

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Dated material — Please deliver by Wednesday, November 19

Americans tell poll that faith & medicine can mix

Washington (RNS)—The vast majority of American adults think patients' religious faith can have a positive effect on their medical recovery and say they pray for others in hopes of improving their health.

A Newsweek poll released with a Nov. 10 cover story on "God and Health" found that 89 percent of Americans surveyed said they think a patient's personal faith can have a positive effect on his or her recovery from an injury or illness. Eight percent disagreed and 3 percent said they did not know.

Almost as high a percentage—84 percent—said they believe praying for others who are sick or injured can help their recovery. Eleven percent disagreed and 5 percent said they did not know.

And 72 percent said they believe God can cure people who have been given no chance of survival by doctors.

In general, most respondents said they think religion and spirituality have a place in the realm of medicine. Sixty-three percent said there is a place for religion in medicine, while 28 percent said the two should remain separate; 9 percent said they did not know.

More than half of those surveyed—53 percent—said they have personally relied on their faith to help them through a health problem or major illness while 44 percent said they had not and 3 percent said they did not know.

Researchers also found that health is much higher on people's prayer lists than financial success. Seventy percent of respondents said they pray often for good or better health for themselves or a family member. But only 27 percent said they pray often for financial or career success.

Despite these views, the subject of religion apparently seldom comes up with doctors.

Ninety-one percent of those surveyed said they never asked their doctor to pray with them and 19 percent said a doctor or other health professional had brought up religion during a doctor's visit or hospital stay.

Almost three-quarters of respondents (72 percent) said they would welcome their doctor asking about their faith or spirituality while 16 percent said they would consider it an invasion of privacy.

Missionaries & messages



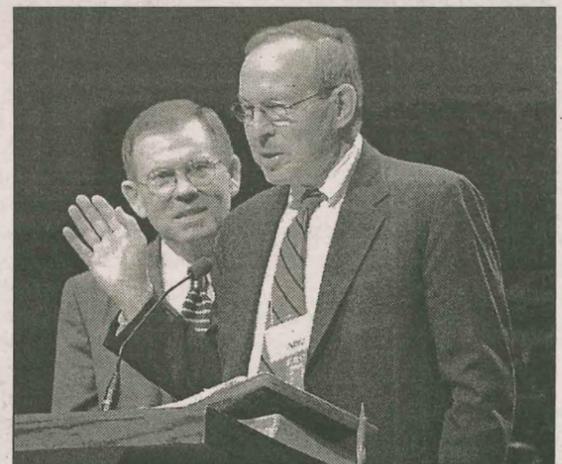
TESTIMONY John and Melanie Christerson share their testimony during a Nov. 11 commissioning service at Rupp Arena. They will serve as church planters and strategy coordinators among the Rufigi people in Tanzania. (Photo by David Winfrey)

Missionaries, ministries and going beyond one's comfort zone were the focus during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week.

The two-day meeting in Lexington included a missionary commissioning service held at Rupp Arena in conjunction with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Messengers elected federal judge Eugene Siler of Williamsburg as president and defeated a constitutional amendment to expand messenger representation to churches that give to KBC work but not the SBC. They also adopted five resolutions, including statements affirming covenant marriage and opposing expanded gambling and alcohol sales.

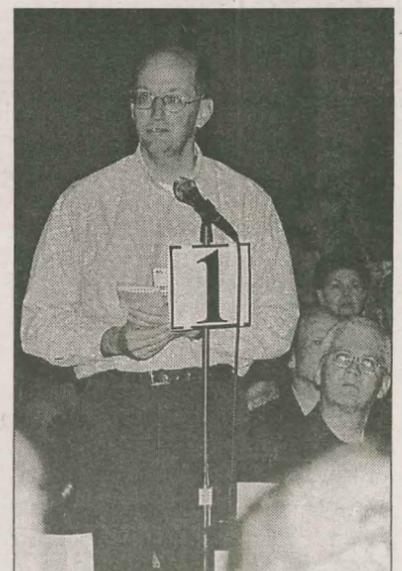
The missions focus included affirming a missions partnership with the Piaui Baptist Convention in Brazil. **Coverage on pages 3, 6-10, 15**



NEW PRESIDENT Newly elected KBC President Eugene Siler addresses messengers as outgoing president Paul Baggett looks on.



PARTNERSHIP SIGNING KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey signs a covenant agreement for the Kentucky Baptist partnership with the Piaui Baptist Convention of Brazil. (Photo by Brenda Smith)



MOTION Bob Fox, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, speaks in favor of amending the KBC constitution.

IMB trustees evaluate strategy, adopt reduced budget

Meador elected IMB executive vice president

Lexington (BP)—Clyde Meador, a veteran missionary and administrator, was elected last week as executive vice president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. He succeeds John White who resigned in June.

"In almost 30 years of service, Clyde Meador has demonstrated superb administrative and organizational abilities that are driven by a passion for missions," said IMB President Jerry Rankin. "His wisdom and insights are always valuable."

In his new role, Meador will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the board.

Meador and his wife, Elaine, were appointed in 1974 as Southern Baptist international missionaries. He served as a general evangelist, theological teacher and mission administrator in Indonesia before accepting leadership of a team of itinerant missionaries that looked for opportunities to share the gospel in countries closed to traditional missionary presence.

In September 2001, Meador became IMB associate vice president for administration after 10 years leading IMB work in various parts of Asia.

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

Lexington (BP)—A 1997 shift in missions strategy has more than doubled the number of people groups hearing the gospel and expanded church growth in as many as 49 places around the world, Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees were told during a Nov. 10-12 meeting in Lexington.

Trustees also responded to recent criticism of board leadership and strategy; adopted a reduced \$258.9 million basic budget for 2004; and elected a new executive vice president.

"New Directions" evaluation

Trustees heard a five-year evaluation of the "New Directions" emphasis that shifted the board's missions focus from geographical countries to ethno-linguistic people groups.

A trustee committee compiled the information from a survey of overseas personnel.

Now called "Strategic Directions for the 21st Century" (SD-21), the emphasis organized missionaries into teams focused on specific people groups, with a goal of taking the gospel to peoples previously neglected by Christian missions efforts and sparking church-planting movements.

Among the key findings of the survey:

- The number of people groups engaged by IMB personnel has more than doubled to 1,371.

- Seven church-planting movements have been confirmed and 42 others reported.

- The IMB missionary force has grown by 29 percent over the past five years.

- The board is developing missions teamwork with Baptist partners and other Great Commission Christians around the world.

- Strategy coordinators and team members are tailoring their strategies for reaching specific people groups.

Trustees address professor's accusations

Lexington (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board adopted two statements last week in response to recent criticism of board leadership and strategy.

The concerns came from Keith Eitel, a missions professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., who accused the IMB of "pervasive" theological error.

His views were mailed to IMB trustees under a cover letter by former Southern Baptist President Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The trustees' first statement, which was adopted without discussion or dissent, affirms "the strategies and leadership" of the board and resolved "to review the concerns and the issues raised and take appropriate action to guarantee that the vision, to lead South-

ern Baptists to reach the world for Christ is not compromised."

The statement also says trustees "give thanks to God for what He is doing around the world through the International Mission Board and encourage all Southern Baptists to continue to give sacrificially through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and to intentionally increase their gifts through the Cooperative Program."

The second statement, also adopted unanimously, affirms an initiative by Jerry Rankin to arrange for a meeting of IMB staff and trustees with Eitel and Patterson "to resolve misunderstandings and perceptions communicated in Eitel's assessment of the International Mission Board vision and strategy."

The Eitel paper contends that theological error is reflected in the board's approach to strategic planning, in partnerships with other Great Commission Chris-

tians, in a lessening of theological training requirements for new missionaries and in the role of women serving overseas as strategy coordinators. The paper concludes with a nine-point plan to "synchronize the IMB with the theological convictions of the SBC," beginning with a recommendation to "recruit administrators committed to theological renewal" of the board.

A letter of reply from Rankin counters the criticisms as "unfounded" and questions why they were circulated without first coming to board leadership for a response.

Rankin defended IMB trustees as men and women who are "firmly grounded in an absolute conviction about the authority of God's inerrant and infallible Word" and rejected the implication that they have "overseen and embraced a failure that represents an aberrant theology."

- IMB missionaries are starting churches with a clear Baptist identity in terms of both doctrine and organization.

- The focus on multiplying churches within people groups has resulted in an increase of almost 71 percent in the number of churches worldwide, a 95 percent increase in the number of outreach groups and the baptism of more than 1.8 million new believers in the past five years.

Among the concerns identified by the research:

- A need for improved supervision and more thorough training of strategy coordinators.

- A need for closer matching between strategy coordinator candidates and field needs.

- A need for more comprehensive training about the "nuts and bolts" of starting churches and church-planting movements.

"The challenge today is great-

er than five years ago," the report said. "It will take a more determined effort to reach all the people groups who are still unreached, initiate church-planting movements in more people groups, equip indigenous believers to be missionaries and be Kingdom-focused catalysts for accomplishing the Great Commission in our generation."

Reduced budget approved

Trustees also approved a \$258.9 million basic budget for 2004 that cuts almost \$20 million in operating expenses from the previous year's spending plan. Additional budget funds are allocated to capital needs that will not be spent unless funds are received. The strategic financial plan also sets a Lottie Moon challenge budget of \$17 million.

The budget anticipates receiving \$96.2 million through the Cooperative Program, \$133 million through

the 2003 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and \$16.4 million from investment income.

The financial plan reduces state-side spending by 14 percent and overseas spending by 2.12 percent. The budget includes no salary increases for missionary personnel or stateside employees.

The appointments of about 100 new long-term missionaries were delayed this year and as many as 500 prospective workers may be held off in 2004 because support from Southern Baptist churches has not kept pace with the numbers of new missionaries coming forward for service.

To send all the missionaries willing to go, IMB President Jerry Rankin has challenged Southern Baptist congregations to increase their gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by 33 percent and meet a challenge goal of \$150 million.

BAPTIST DIGEST

NAMB missionaries commissioned. A total of 86 Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries were commissioned Nov. 4 in conjunction with the Missouri Baptist Convention annual meeting in St. Louis. The missionaries, who are serving throughout the United States and Canada, join more than 5,200 NAMB-appointed missionaries and 2,500 chaplains serving throughout North America. NAMB President Robert Reccord challenged the crowd to pray for North American missionaries and become personally involved in short-term or full-time mission service.

Conservatives sweep N.C. elections. Conservative candidates swept all three key offices of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Nov. 11-12 in what was considered a make-or-break election for moderate Baptists in the state. David Horton of Greensboro was elected over David Hughes of Winston-Salem, gaining nearly 60 percent of the 3,840 votes cast. Horton noted that "there will continue to be a place at the table for moderates" but

Hughes said many moderates no longer feel "a sense of place and belonging." In other action, messengers affirmed a decision to oust McGill Baptist Church of Concord from the state convention for baptizing two men presumed to be homosexuals. McGill was dismissed from Cabarrus Baptist Association earlier this year.

Judge sides with Baptist college. A Missouri judge has given an initial victory to one of the Baptist institutions involved in a legal dispute with the Missouri Baptist Convention. Cole County Circuit Judge Thomas Brown ruled Nov. 10 that the state convention is not the "sole member" of Missouri Baptist University. The ruling dismisses the MBC's claim that it is the school's sole member, which would have meant that only the convention has the authority to change the university's corporate charter.

Texas Baptists adopt reduced budget. Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas adopted a reduced budget

of \$45.8 million for 2004 and approved a charter change allowing Hispanic Baptist Theological School to change its name to Baptist University of the Americas. Next year's budget is a 10 percent decrease from the 2003 total. Messengers also elected Ken Hall, president of Buckner Baptist Benevolences, as state convention president. Hall is the first institutional executive to hold the convention's presidency in nearly 40 years.

Tennessee Baptists reject sub nominees. Several attempts to place more conservatives in leadership of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its institutions failed during the convention's annual meeting Nov. 11-12. Led by a group called Concerned Tennessee Baptists, conservatives in the state offered seven substitute nominees to those presented for election by convention committees. All seven nominations from the floor failed. Some conservatives said too many members of the committee on committees and committee on boards are associated with the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellow-

ship. A motion to consider changing the qualifications for those serving on the two committees was narrowly defeated.

LifeWay aids Christmas shoebox ministry. LifeWay Christian Stores has announced plans to assist Operation Christmas Child, the annual project of Samaritan's Purse to provide needy children with gift-filled shoeboxes. All LifeWay Christian Store locations will host an Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection party Saturday, Nov. 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wife of former SBC president Allen dies. Wanda Allen, 74, wife of former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen, died Nov. 13 after a long illness. A significant part of Allen's ministry was based on her role as grandmother of two children who died of AIDS. In the '80s, the two boys, Bryan and Matt, were infected by contaminated blood transfusions. Bryan's House, the first pediatric agency for AIDS children in the nation, was named for her grandson, who was the first baby on record to die of AIDS in Dallas.

Siler's election follows family tradition

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, federal judge Eugene Siler was named last week to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's highest elected office.

Siler, who serves on the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, was elected KBC president Nov. 11 by a vote of 532-436 over Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Siler is only the fourth layman elected to that post in the past 50 years. While laymen serving as head of the KBC is somewhat unusual, it's fairly typical in the Siler family.

Siler's father, Eugene Siler Sr., was moderator of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky in 1952-54. His grandfather, A.T. Siler, held the same post in 1943-45. The General Association was reorganized as the KBC in 1961.

"I was humbled by the vote," Siler said. "It makes me pretty humble but proud that the convention had enough confidence in me that I could do the job."

