



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, November 5

## Poll: 24 percent of U.S. has 'no idea' what will happen at death

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—About three-fourths of Americans believe in heaven and hell, but almost one-fourth say they have "no idea" what will happen after they die, a recent Barna poll found.

Researchers with the Barna Research Group found that 76 percent of respondents believe heaven exists and 71 percent believe there is a hell.

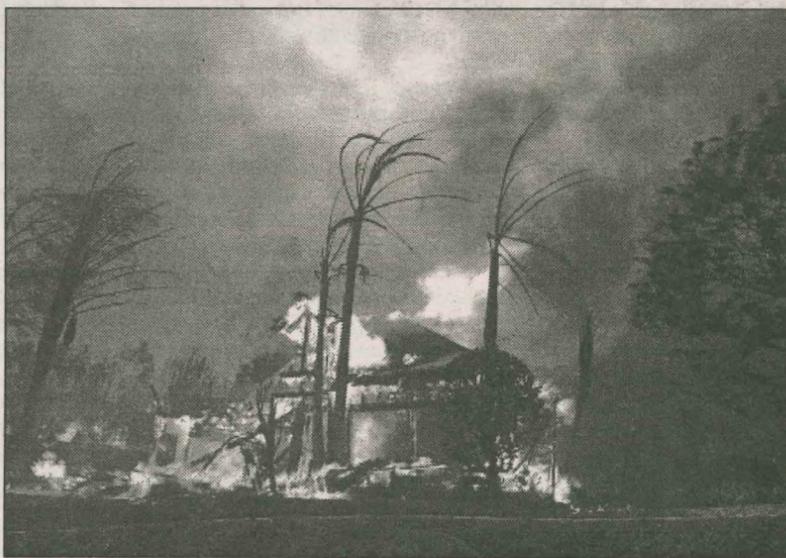
Forty-six percent of respondents said they would describe heaven as "a state of eternal existence in God's presence" while 30 percent said it is "an actual place of rest and reward where souls go after death." Fourteen percent said heaven is "symbolic," 5 percent said they did not believe in life after death, and 5 percent were uncertain.

Thirty-nine percent of respondents said hell is "a state of eternal separation from God's presence" while 32 percent said it is "an actual place of torment and suffering where people's souls go after death." Thirteen percent said hell is "just a symbol of an unknown bad outcome after death." Sixteen percent said they were uncertain or did not believe in an afterlife.

Just half of 1 percent of U.S. adults said they expect to go to hell when they die, while 64 percent predicted they will end up in heaven.

But researchers found that many were not so sure of their post-death destination. Twenty-four percent said they have "no idea" what will happen after they die.

## Wildfire ministry



Baptist chaplains and churches are ministering to victims of one of the worst wildfires in California history. Ministries range from counseling and food to hot showers and even entertainment. California Baptists have deployed three mobile kitchens, with others on standby from other states. Cleanup and recovery teams are expected to be recruited soon to help families who have lost homes clear their property. **Above:** At the San Bernardino Airport evacuation site—one of the largest of 32 shelters in Southern California—students near 2,000 evacuees. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy) **Left:** A home burns out of control near San Diego. The wildfires have claimed at least 20 lives and 2,000 homes. (BP photo courtesy of Earl Cryer/ZUMA Press © 2003) **Story on page 10.**

## Daughter's prediction becomes prophetic for new missionaries

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Eight-year-old Hannah Wolf has known for years that her family was called to missions. It just took her parents a while to catch up.

Hannah was just 4 years old when she returned home from church and announced to her parents, Bryan and Deana, that they were going to be missionaries. And they were going to live in South America.

"She was quite prophetic," Bryan Wolf, 34, recalled with a laugh. But just four years later, the Wolfs—Bryan, Deana, Hannah; Molly Grace, 4; Samuel, 2; and Lilly Beth, 5 months—are preparing to be appointed as missionaries to northern Chile.

The Wolfs are among a handful of new Southern Baptist missionaries with Kentucky connections who will be appointed next week during a spe-

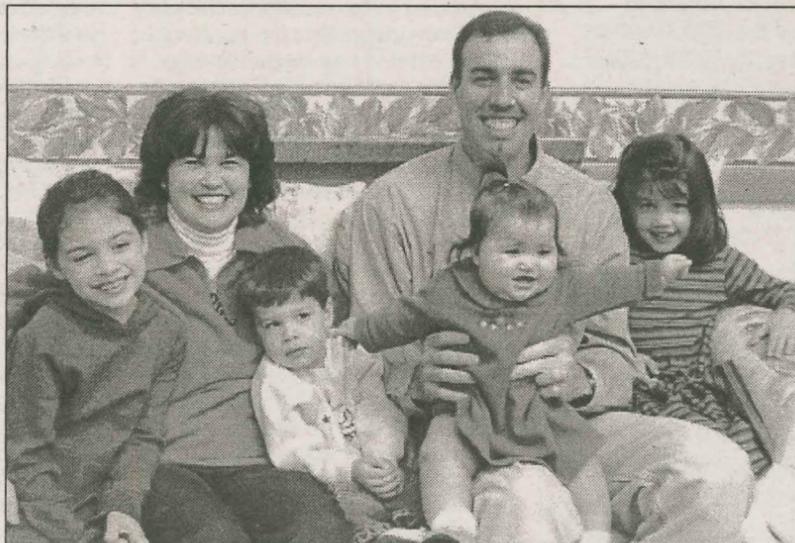
cial service Nov. 11 at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

The Wolfs have spent the last several months in Louisville while Bryan finishes coursework at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in fulfillment of International Mission Board requirements.

Hannah's prophetic announcement was the first major seed God planted in calling the Wolfs to full-time mission service, Wolf said.

Bryan and Deana, both natives of central Illinois, were high school sweethearts. Both came from a Methodist background and had their sights set on careers in agribusiness when they set out for college.

After the birth of Hannah, the Wolfs began searching Scripture more, and began searching for a church that "proclaimed the Word of God boldly." After visiting several churches, they felt they had found  See *Daughter's prediction ...*, page 12



**SOUTH AMERICA BOUND** Bryan and Deana Wolf and their children (from left) Hannah, 8; Samuel, 2; Lilly Beth, 5 months; and Molly Grace, 4; are preparing to be appointed as missionaries to northern Chile. They are among the 69 missionaries who will be appointed next week during a service at Lexington's Rupp Arena.

## Moore urges Baptists: Avoid 'safety zone of mediocrity'

By Manda Roten  
Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Lost souls are searching desperately for meaning and purpose in life, Beth Moore reminded employees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board Oct. 23. Though reaching out to them is exhausting, she added, being part of God's mission in the world is worth it.

Moore, a Bible study author and speaker, told the mission workers they are pouring out their lives for the most important cause in the world.

"I cannot think of anybody doing anything on the face of this earth ... that matters more than what you pour your lifeblood into," she said. "We may be tired at times. It almost seems unbearable, but we have what the world is looking for."

### "Pour our lives out"

"They feel purposeless. They don't have anything that would be worth dying for—and therefore worth living for," she said. "That we would pour our lives out for somebody else to know Him and to love Him, that is



**IT IS WELL** Beth Moore told IMB workers Oct. 23 that despite the challenges in spreading the gospel around the world, "It's going well. The Spirit is doing what He came to do." (IMB photo by Bill Bangham)

everything.

"I would rather be right here in the heat of battle and live the great adventure than be out there in the safety zone of mediocrity," she said. "I want to be in the thick of it."

A member of First Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, and founder of Living Proof Ministries, Moore's personal mission includes ministering to missionary women overseas and challenging young people to give their lives to reach a lost world.

And at a time when Southern Baptist missionary work is at a critical

point—with more qualified missionary candidates than funds available to send them—Moore said God had given her a special word to share with IMB staff members.

"It's going better than you think. It's going well. The Spirit is doing what He came to do," she said. "And praise God that all our problems, all our shortcomings, all our lack of resources are not holding Him up. He just wants us to have the joy of being in on it."

### Practice biblical faith

She challenged the mission workers—and all Southern Baptists—to take hold of biblical faith.

"Missionaries practice more faith because they have to," she said. "They don't get to think the safest thoughts because they can't afford to. They are desperate for God to work."

Evangelicals in the United States, however, have allowed others to keep them from practicing biblical faith, Moore said.

"As evangelicals, we are in a crisis of unbelief. We need a revival of biblical faith," she said. "We've got to be people of God's Word. Believe what

He says. Stop arguing (about) things of faith and just believe."

And that, Moore said, sometimes means believing God for what seems impossible—such as a 33 percent increase in this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering so the IMB can send all the missionaries God is calling out.

"You've got an unreasonable goal for the offering this Christmas," she noted, "but we believe Him for the unreasonable."

God has given each believer a race to run, and the question is whether each one keeps running until it is finished, Moore said.

When Satan tries to discourage Christians off the path of faith, they must be people of God's Word who believe what He says and practice it, Moore declared.

She encouraged the IMB staff to recite a five-point "pledge of faith" she uses daily, counting off each point on her fingers:

"God is who He says He is. God can do what He says He can do. I am who God says I am. I can do all things through Christ. God's Word is alive and active in me."

## Mississippi Baptists urge convention loyalty, reject excluding CBF leaders

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—Messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to exclude Cooperative Baptist Fellowship members from leadership positions, but approved a bylaws amendment urging convention loyalty.

A total of 1,413 messengers registered for the Oct. 28-29 meeting at First Baptist Church in Jackson. They elected longtime Mississippi pastor Gene Henderson president by acclamation.

Messengers defeated a proposed constitutional amendment presented during last year's annual meeting. The motion by Ralph Henson, pastor of Arrowood Baptist Church in Meridian, stated: "I move that the Mississippi Baptist Convention not allow anyone to be employed, elected or appointed to positions with the Missis-

sippi Baptist Convention if that person is currently serving in an employed, elected or appointed position with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

Attorney Rick Courtney, chairman of the constitution and bylaws committee, reported that the committee unanimously recommended messengers vote against the proposal. The proposed amendment was defeated by a vote of 572-376.

Messengers later approved a broader amendment recommended by the constitutional and bylaws committee. That measure requires nominees to trusteeships and other positions within the convention to agree to "the highest level of fidelity and loyalty to the mission and purposes of the convention." The convention board previously approved a similar policy for board employees.

## Proposed seminary offering runs counter to SBC recommendation

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, recommended to trustees Oct. 21 that the Southern Baptist Convention implement a new annual offering to support the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

The proposal runs counter to a Funding Study Committee report adopted in September by the SBC Executive Committee.

Patterson's proposal, backed by a trustee resolution, noted that seminaries are being forced to raise tuition rates, resulting in rising student indebtedness.

Students are paying four to five times as much as they used to in tuition costs and working more to pay for their education, Patterson said. Therefore, they cannot take as many hours, which alters their full-time status and affects the amount of Cooperative Program funds distributed to the seminaries, he said.

Providing more CP funds to the seminaries to cover the increases in tuition isn't likely, Patterson acknowledged, noting that the majority of CP funds support international and North American mission efforts. The solution, he said, is a special offering for the SBC seminaries.

But the SBC Funding Study Committee recommended that "creating any additional special annual offering be discouraged in favor of making Christian stewardship and the Cooperative Program a top priority in Southern Baptist life over the next several years."

"The SBC Funding Study Committee believes the proliferation of special offerings weakens our uni-

fied approach to missions funding, detracts from the Cooperative Program and the existing mission offerings, and would be ineffective and cumbersome for the churches," the report added.

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman noted that "the recommendation identified two very real dangers of an annual offering for seminaries. One is the further erosion of our unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, and the move toward societal giving, a system that gutted the convention coffers in the early 20th century.

"The other danger is the confusion and complication in the local churches. Over 30 percent of our churches now collect one missions offering annually for association, state, NAMB and IMB initiatives. This trend is growing. The promotion of a designated seminary offering most likely would be added to the one missions offering, resulting in a decrease for the current recipients."

Patterson noted that even if the SBC chooses to establish a special offering for the seminaries, there could be a negative outcome.

"There is an element of risk," he said. "I do not know if it will succeed or not. My hunch is that, since the six seminaries are enjoying their greatest convention-wide popularity in history, we would overwhelmingly win in such a thing."

The two special offerings currently promoted by the SBC—the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions—existed before the CP was formed in 1925.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **BGCT pursues missions network.** Nearly a year after the Baptist General Convention of Texas voted to create a new missions network, the entity now has both a name and a staff leader. Meeting Oct. 23, the network's board adopted WorldconneX as its corporate name and elected Bill Tinsley, the BGCT's current associate executive director, to lead the entity. The network is designed to help provide short-term and long-term mission projects both nationally and internationally. Tinsley previously was executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

■ **Midwestern launches capital campaign.** Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary officials broke ground Oct. 21 for a "Walk of Honor." The groundbreaking ceremony for the walkway with donor-purchased bricks signaled the launch of

Midwestern's \$2.1 million capital campaign. Funds will be used to renovate a 35,000-square-foot facility purchased in March 2002. Trustees also authorized seminary president Phil Roberts to negotiate the sale of part of the school's undeveloped property.

