've worked themselves out of a job.

Parents coping with an empty nest often experience depression, boredom and irritability, which can be directed at a spouse.

Exploring feelings related to an empty nest often uncovers empty places in a marriage, White added.

"Husbands and wives find out so many times they aren't as close as they used to be," he said.

"Even those parents who dated regularly over the years may have used those nights out to discuss the kids. So once children are grown and gone, spouses often find themselves facing each other and wondering: Who is this person? People find out how good their marriages really are," he said.

Extreme difficulty coping with an empty nest also might be a signal that a parent has been using a child to meet emotional needs that probably should have been met through other relationships, especially marriage, White said.

He recommends counseling when "it becomes a health issue" and it starts to affect relationships, including one's relationship to God.

Meanwhile, he recommends that parents confronting an empty nest start coping with it through prayer. "What other areas of ministry does God want us to be involved in now that we have more time?" he suggested. "What other ways can God use us?"

Kathie White said she was determined to re-invest her life. As her children grew up, she took a part-time job and then a full-time one. "I can't imagine dealing with the empty nest and not having something else to do," she said.

While coping with an empty nest, relationships in general become critical for parents. "They have to have other relationships they can depend on," Jerry White said. One's relationship with God is most important, but new ones also should be formed, he said. "We're all created for relationships with God and others, and we need both."

Parents struggling with their empty nest also should realize it is temporary, he said. "This is a change, but God's not through with me. I've got to discover His plan for my life and, whatever it is, it will be good."

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ In Romania, Baptist representatives request prayer for a new community center in Elim. Leaders hope the center results in Bible studies and English as a foreign language lessons.

■ A group of Belgium Baptists seek a way to reach the adolescents who frequently attend their center.

■ Pray for churches and missionaries starting English classes in areas of Prague, Czech Republic. "There are more schools that are interested in having English classes than we have Baptist representatives to lead those classes. Pray as decisions must be made about what schools to go into," missionaries write.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Pleasant Ridge Church recently called **Jeff Rowbotham** as minister of youth. **Paul Coleman** is pastor.

■ **AURORA**—Ferguson Springs Church will hold revival services Nov 3-7, 7 p.m., with **Rick Miller**, pastor of Symsonia Church as evangelist. **James Keeling** is pastor.

■ **BAGDAD**—**Chris Miller** recently resigned as youth minister at Christiansburg Church.

■ **BENTON**—Hamlet Missionary Church called **Brett Heuring** as pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Eastwood Church recently ordained **Greg Swack** to the gospel ministry. He is assistant music director and senior adult minister. The church also licensed **Chris Bell** to the gospel ministry and ordained **Mike Davis** as a deacon. **Bill Patterson** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church recently ordained **Rick Foree** and **Mark Kokamoor** as deacons.

Tommy Purvis is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church will host Family Night Oct. 29. The event will include a potluck meal and an emphasis on the church's Upward Outreach Ministry. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church called **Robin Redd** as pastor. He previously was associate pastor of Cedar Bluff Church in Princeton.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Immanuel Church will hold a Family Fall Festival Oct. 29, 6-7:30 p.m. **Charles Darland** is pastor.

■ **ERLANGER**—Baptist Life Communities, a ministry of Northern Kentucky Association, recently called **Robert Long** as chief executive officer. He formerly was pastor of Walnut Street Church, Louisville.

■ **FREDONIA**—First Church ordained **Jason Landreth** to the gospel ministry Sept. 28. He is pastor of White Sulphur Church.

■ **HARLAN**—Sunshine Church re-

cently called **Roy McNeal** as pastor. ■ **HENDERSON**—**Joel Breidenbaugh** has resigned as pastor of Bethel Church.

Community Church recently called **David Nelson** as interim pastor, effective next month.

First Church recently called **Darwin Phegley** as director of ministries. Also, **Greg Risch** was ordained as a deacon Sept. 28.

John Gaters recently resigned as minister of music/education at Hyland Church.

■ **HICKORY**—Pleasant Grove Church recently called **Duane Fields** as pastor.

■ **JEFFERSONTOWN**—West Broadway Church recently called **Chris Carden** as minister of education. **Sherman Ramsey** is pastor.

