



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

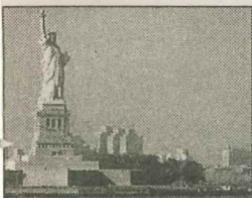
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NFL fine doesn't halt popularity of Kitna's cross cap

Cincinnati (RNS)—Sometimes there is no better marketing than word of mouth.

That has been especially true in Cincinnati in the wake of a controversial call by the National Football League, which fined Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Jon Kitna \$5,000 for wearing unauthorized headgear too close to game time during a television interview.

Kitna's cap was emblazoned with a simple cross—a symbol of the Pro Bowl quarterback's devotion to Jesus.

The NFL told the Bengals that Kitna was in violation of a rule requiring all merchandise worn by players or other team personnel to be approved and licensed by the football league. The cross cap was not a licensed item.

The news hit hard in the Queen City, and upon learning of the NFL's decision, owners of The Catholic Shop in a northern suburb decided they would begin selling the caps for \$5 a pop. Since Dec. 22, they've sold more than 4,000 of the embroidered cross caps, and they anticipate selling up to 1,000 a day "as long as we can get them in," said Catholic Shop co-owner Dan Giroux.

Giroux's wife, Ann, had been a guest on a local radio talk show, originally scheduled to discuss Mel Gibson's new movie, "The Passion," when the hat controversy emerged.

"She and the talk-show host got talking about how Jon Kitna was such a great guy, a good quarterback and a really dedicated Christian," Giroux said.

Now dubbed "Kitna caps," the items have attracted buyers from as far away as Chicago and Indianapolis, he said.

"The phone's been ringing off the hook, and we quit taking pre-orders because of all the out-of-town folks who said they weren't going to leave without a cap," Giroux said.

Just before Christmas, Giroux said Kitna visited the store to thank the entrepreneurs for their support.

"He just showed up, unannounced, very shyly and reached out to shake my hand," Giroux said. "Then he just walked away."

Giroux said he quickly asked the quarterback to autograph one of the caps for his wife. "He signed it: 'To Jennifer: God bless your boldness. Galatians 6:9.'"

The cyber call



Will your church find next pastor online?

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

Dallas (ABP)—For more and more churches and their ministers, a match made in heaven may have been launched in cyberspace.

Every day thousands of ministers log onto a constellation of Internet Web sites looking for a new church to serve—especially on Mondays.

And with increasing frequency, church representatives also turn to the Web, posting ministerial vacancies and sorting through potential candidate resumes.

Although these cybersearches might not totally replace more conventional means of finding ministers—such as tapping ministers' friendship networks and seminary placement services—they're definitely gaining ground.

For example, www.ChurchStaffing.com receives 2,500 to 3,000 unique visitors on weekdays and slightly fewer on weekends, said Todd Rhoades, president of the site,

in Bryan, Ohio.

"We normally carry between 400 and 500 current job openings, which we try to keep as current as possible," Rhoades said. "And we currently have a little over 3,000 resumes on file."

That site also has partnered with Dallas-based Leadership Network to offer www.LeadNetChurchStaffing.com, which posts job listings for churches with attendance that averages 1,000 or more.

Even restricted to such large churches, the site relates to about 2,500 to 3,000 congregations nationwide, said Dave Travis, senior vice president for Leadership Network.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas hosts two free Internet-based search programs—www.CPIS.org serves churches of all sizes and ministers of all types, while www.bivocational.com specializes in bivocational ministers and smaller churches.

The ministers who operate the Web sites—and almost without exception, the sites are run by people who have served in church or denominational ministry positions—cite multiple reasons for the popularity of Internet ministry searches:

Good matches. "We hope www.CPIS.org will help search committees find ministers who match their church preferences. And we hope they have longer tenures because of it," said Ed Hale, director of the Church and Membership Resourcing Center for the Texas convention.

"As a director of missions, I found very little help for churches who wanted to do their own research and find the right match."

The www.CPIS.org Web site allows a church to complete a form that filters resumes for various preferences and priorities and provides the church confidential profiles of four or five possible matches.

□ See "More churches turn ..." Page 8

Barrows donates music collection to Southern Seminary

Louisville (BP)—

While relocating his residence from Atlanta to Charlotte, N.C., this past fall, Cliff Barrows realized his vast collection of hymnals and music books needed a new home as well.

Barrows, long-time music and programming director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, decided to contact an old friend for a recommendation about where the collection might best continue to serve the work of Christ.

The friend was Donald Hustad, retired professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and former organist for Billy Graham's crusade teams.

"I knew I wouldn't be able to use all those hymnals," Barrows said. "When we moved here from Atlanta, it was the perfect opportunity to donate them. I asked Don what I should do with all these hymnals. I wanted to give them to a library that will allow people to continue to use them."

Barrows recently donated his collection—298 hymnals and 13 additional music-related books—to Boyce Centennial Library at Southern Seminary. He chose the seminary at Hustad's urging and because of existing connections to Southern through the Billy Graham school of missions, evangelism and church growth. The seminary library also contains a collection of materials from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's early years.

The Barrows collection includes songbooks from Graham crusades and compilations by Barrows as well as solo and duet songbooks used by the Graham ministry.

Barrows made it a point to buy hymnals from each country the Graham crusades visited. Many hymnals in the collection are in such languages as French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Welsh, Russian and Swedish.

SBC, international leaders at odds over BWA proposal

SBC president endorses plan to cut ties to BWA

Dallas—Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham has endorsed a study committee's recommendation that the SBC withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance, claiming the BWA "is becoming a marginalized organization which is having a smaller and smaller influence for the gospel of Christ around the world."

International Baptist leaders, meanwhile, expressed shock and dismay at the SBC leaders' proposal.

A nine-member study committee, working on behalf of the SBC Executive Committee, issued its recommendation Dec. 19 that the SBC terminate its membership in the BWA at the start of the coming fiscal year, on Oct. 1.

David Coffey, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said the SBC recommendation is "based on a false understanding of Baptist faith and practice."

Theo Angelov, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, said the attempt to break relations appears to be over "ideology rather than Christian doctrine."

Graham, in a statement issued Dec. 23, said, "In a world full of terrorists and extremists, we do not have time to play religious games or become bogged down in the quagmire of Baptist debates. It is time for Southern Baptists to move on and get busy fulfilling the Great Commission in our lifetime."

Graham, pastor of the Dallas-area Prestonwood Baptist Church, added, "Southern Baptists desire to work with like-minded believers who share our strategic commitment to the Word of God and the message of Christ."

Graham said he will "encourage our churches and convention to develop new Baptist and Christian alliances worldwide which will

genuinely commit to the task of world evangelism and the testimony of Jesus Christ. This is the right and best decision for Southern Baptists."

Theological concerns were cited as the core reason for the study committee's recommendation for an SBC exit from the BWA.

The theological problems, according to the committee, involve "an increasing influence of positions contrary to the New Testament and to Baptist doctrines"—positions "being advocated in the various commissions and committees of the BWA"—stemming from "a number of European and North American conventions" with prominence in the BWA.

