

December 11, 2003
Vol. 177, No. 44

Partnership Missions
See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
Seminary professor questions IMB's theological alliances. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
Alcohol opponents win some, lose some at ballot box. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Will Kentucky Baptists make spiritual impact? *Page 5.*



Cross Over
Baptists share their faith before the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. *Page 7.*



Resources
Pastor has tips for closing the back door. *Page 12.*

Family
Free booklet aims to help churches strengthen marriages. *Page 16.*

Poll: Many in U.S. morally OK with abortion, porn & unmarried sex

Ventura, Calif. (RNS)—Most Americans see nothing wrong with gambling, cohabitation and sexual fantasies, according to a recent survey.

Barna Research Group also found sizeable numbers of Americans who considered abortion, pornography and other activities "morally acceptable."

"Most of the people we interviewed believe that they are highly moral individuals and identify other people as responsible for the nation's moral decline, researcher George Barna said. "Until people recognize that there are moral absolutes and attempt to live in harmony with them, we are likely to see a continued decay of our moral foundations."

The group surveyed more than 1,000 adults, asking about 10 activities. The percent of adults who found the activities morally acceptable were:

- Gambling, 61 percent.
- Living with someone of the opposite sex, 60 percent.
- Enjoying sexual thoughts about someone, 59 percent.
- Abortion, 45 percent.
- Having sex with someone of the opposite sex outside of marriage, 42 percent.
- Pornography, 38 percent.
- Using profanity, 36 percent.
- Getting drunk, 35 percent.
- Homosexual activity, 30 percent.
- Illegal drug use, 17 percent.

'Can we be just friends?'

Many long-term church visitors hesitant to join

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

Owensboro—Jennifer and Brent Cates knew from their first visit to Bellevue Baptist Church they'd found the perfect place for their family.

But it still took the couple more than a year and a half to become members.

"We were both involved in the church and its ministries before joining," Mrs. Cates said of the Owensboro church.

"Brent was ready to join right away, but I needed to be sure before making a commitment, and he wanted us to join as a family," she said.

They aren't alone.

Greg Faulls, senior pastor at Bellevue, said that on any given Sunday morning 10-15 percent of his congregation are long-term visitors like the Cateses.

"Depending on the person, it takes someone an average of three to 18 months to join our church," he said. "Although, several have visited for years.

"People in today's culture don't want to join until they already feel like members," he added.

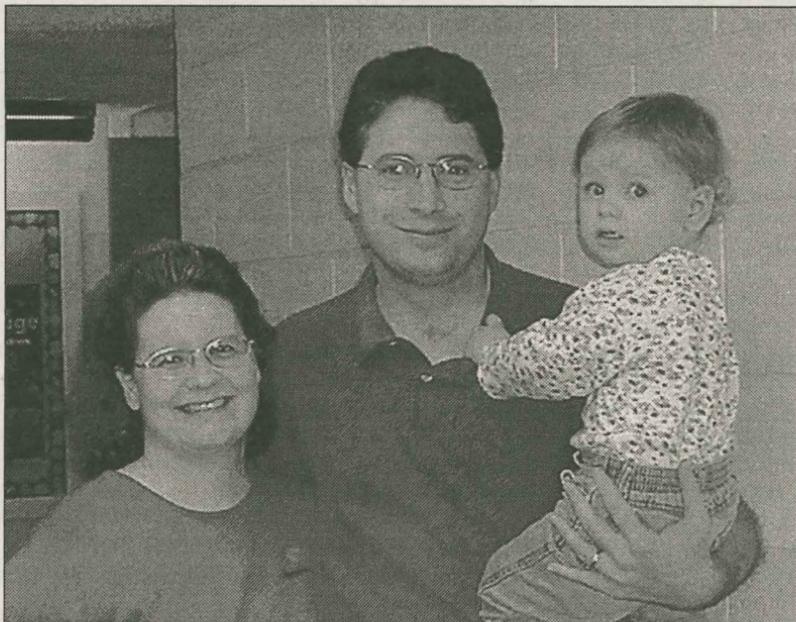
Experts cite a combination of factors, from a secular society to increasing consumer attitudes toward church, that are forcing church leaders to reconsider how they interact with visitors.

□ See 'Just friends' ... "Page 8



NEW MEMBER Carolyn Bemis smiles for the camera as Mark Vincent, minister of missions and outreach, takes the picture of the new member at Valley View Baptist Church. The church staff developed a method of contacting guests that has helped get more visitors willing to commit to church membership. *Story on page 8.*

Kentuckians getting ready to leave for Brazil mission field



BRAZIL BOUND Franklin residents Stan and Wendy Meador and their daughter Ariana are among the missionary candidates being appointed this week at Lexington's Rupp Arena. They will minister to the descendants of German immigrants in Brazil.

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Franklin—Stan and Wendy Meador are ready to bid farewell to their old Kentucky home, and say hello to their new lives as missionaries in Brazil.

The Meadors are among a handful of Kentuckians being appointed this week at Lexington's Rupp Arena in Lexington. Approximately 70 new missionaries are being appointed at the International Mission Board's service, Nov. 11.

"It will be an awesome thing to be appointed in Rupp Arena," said Meador, who currently serves as minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church of Franklin. "I grew up in Oklahoma, but my family came back to Kentucky every year to visit my parents' families. I've always felt like Kentucky was home."

Meador's parents, Don and Shirley Meador, now live in Bowling

Green and attend Rich Pond Baptist Church.

For Mrs. Meador, a Chaplin native, being surrounded by family and friends will make the appointment that much sweeter. Her parents, Lee and Nancy Chesser, still live in Chaplin, where they attend Chaplin Baptist Church.

But even with deep Kentucky roots, the Meadors say they are ready to make Brazil their home.

Meador first traveled to Brazil in the early 1990s, right after graduating from college. His church in Oklahoma planned a construction mission trip to Brazil, but Meador found the \$1,800 price tag was a bit too steep. He talked to an associate pastor, and they committed to praying about God providing a way for Stan to go. They put Stan's name on the waiting list of people who wanted to go but lacked funding and waited for the answer.

□ See "Kentuckians ready ..." Page 6

Dated material — Please deliver by Wednesday, November 12

Iraqis cheer as Baptists deliver food to needy families

By Mike Creswell
SBC International Mission Board

Central Iraq (BP)—Iraqis cheered as a volunteer team moved through their neighborhood to distribute cartons of food sent by Southern Baptist churches.

Children ran up to the five Southern Baptist men from Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., like they were long-lost uncles, giggling and jostling to get close. Mothers handed over their babies to be held, and the few men

around extended greetings.

The 10-day project in late October and early November was just a small part of a massive, months-long Southern Baptist effort to help the Iraqi people.

During late October the last of 69 truckload-sized cargo containers—carrying a total of some 45,000 boxes of food—arrived by truck and were off-loaded in a warehouse for distribution to needy people across Iraq.

Thousands of Southern Baptists in the U.S. had stuffed each carton with about 70 pounds of flour, sugar and other basic foodstuffs, enough to feed a family of four for several weeks.

Food distribution resumes

Distribution of the cartons was halted in August because of fears that supporters of Saddam Hussein might target humanitarian workers. Even during this period, however, a small crew of Southern Baptist workers continued to distribute food, working through Iraqi churches, community councils and other organizations.

In one neighborhood, hundreds of food boxes were delivered to a school building in a poor area far from downtown. People have built

modest homes of mud bricks on land taken by squatter's rights. Raw sewage runs through the dirt street.

Even there, village council members had determined the most needy families to receive food boxes. Volunteer team members went with the government leaders, who carried lists of eligible families. The families were given tickets entitling them to claim a food box.

At one home, volunteers Larry Ledford and Hal Newell handed a ticket to a woman who was surrounded by babies and children. While they could not understand her Arabic, there was no mistaking the gratitude on her face.

At another home, a man humbly accepted a ticket while his family peeked from the door of their simple mud-and-brick home. "There are seven children in this household, and they have no food at all," a village leader said through a translator.

Ledford told of visiting a home where a man had been tortured by Saddam Hussein's henchmen. Terror filled the adult man's eyes, and he stayed behind his mother, trembling violently.

"I was able to put a hand on his shoulder, and we prayed for him be-

fore we left," Newell added.

Team members saw one man who had lost a leg to torture, one whose eye had been gouged out, and another whose hands had been smashed by a hammer during torture. A red flag flew over one house where a family member had been killed by Saddam Hussein loyalists.

Although few people in the community spoke English, they understood who was bringing the food.

Sharing the love of Christ

One man said it was the Christians from America bringing food. "Where are the Muslims?" the man asked, recounted volunteer Doug Wells. "It struck me that the people realize we're trying to help them. And we're trying to show them the love of Christ."

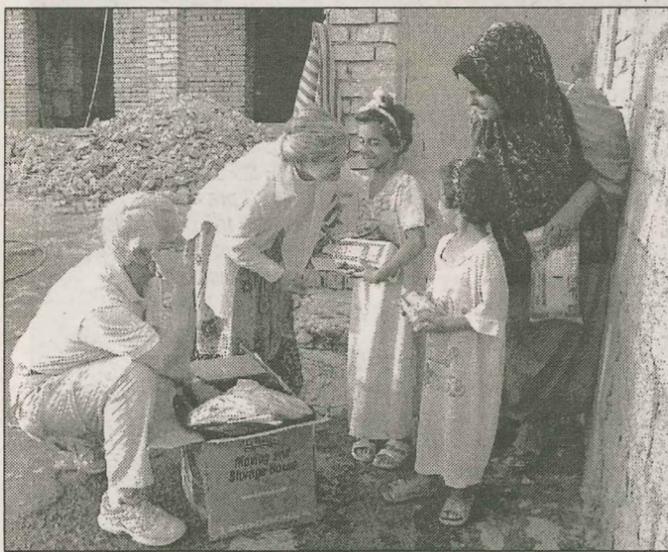
Some food boxes were distributed through Muslim mosques, which function as community centers. One local leader said the mosque maintains a list of needy families and delivered food to those.

Providing food through the mosques led to one mosque leader publicly thanking God for Southern Baptists and the food they sent.

About half the food has been distributed and the rest is expected to be delivered by the end of this year.

HUNGER RELIEF

Southern Baptist workers deliver a box of food to a woman and her children in a neighborhood in central Iraq. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)



BAPTIST DIGEST

Illinois Baptists seek consensus. Messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association's annual meeting soundly rejected a last-minute attempt to make the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message its official faith statement. Instead, they adopted the recommendation of a state association committee to affirm six faith statements—including all four versions of the BF&M dating back to 1925—as a consensus of what most Baptists believe. IBSA President Larry Richmond noted that "the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message may be an issue to some, but it is not an issue over which we should divide." The measure adopted by Illinois Baptists is similar to the Baptist Faith and Message report adopted by Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers in 2001.

Four Southwestern professors resign. Four prominent professors resigned from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary last week and were named faculty members of the new B.H. Carroll Theological Institute started by former Southwestern leaders. The faculty members who resigned are Bruce Corley, professor of New Testament; Stan Moore, professor of church music and acting dean of the school of church music; Budd Smith, professor of foundations of education; and James Spivey Jr., associate professor of church history and associate dean of the seminary's Houston extension campus. Corley was named president of the Carroll Institute, an alternative center for theological training to be based in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The other three were named the initial faculty. The announcement was made by Scotty Gray, a retired Southwestern dean who serves as a director of the institute, and Russell Dilday, who was fired as president of Southwestern in 1994.

Missouri convention defunds college. The Missouri Baptist Convention voted Nov. 4 to stop funding William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., over issues of homosexuality and morality. Messengers eliminated the Baptist school from the MBC's 2004 budget, ending a 154-year relationship. Messenger Roger Moran argued for cutting the funds because the school gave an award to a homosexual student and allowed a theatrical production critics considered lewd to be staged on campus.

Arkansans affirm racial harmony & diversity. Messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention heard a report on racial harmony and diversity and adopted a resolution supporting the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment. The racial diversity report encourages "intentionality" in becoming multiethnic at all levels of Baptist life.

By Mark Wingfield and Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Wake Forest, N.C. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board should rid itself of "unbiblical" practices and alliances with Christian mission groups that do not enforce strict theological parameters, a Southern Baptist missions professor urges.

Keith Eitel, professor of Christian missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., outlines his concerns about the theological framework employed by the mission board in an eight-page paper circulated by former Southern Baptist Convention president Paige Patterson.

For instance, Eitel alleges, because of inadequate theological training of some missionaries, "evangelism, church planting and discipleship are in the hands of theological novices." And women are inappropriately placed in positions of authority over men, he says.

Larry Cox, IMB vice president for mobilization, said the agency is "very disappointed that Dr. Eitel chose to vent his groundless accusations against the International Mission Board in a public forum instead of communicating with our leadership." Cox added, however, that the issue will be addressed by trustees during their board meeting this week in Lexington.

The document, titled "Vision Assessment," was sent to all IMB trustees by Patterson, Eitel's former boss at Southeastern and now president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In a cover letter, Patterson called Eitel "one of the cutting-edge missiologists of our day."

"The critical importance of this paper, especially in light of the con-

servative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, will be apparent to you as you read it," Patterson added.

In the paper, Eitel appeals for IMB trustees to "synchronize" the mission board "with the theological convictions of the SBC" and to "set the board's course directly back into the evangelical roots that were the convictions of the founders of the convention."

While criticizing previous administrations of the SBC mission board prior to the conservative shift that began in 1979, Eitel also raises concerns about the current administration of IMB President Jerry Rankin.

Eitel: Partnerships need "filter"

He especially targets the IMB's participation in mission efforts with what the board calls "Great Commission Christians"—other Baptist and Christian groups working toward the same missionary goals. Eitel charges that these partnerships have "no mechanisms in place to filter or check the entry of unbiblical practices other than the specific theological preparation of the individual missionary."

And that link has been weakened, he said, because under Rankin's leadership "there has been an obvious and apparently intentional move away from requiring seminary training for the key roles related to church planting and church development."

Before the Rankin administration, such missionary candidates were required to have at least a master of divinity degree and two years of experience, he says. "Today, one may assume such roles with as little as 20-30 semester hours, and there is a spirit or culture within

the board that downplays or undermines the need to even go to seminary at all."

The theology of IMB missionaries has been under much scrutiny recently. Earlier this year, all missionaries were required to sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message revision. As a result, at least 77 missionaries left the IMB, including 13 who were fired for refusing to sign.

Eitel also criticizes the IMB for allowing women in leadership roles, specifically in the role of regional strategy coordinators.

"Women, while certainly capable in numerous ways to do ministry, should not be placed in doctrinal or ethical authority over men, and the strategy coordinator role often causes this to happen," he writes.

The IMB's lack of stringency on theological and doctrinal training is a holdover from the administration of Keith Parks, Eitel charges.

"Parks was saying that doctrine or theology divides us but missions unites us," Eitel noted. In contrast, of the conservative SBC leaders such as Adrian Rogers "indicated that unless our theological convictions are solidly established squarely on an inerrant Bible, we will have no legitimate or reasonable basis for doing missions."

Eitel concludes his paper with nine recommended actions for IMB trustees, beginning with an appeal to "recruit administrators committed to theological renewal of the board."

He also asks trustees to "change the entire curriculum and teaching staff" at the Missionary Learning Center, where missionaries go for specific training after appointment.

and there is a spirit or culture within

KBC President Badgett models commitment to unity

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—When Paul Badgett talks about the Kentucky Baptist Convention, he frequently emphasizes that “there is so much more that brings us together than pushes us apart.”

Badgett's role as KBC president, which concludes at the end of this week's KBC annual meeting in Lexington, is a prime example of that sense of cooperation.

Gaining the support of both conservative and moderate Kentucky Baptist leaders last year, Badgett became the first KBC president elected by acclamation in more than a decade.

A self-described conservative, Badgett noted prior to his election, “I'm a conservative but I'm not mad about it. I try to be my own person, but I do want to be fair.”

“I do not consider myself a denominational politician,” he added. “What I mean by being conservative is that I unapologetically believe the Word of God.”

A heart for Kentucky Baptists

After his unanimous election a year ago, Badgett told the Western Recorder, “I really do want to be for all Kentucky Baptists. That really is my heart.”

“I pray that Kentucky Baptists will be unified in trying to reach the world for Christ. That's what I

want to be about.”

Twelve months later, Badgett's view of KBC ministry efforts remains positive.

“We do seem to have such unity and purpose among Baptists,” he said last week. “We can thank our leaders, (KBC executive director) Bill Mackey in particular, for putting the emphasis on the main thing of reaching a world for Christ, joining God on mission as He seeks to redeem a lost world to Himself.”

Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, emphasized that “I've really tried to be fair; I hope that people sense that.”

“I've tried to be honest with my personal convictions and at the same time be for all Kentucky Baptists—I don't think they violate one another.”

Mackey said he believes Badgett has accomplished those goals.

“He desires to be fair in presiding at meetings and supportive of all of the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention,” Mackey affirmed.

“Paul is a tremendous man of prayer,” he added. “It's obvious that he has a heart for Kentucky Baptists and the work of Kentucky Baptists.”

In his role as president, Badgett has served as an ex officio member of the KBC Mission Study Committee. “I'm pleased to be part of a committee that worked so hard,” he noted.

Describing the committee's mission study report as “outstanding,” Badgett said, “The No. 1 agenda is evangelism which I am so proud of and the next priority to it is missions.”

“One of our purposes is to connect people to Jesus,” he added. “It may be a 21st century way of saying let's make disciples. ... We become Great Commission churches and a Great Commission convention by becoming Great Commission people.”

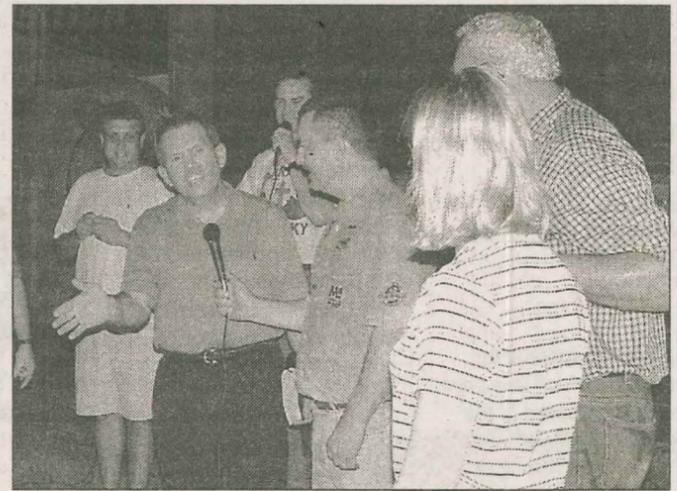
Diversity adds strength

Noting that “I've learned there is a diversity in Baptist life,” Badgett said, “It's not a negative thing; it can be a positive thing.”

“I've learned that people do church a little differently in various parts of the state,” he added. “I think on the major issues we are unified; yet on some things that are less important there is diversity. Sometimes that diversity is good and adds strength.”