■ **LANCASTER**—Freedom Church recently called **Sherman Isaacs** as pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Pilgrims Rest Church recently called **Mike Seals** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church recently called **Wesley Pitts**, director of missions for Long Run Association, as interim pastor.

Fern Creek Church recently ordained **Rhonda Hibdon** to the gospel ministry. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Midlane Park Church will host the Campbellsville University Hand Bell Choir in concert during the church's evening service Oct. 26.

Shively Heights Church will dedicate its remodeled sanctuary and new welcome center at its annual "Harvest Day" morning worship service Nov. 2. The church also currently is building a Christian life center. **Mark Payton** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Mexico Church called **Tim Burden** as pastor effective Oct. 26.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Bethany Church recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. **Dale Sheridan** is pastor.

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church recently honored Pastor **Ferrill Davis** on 15 years of ministry.

■ **MORTONS GAP**—**Scott Ford** resigned as youth minister of Salem Church effective Oct. 6.

■ **PRINCETON**—Emmanuel Church recently called **Clarence Cooper** as pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Stoney Run Church recently called **Billy Burrows** as pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Glens Creek Church recently called **David Fee** as pastor.

■ **WADDY**—**Danny Garrett** resigned as pastor of Pigeon Fork Church Oct. 12.

Waddy Church recently called **Marc Knapp** as pastor.

■ **WATER VALLEY**—Pilot Oak Church recently called **Kevin Keeling** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Knoxville Church recently called **Shane Embry** as pastor. The church will honor **Kelly Kennedy** for 60 years of ministry Oct. 26, 2:30 p.m., with a service and reception.

World hunger relief concert collects enough money to feed 1,300 people

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—A mostly teenage crowd who attended a world hunger benefit featuring contemporary Christian band The Swift donated 400 cans of food and raised enough money to feed 1,193 homeless women and children in Uganda and 108 needy people in the United States.

The concert held at Rocketown, an inner-city ministry club in Nashville, and broadcast worldwide on the Internet Oct. 15, was part of the annual BEAT Hunger emphasis for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Teenagers filed into the outreach center in Nashville carrying canned food and looking forward to a night of music and ministry sponsored by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

After a few opening songs, the youth were asked to bring their cans forward and place them on the stage along with a love offering of money for the World Hunger Fund.

The cans and cash started adding up, and in all 400 cans and nearly \$200 was left on the stage.

Band member Mike Simons said it's easy to look at the hunger problems around the world and be overwhelmed at how much money and food would be required to meet those needs, but the World Hunger Fund can make it happen through gifts like what the youth gave at the concert.

"It may just be a small contribution, but a bunch of small contributions is how the World Hunger Fund works," he told Baptist Press. "It brings the level of involvement down a notch to everybody."

The World Hunger Fund is unique among food ministries be-

cause 100 percent of the funds donated go to purchase meals that are distributed worldwide in the name of Jesus.

And the meals are not expensive. A meal for a homeless child in Guatemala, for example, costs only 11 cents, and even in Washington, D.C., a 15-pound food packet for a family costs \$1.05. If someone were to donate \$9.60, that money could provide a meal to 80 homeless women and children in Uganda.

The Swift promotes the World Hunger Fund at its concerts and has committed to raising awareness of how easy it is to provide for a starving world if people who have plenty will donate a few dollars each.

Drummer Trae Drose said the band's music is one way to get people to listen to what's really important—the gospel. Similarly, the World Hunger Fund is a way to spread the gospel by first filling stomachs, he added.

"You can't witness to someone who's starving because they're thinking about their growling stomach," he said. "We realize that God has called us to be more than just Christian entertainers but to go out and spread the gospel and be part of the Great Commission, and we feel like this is just part of it."

The Swift encourages people to learn about world hunger needs and how they can get involved at their churches. Band member Chris Byers said people struggle too often with thoughts like "I'm not a preacher," "I'm not a speaker" or "I don't play the guitar," but actually that's not necessary in order to minister.

"Anybody can rally the troops at church to support the fund," he said.