■ **Correction.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's "full-time equivalency" enrollment published in the Oct. 21 issue was incorrect due to erroneous information provided by a seminary official. The seminary's 2002 FTE, based on the Southern Baptist Convention seminary funding formula, was 1,731. The reported total of more than 3,500 students is the cumulative student headcount, including Boyce College undergraduate students, projected for the end of the current academic year, according to seminary spokesman Lawrence Smith.

## Mackey unveils proposed KBC staff reorganization

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Taking the first major step toward implementing the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission study plan, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey unveiled a proposed staff reorganization last week.

Primary changes include combining the work of the KBC Mission Board's church development and evangelism teams, naming the first of four regional church development strategists and shifting some departments to different teams.

The work of longtime departments such as discipleship, stewardship and family ministry will be assigned to various teams rather than maintained on a department level.

"It's difficult when you have to make organizational decisions that impact lives and ministries," Mackey said. "There's always a delicate balance between valuing every person and the mission of the organization."

"I've tried to consider the gifts, strengths and passions of each person and to find ways to maximize those in positions of ministry within given parameters."

### Mission plan centerpiece

The overall mission plan, adopted in May by the KBC Mission Board, is designed to guide state convention ministry priorities through 2009. The centerpiece of the plan is a mission statement that declares the mission of the KBC is to assist state convention "churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

Presenting the reorganization plan to Mission Board staff Oct. 29, Mackey emphasized that the proposal still awaits final approval from Mission Board members during their pre-convention session Nov. 10. If approved, the changes will take effect Jan. 1.

The proposed reorganization, combined with staff retirements and recent budget cuts due to a shortfall in Co-

operative Program giving, will bring several changes to the Mission Board staff.

Doug Strader, director of the stewardship department, retired Oct. 15; Vernon Cole, leader of the church growth team, and Jim Clontz, director of the discipleship training department, will retire Dec. 31; and Guy Futral, leader of the leadership development team, will retire April 30, 2004.

Karl Babb, director of the family ministry team, will succeed Futral as head of the leadership development team. Cole, Clontz and Futral will continue to serve in part-time contract positions; Strader has accepted the pastorate of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.

Cheryl Doty, KBC archivist, also will retire at the end of the year. She will continue to serve in a three-quarter time contract position.

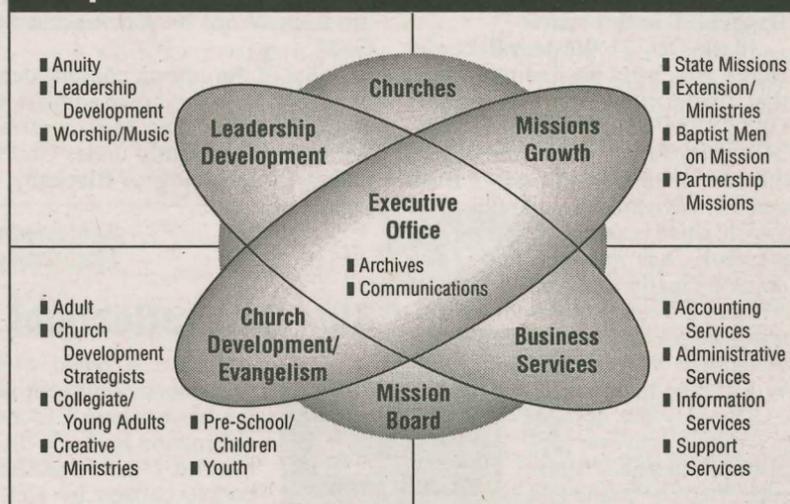
Two secretarial positions have been eliminated. Doris Cissell, a secretary in the Sunday school department, concluded her work Oct. 1 and Karen Hughes, a secretary in the family ministry department, concluded her work Oct. 28. Each of them will receive full salary and benefits for three months from the time their positions were cut.

Among other staff changes, Alan Witham, an associate in the missions growth team's extension-ministries department, was named the KBC's first regional church development strategist. He and three other regional strategists will work closely with local churches and associations to provide ministry resources and assistance.

Also, an associate team leader position will be added to the church development/evangelism team. An associate position in the Brotherhood department that currently is vacant will be eliminated and the department will be renamed Baptist Men on Mission.

Among internal organizational shifts, the church music department in the church growth team will become the worship and music department in

### Proposed Mission Board staff structure



the leadership development team and the women's lifestyle evangelism role will be shifted from the evangelism growth team to the leadership development office.

The structure of the executive office, missions growth team and business services team remain largely unchanged.

Combining the eliminated positions, shifts in assignments and addition of four regional strategists, Mackey said he anticipates personnel expenses will remain within budget even with the \$365,000 Mission Board budget cuts implemented this year.

### "High-impact" churches

An additional cost to fully implement the mission study plan will be up to \$100,000 each for 25 "high-impact" churches expected to be started over the next five years.

Mackey said the primary goal of staff reorganization is to help Kentucky Baptist churches be more effective.

"I feel that the Mission Study Committee, representing the Mission Board and our constituency, has said, 'Strengthening churches is a priority. Put together the organization and strat-

egies to help us achieve that.'"

Among specific concerns cited by the study committee are that:

- Approximately 450 Kentucky Baptist churches did not baptize anyone last year.

- More than 40 percent of Kentuckians are not claimed by any major religious group.

- Sunday school enrollment in Kentucky Baptist churches continues to decline.

In response to those and other issues, the Mission Study Committee proposed such goals as:

- Encouraging every Kentucky Baptist church to increase its baptisms by at least one each year.

- Achieving at least 80 percent of new church members becoming and remaining active in a local church.

- Launching 75 churches, including 25 high-impact churches, as well as 50 language church-type ministries by 2010.

"I think it's a bigger shift than most of us understand," said evangelism growth team leader Dan Garland who will head the combined church development/evangelism team. "The real ramifications are going to be in the future. It's a God thing."

## KBC committee declines amendment; sponsor urges support

By David Winfrey  
News Director

GEORGETOWN—The Kentucky Baptist Convention Constitution and Bylaws Committee won't recommend next week in favor of a proposed constitutional amendment creating a new link between gifts to KBC causes and representation at the convention's annual meeting.

But the amendment's sponsor said he still hopes convention messengers will support the issue during the KBC annual meeting Nov. 11-12 in Lexington.

The amendment, proposed at last year's convention in Williamsburg, would allow a church to have up to 10 messengers at the annual meeting based on overall gifts to Kentucky Baptist Convention causes.

Currently, every church "in friendly cooperation" with the KBC can send two messengers to the annual meeting. Additional messengers, up to a total of 10, are granted to a church

for every 250 members or \$250 given to the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program is the joint funding plan for KBC and Southern Baptist Convention ministries, agencies and causes. For every dollar a church gives to the Cooperative Program, 64 cents goes toward KBC causes, and 36 cents is sent to SBC causes.

Bob Fox, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, offered the amendment at last year's annual meeting to allow a church to have messengers in a similar fashion for contributions to KBC-related work.

Such churches also would have two messengers for being in friendly cooperation and additional messengers, up to a total of 10, for every \$250 a church contributes to KBC work.

Fox said the current system is unfair to churches like his that give money directly to the KBC but not the SBC. Faith Baptist gave approximately \$13,000 directly to the KBC in fiscal year 2001-2002, Fox said, but

could send only 3 messengers to last year's annual meeting "which would be the same number of messengers if we would have given a dollar to the convention," he said. "That seems rather disproportionate."

Fox said the current system ties representation in the KBC to financial support of the SBC. "It creates a connectionism that is rather foreign to Baptist life."

KBC Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman Wendell Romans confirmed that the committee opted not to recommend the amendment next week to messengers.

"We felt like by doing this it would create an imbalance in the representation on the state level," said Romans, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon.

The amendment's wording, granting messengers based on contributions to "convention work," would allow a church to have 10 messengers voting on all KBC matters even if the church gave money to only one KBC agen-

cy, Romans said.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee report is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. during the annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

According to article 11 of the KBC constitution, amendments to the constitution require a two-thirds majority vote by messengers.

Fox said he's "realistic" about the amendment's limited chance for passage since it doesn't have a committee recommendation and the topic is rather complex. "It's not a sound bite issue," he said.

Fox said he recognizes there aren't many churches like his that want to give to the KBC but not the national denomination.

"I really don't know how many people sense any need to keep the KBC and the SBC from being connected at the hip," he said. "I just want my church and churches like mine to feel like we have an adequate voice in the convention."

## Baker to be nominated as KBC first vice president

LEXINGTON—Bob Baker, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, will be nominated next week for Kentucky Baptist Convention first vice president.

Ted Sisk, former pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, said he intends to nominate Baker.

"He's been a colleague in Central Kentucky for the last 25 years," said Sisk, who retired eight years ago from Immanuel, where the convention will be held.

"I've found him to be a faithful minister, a devoted pastor and committed to the ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Sisk added.

Baker, a graduate of Georgetown College, has been pastor of Calvary for 12 years. His other pastorates have included Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, Midway Baptist Church in Woodford County and First Greenup Fork Baptist Church in Owen County.

"I just love what Kentucky Baptists have meant to me and would love to pay some of that back and pass it on to the next generation," Baker noted.

He said Kentucky Baptists have done a good job of focusing on missions and not being distracted by lesser issues. "I think that's one of the things that makes us unique right now in Baptist life."

"As long as you are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and you adhere to traditional Baptist principles, I think there needs to be a place for you in the Kentucky Baptist family," he said. "I'm convinced we can do so much more together than we could ever do apart."

Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, announced earlier this month that he also will be nominated as first vice president.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Under God's judgment?

First, let me commend you for providing a free and open religious press for Kentucky Baptists. I deeply appreciate your contribution to Baptist life in this state.

In the Oct. 21 Western Recorder Henry Blackaby posited the notion that "Honoring authority honors God." The editorial would have been more safely stated directly as the call for support of George Bush and his wayward foreign policy and un-Christian economic policies that it clearly was intended to be. The opinion clearly chastises those who criticize the current U.S. administration's policy and thereby encourage resistance to authority with a "rebellious spirit."

The way the opinion is worded, however, applies an ostensibly Bible-supported command that all governments be obeyed as though appointed by God. If all authorities throughout time are appointed by God and are God's ministers as Blackaby interprets Romans to say, what are we to make of critical developments in history in the last 250 years?

The United States should cease to exist since it was created out of a rebellion against the divinely appointed authority of King George III. Perhaps we should submit to the authority of the Iroquois Confederacy or the Powhatan Confederacy that predated the founding of English colonies in North America. Or maybe racist slavery should be reinstated because it was supported and defended in the Constitution as adopted by God in 1788.

Why did the Southern Baptist Convention invite Oliver North, who broke a duly implemented law of Congress, to speak at its proceed-

ings? Where were the authority supporters when Bill Clinton was President?

What of Nazi Germany? What of the Taliban? What of Saddam Hussein and his party? They were authorities. Were they instituted by God?

What of the current commanders of the SBC? By their own admission and celebration they took control. We must be currently under God's judgment according to Blackaby's argument.

David Bowden  
Elizabethtown

## Glen Dale reflections

I have watched with great disappointment as the place where I found redemption is slowly dismantled. I find the present course chosen by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children depressing.

Instead of wallowing in these emotions, I have decided to honor those who provided me a place

at Glen Dale when I desperately needed it. While I focus on three men who restored my faith in adults, they represent many others, including their respective wives, whose efforts I very much appreciate.

Haywood Riner was the first with whom I came into direct contact. He was and is the epitome of the encourager. He pushed me to see my potential and challenged me to set high goals. He showed me that my mistakes were opportunities for growth, not excuses to quit. His love for his Lord is demonstrated in his daily walk.

Buckley Carlin was the proof that I could turn it around. He had lived a similar life and still found the right path. He and his wife helped me develop my gifts, and then showed me

Who deserved the credit for those talents.

David Babb was the last of the three to enter my life. His impact was immediate and profound. He saw what I was capable of and demanded results. He could read me like a book. He rebuilt the bridge between myself and my father, refusing to allow me to avoid a difficult path. His children are my siblings; my children call him Papaw.

God had a mission for each of these men, and I am so thankful that their paths briefly crossed one another's. So I won't mourn the perception of an institution that seemingly has lost its focus. I will instead celebrate the lives of the people who showed me the path to salvation and helped me take back my life.

Tim Isaacs  
Elizabethtown

## 'Yoked in service'

Last year some of our Kentucky Baptist brethren wanted to nominate Judge Eugene Siler for president of our convention. Folks wishing to nominate Paul Badgett (our current president) asked that he be the only nominee in the interest of harmony and oneness of the KBC. Those wishing to nominate Siler agreed, as did the judge.

Because he saw the quality of Christian character in this layman who serves our people in the judicial system, A.B. Colvin had planned to nominate Judge Siler for president this year. I wish A.B. had lived to make this nomination for it would have been a minister of great integrity nominating a layman of great integrity. What a picture of being yoked in service to Christ.

I plan to vote for Judge Siler and I pray that this convention will honor A.B. Colvin by electing this candidate.

Floyd Price  
Prestonsburg

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Plan to attend KBC annual meeting

This year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting next week in Lexington, Nov. 11-12, will provide a wonderful opportunity for Kentucky Baptists. In addition to an excellent convention program at Immanuel Baptist Church, Kentucky Baptists will have the rare opportunity to be a part of an appointment service for international missionaries.