Looking toward this week's KBC annual meeting Nov. 11-12 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Badgett said the focus on the KBC theme, “Missions Beyond the Edge,” is an urgent priority.

“We've got to rethink not our principles, but rethink our methods,” he said. “We've got to think about how we use our time, talents and resources and how we are go-



ing to reach folks with the gospel.

“We've got to communicate the gospel message to this generation,” he added. “If anybody is going to reach this generation right now, it's got to be us.”

As he concludes his year as KBC president, Badgett said, “If I leave any mark on the convention, I want to emphasize God's Word.”

“The more I study God's Word and preach God's Word, the more I'm impressed with it. If I were to have any impact, it would be to keep the focus of the convention directed toward God's Word.”

“As I travel across Kentucky, that is on the minds of the people I talk to,” he concluded. “They certainly want to be obedient followers of God's Word.”

MISSIONS FOCUS Paul Badgett (speaking) took part in a mission trip to Brazil during his year as KBC president. “You can't spell the word ‘gospel’ without the word ‘go,’” he emphasized.

Kentucky alcohol opponents win some, lose some at ballot box

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Westport—Lynn Traylor is disappointed that Oldham County voters approved sales of liquor in restaurants, but the pastor of Westport Baptist Church wasn't surprised by the Nov. 4 landslide.

An influx of recent newcomers to the suburban Louisville region see nothing wrong with drinking, said Traylor, leader of the citizens' group that opposed the referendum.

Proponents of liquor sales prevailed with nearly 64 percent of the votes, 10,629 in favor and only 6,105 opposed.

“We had a good effort on voter education,” said Traylor, president of Keep it Dry & Safe, which erected yard signs and distributed flyers. “But apparently people had already made up their minds, regardless of what facts were presented.”

Last week, besides statewide races for governor and other top posts, voters in five Kentucky communities faced referendums on legalizing restaurant liquor sales.

The restaurants must seat at least 100 and derive at least 70 percent of revenues from food sales.

While “wets” carried three votes, their victories in Harrodsburg and Mayfield were much slimmer than Oldham County. In Harrodsburg, 17 votes—less than 1 percent—legalized sales in the Mercer County city.

Dry forces carried the day in Paintsville and Carrsville, a small community in Western Kentucky.

Howard Beauman, director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, had hoped anti-alcohol forces would gain momentum from the Aug. 19 rejection

Votes throughout the commonwealth

Vote totals on restaurant liquor sales referendums, as reported by the county clerk's office in each area:

City/County	No	Yes	Percentages
Carrsville	24	17	58.5 - 41.5
Harrodsburg	1,291	1,308	49.7 - 50.3
Mayfield	1,630	1,727	48.6 - 51.4
Oldham County	6,105	10,629	36.5 - 63.5
Paintsville	755	685	52.4 - 47.6

of liquor sales in Lyon County.

Instead, last week's results mean pro-liquor forces have prevailed in 10 of 15 local options this year. One more in Boyle County is scheduled for December.

While acknowledging the trend is discouraging, Beauman said some positive signs exist in the latest election, such as the close races in two cities.

He also cited Paintsville as an example of numerous churches working together, with Freewill Baptists and Methodists joining Kentucky Baptists to defeat liquor sales.

“Restaurant deal” prompts votes

“We've seen in some areas where that isn't the case,” Beauman said. “Right now we're battling so many elections through this restaurant deal. We're going to have to see how it plays out.”

The three-year-old law that allows communities to legalize just restaurant sales was a key to the passage of Oldham County's referendum, Beauman added.

The measure was backed by the Oldham County Chamber of Com-

merce.

President Joe Schoebaechler said the chamber wouldn't have supported a measure like the 1987 vote on package stores and bars that could have increased underage drinking.

But Schoebaechler said the narrower focus opens the way for increased economic development. He said its studies show that for every dollar spent in local restaurants, patrons spend another \$1.25 in stores, theaters and other businesses.

“Will DUIs (driving under the influence) go up?” Schoebaechler asked, responding to a primary criticism of opponents. “They have been going up already because of population increases. ... But I don't think it will significantly increase the problem.”

But financial arguments don't sway Beauman, who points out Corbin hasn't seen any new restaurants since it approved sales last May.

“I think people bought the argument that it would bring in all these restaurants, but Applebee's can't be everywhere,” Beauman

said. “We don't see any economic impact studies done. I think it's just individuals who want to drink and are using that argument to try to get sale of alcohol in there.”

In Carrsville, a community of about 100 people, dry forces won by a 24-17 vote.

Dorothy Gerding, a member of Carrsville Baptist Church, said the group that fought the referendum is pleased with the results.

“We want Carrsville to grow back,” said Gerding, who said the city had more than 1,00 people in the early 1900s. “But we don't want it to be known for that.”

Work, prayer and God

The vice chairman of Citizens of Paintsville Against Alcohol also is happy that the southeastern Kentucky town turned back liquor by a 52-48 percent vote.

Wilnah Dixon credited hard work by the committee, prayer and God.

A member of First Baptist Church, she said the group sponsored two rallies, a pre-election gospel sing and did door-to-door and telephone canvassing. It also held a 24-hour prayer vigil that began at noon the day before the election.

This was the first time Paintsville voted on restaurant alcohol sales. Three previous referendums in the 1970s and '80s involved package stores. But Dixon doesn't expect the issue to end.

“They've already made statements in interviews that they would be back,” she said of pro-liquor forces.

“We're not going to put it behind us and say, ‘That's it.’”

WESTERNRECORDER

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

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

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

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

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Broaden representation

At last year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Williamsburg, I introduced a first reading of a constitutional change that would add gifts to the convention work as one of the ways a church qualifies for messengers. The KBC Committee on Constitution and By-laws will recommend that this change not be made. While I appreciate their deliberation on the issue, I will attempt to challenge this so that the floor of the convention in Lexington will decide the issue.

Up until 1980, messengers were allotted to a church based solely on its size. At that time, the constitution was changed to give churches extra messengers based on gifts to the Cooperative Program.

My suggested constitutional change would solve several problems:

1. It would break the enforced connection between the KBC and the Southern Baptist Convention. By allowing churches to fund only work in Kentucky and still receive fair representation, this would encourage ethnic churches and others to partner with Kentucky Baptists while maintaining other affiliations at a national level.

2. It would bring the KBC constitution in line with the constitution of the SBC. Churches qualify for messengers to the SBC not by virtue of Cooperative Program gifts, but by their gifts to the convention work.

3. It would bring the KBC constitution in line with other state convention constitutions. In my research of other state conventions, I have found none that determine the number of messengers based on gifts to the Cooperative program exclusively.

4. It would recognize churches like mine that give a significant portion of their mission money restricted for use in Kentucky.

My hope is that after prayerful consideration, the convention will choose to broaden rather than narrow the ability of churches to fully participate in its decision-making.

*Bob Fox
Georgetown*

Prayerwalking plans

We have been involved in prayerwalking in various areas. We began by prayerwalking around schools in our community. During the past year, we have participated in prayerwalking in many cities, towns and mountaintops in Spain and with a

church in Los Mochis, Mexico.

We have experienced positive changes in our lives and in our community, our church and mission efforts in other countries.

Recently we have been impressed with the need for prayerwalking to support and lift up our government leaders. They certainly have a tremendous responsibility and are very much in need of our prayers. Prayerwalking around our city halls, county courthouses, state capitol, the White House and other governmental facilities would seem to be a good way for us to get involved in lifting up those who are our representatives in government.

I would encourage you to get involved in prayerwalking for our leaders in government at all levels—city, county, state and national.

1. Would you consider prayerwalking at your local government agencies?

2. Would you prayerfully consider going to our state capitol in Frankfort and prayerwalking?

3. Would you consider going to Washington, D.C., as part of a prayerwalk for our national leaders?

Please contact us at (270) 534-9084 if you would like more information or would like to join us in any of these efforts.

*Paul and Shirley Jackson
Paducah*

God's starting point for life

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—God assures us and instructs us to know that all of life must have wisdom.

It is out of wisdom that our life flows with meaning and effectiveness. Wisdom basically is what we need to rightly understand and apply knowledge. We have certain knowledge "about" marriage, for example, but we must have wisdom to know how to live out our marriage relationships successfully.

Without the wisdom to apply what we know, we leave our lives in jeopardy and risk utter failure.

For this reason, God clearly teaches us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). This is stated several different ways in Proverbs, such as "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. But fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

The fear of the Lord is a deep and profound reverence and awe of God. It is what comes over a person in the realized presence of Holy God—an immediate denial of self and a spontaneous response to Him as Lord. Ev-

erything else in life comes out of such an encounter with God.

God is no longer the "last point of reference" for our life but He becomes the first. This immediate relationship with God in the midst of life becomes a preventive to disaster and failure.

The challenges we face today certainly create a tremendous need for God's wisdom: global terror, economic uncertainty, broken homes, church division and workplace stress. Thus, it is imperative that our relationship with God be the starting point for all of life.

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

COMMENTARY

Connecting all people to Jesus

Connection, defined in the dictionary as "to join together" and "unite," is a vital concept for Kentucky Baptists today. John 15 references connection when it describes how we as Christians should be as united to Jesus as the branch is united to the vine.

It is that vital connection to Jesus that provides spiritual nourishment and power. Jesus said that without Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). However, with Jesus all things are possible (Philippians 4:13, 19).

This vital relationship is made possible through the Word of God (John 15:2), prayer (John 15: 7, 16; 12:14) and the presence and work of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26, 16:11-14). The Bible describes the results of this vital relationship to be joy (John 15:11), love (John 15:9-10, 12-13), and fruit (John 15: 5, 8, 16).

We must be dynamically connected to Jesus Christ if we expect to connect other people to Him. When we think of "KBC"—the acronym for

the Kentucky Baptist Convention—I hope that we do not think so much about an organization or a meeting as much as about the concept of "Kentucky Baptists connecting" to accomplish the mission of our Lord.

After all, it's not about a meeting; it's about relationships—connecting.

When I think about how churches help members connect vitally to Jesus Christ, I get excited about the following:

■ Connecting all people to God's grace through salvation.

■ Connecting people to God through authentic worship.

■ Connecting people to the truth of God's Word in Bible study.

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PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

GIVING

Follow IRS rules to substantiate charitable gifts

By Laurie Valentine

The federal government encourages giving to charity by allowing you to deduct the value of your gifts on your income tax return if you itemize.

Unfortunately, if you don't follow the IRS's reporting and substantiation rules, you will lose your right to take those deductions.

If you make noncash gifts (gifts of stock, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate, life insurance, etc.) worth more than \$500 during the year, you must file IRS Form 8283 (Noncash Charitable Contributions). For gifts valued at more than \$500, but no more than \$5,000, only the simplest part of this form (Section A) must be completed.

If the value of the noncash gift is more than \$5,000, you will have to get an appraisal of what you are giving and the appraiser's findings must be reported on the appraisal summary section of Form 8283. The only exceptions to the appraisal rule are for publicly-traded securities—you don't need an appraisal, even if the value exceeds \$5,000—and for nonpublicly traded stock with a value under \$10,000.

You cannot deduct any gift of \$250 or more unless you have a written receipt from the charity describing (but not valuing) the gift. Generally, separate payments are considered separate gifts for purposes of this rule, unless the payments are made on the same day.

If you received any goods or services in exchange for the gift, the charity's receipt must describe them and give you a good faith estimate of their value. If no goods or services were provided, the receipt must state that.

If the \$250-or-more gift was made to your church, the church's receipt must state, if that is the case, the only benefit you received was an intangible religious benefit.

You must have the charity's receipt in your possession before you file your income tax return. If you file your return after the due date, the receipt must have been in your possession by the due date. If you do not have the receipt when you file your return, the deduction will be disallowed.

To assure your charitable income tax deduction, follow all of the IRS's reporting and substantiation rules.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



How can parents help teach children to be thoughtful?

Q: How can I help teach my child to be more thoughtful?

Moving from complete self-centeredness (thoughtlessness) to awareness of others (thoughtfulness) happens as a normal part of development for most children. However, there are things parents can do to encourage this important area of growth.

Begin by setting a good example, especially in how you treat your spouse and your children. Hearing you ask the question, "How would you feel if ...?" will go a long way toward helping your child learn to be considerate of others.

PARENTING

Help your child understand that he or she is not alone in the world. Do not deliberately frustrate your children, but make sure they realize they cannot always have their way.

Help your child see how his or her actions and attitudes affect others. Children understand feelings, so questions such as, "How do you think your friend feels when you do that?" work well.

Praying for others also can be a great way for boys and girls to learn thoughtfulness.

Psychologist Willard Harley says that learning to be thoughtful becomes especially important for children with ADHD characteristics because for them, thoughtlessness is amplified by energy.

Harley believes that family times provide wonderful opportunities to teach thoughtfulness. Eating meals together, playing games or taking a walk can all be great settings for learning how to be thoughtful and sensitive toward others. Harley says that focusing a child's attention on the feelings of others early in life will help the child grow up to be a considerate adult.—David Garrard

Q: How can I guard against hurting my relationships with my children?

The first area of concern is unrealistic expectations. If you expect too much of your child—and this is a trap parents often fall into with their firstborn—then he or she will fail to meet your expectations. As a result, children often feel they are constantly disappointing the most important people in their life, and that they never can gain their parents' affirmation and approval.

A critical spirit also can strain a relationship with a child. A parent who tends to be critical about insignificant, nit-picky things needs to be careful because he or she may be chiseling away at the child's self-esteem.

A third way to damage a relationship is neglect. Neglect communicates to your children that you don't really care what they do, and that they are not very important in your life. This might look superficially like love, because you are letting the child have his or her way, but it's actually more like laziness than love.

Silence is another way to damage a relationship. Children typically seek verbal affirmation, and its absence can be devastating. In Mark 1, when Jesus has just been baptized, God speaks from heaven, saying, "Thou art my beloved son. In thee I am well pleased." The Heavenly Father said three important things there. First, He said, "You are my son"—simple but profound words that communicate warmth. Then he said, "I love you" and "I am pleased with you." Those are things our children need to hear us say over and over again.

Unresolved conflict also can damage a relationship. Managing conflict effectively is hard work, yet it is crucial for maintaining a healthy relationship with your children. Learn to manage conflict or it will manage the relationship.—Jon Rainbow

Family Forum writers are:

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.

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.



Will Kentucky Baptists make an impact?

Are Kentucky Baptists poised to make a major impact on Kingdom growth over the next several years?

That certainly is an overarching goal in both the Kentucky Baptist Convention's ambitious mission study plan adopted in May and the proposed Mission Board staff reorganization announced recently by KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

The proposed staff reorganization—being considered this week by the full Mission Board—includes combining the work of the church development and evangelism teams, naming four regional church development strategists to work closely with churches and associations across the commonwealth and shifting some departments to different teams.

While the restructuring plan eliminates 11 full-time staff positions, most of those changes mesh with recent retirements, resignations and reassignments. Two secretaries lost their jobs when their positions were eliminated. On the growth side, the four regional strategists and an associate team leader for church development and evangelism are the only positions being added.

Mackey said one of his primary goals involves the Mission Board staff "being organized to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of the churches."

The proposed structural changes signal that KBC ministry "is evolving toward persons being leaders and facilitators of multiple ministries rather than promoters of one area of ministry," he added. "The focus is on developing and measuring the effectiveness of major strategies that will accomplish big objectives and goals related to the churches and assigned ministries."

In addition to the work of the KBC staff, "the key to this whole plan is utilizing the resources and networking that are already in the field," Mackey noted. "Instead of looking at what our staff can do, we're looking at what everyone who will be a partner can

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

do, starting with associations and at least 100 networking churches."

Among specific concerns cited in the restructuring plan are that approximately 450 Kentucky Baptist churches reported no baptisms last year, more than 40 percent of Kentuckians are not affiliated with any major religious group and five Eastern Kentucky counties are among the most spiritually unreached counties in the nation.

Mackey's proposal calls for "a holistic approach based on people rather than programs" that includes moving "from conferring to consulting and coaching."

Mission study plan goals include increasing annual baptism rates by more than 40 percent, seeking to keep at least 80 percent of new church members active in local churches and launching 75 churches and 50 language church-type ministries by 2010.

Obviously, such lofty goals won't be accomplished simply by adopting a report and restructuring staff assignments. As Kentucky Baptist messengers gather this week in Lexington to focus on "Missions Beyond the Edge," it's a vivid reminder that we all must be on mission together if we are going to impact our state, nation and world with the gospel of Christ during this decade and beyond.

Special prayer request

Mauri Smith, the Western Recorder's marketing and business manager since 1993, suffered a serious heart attack last week. She continues to recuperate at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville.

Mauri, a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, is both a respected colleague and dear friend to the Recorder staff. She also has served thousands of Kentucky Baptists over the years through her work with the Recorder's advertising, subscriptions and church page editions.

I invite each of our readers to pray for Mauri; her husband, Curt; and their family during this time.

Kingdom growth to the ends of the earth

By Jerry Rankin

Richmond, Va. (BP)—The vision of Empowering Kingdom Growth has begun to capture the attention and commitment of Southern Baptists. Whatever we do in our personal lives and church-related ministries, the reign of Jesus Christ and His Lordship should be apparent.

Certainly we should see our world from a Kingdom perspective and give priority to God being glorified in our homes, our churches, our community and nation. But Jesus also spoke of the

Kingdom in terms of quantitative and geographic growth. The Kingdom parables acknowledge a small beginning, whether as leaven or a mustard seed, that would permeate the whole and result in growth of phenomenal proportions.

Jesus already had prepared His followers for the Great Commission mandate to disciple the nations—literally, all the peoples of the world—when He sent them out to proclaim "the gospel of the Kingdom." The gospel was to be an empowered message that eventually would extend the reign of Christ to people of every tribe, tongue and nation.

Such Kingdom growth was envisioned as far back as Abraham, whom God called to leave his home and family so that through his seed all the families of nations would be blessed. God's desire for Kingdom growth was communicated through Isaiah (49:6) when He

said, "It is too small a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel, I will also make you a light to the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Our own task of Empowering Kingdom Growth was unmistakable when Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:14 that the gospel of the Kingdom would be preached in the whole world as a witness to every

nation before the end would come. He anticipated the day when every knee would bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So, if we are to be Kingdom people or Kingdom churches, it means we will be involved in making Jesus Christ known among the nations. Our passion will be to see God glorified, not just in our own lives and what we do, but also among all peoples, even to the ends of the earth. A Kingdom perspective is not self-centered but outward-focused.

It is the indwelling power of God's Spirit that empowers Kingdom growth, but when we join God on mission and cooperate with Him in reaching the lost, we personally become a part of Empowering Kingdom Growth.

EKG grew out of a task force of SBC leaders and state executives seeking a common vision for cooperation. It was determined that the International Mission Board, North

American Mission Board, state conventions, local associations and other convention entities did not exist for themselves but to serve the churches and Southern Baptists. The only justification for our existence is to enable, serve and facilitate churches building the Kingdom of God through evangelism, discipleship and missions.