Siler was nominated by Eldred

Taylor, retired executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

When Siler's candidacy was announced in June, longtime KBC leader A.B. Colvin planned to make the nomination.

But Colvin, known across the state as "Mr. Kentucky Baptist," died in August at age 85. Taylor announced he would nominate Siler on Colvin's behalf.

Describing Siler as "a born and bred Kentuckian and a product of our Kentucky Baptist family," Taylor told KBC messengers, "This layman is a humble servant" who has "often been called on for service."

Siler served the past year as KBC first vice president, a position he previously held in the 1980s. He is a member of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg where he serves as a deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, he is chairman of the Baptist Healthcare System board and a trustee of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. He is a former member of the KBC Mission Board and former chairman

of Cumberland College's board of trustees.

Siler describes himself as "a traditional Baptist" who affirms "the historical ideas of our convention, including the priesthood of the believer, separation of church and state, the autonomy of the local church and believers' baptism."

Noting that "Kentucky Baptists are open to reach out to everybody," he said one of his goals as president is to encourage all Kentucky Baptists "to start looking out for the poor and migrants and uneducated who we need to extend a hand to."

In his role as KBC president, Siler added, "I'm representative of all the laymen and laywomen in the convention who work on a day-to-day basis to show we're behind the ministers and want to work with them and support them."

In other elections:

■ **Paul Chitwood**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, was elected first vice president by a vote of 531-367 over Robert Baker, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ **Skip Alexander**, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, was elected second vice president by a vote of 180-57 over retired pastor Wallace York, who is serving as interim pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Eddyville.

■ **Wilma Simmons**, KBC secretary since 1992, was reelected by acclamation. She is a member of Rock Haven Baptist Church in Brandenburg.

■ **Mike Melloan**, a member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, was elected assistant secretary by acclamation. He succeeds retired pastor Joe Priest Williams of Louisville. Williams, who has served since 1992, declined to seek another term.



KBC OFFICERS Convention officers for 2003-04 are (left to right) President Eugene Siler of Williamsburg, Secretary Wilma Simmons of Brandenburg, Second Vice President Skip Alexander of Campbellsville and First Vice President Paul Chitwood of Somerset. Not pictured is Assistant Secretary Mike Melloan of Owensboro.

KBC endorses Brazilian mission partnership

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—As Kentucky Baptists pursue "Missions Beyond the Edge," one of the settings for those efforts will be the Brazilian state of Piaui.

Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Scott Pittman, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, signed a covenant agreement Nov. 11 to establish a three-year missions partnership beginning in January 2005.

"It is my privilege on behalf of Kentucky Baptists to sign this agreement solidifying this partnership," Mackey said. "We look forward to what God is going to do."

Partners in the agreement include the KBC, the Piaui Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Pittman, a former Kentucky Baptist pastor, will serve as the partnership's field leader. Ross Bauscher, director of the KBC partnership missions department, will serve as stateside coordinator.

The purpose of the partnership, according to the covenant agreement, is to "assist the Baptist churches of the Piaui Baptist Convention ... to proclaim the gospel to all people in their area, to accelerate the planting and develop-

ment of churches and to meet human needs where possible through agreed upon strategies and projects."

Overall objectives include impacting Piaui with the gospel through prayer, evangelism, church planting, training and meeting human needs. Specific goals include:

■ Enlisting 500 Kentucky Baptists to serve on a Kentucky/Piaui prayer team.

■ Conducting at least 1,000 in-home Bible studies during the partnership.

■ Presenting the gospel to 100,000 people through such efforts as evangelism teams, choirs, vacation Bible school and medical/dental teams.

■ Training 100 Piaui Baptists in church planting methods and 500 in personal evangelism.

■ Helping start at least 100 churches.

Pittman, who has served in Brazil 12 years, said the overall goal of the partnership is "evangelism that results in decisions; decisions that result in Bible studies and small groups; small groups that result in congregations; and congregations that result in churches."

Pittman, former pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church, said he

sensed a call to international missions in 1989 while participating in a previous KBC partnership in Brazil.

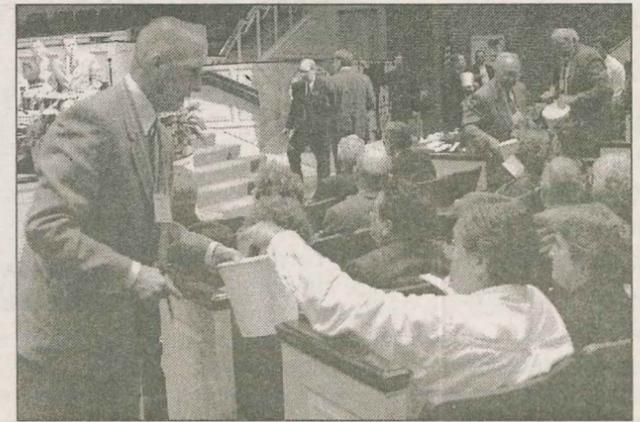
"I believe Kentucky Baptist partnership missions is one of the top organized mission departments" in the SBC, he added. "I couldn't think of a better state to partner with than Kentucky."

Bauscher said the partnership in Piaui "provides the possibility for every kind of giftedness" in such areas as evangelism, children's ministry, music, construction and medical expertise.

He noted that Kentucky Baptist volunteers already have been involved in a few mission projects in Piaui this year and will conduct a few more projects next year before the partnership officially gets under way in 2005.

Noting that Piaui "is the least evangelized and poorest state in Brazil," Bauscher said, "I believe that's where God wants us to make a major impact."

For more information about the partnership, contact the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462 or toll-free at (888) 254-5724.



BAPTIST BUSINESS Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, collects ballots during a business session at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

KBC adopts reduced budget, rejects constitutional change

Lexington—During brief business sessions at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, messengers adopted a reduced Cooperative Program budget and declined a proposed constitutional amendment on messenger representation.

The 2004-2005 CP budget of \$22,504,000 is a 3 percent reduction from the current year. The reduced budget follows two years of CP giving that fell below budget.

Next year's budget maintains the allocations of 64 percent for KBC causes and 36 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

A proposed constitutional amendment introduced last year sought to expand guidelines for the number of messengers to include financial gifts to any convention cause. The current guidelines specify that churches can name additional messengers based on contributions to the Cooperative Program.

The KBC Committee on Constitution and Bylaws declined to recommend passage of the proposed amendment. Bob Fox, who offered the original motion, asked to have it considered on the floor of the convention.

"I believe that adding the term 'convention work' to the constitution will broaden participation in Kentucky Baptist life," said Fox, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown. "I think a fairer system would recognize all gifts to the KBC as gifts that allow for additional messengers and additional representation."

His proposal was defeated 526-190.

In other business, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey shared an overview of the KBC mission study plan approved earlier this year by the KBC Mission Board. The plan is designed to guide state convention ministry priorities through 2009.

Mackey cited primary objectives in the areas of evangelism, missions, leader training, networking, strengthening churches and partnering with KBC agencies and institutions.

Mission Study Committee member Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, said the purpose of the committee was to address the question: "How in this new millennium can the Kentucky Baptist Convention continue to really matter?"

The mission study plan "is our answer to that question," he added. "We are excited about what God is going to continue to do through Kentucky Baptists."

In a related matter, the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws presented a first reading of a proposed constitutional change recommended by the Mission Study Committee.

The proposal would allow colleges affiliated with the KBC to have up to one-fourth of their trustees who are not members of KBC churches. It specifies, however, that all trustees "be Christians who are in harmony with historic Baptist beliefs."

The proposal will be voted on at next year's annual meeting.

In other actions, Ric Frazier, pastor of First Baptist Church of Louisa, was selected to preach the 2004 KBC annual sermon. Jason Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Church in Bowling Green, was named alternate.

First Baptist Church of Bowling Green was chosen as the site for the 2006 KBC annual meeting. Next year's annual meeting will be Nov. 16-17 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville and the 2005 meeting will be Nov. 15-16 at Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center in Frankfort.

missions
beyond
the edge

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

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Engage younger Christians ... or else

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A potential financial crisis looms for the Southern Baptist Convention as church members decrease denominational support, according to a convention study.

Meanwhile, millions of American "twentysomethings" are checking out on organized Christianity, according to a new study by the Barna Research Group.

Both discouraging reports were released this fall. They may not be directly connected, at least not yet. But the second trend could make the first much worse if churches don't change the way they relate to younger members.

The convention study found that overall giving by Southern Baptist church members has declined gradually for the past 30 years and likely will continue to fall. It also confirmed that local churches are sending smaller percentages of their offerings to the convention's Cooperative Program for funding missions, seminaries and other denominational ministries.

The giving decline transcends current economic sluggishness. Many church members, particularly younger members, have abandoned (or never started) the biblical practice of tithing 10 percent of their income to church ministries.

A lack of personal connection

The study also found a "serious neglect of Cooperative Program education and promotion in the churches." Many who participate in the giving program don't feel a vital, personal connection to the ministries it supports.

Other church bodies are experiencing similar crises as younger generations of believers—like their secular peers, unenthusiastic about traditional institutions or even hostile toward them—look for other ways to connect to God and the world around them.

The Barna study reveals that

"millions of twentysomethings—many of whom were active in churches during their teens—pass through their most formative adult decade while putting Christianity on the backburner," according to a press release from the research group. "Americans in their 20s are

significantly less likely than any other age group to attend church services, to donate to churches, to be absolutely committed to Christianity, to read the Bible, or to serve as a volunteer or lay leader in churches."

More than 10 million American twentysomethings are active church attenders and committed believers, the study reports. More than half of all Americans in that age group claim to have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. But fewer than a third contributed any money to a church over the past year.

Regular church attendance by formerly involved teens drops by 42 percent between high school graduation and age 25; it drops 58 percent by age 29. Eight million Americans in their 20s who actively attended churches as teenagers will disappear from pews by their 30th birthday.

The assumption that they—like their parents or grandparents—will come back when they get married or have kids is "only true in a minority of cases," says David Kinnaman, vice president of the Barna Research Group.

"More importantly, that reasoning ignores the real issue: Millions of twentysomethings are crystallizing their views of life without the input of church leaders, the Bible or other mature Christians. If we simply wait for them to come back to church later in adulthood, not only will most of those people never return, but also we would miss the chance to alter their life trajectory during a critical phase"—not to mention the energy and gifts they offer the church during early adulthood.

Memorable experience at the KBC

When I think about last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington, I feel so much heartfelt gratitude.

I was blessed by the equitable leadership and message, "Be More Like Jesus," by Paul Badgett; the display of a Christian spirit by all messengers; the inspiring music; the theme message, "Missions Beyond the Edge" by Skip Alexander with such natural humor; and the inspiring and challenging proclamation in the Pastors' Conference.

I also was blessed by the preparation by KBC staff; the hospitality of Immanuel Baptist Church and Pastor Craig Loscalzo; the incredible music; the impact of the International Mission Board commissioning service; and the opportunity to share with and introduce Coach Tubby Smith.

The outstanding videos and reports by KBC institutions and agencies and the Cross Over outreach were also tremendous. I was espe-

cially blessed to have the privilege of working with Open Door Church and leading a 14-year-old youth to faith in Jesus Christ during door-to-door survey work with Pastor John Withers and his wife, Carole.

I also appreciated the thorough and significant actions by the KBC Mission Board; the work of Jerry Wilkes, director of missions for Elkhorn Association, and the many local volunteers; the choir and orchestra for the commissioning service; and more.

However, the experience that has impacted me the most was the opportunity to meet with the 67 new missionaries before the appointment service. As retired IMB missionary and former KBC President Jim McKinley and I stood before the group for a few minutes of introduction, I was captured by the commitment that was represented by these young adults. I knew some of them would be going to places of great risk to themselves and their

Kinnaman says twentysomethings have legitimate issues with churches. For one thing, they have confidence in their ability to lead but feel overlooked as potential church leaders. When the opportunity for leadership comes, they want hands-on application and one-on-one mentoring, not classroom lectures.

"Their disenchantment has raised questions for churches related to relevance, discipleship, authenticity, the use of art and technology in ministry, relationships, music, learning styles and teaching, teamwork, leadership hierarchy, stewardship and much more," he adds. "On the flip side of the coin, young adults—many who have grown up in unhealthy families—struggle with character issues, with relational isolation brought on by their hyper-individualism, with Bible familiarity and with being over-critical of their elders. Consequently, many of the legitimate questions get lost in the jumble of generational warfare."

Will faith be passed on?

Such skirmishes involve far more than squabbles over what kind of music to sing in church, teaching/preaching styles and the like. American culture is changing so fast that effective intergenerational communication requires the commitment to learn whole new languages. Failure to make that commitment may determine whether many of our children continue in the faith and pass it on to others.

The church has one huge advantage that other institutions lack: Every person, young or old, hungers to worship God and know His purposes. That's why young people lost in a rudderless, leaderless society continue to search for eternal meaning and vital participation.

We can give it to them. But we'd better find ways they can understand and embrace. They won't buy into the same old, same old.

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

families. I thought about how their parents might feel since it likely would be four years before they see their grandchildren again.

These young adults seemed so bright-eyed, alert and focused. They were responding to a great calling to take the gospel to unreached people groups around the world.

As I looked into the eyes of each missionary during those few minutes, I was overwhelmed by the thought that I was standing on holy ground. It took several minutes after leaving the room to regain my composure. Later that evening, when I shared this experience with my wife, Kay, I was able to identify what I experienced. It was as though their eyes were windows to their souls and I was permitted to observe their compassion and commitment to a lost world.