The study committee also charged that "a decided anti-American tone has emerged in recent years. Continued emphasis on women as pastors, frequent criticisms of the International Mission Board of Southern Baptists, refusal to allow open discussion on issues such as abortion, and the funding of questionable enterprises through Baptist World Aid provide just a surface sampling of what has transpired in recent years."

Responding to the committee's concerns, Coffey said, "In their concern to defend the truth of the gospel, the SBC study committee has failed to safeguard the primacy of freedom of conscience and have consequently delivered a victory for ideology over theology."

"Our feeling is that we still need each other and that we should continue to love one another," Angelov agreed. "Any attempt to break this relationship and to separate brothers and sisters in Christ should not prevail over the Christian love that must exist between one another."

The SBC study committee's recommendation, if approved next month by the Executive Committee, would be forwarded to messengers at the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 in Indianapolis.

Based on reporting by Baptist Press and EthicsDaily.com

German theologian calls SBC charges false allegations

Bochum, Germany (ABP)—A German Baptist theologian, who was cited as an example of "aberrant and dangerous" theology within the Baptist World Alliance, says the Southern Baptist committee that leveled those charges is guilty of lying and should repent.

"All of your allegations are totally unsubstantiated," Erich Geldbach wrote in a Dec. 29 letter to Morris Chapman, chairman of a Southern Baptist Convention study committee that is proposing the SBC withdraw its membership and financial support from BWA.

"Your committee is therefore guilty of trespassing at least two commandments: 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor' (Exodus 20:16) and 'Lie not one to another' (Colossians 3:9)," Geldbach wrote.

Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, and eight other prominent Southern Baptists serve on the special committee, which accused the BWA of questioning biblical inerrancy, promoting women as pastors, and downplaying the doctrine of salvation only through Jesus.

The committee's report, released Dec. 19, cites as an example of the BWA's "leftward drift" a 1997 presentation by an unnamed "German Baptist theologian" to a BWA-sponsored meeting of Baptist theology professors in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"In a theological workgroup," the SBC report noted, "Dr. Ken Hemphill was asked to deliver a paper on 'The Great Commission of our Lord.' After a superb paper, one respondent chosen by the BWA to participate replied, 'I am not even sure that there is any such thing as the Great Commission, but if there is I am confident that Jesus never said it.'"

Geldbach, in his letter to Chapman, said the unnamed theologian could only be him, since "to my knowledge no other German theologian was present." Geldbach was one of three people asked to respond to the presentation by Hemphill, then president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"It is of utmost importance for me to point out that nowhere in my response to Dr. Hemphill's paper is there any such foolish statement as your committee suggested by giving a direct quote," Geldbach wrote. "What is being presented as a direct quote is neither my language, nor could I identify with such a statement, which I would dismiss as theological trash."

With his letter to Chapman, Geldbach included a copy of his 1997 response to Hemphill. "Should you find anywhere in my response a sentence that comes even close to your quote of what I was supposed to have said, then language, as means of communication, no longer works," the professor said.

The copy Geldbach provided of his response does not include the quotation cited by the SBC committee. However, Geldbach questions Hemphill's assertion that the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) should be the "central focus of the entire seminary experience" or "the heart of theological education."

"My conclusion," Geldbach wrote, "is that we should not try to distill one particular form of evangelism from the New Testament, but leave open the option to have a great variety of approaches which differ from country to country, from culture to culture, from continent to continent."

A comprehensive view of evangelism should include a response to injustice, hunger, unemployment and racism, Geldbach wrote.

Chapman declined to comment on the specifics of Geldbach's letter. He said the letter was e-mailed Dec. 31 to members of the SBC study committee, which may respond later.

IMB firing missionaries named top Baptist news of 2003

Jacksonville, Fla. (ABP)—The firing or resignation of 77 missionaries in a dispute over the Southern Baptist Convention's revised doctrinal statement topped the news in Southern Baptist life for 2003.

The top 10 stories among Baptists and other religious groups as chosen by the editors of Baptist state newspapers are:

1. Missionaries refuse to sign. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board fired 13 missionaries who refused to affirm the SBC's 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. Another 54 missionaries resigned rather than sign the statement and 10 more took retirement.

2. SBC leaving Baptist World Alliance. The Southern Baptist Convention, the largest member and contributor to the Baptist World Alliance, will withdraw its membership and money from the worldwide fellowship of 43 million Baptists if a study committee's Dec. 19 recommendation is approved. Southern Baptist leaders complain the BWA is

not conservative enough. BWA leader Denton Lotz says the SBC action is "a sin against love" that will split the worldwide Baptist family.

3. Jibla Baptist Hospital attacked. An Islamic terrorist attacked Jibla Baptist Hospital in the Middle East country of Yemen Dec. 30, 2002, killing administrator William Koehn, physician Martha Myers and purchaser Kathy Gariety—all three mission workers with the International Mission Board. It was the worst tragedy in the 156-year history of the IMB.

4. Mission boards cut staff. The IMB eliminated 61 home office jobs June 10, displacing 37 employees, in an attempt to address a financial shortfall of more than \$10 million. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board eliminated 31 positions and cut seven current employees Oct. 8 in an attempt to carve \$11 million out of its budget.

5. Ten Commandments judge removed. Roy Moore, Alabama's chief justice, defied a federal judge's

order to remove a 5,280 pound granite monument to the Ten Commandments that he had placed in the building that houses the state Supreme Court. On Nov. 13, the Alabama Court of the Judiciary voted unanimously to remove Moore from office for violating judicial ethics by defying a higher court's order.

6. Hemphill resigns, Patterson elected at Southwestern Seminary. Ken Hemphill, 54, announced in April he would take early retirement as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, to become national strategist for the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis. In June, Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., returned to his native Texas to succeed Hemphill as Southwestern president.

7. Episcopal Church divided over gay bishop. The August decision to appoint a homosexual bishop of New Hampshire threatened to split both the Episcopal Church U.S.A.

and the international Anglican Communion.

8. Baptists respond to war in Iraq, Afghanistan. The U.S. invasion of Iraq, and lingering war in Afghanistan, prompted both support and concern among Southern Baptists and other denominations. Meanwhile, Southern Baptists prepared to enter post-war Iraq with relief supplies.

9. State Baptist conventions cut staff. The economic recession hits churches and, in turn, the ministries they support, prompting several state conventions to respond with layoffs and budget cuts. The Kentucky Baptist Convention eliminated two support staff positions due to budget cuts and a broader staff reorganization prompted by a five-year mission study plan.

10. Christian-Islam relations. President Bush insists the war on terrorism is not a war on Islam. However, interfaith relations between Christians and Muslims are strained at home and abroad.

If we build it ...

Owensboro-area church revitalized after nearly being wiped off map

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Maceo—Thelma Duncan can't talk about the resurgence of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church without recalling how bleak the future looked after a March 1997 flood destroyed the sanctuary.

With only \$15,000 of insurance coverage and \$10,000 in savings, many doubted the historic congregation could raise the estimated \$100,000 needed to rebuild.

"We were sad and crying," said Mrs. Duncan, her voice trembling with emotion. "Our church was going to be destroyed, and we didn't know what we were going to do."

But thanks to a boost from Campers on Mission, a group of Kentucky Baptist volunteers who work on construction projects, today the rural Daviess County church is thriving.