We will see Kingdom growth as associations lead these cooperative efforts to grow the Kingdom locally, as state conventions provide channels for unifying churches to bring the reign of Jesus Christ in their respective states, and as NAMB facilitates churches, associations and state conventions sharing the gospel and planting churches throughout the United States and Canada.

This parallels the Acts 1:8 model of being witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, but the responsibility is not limited to where we live or our own culture. Simultaneously we have a responsibility of Kingdom growth to the ends of the earth through sending and supporting missionaries, praying and being personally involved.

It is not the responsibility of the IMB to do missions overseas on behalf of Southern Baptists. The Great Commission was given to every church, every believer and every denominational entity. The IMB, as other denominational entities, exists to assist churches and facilitate Kingdom growth around the world.

Jerry Rankin is president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

Kentuckians ready to head to Brazil mission field

"I was in Brazil for five days before I even called home. I felt really comfortable there,"

Stan Meador

Continued from page 1

Within a few days, a church member told the associate pastor he couldn't take the time off work to go to Brazil but he wanted to pay someone else's way.

The associate pastor showed the man the waiting list, and the man chose Meador.

The Brazil trip proved to be a life-changing one, he recalled.

"I was in Brazil for five days before I even called home. I felt really comfortable there," Meador said. "About three days before we were to come home, I called again and told my parents I wasn't coming home. I felt so at home in Brazil, that I realized God's call on my life was to be in international missions."

Surrender to missions, not country

His mother offered him some sage advice: Surrender to missions, not a country. She recommended that he take time to study and reflect on his calling.

Meador returned to the United States, not knowing if he would ever return to Brazil, and began exploring his call. He applied and was appointed as a Journeyman. The International Mission Board's Journeyman program is a two-year overseas mission opportunity for young adults.

He served from 1993-1995 in Bulgaria. While there, he discovered a passion for intercultural house

churches and small groups.

When Meador returned from Bulgaria, he entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and there met Wendy, who shared his passion for missions.

Calling confirmed at Campbellsville

"It's always been in the back of my mind. I grew up in missions organizations in church," said Mrs. Meador, who was active in the Baptist Young Women's group at Campbellsville University.

She credits a global missions conference at Campbellsville University for confirming her call to international missions.

She too served as a Journeyman, on the island of Bermuda. It was her first international missions experience, and it proved valuable.

"When you're fresh out of college, you don't always know exactly what your lifetime career should be," she noted. "Even though I knew God was calling me to international missions, I needed to discover what God was leading me to do on the mission field."

One of the most important truths she discovered was that she did not want to return to the mission field alone. She knew from her experience in Bermuda that she wanted "connection, support, someone to walk alongside."

But seeking to be obedient to God, she continued to pursue her

call at Southern Seminary.

A mutual friend introduced them, and they say their mutual interest in missions drew them together. They were married in January 1998 and welcomed their daughter, Ariana Brooke, four years later.

German focus in Brazil

The Meadors will minister to the half-million descendants of German immigrants who live in southern Brazil. Stan will focus on planting churches and developing small groups among the German immigrants, while Wendy will use their

home as a means to develop relationships with women and children to strengthen the development of house churches.

They will depart for Brazil around the end of March 2004 after several weeks at the IMB's Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, Va.

Once in Brazil, they will stay in the city of Campinas for about one year, learning Portuguese. After they have finished language school, they will move to their new home in Porto Alegre, a city in southern Brazil, where they will begin learning German and begin their ministry.

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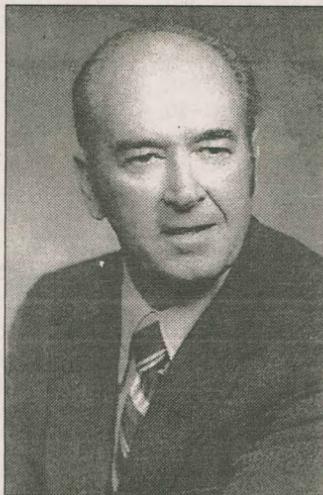
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ANNUITY BOARD



Cross Over the Bluegrass

Baptists minister through blankets, car repairs, home projects & visits

By Robert Reeves
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—From activities as diverse as repairing homes to raising money for refugees to getting cars ready for winter, Kentucky Baptists ministered throughout Lexington and beyond Saturday to deliver a message of love and hope.

Several hundred volunteers participated in Cross Over the Bluegrass, a community service effort planned in conjunction with Elkhorn and Tates Creek Baptist associations as a lead-in to this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Cross Over began last Wednesday, when Baptist volunteers started home repair projects in Lexington's "Irishtown" neighborhood. Volunteers, many of them part of a group called Baptist Builders, fixed roofs and porches and made other repairs to several homes over a three-day period.

"It was a big help. It really was," Rita Murphy said of the work completed on the home of her 82-year-old mother. Cross Over volunteers repaired two porches, replaced a door frame and put plastic over windows to help insulate the house for winter.

Most Cross Over activities took place on Saturday.

Through a project called "Blanketing the Bluegrass," volunteers distributed free clothing and blankets to hundreds of low-income and homeless residents of the area.

Six area churches served as distribution sites: Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, Eastside Baptist in Winchester, First Baptist Church in Paris, Nicholasville Baptist, Gano Baptist in Lexington and Versailles Baptist. The clothing and blankets had been collected from Baptist churches from throughout the region.

"I camped out all night to be here (to get a blanket)," one man told volunteers as he received sev-



eral items. A total of 625 blankets were distributed.

Meanwhile, other volunteers staffed an "auto clinic" near a home improvement shop on Man-O-War Boulevard. Volunteers checked air pressure, fluid levels and the condition of hoses and belts. Lexington police officers were also on hand to etch windows with vehicle identification numbers as a theft prevention and recovery service.

Several hundred other individuals got "a taste of the world" through an international food fair held at Trinity Baptist Church. Participants sampled the cuisines of Russia, Bosnia, Congo, Iran, Ethiopia and other nations. Funds collected from ticket sales will be used to benefit the Kentucky Refugee Ministry.

Many volunteers went door-to-door through neighborhoods of participating churches, conducting surveys to discover needs that the church might meet in the future. Still other volunteers distributed free copies of a video about the life of Jesus.



One group distributed information about efforts to start a new church in west Lexington. Jim McGee, the recently retired associate pastor of evangelism and education at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, is spearheading the effort.

Ray Van Camp, director of church planting and development for Elkhorn Baptist Association and one of the Cross Over organizers, said getting ready for the volunteers "was a lot of work" but well worth the effort.

"Cross Over gives us an opportunity to pull the churches together in a significant way to work together," he said. "It's also a tremendous opportunity to reach out to the community and build trust."

In Elkhorn Association alone, 372 volunteers worked on projects. Evangelistic surveys were taken of 1,794 people, with 57 residents requesting a follow-up visit and at least one person making a profession of faith.

Volunteers distributed 1,200 "Jesus" videos and 1,000 portions of Scripture.

In Lexington, 867 people were ministered to through blanket distribution, the international food fair and the auto clinic.

Saturday evening, more than 300 youth attended a rally held at "The Stadium" in Lexington, and at least five people made professions of faith.

This is the third Cross Over weekend. Volunteers worked in the Purchase area in 2001 before the annual meeting in Murray and in Eastern Kentucky prior to the 2002 meeting at Cumberland College.



YOUTH RALLY A youth minister gets a pie in the face after missing a Bible trivia question. More than 300 youth participated in the Cross Over youth rally in which five teens made professions of faith. (Photo by Robert Reeves)

BLANKETING THE BLUEGRASS

Approximately 625 families and individuals received blankets and clothing Saturday at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington as part of the Cross Over ministry and evangelism blitz. This is the third year that Cross Over projects have preceded the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. **Above:** A man selects a blanket and free clothing. **Left:** Volunteer Micki Robison (right) of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington collects information from a woman receiving clothes and blankets. (Photos by Robert Reeves)



IRISHTOWN REHAB Willie Flack (left) and Billy Fisher of Buckner Baptist Church cut shingles for a roof repair project in the Irishtown section of Lexington. Baptist Builders began working on Cross Over projects last Wednesday. (Photo by Larry Brannin)

Multiple contacts help church connect with guests

Guests receive several handwritten notes from church members, thanking them for their visit and encouraging them to return

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

Louisville—When Kevin Hamm saw that it was taking visitors longer and longer to commit to joining Valley View Baptist Church, he decided to do something about it.

Hamm, senior pastor at Valley View, and his staff have devised a visitation and follow-up plan designed to make visitors feel right at home as well as reinforcing the church's values and beliefs.

After a guest's first visit to the church, Hamm said, they receive several handwritten notes from church members, thanking them for their visit and encouraging them to return.

"We have a whole ministry team who gets together once a week and writes these notes on person-

al thank-you cards to everyone who filled out a visitor card," Hamm said.

"The notes are then placed in the church office where they are mailed at strategic times during the week," he added.

The notes also contain a gift certificate for a CD from the church's media resource center that is redeemable the next Sunday they visit.

A church leader also drops by the visitors' home during the week, Hamm said, bringing home-baked cookies, thanking them for visiting, asking if they have any questions about the church and encouraging them to visit again.

If the guest returns to the church and redeems the gift certificate, Hamm said he receives the re-

deemed certificate and during the next week takes the time to write and call the visitor.

"I make sure I call every guest to our church on Fridays and Saturdays, to invite them to our church again and offer them another opportunity to ask questions about our church," he said.

If there are children or young adults in the family, Hamm said the children's or young adult minister also calls the child or teen during the week to let them know how they can get involved in the church. All visitors also are encouraged to attend a class for prospective members and inquirers.

"Our discovery class really reinforces our church's philosophy, vision and ministry," Hamm said.

After these initial contacts, the

visitors' names are placed in a prospect file for two years, and mass mailers are sent on a regular basis informing them of ministry opportunities and upcoming events.

"We purge the files after two years because by then the visitor is involved in the church's ministry or has moved on and decided this was not the right place for them," he said.

"Since we have started this visitation and outreach process, we have seen it have an enormous impact on the growth of our church," he added.

"I really believe churches need to make an active attempt to reach these visitors, and make people realize that the church is not an organization, but a living organism of which they are a very vital part."

'Just friends': Why won't long-term visitors join church?

Continued from page 1

"There is a mentality among today's congregations of, 'What can this church do for me and how can it meet my needs?' rather than, 'What can I do to serve God and the church?'" said Thom Rainer, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

Vernon Cole, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth team, said local churches must recognize this growing trend in a changed culture and respond accordingly.

"It's a problem only if we make it a problem," he said. "I think it's just different than it used to be, and churches need to find unique ways to deal with it in the context of their community."

Rainer said increasing mobility contributes to this mindset.

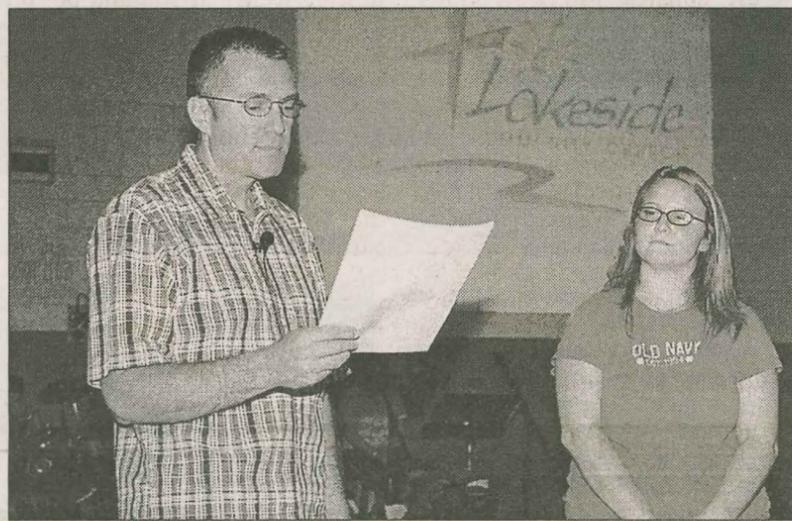
"People move around so often due to their jobs or other reasons," he noted. "They think, 'I'm only going to be in this community for two or three years, so I won't be here long enough to commit.'"

As a result, guests and churches often blur the meaning and responsibilities for "church-goers" versus "church members."

"Churches need to create venues where people can hear what it really means to be part of a church," Rainer said. "Churches that merely say, 'How can we meet your needs?' to their congregations have people that reflect a lack of service and stewardship. They need to challenge their congregations beyond that."

Cole said too many churches emphasize the technical aspects of church membership, failing to relate it to their churches' impact on the neighborhoods or Kingdom of God.

"A lot of churches get this reversed, spending all their time explaining their policies and procedures and committees, and only



NEW MEMBER Alan Witham, pastor of Lakeside Community Church near Louisville, introduces a new member. Church growth experts say more long-term visitors will remain hesitant to join a church unless they are educated about why they should become more fully involved.

then talking about what it really means to follow Christ," he said. "And that's a problem."

Being good "fishers of men"

Fauls and his staff members deliberately take a low-key approach to church membership, preferring that visitors become what he calls "embedded in the church."

"We want them to be able to come and explore this spirituality without pressure," he said.

"Jesus has called us to be fishers of men and women, and the way to catch fish is to make sure they are deep in the net before drawing it up."

To facilitate this, Fauls said long-term visitors or "friends" of the church are allowed to participate in many church ministries as long as they have made a profession of faith.

"We are a larger church, so we have a lot of ministries people can get involved with without joining the church right away," he said. "I would say a strong percentage of these folks are already serving in our church somehow."

It worked for Jennifer and Brent Cates. Despite feeling immediately comfortable at Bellevue, Mrs. Cates said a combination of factors—including the thought of changing denominations—caused her to put off joining the church.

"I'd grown up Catholic, and struggled with the idea that if I joined a Baptist church I'd be disloyal to the Catholic faith, and to my family," she said.

After more than 18 months of attending services and becoming actively involved in the church's ministries, she and her husband finally became members.

"I realized I felt the message of Jesus Christ in my soul, not just in my head the way I had in the Catholic church," she said. "It was the message and people at Bellevue that led me to that place, and it just felt like home to us, so we joined."

Low expectations

Rainer said his research discovered that churches today place much lower expectations on their congregations than in the past.

"There is significant data that

shows that today's congregations have a lesser understanding of what it means to be part of a church and part of the body of Christ," he said.

Cole added that the only way he has seen churches foster greater commitment by visitors to join is for the church's leadership to focus on educating members about the church's core mission and values.

Billy Compton, senior pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, said he has seen firsthand the truth of Cole's assessment.

When starting a new members' class a few years ago, he and his staff realized they had a lot of people in their pews who were not ready to become members because they had no idea what membership meant.

"We had a lot of folks who just didn't understand our core values," he said. To counteract that, he said, the class was renamed and re-focused to include inquirers as well as new member candidates.

"Since we've changed the class, we've seen more people attend than ever, and had more people join than ever before," he said. "In our last class, 35 attended and out of those, 22 joined."

Compton said modern congregations have lost the significance of what it means to belong to a church.

"In the New Testament, the term 'church' is usually literally translated as 'the local church', and belonging to a local church is an important part of belonging to the body of Christ," he said.

Cole added, "This isn't an issue that's affected by the size of the church, but by how well those attending the church understand what that church is all about."

"What's needed is a strong pastor with a strong vision for and a long-term commitment to a church, who can communicate that vision to key people in the congregation who can take up that mantle and become leaders themselves."

"Churches need to create venues where people can hear what it really means to be part of a church."

Thom Rainer, dean of Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth

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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Duo fills 'GAP' as volunteer Appalachian missionaries

By Shirley Cox
Kentucky Baptist Convention

McDowell—When they first sensed a call to long-term mission service, Lynn and Angie Wagoner thought they would satisfy that call by taking six weeks paid vacation from their jobs and devoting that time to mission work.

"But God wanted 52 weeks instead," Mrs. Wagoner said. The Wagoners now serve full-time as Mission Service Corps missionaries coordinated through the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

For the past four years, the Wagoners have operated God's Appalachian Partnership in McDowell to meet the spiritual and physical needs of 25,000 people living in a 25-mile stretch of the Appalachian Mountains in Eastern Kentucky.

Mrs. Wagoner said the ministry's shortened name, GAP, came

from Ezekiel 22:30: "I looked for a man to stand in the gap on behalf of the land."

Unemployment: 52 percent

Many local families desperately need someone to stand in the gap for them, the Wagoners contend. The unemployment rate for the area is 52 percent. The average income of families who request GAP services is \$700 per month, including food stamps.

GAP provides a food box, new and used clothing, and 300 supplies each month, with additional gifts for children at Christmas. The ministry also coordinates home repairs and help with bills for medication, electricity or rent.

The Wagoners hope to move beyond emergency assistance to providing job training. They plan to use donated T-shirt screening equipment to provide job training in accounting, advertising, computer design and T-shirt printing.

"Of course, as we add programs, such as job training, the cost increases," Mrs. Wagoner said. "This is why that particular program is on hold for now. We need financial donations as well as food and other items."

In addition, GAP's youth program, directed by MSC missionary Jonathan Smith, involves 20-25 youth each week in a Bible study/

prayer group. Approximately 95 youth also attend the monthly "Amazing Grace Café." A periodic newsletter announces the café and other upcoming events, but Mrs. Wagoner said the best advertisement comes when kids have a great time and tell their friends.

"GAP youth services exists to share Christ's love with teens, to connect them to positive relationships, to help them grow as a whole person, to challenge teens to serve others and magnify God with their life," Mrs. Wagoner said.

A prayer for baby formula

Sometimes, God provides in miraculous ways, the Wagoners said. For example, GAP received a call one day from a mother of premature twins making a desperate plea for baby formula.

"I was very busy preparing for a mission team's arrival and put off calling until later," Mrs. Wagoner said. "That night, the team arrived and we unloaded trucks filled with supplies and stacked the boxes inside the distribution center. It wasn't until the next day, when we began to put things on the shelves, that we discovered a case of that particular formula. I was happy to call to let her know that God had supplied her need."

The Wagoners say they use every opportunity to share their faith.

"We feel that as we give out food

and clothing, expecting nothing in return, we are showing God's grace and love," Mrs. Wagoner said. "Sometimes, we simply ask where they go to church or if they do and that opens the door."

The couple also sponsors a community dinner, inviting clients to First Baptist Church for a hot meal, gospel music and entertainment with a gospel message.

"We feel this may be the first step toward getting them into church, if we can let them see they are loved by the people. We try to spend as much time as possible with each family, showing them that they are much more than a number to us," she said. Nearly 200 people have made professions of faith in Christ since GAP began in the area, which is 70 percent unchurched.

Wagoner said he's seen God use the ministry to show His love in a way that the people have not seen before.

"Whether the people accept Christ or not, they have experienced miracles as they witness His provision," he said. "We have only touched a small part of the needs in our area of Appalachia. ... Laborers and donations are desperately needed to meet the overwhelming tasks before us."

For more information about God's Appalachian Partnership, call the Wagoners at (606) 377-0332, ext. 20 or by e-mail, gapky@yahoo.com.