Fourteen of the 69 missionaries to be appointed in a special International Mission Board service at Rupp Arena from 7-9 p.m. on Nov. 11 have Kentucky ties. These missionaries are responding to the call of God to leave their friends, families and familiar places to live in another culture in order to reach people for Jesus Christ.

I admire their commitment to the Lord and their desire to share the gospel with all people. Please be present to let these missionaries know they can count on you, your prayers and your financial support as they respond to this awesome call of God. I encour-

age you to use Sunday, Nov. 9, to enlist your fellow church members to attend the appointment service with you.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting itself will be the signing of a partnership agreement with Piaui Baptist Convention in Brazil. Scott Pittman, a Kentucky native, coordinates the IMB mission work in this area.

International missions won't be the only focus of the annual meeting, however. The pre-convention outreach, Cross Over, begins Nov. 5 with a variety of ministry projects in the Lexington area. Please pray for good weather and the hundreds of workers who will participate.

During the annual meeting, inspirational music will be provided by a number of choirs and soloists including the choir of First Baptist Church of Pikeville. This choir will perform on Tuesday morning just prior to the annual president's address by KBC President Paul Badgett. Skip Alex-

ander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, will bring the convention sermon on Tuesday afternoon and Southern Baptist Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins will bring the sermon on Wednesday morning.

Let the convention reports serve as a time to pray for each Kentucky Baptist Convention institution, committee, and agency. The economic recession has presented challenges and required adjustments by each one as well as by the KBC Mission Board ministries. I praise God that each one has made the necessary adjustments and continues to offer effective ministries.

Please make your plans to attend the pre-convention events, the convention sessions and enjoy the exhibits and fellowship with fellow Baptists.

Also pray for the Holy Spirit to overshadow the spirit of each participant and to guide all decisions so that God will be glorified, the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed and the Kingdom of God advanced through all plans and deliberations.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## CHURCH

### Budget promotion program benefits church members

By Doug Strader

Many Kentucky Baptist churches adopt a church budget



but they do not use a budget promotion program to encourage the members to support the budget with their tithes

and offerings. Likewise, many Kentucky Baptist pastors do not preach on financial stewardship for fear of making members think they are interested only in their money.

After years of experience in the pastorate, and 10 years of serving as stewardship director on the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board staff, I have come to the conclusion that preaching on financial stewardship and using a budget promotion program are beneficial to the church.

A budget promotion program is helpful to the work of the church in several ways:

First, the pastor will be delivering more than one message on the biblical teachings about financial stewardship. If the pastor does not preach or teach financial stewardship on a regular basis, many people who are new members might not even know what the Bible says about tithing and giving one's resources.

A good budget promotion program also helps the people get in touch with the financial needs of the church. People who have been Christians for a short time will not know about the church budget. They most likely will not know about the Cooperative Program, associational missions, and even the missions and ministries of their church in the local community. Using a budget adoption program enables them to become familiar with where the church's money is being used.

By using a good budget promotion program the church can challenge its members to become involved in helping the church fulfill its mission. Most budget promotion programs use testimonies as part of the worship services; therefore people can be challenged by fellow Christians to become more actively involved in helping the church meet its budget challenge.

If you need more information about a budget promotion program, you can contact the KBC stewardship office and receive samples of the various programs for your consideration.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville

## How can older adults avoid becoming victims of scams?

**Q: My mother was the victim of a recent home repair scam which has made her very worried about being taken advantage of in other ways. What can I do to help her?**

Begin by sharing the following information with your mother to help keep her informed about legitimate concerns:

- Scam artists frequently target older consumers believing that they have more money from life savings or they have valuable property.

- Never give out financial information or identification documents to those who initiate a telephone call, street solicitors or door-to-door salespeople.

- Consumers age 60 or older who enter sweepstakes or contests are considered good prospects for repeated mailings or calls.

- Do not make agreements for home improvements over the Internet and do not send money or a credit card number in advance.

Schemes and fraud often begin with a contact that the consumer did not initiate. It's OK to:

- Say "no" or hang up on unsolicited calls.
- Walk away from unsolicited contacts in stores or malls.
- Delete unsolicited e-mail.
- Avoid high-pressure sales that demand an immediate decision.

- Not sign any legal papers that you do not understand.
- Not make a major financial decision without getting several opinions; talk to your accountant, attorney, family or friends.

- Give out your Social Security and Medicare numbers only on transactions you have initiated. Do not have your Social Security number printed on checks or driver's license. Have it removed if you already have it on checks or license.

- Keep a log of products or services ordered and check them against actual items received.—*Jon Rainbow*

**Q: Our son is 15 years old and we are experiencing much more conflict now than in his earlier years. Several of our friends are experiencing the same thing with their teenagers. Is this a normal part of parenting teenagers?**

While conflict is inevitable in any human relationship, there are some natural sources of parent-teen conflict. For example, teens typically like change and novelty while parents tend to prefer order and predictability. While teens strive for more independence, parents can find this unsettling and threatening to family stability. While teens have a heightened need to spend time with peers, parents often are sensitive to losses and even perceived abandonment within the family.

Parents who are used to being authority figures may feel threatened when teens resist that authority. In light of an increased ability to do abstract thinking and attempting to personalize faith, teens might begin to question moral rules and religious beliefs. Parents sometimes see this shift as a repudiation of their stable moral principles and religious beliefs without taking into consideration that the young person simply is attempting to decide what he or she believes. Some teens begin to point out parental inconsistencies over against the espoused parental ideals.

As the potential for conflict during these years increases, parents must remember to stay focused on what matters most—relationships. Focus on giving attention to your relationship with God and to spending time doing enjoyable activities with your teen. It is helpful to remember the sage advice of Josh McDowell, "Rules without relationships lead to rebellion."—*Scott Wigginton*

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



## The state of Southern Baptist seminaries

Nearly 25 years after the launch of the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative shift, the SBC's six seminaries continue to experience major transitions.

Starting in April, when Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Ken Hemphill abruptly announced his early retirement at age 54 to accept another denominational post, three of the six SBC seminaries have had presidential vacancies. While the vacancy at Southwestern has been filled, the other two—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.—are in the process of seeking new presidents.

While those are the most obvious transitions among the seminaries, all six schools are experiencing various levels of change, including:

- **Golden Gate Seminary.** Bill Crews, 67, the senior seminary president in Southern Baptist life, announced his retirement last month. Crews, who has served as president since 1986, will move to the post of chancellor. During his 17 years at the helm of Golden Gate, the school has been at the forefront of developing off-site educational options, with regional campuses in southern California, the Pacific Northwest, Arizona and Colorado. "There has been no pressure coming from secret meetings in faraway places" for him to retire, Crews assured trustees. The fact that he felt a need to make such a disclaimer, however, points to the sensitive environment at Golden Gate and elsewhere in SBC life.

- **Midwestern Seminary.** The Kansas City, Mo.-based school, the SBC's youngest seminary, has endured significant turmoil in recent years. Former seminary president Mark Coppenger was fired by trustees in 1999. More recently, Midwestern has been the focus of debate over its possible closing or merger with Golden Gate. Current president Phil Roberts insists those issues have been resolved. But as recently as September, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman wrote an open letter seeking to clarify a recent conversation with a seminary trustee. "In the course of our conversation a Midwestern trustee officer asked the question, 'What will happen should the trustees refuse to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention if it were to adopt any changes in the status of Midwestern?'" Chapman said he responded, "The SBC has left itself no recourse to overturn governing actions of an entity's trustees. The only course of action available to the SBC is the possibility of removing the trustees by vote of the convention in session." Chapman added, however, "I pray the convention is never faced with such a debilitating dilemma." Even amid such issues, Midwestern continues to look to the future, including the recent launch of a \$2.1 million capital campaign.

- **New Orleans Seminary.** Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary since 1996, was honored recently for 20 years of service to the school as a professor and administrator. Kelley recently caused a few ripples by leading trustees to reject a request from the SBC Executive Committee. The SBC's top decision-making board called on all SBC entities to make the Executive Committee the "sole member" of each entity's corporation to help ensure that institutions would not break away from the SBC. While every other SBC organization quietly complied, Kelley warned that acceding to the request "could start a fundamental change in historic Baptist polity and compromise our practice of organizational autonomy." While SBC leaders insisted there was no cause for concern, the seminary's trustees voted unanimously against changing their governing docu-

ments. How the SBC Executive Committee will respond remains to be seen.

- **Southern Seminary.** President Al Mohler celebrated 10 years at the helm of Southern earlier this year. As the memories gradually fade of several faculty firings and resignations that marked Mohler's early years, enrollment is returning to levels experienced a decade ago. Full-time equivalent enrollment for the 2001-02

academic year was 1,731, only slightly below the 1,792 FTE reported the year before Mohler was elected president and nearly 50 percent above the low point of 1,163 reported in 1997-98. Southern has seen its greatest growth in Boyce College, its undergraduate program, which now has more than 600 students. On the administrative side, Southern officials recently unveiled a revised master plan designed to position the school for ongoing growth.

- **Southwestern Seminary.** Paige Patterson, one of the chief architects of the SBC's political/theological move since 1979, was elected in June as president of Southwestern, the denomination's largest seminary with a

2001-02 FTE of 2,381. Patterson, a former SBC president, also is former president of Southeastern Seminary. Those who support Patterson's views on SBC issues see him as a champion of conservative theology who has earned his influential leadership roles; detractors tend to see his denominational advancement as political payoff. Regardless of one's perspective, Patterson repeatedly has proven that he thinks and speaks for himself. One recent example is his call for the seminaries to be granted an annual special offering—despite the fact that the SBC Executive Committee voted against such a proposal only a month earlier. While SBC leaders are correct that such an offering is ill-advised and likely would further erode Cooperative Program giving, it's still refreshing to see such leaders as Patterson and his brother-in-law Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary, be willing to occasionally challenge the SBC status quo rather than simply rubberstamp every denominational decision that comes down the pike.

- **Southeastern Seminary.** Prior to moving to Southwestern, Patterson was president of Southeastern Seminary for almost 11 years. Southeastern trustees recently organized a search committee to recommend Patterson's successor. As with pivotal issues facing each of the seminaries, whoever steps into that position will make a significant impact on Southeastern's future direction, goals and priorities.

Southern Baptists' seminary-related issues and options aren't limited to the six official schools, however. Independent conservative seminaries such as Mid-America in Memphis, Tenn., and Luther Rice in suburban Atlanta have gained visibility and influence in some Baptist circles in recent years. On the moderate side, such schools as Truett Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Baptist Seminary of Richmond, Va., have come on the scene and experienced significant growth. Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, the newest independent entry in Baptist seminary education, began classes last year with 15 students at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

As Baptists consider their historic involvement in seminary education, it's important to remember that the landscape constantly is changing. Just as the Kentucky Baptist Convention and other Baptist entities are undergoing major change, so too are our educational institutions. Be aware of the various needs, challenges and perspectives of each Baptist seminary so that you can provide appropriate prayer, support and evaluation with wisdom and insight.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Presidential candidates share views on mission plan, CP

### Henard: 'I am pro-Cooperative Program, pro-KBC and pro-SBC'

Bill Henard has served since 1999 as pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. He is president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, a trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources and served on the Southern Baptist Convention's 2001-2002 Committee on Nominations. He previously was pastor of churches in Tennessee and Alabama.

#### Q: Why are you willing to be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president?

I met with Craig Loscalzo back in 2002 with the intention of asking him for permission to nominate him for president in 2003. He responded that he intended to ask me for the same opportunity. Early in 2003, a group of about a dozen pastors met with me to ask if I would be willing to be nominated. I was willing, but I was not absolutely at peace about it. It wasn't until I heard about the KBC Mission Study Plan that I realized I could help make an impact in the KBC because of the mission, evangelism and ministry programs and involvement at Porter Memorial Baptist Church.

#### Q: What would be your primary hopes and goals as KBC president?

My goals would be twofold: first, to encourage churches to become Great Commission churches by supporting the Cooperative Program; and second, to become Great Commission churches by personally getting involved in mission work locally, nationally and internationally.

#### Q: Please share briefly about your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

I did not grow up in what would be called a Christian home. However, through hearing Billy Graham preach on television, I accepted Christ as my Savior at age 11 and publicly professed my faith at age 12.

Three years later, at the death of my father, I discovered the wealth of what it means for Jesus to be Lord and for Him to be personally involved in my life. I was called to preach while a senior in high school. Later, I graduated from Cumberland College in Williamsburg, and from Southwestern Seminary.

Outside of my call and my marriage, the greatest impact God has made in my life and ministry is when He allowed me to travel to the former Soviet Union right after the Iron Curtain fell. That changed my life and ministry. Since then, I have taken mission teams into several Soviet states, Poland, Cuba, Australia and here in America.

#### Q: What is your opinion of the KBC Mission Study Plan approved in May that calls for the KBC to assist Kentucky Baptist churches, ministries and associations "in connecting all people to Jesus Christ" through such efforts as evangelism, missions, leader training and networking?