In December 1997, the church moved into its new sanctuary, which cost just \$48,000 thanks to the volunteer labor.

After increased attendance at the new building, volunteers returned this summer to help erect a 30-by-30-foot addition. Dedicated in mid-September, it serves as a fellowship hall and educational space.

Since the flood, worship attendance has more than tripled, with eight people baptized on a recent Sunday. New children's Sunday school classes have formed, and the church has paid all construction costs for both buildings.

Elderly members who form the backbone of the church look forward to Dawson Memorial continuing after they are gone.

"The Lord was determined we were going to have a church there," said Moreland Duncan, a member for more than 50 years and treasurer for the past 30. "He wasn't ready for us to give up. It's a miracle the way things have worked."

Located 12 miles northeast of Owensboro, Dawson Memorial was founded around 1840. Originally known as a "union" church because it included members from four denominations, others dropped away until only Baptists were left.

Membership peaked at 90 in 1929 before slowly dwindling. Only 17 members were on hand for the June 1997 rebuilding vote, but Sunday attendance has since rebounded to an average of 65, according to Pastor Steve Boyd.

The bivocational pastor, who teaches fourth grade at Hardinsburg Elementary School, praised Campers on Mission for its key role in Dawson's survival.

He also credited the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which held a three-day retreat that spring for pastors and spouses of churches



ADDING ON Campers on Mission and members of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church worked this summer to build a 30-by-30-foot addition to the church's building. The space, which serves as a fellowship hall and educational space, is indicative of the church's growth since nearly losing everything in the flood of 1997.

damaged by flooding; and the Western Recorder for publicizing their plight.

The resulting aid helped the church recover from the demoralizing impact of the '97 flood, Boyd said.

A variety of churches and individuals across the state and nation donated about \$25,000 toward the rebuilding, while Campers on Mission represented a tangible answer to prayer.

"I just can't say enough about (them)," Boyd said. "I hadn't heard about them until I went to that retreat. We didn't have money and weren't able to get permits, but Campers on Mission lit up the world, because there was hope in one area."

"Our miracle church"

David Fuquay, a member of Hawes Street Baptist Church in Owensboro who worked on both projects, calls Dawson Memorial "our miracle church."

Fuquay, project manager for Kentucky Campers on Mission, said that almost every day of the 1997 construction saw unusual events.

The most remarkable involved placing the last six trusses on the building, which had to be placed on an eight-foot-high foundation to raise it out of the flood plain.

Because the crane used to get the first 25 up was no longer available, five men struggled to get the trusses in place.

As they were about to give up, a white pick-up truck with four men passed by. The driver stopped, turned around and came back. Thanks to the additional help, they finished the job.

"Afterwards I asked who around

there had a white truck and we couldn't find the owner," Fuquay said. "We decided that God had intervened and sent those men. If I hadn't been there, I don't know if I would have believed that story."

Kentucky Campers on Mission is one of about 300 chapters nationwide. While construction is their leading endeavor, volunteers also work with disaster relief, vacation Bible schools and a variety of other ministries.

In 2002, all Campers on Mission volunteers donated about 315,000 hours of labor on 2,000 projects, according to Judy Dew of the volunteer mobilization department of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. They also recorded 508 professions of faith in Christ as Savior.

But Boyd said the spark the volunteers helped light is only the beginning.

The main message

Having an appealing building helps, he said, but a primary reason for increased attendance stems from strong Bible teaching, fellowship and prayer ministry.

After the flood, the church started a Wednesday night Bible study program. It also purchased pew Bibles so everyone could follow the teaching sessions.

If school duties prevent him from making the 40-mile drive to the church, various lay leaders take over, Boyd said.

To promote fellowship, the church has potluck dinners on Wednesdays and a potluck breakfast before Sunday school.

"I visit a good bit, and our members keep in contact with people," the pastor said. "Since I became pastor, we only have one resident

member that hasn't attended. I don't think many churches can say that. We pray for each other and care about each other."

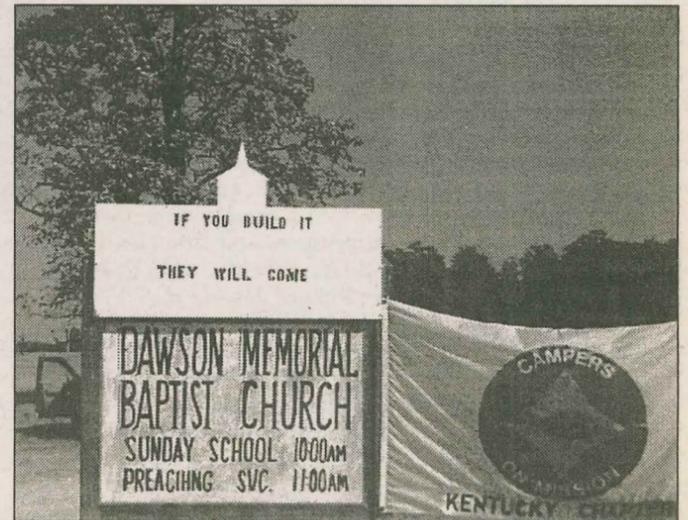
For example, after one woman lost her job, other members helped pay her bills and prayed until she found another position, Boyd said.

When members are sick, they receive hospital visits and help with house chores and meals, he added.

Still, whenever members talk about caring attitudes, they will always remember Campers on Mission.

They have left a tangible sign, too, erecting a three-foot-tall brick memorial. On it rests the old church bell and a plaque thanking the group for its efforts.

"A lot of people talk about our world today (being bad), but there's still a lot of good people left," Thelma Duncan said. "We appreciate their help."



SIGN OF THE TIMES Campers on Mission and members give an indication of future direction during the building project this past summer.

Court nixes posting Commandments in three counties

Cincinnati (RNS)—

Three counties in Kentucky should not post the Ten Commandments in public buildings, even if they are accompanied by other historical documents, an appellate court ruled last month.

Officials in McCreary and Pulaski counties hung framed copies of the biblical laws in their courthouses and later added documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Magna Carta after the displays were challenged. Harlan County had similar postings in its schools, Associated Press reported.

A panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 ruling, upheld a district judge's 2001 preliminary order to remove the displays until a lawsuit challenging their constitutionality was resolved.

Judge Eric Clay wrote in the majority opinion that both the courthouse and schoolhouse displays demonstrated a religious purpose by conveying a "bald assertion" that the Ten Commandments formed the foundation of the American tradition of laws.

In his dissent, Judge James Ryan said: "The influence of religion upon American law and government is a fact of American history and politics that has been widely recognized by scholars, jurists, legislators, presidents and, not least, the founders themselves."

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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

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'Long live BWA'

In my ministry of more than 50 years, I have supported the Baptist World Alliance—and still do.

The book, "The Life of Baptists in the Life of the World," edited by Walter Shurden and published by Broadman Press, contains the great sermons delivered at Baptist World Congresses starting in London in 1905 and going through 1980. Some of those great Southern Baptists who delivered sermons include: A.T. Robertson, E.Y. Mullins, George W. Truett, C. Oscar Johnson, Theodore F. Adams and Billy Graham.