It was a memorable experience that will continue to impact my life. I have asked God to help me pray for them as if they were our children. After all, they are our brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Oseola McCarty:
A legacy of clean
living & giving

By Jeremy White

Day after day, year after year, Oseola McCarty washed and ironed clothes for white folks in Hattiesburg, Miss. She worked six days a week, often until midnight, for nearly 80

years. Her highest earnings in a year as a laundress were \$9,000. She tithed regularly to her church, lived

frugally and saved consistently. She shared a wild idea with friends at the local bank where she had always deposited her weekly savings. She wanted to give some of her savings to her church, some to family, but most to the University of Southern Mississippi.

Her ironing clients, her community and the whole nation were shocked to learn that McCarty had given \$150,000 to a university she never attended.

All the reporters wanted to know how she did it. Her simple secret: regular saving and compounded interest.

In her biography, "Simple Wisdom for Rich Living," she said, "I'd go to the bank once a month, hold out just enough to cover my expenses, and put the rest into my savings account. Every month, I'd save the same amount and put it away. I was consistent."

She multiplied her gift by giving while she was living. The ensuing media attention of her sacrifice created much excitement around the nation and inspired many others to give more than \$380,000 to her scholarship fund. As she stated simply, "If you want to feel proud of yourself, you have to do things you can be proud of."

"I try to be a good steward," McCarty said. "I start each day on my knees, saying the Lord's prayer. Then I get busy about my work. I get to cleaning or washing."

If she had waited to give until her death, she would not have been able to inspire others with her simplicity, hard work ethic and faith.

Even in the final years of her life, she continues to challenge and inspire, "When I leave this world, I can't take nothing away from here. I'm old and I won't live always—that's why I gave the money to the school and put my affairs in order. My only regret is that I didn't have more to give."

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



Thanksgiving offers occasion to celebrate the joy of family

Q: How can I help my child celebrate Thanksgiving?

Children often have an easier time getting into the true spirit of Thanksgiving because the holiday is free of the commercial trappings that confuse the issue at Christmas.

Psalm 103:1 says, "Praise the Lord ... and forget not all His benefits." Read this verse together and use it as a beginning point for remembering the many blessings God has given. Get paper and pencil and make an actual list. Begin by thinking of small things—**PARENTING** toothbrushes, pencils, bubblegum, ice cream. Then move to the big stuff: sunsets, mountains, oceans, trees. Make sure someone's list includes God's love and His gift of Jesus.

Ellen Goodman once said that families are now so dispersed that it is easier to bring in the crops than the cousins. Nevertheless, Thanksgiving should be a celebration of family as much as of food. Make a special effort to spend Thanksgiving with family or special friends. Make a memory and build a tradition. Attend a Thanksgiving worship service, play football in the yard, work a puzzle or go to a family-friendly movie together.

As you gather for a special Thanksgiving meal, take time to go around the table and let everyone name something or someone they are thankful for. Use the occasion of bounty to renew a commitment to help those who are less fortunate. Make a special offering to world hunger or prepare and deliver a food basket. Church staff can provide the name of a family in need.—David Garrard

Q: The role of family seems to be changing these days. During this Thanksgiving season, how do we remind ourselves of the importance of family?

It often seems that we spend the first half of our life's journey struggling with our parents and the second half struggling with our children. There are times along the road, however, when all the travelers are in agreement about the route and the destination.

Thanksgiving is a celebration of those times for the families of today who are the new pilgrims. We seek to chart a safe passage through a world that we cannot even imagine. Our feelings likely mirror the feelings of commitment and uncertainty of those first pilgrims.

FAMILY The struggles of the first pilgrim families do not differ greatly from many of the struggles experienced by families today. We know that survival is contingent upon learning to blend the knowledge of our new experiences with the wisdom learned from the past. Our survival includes the survival of our beliefs and family root systems.

The future of humanity passes by way of a family. Each family's journey is a series of bridges linking generations through the endless progress of time. The story of family life is the story of love shared, nurtured, rejected or lost as each new generation struggles for its own identity. Yet, in spite of transitions or hardships, people continue to choose to be family. In the haven of that choice, families share the profound and ordinary moments of daily life.

The early pilgrims were remembered for their passion for the journey and their trust in God to provide. They are remembered for the gifts they shared and their willingness to reach out to support others on the same journey.

This Thanksgiving, reaffirm the message found in each holiday tradition. It is a message of love and faith that celebrates the wisdom of the past and the hope for the future. Celebrate the times your family walks together along the road. Thank God for those who are neighbors to us on our journey. The strength of family lies in the importance placed on family. Take pride in being a strong link in the generation chain of family life.—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.



KBC: A missions heart & ministry mindset

"It's good to be a Kentucky Baptist." That came across as the prevailing attitude at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting—both during official convention reports and informal hallway conversations. And with good reason.

While many other state Baptist conventions and denominational entities wrestle over issues of political control and ministry priorities, the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists appear committed to moving forward in unity for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Consider a few examples: Here in Kentucky, messengers heard reports about the KBC's mission study plan which calls for the state convention "to assist Kentucky Baptist Convention churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

By contrast, conservative leaders in Tennessee said they may "rethink the way we support state missions giving" because their efforts to substitute nominees on key committees failed. In North Carolina, moderate leaders said they no longer feel "a sense of place and belonging" after a series of presidential losses. And in Missouri, the state convention voted to cut ties to one Baptist college and has filed suit to regain control of five other entities that already have severed ties with the convention.

With all the challenges going on in the broader Baptist family, it's refreshing to be able to editorialize about the spirit of unity and cooperation among Kentucky Baptists. That's not to suggest we have no differences of opinion across the Bluegrass State. Rather, it's a matter of Kentucky Baptists making a sincere commitment to focus on issues and priorities of greatest importance—such as "connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

During the KBC's Nov. 11-12 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, every session fo-

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tennis Henderson

cused on the convention theme, "Missions Beyond the Edge." Endorsing a missions partnership with Baptists in the Brazilian state of Piaui and hosting an appointment service for Southern Baptist international missionaries are among clear examples of Kentucky Baptists' missions heart and ministry mindset.

Even in the officer elections that featured two candidates for each of the top three posts, messengers elected leaders who represent the rich diversity of Kentucky Baptist life.

KBC President Eugene Siler, a Baptist deacon and federal judge, describes himself as a "traditional" Baptist. He currently is board chairman for Baptist Healthcare Systems and a trustee of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. First Vice President Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, served last year as Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference president. A trustee of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, he also served on the KBC Mission Study Committee. Second Vice President Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, delivered a challenging, humorous and inspirational convention sermon last week. He is a member of the Western Recorder's board of directors and the KBC's properties study committee.

The three men's valuable experience in Baptist leadership roles—and their personal commitment to Kentucky Baptist ministry efforts—should help enhance the state convention's spirit of cooperation in the coming year.

"It's my dream for the future that we will continue to grow in our confidence and trust in one another," KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey noted last week. "I believe there are tremendous opportunities for Kentucky Baptists to work together to fulfill the vision that our Lord has for us in this day."

I wholeheartedly agree. It is good to be a Kentucky Baptist.

What's most important at Thanksgiving?

By Claude Thomas

Euless, Texas (BP)—I love Thanksgiving because of the time my family spends together. But it's quite different for my wife and me this year. My family is scattered all over the country and the world, and I'm not sure who will be coming or where we will be going for Thanksgiving dinner.

This reality of "who's going where for Thanksgiving" seems to be a common phenomenon in today's rapid-paced American family. Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel times of the year. It's easy to lose perspective of what's important and what we should be thankful for when we're stuck on the interstate with thousands of other cars headed home for Thanksgiving. And when we get there, it's not so much that you lose your gratitude but you lose your perspective on what's important as you sit down, forget about all the awful things you said to the cars around you on the road, smile, pray and eat glorious Thanksgiving food.

What's important in the fast-paced lifestyles of our families? Adding to the challenge of this question, we have war in Iraq and the Middle East, the continuing effort in Afghanistan, social unrest in Africa and even division here at home. What is most important in life amid these challenges? How can we be grateful as a family?

Some parents have sons or daughters serving in the military today. Some are experiencing divi-

sion in terms of divorce, a child's rebellion or financial problems. Some are feeling the effects of spiritual burnout. You're tired. You're a spiritual Sahara Desert and you wonder, "What's most important in life?"

I want to remind us that the most important things in life are really quite simple. The most important things in life bring life, not exhaustion. The most important things in life give peace, not turmoil. The most important things in life promote love, not hate. What am I talking about? The Bible gives us the answer. His name is Jesus.

In Luke 10, we find Jesus visiting some friends. Their names are Mary and Martha. Martha invited Jesus and His disciples to stay with them, and Jesus gladly accepted the offer. But when He arrived at their home, Luke 10:40 describes the attitude of Martha, who was "distracted" by all the preparations that had to be made for Jesus and the disciples. On the other hand, Martha's sister, Mary, is sitting at the feet of the Lord, listening to every word that comes out of His mouth.

Martha says to Jesus (I paraphrase), "Lord, don't you care about me? Mary's sitting there doing nothing, and I'm slaving away trying to get things ready for You and Your disciples! Tell her to get in here and help me!" I love Jesus' response: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away

from her" (Luke 10:41-42).

What is most important in this Thanksgiving season, amid the challenges at home and abroad? The most important thing for us is to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to His every word. Worrying and becoming distracted about the issues of the day only cloud our focus on the Savior.

It's not that we retreat into a fantasy world of simple faith or shy away from the challenges we face. Rather, we sit at Jesus' feet in an act of worship, waiting to hear Him speak words that will direct our steps; show us how to live; bring life, hope, peace and joy in the midst of confusion, death and division. By sitting at the feet of Christ, we will have chosen "that good part."

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of the year, even amid today's challenges. Wherever my wife and I end up—whether at home, in Virginia, in Texas, in England, or in Tennessee with family members—I'm making it a priority to teach my family to sit at Jesus' feet. Only then will we know what true gratitude is in our lives.

I want to challenge all of us to teach our family to sit at the Master's feet and not become distracted by all that is around us. Rather, at the Master's feet, the issues of the day will become clearer as He teaches us how to deal with them.

What's most important in life? Sitting, listening and soaking up every word of the Teacher who gives us the sense to make sense of it all.

Claude Thomas is pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas

Alexander: Are you ready to move toward missions edge?

By David Winfrey
News Director

Lexington—Before Kentucky Baptists can do missions beyond the edge, they first must be willing to move toward the edge, Skip Alexander told messengers in the convention sermon.

"Where's your edge?" asked Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church.

He was referencing the theme for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting, "Missions Beyond the Edge," a call for Kentucky Baptists to take their faith to those who are not attracted to traditional church activities.

Mixing humor, scripture and theology, Alexander noted that as a child he was told to "stay away from the edge."

Furthermore, he added, most Baptist preachers aren't very edgy in their approach to ministry or life. "Edgy for us is to do visitation and wear our sports coat but not wear our tie."

Alexander called for messengers to be willing to step outside their comfort zones and consider what God might be calling them to do.

"The Bible is full of people who are confined by boundaries experiencing a God who calls them beyond the edge," he said.

"We may not be at the edge, ... but let us determine today that we will head to the edge."

Alexander encouraged Kentucky Baptists to head toward the edge in three ways:

■ **As a denomination.** Alexander noted that in Genesis 12 Abram was

called to "get thee out," as the King James Version of the Bible states, to a country that God had not shown him.

"I'm thankful that Kentucky Baptists have always heard the Abrahamic call to leave, 'to get thee out,'" said Alexander, who credited his own faith to a group of Kentucky Baptists who got involved in pioneer missions in Ohio, starting a church and calling a pastor who led Alexander to faith in Christ.

"I stand here before you today as a product of when Kentucky Baptists understood the idea, 'Get thee out.'"

Alexander praised the work and goals of the KBC mission study committee, adding that in a day when some denominations are in decline, Kentucky Baptists are "growing, expanding and dreaming."

"I am proud to be a Kentucky Baptist because I believe we have heard again the call to 'get thee out,'" he said.

■ **As a church.** Alexander noted that there is a play on words for describing the church. While the church consists of those who are "called out," that call is a call to go back into the world to take the gospel to others.

"We like the first half, we're not so sure about the second half," he said.

In Campbellsville, he noted, scores of home groups are taking part in the "40 Days of Purpose" Bible study. They're beginning to talk about God's purpose for their lives and for their congregations.

"We're not sure what may happen if you get all those people in a home talking about Jesus," he said. "I don't think a business meeting will break out."

■ **Personally.** The Great Commission in Matthew 29:19-20 is an imperative for each Christian to "go and make disciples," Alexander said.

"It's not optional," he added. "What is that edge for you as you leave here?"

Alexander added that this focus on missions beyond the edge has challenged him personally to reconsider whom God might want him to reach out to. He said he feels a new call to take the gospel to neighbors who are different from him.

"I'm going to disregard everything my momma said about staying away from the edge. ... I'm going to run with scissors in my hand," he said. "What about you, brothers and sisters? Will you head to the edge?"



CONVENTION SERMON Skip Alexander noted that the annual meeting's theme was "Missions Beyond the Edge." But first Christians must be willing to be head toward the edge, he said. "Where's your edge?"

missions
beyond
the edge

Badgett to Baptists: Be more like Jesus

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Addressing the question, "What do Kentucky Baptists need more than anything?" Paul Badgett said there is one clear answer: "The greatest need in Kentucky Baptist life is for Baptist people to be more like Jesus."

Badgett, outgoing president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said in his president's address that seeking to be more like Christ outranks increased giving, training new leaders or starting new churches.

Crediting legendary Southern Baptist Convention leader R.G. Lee for his inspiration, Badgett said Kentucky Baptists must get concerned about the people outside their churches.