I am very excited about the Mission Study Plan. It will help my church become more effective in our mission work and help us be more accountable in the Kingdom. It will also allow us to partner with other churches and pastors to assist them as they seek to become Great Commission churches and pastors. Additionally, it will allow the KBC to stay focused on the mission of our convention and not become sidetracked by non-essential issues.

#### Q: How do you think the KBC should address current and future financial needs in the wake of recent Cooperative Program budget shortfalls?

First, we need to educate our churches about the benefits of the Cooperative Program and how essential it is for us as KBC churches to support mission work in our state, nation and world.

Second, we need to help churches set goals for their own stewardship and for how they can increase their percentages to the CP.

Third, we need to assist churches in discovering how they personally can become more effective Kingdom churches and have a personal involvement in missions. When a church gets involved in missions, their giving will increase.



Henard

#### Q: One of the key responsibilities as president is to appoint three members to the KBC Committee on Committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

First, I would want to make sure of their personal support of the KBC. Second, I would take into consideration their personal involvement in KBC life. Third, I would like to hear of their support of the Cooperative Program and the direction of the KBC, especially in light of the new mission study.

#### Q: How would you describe yourself in the current political landscape of Baptist life?

I am pro-Cooperative Program, pro-KBC and pro-SBC. The CP has allowed me to be on the mission field and work with missionaries from around the world. I am a product of a KBC college and much of my seminary education was provided through Cooperative Program gifts.

#### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

First, one of our strengths is our rich history. From the birth of the Cooperative Program in Murray to our present day, Kentucky Baptists have a heritage of faith, evangelism and mission.

Second, our strength is in our leadership. I have been greatly impressed with men like Bill Mackey and Dan Garland. I hear of this same level of excellence among all of our leadership, and it excites me about our future.

Third, our strength is in our people. Kentucky Baptists are blessed with great churches and great people. So many of the Kentucky Baptists I have met have a real hunger for God and for His Word.

#### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest needs? Why?

One need we have is mission education and involvement. Many of our churches have not discovered the blessing of giving and going. Kentucky Baptists must learn that the beauty of the Cooperative Program is that no church is too small or too insignificant. We can work together to accomplish Kingdom goals.

Second, we need to encourage our colleges and children's homes. Good stewardship demands our involvement, support and input into our institutions.

Third, we need to assist churches in becoming consistent in evangelism, discipleship and growth. We need to empower and equip our churches to reach their potential every year.

Fourth, we must learn how to reach our state for Christ. As a convention, we must not become self-centered, but people-centered. Our state needs us morally, ethically and spiritually.

### Siler affirms role as 'traditional, historical' Baptist

Eugene Siler, a federal judge with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, currently is first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Siler is a member of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg where he serves as a deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher. He is chairman of the Baptist Healthcare System board of directors and a trustee of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. He also has been a member of the KBC Mission Board and chairman of Cumberland College's board of trustees.



Siler

#### Q: Why are you willing to be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president?

If it is God's will and the will of the convention, I am willing to be nominated in order to promote greater participation of laypeople into all aspects of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. I would merely be symbolic of that vast number of laypeople who support the missions of their local churches.

#### Q: What would be your primary hopes and goals as KBC president?

My hopes and goals for the KBC would be:

A. To promote more kindness and compassion for each other and to others outside our church.

B. To reach out to those with special spiritual needs, such as many of our people in Eastern Kentucky and recent immigrants to our state, such as Hispanics and Asians.

C. To encourage our laypeople to assist ministers in reaching evangelism goals and starting new churches.

D. To cooperate more fully with our African-American Baptist churches throughout Kentucky.

#### Q: Please share briefly about your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

I became a Christian at age 11 and was baptized by Dr. Herbert Gabhart at First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, where I am still a member. I have also been a member of First Baptist Church in Nashville and First Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Va., when I attended school at those locations. I also attended church and taught Sunday school at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington when my family lived there in the 1970s.

I have been a deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher for many years at First Baptist, Williamsburg. I have also served in various capacities throughout the convention, as first vice president, parliamentarian, member of the Mission Board and board member and chairman for both Cumberland College and Baptist Healthcare System.

God calls some people to be pastors, some to be teachers, some to be mission-

aries. I feel I have been called to be a layperson to assist these others.

#### Q: What is your opinion of the KBC Mission Study Plan approved in May that calls for the KBC to assist Kentucky Baptist churches, ministries and associations "in connecting all people to Jesus Christ" through such efforts as evangelism, missions, leader training and networking?

I think the KBC Mission Study Plan is a wonderful plan with ambitious goals that we should strive to carry out. We cannot achieve it by ourselves, but with God's help, we can succeed.

#### Q: How do you think the KBC should address current and future financial needs in the wake of recent Cooperative Program budget shortfalls?

The latest budget shortfalls are just temporary setbacks, in my opinion. We had an excellent financial year only two years ago. Certainly, we did not meet our budget goal this year, but we did exceed the overall donations of the prior year.

I look at it optimistically, because our total gifts have increased almost every year for the past seven budgets. If we are conservative in our budgets, we can meet our fiscal goals.

#### Q: One of the key responsibilities as president is to appoint three members to the KBC Committee on Committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

In appointing members to the KBC Committee on Committees, I would prayerfully select those candidates who would best serve the mission of the KBC.

#### Q: How would you describe yourself in the current political landscape of Baptist life?

I call myself a traditional Baptist, believing in the historical ideas of our denomination, including the priesthood of the believer, the separation of church and state, the autonomy of the local church and believers' baptism.

#### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

Our greatest strength has been an ability to put aside our differences to work together for the cause of Christ.

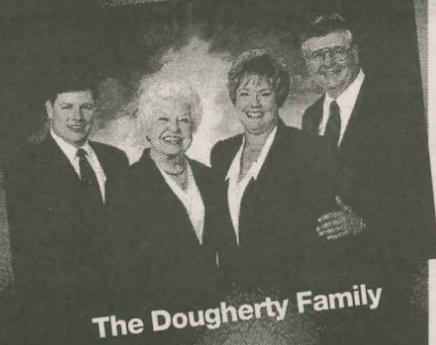
We owe a great deal of gratitude to a series of dynamic spiritual leaders, including Dr. Bill Mackey, who have served as our Kentucky Baptist Convention executive directors or executive secretary-treasurers.

#### Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest needs? Why?

Our greatest needs are to reach out to unchurched people in Kentucky, to recent immigrants and to young adults who have become inactive in their churches. We also need to extend love and cooperation to our African-American brethren in Baptist churches that may not be a part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention but who consider themselves Baptists in every sense of the denomination.

### KBC 2003 Presidential Candidate Profiles

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## Gregory urges pastors to pursue 'authentic preaching'

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**"I am painfully aware that I have stumbled with the trumpet, but I still haven't put it down until the day is done and the race is run."**

Joel Gregory

LOUISVILLE—Joel Gregory was once touted by supporters as one of the most gifted preachers in the nation. But that was before he abruptly walked away from his high-profile position as pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas more than a decade ago.

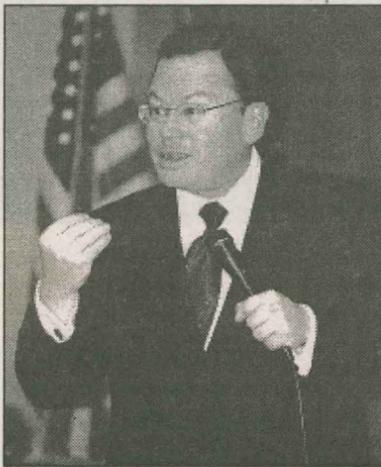
In recent years, Gregory gradually has returned to the pulpit from his self-imposed exile. During an Oct. 27 preaching workshop sponsored by Georgetown College's Marshall Center for Christian Ministry, Gregory recounted both the public prominence and private pain he has experienced.

### Wednesday night resignation

Recalling his acclaimed sermon at the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention and his 1990 call as pastor of First, Dallas—both while he was in his early 40s—Gregory noted, "Very few people in Baptist life ever got more promoted or over-promoted than I was until I walked out of what had once been the strongest Protestant church in American history after resigning on a Wednesday night."

In news reports at the time, Gregory cited a conflict with longtime—and legendary—senior pastor W.A. Criswell. "The ultimate agenda is the prolonging of the incumbent's ministry rather than the enabling of the new pastor's," Gregory told the congregation. "In light of these circumstances, I immediately and irrevocably submit my resignation."

"I had been elevated from one level to the next but suddenly, by my own volition, I went from notoriety to anonymity," he told workshop participants last week. "I went from a national television presence to hiding in



**JOEL GREGORY** "We are preaching today in the battle for the soul of the church," Gregory told Kentucky Baptist pastors during a preaching workshop last week.

a little apartment in Fort Worth. I went from preaching in George Truett's pulpit to selling funerals door to door."

Gregory, who also went through a divorce the next year, chronicled the ups and downs of his life and ministry in the 1994 book, "Too Great a Temptation: The Seductive Power of America's Super Church." During the past few years, he has been involved in magazine publishing and has begun leading preaching seminars throughout the nation.

During the one-day seminar at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, Gregory noted that he has learned a great deal about human needs and struggles while living "a very different life than I used to live."

While selling prepaid funeral plans door to door, "I found out what I didn't know and that is most people are barely making it," he reflected. "It has changed my preaching and my life."

"I used to look at people as the same kind of driven overachievers that I was. I came to find out that most people are barely making it and life is a daily battle for basics; that most people are living a life of quiet desperation and marginal existence."

"It's a pitiful thing to confess that I spent 25 years preaching, not really understanding that I was preaching into people's battles," he added. "I'd like to go back and undo and redo some preaching in that regard."

### 'Blow the trumpet'

Urging pastors to "blow the trumpet" in the pulpit, Gregory cited Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 14:8, "If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare for battle?"

Noting that he began preaching at age 16, Gregory said that over the years he has viewed preaching as everything from an intellectual exercise in exegesis to an esthetic art form to an oratorical performance.

"We preach in the middle of a battle," he declared, "and if we don't understand that, it diminishes our understanding and it turns us into homiletical dwarfs, ministerial midgets, Lilliputians of the library. Preaching blows the trumpet in the middle of the battle."

In addition to addressing individuals' battles, "we are preaching today in the battle for the soul of the church,"

Gregory said.

"What is the church going to be?" he asked. "Are we simply going to pander to the most popular way to give people whatever they want just as long as we can get a crowd? ... Somewhere in between the church that simply reflects the norms of contemporary culture and the church that reacts by entrenching in a denomination that is gone and will never come back, we need to blow the trumpet with an authentic canonical word."

The nation also is in a battle, Gregory emphasized. "I think that preaching post-9/11 cannot be the same," he said. "I believe a day will come when people will not want to know the pabulum of the talking heads on CNN or the fiction of Fox network or the latest insight of Dr. Phil. We may be in a world where they will turn back in a last gasp of secularism and say, 'Is there a word from God?'"

Noting that the trumpet has changed little over the centuries, Gregory said, "There also is a changeless quality in authentic preaching. ... Don't trade your trumpet in for the kazoo of pop culture or for the tin whistle of pulpit entertainment or for the turkey call of mere human observations."

Other qualities of a trumpet—and authentic preaching—are that it is a solo instrument, a penetrating instrument and a wind instrument, Gregory said.

"Trumpets make no sounds by themselves," he pointed out. "It's only a piece of metal silent, mute, unmusical. It is only the blowing of wind through a trumpet that makes its sound."

"So also is preaching," he explained. "There is an element of mystery in preaching that is deeper to me than it's ever been. Absent the breath of the Spirit, I am nothing but a trumpet on the table. ... I wish I had known that so much earlier in my own ministerial life and career."

Citing his increasing opportunities to preach, teach and lead preaching seminars, Gregory said, "Once you really take up the trumpet, you can't put it down."

"I tried to put it down; I wanted to put it down. In fact, others have even tried to take it away from me and have said, 'Don't pick it up again.'"

"I am painfully aware that I have stumbled with the trumpet," he concluded, "but I still haven't put it down until the day is done and the race is run."

### Gregory: Use crisp illustrations

LOUISVILLE—Highlighting why to preach, what to preach and how to preach, Joel Gregory offered practical insights during an Oct. 27 preaching workshop at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

"The necessity for contemporary sermon illustrations seems to be imperative in biblical preaching today," he told workshop participants. "From the beginning of the sermon, crisp, contemporary illustrations are needed to pull the congregation into the text."

"Your illustrations assist the congregation in the truth making a permanent impression," he said. "They are not like one size fits all. They need to be pertinent to the point of the sermon."

Encouraging pastors to "let the images in the text suggest the imagery for your illustrations," Gregory added, "Make certain that the illustrations you tell are credible. Make sure they are detailed and specific. The impact of sermon illustrations is directly related to the specificity of the illustrations."

Pastors also should "find crisp, contemporary illustrations rather than the shopworn, hackneyed illustrations that everyone already knows," he said. "You've got to find them, refine them, craft them and fit them" into the sermon's content and flow.

"Remember that Jesus spoke in stories," he emphasized. "That ought to tip us off about the value of stories."

The preaching workshop, sponsored by Georgetown College's Marshall Center for Christian Ministry, was funded by the Enlow Excellence in Preaching Endowment.