I, as a Southern Baptist, will never turn my back on the Baptist World Alliance nor on the great leaders and supporters of it listed above.

Long live the Baptist World Alliance!

*Louis W. Shepherd
Russell Springs*

Pray for Saddam

1 Timothy 2:1-2 instructs us to pray "for kings, and for all who are in authority." Surely that includes President Bush and our military chain of command. But does it not also include Saddam Hussein?

How many times, do you suppose, had Daniel prayed for King Nebuchadnezzar? We know that Daniel prayed openly three times a day (Daniel 6:10). As a young man, he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself," and God gave him and his friends favor before the king. Is it not likely that they prayed that God would touch Nebuchadnezzar's heart?

When the king had his famous dream, and Daniel gave the prophetic interpretation, he and his friends prayed (Daniel 2:17-23). Is it not likely that they asked God to soften the tyrant's heart? Nebu-

chadnezzar responded by extolling Daniel's God (2:46-49). While he called Him "Daniel's God," he recognized His sovereignty.

When the three friends came out of the fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar went a step further, with "a decree that any people, nation or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap, because there is no other God Who can deliver like this."

On God's timetable, Nebuchadnezzar was driven from his pleasure palaces to wander with the beasts of the field and live a humble life. Is it not likely that God used this means to bring down the proud tyrant? And what happened? Surely his last statement, 4:34-37, reflects a changed heart.

If Nicodemus, the ruler in Israel, could humble and defile himself to bury the body of Jesus; if Saul could become Paul; if Daniel Noreiga of Panama could make a profession of faith after his arrest and imprisonment, let's pray for the conversion of Saddam Hussein, who has called himself a "descendent of Nebuchadnezzar."

*R. Charles Blair
Clinton*

Support singles

The single adult ministry is a field white unto harvest for every church, association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

*David Fletcher
Mayfield*

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

Opportunities in the new year

The new year offers many opportunities for Kentucky Baptists to connect in new ways to God, each other and the mission that God has for us.

The primary goal of every believer is to connect intimately to God through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Closely related is the necessity for believers to have a vital relationship to one another in the body of Christ. These relationships grow and mature as God's people exercise forgiveness and love based on how God has forgiven us in Christ when we did not deserve it.

As we enter into this new year, it is exciting to see how God is using strong relationships among His people to bring glory to Himself. Let me tell about just a few instances:

Recently, I presented a certificate to Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow during that church's centennial celebration. God has used Pastor Roy Woodie mightily over 17 years to develop a great com-

munity of faith. The congregation has two morning worship services and the church has retired the debt on a beautiful educational building completed in the last few years. The church has a large number of youth and young adults.

I also spoke recently at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monticello where a new sanctuary has been completed. Designed with circular seating and with one of the best sound systems I have experienced, the sanctuary was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Keith McKim, a former Christian school administrator, is providing mature leadership for this congregation.

God also is at work in great ministries. I recently heard about how a woman in rural South Carolina had a dream to feed Kentucky. A relative in her church shared the same dream so they shared their vision with the church and community.

Contact with KBC Mountain Missions Director David Aker led the group to Haymond in Letcher

The large single adult population is made up of the never married, widows, widowers and those who have experienced divorce. They represent a significant percentage of the adult population. Their needs, experiences and contributions reflect these individual backgrounds.

Single adults contribute much to local churches and Kingdom growth. Every person I have discussed this ministry with has seen the need and potential in such a ministry. It is my prayer that programs and opportunities are maintained commensurate to such potential on a Baptist state level to such fields.

While as a widowed single, I gained needed encouragement and a vision from the singles' conference and leadership training that the Kentucky Baptist Convention offered on an annual basis. I am concerned that this area of ministry does not have a priority in the future.

Singles are important to God and to reach them and minister to their needs is a fulfillment of the Great Commission. I challenge Kentucky Baptist leadership to develop and maintain such ministry in the local churches, associations and at a state level. I challenge churches, associations and state conventions to encourage annual events like Sunday services devoted to the needs and ministry of singles.

Please join with me to raise awareness and stewardship in this area. Where there is no vision, singles will perish.

STEWARDSHIP

New year offers
a new start for
financial goals

By Doug Strader

Christmas has begun to fade into the past and we have begun a new year. This is the time last year we promised ourselves that we would do better next year. Next year is now the present, so we need to begin if we have not already begun to make the changes we promised to make. Hopefully you already have kept one promise by being present

in Bible study and worship the first Sunday of the new year

Another promise that many of us made



to ourselves and to our family last year was that we would be better stewards of our resources. How did you do with your spending during the Christmas season? I hope you were not one of the millions who put so much stuff on your credit cards that you will not be able to pay in full when the bill arrives sometime this month.

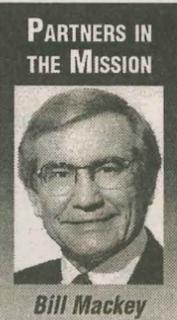
The Christmas season has become so commercialized that Americans are bombarded with advertisements seeking to lure us into spending more than we can afford. Consequently, many Americans will be deeper in debt than we were this time last year. I hope you are not in that predicament, but if you are, it is not a hopeless situation. You can get on top of your debt problem with proper spiritual preparation and a resolve to master your finances.

Call your church to see if they are offering any help to people who need to know how to handle their money. You also can call the Kentucky Baptist Convention stewardship office at (888) 254-5708 and ask for any resources they have to help you learn how to manage your money.

Perhaps you need to call a family "pow-wow" and discuss your financial stewardship situation. Ask for suggestions from each family member about how to live within your income and how to save money by being more frugal. You also could discuss how important it is for your family to be faithful to God with your money by faithfully tithing (giving 10 percent of your income) to the Lord through His church.

I want to borrow from Coach Jim Valvano's famous words to all of us, "Don't give up, don't ever give up." With God's help, 2004 can be a wonderful year for you.

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



Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Physical, mental & spiritual goals enhance balanced life

Q: With a new year under way, I think I could use more balance in my life. What are some realistic goals to help achieve balance?

Most of us would do well to live a more balanced life. Jesus accomplished this as a child and as a young adult when he "grew in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

SINGLES

Psychologists tell us it takes 21 days to create a new habit, so think in terms of 21 days rather than 365 for now. Remember, you are a whole person, and whatever you do in one area of your life will impact all the other areas of your life.

Take time to strengthen your physical life:

- Take a walk 40 minutes a day or run 30 minutes a day.
- Take an appropriate multi-vitamin.
- Eat for nutrition more than simply for taste or fullness; include Omega-3 fatty acids.
- Get eight to nine hours of sleep daily.
- Drink plenty of water, especially during the winter.

Make it a priority to strengthen your mental life:

- Take time for periods of quiet reflection each day.
- Decrease clutter in your life, one step at a time.
- Read widely and deeply; include great literature, especially the Bible, each day.

Keep the relational part of your life in perspective:

- Invest time in your primary relationships. Make sure the time you spend with each of your family members is proportionate to how important they are to you in comparison to other things you could be doing.
- Focus on being a "contagious Christian" and having a lifestyle of evangelism and discipleship.
- Develop mentor, companion and mentee relationships. Everyone needs a Paul, a Barnabas and a Timothy.