Nearly 200 people have made professions of faith in Christ since GAP began in the area, which is 70 percent unchurched.

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2003 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

SPRING REPORT

KBC MISSION BOARD:

At-Large Region 6: 2004 unexpired term: Dennis Wainright (Winchester)
Blood River (Region 1): 2003 unexpired term: Eugene Powell (Calvert City)
Freedom (Region 7): 2005 unexpired term: Mitch Farthing (Albany)
Greenup (Region 8): 2004 unexpired term: Tom Melvin (Raceland)
Henry County (Region 5): 2005 unexpired term: Jo Brewer (Eminence)
Monroe (Region 7): 2004 unexpired term: Wyman Copass (Tompkinsville)
Northern (Region 5): 2004 unexpired term: Judy Alford (Burlington)
Salem (Region 3): 2003 unexpired term: Martha Martin (Battletown)
Three Forks (Region 8): 2004 unexpired term: Bill Combs (Hazard)
Three Forks (Region 8): 2005 unexpired term: James Hamblin (Hazard)

FALL REPORT

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Campbellsville University (Trustees): 2004 Unexpired Terms [2]: Tommy Valentine (Danville); Jerry Blankenship (Louisville); 2005 Unexpired Terms [2]: John Keith (Hodgenville); H. K. Cooper (Jamestown); 2007 Terms [11]: Pat Burkhart (Fort Mitchell); Johnnie Clark (Louisville); Jay Conner (Brentwood, TN); Steve Garrett (Edmonton); Forest Shely (Campbellsville); Pat Sullivan (Louisville); Joe Walters (Campbellsville); Joseph Owens (Lexington); Bruce Heilman (Richmond, VA); Michael Pope (Somerset); Mildred Newton (Murray)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees): 2007 Terms [7]: Estill Carter (Prestonsburg); Jack Fox (Louisville); French Harmon (Ft. Mitchell); Ron Morgan (Frankfort); Carl Rice (Manchester); Dale Rose (Monticello); Mary Lou Salter (Richmond)

Cumberland College (Trustees): 2007 Terms [7]: Donnie Rains (Williamsburg); Don Estep (Corbin); Ben Brewer (Louisville); Calvin Perry (Alexandria); James Hannah (LaGrange); George Wilkes (Leesburg, FL); Charles Smiddy (Knoxville, TN)

Georgetown College (Trustees): 2005 Unexpired Term: Martha Hagan (Lexington); 2006 Unexpired Term: Robert L. Hook, Jr. (Louisville); 2007 Terms [6]: William Kuegel, Sr. (Owensboro); Edwin Nighbert (Lexington); John Reed (Georgetown); Aunchalee Loscalzo (Lexington); James William Barnett (Harrodsburg); Randy Fields (Crestwood)

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees): 2004 Unexpired Term: John Rice (Elizabethtown); 2005 Unexpired Term: Rick Long (Frankfort); 2006 Unexpired Term: Doug Strader (Louisville); 2007 Terms [3]: Nancy Jayne Beanblossom (Louisville); Duane Curry (Morgantown); Lars Blythe (Paducah)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors): 2007 Terms [4]: Arnold Caddell (Erianger); Leigh A. Jones (Berea); John Searcy (Franklin); Ron Sholar (Hopkinsville)

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (Directors): 2007 Terms [6]: Armon Henry Fetter III (Louisville); W. Jerry Hurt (Louisville); Stephanie Defoor Rogers (Harrodsburg); Shirley Scott (Bowling Green); Terry Wilder (Burlington); Wayne R. Young (Lawrenceburg)

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems (Trustees): 2004 Unexpired Term: David Key (Mayfield); 2006 Terms [5]: Darren Gaddis (Corbin); Rick Reeder (Princeton); Ray VanCamp (Lexington); Donald Reed (Paris); Tyre Denney (Frankfort)

Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees): 2006 Unexpired Term: Neville Smith (Manchester); 2007 Terms [6]: Don Robinson (Corbin); Thomas A. Moore (Louisville); Ken Hinton (Maysville); Sarah Hutcheson (Franklin); Tim Zimmerman (Somerset); Jeanie Haley (Elkton)

Western Recorder (Directors): 2005 Unexpired Term: Floyd Price (Prestonsburg); 2006 Unexpired Term: Marc Whitt (Richmond); 2007 Terms [3]: Dan Francis (Erlanger); David Harmon-Vaught (Louisville); William Thurman (Lexington)

KBC MISSION BOARD:

At Large (Region 1): 2006 term - Ruth Gray (Cadiz)
At Large (Region 8): 2006 term - James Castlen (Hazard)
Bell (Region 8): 2005 unx term - Richard Witherite (Middlesboro)
Bell (Region 8): 2006 term - Brian Smith (Middlesboro)
Bethel (Region 3): 2006 term - Calvin Naylor (Russellville)
Blood River (Region 1): 2006 term - James Stom (Benton)
Boone's Creek (Region 6): 2006 term - Keith Sands (Irvine)
Booneville (Region 8): 2006 term - David Caudill (Jackson)
Breckenridge (Region 3): 2006 term - Wendell Sandefur (Olaton)
Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1): 2006 term - Jerrell White (Eddyville)
Christian County (Region 2): 2006 term - Nick Sandefur (Hopkinsville)

Daviess-McLean (Region 2): 2004 unx term - Bob Farmer (Owensboro)
Daviess-McLean (Region 2): 2005 unx term - Richard Sams (Calhoun)
Daviess-McLean (Region 2): 2006 term - Evadine Render (Owensboro)
Daviess-McLean (Region 2): 2006 term - Ralph Rascoe (Owensboro)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2006 term - David Hewitt (Wilmore)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2006 term - Lois Kiser (Lexington)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2006 term - Richard Weekly (Georgetown)
Elkhorn (Region 6): 2006 term - John Owen (Winchester)
Franklin (Region 5): 2006 term - Steve Payne (Frankfort)
Graves County (Region 1): 2004 unx term - Mel Mason (Paducah)
Graves County (Region 1): 2006 term - Glynn Copeland (Mayfield)
Grayson County (Region 3): 2004 unx term - G. W. Vincent (Leitchfield)
Green Valley (Region 2): 2006 term - Nathan Whisnant (Henderson)
Greenup (Region 8): 2006 term - Keith Menshouse (Ashland)
Irvine (Region 8): 2005 unx term - Ron Maharrey (McKee)
Knox (Region 8): 2006 term - Carl Gallion (Barbourville)
Lincoln (Region 7): 2005 unx term - Johnny Adamson (Stanford)
Little Bethel (Region 2): 2006 term - Jeff Hendricks (Madisonville)
Little River (Region 1): 2006 term - Derrick Norris (Cadiz)
Logan (Region 3): 2006 term - Bob Barnes (Russellville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2006 term - Randall Constant (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2006 term - Pat Reaves (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2006 term - Russell Bennett (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2006 term - Ray Hayes (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2006 term - Ruth Kuhl (Louisville)
Long Run (Region 4): 2006 term - Sanford Hill (Louisville)
Lynn (Region 3): 2006 term - Gordon McDowell (Magnolia)
Mercer (Region 6): 2006 term - Tommy Pinkston (Harrodsburg)
Muhlenberg (Region 2): 2006 term - Danny Mooneyhan (Greenville)
Nelson (Region 3): 2006 term - Leland Parks (Bloomfield)
Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2006 term - Terry Wilder (Burlington)
Northern Kentucky (Region 5): 2006 term - Andrea Watkins (Morning View)
Ohio River (Region 1): 2006 term - Jerry Brewer (Smithland)
Ohio Valley (Region 1): 2006 term - John Baker (Sturgis)
Owen (Region 5): 2004 unx term - Travis Fleming (Louisville)
Pike (Region 8): 2006 term - Dale Tomlinson (Betsy Layne)

Pulaski (Region 7): 2004 unx term - Bill Dawson (Somerset)
Pulaski (Region 7): 2006 term - Mike Stacey (Somerset)
Red River (Region 8): 2006 term - Randall Johnson (Beattyville)
Rockcastle (Region 7): 2006 term - Chad Burdette (Mt. Vernon)
Russell County (Region 7): 2006 term - Joe Allen, Jr. (Russell Springs)
Russell Creek (Region 7): 2006 term - Randy Johnson (Columbia)
Salem (Region 3): 2006 term - Martha Martin (Battletown)
Severns Valley (Region 3): 2006 term - Ronny Raines (Elizabethtown)
Shelby (Region 4): 2006 term - Jim Smith (Shelbyville)
Shelby (Region 4): 2006 term - Gary Ellcessor (Shelbyville)
Simpson (Region 3): 2006 term - Winston Roberts (Franklin)
South District (Region 6): 2006 term - Barry Jeffries (Lancaster)
South Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7): 2006 term - Sam Ballou (Corbin)
Sulphur Fork (Region 5): 2006 term - Ruth Salazar (Crestwood)
Tates Creek (Region 6): 2006 term - Adam Dooley (Richmond)
Ten Mile (Region 5): 2006 term - Emory Eldridge (Carrollton)
Union (Region 5): 2006 term - Mike Hays (Berry)
Warren (Region 3): 2004 unx term - Fred Brown (Bowling Green)
Warren (Region 3): 2006 term - David Daugherty (Rockfield)
Warren (Region 3): 2006 term - Tim Harris (Woodburn)
Wayne County (Region 7): 2006 term - Keith McKim (Monticello)
West Union (Region 1): 2005 unx term - Chris Cooper (Wickliffe)
West Union (Region 1): 2006 term - Margaret Dunn (Wickliffe)
West Union (Region 1): 2006 term - Chad Davidson (Paducah)
Whites Run (Region 5): 2006 term - Donny Kauffman (Worthville)

Preacher of 2004 Annual Sermon:
 Ric Frazier (Louisa)
 Alternate: Jason Pettus (Bowling Green)

Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Kevin Ezell (Chairman), Doug Anderson, Ron Barnett, Jon Bishop, David Brasher, David Cheek, Truett Cocanougher, Nancy Cooper, Dorothy Crace, Brenda Easterling, Steve Evans, Geneva Faw, Darren Gaddis, Kathleen Hall, Carol Hatley, Mary Lou Jenkins, Layne Johnson, Larry Kemp, Jim McGee, Linda Barnes Popham, Charlie Simmons, Bob Sutton, Jerry Tooley and Norman Workman
Ex Officio Members: Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Paul Badgett

2003 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

- **Committee on Arrangements** – 2006 terms – Debbie Gorbandt (Crestwood) and Doug Wesley (Danville)
- **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws** – 2006 terms – Max Hester (Stanford), Truett Cocanougher (Mays Lick) and Harold Greenfield (Princeton)
- **Committee on Credentials** – 2006 terms – Scott Mackey (Glasgow), Ginny Sisk (Lexington) and Derrick Norris (Cadiz)
- **Committee on Nominations** – 2005 terms unless noted otherwise:
Region 1: Bob Martin (Cadiz) and Bob Swift (Mayfield)

- Region 2:** Aaron Reed (Hopkinsville)
- Region 3:** Ronny Raines (Elizabethtown) and Kevin Hash (Bowling Green); 2004 unexpired term – Sue Carlin (Elizabethtown)
- Region 4:** Steve Boyd (Simpsonville)
- Region 5:** Rick Lucas (Crestwood) and Terry Wilder (Burlington)
- Region 6:** Bob Defoor (Harrodsburg)
- Region 7:** Kenneth Dick (Monticello)
- Region 8:** Bob Norman (Pikeville) and Harlan Avera (London)

- **Committee on Order of Business** – 2006 terms – Skip Alexander (Campbellsville) and Rick Long (Frankfort)

- **Committee on Public Affairs** – 2006 terms – Chip Hutcheson (Princeton), Bob White (Lewisport) and Todd Robertson (Louisville)
- **Committee on Resolutions** – 2005 terms – Dennis Phelps (Elizabethtown) and Charles Barnes (Louisville)

Persons to Report – 2004

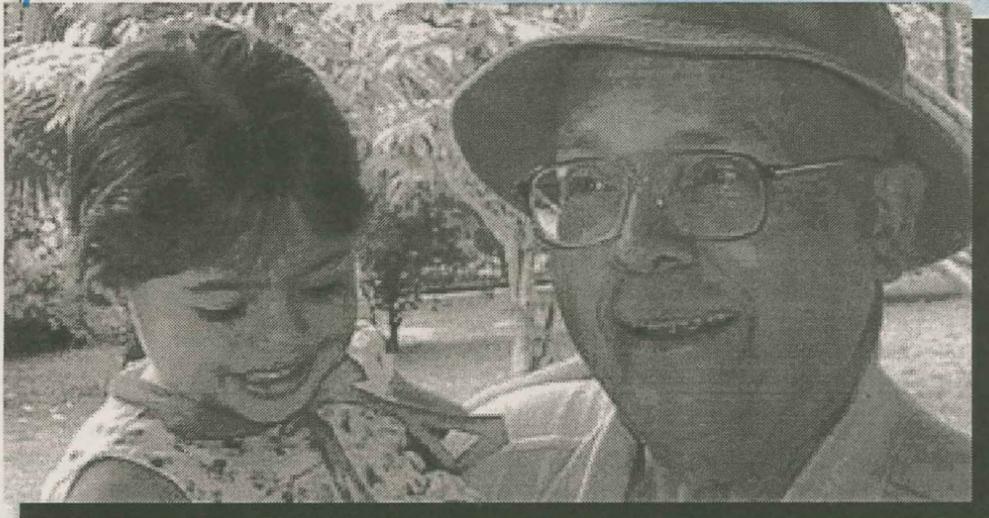
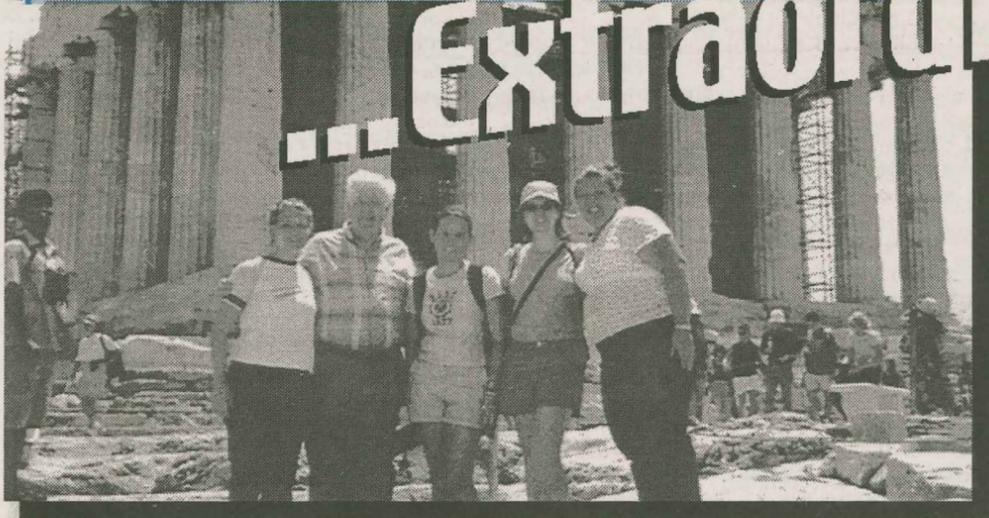
- **Cooperative Program:** Rusty Ellison (Louisville)
- **International Mission Board:** Ken Cummins (Salem); Alternate – Larry Baker (Hopkinsville)

- **North American Mission Board:** Ruth Salazar (Crestwood); Alternate – Jorge Garcia (Clarksville, TN)
- **Obituaries:** Janus Jones (Williamsburg)

Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: Dan Ferguson (Chairperson), Steve Hussung (Vice Chairperson), Carl Boyd, Ed Erwin, Harry Hunter, Tommy Purvis, Kay Trisler, Lester Watson and Roger Wolfe
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Familiar Faces ... Extraordinary Places



Kentucky Baptists are touching the world through Partnership Missions! Through our partnerships, Kentucky Baptists have dozens of opportunities each year to work all over the world through short-term mission trips.

In this special section, you'll read great stories about ordinary Kentucky Baptists carrying the Gospel to extraordinary places. Take a peek inside:

College Student Says 'Oui!' To Summer Missions Page 2

Owensboro Group Brings New Hope To New England Page 3

Seeking Refuge: Kentucky Baptists Touch The World In Greece Page 3

Get Involved Page 4

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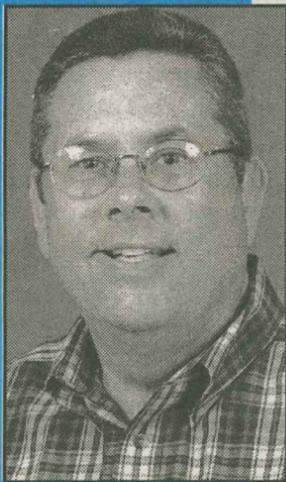
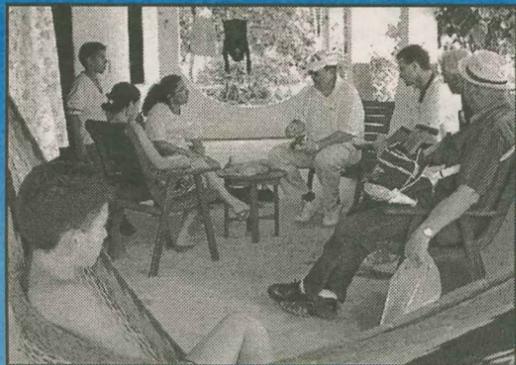
The Gift of Friendship

A letter from
Ross Bauscher,
Partnership
Missions Director

Doesn't it give you a good feeling inside to hear from and recognize the voice of a friend who calls you by name? It makes you feel special when you see the smiles of familiar faces. Friends who accept us for who we are and not because of what we can do for them give us feelings of joy, comfort, trust and love. The bonds of friendship are truly a blessed gift from God. The Bible says, "A friend loves at all times..." (*Proverbs 17:17, NKJV*)

Within these pages you will see pictures and read stories of Kentucky partnership volunteers who offered the gift of friendship by becoming a familiar face of God's love in an extraordinary place. Max Lucado helped me understand that we are a gift from God to others when he said, "...you aren't an accident or an incident; you are a gift to the world, a divine work of art, signed by God. We are His works of art. We are created in His image to do good deeds. We are significant, not because of what we do, but because of Whose we are." (*Grace, p. 219.*)

Is God calling you to be a familiar face of friendship to someone in an extraordinary place? There is a place for you to join partnership volunteers as you share God's gift of yourself with others around the world.



Familiar Faces...

College Student Says
'Oui!' To Summer Missions

By Ken Walker

While her father is pastor of Ballardville Baptist Church, Lydia Purvis doesn't profess to be a theological scholar. With her sights set on dental school next year, she isn't planning to pursue a career in church work, either.

But the senior at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro thinks everyone should be ready to share their faith in Jesus, whether here or across the Atlantic Ocean.

"God loves everyone across the world," said Purvis, a 2003 summer missionary to France. "He wants everyone to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It's up to us to go wherever God wants us to go."