## Ancient Civilizations and the Bible

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## Lawyers: 'Under God' case could have lasting impact

By Kristen Campbell  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Supreme Court's recent decision to consider whether the 1954 addition of the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance has religious leaders weighing the possible impact of a court ruling—either way—on religious liberty in the country.

The challenge of Michael Newdow, an atheist who objected to recitations of the pledge at his daughter's California public school, received national attention in 2002 when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Congress violated the First Amendment when it added the words "under God."

In taking the case, the court will engage in a debate older than the nation itself.

The ramifications of its decision would affect the law in almost every state, according to Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the Washington-based American Center for Law and Justice.

The struggle to articulate and safeguard the nation's ideals of religious liberties has never been easy. But in recent years, as Americans have asked judges to define and protect rights constituents believe are articulated in

the First Amendment, the battle seems to have grown more emotional.

In the end, some of the war's spoils may not amount to much.

Charles Haynes, senior scholar at the First Amendment Center in Arlington, Va., said he expects the Supreme Court to overturn the appeals' court decision unanimously.

"It seems to me highly unlikely to impossible that the court will reverse decades of thinking by justices, even though there is no Supreme Court case upholding the pledge," Haynes said.

### "Ceremonial deism"

"There are many cases that have dicta, or have expressions of opinion by justices about the pledge, about other references to God, such as 'In God We Trust' or 'The Star Spangled Banner.' ... Generally, these have been cited as ceremonial deism. And in some cases, justices have even said they have lost any religious significance they might have had. ... They are no longer really religious expressions as much as they are sort of historic affirmations of our national identity and so forth."

Haynes said he finds the situation ironic.

"Religious people, in my view, win little when they win the right to keep

religion as long as it isn't meaningful," he said. "Efforts to push for acknowledgment of God or religion by the state often end in doing more to harm authentic faith or religious expression than to enhance it."

### Reference traced to Lincoln

But Sekulow said, "It just would be a sad day for this country if we have to remove a phrase that actually arises out of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address."

In his dedication of the Pennsylvania military cemetery, Lincoln said: "It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln's use of religious rhetoric during a time of national crisis is far from unusual.

"When the nation feels very threatened, when there's high anxiety about the state of the nation and enemies from within and from without threat-

ening the nation, there is always, really, in our history a kind of return to this affirmation of the United States as a nation under God to somehow assuage the anxiety, to somehow recover our strength," Haynes said.

Such motivations may have played a part in adding the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance in the first place.

In the midst of Cold War concerns about political enemies some lawmakers described as "godless communists," the Knights of Columbus encouraged Congress to amend the pledge to include the words "under God."

In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower approved the change and stated, "From this day forward, the millions of our schoolchildren will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty."

If the Supreme Court affirms the decision rendered by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, other national expressions of religious sentiment would undoubtedly be challenged, Sekulow and Haynes agreed.

"The political fallout would be profound," Haynes said. "There would be such a backlash in the country."

### Grassroots petition filed in pledge case

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Supreme Court was given last week more than 700,000 reasons to keep the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Representatives from Grassfire.net, a conservative grassroots organization, delivered petitions to the Supreme Court signed by citizens nationwide who want to preserve the pledge's traditional wording.

"The effort to remove 'under God' from the pledge strikes a blow to the very heart of our American understanding of freedom," said Keith Fournier, president of the Common Good Foundation, a Christian activist group.

"Our American rights and liberties are endowed by a creator. ... ('Under God') must remain part of our national language," he said.

Next year, the high court will consider the case of Jeffrey Newdow, a California atheist who does not want his 9-year-old daughter to hear the pledge in school.

The Supreme Court's decision to hear the appeal caused an outcry from conservative groups who fear the phrase will be removed. Church-state groups, meanwhile, heralded the decision.

Rob Schenck, president of the National Clergy Council, said he believes "the Constitution exists for one purpose, and that is to secure the rights given to us by our creator."

"Only God can give permanent rights to human beings, and only God can take them away," he said.

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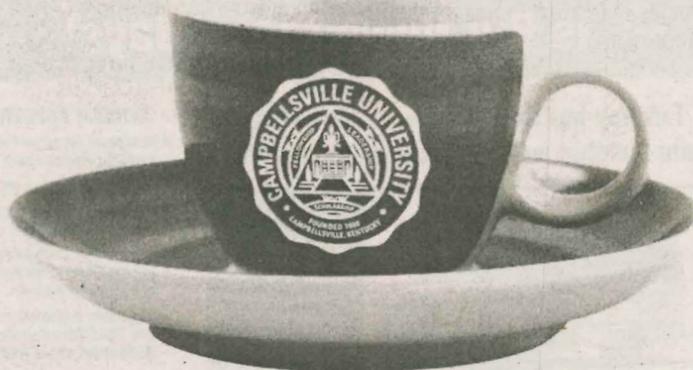


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# MISSIONS

## Baptists provide food, counsel to California fire victims

### Chaplains talk to home owners

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (BP)—Southern Baptist public safety chaplains aren't fighting wildfires in Southern California, but they are at the front lines of grief faced by the hundreds of families who have lost their homes, possessions, pets and even loved ones.

The fires, now blamed for at least 20 deaths, had destroyed nearly 2,000 homes as of early Oct. 29. Thousands, unsure whether they will be able to return to their homes, remain in evacuation centers.

Dale Garland, a volunteer police chaplain and pastor of First Baptist Church of Fontana, said he and a fellow church staff member have been busy working with two evacuation centers providing counseling services. The church also has provided meals for evacuees at the centers.

One of the first steps when somebody has faced loss from a fire, he said, is to provide a "defusing."

"You just let them talk about it and give them some information about the grieving process," said Garland, who like other Southern Baptist public safety chaplains, receive endorsement through the North American Mission Board.

"One lady lost a two-bedroom house in the mountains, and to her, losing that house was like losing a loved one," he recalled. "It was really a dream home."

Garland counseled another family who escaped at the last moment.

"Their house was burning down, and the (fiberglass) back of their truck just melted," Garland said. "Their boat caught on fire, so they had to stop and unleash the boat. ... They were praising God they were able to get out."

By Kelli Cottrell  
California Baptist Convention

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (BP)—Fire victims at the largest evacuation site in Southern California are being fed, provided showers and even entertained by local Baptists.

A group of 50 students from California Baptist University in Riverside, for example, helped serve dinner Oct. 29 to the 1,800-plus people at the San Bernardino Airport evacuation site.

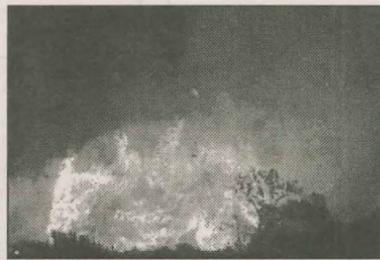
Of the 32 shelters open in Southern California to house fire evacuees, the San Bernardino Airport location is the largest.

Members from various Baptist congregations have been staffing a mobile kitchen and a six-stall shower unit provided by the California Southern Baptist Convention.

A mobile children's Sunday school unit from Set Free Yucaipa, called Kids For Christ, meanwhile, has been parked at the shelter offering free puppet shows, face painting, balloon animals, stories and free clothes and food items from the church's thrift store.

"They are doing a great job," Frank Forsey, an American Red Cross manager, said of the Baptist volunteers. "They do any job we ask them to do. It's a tremendous help to us."

Most of all, Forsey said, he appreciates the fact that the churches came to him, instead of him having to re-



**WALL OF FIRE** Flames in Southern California towered over 50-foot trees as they made their way through communities. Even from a distance of 1,000 feet away, observers reported feeling heat rolling over them in waves and hearing the sound of trees popping. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

cruit volunteers.

"I always know when people really want to help because they will seek me out," he said.

Various California Baptist churches are sending volunteers throughout the week to serve meals and staff the shower stalls, said Paul Wilkerson, director of missions for Inland Empire Baptist Association.

"It has been a concerted effort by many churches," Wilkerson said. "We started out this disaster without a dime and churches are taking collections and volunteering. God has really provided during this crisis."

The outreach by the 182-church association has been undertaken at a time when many members have suffered the loss of their own homes.

Evacuees expressed thanks. "This is what we needed," Maria Pena, 17, said of the hot showers. "We're glad you brought in these showers because I won't go in the other ones" at the evacuation site, which have only cold water.

Annie Hanson, 20, a California Baptist University junior, served iced tea to people staying at the shelter.

"Since I couldn't help out during 9/11 I wanted to help during this disaster," Hanson said. "I have a few friends who live in the burning areas and it just hits too close to home to not come help out."

Hillary Hayes, an 18-year-old freshman and Tehachapi native who served fruit cocktail, said, "People are hurting and need the Lord right now. We need to minister to them."

More than 1,000 homes have been lost to fires in and around the San Bernardino Mountains, east of Los Angeles, according to Associated Press reports. Another 1,000 were lost in the San Diego area and other parts of Southern California.

"We're ready wherever we're needed," Wilkerson said. "We want to minister where we can."

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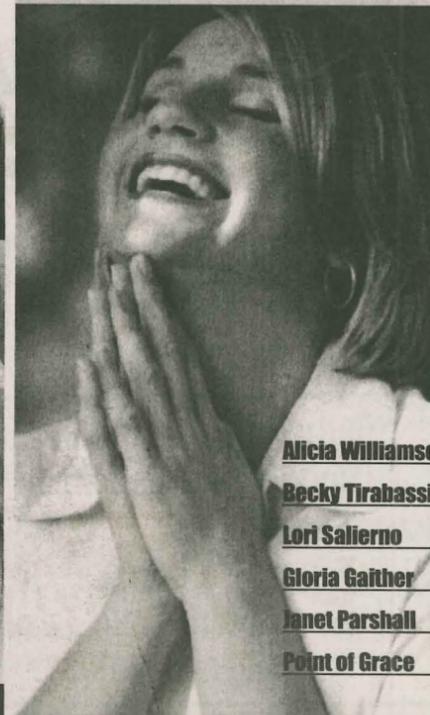
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# SMILE

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In this case, there is a solution that might very well satisfy both of your priorities. You can establish a charitable remainder trust and fund it with the appreciated stock you have held for years. Your stock gift is not treated as a sale, so you do not realize any capital gains when you transfer it to the trust. Because the trust ultimately is devoted to charitable purposes, the capital gains realized when the stock is sold are not subject to tax. The trust will pay you for both lifetimes a certain percentage of the fair market value of the trust assets as revalued each year. The lowest percentage permitted under the law is 5 percent. You will receive an immediate charitable deduction for the present value of the chari-

table remainder interest. When the surviving spouse dies, the remainder goes to the charitable organization(s) of your choice.

But what about your other priority, the kids? Although there may be other alternatives for replacing the inheritance your children would have received had you not been so charitably inclined, life insurance is often-times an excellent alternative. Using a life insurance policy in the amount of the after-tax value of the donated stock had it been sold, and naming your children as the beneficiaries, you replace their inheritance.

For example, if you donated \$500,000 in appreciated stock to a charitable trust and avoid being taxed on \$300,000 of capital gains, the amount to replace with life insurance would be \$455,000, which is the difference in the \$500,000 gift and the \$45,000 tax.

If you are in this situation, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me for information and assistance.

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

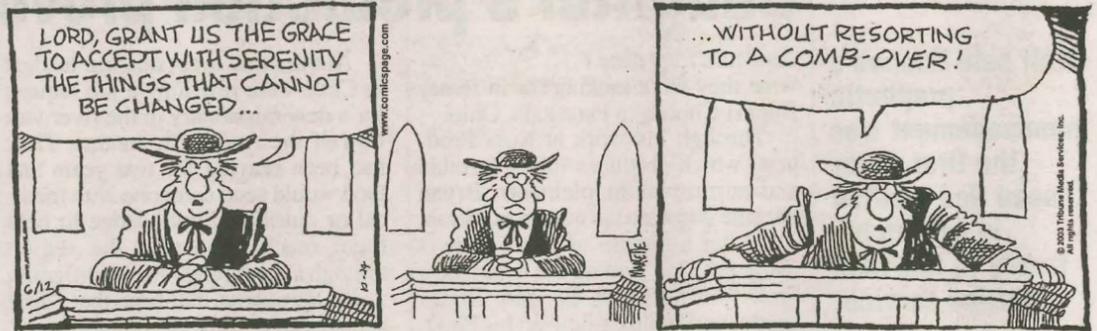
### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