In all you do, do it with God, thus strengthening your spiritual life:

- Align your spiritual gifts so they are being used effectively to meet the world's needs.
- Practice more meditative (slow, thoughtful, prayerful) reading of Scripture.
- Develop a lifestyle of intercessory prayer, remembering that prayer as conversation with God should be at least as much about listening as about talking.—James Stillwell

Q: As a parent, what are some helpful goals I can set to help make this year a success for my children?

■ **Affirm your children at least once a day.** Parents almost automatically correct children when they mess up. Ask God to help you notice and comment on the right and good things they do instead of just dwelling on the negative.

■ **Use gentle words.** Practice Proverbs 15:1 which says, "Gentle words turn away anger." Lead your family to understand that sometimes it's not what we say that causes problems, but how we say it.

PARENTING

■ **Eat together as a family at least once a day.** Research continues to show the importance of families spending time together around the table. Children are healthier emotionally, and families are happier.

■ **Be involved in your child's spiritual growth and development.** Don't leave their spiritual well-being to others. Pray for them each day. Ask God to give you everyday, casual opportunities to talk to your children about the spiritual dimension of life. Make sure your children get to Sunday school and worship on a regular basis, and be on time.

■ **Have family devotionals.** Get in the habit of spending a few minutes each day (or at least on a regular basis) praying and reading the Bible together.

■ **Spend dedicated, undivided time with each of your children.** Remember that focused attention shows love in ways that go far beyond words.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org

Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Campbellsville University. E-mail: jrainbow@campbellsville.edu

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org

Scott Wigginton, director of LifeCare Counseling at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: swigginton@sbs.edu

Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@earthlink.net.



BWA deserves better than a lump of coal

It wasn't much of a Christmas present for the Baptist World Alliance. It was, in fact, the denominational equivalent of a lump of coal.

On the Friday afternoon before Christmas, a group of prominent Southern Baptist Convention leaders released a report proposing that the SBC withdraw from and defund the global Baptist organization effective Oct. 1.

The SBC, one of the BWA's founding members in 1905, also has been its largest financial contributor over the decades. But Southern Baptist leaders have grown frustrated in recent years that they can't control BWA's global agenda and priorities.

With 110 BWA member bodies representing more than 47 million baptized believers worldwide, SBC representatives do not hold sway over the vote of the majority. That was particularly obvious when the BWA General Council voted 75-28 last summer to accept the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship into full membership.

While the SBC study committee report does not specifically reference the CBF vote, it expresses general concern that "the prominence of a number of European and North American conventions has resulted in an increasing influence of positions contrary to the New Testament and to Baptist doctrines."

There is no question, however, that the CBF membership vote was a primary motivator in the committee's findings.

Immediately after the General Council's vote in July, Paul Pressler told the council, "If you want them and their theology, that's your decision, but it is not our decision to accept them."

Former SBC president Paige Patterson told me in an interview after the vote, "The BWA has a right to accept as a member whomever it wishes. I affirm their right to do so. But I also say as the leftward drift goes on, Southern Baptists are going to find the compromise involved to be too much."

Pressler and Patterson, the architects of the SBC's conservative shift since 1979, both serve on the study committee that has recommended eliminating the SBC's \$300,000 annual contribution to BWA. The yearly allocation previously was \$425,000, but last year SBC messengers approved convention leaders' proposal to cut an initial \$125,000.

Other prominent committee members include former SBC presidents Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources; and Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.; as well as Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC's International Mission Board.

Report's outcome predetermined?

The overall tone and content of the report—as well as Pressler and Patterson's earlier comments—suggest that committee members had a predetermined outcome in mind and then sought out examples to justify their conclusions. Their anecdotes, however, fall woefully short of making a compelling case for abandoning 98-plus years of working in cooperation with Baptist World Alliance for the benefit of fellow Baptists in such diverse settings as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Romania and Tanzania.

The first example cited in the report claims a German Baptist theologian told BWA participants several years ago, "I am not even sure that there is any such thing as the Great Commission, but if there is I am confident that Jesus never said it."

Erich Geldbach, the theologian in question, vehemently denies making such a statement. In a Dec. 29 letter to Chapman, Geldbach wrote, "What is being represented as a direct quote is neither my language, nor could I identify with such a statement, which I would dismiss as theological trash.

"All of your allegations are totally unsubstantiated," Geldbach added. "Your committee is therefore guilty of trespassing at least two commandments:

'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor' (Exodus 20:16) and 'Lie not one to another' (Colossians 3:9)." Strong language—but certainly understandable in light of the committee's accusation.

The report's second anecdote is equally questionable. It states that a Southern Baptist pastor was "rudely treated by a significant number of BWA participants" when he "sought clarification with reference to the absence of a clear doctrinal statement advocating the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation."

As a member of the BWA communications committee, I was present at that meeting last year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and saw the exchange quite differently. The pastor, J.D. Greear, as well as Pressler and other SBC representatives were the ones who came across as brusque and accusatory as they gathered ammunition to make their case for leaving the BWA.

While BWA representatives from around the world privately expressed concerns about the SBC leaders' tactics, none of them treated the Southern Baptist representatives rudely during the conference dialogue. In fact, BWA leaders went out of their way to respond to the questions posed by Greear, Pressler and others.

Addressing the issue of Christ as the only way of salvation, BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz told Greear, "I would be ashamed as a Baptist if I did not affirm that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation." He added that one of the priorities of BWA gatherings around the world is to "proclaim why Baptists need to be involved in evangelism."

Winning the lost is BWA's "bottom line"

Tony Cupit, BWA's director of evangelism and education, emphasized that BWA leaders "are uneducational about the need to win the lost to Jesus Christ. That's the bottom line."

Even if SBC leaders could find isolated examples of individual BWA members expressing views different from their own, that is no reason to adopt an "I'll take my marbles and go home" attitude. The far better approach is to examine what BWA has stood for since 1905 and continues to proclaim today.

United around the declaration of Ephesians 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," the stated purpose of the BWA is to "empower and enable national Baptist leaders to effectively witness and minister in the name of Jesus Christ and to represent and support Baptists throughout the world in defense of human rights and religious freedom." It would be a shame for Southern Baptists to fail to remain actively involved in those worthy efforts alongside Baptist brothers and sisters worldwide.

With Chapman, Draper, SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land and other SBC leaders holding key leadership positions in BWA life, Southern Baptists have the opportunity to continue to work within the system to help the BWA grow into the most effective global Baptist fellowship possible for the 21st century.

While a few SBC leaders continue to push for seceding from BWA, many Kentucky Baptists have taken a different view. During the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in November, messengers voted to contribute \$730 from year-end funds—a total of \$2 a day—to the BWA's ongoing ministry efforts this year.