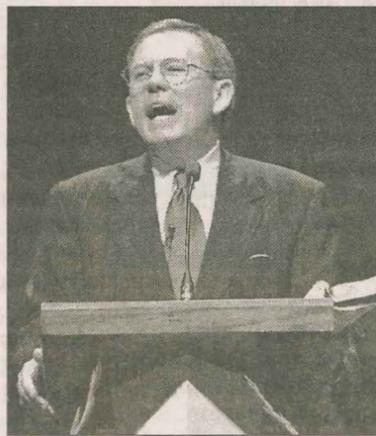
Noting that church members must look beyond the four walls of the church, Badgett emphasized that Christians are in the people business.

"When Jesus looked at the multitudes, He did not see them as a problem," said Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville. "He saw them as an opportunity. How we need to see people as an opportunity in Kentucky Baptist life—an opportunity to witness to them, to win them and to minister to them."

Badgett said three factors characterized Christ's reaction in dealing with people:

■ **What Jesus saw.** Badgett noted that the Bible says Jesus taught, preached and healed the sick.

As he has traveled across the commonwealth this past year, Badgett said, he discovered many



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS "There's plenty for Kentucky Baptists to do," said Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

people facing pain and hopelessness. The problems plaguing people's lives, he said, include divorce, death, disease, alcohol, drugs and gambling.

"People without Jesus are lost," he declared. "I don't believe Jesus is 'a' way, I believe Jesus is 'the' way and if you don't have Jesus you don't have life."

The gospel can fill people cursed by alcohol, drugs and sexual promiscuity with new life, Badgett said.

The 2.5 billion people around the world, including 180 million people in the United States, without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ represent lost potential, he said.

"Kentucky Baptists, if we're going to reach this generation, it's going to have to be (done by) you and your churches," Badgett said. "You've got to be on fire."

■ **What Jesus felt.** In addition to what Christ saw, He also felt great

compassion for others, Badgett noted.

"I pray that God will break your hearts for your church field and your church community," he said. "If someone were asked to give 10 words to describe the ministry of your church, would one of those words be 'compassion?'"

■ **What Jesus said.** Quoting Jesus' words from Matthew 9:37-38, Badgett noted that Jesus' message was, "The harvest truly is plentiful. ... The laborers are few. ... Pray."

"It's time to get off our blessed assurance and go do something about it," he declared. "The prize is in the harvest."

In an interview after his message, Badgett said most Baptist churches are doing a good job. Yet, he said more must be done.

"What I'm praying for is revival so we can join God on mission as He seeks to redeem a lost world to Himself," Badgett said.

"There's plenty for Kentucky Baptists to do out there. We need to pray and—like an old friend said—'If you pray for a corn crop, you say 'amen' with a hoe.'"

Badgett said he is encouraged that Baptists still believe God's Word and preach it as the truth.

He added, however, that Kentucky Baptists should expand their vision beyond their state and to the world.

He expressed hope that the revival at Campbellsville University this fall will break out statewide and lead to spiritual awakening.

"Like was mentioned during the convention, people are very religious today, but it's all kinds of religions," Badgett said. "I would like to see spiritual awakening where people actually turn to Christ."

Hawkins: Affirm exclusivity of Christ's gospel

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—Warning of the dangers of liberalism, inclusivism and pluralism, O.S. Hawkins said Christians today must uphold the exclusivity of the gospel of Christ.

Christ's question to His disciples in Matthew 16:15—"Who do you say that I am?"—is a question applicable to our time, Hawkins declared. "It is the question in this world in which we live."

Hawkins, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, preached during the closing session of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Describing "two distinct types of leadership," he said, "There are those who lead by public consensus and there are those who lead by personal conviction."

"People who lead by public consensus lead people to do what they want to do," he noted. "People who lead by personal conviction lead people to do what they need to do."

When Jesus posed two questions to His disciples in Matthew 16:13-19, Hawkins said those questions addressed both public consensus—"Who do men say that I am?"—and personal conviction—"Who do you say that I am?"

Hawkins warned that public consensus "gives rise to pluralis-



O.S. HAWKINS "All truth is narrow," said Hawkins, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. "We shouldn't be surprised by that."

tic compromise and political correctness."

"Our culture is immersed in the question of public consensus," he added. "Pluralism affects our doctrine—what we believe, our message. ... Inclusivism affects our duty—how we behave, our mission."

"If you believe in inclusivism, why would you need an evangelism emphasis or a mission program?" he asked. "Doctrine always affects duty."

Noting that "we too are prone to public consensus even in our churches," Hawkins said, "There is an alternative to pluralism and inclusivism; it is the exclusivity of the gospel of Christ. Historical Christi-

anity has always been an exclusive faith.

"What motivated Simon Peter to meet his own martyr's death? Was it a believe in pluralism or inclusivism?" Hawkins asked. "He gave his life for the exclusive message that Christ is the only way to heaven."

If Christians truly believe that Jesus is the only way to eternal salvation, he added, "It is time to take our crosses off our steeples and put them back in our sermons."

In today's society, "when we talk about the exclusivity of Christ, we're called narrow and bigoted," Hawkins pointed out.

"All truth is narrow," he added. "We shouldn't be surprised by that."

Noting that mathematical truth, scientific truth, historical truth and geographical truth are all narrow, Hawkins said, "Theological truth is narrow. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, the life; no man comes to the Father but by me.'"

"We should not be surprised by that," he reiterated. "If Christ is the only way of salvation, all other religions, as far as salvation goes, are false."

"If we're ever going to go out beyond the edge, we have a question for our age: 'Who do say that I am?'" Hawkins concluded. "We choose to say with Peter, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'"

11 new churches added to Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Eleven churches were granted membership in the Kentucky Baptist Convention at the annual meeting.

The new KBC churches are: Clearview Baptist Church in Leitchfield, Covenant Baptist Church in Henderson, Crossroads Fellowship in Cadiz, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Louisville, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Louisa, First Baptist Church in Pewee Valley, Gap Fellowship in Middlesboro, Heritage Baptist Church in Lexington, Maranatha Baptist Church in Lexington, New Hope Baptist Church in Crestwood and Vision Baptist Church in Pine Ridge.

Churches granted "watch-care" status for the next year are: Creekside Baptist Church in Waco, Dixie Park Cornerstone Baptist Church in Berea, Evangelical Church Winning All in Louisville, Faith Community Church in Scottsville, His House in Mayfield and Shepherds Way Community Church in Rineyville.

Resolutions include marriage, gambling

By David Winfrey
News Director

Lexington—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers meeting last week adopted resolutions opposing expanded gambling, supporting a U.S. constitutional amendment defining marriage and opposing expanding alcohol sales in the state.

The resolution on marriage calls on Congress to "amend the U.S. constitution to include 'Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of one man and one woman.'"

The resolution originally was limited to support the covenant marriage movement, but Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association in Princeton, proposed changing the resolution after the Resolutions Committee didn't include a similar resolution he had proposed earlier in the meeting.

"We must articulate what our intent is," Reeder said, "so there is no doubt about the outcome that we desire."

Resolutions Committee Chairman Tim Harris said the group initially didn't feel comfortable including the text for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"Out job is to capture the consensus of Kentucky Baptists," said Harris, pastor of Woodburn Baptist Church. "And we simply weren't sure that a consensus would go so far as to provide the text for a constitutional amendment."

But Reeder countered that the committee's resolution "falls short of including a critical mandate."

Messengers overwhelmingly adopted the amendment and then passed the resolution, which also calls on Kentucky Baptist churches to emphasize Covenant Marriage Sunday on Feb. 21, 2004.

The marriage resolution was one of five adopted by messengers during the final session of the annual meeting. Other resolutions included:

Opposing expanded gambling. The resolution urges Kentucky's governor, General Assembly and citizens to find ways to "strengthen our state's economy on sound principles of creative and innovate industrial, educational and technological development rather than on the false hopes of gambling."

The resolution states that expanded gambling would encourage more gambling addictions, crime, family destruction and personal irresponsibility.

"The current proposals for expanding gambling will ultimately cost our economy far more than they will ever produce," the resolution states.

Opposing expanded alcohol sales. The resolution notes that numerous votes since 2000 have opened previously "dry" counties and cities to alcohol sales.

It calls on Kentuckians to oppose future votes to expand sales and "work instead to strengthen our families and communities by encouraging abstinence from this dangerous drug."

Remembering A.B. Colvin. The resolution expresses appreciation for Colvin, often referred to as "Mr. Kentucky Baptist," who died Aug. 27 at age 85. Colvin served Kentucky Baptists more than 45 years, including such roles as pastor, KBC president, KBC superintendent of missions and evangelism and administrator for Oneida Baptist Institute.

Appreciation for convention organizers. The annual resolution thanks those who served as convention officers, the KBC Mission Board staff, Elkhorn Baptist Association, Immanuel Baptist Church and others responsible for contributions to hosting the annual meeting.

"The current proposals for expanding gambling will ultimately cost our economy far more than they will ever produce."

Resolution passed last week by messengers to the KBC annual meeting

CONVENTION REPORTS

Baptist Healthcare System. The system's hospitals deliver one in every five babies born in Kentucky, according to President Tommy Smith. Baptist Healthcare System owns five hospitals and operates a sixth one. Those hospitals are pioneering technology for heart, orthopedic and other types of surgery, Smith said. "Last year we invested \$84 million in technology." This past year, the system's charitable care exceeded \$18.1 million. The hospital continues to host support groups, clinics, wellness programs and health fairs.

Campbellsville University. As the university nears its centennial in 2006, Campbellsville is committed to four core values: commitment to academic excellence, ensuring success for students in and outside the classroom, stewardship of funds and developing a Christ-centered, caring community. Campbellsville has a record enrollment of 1,994 and completed a record fundraising year, according to President Mike Carter. "Campbellsville University continues to focus on the student, trying to prepare them to be a Christian leader in our world."

Cumberland College. A total of 108 students served in mission projects during the summer, winter break or spring break. The school's Mountain Outreach ministry completed its 21st year of service. Last fall, 53 student completed three major projects with Kentucky Baptist Builders. Last December, the ministry's warehouse drew more than 200 local residents for its Christmas program, distributing clothing, toys and home furnishings. Curriculum changes this year included modifications to strengthen majors in accounting, business, computer information systems and social work. Cumberland also created separate tracts in church ministries and religious studies within the religion major.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. The school has an enrollment of 205 for this fall, the highest since 1987. Clear Creek's new Kingston, Tenn., extension center enrolled 13 students last fall and 17 students last summer. The college also is testing a pilot e-College project with two online classes each semester. Students and faculty are taking part in missions beyond the edge with mission trips to Russia, Brazil, Bosnia, Ohio and Boston. Seventy-one students completed a mentorship/internship program, preaching 3,052 sermons and witnessing 432 professions of faith.

Georgetown College. This past spring, Georgetown became a Phi Kappa Phi institution, offering their students membership into this honor society. Last month, the Peyton Thurman Meetinghouse opened. It is the home of the school's new Center for Calling and Career, which offers vocation-oriented retreats, seminars, classes and internships to help students discern their calling in life. President Bill Crouch told messengers that Georgetown is the only college with a vice president for leadership and ethics. "The mission of Georgetown College is to lead students to the growing edge of their minds and imaginations, empowering them to explore the territory beyond with courage and delight."

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. President Bill Smithwick urged messengers to help recruit foster parents. "We've started thinking of them ... as in-home missionaries." KBHC currently ministers to more children through foster care than through its seven residential facilities. "It is missions beyond the edge to be able to take hurting, suffering children into your own home and care for them as your own," Smithwick said. "We can serve these kids like nobody else, if you'll help us."

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. President David Melber asked, "What makes Christian camping, retreats and conferences unique? ... When you go, you go expecting to encounter God." Kentucky Baptist Assemblies recorded more than 1,000 decisions from students this summer. More than 400 of those were first-time professions of faith in Jesus. "It's a great privilege to see that kind of change," he said. KBA has invested \$3 million during the past five years to improve and expand facilities, and the properties can now accommodate more than 1,100 people per week during the summer. "We can never take the place of a church," Melber told messengers. "But what we can do is support you by creating an environment where you can come to know Christ or more fully experience Him."

Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Kentucky Baptist Convention churches contributed an estimated \$380 million for state and national Baptist causes in the past year, according to foundation President Barry Allen. "It takes money to do missions beyond the edge," he said. Allen encouraged Baptists to consider their donations not as charitable gifts but as buying Great Commission services. He added that the Kentucky Baptist Foundation offers three services to help churches and individuals with their financial decisions: seminars, legacy gift program consultation and top-ranked, low-cost investment management.

Oneida Baptist Institute. The boarding school completed construction of its new agriculture center in 2002. The center includes meeting and classroom space, as well as work space and an office for record-keeping and research. Baker Hall has been renovated. The upper level, home of the school's math department, now contains six high school classrooms and two classrooms for primary and ele-

mentary faculty/staff children. The renovated lower level contains dormitory housing for 46 boys. The school's 2003 summer school had a 20 percent higher enrollment than in 2002. "We take missions to the edge and beyond all the time in so many areas," President W.F. Underwood said, noting the school has students from nine countries other than the United States.

Western Recorder. This past year, the Western Recorder was recognized with three awards for design and writing by Baptist Communicators Association. The paper currently is involved in an in-depth readership study to determine how the Western Recorder can be more effective for all Kentucky Baptists. The paper continues to partner with local churches by publishing their newsletters on the back pages of the Western Recorder. The paper also takes part in missions beyond the state's edge by helping produce monthly newspapers in partnership with the Hawaii Pacific, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Pennsylvania/South Jersey and Utah-Idaho conventions.