## Kudzu

Doug Marlette



## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Bible Crossword

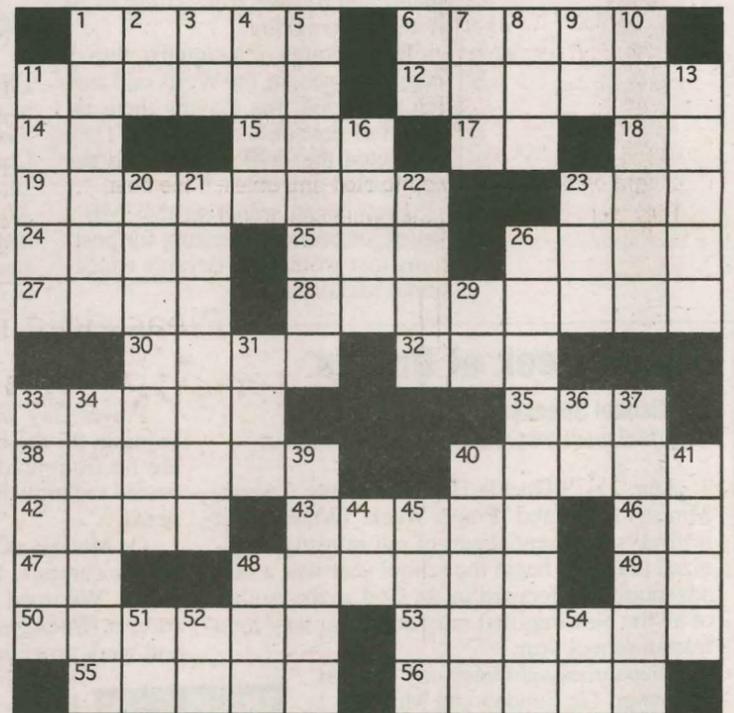
Teri Grottko

### Across

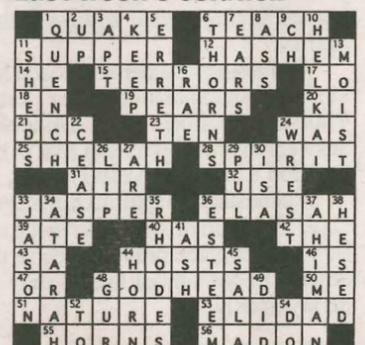
- 1 Returning exiles, the children of \_\_\_\_ (Ezra 2:44)
- 6 Standoffish
- 11 \_\_\_\_ of refuge
- 12 Mother of Samuel
- 14 "\_\_\_\_ if!"
- 15 Encountered
- 17 Biblical pronoun
- 18 Latin abbr.
- 19 Made with yeast
- 23 Take a wrong turn
- 24 City where Isaac died (var., Genesis 35:27)
- 25 Physicians' group (abbr.)
- 26 Looked at
- 27 Greet
- 28 Gossips
- 30 Brother of Harnepher (1 Chronicles 7:36)
- 32 On the outside (prefix)
- 33 Son of Midian (Genesis 25:4)
- 35 O.T. minor prophet (abbr.)
- 38 Father of Azareel (Nehemiah 11:13)
- 40 More painful
- 42 Hearts, for one
- 43 Offering
- 46 Preposition
- 47 Hospital inits.
- 48 King Og's kingdom (Numbers 21)
- 49 Pronoun
- 50 Aka Belteshazzar
- 53 He prophesied bondage for Paul
- 55 Bear or bee
- 56 Included in the inheritance of the tribe of Asher (Joshua 19:27)

### Down

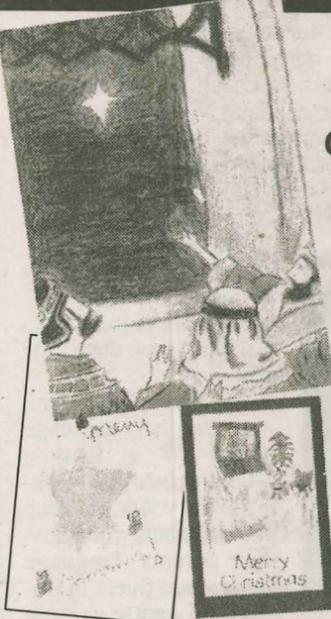
- 1 He was "smote" by Jael
- 2 Clara Bow, the \_\_\_\_ Girl
- 3 City near Bethel
- 4 Part of the hemoglobin molecule
- 5 Wife of Joseph (Genesis 41)
- 6 "Say \_\_\_\_"
- 7 \_\_\_\_ it on
- 8 Single
- 9 \_\_\_\_ a roll
- 10 Prettier
- 11 City in Assyria (Genesis 10:11)
- 13 Cattle crowds
- 16 Arabian city (Isaiah 21)
- 20 Brother of Joab (1 Chronicles 2:16)
- 21 Assign worth to (arch.)
- 22 Palm or line
- 23 "He that hath a bountiful \_\_\_\_ shall be blessed" (Proverbs 22:9)
- 26 Son of Zerariah (Ezra 8:4)
- 29 Relative of a borough (abbr.)
- 31 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 33 Alleviated
- 34 Servant of Gideon (Judges 7:10)
- 36 Middle Eastern language (abbr.)
- 37 City in the inheritance of the children of Simeon (Joshua 19:4)
- 39 Southern European country
- 40 His son Jonathan served in David's army (1 Chronicles 11:34)
- 41 Asiatic deer (pl.)
- 44 Linking verb
- 45 Comparative conjunction
- 48 Get-together, for a purpose
- 51 Favorite first word?
- 52 Preposition
- 54 Command word



### Last week's solution



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## Daughter's prediction proves prophetic for missionaries

**Wolf said Hannah's prophetic announcement was the first major seed God planted in calling his family to full-time mission service.**

*Continued from page 1*

what they were looking for in Jersey Baptist Church in Pataskala, Ohio.

Through his work at Ross Products, which produces infant formula and nutritional supplements, Bryan became interested in human nutrition.

"After a couple of years there, I really felt God leading me to pursue a Ph.D." in nutrition, he said. Bryan began working part-time on his Ph.D. at Ohio State University while working a demanding job and finding time to be a husband and a father.

Bryan said he realized "God was sustaining me, preparing me for something bigger."

### Fighting it "tooth and nail"

The Wolfs began exploring the possibility that God was calling them to be missionaries. Deana said she resisted the idea at first.

"I was fighting it tooth and nail to be quite honest," she said. Her husband had a Ph.D. and a well-paying job in a solid company, and she had given birth to three children. They lived in a nice community and loved their church. "We were going to be living the good life."

But through encounters with a number of people, the Wolfs said they felt as if God was moving them toward full-time missions service. They contacted the IMB, and started the application process.

They began searching the IMB's list of job requests, looking for positions that would use Bryan's educational background.

At the same time, mission leaders in Chile were rewriting a job request for a new missionary in the river valleys of the Andes Mountains. They had been praying for two years that God would send someone with medical or nutritional knowledge to help them reach people in the region through a community health program.

"It was about that time that I first had started feeling God moving me" toward missions, Bryan said. The timing seemed more than coincidental to the Wolfs.

They sent an e-mail inquiring about the position. Bryan still was struggling with some questions about his call to missions. He asked God for a specific sign that this was His plan for the family, leaving the comfort of their life in Ohio for the mission field.

He said he told Deana, if God wants us to go, we'll have an e-mail reply from Chile tonight about our inquiry.

That evening when the Wolfs checked their e-mail, they had not one reply, but two. The Wolfs had the confirmation they needed.

### Teaching & hospitality

The Wolf family will head to the IMB's Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, Va., for training this winter. They will depart in March for Chile, where they will study the language for a year in La Serena, Chile. After they are comfortable with the language, they will make their home among the people of the Huasco River valley.

Bryan's first focus will be sharing Christ and teaching the Bible. He will use his background in nutrition to teach preventative medicine as a way to develop relationships.

Deana will focus on church and home, home schooling the children and building relationships with local women.

"I love, love, love, love, love to cook for people and reach people that way," Deana said with a laugh. "God's been preparing me along the way."

The Wolfs said they are grateful for the support they received from Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists. They are living temporarily

in a missionary house sponsored by Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, and Bryan's seminary costs are paid by an IMB grant.

The Wolfs are among 69 missionaries to be appointed at the service in Rupp Arena as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

In addition to missionaries' testimonies, the event also will feature a greeting from University of Kentucky men's basketball coach Tubby Smith and a sermon from International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

Admission to the 7 p.m. event is free. For more information, visit [www.kybaptist.org/imbappointment](http://www.kybaptist.org/imbappointment).

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## Prayer week at Oneida

By Michael Spencer

Oneida Baptist Institute Campus Minister

Aug. 25-29 Oneida Baptist Institute Campus Ministry sponsored "Prayer Week." While prayer is always an essential part of our ministry, organized prayer to begin the school year was a new adventure that focused us on God as the Author of all the blessings that must come our way for a fruitful school year.

Chapel messages each day focused on prayer. On Sunday and Monday, I spoke on our theme verse for the week: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11, English Standard Version)

On Tuesday, former Oneida Baptist Institute teacher and coach Michelle Rasmussen and her husband, Ryan, shared stories of dramatic answers to prayer while on a year of mission service in Kenya. Michelle was struck by a bus and broke her pelvis in several places. Today, through God's grace, she is walking and giving a great witness to the power of the Spirit.

Wednesday teacher and coach Mike Waslewski shared an exposition of the Lord's Prayer, and Thursday President W.F. Underwood told how answers to prayer played a role in his understanding God's call to serve at Oneida.

Wednesday chapel also inaugurated "Prayer Day." A group of staff who feel a call to intercessory prayer place prayer cards in the chapel, and anyone in our school family may request prayer anonymously.

Prayer Day has continued, and many prayer requests fill the box each week. When students are far from home, prayer helps them feel connected to family members or friends with special needs.

On Monday of Prayer Week I led a prayer walk across campus. More than 20 staff members joined. We stood in dorms and prayed for house parents. We prayed for the ministries of our farm and work program. We prayed for maintenance, teachers and Oneida Baptist Church. Everyone felt a sense that God had led us to realize our dependence on Him throughout the year.

Monday and Thursday mornings, our men met for "Men's Mornings with God," a time of Bible study and prayer. Men have a special ministry on campus to one another, but especially to the many young men who come to us needing a male role model and influence.

Each day of Prayer Week the prayer chapel and our school chapel were open before school and during lunch for fasting and prayer. Many of our staff skipped a lunch and spent the time in

prayer. A special prayer guide for the week reminded us what to pray for each day.

On Friday of Prayer Week, our BSU sponsored a student prayer meeting. More than 50 students came together to worship and pray.

Prayer Week gave a wonderful spiritual boost to the beginning of the school year. It also prepared us for revival services led by Oneida Baptist Church the next week.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## New prof brings many experiences

Our new missions professor, Bob Hughes, grew up in a missions setting. His father was executive director of the California Baptist Convention. "I was in many different kinds of churches with him and had lots of home missions experiences," Bob said.

"At age 7, I met the Lord at GA/RA camp where my parents were counselors. I had to be there. On the front seat Friday morning was the first time I realized Jesus Christ had died for me. Of course, there were stages of development. Every summer when I went to camp I had my annual call, a refreshing of my experience with the Lord, but I never questioned it was true."

Bob's first sense of calling was simply that God wanted him in full-time service. That calling has involved him as a pastor, missionary, teacher and writer. "All of these are types of ministries that I find fulfilling," Bob said. He encourages students to be open to God using all their abilities.

"Much of my approach in class is to make students uncomfortable so they will react and push themselves and get to the edge of their comfort zone," he stated. "When we go to witness to someone, that is

generally on the edge of our comfort zone."

After college he went to Zambia as a missionary journeyman. He and his wife, Gail, served a term as missionaries in Nigeria. As a communication specialist he helped the Nigerian convention establish a radio-television commission and trained young men to run studios across the country in various languages. "Many students came to the U.S., and I had opportunities to visit and teach them," he said.

In Louisville, Bob was English language pastor of a Korean church, primarily preaching to the youth, children of immigrants who know their parents' language but also are fluent in English and want to worship in English.

At Clear Creek, Bob remembers his summer camp days in California. "Growing up in the heart of the city, I didn't get to see trees and mountains very often. Going to camp was like going to heaven. Well, Clear Creek is like teaching in heaven."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## A different DC Talk

*Congressional prayer meetings breaking out all over nation's capital*

By Michelle Gabriel  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Congresswoman Denise Majette has a lot of reasons to pray.

"As a freshman member of Congress in the minority party, I need to be constantly connected to the Holy Spirit to stay strong," said Majette, a Democrat from Georgia.

Before they debate issues that affect millions of Americans' lives, many legislators meet for informal prayer sessions and Bible studies.

Organized prayer breakfasts also are held weekly for Senate and House members, which Rep. Zach Wamp, R-Tenn., called "the finest hour of the week."

Although the Constitution forbids them to tamper with religious expression and practice in their roles as elected officials, in private, congressional members feel free to bend God's ear about some of the nation's most pressing issues.

"I've met with a senator friend of mine to pray about the world and pray about other countries and each other," Wamp said. "There's a lot of prayer. It's a huge source of strength for members of Congress."

Rep. Todd Tiaht, R-Kan., attends Bible study classes at the Capitol and hosts impromptu prayer sessions with friends. "It's sort of a time of listening and a brief closing prayer in my office," Tiaht said. "I found prayer doesn't hurt anyone and it's often a source of strength."

### Prof: Congress interested in faith

Daniel Dreisbach, a professor of justice, law and society at American University in Washington, said despite the constraints of the First Amendment, church and state have been linked since the time of the Founding Fathers.

In the country's earliest years, he noted, worship services were commonplace on public grounds and Congress often dabbled in religious matters. The appointment and salaries of Senate and House chaplains were among the first agenda items of the first Congress.



Today, as Congress continues to open sessions with prayer and observes a National Day of Prayer established in 1952, some groups say that religion and politics are inexorably linked.