While \$730 obviously is more symbol than substance, it is a starting point that suggests KBC messengers desire to see BWA's global impact continue. Regardless of the SBC's actions in the coming months, Kentucky Baptists can become leaders in supporting BWA's commitment to faithfully share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For information about how your church or association can support the work of Baptist World Alliance, log onto www.bwanet.org. Together, we can continue to proclaim "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" to a world in need.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

U.S. report lists countries that limit religious freedom

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—The U.S. State Department issued its fifth annual report on international religious freedom last month, rebuking China and North Korea among authoritarian regimes and countries such as Saudi Arabia and Sudan that are hostile toward minority religions.

"Though international law supports it and though millions of religious believers around the world desire it, religious freedom all too often remains fragile, neglected and violated," said John Hanford, ambassador at large for international religious freedom, at a news briefing.

"Many religious believers find themselves forced to worship secretly instead of confidently, or to hold their sacred beliefs in fear and under threat rather than peace and security."

Six countries were cited for "totalitarian and authoritarian attempts to control religious belief or practice": Burma, China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea and Vietnam.

"Genuine religious freedom does not exist" in North Korea, the report said. "Reports of executions, torture and imprisonment of religious persons in the country continued to emerge."

The other five countries were cited for restricting religious practice, monitoring religious activities or harassing believers.

Local authorities in some areas of China are involved in "a selective crackdown of unregistered churches, temples and mosques," it noted.

In the area of state hostility toward minority religions, the report mentioned Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The report described Saudi Arabia as a place where religious freedom is nonexistent: "The government continued to enforce a strictly conservative version of Sunni Islam and suppress the public practice of other interpretations of Islam and non-Muslim religions."

Non-Muslims "second-class citizens"

Sudan relegates non-Muslims "to de facto second-class citizenship," it said.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent federal agency, said these findings show why the State Department should designate Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Vietnam as "countries of particular concern" that have "systematic, ongoing and egregious" religious freedom violations. Burma, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea and Sudan currently have that designation.

Other categories of religious freedom abuses included in the annual report are those where the state neglected problems related to discrimination or persecution of minority religions; where discriminatory laws or governmental policies put certain religions at a disadvantage; and where certain minority religions are wrongfully associated with dangerous "cults" or "sects."

Hanford cited the small African country of Eritrea as an example of a state with discriminatory legislation, where more than 300 Pentecostal and evangelical Christians in that country currently are imprisoned because their churches have not been sanctioned by the government.

The report's executive summary also cited a "disturbing increase" in anti-Semitism in Europe.

"European governments, we feel, are beginning to take this problem seriously—not that they weren't before, but I think with renewed emphasis," said Hanford.

He said the department is also concerned about anti-Semitism in Turkey, where two synagogues were bombed in mid-November.

Kazakhstan, which recently started an interfaith dialogue, was cited for "significant improvement" on religious freedom.

Laos, which was also criticized for overall restrictions of religious practice, was commended for decreasing the number of arrests of religious leaders, and allowing some long-closed churches to reopen.

Asked at the briefing about France's proposed prohibition of Muslim head scarves in public schools, Hanford said it is a matter of concern.

"This fits with an approach we've taken with a number of countries that restrict head scarves, where we have felt that where people are wearing these with no provocation, simply as a manifestation of their own heartfelt beliefs, that we don't see where this causes division among peoples," he said.

Russian Baptists seek student sponsors

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

Abilene, Texas (ABP)—With a ministry field spanning 11 time zones, the task facing Alexander Kozyenko and his Russian Baptist seminary is enormous.

So Kozyenko is looking for help from Baptist brethren in the United States.

Russia is home to 147 million people but only 1,400 Baptist churches. That's a ratio of only one Baptist congregation for every 105,000 people.

The tiny Moscow Theological Seminary of Evangelical Christians-Baptists has produced only 72 graduates in its 10-year history, but that number is expected to increase rapidly.

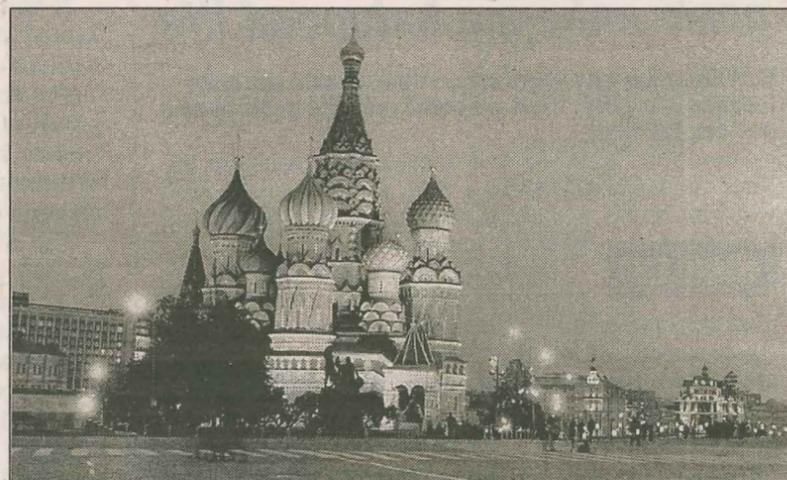
The school's location limited enrollment for most of its first decade, the president said. Housed in the Russian Baptist headquarters building, the seminary couldn't accept more than 25 students, limiting the number of graduates.

Many Kentucky Baptists already are familiar with the work of the seminary, as the Kentucky Baptist Convention was in a partnership with Russian Baptists from 1993 to 1998.

Now a newly renovated building provides room for about 200 students, enabling the seminary to increase enrollment and produce many more pastors and teachers who will spread the gospel across Russia and Eastern Europe.

"Our goal is to train many more students for the ministry, not only for the Russian Baptist churches," Kozyenko explained. "We train many ministers from Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia and some from Kazakhstan."

Creation of the school fulfilled an 88-year dream for Russian Baptists. "The first prayer for this



school was said in 1905, at the first Baptist World Alliance meeting in London," Kozyenko reported.

The first seminary class in 1993 consisted of 17 students. Now enrollment has grown to 57 students, and 29 of them will graduate next spring.

"For Eastern Europe, our seminary is pretty important. Some of the smaller (Baptist) unions don't have a seminary."

The biggest obstacle for most students is the cost—\$3,000 a year per student for tuition, books, room and board. That figure is beyond the grasp of many Russian and Eastern European ministers and the churches that want to help them get an education, Kozyenko reported.

That's why Kozyenko recently visited the United States, seeking churches that will commit to "adopt a student for three or five years and also support them as they begin ministry," he explained.

Kozyenko's proposition—adopt a Moscow Seminary student and help launch a lifetime ministry—provides churches with a chance to impact Russia and Eastern Europe

with the gospel, said Ronnie Prevost of Abilene, Texas, a member of the Moscow Seminary board of trustees.

"It's going to prove to be the mother seminary of Baptist work for the foreseeable and long-range future of Russia," said Prevost, professor of church ministry at Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas.

The impact of that reality is more far-ranging than Baptists familiar with U.S. schools might imagine, he added. "Not only is the seminary producing ministers—pastors and youth ministers—for the churches, but graduates are going out and starting Bible schools, Bible colleges and seminaries in their home regions."

When the young ministers land in their fields of service, they find unimaginable need but also incredible openness, Kozyenko said. "In this way, we can affect society in a positive way," he said. "Drug use and alcohol are destroying our society. ... They are empty in their souls."