Woman's Missionary Union. The 2002-2003 Eliza Broadus Missions Offering reached a record \$867,510. This year Kentucky WMU celebrated its 100th annual meeting and 125 years of service. WMU is launching an expanded plan for missions education and mobilization. The LINK acronym stands for Linking Involvement, Needs and Knowledge. "It is founded in prayer and culminates in hands-on ministries," said Brenda Price, associate executive director. More than 450 people took part in World Missions Unlimited summer training events in Lexington and Beaver Dam. WMU also is partnering with the KBC Brotherhood department to promote missions education for boys.

Compiled from oral and written reports

Responding to the call



MANY ARE CALLED Jerry Rankin delivers the charge to missionaries being appointed last week at Rupp Arena. "God doesn't call the worthy. ... He equips the called ones." (IMB photos by Bill Bangham)

More than 3,500 people attend service to honor 'champions'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—Gesturing toward the Kentucky Wildcats' seven basketball national championship banners hanging in Rupp Arena, Jerry Rankin noted that the 67 new missionaries seated on the stage "are the champions of Southern Baptists."

"They are the ones who have been willing to focus on that purpose—to do whatever it takes to take the gospel of Christ to a lost world," said Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

And Rankin wasn't the only one comparing mission service to basketball at the Nov. 11 missionary appointment service held in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Coach Tubby Smith, who guided the Wildcats to their most recent championship in 1998, welcomed the crowd of 3,500 people to Lexington's Rupp Arena.

Comparing mission service to "making that pass to the open man or helping out on defense," Smith said, "That's what missionaries are doing; it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Urging the missionaries to maintain their focus and integrity, he affirmed their efforts to "bring the gospel to all parts of the world."

Noting that the missionaries "can't do it alone," Smith reminded the crowd, "You've got to have someone who supports you in everything you do. ... This is inspiring for me. We'll be praying. God bless you all."



"We'll be praying. God bless you all."

University of Kentucky men's basketball coach Tubby Smith



PROCESSION OF FLAGS Twyla Sheffield, a member of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's executive board and WMU director for Boones Creek Association, carries a flag during the opening procession.

In addition to the 67 missionaries being commissioned, Rankin said there were two new missionaries in the audience "who are going to places so sensitive in a restrictive country that they cannot be identified publicly." The crowd responded by giving the anonymous missionaries a standing ovation.

During his challenge to the missionaries, Rankin said, "How impressive it is that these 67 are going in obedience to the command of our Lord to share the gospel of Christ. They have a unique calling and sense of God's leadership to the places they are called to serve."

Rankin asked, however, "What are 67 among so many? What are 67 among the multitudes and lost of the world who have never heard of Jesus?"

Citing Jesus' statement in Matthew 22:14 that "many are called, but few are chosen," he added, "It's obvious in the parable of the feast that those who were chosen are those who responded to the invitation."

The missionaries being commissioned "are the ones God has chosen to go out at this time," Rankin said.

Citing recent budget shortfalls that have led the IMB to put other appointments on hold, he added, "There are 100 others who would love to be sitting where they are sitting. They're waiting for Southern Baptists to provide the support so they may join this host and go out and proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth."

Even amid financial limitations,

"once again we must ask: 'Why so few among so many?'" Rankin reiterated. "Only a few are willing to lay their life on the altar and surrender to God's will."

Noting Isaiah's response to God's call, he said, "It was a generic call. He heard the voice of God saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' He heard it as a call to his life and his heart and he responded, 'Here am I, Lord; send me.'"

"Why did Isaiah hear that heart cry of God when many of us have never heard that burden and cry of people who never knew that Jesus died for them?" Rankin asked. "He saw God in all of His holiness. He recognized the Lordship of God and that He had every right and claim on his life."

"We'll never hear that call of God until we see God in all of His exaltation and sovereignty and Lordship," he emphasized. "God doesn't call the worthy, the adequate, the equipped. He equips the called ones."

Inviting listeners to respond publicly to God's call, Rankin said, "God is still waiting for you to lay your life on the altar and say, 'Here am I; send me.' You can never be sure you're in the center of God's will until you say, 'Lord, wherever you lead, I'll go.'"

Approximately 40 people responded to the public invitation, making their way to the front of the arena platform to kneel, pray and talk with an IMB representative.

"God desires the nations to know Him," Rankin concluded, "but He has chosen to carry that message through you and me."

Service draws emotions of awe, joy

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Bill Mackey struggled to maintain his composure after leaving a room of missionaries about to be commissioned at Lexington's Rupp Arena.

"I felt like I was walking on holy ground," said Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Looking into the new missionaries' eyes, he said, he could sense the "awesome commitment" they had for sharing God's love around the world.

The Nov. 11 service was important for both those going and those there to honor their service, Mackey noted.

"It's significant that Kentucky Baptists can demonstrate their support of these individuals by being present to say to them, 'We are behind you, we will pray for you and we will participate—where possible—in sharing the gospel with the world.'"

Awe, joy and other emotions characterized the reactions of many Kentucky Baptists who attended the service.

Sandy Escher held back tears during the opening hymn as she blew a kiss to her daughter and son-in-law on the stage.

"I'm just overwhelmed that the Lord chose John and Melanie (Christerson) to serve Him in a foreign



EMOTIONAL TIME Sandy Escher blows a kiss to her daughter, Melanie Christerson, and son-in-law, John, who will serve in Germany. (Photo By David Winfrey)

country," said Escher, a member of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. "But more than that, I'm just so thankful that they were obedient to His call."

She and 14 other family members traveled from Louisville to Lexington for the service. Beside Escher lay Caleb Christerson, her one-and-only grandchild (born Oct. 18), who would soon leave with his mommy and daddy for Germany.

"It's going to be hard"

Linda Christerson, John Christerson's mother, said she felt mixed emotions at the commissioning service.

"I know it's going to be hard, but I know that many people are going to be blessed through them and God's going to use them," she said. "I prayed for John, when he was little, that God would use him."

Don and Shirley Meador, members of Rich Pond Baptist Church, drove from Bowling Green to see their son, Stan, and his wife, Wendy, be appointed as missionaries to Brazil.

"We would have gone no matter where it was," Don Meador said. But "I'm sure glad it was here."

Retired missionary Jim McKinley, who traveled across the state promoting the commissioning service, said he was elated to support the new missionaries. He pledged to help encourage Kentucky Baptists to stay in touch and track the missionaries' progress.

Citing recent financial shortfalls that forced the IMB to postpone 100 other missionary appointments, McKinley said he believes if Southern Baptists will come together in prayer and unity, the funds will materialize.

"We've got to keep our eyes on the goal that God has for the world and that's that all people hear the gospel," McKinley said. "We cannot dissipate our strength in arguing and fussing and at the same time do the task that God has for us to do."

Calvin Wilkins, KBC partnership missions consultant, said he was delighted to attend last week's service since a mission trip caused him to miss a similar event in 1987. He called the crowd, inspirational music and positive tone evidence of God's Spirit moving.

"I couldn't help but notice how many (missionaries) had been involved in short-time, volunteer missions," Wilkins noted. "That seemed to be a time when God was speaking to them and probably tugging at their heart. I wasn't really surprised, but it's also good to hear that."

Todd Tinnell of Shepherdsville said he and his wife attended the service because of their passion for missions.

He has been to Nigeria twice and Venezuela on short-term mission trips.

"It was very touching," echoed Arretta Bruce, a member of First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon. "And the people that responded when (IMB President Jerry Rankin) asked that they come forward was really something."

"What I expect from it is to have the greatest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering we've ever had," added her husband, Jack Bruce, director of missions for Rockcastle County Baptist Association.

Nicholasville resident JoAnn Rohrback called the service beautiful and meaningful, saying she is in awe of the missionaries.

"I appreciate that they're taking it seriously that God's called them to go out into the field," said Rohrback, who attends Mount Freedom Baptist Church in Wilmore. "I look forward to praying for them, supporting them and encouraging them in any way I can."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

Missionaries share diverse testimonies of God's call

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Sixty-seven new Southern Baptist missionaries from across the nation shared a variety of testimonies Nov. 11 about their call to serve God throughout the world.

Many of the missionaries, commissioned last week at Rupp Arena in Lexington told of unique experiences that accompanied their call to missions service.

They included a couple who recalled God opening their eyes to the needs in Southern Africa, where 6,300 people die of AIDS each day.

Another couple said they learned to trust in God's sovereignty on a mission trip while their 17-year-old driver maneuvered an antiquated Russian jeep through the Hindu Kush mountains.

One appointee attended seminary with expectations of returning to the pastorate, but instead will serve in Central America. Another woman tearfully told of God giving her a love for Islamic people on a short-term mission trip in 2000.

Two missionaries remained completely anonymous, not even sitting on stage with their colleagues, because of the sensitive nature of their assignment in a restricted country.

Among Kentuckians commissioned during the service were:

■ Louisville native John Christerson and his wife, Melanie, who will serve in Tanzania.

Christerson recalled "sharing the 'Jesus' film on a mountaintop with Filipinos. Preaching the Word, I saw a response from the Filipinos to trust Christ and it was at that time that I realized God's call for me to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth."

His wife spoke of accepting Jesus as her Savior at the age of 11, hearing missionary stories and taking a mission trip to the Philippines.

"God used all of these in my life and burdened my heart for the nations to know Him," Mrs. Christerson said.

■ Stan and Wendy Meador, who will go to Brazil. "For me, it began on the pristine beaches of Belize, to church construction in Brazil and then to the persecuted church of Bulgaria," said Meador, a short-term missionary to Bulgaria from 1993-95.

"For me it began on the pink, sandy beaches in Bermuda," Mrs. Meador added, "(then) to a small, tin-roofed shack church in Barbados to Hispanic migrant ministry in rural Kentucky."

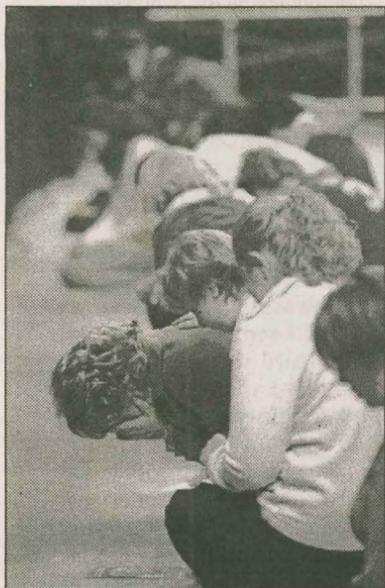
"Now we go to plant house churches among the German Brazilians in South Brazil," her husband concluded.

■ Bryan and Deana Wolf, who are from Illinois, and have been studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Mrs. Wolf began by recalling how their then 4-year-old daughter told them in 1999 that they would be missionaries in South America.

"As we have grown closer to Christ, He has given us the desire to reach others for Him," she added.

In "November of 2002, God brought me to the realization that He had made me for such a time as this," Wolf said. "Our agricultural and my nutritional background have equipped us to serve Christ in the rural villages of the Andes Mountains in Chile."



INVITATION Approximately 40 people responded to Jerry Rankin's invitation to publicly demonstrate their surrender to whatever God might ask them to do. (IMB photo by Bill Bangham)

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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

Pastors' Conference includes Draper, Loscalzo, Mohler



CONFERENCE OFFICERS
Mark Payton (left), pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church, was elected president of the 2004 Pastors' Conference. Other officers elected were President-Elect Robert Tarrance (center) of Green Ridge Baptist Church in Lewisburg, and Treasurer John Mark Toby of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset. Conference participants also approved renaming the office of vice president to president-elect, allowing two years for program planning.

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Christian mission efforts face challenges from other religions, materialism and the idea that absolute truth doesn't exist, according to longtime Southern Baptist Convention leader Jimmy Draper.

Speaking at the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 10, the president of LifeWay Christian Resources admitted he doesn't yet grasp all the implications of this "new day."

"We're confronted with Islam, which is an aggressive, dominant, violent faith that believes their assignment from their god is to conquer the world," Draper said. "They're willing to die in order that they may accomplish that. We've not faced anything so dramatic in our lifetime."

Tolerance is another "religion" that isn't new but is gathering influence as its advocates proclaim that absolute truth doesn't exist, Draper added.

In addition, because of rampant materialism many people are more interested in their own comfort than God's purpose, Draper noted. Still, he urged pastors to remember God's purpose of declaring redemption to the world.

"It starts in your churches, your communities and your state, right here and across this land," he said.



JIMMY DRAPER "We have to see ourselves in the light of God's purpose," the president of LifeWay Christian Resources said.

"But it does not stop until it reaches around the world. We have to see ourselves in the light of God's purpose."

Draper was among six preachers at the conference, Nov. 10 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Ken Hemphill also touched on the opposition Christians face from Muslims, which he said is rooted in resentment over the United States pumping pornography into their nations.

Even though Christians don't produce such fare, they have tolerated it, said Hemphill, director of the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis.

Noting that fewer than three out of every 100 Southern Baptists have told someone about Christ, Hemphill said EKG relies on God's prom-

ise to place His life-giving Spirit in His children.

"This is about Him, not about us," Hemphill said. "God doesn't share His glory with anybody. God wants to do something so spectacular that all the nations would be drawn to Him."

One key to Christians increasing their effectiveness is setting the right priorities, said **Claude Thomas**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas.

Using the example of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42, Thomas said Martha did her best to welcome Jesus. While everyone should do their best in serving God, their primary purpose is to worship Jesus, Thomas said.

"Work without worship will lead to the wrong thing but when work flows out of worship, it's a totally different thing," he added.

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, told conference participants that the Apostle Paul should be their paradigm for ministry.