To get involved in the World Hunger Fund, call (888) 375-2461 or e-mail worldhunger@erlc.com.

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.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Evangelist Wyman Copass has relocated to 436 Bellevue Ave., Bowling Green, and is available for revivals, interims and supply preaching. Several dates still open this fall and next year. Home and office phone: (270) 393-0345; cell: (270) 427-7632.

SEEKING: Childcare/daycare teachers. Top pay. Monday-Friday. Mail resumé or call Darlene, (502) 363-3300. Lynn Acres Daycare, 5007 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director for Waco Baptist Church. Send resumé to PO Box 560, Waco, KY 40385.

SEEKING: Part-time music director, West End Baptist Church, 324 South 28th St., Paducah, KY 42003. (270) 443-1043.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Salem Baptist Church. Please send resumé to Search Committee, PO Box 329, Salem, KY 42078, Attn: Sandra Williams.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Community Baptist Church of Henderson, Ky., affiliated with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, seeks full-time pastor to succeed retiring pastor. Submit resumé 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.

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor (with seminary degree) for loving, growing, mid-sized mission/ministry-minded church. Lead the ministerial staff and church in reaching the lost, serving others and encouraging Christian growth. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 170 Madison Ave., Whitesburg, KY 41858.

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

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

Mother Teresa's legacy

Missionaries of Charity continue work with poor in more than 500 locations

By Jason White
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)— Perched on a quiet hill in a downtrodden section of the nation's capital, the Gift of Peace hospice is home to dozens of people dying of AIDS and other terminal illnesses.

They come to Gift of Peace to live their final months, or sometimes only days or hours, in the care of the more than 50 nuns who call the hospice home. The nuns are members of the Missionaries of Charity, a Catholic religious order founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta in 1948.

The tiny nun, whose ministry to the poor of India caught the world's imagination, will be beatified—the final step before sainthood—later this month.



"GUIDING FORCE" Missionaries of Charity sister Sharbel Kolodiejchuk says the ideals of Mother Teresa are still a guiding force in the religious order. "We see the thirst of Jesus in the poorest of the poor," said Kolodiejchuk, who lives at the Gift of Peace hospice and convent in northeast Washington, D.C. (RNS photo by Mark Abraham)

She died in 1997 at the age of 87, but her "sisters" are quick to say that Mother Teresa's legacy continues to thrive in the work of her order.

"Mother Teresa has given us the charm of our society, which is to quench the thirst of Jesus with love and with service. That's our aim. That's our purpose in existing. We see the thirst of Jesus in the poorest of the poor," said Sister Sharbel Kolodiejchuk, a native of Canada.

Kolodiejchuk is one of 500 nuns affiliated with the Missionaries of Charity, who serve in some of America's toughest inner city neighborhoods. Another 4,500 of her fellow nuns work with the poor in more than 500 centers around the world, from Belfast to Rwanda to the Gaza Strip.

The Missionaries of Charity also operate a separate order for priests and brothers and have tens of thousands of ancillary helpers.

Following Mother Teresa's instructions, the nuns take the traditional vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, plus a fourth vow of wholehearted service to the poor.

That radical compassion for the poor, friends say, continues to inspire countless others—from college students and Peace Corps volunteers to business leaders—and has put Mother Teresa on the fast track to sainthood.

Jim Towey, director of the White House's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, served as a pro bono lawyer for Mother Teresa for a dozen years and traveled with her around the United States.

"I think she captured the hearts of a lot of Americans by her love of God



and how she put that love in service of the poor," he said. "She opened homes in about 30 cities in the very worst parts of America—the Bronx, Harlem, downtown Miami, places where there is pervasive poverty. In the process, I think she forced Americans to realize that we have a lot of suffering poor in our own country."

A staunch traditionalist and outspoken in her opposition to abortion and the death penalty, Mother Teresa was not without her critics. Still, she drew innumerable honors during her lifetime, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

President Bill Clinton named her an honorary citizen of the United States in 1996, just the fourth time in American history this honor had been conferred. In 1997, Mother Teresa

received the Congressional Gold Medal. A decade earlier, President Ronald Reagan awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

From Albania to India

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on Aug. 26, 1910, to Albanian parents in Skopje, which at the time was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. She entered the order of the Sisters of Loreto at age 18, receiving training in Dublin, Ireland, and India before taking her vows in 1937.