"But the Slavic people—Russians as well as Ukrainians and others—are open to the good news. ... Many people are after the truth in their lives."



Kozyenko

Why Small Churches Struggle to Grow

Who Is Invited? Deacon Chairpersons • Sunday School Directors • Pastors • Spouses

Monday, January 12

Anchor Baptist Church, Erlanger
Rick Robbins (859) 727-6522

Tuesday, January 13

Palomar Baptist Church, Lexington
Jerry Wilkes (859) 254-7747

Monday, January 26

Fitzpatrick Baptist Church,
Prestonsburg
Tom Biddle (606) 886-3335

Tuesday, January 27

Eubank Baptist Church, Eubank
Malcolm Cheek (606) 678-4465

Monday, February 9

Berean Baptist Church, Elizabethtown
John Walker (270) 765-4023

Tuesday, February 10

Warren Baptist Assoc., Bowling Green
Jerry Oakley (270) 842-4160

Monday, February 16

Rosebower Baptist Church, Paducah
Jim Bryant (800) 995-0133

Tuesday, February 17

Second Baptist Church, Madisonville
Bob Morrison (270) 821-6400

Schedule: 6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Conference

There is no charge to attend, but reservations for meals are required five days in advance.

The Small Church Growth Tour



Church Development and Evangelism Team
(502) 254-4730 or Toll Free (888) 254-5709
www.kybaptist.org



'Tis the season

New year offers chance to get financial house in order

This is the season my wife and I engage ourselves in financial, estate and charitable gift planning. We can't do anything about the past, but we can do something about the future.

With careful and prayerful planning we can make more responsible spiritually based and financially based decisions. We can measure the progress on our intermediate and long-term goals, and we can set some new short-term goals.

During this season, we look at how we spent our discretionary income last year and plan this year's expenditures. At the top of the list of consideration is our charitable giving plan for the new year. We measure the progress on attaining our net worth benchmark. We still strive to live beneath our means in order to have resources for the future. I spend some time researching what the analysts are saying about the stocks we own so we can decide whether to sell, to buy, to hold or to give some of them. We do buy stocks in anticipation of giving them in future

years for charitable purposes. We stay diversified in our savings and investments so we do not have all of our eggs in one basket.

This is also the season we give our estate plans a check-up. We review all of our documents to refresh our memories of the plans we have in place and to decide whether or not any changes need to be made due to changing circumstances in our lives. This year we decided we needed to change our power of attorney documents due to the new HIPAA law. We also revisit the beneficiary designations of our life insurance policies and our retirement accounts.

Another area of review is our records. We shred files that have outlived their usefulness, create new files and update the inventory of the contents of our safe deposit box at the bank.

'Tis the season for planning. To the extent we can assist you, please give us that privilege. There is no cost for our private consultation or church seminars.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen



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It is a mission.
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- South Central Foster Care: 1-800-952-3724
- Southern Region Foster Care: 1-606-677-1008
- Eastern Region Foster Care: 1-800-752-5063
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Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Michael J. Landi

Across

- "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for it is not _____ that he should live" (Acts 22:22)
- "The joy of thy _____" (Matthew 25:21)
- "Do thyself no _____" (Acts 16:28)
- "A feast of wines on the _____" (Isaiah 25:6)
- "Believe also in _____" (John 14:1)
- "And sow wickedness, _____ the same" (Job 4:8)
- "Called to be _____ apostle" (1 Corinthians 1:1)
- A son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- "Seeing he giveth to all _____" (Acts 17:25)
- "Chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man _____ him" (Mark 5:4)
- "His life a _____ for many" (Matthew 20:28)
- "Hath the _____ of the Lord been revealed?" (John 12:38)
- "Because Judas had the _____, that Jesus had said unto him" (John 13:29)
- "_____, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37)
- "Wash his feet with _____" (Luke 7:38)
- "And stamp with thy foot, and say, _____ for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel!" (Ezekiel 6:11)
- "That where I am, there ye may _____" (John 14:3)
- "Let him _____ the death" (Matthew 15:4)
- "Whose shoes I am not worthy to _____" (Matthew 3:11)
- "Be ye not as the horse, _____ as the mule" (Psalm 32:9)

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- "Do ye not therefore _____, because ye know not the scriptures?" (Mark 12:24)
- "I _____ in Sion a chief corner stone" (1 Peter 2:6)
- Blew trumpet before ark of God (1 Chronicles 15:24)
- Preposition
- Forefather of Jesus, El-mo-dam was the son of him (Luke 3:28)
- "Simon _____-Jona" (Matthew 16:17)
- 11th letter of Hebrew alphabet
- "Whose is this _____ and superscription?" (Matthew 22:20)
- "Honour all _____" (1 Peter 2:17)
- "The pen of the _____ is in vain" (Jeremiah 8:8)
- First Gospel, abbr.
- "Believe ye that I am _____ to do this?" (Matthew 9:28)
- "Thou shalt forget thy _____" (Job 11:16)
- "And being in an _____ he prayed more earnestly" (Luke 22:44)
- "The prince of the power of the _____" (Ephesians 2:2)
- "To _____ I am ashamed" (Luke 16:3)
- Gold coin used in Palestine (Ezra 2:69 rsv & asv)
- "The troops of _____ looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them" (Job 6:19)
- Period of time
- "Neither by any other _____" (James 5:12)
- "Lot is cast into the _____" (Proverbs 16:33)
- Greek, abbr.
- Hebrew 5th month
- "Pass over through _____, the coast of Moab" (Deuteronomy 2:18)

Last week's solution

1	H	A	R	M	5	A	B	B	9	L	A	P		
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39	L	O	R	D	42	R	U	N	44	A	S			
46	A	V	E		48	C	U	R	50	I	S	E	T	
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Teens tell poll they use Internet more for faith than pornography

Chapel Hill, N.C. (RNS)—U.S. teens say they are three times as likely to use the Internet for religious purposes than for pornography, a new study shows.

The National Study of Youth and Religion found that 17 percent of teens surveyed use the Internet a few times a month or more frequently to link to religious Web sites while 5 percent use the Internet to connect to pornographic sites.

Overall, teens used the Internet most for homework, with 77 percent saying they used it for this purpose a few times a month or more frequently.

The survey looked at teens ages 13 to 17 with access to the Internet. Researchers found a connection between teens who identified themselves as religious and their use of faith-related Web sites.

Forty percent of teens who say faith is extremely important to them said they visited religious sites a few times each month or more often. Another 20 percent who say faith is very important to them said they visit such sites at the same rate. In comparison, only 4 percent of those who say faith is not very important to them visited such sites with the same frequency.

Researchers also found that teens who say they have a low interest in religion are far more likely than their religious counterparts to use the Internet to access pornography.

Fourteen percent of those who said faith is not important to them at all said they use the Internet to view pornographic Web sites a few times a month or more often. That compares to 3 percent of teens who say faith is very important or extremely important to them.

Researchers found similar findings when comparing frequency of attendance at religious services.

Three percent of those who regularly attend services report that they view online pornography a few times a month or more often. That compares to 8 percent of teens who never attend religious services and 7 percent of those who attend sporadically.