While creativity is necessary in preaching, pastors still must reflect the truth of Paul's messages, Mohler said. That requires biblical knowledge and a passion to spread the gospel, he added.

"Brothers, let's pray that the world will know the gospel and see it in its power and hear it in its authenticity," he urged.

Dean Haun, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga., encouraged pastors to be filled with Christ's joy as they fulfill God's mission. Haun, a graduate of Cumberland College, said that without joy pastors will lose their motivation and vision of God's purpose.

Citing the account in Luke 10 in which Jesus sent out 70 disciples, Haun said they shared four characteristics: They had a passion for Christ, proclaimed Jesus, were willing to be persecuted and experienced His power.

Pastors also should remember how intimidating churches can be to unchurched people who mistakenly think Christians lead perfect lives, said **Craig Loscalzo**, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Reviewing the story of Phillip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 26, Loscalzo recalled how the disciple brought good news to the Ethiopian.

Though the eunuch was denied admission to the temple in Jerusalem, Phillip brought good news of a gospel open to him as well, Loscalzo said.

"I wonder what we do in our churches that tells people, 'You're not right yet,'" Loscalzo noted. "We make it difficult because they don't live up to our expectations of what you have to look like to come to church."

CONVENTION NOTES

Registration stable. Registration totaled 1,231 messengers for this year's meeting in Lexington, nearly identical to the 1,236 messengers at last year's meeting in Williamsburg. The count was well below the registration of 1,732 messengers for the 2001 meeting in Murray. Other recent counts: 2,139 messengers at the 2000 meeting in Bowling Green; and 1,372 messengers at the 1999 meeting in Covington.

Crossover sees 86 decisions. At least 86 spiritual decisions were registered as a result of Cross Over the Bluegrass, an evangelistic emphasis before the annual meeting. More than 800 volunteers from approximately 100 churches took part in such projects as service evangelism ministries, "Jesus" video distribution, prayer walks, home rehabilitation projects and door-to-door visiting. "Door-to-door (visitation) still works," said Dan Garland, Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team leader. "The people who tell you that it doesn't work aren't doing it." Volunteers registered six professions of faith and 80 other decisions, he told messengers. "The best of what Kentucky Baptist are about, missions and evangelism, was lifted up."

Religious education group elects officers. The Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association elected R.K. Spratt, minister of education and administration at Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, as president during the group's annual meeting. Other officers elected were Vice President Angus McKinley, discipleship pastor at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro; and Secretary Belinda Berry, minister of education at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Dale Galloway of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore spoke about "on-purpose leadership" to the group. "A leader doesn't do the work of 10 people," he said. "A leader gets 10 people to do the work of 10 people."

Public affairs group looks at gambling, marriage. Opposing the expansion of gambling and supporting covenant marriage were among the issues addressed this past year by the Committee on Public Affairs, according to Chairman French Harmon. "In all honesty, Kentucky Baptists could have a major voice in which direction things go if they were to speak loudly and in unison," Harmon said in his written report to the convention.

DOM fellowship forms ministry committee. The Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship established a ministry events committee during its annual meeting last week. The committee will seek contributions from each association and distribute grants for association-wide ministry projects throughout the commonwealth, according to Randy Jones, KBC director of state missions. The fellowship also recognized Carl Boyd, director of missions for Pike Association of Baptists, as Director of Missions of the Year. Officers elected during the meeting were President Bruce Walzer of Bell Association; Vice President Truett Cavanaugh of Bracken Association; Harlan Williams of Blood River Association; and newsletter editor Rick Robbins of Northern Kentucky Association.

Seminary supporters meet. About 180 supporters of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky attended the school's banquet Nov. 11 at Calvary Baptist Church where the seminary is located. Seminary officials recognized Ron Higdon, retired pastor of Broadway Baptist in Louisville, for his six years of service as a trustee. Bill and Charlotte Ellis and Les and Jan Hill were recognized as Volunteers of the Year. First Baptist Church of Frankfort was recognized as the Charter Church of 2003. Seminary President Greg Earwood said First Baptist contributes \$10,000 annually to the seminary through a "marriage" of missions and education.

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Children and Thanksgiving

Annual seasonal offering helps Homes for Children

Thanksgiving means different things to different people, but for us Kentucky Baptists it means expressing our gratitude to God and to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

My wife and I are going to increase our gift to this year's KBHC Thanksgiving Offering, and I encourage you to do the same thing. Every Kentucky Baptist man, woman, boy and girl should experience the joy of giving for this Christ-centered ministry, which provides care and hope to hurting children and families. What a difference we are making in the lives of these children! Given the circumstances of today, it takes all of us praying, giving and volunteering to meet the challenges of this kind of specialized ministry. Call toll-free (800) 456-1386, or click on www.kbhc.com for information about the variety of services KBHC provides and how you can be involved.

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Perhaps the Lord is leading you to leave a lasting legacy of your love for Him and hurting children. Please call toll-free Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, or me for assistance.

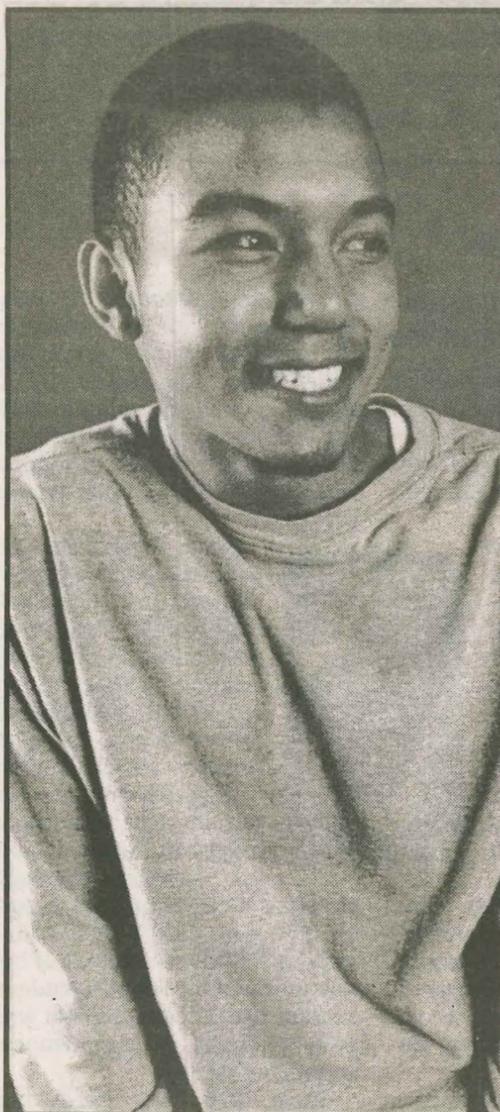
Let each of us do our part to demonstrate compassion for hurting children and families. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows" (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

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

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Barry Allen



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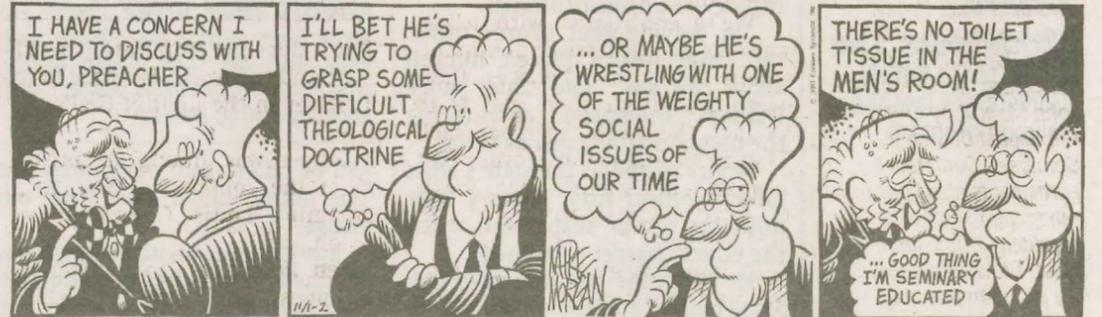


Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 "___ the just shall live by faith" (Hebrews 10:38)
 - 4 Breakfast food that goes with Noah's son (Genesis 5:32)
 - 8 "___ without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - 12 Dentists' group
 - 13 Soccer great
 - 14 Worn in a religious painting
 - 15 "They neither sow ___ reap" (Luke 12:24)
 - 16 No to a Scot
 - 17 Last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21)
 - 18 Site of final conflict (Revelation 16:16)
 - 22 Hath, in modern English
 - 23 University in Carbondale, Ill., abbr.
 - 24 FL from TN, direction
 - 26 Abraham's nephew (Genesis 14:12)
 - 29 "She gave me of the tree, and I ___ eat" (Genesis 3:12)
 - 31 What the lame man did (Acts 3:8)
 - 33 Woodwind instrument
 - 35 "___ thou on my right hand" (Matthew 22:44)
 - 37 "Honey in the carcass of the ___" (Judges 14:8)
 - 38 "Get thee behind me, ___" (Matthew 16:23)
 - 40 Time period
 - 42 Subway system
 - 43 ___ Salvador
 - 44 Sun in Madrid
 - 46 Balaam's Mr. Ed (Numbers 22:28)
 - 48 Luke's penpal (Acts 1:1)
 - 53 "There is ___ good but one" (Matthew 19:17)
 - 56 Canterbury's religious leader, abbr.

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53	54	55				56				57		
58						59			60		61	
62						63					64	

Mary Ann Freeman

- Down**
- 1 Wendy's dog
 - 2 "___ of a sweet smell" (Philemon 4:18)
 - 3 "The flesh of the child waxed ___" (2 Kings 4:34)
 - 4 Long play video tape setting, abbr.
 - 5 Joseph's story told here
 - 6 "A wise son maketh a ___ father" (Proverbs 10:1)
 - 7 What the sower sowed (Matthew 13:4)
 - 8 Anna's father (Luke 2:36)
 - 9 Took Isaac's place (Genesis 22:13)
 - 10 Pub drink
 - 11 Hither, thither, and ___
 - 19 "___, Lord God" (Jeremiah 1:6)
 - 20 Zilpah's lad (Genesis 30:11)
 - 21 "Thou anointest my head with ___" (Psalm 23:5)
 - 24 "Not having ___, or wrinkle" (Ephesians 5:27)
 - 25 Sicilian volcano
 - 26 "He that loveth his life shall ___ it" (John 12:25)
 - 27 Joktan's son (Genesis 10:28)
 - 28 Child
 - 30 "Appointed unto men once to ___" (Hebrews 9:27)
 - 32 Direct
 - 34 Magi saw star in this sky (Matthew 2:2)
 - 36 Stuck
 - 39 Japanese drama
 - 41 "He planted an ___, and the rain doth nourish it" (Isaiah 44:14)
 - 45 "___ quiet and peaceable life" (1 Timothy 2:2) (2 words)
 - 47 Yes to Julio
 - 49 David's grandpa (Ruth 4:22)
 - 50 "Thy word is a ___ unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105)
 - 51 Used to cast lots (Numbers 27:21)
 - 52 Red and Dead
 - 53 Kingdom of heaven is like one (Matthew 13:47)
 - 54 "___ no man any thing" (Romans 13:8)
 - 55 Maiden name
 - 60 Document signed, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	N	E	W	2	A	C	T	3	S	4	O	5	R	6	B	7	S
8	O	9	A	D	O	10	D	A	I	11	N	12		13		14	
15	I	16	R	V	17	A	T	18	E	D	G	E	19		20		
21	E	V	E	N	22	H	E	L	P	E	R	23		24			
25	E	26	G	O	27	E	V	E	28	W							
29	A	N	G	E	L	30	C	A	R	E	F	31	U	L			
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Different meanings seen in Commandments judge case

"This case is about whether or not we as a state can acknowledge God."

Former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore

"It's actually very simple and it has nothing to do with religion."

Michael Broyde, a law professor in Emory University's law and religion program

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Montgomery, Ala. (RNS)—Shortly after being removed from his office as Alabama Supreme Court chief justice, Roy Moore and those who unseated him expressed differing views about what his removal means.

The state's Court of the Judiciary voted unanimously Nov. 13 to remove Moore from office for defying a court order declaring his placement of a Ten Commandments monument in a court building rotunda was unconstitutional.

"In defying that court's order, the chief justice placed himself above the law," said Chief Judge William Thompson, announcing the decision after a one-day trial.

Moore served as the state's chief judicial officer from January 2001 until his recent suspension when the ethics charges were filed.

He installed the controversial, 5,300-pound monument in the judicial building in August 2001. Two years later, he publicly declared he would not remove it even though a district court had ruled he should. An appeals court had affirmed the lower court ruling and the Supreme Court refused to hear his case.

Moore, addressing supporters immediately after the Court of the Judiciary announced its decision, said he was not surprised.

"This case is about whether or not we as a state can acknowledge God," he said. "The Court of the Judiciary ... has said that I will be removed from office because I will continue to acknowledge God."

He said such acknowledgment must continue to be pursued.

"Unless we do ... 'in God we trust'



REMOVED FROM OFFICE Former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore walks away from the state judicial building after being stripped of his position. (RNS photo by Charles Nesbitt)

will be taken from our money and 'one nation under God' from our pledge," he said.

But the nine-member panel emphasized in its 13-page judgment they were dealing with ethics and not religion.

"It is not a case about the public display of the Ten Commandments in the State Judicial Building nor the acknowledgment of God," they wrote. "Indeed, we recognize that the acknowledgment of God is very much a vital part of the public and private fabric of our country."

Justices determined Moore had violated state canons of judicial ethics, which call for him to uphold the integrity of the judiciary and respect the law.