Purvis was one of two Kentucky Wesleyan students who visited the European nation through their Baptist Student Union. Working with a pair of English-speaking Baptist churches, they saw several people decide to follow Christ.

One of the highlights of their 10-week stay was overseeing a "friendship ministry" in the Mediterranean port of St. Paul.

Each Monday night a group visited the beach to establish relationships so they could share their faith. It was the perfect setting, Purvis said, since young adults not involved in church felt at ease.

Starting with 20 people, by summer's end the group had grown to 50. The newcomers included Nicolae, a Frenchman who attended Bible study and church after meeting the missionaries.

One night he asked how a person could do good works and not be a Christian. That was a perfect opening to share Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast."

"Three weeks later he accepted Christ," Purvis said. "He had a degree in astrophysics. He was a brilliant man, always seeking more knowledge and wisdom. We were able to introduce him to Christ."

St. Paul is also where Purvis and Kentucky Wesleyan graduate Kamille Krahwinkel led a vacation Bible school, which they labeled "KFC" (for Kids Fun Club).

The two instructors used Bible stories, puppets and skits to teach children about such fruit of the Holy Spirit as love, joy and kindness.

The event attracted between 15 and 20 children a day. While no conversions were reported, later in the summer two attendees accepted Jesus as Savior.

A week prior to VBS, the Kentuckians assisted summer missionaries Tim and Terri Welch (and their four children) with a sports camp. Welch, a wrestling coach from Colorado, included a gospel message at the end of each day's session.

The following Sunday a boy asked Purvis when they would have another camp because it had been so much fun. The mother of a girl said her daughter had enjoyed the camp so much they wanted to attend church more often.

The sports camp prepared the Kentucky Baptists to assist with a basketball camp held a month later. It featured a European traveling team. At halftime, players sang and gave testimonies.

The event also resulted in an invitation to Purvis - who plays basketball for Kentucky Wesleyan - to return to Europe next summer to join a women's team.

In addition, the two women were involved in leading Bible studies, a small youth group, and English-as-a-second-language classes in St. Paul and Nice, and participating in Sunday worship and weekly prayer meetings.

The prayer sessions impressed Purvis. Rather than a structured time where people gave requests, talked about them and then prayed briefly, they were more spontaneous, she said.

They would also stop and pray for each one. Once Nice pastor Roy Miller suggested they have prayers for salvation; that week a girl from Switzerland accepted Christ.

"The prayers were so powerful," Purvis said. "I knew in my heart that God was working. The Christians there were so passionate. Sometimes in the U.S. we aren't so passionate about our beliefs. We need to be, to show the world how wonderful it is to have Christ in your heart."

The trip impacted the college senior on a personal level as well. Her summer studies included reading "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

That helped her resolve to stop worrying about the future and let God lead her on a career path. By summer's end, she felt like a stronger Christian, too.

"I became more bold about sharing my faith," Purvis said. "On the plane ride home I was able to share my faith with three people I sat with on different connections. I couldn't wait to tell them about my faith and give them tracts. And I knew there were many people I could reach out to on campus, whether on the basketball team or somewhere else."

Sounds like a full-court press for God.



Owensboro Group Brings New Hope To New England

By Ken Walker

Ever since becoming a Christian, Dennis McFadden has sensed God calling him to be involved in missions. To him, the fact that he has served on several church staffs is irrelevant - he believes everyone can serve on the mission field.



The associate pastor of Third Baptist Church of Owensboro saw how God uses ordinary people regardless of background during an early July trip to Vermont.

Working at Resurrection Baptist Church in Montpelier, the eight-member team oversaw a week-long vacation Bible school and did renovation work on the building.

Neither task involves McFadden's day-to-day work of assisting his pastor and working with senior adults.

Still, he brought away a valuable lesson to share with elderly members - if they are available, God will use them.

He knows that after watching Mission Service Corps missionaries Johnnie and Lahoma Loar coordinating dozens of mission teams in Vermont last summer.

"What touched my life more than anything else was Johnnie and Lahoma," McFadden. "Johnnie had a breast removed for cancer and is still taking medication for it. Here's a senior adult couple who could be back in Texas in a recliner. But instead they were up in Vermont, helping people.

"God touched me through their life and their work. No matter what age you are, God can use you. Johnnie is a retired wrecker driver (hauling 18-wheelers.) He never pastored a church in his life. I think the Loars are prime examples of God using ordinary people."

The significance of their service can be seen through the frontier nature of the region, the Third Baptist pastor said. He called Vermont a difficult place to minister, especially for the small minority known as Baptists.

Although reportedly predominantly Catholic, McFadden observed numerous religions and other influences in the town of 8,000.

Recalling a member of Resurrection commenting, "God is not important to them," the pastor said such beliefs make it tough on evangelical churches.

A native of the Evansville, Ind., area, McFadden encountered similar attitudes in the New England state of Connecticut as a summer missionary in college.

"It was a different setting and a different culture, which made work more difficult," he said. "The mentality of people in Vermont is, 'We don't need God. We're doing fine.'"

Which made the visit by seven members of Third Baptist and one from Fordsville Baptist of great encouragement to Resurrection, which only has about 20 people on a Sunday morning.

The Bible school was especially helpful to coming up with prospects for the small church. Previously, they didn't have any children in attendance. Thus, a VBS of 18 may not sound too impressive in Kentucky, but it excited the residents of Montpelier.

A Friday night carnival offering various games, booths and food drew a far larger crowd as children brought friends, relatives and parents.

Even though no one accepted Jesus as Savior, McFadden said they still labeled the event a success.

"The church was excited because they had the names and addresses of people in the community," McFadden said. "They didn't have any children, so they felt it was very successful.

"We definitely wanted to see decisions made for Christ, but we left feeling like we did what we could and left them with the hope of reaching kids. So we felt good about that."

In addition, the Kentucky Baptists spruced up the church's interior. They remodeled the kitchen, putting in a new floor and installing fiberglass-type wall-board (and painting it) and new cabinets.

The volunteers closed up a doorway that faced into the kitchen, cutting a new open-

ing that faced into a hallway and installing a new bathroom door. After their departure, church members put in a new shower and faucets as they continued the renovation work.

McFadden points out that tasks like swinging a hammer or tearing out walls aren't related to his job description or anyone else's on the team.

In addition, Kentuckians played a role in a successful outreach to the state over the summer. Associational missionary Terry Dorsett, who visited Resurrection Baptist to offer some hands-on assistance, recently sent an e-mail to Third Baptist outlining the results:

Fifty-four children and teens accepted Christ as Savior in 17 vacation Bible schools and 16 backyard Bible clubs that reached more than 1,500 people. The work uncovered 120 prospects for local church Sunday schools.

Such results, and the different culture he encountered, are reasons McFadden recommends all Kentucky Baptists get involved in partnership missions. People need to get out of their comfort zones and see what God is doing elsewhere, he said.

"You almost have to experience it to explain it," McFadden said. "People I know who have been on partnership missions come back with a different outlook on Christianity, and a different passion for what God is doing."



Above: volunteers from Third Baptist Church, Owensboro

Left: Lohnnie and Lahoma Loar

Kentucky Baptists Touch The World in Greece

By Ken Walker

Chris Platt watched an unusual scene play out during a recent mission trip to Greece. He witnessed John Adams, a woodworker and fellow short-term missionary from Kentucky, telling an Iraqi refugee about Jesus.

"I was thrilled listening to a man who spends all his days working with wood," said Platt, associate pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood. "Yet he was sharing his faith. Eventually, the (Iraqi) man said he would like to take a Bible and believe in Christ, but said his roommate was (a fanatic) and he would be killed."

That encounter illustrates both the joys and challenges a 25-member team of Kentuckians faced on a trip to Greece-home to many refugees from the Middle East-last June.

Hostility towards Christianity and fear prevented many from responding to the gospel. Yet the Kentuckians' presence encouraged many Christians, who are a distinct minority in Greece.

For example, the city of Philippi - famous for Paul's letter to the church there - only has about 15 evangelical Christians, Platt said.

A pastor in Katerini felt overwhelmed by their visit. When various team members described how God was at work in Kentucky, the pastor broke into tears and said, "Oh, how I long for revival here."

"One of the extraordinary things God did was to allow us to go there as Barnabas-type people," Platt said. "The people were so encouraged. There are so few believers there that people mock them. For us to go and spend two weeks with them was so encouraging."

In fact, the director at a youth camp was so enamored of his guests he feared allowing them to work would offend them. Platt

had to persuade the man that's why they had come.

Located at the foot of Mount Olympus, the camp is a meeting place for Greek evangelicals. The Kentuckians spruced it up by mowing grass and cleaning up cabins, nearby brush and an outdoor worship facility.

In addition, they installed an electronic gate at one end. Located near a tavern, the gate prevents unwanted intruders from gaining access to the grounds.

The volunteers also moved an aging boat to make room for a new one that had been donated to the camp.

"For us, it weighed a ton; it took all of us to move it," Platt said. "That may not sound like much, but it was how we worked together. The camp only had two or three (employees) and it would have taken them weeks to do what we did."

Not only did they inspire others, the Kentuckians received a faith boost from observing Christians there. Particularly people like a 20-year-old Iranian named Davood, who served as an interpreter at a refugee center in Athens.

Muslims had persecuted his family and friends for accepting Christ. Davood escaped to Greece after his father was killed, according to Platt.

"He's still living for Christ," the Crestwood pastor said. "He's witnessing to Iranians who are coming there and leading them to Christ. There were times when I only spoke for 30 seconds and he spoke for five minutes. He would preach to the Iraqis and Afghans, pleading with them to come to Christ."

However, no one responded during the Kentucky Baptists' visits to

the center. Like the man who talked to Adams, several said they would like to follow Christ, but it would cost them their life.

However, Platt believes he reached one man who came to a dinner with about 40 other Iranians. Thanks to an 11-year-old boy who interpreted, they talked about Jesus.

Their conversation reminded Platt of Acts 16, where the jailer asked Paul what he had to do to become a Christian.

"He didn't accept Christ that night," the pastor said. "He said would come back two days later, but he didn't... something deterred him. It was neat that through a child I was able to witness. By now I think he has accepted Christ."

The meeting took place at Helping Hands, an evangelistic ministry offering free meals to refugees from such nations as Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

Displaced from good jobs in their homelands, they strive to find work so they can send money home. Their plight reminds him of Hispanic migrants in the United States, Platt said.

In addition to working at the center and the youth camp, the summer missionaries helped lead two worship services, a backyard Bible club and a sports camp.

Even though he is a pastor, most volunteers in Greece were laypersons. Platt believes all church members should participate in partnership missions, saying it will not only impact the world for Christ, but each person who goes.

"You may go and encourage someone or clean up a camp," he said. "It may not seem like much, but you'll make a difference."

...Extraordinary Places



European Baptist Convention

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is involved in an exciting partnership with the European Baptist Convention, a fellowship of 65

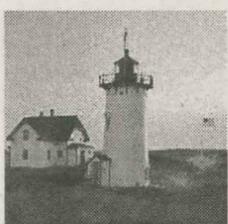
English language churches and missions scattered across Europe and the Middle East. Kentucky Baptist volunteers, through a wide variety of partnership projects, can play a vital role in helping these churches grow and minister to the people in their communities. Approximate Cost: \$1,000 - \$2,000



Poland

Though Polish Baptists number only 4,300 members in 72 churches, they have a bold vision, and Kentucky Baptists can be part of it! From prayer walks to youth camps to teaching English, Kentucky

Baptists have dozens of great opportunities in 2003 to encourage Polish Baptists and share the Good News. Approximate Cost: \$1,600



New England

Since 1996, Kentucky Baptists have partnered with New England Baptists in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

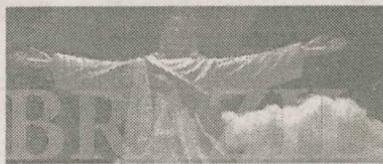
The six states together are just over half again as large as Kentucky, with a total population of more than 13,000,000. With 199 churches in the convention, that translates to one congregation for every 65,000 people, more than 75 percent of whom do not know Christ. The harvest is waiting, and Kentucky Baptists have an invitation to help. Does God have a place for you in New England?



Greece 2004

Is God calling you to Greece? In the year leading up to the 2004 Olympics and during the Olympic year itself, Kentucky Baptists are being called on to minister not only to the Greek people, but to tourists

from around the world and to countless refugees who have fled to Greece from troubled parts of the world. Projects will include prayer walking, refugee ministries, sports ministry and more! Approximate Cost: \$2,500



Brazil

Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to assist in a number of important projects designed to further the cause of Christ in the largest nation in South America. From working with children in pre-school education to participating in an evangelistic mission to thousands of fishermen who operate along the largest open sea delta in the hemisphere, there is a place for you! Approximate Cost: \$1,850 - 2,200

the island of Malta (located just south of Italy and Sicily) on his way to Rome. Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to follow in his footsteps by sharing the Gospel there today. Teams are needed for children's outreach and prayer.



Malta

How would you like to follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul by sharing the Good News on the Mediterranean island nation of Malta? Acts 28 describes how the Apostle Paul was shipwrecked on

the island of Malta (located just south of Italy and Sicily) on his way to Rome. Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to follow in his footsteps by sharing the Gospel there today. Teams are needed for children's outreach and prayer.

See For Yourself!

Call (888) 254-5724 toll free in Kentucky to request your free copy of:

Kentucky Baptists Touching the World: Europe

Kentucky Baptists Touching the World: Poland

Kentucky Baptists Touching the World: Brazil



Be an intercessor for the Kentucky Baptist partnerships! We are seeking individuals, Sunday School classes, mission groups, churches and associations who will commit to praying faithfully for the countries, projects and participants involved in our partnerships. If you commit now to interceding regularly for partnerships, we'll send you regular mail or e-mail updates. Want to be a part of Operation Bended Knee? Go to www.kybaptist.org/partnership for details or call (888) 254-5724 toll free in Kentucky.

Volunteer Requirements

To be a partnership missions volunteer, you must:

- Be a member of a Southern Baptist church.
- Demonstrate Christian values and conduct, including abstaining from the use of tobacco and alcohol.
- Be able to share your faith verbally.
- Be physically able to perform the duties of your project, including walking reasonable distances and carrying your own baggage.
- Be between the ages of 16 and 69 if participating in an international trip. If you are older than 69, you must have medical clearance from you physician.
- Be flexible! Situations and assignments can change without notice.
- Apply to be a Partnership Missions volunteer. You can download the simple, 2-page application now at www.kybaptist.org/partnership or call (888) 254-5724 toll free in Kentucky to request an application by mail or fax.
- Participate in a Partnership Missions orientation scheduled by the Partnership Missions office.

Partnership Missions Orientations

March 13, April 24, May 15, June 12 and July 17

Project Location	Project Date	Project Type
BRAZIL		
Parniba Delta Islands	March	Medical/Dental/Evangelism
Parniba Delta Islands	March	Construction/Evangelism
Teresina, Piaui	July 7 - 12	Carnival Street Evangelism
Teresina, Piaui	Late July or Aug	General Evangelism
Teresina, Piaui	Late July or Aug	Preschool/Church Planting
EUROPE		
Sofia, Bulgaria	Jan 4 - May 4	Interim Pastor
Glissen, Germany	Jan - Aug	Interim Pastor
Metterich, Germany	Apr 8 or 15 - 22	Construction
Sedge Fen, England	June	Construction
Interlaken, Switzerland	July 3 - 8	Cooks for EuroVenture Camp
Interlaken, Switzerland	July 1 - 10	Extended Teaching Care
Vienna, Austria	Aug 7 - 12	Summer Missionaries
Stuttgart, Germany	July 12 - Aug/Sept	Team A - Construction
Stuttgart, Germany	July 12 - Aug/Sept	Team B - Construction
Landersen, France	Sept 1 - 6	Family Retreat Team
Leidschendam, Netherlands	Sept 3 - Nov 4	Interim Pastor
Heidelberg, Germany	Sept 13 - 20	Community Outreach and Music/Choir Team/Evangelism
Romania, Bucharest	TBA	Evangelism, Prayer Walk, Bible study
Kiev, Ukraine	TBA	Various requests
Baumhaunder, Germany	TBA	Construction
Lagos ICC, Portugal	TBA	Prayer Walkers, Puppets, Music, Art
GREECE		
Pireaus	Feb or March	Construction (Welcome Center)
Pireaus	April or May	Pireaus Painting Team (Constr.)
Pireaus	July 31 - Aug 11	Clean-up/Welcome Center Team
Pireaus	July 31 - Aug 11	General Evangelism
Athens	July 31 - Aug 11	Community Outreach Dev & Min
Athens	Aug 10 - 21	Community Outreach Dev & Min
Athens	Aug 10 - 21	Creative Arts 1
Athens	Aug 20 - 31	Creative Arts 2
Athens	Aug 20 - 31	Crown of Life Initiatives
MALTA		
Mosta & Floriana	July 8 - 20	Children's Outreach Team
Malta	Flexible	Prayer Walk Teams
POLAND		
Bialystok	Jan 28 - Feb 10	Children's Winter Day Camp
Wroclaw	May 11 - 21	Construction
Swietajno	May 19 - June 1	Construction
Narewka	May 19 - June 1	Construction
Glogow	May 26 - June 7	Multiple Ministries
Torun	June 2 - 15	Construction/Evangelism
Warsaw Seminary	June 16 - 29	Construction
Warsaw Seminary	June 16 - 29	Senior Adult Camp
Wisla	June 23 - July 5	Construction/VBS
Warsaw/Ustka/Lublin	June 23 - July 30	Youth Camps/Student Ministry
Wroclaw	July 7 - 19	Construction/Evangelism
Gorzow Wielkopolski	June 30 - July 13	Construction/VBS
Zielona Gora	July 6 - 19	English Language Camp
Barycz Orphanage	July 14 - 27	Construction/Children's Ministry
Malbork/Stezyca	July 14 - 27	Youth Eng. Lang. Camp
Glogow	July 20 - Aug 2	Youth and Children's Ministry
Olsztyn/Kawkowo	July 21 - Aug 3	Day Camp for Children
Olsztyn/Swietajno	July 28 - Aug 10	Children/Youth Camp
TBA	Aug 19 - 29	Women's Retreat
Wroclaw	Sept 7 - 29	Construction
Warsaw Seminary	Sept 15 - 28	Medical Conference
Warsaw Seminary	Oct 6 - 19	CLOSURE & Pastor's Conference



Partnership Missions
(502) 244-6462 or
Toll Free 888-254-5724
Email: partnership@kybaptist.org

This publication is made possible by the Cooperative Program.



www.kybaptist.org/partnership

Beginning of the end for abortion?

Some consider 'partial-birth' ban first step to reverse Roe v. Wade decision

By Michelle Gabriel
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Interrupted by standing ovations and shouts of "amen," President Bush signed the "partial-birth" abortion ban into law Nov. 5.