Praying in congressional offices "shows that they're not divorcing their religious views from their public office," said Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-founder of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a group advocating church-state separation.

But Dreisbach said prayer in Congress is allowed, provided it's voluntary.

"We don't ask people to shed their religious beliefs once they step into the halls of government," he said.

Dreisbach said religious beliefs are as ingrained as political affiliation—an undeniable part of a person's beliefs. He said discussing religion or engaging in prayer is no different from rooting for a baseball team or discussing the weather, as long as they are done in private—a position Wamp shares.

"The Scripture says you're not to do it publicly or proudly but to find a place, maybe in a closet, so (prayer) is a private, personal thing," Wamp said. "People should not beat their chest about it."

### Making sure it's voluntary

Because there are so many prayer breakfasts, prayer meetings and private prayers going on in the Capitol and nearby House and Senate office

buildings, congressmen need to realize there may be a feeling of pressure to participate among congressional staff and others on Capitol Hill, said Melissa Rogers, visiting professor of religion and public policy at Wake Forest University Divinity School.

"Because Washington is a place for networking, people who do take part in these activities should make it clear to their subordinates that it's not an expectation in any way," she said.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, is part of both formal and informal prayer groups in Congress. He attends weekly Senate prayer breakfasts and also prays in private.

"I regularly take time to pray by myself and with others to offer thanks and seek guidance," Grassley said. "As a Christian, I believe that God wants us to talk to Him about anything in our life."

Wamp said he notices more people than ever praying on the Hill, especially in the wake of Sept. 11.

"We hit our knees as a country on Sept. 11, and I hope we stayed there," he said. "I believe we have. I think prayer influences a number of congresspeople's daily lives."

Tiaht said many members of Congress, who keep hectic schedules, find structure and repose in prayer.

"(Congress) is such a different lifestyle," he said. "I pray for my family quite a bit. Family is eternal, and this job only lasts two years."

## God laid cross-cultural plan in their hands, church leaders say

BEDFORD, Texas (ABP)—Some congregations spend years trying to discern God's will. Leaders of Woodland Heights Baptist Church in Bedford, Texas, feel God laid it in their hands.

In July 2000, a Brazilian church started a trend when it asked to share the facilities of Woodland Heights Baptist Church. Soon a Korean church did the same. Later a 50-member Chinese church would come to use the buildings, too. Now Sudanese people are coming to services and may start a church on the premises soon.

"This has not been in our plan," Woodland Heights Pastor Doug Riggs admitted. "It's not something we set out to do necessarily. But it's something God laid in our hands."

Riggs acknowledged he was not used to working in a multicultural setting. Yet he said he has been willing to learn about the people meeting on the church grounds. One thing he has learned is that a host church must be willing to treat the other congregations as equals. While the leaders interact and encourage each other, the congregations essentially function independently.

"It is working out perfectly," said Jair Campos, pastor of Igreja Batista Brasileira Central. "Woodland Heights respects the mission churches."

The host church needs to emphasize reaching people, not just growing the church, Riggs added. If more people can become Christians through these churches, Riggs wants to help.

"I think the only thing it requires from an English congregation is a mindset that this is not our castle that we need to protect with a moat," he said.

There were initial concerns about sharing the space with other churches, but Riggs noted they quickly disappeared as the congregations reached people in the community without altering the host church's activities.

Not only were the concerns gone, but the congregations came together for a multicultural worship service.

Campos described the service as being "like heaven," saying that all the missions and the host church functioned as one large congregation.

Christopher Sham, pastor of the Bedford Chinese Baptist Church, echoed Campos' thoughts, calling the congregation a "group of saints."

"It was a great experience to see how people do things differently," said Campos, who also serves as music minister at Woodland Heights. "Even though people have different cultures they can come together to worship and feel the Spirit."

The Korean church has since moved to its own facilities, but the worship event has opened the congregations to further cooperation. Leaders are planning a Christmas drive-through presentation of Christ's life complete with 13 sets, costumes and a cast.

Each car will receive a tape or compact disc that narrates the story as they drive through. Audio will be available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Cantonese and Mandarin. "There's a bigger mentality that is growing that is 'It's not about me. It's about the Kingdom,'" he said. "The multicultural thing is such a blessing. You just have to try it."

## Mike Yaconelli, founder of Wittenberg Door magazine, killed in accident

YREKA, Calif. (RNS)—Mike Yaconelli, former editor of The Wittenberg Door and the owner and "fearless leader" of Youth Specialties, an organization that trains thousands of church youth workers each year, died Oct. 30 from injuries sustained in a automobile accident. He was 61.

Yaconelli was returning home to Yreka, Calif., Oct. 29 when the pickup truck he was driving went onto the shoulder of Interstate 5 and struck a light standard around 8 p.m., according to the Siskiyou Daily News.

Yaconelli was airlifted to a hospital in Redding, Calif., where he died the following morning. The cause of the accident is unknown.

Yaconelli founded YS in 1969 with fellow youth minister Wayne Rice, organizing their first national Christian youth workers convention in 1970. The group now claims to train 100,000 youth workers a year through seminars, conferences, resources and a Web site. He also was a lay pastor at a small church in Yreka, which he once joked was "the slowest-growing

church in America."

They founded The Wittenberg Door (now The Door) in 1971 as a youth worker journal. When they realized that "Wittenberg" was misspelled on the first cover, they decided to focus the magazine on religious satire, with features like the "Green Weenie" award that poked fun at some "stupid things" they saw Christians doing.

An early Green Weenie went to the Roman Catholic Church for advertising in Playboy for candidates for the

priesthood.

"We made fun of the church because we loved the church," Yaconelli, who edited the Door for 25 years, said in an interview earlier this year. "What we were upset about was all the stupid things the church was doing."

He is survived by his wife, Karla, five children and four grandchildren. A small memorial service was held in Yreka, with a larger service being planned in the San Diego area after Thanksgiving.

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Laura Beville

There came a time in Jesus' ministry when some of the people who had been following His teachings started to desert Him. They said His teachings were too hard.

Jesus asked His closest disciples if they too were going to leave Him. Peter spoke up and said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68).

This world presents us with many choices concerning how to live our lives and what we want to believe. Popular thinking says you can believe whatever you want, worship whatever god or follow whatever religion.

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). All people eventually must decide what they believe about Jesus Christ. Your decision determines your eternal future as well as the course of your life on earth.

Will you recognize, with Peter, that Jesus is the Holy One of God and receive Him as your Savior, understanding that He is the only way to the Father?

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, will not die, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Will today be the day you make up your mind about Jesus? Read the Book of John in the Bible to help you know Him more.

Laura Beville, a member of Living Hope Church in Bowling Green, chairs the Western Recorder board of directors

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church recently called **Michael Parks** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Dry Run Church in Georgetown.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Jackson Grove Church recently called **Tim Sweatman** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church recently named **Norman Ellis** pastor emeritus. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.

East Cadiz Church will hold revival services Nov. 23-26 with **Don Mathis** as evangelist.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church honored **Ruth Badgett** on her 90th birthday Oct. 19.

Saloma Church will host a community Thanksgiving service and potluck meal Nov. 26, 6:30 p.m. The annual event is co-sponsored by Friendship, Mount Roberts, Salem and Saloma churches. For more information, call (270) 789-0082.

■ **HARLAN**—Harlan Church will hold youth revival services Nov. 17-21. **John Ditty** is pastor.

■ **HAZEL**—Hazel Church recently ordained **Ken Craig, Harold Wilkinson** and **James Williams** as deacons.

■ **KIRKSEY**—Owens Chapel recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

■ **LOCKPORT**—**Wayne Kelly** was honored Oct. 19 for 20 years of ministry at Lockport Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church called **Chris Miracle** as interim minister of children. **Wesley**

**Pitts** is interim pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host the **Wilburns** in concert Nov. 16, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218.

**Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Nueva Jerusalem Church called **Daniel Hatfield** as pastor.

Rockford Lane Church recently honored **Jana Hack** for 15 years of service as church secretary. **Randal Pollock** is pastor.

■ **MORGANTOWN**—**Hayward Casey**, pastor of Barnett's Lick Church, died Oct. 22 at age 74. Casey, who served 53 years as a pastor, also served Green River Church, Cromwell; Burton Memorial Church, Bowling Green; New Union Church, Russellville; Gethsemane Church, Louisville; Eastern Gate Church, Shepherdsville; Browder Church; and Chapel Union Church, Morgantown. An Army veteran who served in Korea, he also was a trustee of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He is survived by his wife, Jane, two children and six grandchildren.

### 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.

## Valley View among recipients of Southern's C.H. Spurgeon Awards

LOUISVILLE—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary officials didn't have to travel far to find the recipient of the school's 2003 C.H. Spurgeon Award for worship.

Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville was among a dozen churches honored Oct. 23 during Southern's second annual ministry awards.

"It was kind of unexpected for us," said Valley View Pastor Kevin Hamm. "We were humbled to be recognized in the area of worship."

Describing the awards ceremony as "incredibly moving," he added, "It was a wonderful experience to see how God is moving in so many different kinds of churches in so many areas of the country.

"We really believe that worship is the front door of the church—the first contact many people have with the local church," Hamm said. "Our heart is that they would sense the presence of God and the practicality of God's Word. That's been a good balance for us in worship."

Southern's C.H. Spurgeon Awards ceremony and conference debuted last year. The event, sponsored by Southern's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, was conceived by the school's dean, Thom Rainer.

"The purpose of the Charles Hadson Spurgeon Awards is to bring glory to God by recognizing His work in His churches," Rainer said. "Although the churches do get rightful recognition, we are very clear that we do not

seek glory for the churches, but to encourage and exhort them in the manner of the Apostle Paul."

Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N.C., received the top award as "Church of the Year."

Englewood has experienced major growth in recent years. The church averages 1,250 in attendance for Sunday morning worship and 800 for Sunday school. Sunday school attendance has increased by nearly 200 in the past two years and has climbed by a greater percentage recently, said David Dixon, associate pastor of evangelism and church growth.

Other award recipients include:

■ Evangelism, Canaan Baptist Church, Bessemer, Ala.

■ Prayer, Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

■ Discipleship, First Baptist Church, Thayer, Mo.

■ Ministry, Word Tabernacle Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

■ Church planting, Eastwood Baptist Church, Haughton, La.

■ Global missions, Calvary Baptist Church, Elko, Nev.

■ Sunday school/small group, Holgate Baptist Church, Portland, Ore.

■ Innovative approaches, The Country Church SBC, Marion, Texas.

■ Preaching, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.

■ Fellowship, Brown Springs Baptist Church, Mosheim, Tenn.

Based on reporting by Baptist Press and Editor Trennis Henderson

## Futral to retire from leadership post after 20 years on KBC staff

LOUISVILLE—Guy Futral, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention leadership development team, has announced plans to retire in the spring of 2004 after two decades of KBC ministry.

"These have been very good years," Futral wrote in an e-mail to KBC staff members. "It has been an incredible learning experience and in so many ways you have been my teachers. I am indebted to you."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said Futral was instrumental in helping design the work of the leadership development team. He cited Futral's contributions to such programs as the Shepherding the Shepherd conference, Joshua Project and Ministers in Transition Conference.

"Guy has been a pastor to all KBC staff and has brought that pastoral dimension to the team leader group," Mackey added. "It has been a joy to work with him and I will miss his consultation as part of our leadership group."

Futral joined the KBC staff in 1984 as director of the minister-church relations department. Over the years, his job title changed several times, but his ministry remained the same: helping ministers

and churches connect with each other.

Futral said he found great satisfaction "helping people find God's call in their lives." He also sought to help ministers and churches work through conflicts in creative, biblical ways.

"Seeing ministers work their way through struggles to a place of peace" has been particularly satisfying, he said.

After retirement, Futral plans to continue his ministry with ministers and

churches as a KBC consultant. He also plans to devote more time to woodworking, writing and spending more time with family.

Futral is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and wife, Nancy, are the parents of four adult daughters.

Prior to joining the KBC staff, Futral was pastor of First Baptist Church of Mayfield from 1980-1984 and pastor of First Baptist Church, Covington, La., from 1966-1980. He also has been pastor of churches in Mississippi and North Carolina.



Futral

## 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.

**FOR SALE:** 1996 Dodge Ram 15-passenger van; 63,000+ miles. 1998 Dodge Ram 15-passenger van; 54,000+ miles. Call (606) 663-2161 or 663-0239.

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

**FOR SALE:** 147 end-of-lease award-winning Panasonic Medallion copiers. Very low meter counts. Extremely low prices. Call Data Copy (502) 456-5511. First come, first served.

**FOR SALE:** Yamaha baby grand piano. Polished walnut finish; beautiful instrument in excellent condition. \$11,900. (270) 265-2395.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Oakland Baptist Church. Please send resumé/pastor profile to: Pastor Search Committee, Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159.

**SEEKING:** Nelson Baptist Association is receiving resumé for the part-time position of director of missions. Send resumé, along with a cover letter stating the reasons for your interest, to: David Wells, First Baptist Church, 254 S Buckman St., Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Stony Point Baptist Church, located in south-central Kentucky near Albany. Sunday school attendance is about 90-100 and Sunday morning worship attendance is about 160-165. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Stony Point Baptist Church, Route 3 Box 178, Albany, KY 42602.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time 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.