"Chief Justice Moore did not have the legal authority to decide whether the federal court order issued to him in his official capacity as the state's highest judicial officer should be obeyed," they wrote.

"Rather, he was constitutionally mandated to obey it."

The judges had the options of censuring Moore, suspending him without pay or removing him from office, but they said removal was the only suitable penalty.

"Anything short of removal would only serve to set up another confrontation that would ultimately bring us back to where we are today," they concluded.

Moore wants monument in D.C.

The one day of testimony—with Moore as the sole witness—and the subsequent ruling were made in the same building where the controversial monument remains stored away.

Moore told his supporters he hopes the monument might be moved to the U.S. Capitol to help foster the "true meaning" of the First Amendment.

He said he would be discussing with his attorneys what he would do next.

Michael Broyde, a law professor in Emory University Law School's Law and Religion Program, said the case was less murky than the plethora of decisions that have been issued about Ten Commandments monuments.

"It's not obvious how any given Ten Commandments case gets resolved," he said. "What is obvious is when a federal judge turns to you and says 'Do this' and you don't do it, you're going to get sanctioned."

Defiance, not divinity, was the concern of the Court of the Judiciary, Broyde said.

"It's actually very simple and it has nothing to do with religion," he said. "Had they ordered him to take down the words 'There is no God' and he had defied them, the same result would have been reached."

Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, Ky., is seeking a

Minister of Music

to lead all aspects of the music programs of the church, including a graded choir program, handbells and congregational worship, and assist the pastor with worship and other ministries of the church.

The church is dually aligned with CBF and SBC.

Send resume to: Barbara Beck, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, 339 W Lexington Ave., Danville, KY 40422, or e-mail to: bbeck@setel.com.

Priceless

There are some experiences that simply can't be described with price tags

We've all seen the commercials that measure experiences in dollars, and then conclude that some experiences are "priceless." Most of us realize that what matters in life isn't the financial bottom line, but human experiences that have no price tag.

We see many "priceless" experiences in our work with students. For example, Oneida Baptist Institute might be among the most culturally diverse schools in America. In evaluating her Oneida years, my daughter listed "my friends from all over the world" as the most valuable part of her education.

Success for a particular student is a priceless experience. Recently, a senior was recognized for making the honor roll for the very first time. Our staff gave him a standing ovation. Many students find their first real taste of success in the classroom and elsewhere on our campus.

Leadership can't be valued. Many of our students find leadership experiences on the farm or in the OBI work program. Girls supervise in the dining hall. Boys are in charge of cleaning and mowing crews. Responsible students even drive tractors. Hall monitors are leaders in the dorms. Discovering the ability to lead others can change a person's entire direction in life.

Our culture tells young people that their only significance comes in pleasure and materialism. OBI teaches the Christian values of a work ethic and a sense of vocation. God is honored by any job done well.

Forgiveness is priceless. Many students have

been hurt by others and carry bitterness that has affected all areas of life. It is wonderful to see a suspicious scowl replaced with a smile. It might take months or years, but we often see angry young people forgive others and discover peace and self-respect.

Our culture is pessimistic about the ability of young people to live useful lives beyond adversity. OBI rejects the "victim mentality" and teaches students that the road to forgiveness is the road to self-respect.

Of course, the most priceless part of the Oneida experience is coming to know Christ as Savior and Lord. Every day on our campus, students begin their personal journey of faith. Many times we share this experience because of a public profession of faith. At other times we simply see a life that begins to honor God and follow Jesus.

Because our students come to us from many places, we can rejoice that other churches, and even nations, will see Christ in the life of one who passed through our school. Those who chose Jesus while at Oneida serve Him today all over the world.

Scripture tells us the angels rejoice over one person who comes to Christ. I believe each person who supports OBI can rejoice in the priceless experiences that happen here.

Someone you know—a relative, a student at church or in the community—needs Oneida. Perhaps your help in bringing that student to us will be the first of many priceless experiences that will change his or her life.

Michael Spencer is Campus minister of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; (606) 847-4111; www.oneida.school.org

THIS IS ONEIDA



Michael Spencer

Still on mission

Students prepared and sent while leaders go themselves

The missionary appointment service during the Kentucky Baptist Convention stirred memories of the evening my wife and I were appointed for service in the Philippines.

We returned from the field in 1986, and after two years in Orlando became Kentucky Baptist missionaries at Clear Creek. After 15 years we're still on mission-preparing, sending and going.

Each Thursday and Friday I teach a sermon preparation class with the opportunity to invest in the lives of 10 men. Some of them already lead churches. My wife teaches a "Parenting by Grace" class for student wives. It is encouraging to realize the potential future impact of these students and families.

The Lord of the harvest uses Clear Creek to send laborers into the fields. I share in the work accomplished by 1993 graduates and west Kentucky natives Charles and Carolyn Dixon, IMB missionaries in Tanzania. Clear Creek has a return from the ministry of Marine Chaplain Dan Stallard, a Danville

native who graduated in 1991. Dan influences other soldiers as an instructor at the Army War College near Washington, D.C. I rejoice in the continuing growth and mission support occurring at Calvary Baptist Church in London where 1987 alumnus Harlan Avera Jr. is pastor.

Clear Creek helps prepare and send workers, and we also go ourselves. In September nearly 200 people attended a community block party on our softball field. This effort by faculty, staff and students reached out to community residents. It was the first time some neighbors had been on our campus. Theology professor Fred Cummings is pastor of a new church in Middlesboro, and students are part of his core group. Next summer, student mission teams led by faculty will head to Russia, Belarus, France, Boston and Ohio.

Since 1926 Clear Creek has claimed mission opportunities through a "wide door for effective service" (1 Corinthians 16:9). Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for helping us remain on mission.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Drive-in church?



SERMON IN THE SUN A vintage photo shows a Canada Day flag service at the Daytona Beach Drive-In Church (Disciples of Christ) in the 1950s. The Florida church, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, has an average of 700 visitors weekly, said Senior Minister Larry Deitch. (RNS photo courtesy of Daytona Beach Resort Area)

Innovative worship spot outlasts theater that houses it

By Ted Parks
Religion News Service

Daytona Beach Shores, Fla. (RNS)—It's Sunday morning again—time to wrestle the kids as they wiggle on the pew in the uncomfortable clothes you made them put on.

Ever get to church and wish you could just stay in the car?

Here, you can. Now concluding its 50th year in what was once the Neptune Drive-In Theater, the Daytona Beach Drive-In Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) allows families to sit in their cars and worship beneath the Florida sky.

Located across from the Atlantic Ocean on a highway dotted with hotels, condos and restaurants, the congregation attracts an average of 700 people every week.

In many ways Sunday morning at Drive-In Christian is like Sunday morning at other churches. Participants sing, pray, take communion and listen to a sermon—but all from their automobiles. "We worship just like anyone else does, we just do it outdoors," said Drive-In Christian's senior minister, Larry Deitch.

The minister delivers his message from a high balcony just below where the movie screen once hung. To hear the service, worship-

pers either park in the two or three rows of the drive-in that still have speakers or tune into the worship on low-power radio.

Communion kits, golf cart offering

In keeping with Disciples of Christ tradition, communion at the church is weekly. As churchgoers pull in, they receive a bulletin and a packaged communion kit.

When time comes for the offering, worship assistants drive golf carts to collect the gifts on each row of parked cars. There are 18 rows on the church's nearly 12 acres of prime Florida real estate.

The drive-in congregation started when the minister at a Disciples of Christ congregation further inland in Daytona dreamed of holding services in the outdoor theater closer to the beach, Deitch said. The minister told his church board about his plan in 1952, a year before he actually carried it out.

Eighty people met for the first service in the theater. By the end of the first year, the new drive-in services were averaging 250 people.

The drive-in idea in Florida predated a similar approach across the country in California. It was 1955 when Robert Schuller first conducted worship from atop the snack bar

at the Orange Drive-In Theater in Orange, Calif., according to John Charles, spokesperson for the Crystal Cathedral, which Schuller eventually founded.

Schuller's slogan in the drive-in days was "come as you are in your family car," Charles said.

In Daytona, the drive-in theater had a double life the first few years after the church bought the Neptune in 1958.

Because the purchase agreement stipulated films would continue to be shown for a period, the church hosted worship on the weekends and movies during the week. The minister and his wife drove up the coast to Jacksonville to pick up films, Deitch said.

These days, with outdoor movie theaters largely succumbing to newer ways of delivering entertainment, maintaining the old equipment at Drive-In Christian has been a challenge.

A few years back, the church replaced the old speaker wiring, which dated back to the 1930s when the original theater was built.

Deitch said the builders put the first wires directly in the ground, very different from modern construction practices that call for underground wiring to run in con-

duit, or special pipes for electric cables.

Maintenance difficult

And drive-in parts are hard to come by. The church limits the old speaker sound system to a few rows, the cars in the other parking spots tuning in on their own radios. But, like the old days, numerous parking spots on the front half of the property still have speaker posts, lending the property the look of a drive-in movie theater.

As for delivering sermons outside in the Florida heat, Deitch said he discovered a preacher's robe was surprisingly cooler than shirt sleeves.

In certain seasons the sun shines in his eyes as he looks out over the sea of worshipping drivers and passengers, but he was unable to find sunglasses that worked well for him while preaching.

"I do wear sunscreen, though," he added.

While some Christians might find a drive-in church unorthodox, Deitch, 58, enjoys his unique ministry.

"I did church indoors for 30 years," he said. "And then I decided to go and do it like Jesus, outdoors by the seashore."

Bush letter to gay church raises some eyebrows

Washington (RNS)—Leaders of a predominantly gay denomination say they are perplexed by a congratulatory letter sent by President Bush the same week he was publicly opposing gay marriage.

Officials from Metropolitan Community Churches received a congratulations letter on the 35th anniversary of their flagship congregation in Los Angeles. The denomination was founded in 1968 as a haven for gay Christians, and now claims 43,000 members.

The letter was dated Oct. 14, during the same week Bush proclaimed as "Marriage Protection Week" to oppose gay marriage. The MCC named the same week "Marriage Equality Week" to support gay marriage.

"By encouraging the celebration of faith and sharing God's love and boundless mercy, churches like yours put hope in people's hearts and a sense of purpose in their lives," the Bush letter said, according to a copy provided by MCC.

"This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on your years of service and to rejoice in God's faithfulness to your congregation."

Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the church, said Bush was sending "a very mixed message" to a denomination that performs 6,000 same-sex weddings each year.

Conservative activists at the Family Research Council, meanwhile, said the letter "looks troubling" and have asked the White House for an explanation. A White House spokeswoman was not immediately available for comment.

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:

■ Baptists in Hungary who want to begin English-as-a-second-language lessons in hopes of eventually starting new Bible studies.

■ A "gateway team" in Madrid, Spain, gives thanks for new Christians from sub-Saharan Africa and requests prayer for 19 South Americans and 10 Russian-speakers who have asked for Bible study opportunities.

■ A live nativity scene to be displayed in Amberg, Germany, Dec. 5-23. Baptist representatives are preparing to hand out evangelistic tracts.

■ Baptists in Bulgaria to develop a vision to reach the numerous Muslims coming into the country.

■ New ministries being developed by Baptists in Milano, Italy, and for opportunities that might develop after Texas Baptists were there recently for prayer walks.

■ The 236 students, campus ministers and staff who recently attended the Baptist Convention of New England's fall collegiate conference, that they will be able to apply what they learned.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church called **Greg Howard** as interim minister of music.

■ **BETSY LAYNE**—Calvary Southern Church will host a community Thanksgiving service Nov. 26, 7 p.m. **Doug Lewis** is pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church recently ordained **John Beach** to the gospel ministry.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church recently called **Jason Strickland** as associate pastor. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.

Little River Association recently called **Michael Rust** as director of missions. He previously was pastor of Buena Vista Church in Owensboro.

Second Church recently called **Clarence Terry** as pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Rosedale Church ordained Pastor **Brian Stephens** to the gospel ministry Nov. 9.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Centerfield Church recently called **Tom Collier** as pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Hebron Church called **Joe Farless** as interim pastor.

Victory Church called **Wallace York** as interim pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Immanuel Church will host a youth family fun night Nov. 22. **Charles Darland** is pastor.

Saverns Valley Church recently called **Allen Bishop** as minister to children. **Billy Compton** is senior pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Bellepoint Church ordained **Kenneth Wells** and **Philip Williams** as deacons Oct. 26. **Dennis Hammons** is senior pastor.

Thornhill Church ordained **John Gilbert**, **Mike Hawkins** and

Tom Thompson as deacons Nov. 9. **Steve Payne** is pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—Walnut Grove Church called **Gary Frizzell** as interim pastor.

■ **GRAND RIVERS**—Corinth Church recently called **Rich Gardner** as pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Casky Church will host **Dwight Ashley** in concert Nov. 23, 11 a.m. **Will Stone** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church called **Daniel Partin** as supply youth minister. **Phil Schultz** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Hart Church will host a one-day "Good News Crusade" Dec. 28, 10 a.m., with **David Ring** as evangelist. For more information, visit www.hartbaptistchurch.org. **Jeff Jackson** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church called **Derek Yelton** as pastor.

West Broadway Church called **Chris Carden** as part-time minister of education. **Sherman Ramsey** is pastor.

■ **MACKVILLE**—Mackville Church will host the musical group **Sounds of Liberty** Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Mackville Community Center.

■ **MILTON**—Corn Creek Church called **Aaron O'Kelly** as pastor. He is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **PRINCETON**—Liberty Church recently called **Jerrell White** as interim pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church ordained **Fred Dodd** as a deacon Oct. 2. **D.L. Brewer** is pastor.

■ **SALEM**—Lola Church recently called **Jim Bellamy** as pastor.