"For years, a terrible form of violence has been directed against children who are inches from birth," the president told a packed auditorium in Washington's Ronald Reagan Building. "Today, at last, the American people and our government have confronted the violence and come to the defense of the innocent child."

The president cited medical research saying the majority of "partial-birth" abortions are not required by medical emergency.

He called the operations, which are used for late-term abortions, "a



BILL SIGNING Surrounded by legislators, last week President George W. Bush signed S.3, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington. (RNS/Reuters photos by Larry Downing)

violation of medical ethics."

Legal fight begins

Meanwhile, abortion rights advocates prepared an attempt to reverse the ban in the courts.

Less than an hour later, a federal judge in Nebraska issued a limited injunction against the new law. Judges in New York and San Francisco also heard challenges to the law.

"While it is also true that Congress found that a health exception is not needed, it is, at the very least, problematic whether I should defer to such a conclusion when the Supreme Court has found otherwise," U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf said in Lincoln, Neb., according to Associated Press.

Before signing the bill, Bush told the audience that his signature was secondary to the power of a higher authority. "The right to life cannot be granted or denied by the government," he said. "It comes from the Creator of life."

"Landmark day"

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called it a "landmark day in the long struggle" to restore the sanctity of life



SUPPORTERS Religious leaders, including Jerry Falwell (left, with glasses), applaud before the signing.

ethic embodied in the Declaration of Independence.

SBC President Jack Graham, Land, and Jerry Falwell were among those who met with Bush in the White House after the ceremony.

While the more than 400 people in the audience cheered Bush for what they hoped was a step toward reversing the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, about 100 protesters demonstrated outside to defend a woman's right to abortion.

Anti-abortion advocates tout the ban as the first step to complete abolition of abortion in America. Although backed by Republicans, the bill attracted some Democratic support when it passed the House 281-142 on Oct. 2, and in a 64-34 vote in the Senate on Oct. 21.

"Violent end of life"

"Partial-birth" abortions are most frequently performed between 20 and 26 weeks, advocates of the law say. The fetus is partially delivered and then aborted—a process the president called "a sudden, violent end to a life."

The law imposes a two-year prison sentence and fines on any doctor who performs an "overt act" to end a late-term pregnancy.

But medical and legal experts from the Center for Reproductive Rights said the new law could criminalize abortions performed as early as 12 weeks into the pregnancy.

Center President Nancy Northup said the procedure is the safest and most common way to perform a late-term abortion.

"When you ban the safest and most common procedures, women are at increased risk of becoming infertile, getting serious infections, or even dying," Northup said. "The Supreme Court has already said that a law like this would have 'tragic health consequences.' We will do everything in our power to prevent this dangerous ban from taking effect."

Congress approved similar bans twice in the 1990s, but both bills were vetoed by then-President Bill Clinton.

In 2000, the Supreme Court struck down a similar ban enacted by the state of Nebraska, saying it was too vague and did not contain an exception to protect the mother's health. Supporters say the new federal law is more specific and will survive a court challenge.

Bush said "the executive branch will vigorously ... defend this law against anyone who might try to overturn it in the courts."

"For years, a terrible form of violence has been directed against children who are inches from birth."

President George W. Bush

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Attention Friends & Family

Join us for our
Homecoming
Celebration



Sunday, November 23, 2003

9:30 a.m. Breakfast; 10:00 a.m. Joint Service;
11:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Meal;
1:00 p.m. Commemorative Celebration

The Greater Louisville Association of Diabetes Educators Presents "A Certified Diabetes Educator Near You"

You just found out you have diabetes. Kind of a scary thought. Maybe someone in your family has diabetes. Maybe nobody you know has diabetes. Maybe you've heard some terrible things about what diabetes can do. Maybe you've heard all kinds of things you can't do if you have diabetes. Or you've had diabetes a while but still don't understand why you need to do all this stuff. There must be a better way. There must be an easier way. How will you know what to do? How will you know what to eat? Who can you turn to? What is true? What is false?

Diabetes Education comes in many forms and can be found in many places. Certified Diabetes Educators (CDE) are in hospitals, physician's offices, the health department (HD), clinics, and healthcare companies to name a few. Most CDE's are nurses or dietitians but some are physicians, pharmacists, and social workers.

Certification in the field of diabetes is a special credential. It is received after passing a written test about the professional's knowledge of diabetes. We are proud to be able to say we are CDE's. The following organizations employ CDE's who belong to the Greater Louisville Association of Diabetes Educators:

Animas Corp.	Baptist East	BCE Emergus	Becton Dickinson	Caritas Home Health
Caritas Medical.	Clark Mem.	Diabetes Care	Dr. Honaker	Dr. Hammer
Dr. O'Brien	Essential Hlth	Floyd Mem.	Food & Nutrition	Jeff. Metro HD.
Jewish Hosp.	Kosair Children	Lincoln Trial HD	Minimed	North Cent. HD.
Novo Nordisk	Private Practice	Sankyo Pharma	St. Matt. Med	Univ. of Louisville

Closing the ... back door

Pastor discovers bringing people in isn't church's only major challenge

People tend to join other people on a spiritual journey. We did not give them the opportunities they needed to connect.

By Ed Stetzer

I remember it like it was yesterday. We were reviewing our church's first year while planning for the future. Then we discovered it.

More than a thousand people had visited our church during that first year, and only a hundred had stayed; our "back door" was almost as large as our "front door."

An honest review of our first year of ministry revealed to us that we not only had failed to close the back door, we seemed to have left it wide open marked with a flashing emergency exit sign.

Our problem was not unique. Many churches have learned to attract guests but have a hard time nudging them into committed attendees.

Why is it easier to generate visitors than to produce members? We decided some of our loss was related to style issues—perhaps visitors didn't like the music, the building or our style of service. Yet, that was not the whole story. Many people just weren't connecting with our church.

Like many churches, we failed to understand that most people will convert to "community" before converting to Christ. People tend to join other people on a spiritual journey. We did not give them the opportunities they needed to connect.

Outreach 101

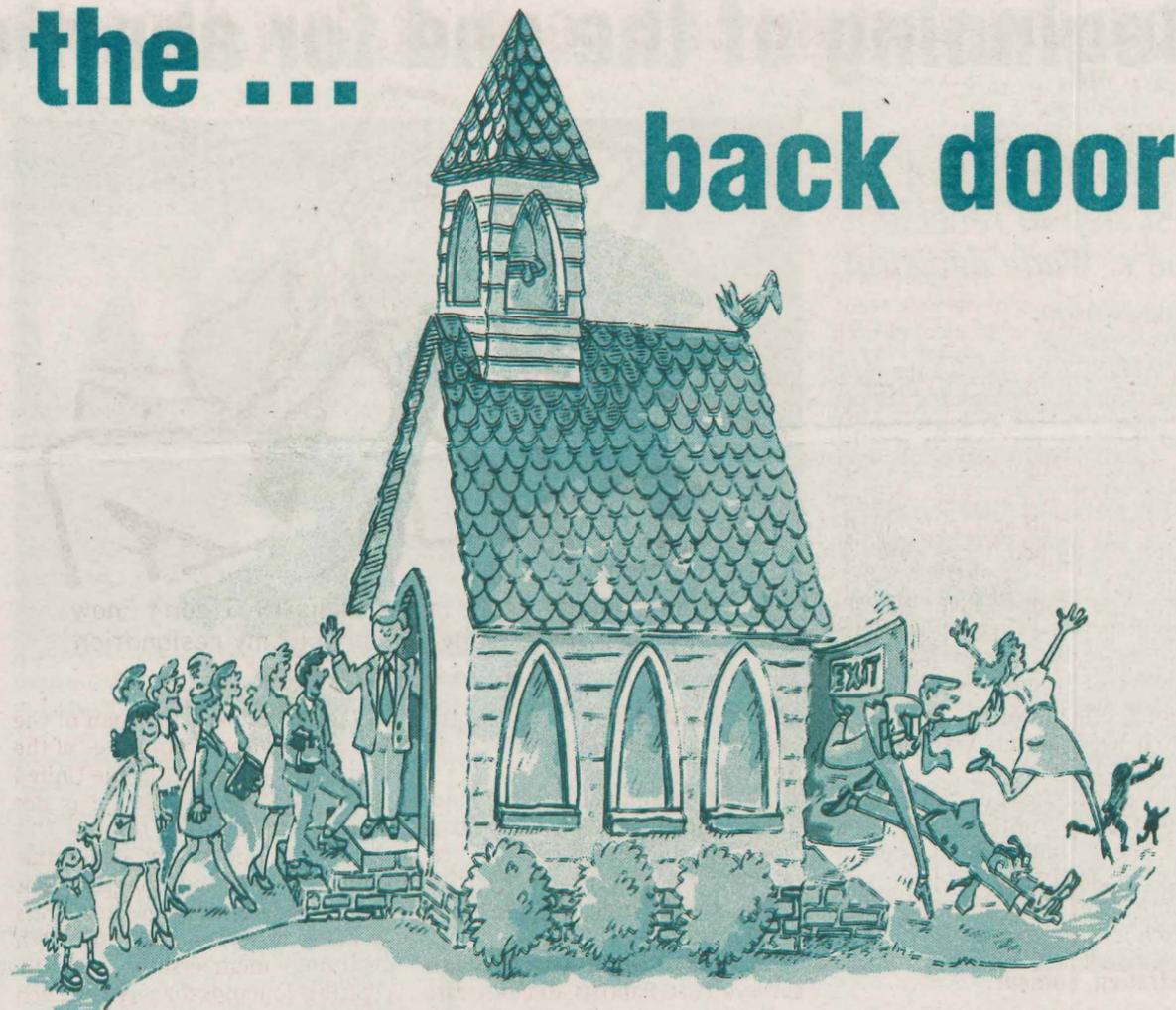
Often believers will bring a close friend or family member into their own spiritual journey, inviting them to church, explaining the unfamiliar and introducing the lost person to the Christian experience. In order to reach these community-conscious seekers, churches need to remember these principles:

Friendliness is not enough. People are not looking for a friendly church, they are looking for friends. Many churches are not prepared to move visitors into relationships with others in the church.

Christians and Christianity are peculiar. Who we are and what we do is different. If we're doing it right, the "difference" will draw others to Christ, but we can't expect the unchurched to put the puzzle together by themselves.

Closing the back door takes planning. To keep guests and new converts, churches must work as hard as they would for a vacation Bible school, large gathering or church outreach. All of these are only effective if the guests they generate become new believers and members.

The goal is simple, but the task can be overwhelming. Our sacred task is to care for those whom Christ sends our way. A church can start to do this with a simple plan: invite, welcome, connect.



A magnetic church

Closing the back door is not easy.

It requires connected and stable church members, who are drawn to the church initially but stay for the long haul.

Such church members must develop in at least seven ways. These are adapted from "The Master Plan for Making Disciples" by Win and Charles Arn:

- Worship regularly.
- Guide friends and family to follow Christ.
- Identify with church goals.
- Tithe regularly.
- Identify seven new friends in the church.
- Identify their own spiritual gifts.
- Participate in at least one role or task in the church.
- Participate in a small group.

Invite guests. Churches need an outreach strategy. If people are not visiting your church, that's the first step—inviting guests. Members must be sold on inviting their friends. Churches can participate in organized evangelistic outreach, servant evangelism projects and special community events to build new relationships. Direct mail and other marketing methods are used to invite those without pre-existing relationships in the church.

Welcome guests. The first 10 minutes set the tone. Newcomers are already uncomfortable, going to a strange place to talk about a strange subject.

Magnetic churches (of all shapes and sizes) have learned to use simple strategies to reduce that tension. These strategies include friendly parking attendants, greeters, an information center, quality printed programs and cultural-

ly sensitive hospitality. When this becomes the norm, members will learn that every Sunday is a safe Sunday to bring a guest.

Connect guests. Dan Morgan, a church planting professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, explains that people need three types of stability to connect with a church. New believers often drop out because they are unstable in their faith, lifestyle or their understanding of Scripture.

Stability for crumbling situations

The task of the church is to introduce Christ into people's lives when their stability is crumbling. This means they need help to get out of their current situation and make a stable connection.

Stability can take several forms: relational, biblical and functional. To close the back door, believers need to have their lives stabilized—and God uses the church to help with that.

Relational stability. William Hendricks argues that new Christians are likely to leave the church within the first six months if they don't develop at least seven significant relationships in the congregation in that time period.

Unfortunately, many Christians make little effort to cultivate new friends because they feel comfortable with the friends they already have.

New congregations need to learn to accept the immaturity of new believers and make welcoming and befriending them a priority.

If believers do not involve new converts in their circle of faith, converts may never experience the biblical and functional stability that Christ offers.

Biblical stability The church that establishes new believers in the faith must teach them in a variety of areas: a mature understanding of God, assurance of God's forgiveness, certainty of their salvation ex-

perience, the purpose of the church and confidence that God hears their prayers.

New believers develop biblical stability in their lives when the church teaches and preaches that God's Word is powerful, authoritative and true.

This area of stability is the easiest of the three to develop if the new believers are part of Bible study and worship.

Functional stability New believers long for "functional stability." If they still wrestle with drug abuse, sexual immorality and other concerns, they will be unable to focus on issues of spiritual maturity.

The church cannot expect a new believer to demonstrate good spiritual habits immediately. The church must help him or her make a commitment that will develop into habits displayed by mature believers. This may involve helping them get free of habits that are squelching their spiritual growth.

I have known very few adults who made commitments to Christ without a significant crisis, and that crisis does not automatically disappear after he or she becomes a Christian.

Many churches have found ways to attract the unchurched, but keeping them has been a bigger challenge. It can be done, but it takes work.

Churches that are willing to intentionally connect people to Christ and to believers can become spiritual greenhouses. In such places, new believers can take root, grow and ultimately blossom in their relationship with Christ and His church.

Who would want out of a church like that?

Ed Stetzer is a church planting specialist for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and author of "Planting New Churches in a Post-modern Age." Article reprinted with permission of On Mission magazine, a NAMB publication.

Leaving pastors cite conflict, low denomination support

By David Briggs
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—It's not only the holy steamrollers in the pews who are driving Protestant clergy out of the pulpit.

The people in the home office also are perceived as a major part of the problem, according to a study of why clergy give up local church ministry.

In one of the first comprehensive studies of the reasons pastors leave local churches, researchers at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., found that tensions with church staff and laity and opportunities for better jobs were major factors.

But the study, which did not include Baptists, also found that more than one in four departing clergy cited conflict with denominational officials or the belief that church headquarters was not supportive as a motive.

In a separate question, more than four in 10 of the nearly 1,000 respondents said lack of support from denominational officials was an important reason they left local church ministry.

Frustration, burnout

"Conflict is the big problem," sociologist Dean Hoge said in a telephone interview. "Sometimes, it drives the ministers out. Sometimes, they burn out because they're frustrated."

A total of 963 clergy who had left local church ministry in the past eight years from five Protestant denominations responded to the survey. The study included pastors from the United Methodist Church, Assemblies of God, Presbyterian Church (USA), the Luther-



"After twenty years in the ministry, I don't know if my sermons are any better, but my resignation letter is without equal."

an Church-Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Those denominations are more hierarchical than Baptists, but that doesn't mean Baptists still don't relate to feelings of distance from denominational officials, according to Guy Futral

"We have seen in some previous surveys that Baptists did not rate well in how the clergy perceived convention or denominational support as they went through those difficulties," said Futral, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development team.

Both the Kentucky Baptist Convention and many local Baptist associations offer conflict resolution services. The KBC also offers a host of financial and counseling services for pastors who are fired or leave a church under stressful circumstances.

James Skinner, chairman of the Pastoral Advisory Committee of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, said he is not surprised by the study results.

Skinner said clergy, denominational officials and congregations all are experiencing greater stress as many churches deal with both declining memberships and increasing demands for services. Each group looks to the others for solutions.

"All of them are experiencing stress because of the other two," he said. "It depends on what position you're standing in, and how you're looking at the situation."

The study results are scheduled to be published in a book next year.

Catholic University researchers said the main reason people left local church ministry was conflict with staff and laity in the congregation, followed by conflict with

denominational officials or disillusionment with the larger body.

Those who left local church ministry also reported feeling stress and burnout and concern about having enough time to meet the needs of their families.

In a question asking respondents to evaluate different reasons for leaving, about half said they felt drained by the demands of the job or they were lonely and isolated. A perceived lack of support from denominational officials ranked third.

Fear asking for help

In follow-up interviews, pastors said they found it difficult to discuss problems with denominational leaders for fear it would jeopardize future calls and promotions.

Baptists ministers often encounter the same feelings, Futral said, because they rely on referrals from other pastors or association or convention staff.

"It's not uncommon for Baptist ministers to experience a reluctance to share their difficulty with anybody for fear that those people would not want to recommend them to another church," he said.

"On the other side of that, more and more people realize that the helpers really are here to help," Futral added. "As they get better acquainted and feel that they can trust, they often get the help they need."

For more information about KBC support for congregations in conflict or ministers in transition, contact the KBC leadership development team toll-free at (888) 254-5702

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

"Baptists did not rate well in how the clergy perceived convention or denominational support as they went through those difficulties."

Guy Futral, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development team

Wouldn't it be great ...

... if churches had a resource to help families with the challenges they're facing?

You're holding it.

Every week, the Western Recorder offers Family Forum, a faith-based column to help with the variety of issues families face today. Specialists on parenting, seniors, singles, teenagers and relationships can help equip your congregation to live out their

Christianity where it matters most. Shouldn't your members be getting Family Forum?



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NATIONAL NOTES

Supreme Court won't hear Commandments case. The U.S. Supreme Court refused last week to hear suspended Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore's case concerning his legal fight to display a Ten Commandments monument in his state's judicial building. The case has been punctuated by protesters staging vigils outside the court building in Montgomery and workers wheeling the 5,300-pound granite monument into a storage room. The Christian Coalition of Alabama said the overall issue is far from over. "There are many cases we are tracking across the country that argue the same basic point," said President John Giles.

Update: Policy change allows Times Square faith ad. One of the world's largest media companies will change its advertising policies to let the United Methodist Church display a glitzy ad in Times Square. Reuters CEO Thomas Glocer said he would welcome the Methodists' ad on his building after several churches denounced a company policy that banned religious advertising on a 22-story electronic billboard. "You state ... that your church should be given the same access and opportunity to speak in the commercial marketplace as corporate advertisers," Glocer wrote to a Methodist official. "On reflection, I believe that you are right."

Churches coordinate California fire response. More than 100 San Diego-area pastors from various denominations have begun a cooperative effort to make sure all victims of the wildfires in late October are covered with physical and spiritual help. Representatives of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's Rapid Response Team were sent to the scene to offer help minister and to provide disaster ministry training. "Jesus didn't come to end suffering but to bring peace in the midst of it," said Johnathan Olford, one of the BGEA trainers.

Methodists cut 259 jobs in two years. The United Methodist Church has cut 259 jobs over the past two years—a 21 percent drop—according to The United Methodist Reporter newspaper. The nation's second-largest Protestant denomination laid off 65 people between Sept. 30, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2003. Sixty additional empty positions were kept vacant, while others were not filled after retirements. In addition, statistics provided by the church and compiled by the newspaper showed that the church has lost 305 missionaries—14 percent of its overseas force—since 2001.