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## Christian 'Zionists'

*Evangelicals a strong source of support for Israel's government*

By Michele Chabin  
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Times are hard in Jerusalem, with many stores, restaurants and hotels shut down due to the ongoing Palestinian uprising, but you wouldn't have known it from the rapturous smiles on the faces of the thousands of evangelical Christians who thronged to the holy city last month to support Israel.

On Oct. 12, during an exuberant opening ceremony for the weeklong Feast of Tabernacles conference organized by the International Christian Embassy, more than 3,000 pilgrims from dozens of countries, displayed their love of the Jewish state, its people and its policies.

The Jerusalem Convention Center shook with applause and sounds of praise when organizers paid homage to 50 Israeli bus drivers, some sporting ties for the occasion, who "day after day put themselves at risk."

Like their passengers, who ride the buses despite the threat of attack, the drivers were described as "a symbol of so many in Israel who will not sit down for terror."

The pilgrims accorded Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the keynote speaker, a thunderous standing ovation when he made his way to the stage, the kind of reception he rarely, if ever, receives from his fellow Israelis.

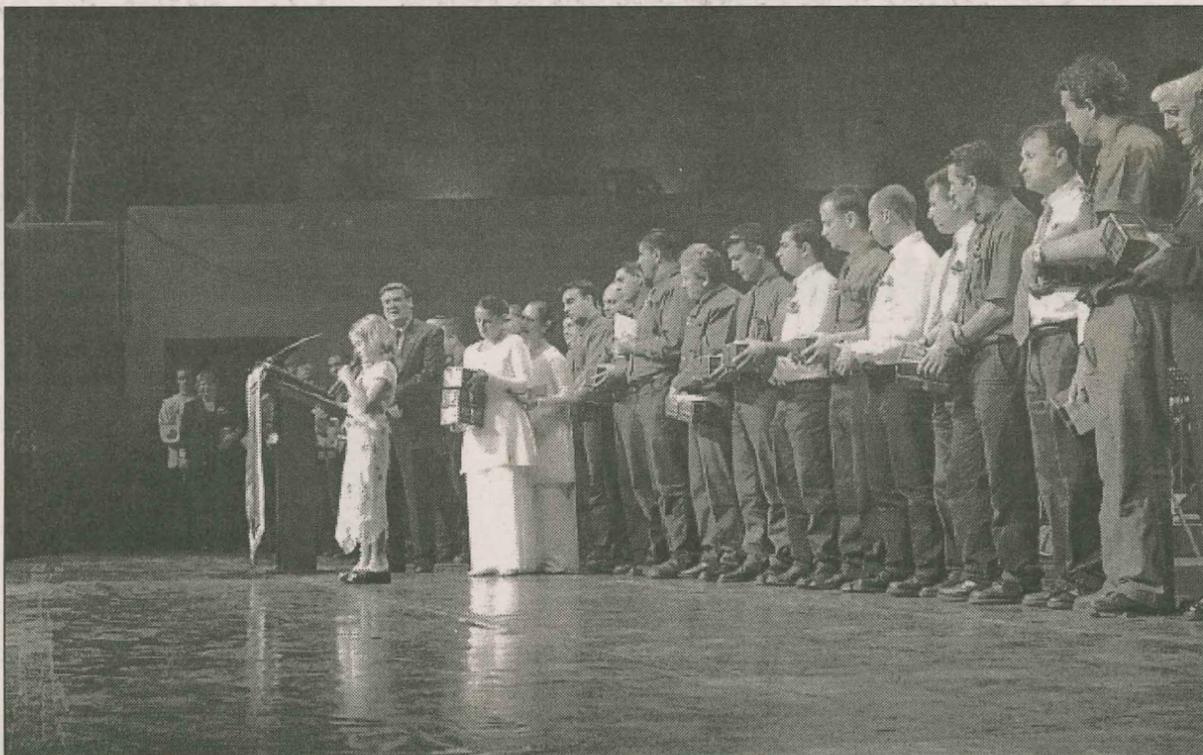
"Thank you for coming here," Sharon said. "Your presence here sends a strong message to the world, and your friendship is important to us, very important."

Realizing that he was among friends, Sharon seemed to let down his guard for a moment of uncharacteristic candor.

"Everyone, myself also, I have worries," the prime minister admitted. "We are facing so many problems here. I believe I need to see you more often. You need to come more often."

When the applause died down, Sharon added, "I want to thank you for your solidarity and your belief in the Jewish state."

Evangelical support for Israel and



**SOLIDARITY** Bus drivers from Jerusalem's Egged bus company line up on the stage of the Jerusalem Convention Center, where they were honored by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem last month. (RNS photos courtesy of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem)

Jewish rights to the Holy Land is grounded in the belief that God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham, as well as on the assumption that the second coming of the Messiah will not take place until the Jewish ingathering to Zion is complete.

### More than \$100 million in support

Putting money where their faith is, over the years evangelicals from around the world have donated more than \$100 million to Israeli causes.

Today, their money helps fund food and clothing for needy families, the transport and absorption of new immigrants, and even ambulances and bullet-proof vests for civilians and soldiers. Some support Jewish settlements based on the belief that the territory Israel captured in various wars is part of the biblical Land of Israel.

The evangelical community's unswerving support for Israel is in stark contrast to the stand taken by most Catholic and Orthodox Christians. The latter raise funds and lobby on behalf of Holy Land Christians, who are for the most part Arab and Pales-

tinian.

Every year, tens of thousands of evangelicals show their solidarity by visiting Israel and pumping money into the local economy. Others make a point of selling Israeli-made products at religious events back home, in part to counteract the impact of anti-Israel boycotts.

Yechezkel Eckstein, a rabbi and founder of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, says that evangelical Christians are an important pro-Israel force in American politics.

"Since around 1980 they have been coming out with statements on behalf of Israel, when there were issues of America selling arms to Saudi Arabia. They consistently take Israel's side on settlements," Eckstein notes.

On Oct. 26, Eckstein's group sponsored its second annual Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Israel in evangelical congregations across the United States.

At a time when Israel is facing not only a bloody ground war with the Palestinians but uphill battles at the United Nations and other arenas, Israeli politicians do not take this solidarity for granted, Eckstein stresses.

"There's a greater realization and appreciation that in many respects evangelical Christians constitute a strategic ally for Israel and the Jewish people," Eckstein said.

Virtually all Israeli leaders make it a point to break bread with evangelical leaders, journalists and tour operators during their trips abroad.

American Jewish leaders also maintain close ties with their evangelical counterparts both on Capitol Hill and through interreligious events aimed at building bridges.

### Some critics of evangelical support

Yet not all Jews are excited about this type of support.

Liberal Jewish leaders have criti-

cized the alliance on multiple grounds. Some question the ultimate theological motive toward the Jews.

They note that under some Christian end-times philosophy, which is based on some interpretations of the New Testament's Book of Revelation, Jewish inhabitation of Israel is viewed as a necessary precursor to the return of the Christian Messiah, an event that would mean Jews either convert or die.

Others bristle that the alliance has come to include conservatives such as the Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, accused by Jews in the past of being anti-Semitic, and Ralph Reed, the former executive director of the Christian Coalition, which supports political positions opposed by most mainstream Jews.

Still, in the last 1 1/2 years, the Zionist Organization of America gave Robertson a State of Israel Friendship Award, the Israeli Embassy hosted a prayer breakfast for prominent Christians including Falwell, and the Anti-Defamation League published newspaper ads with an April 2002 opinion piece by Reed on Christian support for Israel.

Reed was an organizer of Sunday's Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Israel.

Ties have not always been so close, Eckstein says.

Until the 1980s, the rabbi explains, the traditionally liberal Jewish community "saw evangelicals as people trying to impose their Christian agenda on America. There was the perception that Catholics and Protestants were closer to Jews on domestic issues, even though they were not supportive of Israel. (Jews) were afraid of people like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson."

But he said that since the current intifada began three years ago, "Israel's survival has been made the litmus test by which to judge a relationship."

**"I want to thank you for your solidarity and your belief in the Jewish state."**

*Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, speaking to Christians attending a Feast of Tabernacles conference organized by the International Christian Embassy*



**PRIME VISIT** Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (right), with Malcolm Hedding (center) and Michael Utterback, visits the Oct. 12 celebration of the Feast of the Tabernacles hosted by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. The event, attended by 3,000 Christian pilgrims to Israel, highlighted the growing support for Israel among evangelical Christians.

# QUEST

November 21-22

2003

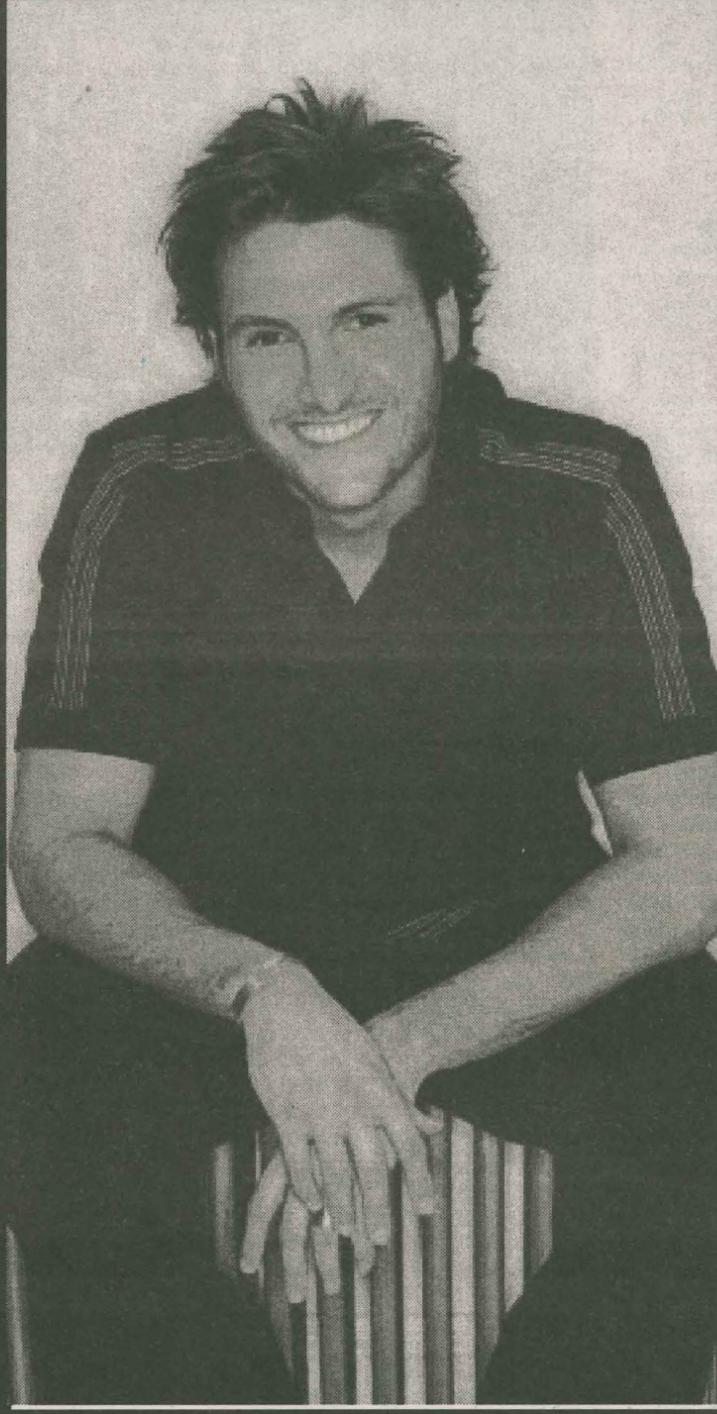
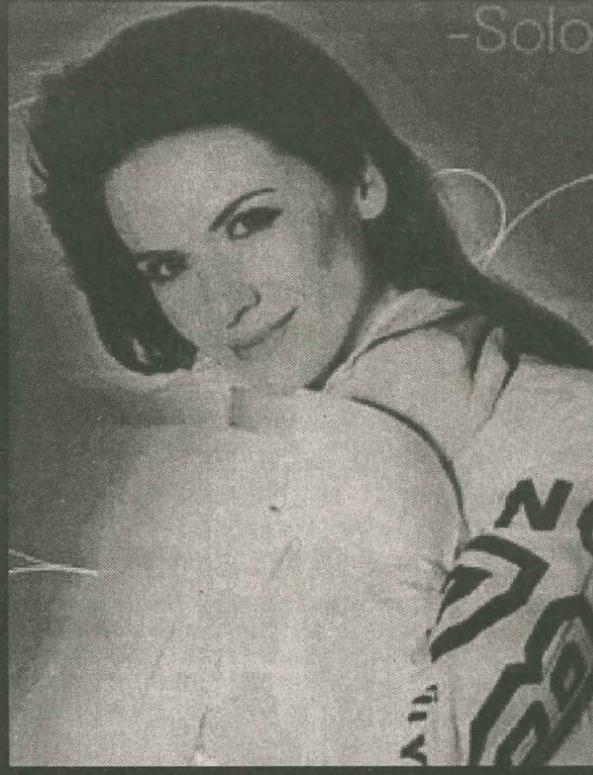
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