■ **TOMPKINSVILLE**—First Church recently called **Tom Stokes** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Oakland Church.

■ **UTICA**—Green Brier Church ordained **David Holmes** and **David Wilson** as deacons Nov. 2.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church called **Adam McChesney** as interim youth minister. **John Lepper** is interim pastor.

Baptists aid families who lost homes to Philippines blaze

Manila, Philippines (BP)—When a late-night fire raged through three neighborhoods and left thousands of people homeless in Manila, Philippines, on Oct. 20, Southern Baptist missionaries and their Filipino Baptist co-workers moved quickly to respond.

They were able to help hundreds of families, one missionary said, because of Southern Baptists' generous missions giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

As many as 2,000 families lost

their homes to the fire, which emergency crews fought for eight hours in the suburbs of Pasay and Makati.

Southern Baptist missionaries responded by drawing \$2,000 from International Mission Board relief funds and assembling bags of food for fire victims who had taken refuge in Pasay Community of Praise Church, a Baptist congregation in the neighborhood.

The Baptist response was part of a broader effort involving government offices, humanitarian

organizations and other missions agencies. Filipino staff members of the IMB office in Manila helped distribute food through the Pasay church.

The congregation held a thanksgiving and praise service Oct. 30 for fire victims housed in the church building, so all the families would have an opportunity to hear the gospel.

"We are thankful we had the opportunity to minister to the people of Pasay," said Mark Harvey, strategy leader for the missionary team fo-

cused on the Filipino people groups of Luzon Island. "We also are grateful for the ability to partner with the Pasay Baptist church to ease the suffering of those who were victimized by the fire."

Missionaries are on the field and able to respond to a crisis like this because of Southern Baptist support through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Harvey said. Funds for relief efforts also come from CP and designated gifts to hunger and relief funds.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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 family 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: 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: 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 Tates 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 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: 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: Melber Baptist Church, Melber, Ky., is seeking a part-time music minister. Send resumé to Hulan Oliver, 996 St. RT 945, Boaz, KY 42027.

SEEKING: Worship leader position at Alton Baptist in Lawrenceburg, Ky. Accepting resumé until Dec. 10. Phone: (502) 839-3487; fax: 839-3488.

SEEKING: First Baptist, Mayfield, Ky., is seeking full-time worship/music minister. Average attendance: 500+. Blended worship style with worship team. Position will give leadership to graded music program, 65-member sanctuary choir, worship team and worship planning. Send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, First Baptist Church, 118 W South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Westwood Baptist Church, a CBF-affiliated church in Springfield, Va., seeks applicants for the position of associate pastor/minister with youth and children. Candidates should have a degree from an accredited seminary, relevant experience in this ministry field and a genuine love for youth and children. Resumés should be submitted to: PSC, Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152.

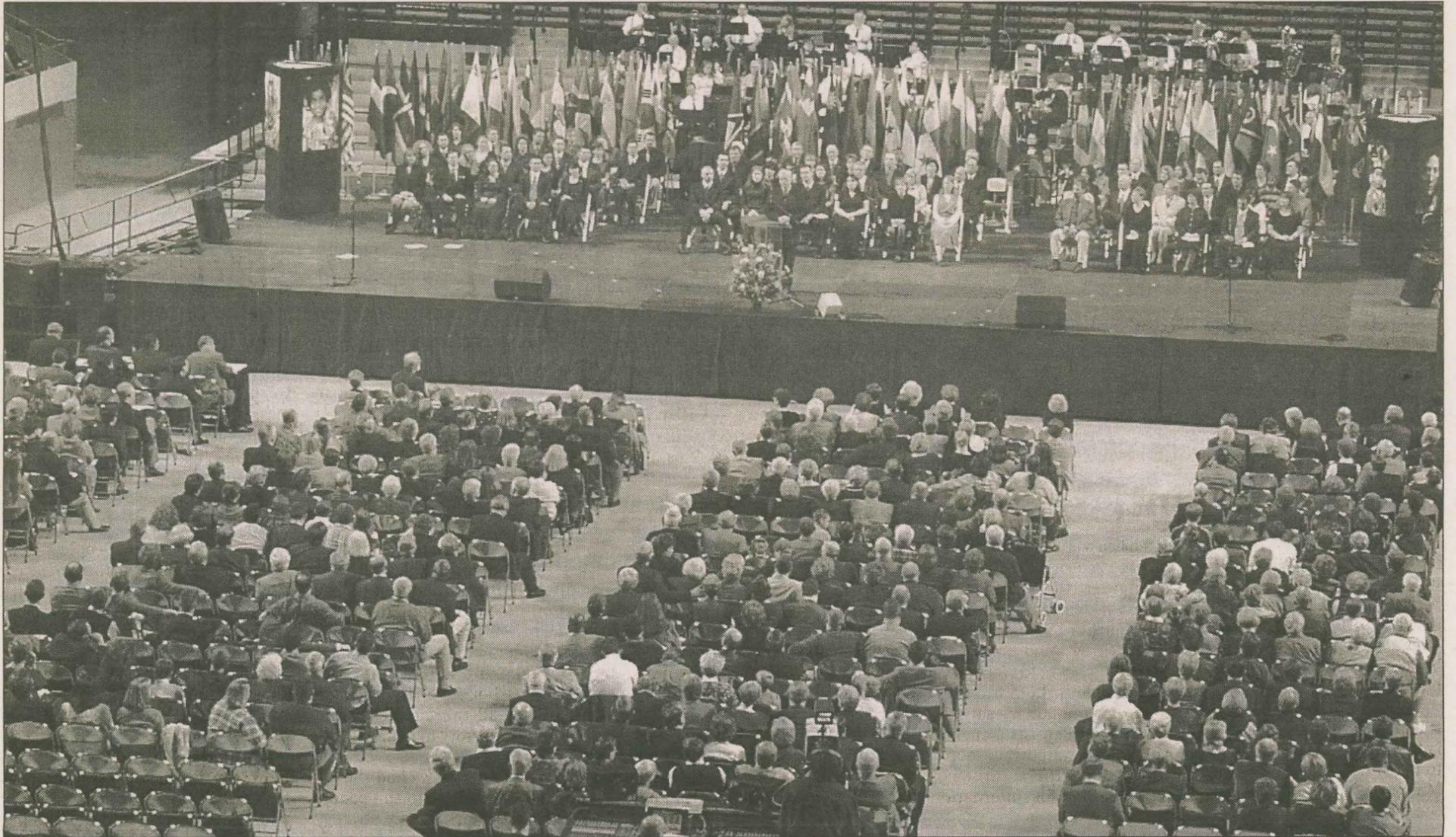
SEEKING: Minister of Music for Utica Baptist Church (located just south of Owensboro). Solid Baptist foundation, ability to meet the needs of our music ministry—will work with adults and children. Send resumé, tape, sample order of service and any other pertinent information to: Music Committee Chairman Ken Sheppard, PO Box 8, Utica, KY 42376, or e-mail to Church@klshep.net or uticabchurch@juno.com.

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.

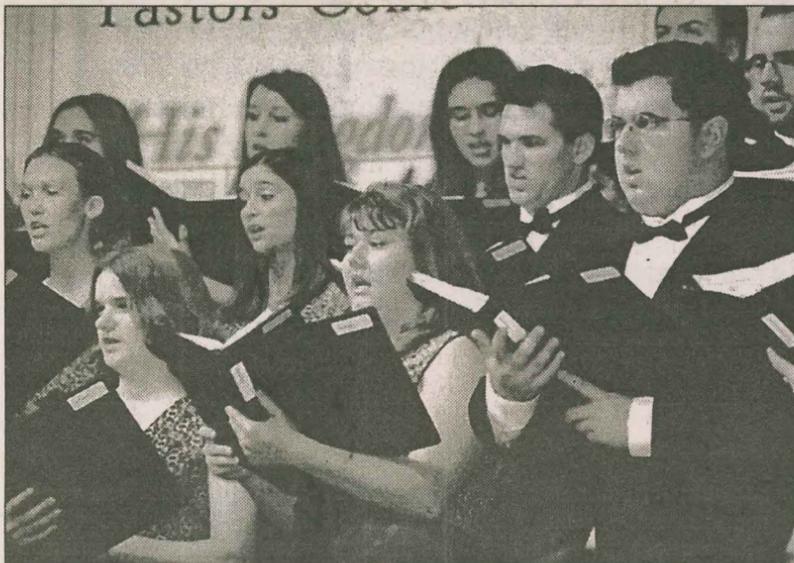
SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church. We have a fast-growing congregation and a Sunday school enrollment in excess of 325. We are looking for the man God has prepared for this position. Prayerfully submit resumé to: Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 400 Olive Branch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

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

KB scenes



COMMISSIONING SERVICE International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin speaks at the commissioning service at Rupp Arena. Approximately 3,500 people attended. (KBC photo by Brad Wilder)



CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY CHORALE Singers perform just prior to the school's report to messengers.



SIGN PRAYER Richie Noble of the Eastern Kentucky Regional Deaf Ministry delivers an opening prayer in sign language for one of the sessions.



HUG TIME Stan Meador, a new missionary and former minister of education at First Baptist Church of Franklin, hugs his mom after the commissioning service.



INTERNATIONAL PRAYER Monica Merrifield, a student at the University of Louisville, delivers a prayer for international student ministry.



SPECIAL MUSIC Brendan McKinney, a musician from Nashville, performs at the closing session.

Kentucky Baptist Heritage

Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

November 18, 2003

Slavery and the Church

Harold D. Tallant, PhD Georgetown College

Few issues proved more troubling to American Christians than slavery, and in the thirty years before the Civil War, slavery created crises not only in the political world but also in the religious world. By the 1830s, the remarkable surge in evangelicalism that some call the Second Great Awakening had given rise to numerous reform movements, among them the abolitionist movement. Arguing that the slaveholders' absolute control over their slaves prompted sinful abuses of power and ultimately limited the slaves' ability to follow God freely according to their own consciences, antislavery Christians challenged their religious denominations to punish such sin by denying ordination or financial support to slaveholding ministers and, perhaps, by disfellowshipping slaveholders and their churches. Such efforts placed abolitionists in conflict with increasingly militant slaveholders, who claimed that slavery—practiced by the Hebrew patriarchs, regulated by the law of Moses, never condemned in the gospels, and seemingly upheld by Paul's epistles—was approved by the Bible as a part of the divine order for the world. Conflict over these issues led to the appearance of several abolitionist "come-outer" sects, tiny splinter denominations that disfellowshipped slaveholders, and ultimately the division of the major denominations along sectional lines. The slavery issue contributed to the Presbyterian schism of 1837-38 and served as the principal catalyst for the Methodist split of 1844 and the Baptist division of 1845.

Underlying this debate was the question of how to interpret the Bible's teachings on slavery in light of the debaters' own racial and political views. For Kentuckians and others, a key issue concerned how to interpret Jesus' second great commandment, to love your neighbor as yourself. Editor William C. Buck of the *Baptist Banner*, a forerunner to the *Western Recorder*, argued that God, knowing that children, women, and slaves were not capable of governing themselves, had lovingly created hierarchical relationships among people so that the strong could restrain the sinful, teach the ignorant, and help the weak. Furthermore, Buck argued, slavery provided a particularly charitable form of hierarchy, for it gave the master an economic incentive to take good care of his valuable property, thus ensuring humane treatment of slaves. So convinced was Buck of the benevolent nature of slavery that he argued slavery might be a charitable solution to the suffering of the Irish amid the ongoing potato famine. Believing that "the obligation to love our neighbor as ourself[ves] pervades all the relations which we can possibly bear to one another in this life" while also believing in racial inferiority, Buck asserted that loving your neighbor meant treating the slave as you would want to be treated if you were a slave (*The Slavery Question*, 5).

The abolitionist minister John G. Fee scoffed at such arguments that claimed Christian love involved treating people differently based on racial or class distinction. Citing the biblical precept that "God is no respecter of persons," Fee claimed such arguments as Buck's arose from remnants of the sinful nature buried within the hearts of the regenerate and asked, "Have old things passed away and all things become new, when these feelings of selfishness remain" (Acts 10:34; *Anti-Slavery Manual*, 85; *Nonfellowship with Slaveholders*, 12)? "Slavery . . . violates the fundamental law of the Christian religion—LOVE," Fee argued. "No man can love God as he ought and, at the same time," make property of "God's image—man. No man can love his neighbor as himself and hold that neighbor on the scale of a brute"—an animal. "No man can do as he would men should do unto him and deprive . . . another of liberty—personal ownership" (*Why Agitate the Slavery Question*, 4). "Doing to men as they would be done by," Fee argued, meant "giving to the slave freedom at once . . . in the land of his birth" (Fee to the American Missionary Association, May 1854, AMA Archives).

Ultimately, there was no peaceful resolution to the question of the meaning of Jesus' simple command to "love your neighbor as yourself," and the issue of slavery—both political and religious in nature—brought the nation to Civil War. Near the end of his life, Abraham Lincoln noted the religious irony of that great conflict: "Both [sides] read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. . . . The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes" (Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865).

Evil Necessity: Slavery and Political Culture in Antebellum Kentucky

By Harold D. Tallant

University Press of Kentucky, 2003

328 pages, cloth binding, \$45

Available from major booksellers in Lexington and Louisville and from Amazon.com

As most southerners embraced a militant proslavery ideology in the years before the Civil War, Kentuckians viewed slavery as an "evil necessity," a harmful institution that was nonetheless necessary for the survival of the region. While this moderate position sparked debate about the very existence of slavery in Kentucky, it also resulted in a do-nothing policy that preserved human bondage.