Judge tosses same-sex marriage case. A New Jersey judge has thrown out a lawsuit seeking legalization of same-sex "marriage" in the state, marking the second straight defeat nationwide for homosexual activists. In October an Arizona appeals court also denied a request to legalize same-sex "marriage." New Jersey Judge Linda Feinberg rejected arguments made by lawyers of seven homosexual couples that the state's laws against same-sex "marriage" violate the New Jersey constitution, which was written in 1947.

Church sues county over Christmas display. A Fort Lauderdale, Fla., church has sued county officials, claiming they reneged on an agreement for the church to display a "Jesus Is the Reason for the Season" display during a holiday lights event in a county park. According to court documents, the nondenominational church paid \$15,000 to participate in the "Holiday Fantasy of Lights" event. But in August, the church was informed that the approval had been revoked. The church argues that the denial of a display violates its rights of free speech and free exercise of religion.

Faith groups want charity bill out of congressional deadlock

By Michelle Gabriel
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—With only a few weeks left before Congress departs until 2004, religious advocacy groups are trying to break a Democratic "hold" on what remains of President Bush's plan to provide tax breaks for charitable donations.

Supporters say one or more unidentified Democrats have used indefinite delays to block action on the remnants of Bush's "faith-based initiative."

The groups have been lobbying Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., to help end the hold on the Charity, Aid, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act. The bill would provide federal block grants to community charities and social services organizations and offer tax incentives for charitable donations by individuals.

The original Bush plan would have allowed religious groups to apply for direct government funding of social services. It quickly stalled over concerns that religious groups could discriminate in hiring, or expose participants to religious symbols or proselytizing.

The CARE Act is a scaled-back version that allows tax incentives for charitable giving, including allowing the 86 million taxpayers who do not itemize a standard \$250 deduction for charitable gifts (\$500 for couples).

It also allows larger charitable giving from IRAs and expands the Individual Development Account savings plan for low-income Americans. It provides \$150 million a year in "technical assistance" to small charities that need help applying for grants and structuring their programs.

The Senate passed the bill last April after eliminating the controversial discrimination provisions. The House, which had passed the larger Bush plan in 2001, agreed to a similar version in September. The next step, to reach a compromise between the two versions, is blocked because of the hold.

Activists say Democrats have some legitimate concerns, but that the delay tactics are not warranted.

"There are some legitimate concerns on the Democratic side; they feel they have been left out of (House-Senate negotiating) commit-

tees," said Yonce Shelton, director of public policy for Call to Renewal, a religious group committed to combating poverty. "We are trying to urge the parties to come together and treat this with the respect it deserves."

Even if a bill does make it to the president's desk before Congress leaves town, the lack of faith-based language in the legislation has disappointed many advocacy groups.

"The bill really is not a faith-based bill anymore," said Sharon Daly, vice president for social policy at Catholic Charities USA. "What we have is a charitable giving bill."

The Senate version would restore about \$1 billion each year to the block grants that were reduced in 1998. Activists are concerned the money may be cut in the compromise bill because the House did not vote to restore the money.

Elenora Giddings Ivory, director of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Washington office, said small religious and community organizations cannot provide services without grant money. She said the government needs to continue supporting local charities indirectly through state and local grants.

But she also said the groups should find other funding avenues to avoid government interference in their operations.

"We're concerned that if churches get money (from the government), that they're in the position to have their ministry controlled by the government," Giddings Ivory said.

Graham celebrates birthday, plans for next 'crusades'

Asheville, N.C. (RNS)—Evangelist Billy Graham marked his 85th birthday Nov. 7 and began solidifying plans for continuing his evangelistic ministry next year.

"I never dreamed that I would live to be 85," Graham said in a statement. "I am grateful to the Lord for the strength He gives me to hold additional crusades."

Graham spokesman Larry Ross said officials of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association have decided to once again use the term "crusades" to describe Graham's major events, rather than "missions."

"I think that there's been consensus among the leadership to return to the more familiar term 'crusade,'" Ross said. "It's what he's been known for all these years."

In 2001, shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Graham suggested the next announcement of an evangelistic outreach be called something other than a "crusade" in an effort to be sensitive to people of non-Christian faiths.

The evangelist has been meeting with his son, Franklin, the CEO of the association, and others to discuss invitations to hold future crusades.

He is scheduled to announce his plans for 2004 crusades in January.

Try an endow-mint & an endowment

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If you have participated in one of our educational seminars or visited our exhibit at a KBC annual meeting, then you have received a small blue package of our Life Savers endow-mints.

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Endowment gifts can be made

during one's lifetime, at death or both. They can consist of cash, appreciated securities, real estate, life insurance, retirement plan benefits, be funded by a bequest in a will or revocable living trust, a life income gift or a combination of these. Regardless of how one decides to make endowment gifts, the plans must be made during one's lifetime.

Your Kentucky Baptist Foundation serves as the fiduciary of endowment funds of all sizes, with single or multiple beneficiaries and for all types of Baptist causes, including churches, associations, mission boards, colleges, children's homes, hospitals, camps and assemblies and missions-support agencies.

I like what William James said, "The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts life." An endowment outlasts life. An endow-mint only lasts a minute; an endowment lasts until Jesus comes again. Please call us toll-free and let us share how an endowment can be a part of your legacy.

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

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The uncertainty of life

Yaconelli's death reinforces importance of what we do

Time is passing quickly and the New Year will soon be upon us. Fall is a busy time of year with retreats, staff recruiting and camp promotion, yet we all look forward to a break during the Christmas season.

Last week, Mike Yaconelli was killed in a car accident in California. Perhaps you did not know Mike, but he is well-known throughout the youth ministry world. Mike was the cofounder of Youth Specialties. YS supports youth ministers all over the world by providing materials, conferences and ministry training. YS is unique in that it targets those who work in the youth culture. Mike will be missed, but he leaves a heritage of service to ministers who, in turn, serve millions of youth.

When you receive the call that someone has died, many thoughts race through your mind. While we can celebrate that Mike is now with our Lord Jesus, we may think of the multitudes who pass from this earth each day apart from God. While death is painful, it reminds us that our time on the

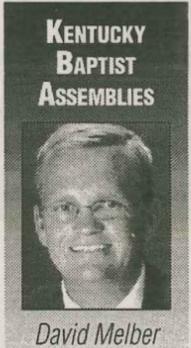
earth is limited and uncertain at best. Praise God that as believers, we do have one certainty in life; we have been sealed in Christ. Romans 8:31-35 is an amazing passage that exemplifies how our standing with God is absolute.

The reality of our eternal standing should permeate our lives to the degree that we would desire that all people would experience the peace that comes from God.

While Kentucky Baptist Assemblies serves a variety of people, the overwhelming majority are teenagers. Research shows that, at best, only 50 percent of our youth use biblical principles to guide their daily decisions.

We are thankful for the opportunity to share the gospel message and the certainty of life everlasting with all who come to Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. I pray that you will have the opportunity to share with someone the certainty of a relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the only true certainty in life.

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



David Melber

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Joyce Handzo

Across

- 1 "Behold I make all things ____" (Revelation 21:5)
- 2 "Praise him for his mighty ____" (Psalm 150:2)
- 5 Spheres or heavenly bodies
- 9 "Why make ye this ____ and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- 10 "I will ____ a place for my people" (1 Chronicles 17:9)
- 12 Recreational vehicle, abbr.
- 13 "The kingdom of heaven is hand" (Matthew 4:17)
- 15 "His teeth shall be set on ____" (Jeremiah 31:30)
- 16 Southeast, abbr.
- 18 Let ____ esteem others better than themselves (Philemon 2:3)
- 19 Registered nurse, abbr.
- 21 "____ so, come Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20)
- 22 "The Lord is my ____" (Hebrews 13:6)
- 25 "____ and prepare the Passover" (Luke 22:8)
- 27 "Adam called his wife's name ____" (Genesis 3:20)
- 28 "I send an ____ before thee" (Exodus 23:20)
- 30 "Be ____ to maintain good works" (Titus 3:8)
- 33 British Thermal Unit, abbr.
- 34 "By which it had gone down in the ____ of Ahaz" (2 Kings 20:11)
- 35 New York, abbr.
- 36 "Thou shalt bind this ____ of scarlet thread" (Joshua 2:18)
- 38 "For ____ are called but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14)
- 40 Education, abbr.
- 41 "He maketh them also to ____ like a calf" (Psalm 29:6)

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55									56			

- 43 "This is my beloved ____" (Matthew 17:5)
- 45 "His soul shall dwell at ____" (Psalm 25:13)
- 47 "Though an ____ should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear" (Psalm 27:3)
- 49 North America, abbr.
- 51 Professional, abbr.
- 53 A post erected by certain American Indians
- 55 A book of Psalms
- 56 A yearning
- 17 "For it was now ____" (Acts 4:3)
- 20 "They had but ____ set the watch" (Judges 7:19)
- 23 "____ perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17)
- 24 Referee, abbr.
- 26 "____ things are passed away" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- 28 "He is ____ also to save them" (Hebrews 7:25)
- 29 A firearm
- 30 A synthetic gum used in medicine
- 31 Alabama, abbr.
- 32 "Woe is me! for I am ____" (Isaiah 6:5)
- 37 Curved shape
- 39 Vicious
- 42 "Neither was any thing ____ secret" (Mark 4:22)
- 44 "For there is none other ____" (Acts 4:12)
- 46 A king of Judah
- 48 Moses sprinkled the blood upon Aaron's great ____ (Exodus 29:20)
- 50 Associated Press, abbr.
- 52 A prefix meaning to do over
- 54 Tennessee, abbr.

Down

- 1 "This is the ____ that ye have heard" (1 Kings 1:45)
- 2 The year of our Lord, Lat. abbr.
- 3 A tutor or instructor
- 4 "I have not found ____ great faith" (Luke 7:9)
- 5 "The ____ number of them" (Numbers 3:48)
- 6 Worthless piece of cloth
- 7 "And he came and touched the ____" (Luke 7:14)
- 8 Shipping Note, abbr.
- 9 "____ not yourselves" (Romans 12:19)
- 11 "The plowman shall overtake the ____" (Amos 9:13)
- 14 Definite article

Last week's solution

1	S	I	A	H	A	6	A	L	O	F	10	F
11	I	T	I	E	S	12	H	A	N	N	A	H
14	A	S	M	E	T	16	Y	E	I	E		
19	L	E	A	V	E	N	E	D	23	E	R	R
24	A	R	B	A	A	M	A	26	E	Y	E	D
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50	D	A	N	I	E	L	53	A	G	A	B	U
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Poll: How can churches help guests & 'friends' best become members?

Free KBC booklet aims to strengthen marriages

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists concerned about helping build healthy marriages in their congregations and communities can now add another tool to their toolboxes.

The "Marriage Ministry Ideas" booklet and a number of other resources compiled by the KBC family ministry department are now available from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Web site.

The free, 11-page booklet provides a basic ministry framework for marriage preparation and strengthening, identifies key ministry focal points, and offers practical ministry outlines and ideas.

The Marriage Ministry Ideas booklet is part of an overall effort by the family ministry department to raise awareness among Kentucky Baptists about the need for intentional marriage ministry and provide them with tools to implement marriage ministries.

Karl Babb said he hopes the booklet will encourage Kentucky Baptist churches to implement at least one new marriage ministry idea a year so that marriage ministries continue to build year after year.

"The 'Marriage Ministries Ideas' booklet was put together with the intention that ideas could be implemented by churches of any size," said Babb, director of the KBC family ministry department.

Babb worked with Valerie Vincent, counselor and KBC consultant, to compile the booklet.

Babb said they designed the booklet to include a variety of options for churches that don't require extra staff or huge budgets. Lay

leaders or clergy can implement the ideas.

The bottom line, Babb said, is for churches to do something to help strengthen marriages.

Nearly 10 percent of all American adults are divorced, according to a study by Rutgers University, and 43 percent of all marriages break

up within 15 years.

Churchgoers don't fare better than anyone else. A study by Barna Research Group revealed that the divorce rate among Christians is nearly identical to that of the general population.

"You don't have to rely on Barna (for confirmation of the marriage crisis), just talk to any pastor," Babb said. Pastors often are frontline witnesses to the devastating divorce brings to families and churches.

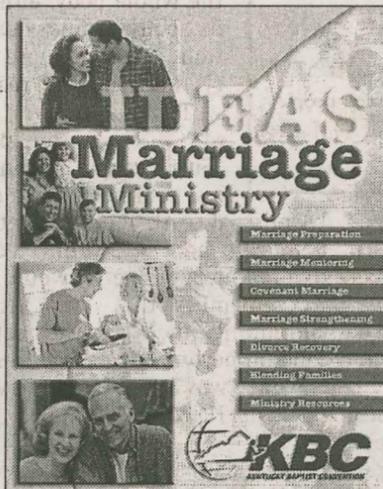
But "when you ask the question 'What are we doing to help couples before they get to the point of divorce?' the answer is often 'Not much,'" Babb continued.

The booklet is part of a larger overall effort called the Kentucky Baptist Marriage Initiative.

The goal of the initiative is to raise awareness of premarital and marital issues among Kentucky Baptist ministers and church leaders and equip them to establish or expand intentional marriage preparation and strengthening ministries.

This week, the booklet is available at the at the KBC annual meeting, Nov. 11-12 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, at the family ministry department's exhibit.

It also is available by calling the family ministry department toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5704, or it can be downloaded from www.kybaptist.org/marriage.



Turkey man

A friend's Christmas project led me to Clear Creek post

Near my desk phone is a wooden turkey call, a gift from my wife and a humorous reminder of the unusual way the Lord led us to Clear Creek.

It began in 1966 when Illinois native Don Burnett graduated from Clear Creek and moved to the pastorate of Andrew Baptist Mission in Bowling Green. The Burnetts rented a home near my student pastorate at Jackson Grove, and we became friends. Don remembered student families without adequate resources and many meals without meat. He decided to gather funds to give each student and staff family a Christmas dinner turkey. Our church helped, and I accompanied Don to Pineville with a pickup of frozen turkeys. Along the way we stopped to eat homemade Swiss cheese at Swiss Colony KY and knocked mistletoe from the tree-tops with his shotgun.

The Burnett family moved to Prestonsburg in 1969 and Don became Enterprise Association director of missions. The turkeys were ordered and the funds made available to pay the bill for the 1970

project, but Don didn't make it back to Clear Creek. A heart attack took him while on a Thanksgiving Day hunting trip. The following year no one planned to continue the project, so I asked school officials if I could assume it. Except for three Decembers we were in the Philippines, I have been present for Turkey Day. During those years students, faculty, and alumni have drawn me into the Clear Creek family so that I felt much at home the day we moved to campus.

Hardly a week passes without a remembrance of Don Burnett. He was a grand servant of the Lord. Some called him the "mechanical man" from the distinctive sound of his metal crutches. His legs were paralyzed from a WWII navy injury. Husband, father, pastor, missionary were callings he aptly filled. He was my friend, a man I found so honest and so truly himself. His life taught me many lessons and powerfully demonstrated how God's love can flow through a committed Christian to a lost world. May many more like him come to Clear Creek.

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977; (606) 337-3196

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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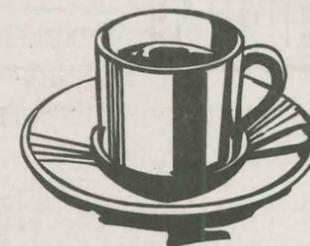
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Author writes from experience in effort to share hope for jobless

Murfreesboro, Tenn. (RNS)—When Richard Malone lost his job in 2001, he prayed to God. Not once, not twice, not only when he lost himself in despair, but every day, and he took notes.

Malone spent six months mourning his old job and finding a new one. And then he published those notes.

"Devotions for Job Seekers: Daily Encouragement Along the Way" debuted Sept. 16.

This is Malone's second run at a prayer guide. He wrote his first one, published in 1992, before he had lived through unemployment. In this case, there's no substitute for real experience.

Losing a job—whether by lay-off, firing or quitting—can transform one's prayer life, Malone said in a telephone interview. "It's a time that drives you to God. You question everything that you're doing. ... So many things—your whole self-worth and who you are as a person—seem to be up for grabs."

The losses keep mounting the entire time period away from work, he added. Losing a paycheck is just the beginning, as other losses include friendships, identity, purpose, direction, self-esteem, "the things at the core of your being," and you lose that place to go every day.

Malone kept a prayer jour-

nal, matching Scripture passages to his own meditations and prayers.

He shared the results with others in his church and submitted the second version of his book to three publishers. The one who once had been without a job is the one who bought the book, Malone said.

Malone, 55, has divided 120 meditations into three stages that he said he lived through in his search for his current job. (Today he oversees the purchase of wholesale religious books and music.)

The devotions move from shock from the initial impact of unemployment; through a long period of waiting, when anger turns to worry and frustration; and into a time of figuring out what is learned and what one hopes to do differently in the next job.

Malone said he was surprised by the comfort the Bible had to offer: psalms that helped him work through extreme emotions and stories of Old Testament heroes such as Abraham, Moses and Joseph, who waited 10, 20 or 30 years for understanding.

He said he gained a new understanding of what the Bible teaches. "God is more interested in who you are than what you are doing."

Devotions for Job Seekers

Daily Encouragement Along the Way

RICHARD MALONE

Isn't there something ...

... that can help folks know what to do with those new 20-dollar bills they're getting?

You're holding it.

Every week, the Western Recorder's Financial Forum column provides practical ideas for



applying biblical truths about personal and church finance. Whether the topic is tithing, church budgets or personal debt, our panel of experts has the experience and insights to help your members learn and apply sound financial concepts.

WESTERN RECORDER
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

There's No Such Things as "Business" Ethics: There's Only One Rule for Making Decisions. John Maxwell. Warner Books, 2003 124 pages. \$14.95 ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

In the past two years the subject of business ethics has moved from a voluntary weekend seminar to a mandated corporate class.

Business guru John Maxwell has penned a simply stated yet profound book on this topic.

Maxwell's basic argument is that the character a person nurtures in personal life should be the same character that shows up in business situations. Maxwell suggests that the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," is the simple but profound ethic for personal and business life.

In business, Maxwell suggests that decisions be made considering how one would want someone to treat them. Maxwell encourages people not only to abide by the Golden Rule but to go beyond it, what he calls developing the Midas touch.

The book is filled with business examples of both those who live by the Golden Rule and those who do not. Each chapter ends with some thought-provoking questions that will require a lot more time to process than the contents of the chapter. There is nothing overtly Christian about the book. Maxwell notes how the Golden Rule exists, in various wordings, in most major religions. On the other hand, there is nothing Maxwell says that does not go hand in hand with Christianity. This is just a book that every employee would wish his or her employer would read and practice. It is also a good check for employers on how well they are doing at being consistent in their personal and business practices. Wayne Hager

The Five People You Meet in Heaven. Mitch Albom. Hyperion, 2003. 196 pages. \$19.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

Grace, whose family owns the Donut Castle in Lyndon, approached me with this book in hand and said, "Have I got a book for you. This is a great book and I think you will enjoy it. Borders has stacks of them at 30 percent off."