She spent 17 years as a teacher and school principal in Calcutta. Then, in 1946, the middle-aged Teresa felt she had a vision from God, telling her to give herself in service to the poorest of the poor.

Today, six years after her death, Mother Teresa and the order that continues her work are still admired by the residents at Gift of Peace hospice in Washington, D.C.

"It's amazing how one woman who comes from a country that is nothing but stones can help poor people around the world," said Peter Djurovich, an 83-year-old native of Yugoslavia.

He is at Gift of Peace because high blood pressure and other ailments have taken the use of his right leg and made him terminally ill.

"If we all lived like her, we'd have no problems today."

Another resident, Laurence Mearite, has AIDS, while glaucoma has left the 54-year-old blind. Despite his ailing physical condition, he is excited these days because the baseball post-season is in full swing. A Yankees fan for much of his life, he listens to the games on his radio.

On occasion, he said, his enthusiasm for the Yankees gets the better of him.

"Sometimes the nuns have to tell me to slow down a little bit," he said with a smile. "But it's nice here. It's real nice."

GIFT OF PEACE Laurence Mearite, a Gift of Peace resident who is blind and suffers from AIDS, appreciates the ministry of the Missionaries of Charity, who run the hospice. "Sometimes the nuns have to tell me to slow down a little bit," he said of his excitement over the current baseball season. "But it's nice here. It's real nice." (RNS photo by Mark Abraham)

United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation			13. Publication Title Western Recorder		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 9/30/03	
1. Publication Title Western Recorder	2. Publication Number 16791-3810	3. Filing Date 9/30/03	15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		16. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 9/30/03	
4. Issue Frequency Weekly except 7/8/03 & 12/30/03	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 50	6. Annual Subscription Price \$9.75 & \$12.19	a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)			b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		No. Copies of Single Issues Published Nearest to Filing Date	
10605 Shelbyville Road Louisville, KY 40223			(1) Paid (Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541, (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)		34,963	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)			(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)		33,512	
10605 Shelbyville Road Louisville, KY 40223			(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution		10	
9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)			(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS			
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)			c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4))		35,489	
Board of Directors of Western Recorder			d. Free Distribution (Sum of 15c. (1), (2), and (3))		1,451	
Trennis Henderson			(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541		1,451	
10605 Shelbyville Road Louisville, KY 40223			(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		100	
Full Name Complete Mailing Address			f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d. and 15e.)		1,551	
Kentucky Baptist Convention			g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c. and 15f.)		37,040	
10701 Shelbyville Road Louisville, KY 40243			h. Copies not Distributed		200	
			i. Total (Sum of 15g. and 15h.)		37,240	
			17. Payment Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c. divided by 15g. times 100)		16. Publication of Statement of Ownership	
			100		Publication not required	
					17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner	
					Date	
					9/26/03	
					I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).	
					Instructions to Publishers	
					1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.	
					2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.	
					3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d. e. and f.	
					4. Item 15h. Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newspaper copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3) copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.	
					5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.	
					6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.	
					7. Item 17 must be signed.	
					Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.	
					PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Revise)	

Campbellsville

UNIVERSITY

At Campbellsville University, you'll find an exceptional education and professors who really care about you. You'll find friends for a lifetime. You'll find ways to serve others while strengthening your faith. Through it all, you'll find the person you're meant to be—and the road you're meant to travel. And the opportunities are limitless! You can pursue associate, bachelor, and master degrees in over 40 areas of study.

Campbellsville University offers students an exceptional Christian-focused education. *Newsweek* magazine named Campbellsville University one of "America's treasures in higher education," and both *Money* and *U.S. News & World Report* listed us as one of "America's Best Colleges."

To schedule a campus visit or more information, contact the Office of Admissions at **1.800.264.6014** or at **270.789.5220** or visit us online at www.campbellsville.edu.

Campbellsville University—it's a great place to "Find Your Calling."