With a recommendation like that, how could I not rush right out and pick up a copy? I did, but by the time I got to Borders, the stack was down to a few copies.

Mitch Albom, author of "Tuesdays with Morrie," continues his reflections on the meaning of life in this extended parable about a man named Eddie. Unlike Morrie, Eddie is a fictional character whose story is told from the other side of his death.

Eddie, a life-long maintenance man at a local amusement park, dies in a tragic accident trying to save the life of a young child. Before he can enter into heaven, he must encounter five people. Two he knows and three are strangers to him, but all of them have been integrally connected to his life. Each helps him put together pieces of

the puzzle of why his life evolved the way it did, as well as the meaning inherent in it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in "Life Together," writes of the interwovenness of the Christian community: "The individual must realize that his hours of aloneness react upon the community.

... Every member serves the whole body, either to its health or to its destruction. This is no mere theory; it is a spiritual reality."

Though not a work of Christian spirituality, "Five People" nonetheless reminds us of a deeply spiritual truth about the interdependence and interconnectedness of all of life. Bonhoeffer would have us remember that for Christian community, the waves we create extend far beyond our perception.

Grace was right. I did enjoy this book. Jim Holladay

For All the Saints: Evangelical Theology and Christian Spirituality. Edited by Timothy George and Alister McGrath. Westminster John Knox Press, 2003. 231 pages. ♦♦♦♦♦

Do evangelicals have a heart? Or is evangelical faith and theology all about the head and correct doctrine?

In our context, one might be tempted to say "No" to the first question and "Yes" to the second. Timothy George, Alister McGrath and the 12 other contributors to this book would argue that those responses could not be more wrong. In fact, they see a natural "coherence" (their word, not mine) between intellect and piety; a coming together of head and heart.

"For All the Saints" is an evangelical response to the current fascination with spirituality. The various writers both celebrate the current interest in spirituality and warn of the dangers inherent in that interest.

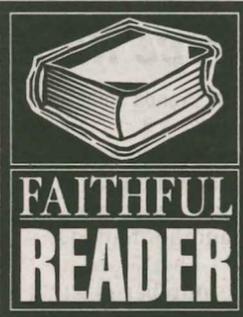
Most writers see secular spirituality as a form of idolatry and a natural extension of the self-absorbed self-actualization movement. They are concerned that the popular evangelical emphasis on spirituality avoids that trap. Authentic Christian, evangelical spirituality must be rooted in sound biblical theology.

One consistent theme is that evangelicals must pay attention to the whole of Jesus' teaching. Dallas Willard strikes this chord by lamenting that evangelicals have tended to focus on the central message of the gospel being the forgiveness of sins, to the detriment of Jesus' calling to enter into a new way of living.

Ralph Wood makes the argument that authentic personal piety comes out of the common worship and doctrine of the Christian community.

Robert Smith's chapter on African-American spirituality and Robbie Castleman's treatment of an evangelical spirituality of creation will stretch the soul of most white, middle-class Christians.

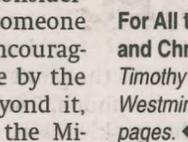
"For All the Saints" is a meaty read, but given the current interest in prayer and spirituality in our churches, I think it is worth the effort. Jim Holladay



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; and Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: jcw hager@earthlink.net; or docholladay01@aol.com



the five people you meet in heaven



For All the Saints

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionaries Marcy and Doug Shaw in Rzeszow, Poland, request prayer that new cell groups would grow and people would become Christians through them. "Pray for 'S' to decide to be baptized," they add.

■ The 3.5 million people in greater Recife in northeastern Brazil. Half live below poverty level, and Recife is also one of the more violent cities in the world. Pray that the gospel message would penetrate the issues that breed violence. Pray that God will continue to provide leaders and open doors to start new churches in Recife.

■ International Service Corps workers Hilton and Alice Olive as they continue to learn the Romanian language and lead International Baptist Church in Bucharest. Pray also for the new families attending International Baptist Church and for the start of four new Bible studies: one for couples, one for youth, one for university students and one for women.

■ Missionaries in Silesia, Poland, ask prayer for an English club they sponsor. "Pray that the Lord will bless and that He will continue to draw more people there."

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **Alexandria**—Fairlane Church recently called **Curtis Combs** as pastor.

■ **Bowling Green**—First Church will host **Signature Sound Southern Gospel Quartet** in concert Nov. 15, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 842-0331.

■ **Covington**—South Side Church recently called **David Foley** as pastor.

■ **Dry Ridge**—Dry Ridge Church will hold an "Experiencing God" weekend revival Nov. 21-23. For more information, call (859) 824-5501. **Willie Ailstock** is pastor.

■ **Erlanger**—Anchor Church recently ordained **Bradley Treas** to the gospel ministry. **Darryl Crenshaw** is pastor.

■ **Fort Thomas**—First Church recently called **Steve Gabennesch** as full-time worship leader.

■ **Greensburg**—Green Hill Church will celebrate its 20th anniversary Nov. 23, 5 p.m., with **The Cassidys** in concert.

■ **Greenville**—Second Church will host a community Thanksgiving service Nov. 26, 7 p.m.

■ **Hickman**—East Hickman Church will host a Bible conference Nov. 16-19, 7 p.m. Speakers are **David Brasher**, Sunday; **Glen Stewart**, Monday; **Randy McClure**, Tuesday; **Wallace York**, Wednesday. **Ben Stratton** is pastor.

■ **Irvine**—First Church recently celebrated its 103-year homecoming.

■ **Lexington**—Grace Church recently called **Lee Davis** as minister of youth.

■ **London**—Arthur Ridge Church called

Jimmy Williams as pastor.

■ **Louisville**—St. Matthews Church will host "A Marvelous Magical Musical Montage" Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., featuring **David Garrard**, the **Derby Town Trio**, the **Lynn Camp Hollow Boys**, the **Mighty Men of St. Stephens Church** and **Kimberly Berry**. For more information, call (502) 896-8882.

■ **Mason**—Mason Church recently ordained Pastor **Tim Scott** to the gospel ministry.

■ **Orlando**—Flat Rock Church recently ordained **Perry Montjoy** as a deacon. **Larry Burton** is pastor.

■ **Paducah**—Oaklawn Church will hold revival services Nov. 16-19, with **Wyman Copass** as evangelist. **Thomas Williams** is pastor.

■ **Pleasureville**—Pleasureville Church will hold revival services Nov. 16-21, 7 p.m., with **Scott Smith** as evangelist.

■ **Rineyville**—Rineyville Church recently called **Mitch Ash** as senior pastor. He previously was pastor of Flat Shoals Church in Hartwell, Ga.

■ **Westport**—Covington Church will hold revival services Nov. 13-15, 7 p.m., and Nov. 16, 11 a.m., with **Gary Few** as evangelist. **Tommy Rucker** is pastor.

■ **Winchester**—Providence Church recently ordained Pastor **Bobby Sharp** to the gospel ministry.

Record resigns as youth evangelism strategist, accepts Highview position

Louisville—Randy Record, youth evangelism strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team, has accepted a position as minister to young adults/evangelism at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Record, who has served on the KBC Mission Board staff since 1999, previously was youth evangelism associate. He also has served as youth minister at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, Shively Baptist Church in Louisville and Twelfth Street Baptist Church in Paducah.

Dan Garland, leader of the evangelism growth team, said Re-

cord has made a major impact by establishing a series of regional youth evangelism conferences.

"The biggest impact he has had is in developing the network of youth ministers across the state," Garland added. "He will be missed. You don't replace people like him; you just try to retool and move on."

Record said his work with the KBC has "been exciting, very rewarding and challenging," although "it's been sad at times" when churches fail to provide effective youth ministry.

He is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.



Record

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FOR SALE: 1996 Dodge Ram 15-passenger van; 63,000+ miles. 1998 Dodge Ram 15-passenger van; 54,000+ miles. Call (606) 633-2161 or 633-0239.

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

SEEKING: Minister of music. Ridgewood Baptist Church, Louisville (CBF-affiliated), is seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resumé to Ridgewood Baptist Church, 6209 Greenwood Road, Louisville, KY 40258; fax to (502) 935-0078; or e-mail: mjolly@cmcpa.com.

SEEKING: Full-time receptionist/data specialist. Self-starter to greet visitors, handle phones, assist staff with desk-top publishing (newsletters, flyers, brochures, programs, etc.), assist with accounting data entry and other clerical work. Salary plus benefits (health insurance, life insurance, retirement). Knowledge of Southern Baptist churches and work of Woman's Missionary Union helpful. Resumé and samples of publishing work required. Contact Brenda Price, Kentucky WMU, (502) 244-6485.

SEEKING: The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is searching for an accounting manager. This person will be responsible for managing the overall accounting function for the Foundation, including the accuracy and maintenance of all general ledger accounts and the resulting financial statements. Knowledge, skills and experience required: Bachelor's degree in accounting; 3 years minimum accounting experience; knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), Financial and Accounting Standards Board releases (FASB's), and other American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) pronouncements; computer database/spreadsheets; public profession of faith in Jesus Christ; member in good standing of a cooperating Kentucky Baptist church; a life exemplary of traditional Christian values; strong fam-

ily support from spouse, if married. Knowledge, skills and experience preferred: Specialized not-for-profit and trust accounting background; CPA, or CPA and CFP; experience in leading financial planning and other types of education seminars. Send resumé to Barry Allen, Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253.

SEEKING: An energetic, dynamic pastor for strong growing church with blended services and multimedia. Requires experience and some college. Send resumé and audio and/or video tape to: Pastor Search Team, HC 83 Box 468, Cloverport, KY 40111. Resumés need to be received by Dec. 10, 2003.

SEEKING: Year-round part-time camp director for Kentucky WMU Mission Adventure Camp for Girls. Requires full-time work during summer camping season. Master's degree and experience with children's camps and WMU organizations for children required. For additional information, contact Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton, (502) 244-6485.

SEEKING: White Lick Baptist Church, Cartersville, Ky. (near Berea), is seeking a part-time youth minister. The desired candidate should have previous experience in working with youth, the ability to maintain discipline in a manner that is guided by unconditional love, spiritual and emotional maturity, and beliefs in line with those of Bates Creek Association, the Southern Baptist Convention and White Lick Baptist Church. The position will require a commitment of approximately 15-20 hours per week. Please send resumé and recommendations to: Ed Hubbard, 1005 Hidden Creek Drive, Berea, KY 40403.

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.

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

In support of Campbellsville University, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend the
Annual Convention Breakfast
Wednesday, Nov. 12
7 a.m. at Bates Creek Christian Church
Lexington, Ky.

(Parking available at Immanuel Baptist Church)

The breakfast is free, but reservations are requested and may be made by calling 1-800-264-6014 ext. 5211, or via e-mail at development@campbellsville.edu.



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Chaplain seeks Senate 'transformation'

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—For an hour at lunchtime on Fridays, Senate Chaplain Barry Black transforms an appropriations committee room in the Dirksen Senate Office Building into a Bible study classroom.

"You ought to be in the Word on a regular basis," Black told 30 people gathered recently for a study on "overcoming failure" based on eight scriptural passages.

"Neglect of your personal devotional life can lead to failure."

Black, a bald, 55-year-old civilian-suited man, strode assuredly up and down the aisle with the perfect posture of a former Navy chief of chaplains. As the 62nd chaplain of the U.S. Senate, he admits to having a "vision of spiritual transformation on Capitol Hill."

But Black, the first African-American, Seventh-day Adventist and military chaplain to hold the job, is quick to let his students know that he is a sinner just like them.

He refers to a verse in Proverbs 24 about the difference between righteous and wicked people who fail.

"We will fall down but we get back up again, praise God," said Black.

Five months into his job, the everyday life of the Senate chaplain ranges from leading five Bible studies a week to running weekly prayer breakfasts to answering letters from viewers of C-SPAN commenting on his prayers that open each daily session of the Senate.



SENATE CHAPLAIN U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry Black stands by the window in his Senate office. Black is the first African-American, Seventh-day Adventist and military chaplain to hold the job. (RNS photo by Mark Abraham)

On any given week, he may preach four times—at Seventh-day Adventist worship services on Saturdays and other congregations on Sunday—give invocations and benedictions, and just be available in his office and the hallways of the Senate.

A "stash" of prayers

Black said he keeps a "stash" of prayers he will lead for the Senate, preparing them about 10 days before they are delivered in the Senate chamber.

Though they last for less than two minutes, he hopes their effect endures.

Recent prayers, intoned in his deep voice, have asked God to "empower our senators to be faithful in their duties, walking with a spirit of

unity" and sought divine instruction for "our senators to walk in your ways and to trust your promises which cannot fail."

"It's an opportunity to frame the day," he said recently. "It's an opportunity to calibrate the thinking of senators and get them attuned to the spiritual before they start the frenetic pace of their deliberations and activities."

He frames his own day by listening to the Bible on CD as he drives to and from his office.

"I was talking to a gentleman on the way over on the tram and he was talking about the traffic and I said I love bad traffic," he told the Bible study class, referring to Washington's notorious roadways as well as the Senate's mini-subway system.

"It normally takes me 45 minutes to drive in, but if it takes an hour that's 15 extra minutes of listening to the Word."

During a recent speech to Christian publishers, Black stood and spoke for 45 minutes with no notes and picked up his Bible just once to read a passage. The rest—as in the Bible study—came from memory.

He shared that he is pleased with the biblical literacy of people who attend "potpourri" Bible studies, saying they know their Bibles better than those in the studies he leads for senators, their spouses and their chiefs of staff.

A nickel per verse

"The gate guards and the chefs and the doorkeepers—you can start the verse, they will tell you the chapter, the book and the location," he said. "It's a beautiful thing to see. It reminds of what Scripture says when it says the first shall be last and the last shall be first."

In turn, his memorization of the Bible—which began when his mother paid him a nickel a verse when he was a child—impresses evangelical publishers and Senate staffers alike.

The father of three and sibling of seven draws on anecdotes from his inner-city childhood in Baltimore and sometimes humorous viewpoints on theology that students say prompt laughter and insight.

"When the devil reminds me of the past," Black quipped, "I remind him of his future." But he notes with seriousness how he is touched by the senators who stop by his office to discuss prayer or the Bible.

The retired Navy rear admiral said his multifaith work with three- and four-star admirals prepared him well for the "exclusive club" of senators to whom he now ministers. Both are venues where people of a variety of faiths and statures occasionally reveal that they are all too human.

"I think in venues like the prayer breakfasts where people are very transparent, senators will pull aside the curtains and let you get a glimpse inside the windows of their souls," he said. "I think you ... very much realize the common humanity in each of us."

Bible scam targeting LifeWay, other U.S. Christian bookstores

By Sara Horn
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—The man on the phone told Cindy Stewart he wanted to order some Bibles for his seminary's library.

Stewart, the assistant manager of the LifeWay Christian Store in Baltimore, Md., didn't think anything sounded unusual, at first.

"He told me he wanted genuine leather Bibles but didn't know what kind of Bibles he wanted," Stewart said of the phone call last August. "He said he just needed two of each kind and that it was very important they were genuine leather." She tried to help the man be more specific with his order.

"It was kind of frustrating because we have 700 different kinds of Bibles," Stewart said. "But he insisted he didn't care what kind they were and told me just to pick out anything."

Stewart became suspicious when the caller, talking with a thick accent, demanded the Bibles be charged that same day to the credit card number he had given her.

"He told me to just send him whatever, make sure it was two genuine leather Bibles each and it had to be under \$500," she said. "At that point I was pretty sure it was a scam. Anything over \$500 that's stolen is considered a felony."

It sounds like a whodunit right from the pages of Nancy Drew, but unfortunately for Christian booksellers, the story is real—and potentially costly.

The Nigeria connection

Melissa Mitchell, director of loss prevention at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the call Stewart received is an adaptation of a con known as the Nigerian scam because the thieves who have been caught all have been Nigerian nationals.

"Someone calls or e-mails a store and requests a large number of the same item, in this case Bibles, to be sent to an address somewhere in Nigeria," Mitchell explained. "They pay with a credit card, but the catch is the credit card they use is physically in the possession of the cardholder—it's the number that's been stolen."

By the time the merchant realizes the credit card purchase is fraudulent, the merchandise already has been shipped to an address that's impossible to track. Eventually the merchandise is sold through the Nigerian black market.

Mitchell began noticing early last spring a pattern of "charge-backs"—credit card purchases that are sent back to the store when a customer denies ordering the items. The common thread was a delivery address in Nigeria.

She immediately shut down all overseas shipments through the bookstores and customers were asked to go through the online catalog store so Mitchell and the catalog store team could recognize suspicious orders.

After a few months of seeing no activity, the call to the Baltimore store alarmed Mitchell because the delivery address was U.S.-based.

"We notified CBA (the Christian Booksellers Association) immediately because we knew if they were getting us, they were also getting independent booksellers," Mitchell said. She quickly learned her hunch had been right and independents and other Christian retail chains also had been hit.

Black market Bibles

The biggest victims are the Christian booksellers in Nigeria, Mitchell noted.

"The Bibles that are supplied on the black market are the reason for the sharp price undercutting you find in Nigeria," Justice Okoronkwo, administrative secretary for the CBA in Nigeria, reported in an e-mail to Mitchell. "Genuine importers often cannot sell as they cannot afford to undersell."

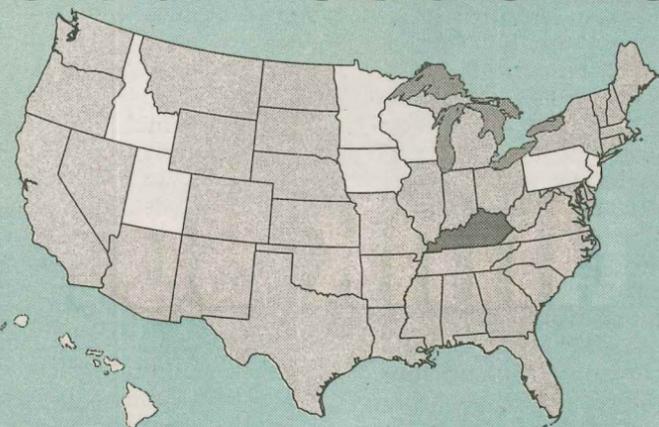
"You have to think of it as anything that can be sold has a value to it, even Bibles," Mitchell said. "Their value to us is spiritual value, but to others, the value is monetary gain."

Since August, LifeWay has prevented more than \$150,000 in fraudulent orders.

The latest technique to steal Bibles has been through the use of a relay operator, a system used typically by the hearing-impaired that allows a person to communicate through a telephone operator.

Mitchell currently is working with the CBA Nigeria as well as the Secret Service to explore new ways to prevent these types of scams. "To shut this down would probably be next to impossible, but we're going to keep reporting what we find."

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