The findings were based on 2,600 teens surveyed through the National Study of Youth and Religion. The four-year research project, which is based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is funded by the Lilly Endowment.

More churches turn to Web to find pastors

Continued from page 1

Then the church can request resumés on selected candidates. Next, the selected ministers receive automated e-mails that describe the church's profile, including its identity. If the ministers want to proceed, they tell the Web site to release their resumés to the church.

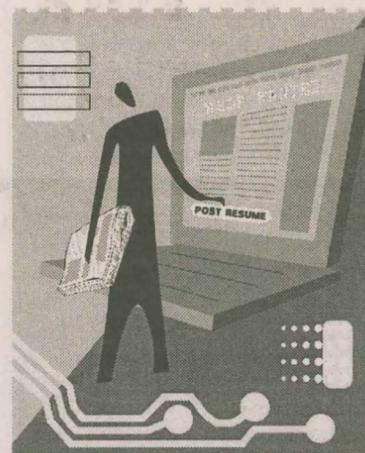
Speed. "We've gotten to the point where church staffing takes longer and longer. This shortens the process," Travis reported. That factor is tied to the availability of information, both for the candidates and the churches, so they can find each other more quickly, Web site operators said.

Internet possibilities. The Web offers many options for both churches and ministers that previously weren't available, Travis noted.

"The ubiquity of the Internet broadens the search across the country" for both candidates and congregations, he explained. For example, classified ads reach only the people who read a newspaper, but the Web-based search programs are available to everyone on the Internet.

Also, the Internet allows ministers to explore options anonymously, Travis added. "No one has to know" the minister is looking for another church.

Change. "We've seen changes in churches and structures the past 10 years," Rhoades said. "Both staff and churches, the way the trend is going, don't have brand loyalty. So, Nazarene churches are now open to hiring outside their denomination, and Nazarene pastors are open to pastoring outside their conference."



Finances. "Hard costs," such as salary and moving expenses, and "soft costs," such as morale, lost time and wasted productivity, are incredibly high when a church calls a minister who doesn't work out, Travis said.

"It costs at least \$100,000 to make a bad hire," he estimated. "So, churches are more willing to pay the costs" of fee-based Web services, such as www.ChurchStaffing.com, www.LeadNetChurchStaffing.com, www.christianplacements.com and others.

While Internet-based services can make minister searches more efficient, "that does not negate the search responsibility," Travis said, noting search committees or church staff assigned to conduct searches must work thoroughly.

Most of the Web sites offer resources to aid the search, such as compensation studies, sample job descriptions and workbooks to guide the whole process.

For churches, these Web sites could help prevent a match apparently made in heaven from winding up in a very different place.

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Some things have changed, others remained the same since school's start

First there was a vision, then a dream. Finally, after months of hard work, James Anderson Burns had his school in the Cumberland Mountains. On Jan. 1, 1900, the doors of Oneida Baptist Institute opened for the first time. Here is how Burns described the event in the "Crucible," written in 1928: "Fires were built in the stoves, the bell was rung and the doors were thrown open. One hundred boys and girls ... crowded in. ... As I looked into the earnest faces of my people I read there a pledge of perpetual loyalty. ... I read there the infallible prophecy of a coming brighter better day.

"The problem was before us, a faculty of three. ... We had classes ranging from the primary to the eighth grade. Full-grown men recited ... with little children.

"We charged one dollar a month ... but few of our students were able to pay it. The tuition fund would scarcely pay the coal bill. One boy brought a sheepskin and said, 'Maybe this will pay my tuition for this month.' We cut the sheepskin into pieces and used it for erasers.

"We had before us ... little children who ... had been taught to hate each other in their cradles. Our task was to lead them to love each other, and ... to teach them as much grammar and arithmetic as we could.

"To this end we had chapel services each morning, and a hymn service each noon. We kept the love of our Savior and the Golden Rule before our students every morning.

"In a very short time, a few of our older stu-

dents caught the vision and began to help us. They made the work much lighter for us."

As we begin our 105th year, things are much different and yet not so different from that first day. This school was founded in large part to help bring an end to the bloody feuds that had raged for decades. Today we still must deal with bigotry and bias. We struggle to help students look beyond petty differences. Just as children in Burns' day had been taught to hate, many of our students have been taught to hate and distrust those with a skin color different from theirs.

We continue to help those who are financially disadvantaged. Every year we provide dozens of students with full scholarships because they cannot afford to pay. During the past three years we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of students who need scholarships.

We still have a faculty and staff who are willing to work longer, harder hours than most, though they receive very little monetary compensation. Helping to change lives is compensation enough.

Our dependence upon friends has not changed much, either. Caring people always have been the financial backbone of our school. Without them, we never would have survived those early years. That same support will carry us through yet another year. To all our friends, thanks!

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

When I went to Clear Creek

A mountain boy's poem for new Clear Creek students

In 1981 first-year student Gordon Fitch wrote the following lines. He graduated in 1985 and returned to serve as pastor of Benedict Baptist Church, Slick Rock Fork of Cow Creek in Floyd County. He's still the pastor. His poem states:

"I came to Clear Creek with boxes and sacks, hoping the professors would sharpen my axe. I will be here a good long while, unless the professors wear out their files. I've learned to make sentences, like 'The dog chews the bone.' Then I cry because I left my poor dog at home.

"I was so mixed up the first week I came, my wife kept helping me remember my name. To run like Jonah was my wish, but I never could stand the smell of fish. The only doctor I've ever known, would give you cough syrup and send you home. Here there's a doctor for everything, to help you speak, spell and sing.

"They won't let me play in their bands because I don't know what they are saying when they wave their hands. They made motions like that way back in the hill, when the law was coming to cut up their

still. I've sung good since I was a baby, built up my voice crying for gravy. I have to study so hard my eyes burn; a fellow just don't have time around here to learn.

"Well, a little humor and a lot of truth will make you smile and keep your youth. Let me get serious, and I can too, I'm proud to be a student at Clear Creek School. I thank the Lord for everyone here. They don't have to tell me—I know they care. Now we students have troubles and more than a few, but Paul and Silas had troubles too.

"Let's love each other in word and deed. Listen to our teachers, and Brothers take heed. This school is of God and special to me. Love is flowing so warm and free. So don't be ashamed if you want to cry, but listen to that sweet voice, 'Fear nor. It is I.'"

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

New Hope New York

Southern Baptists schedule major effort this year to share Christ in Big Apple

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

New York (BP)—When missionary Jeremiah Lamphier started a prayer meeting in lower Manhattan in 1857, it sparked a spiritual awakening that eventually spread throughout the world.

Leaders of Southern Baptists' New Hope New York effort—along with thousands of prayer warriors across the country—are hoping to see God move in similar ways during the next two years.

New Hope New York is the latest embodiment of the North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities initiative, an effort to direct Southern Baptist prayer, volunteers and other resources toward reaching the nation's largest cities with Christian faith.

New Hope New York leaders say their project offers unprecedented opportunities for Baptists to help spark renewal in one of the world's most influential cities.

"The significance of New York cannot be overstated," said Rich Carney, a Strategic Focus Cities planning coordinator for NAMB. "If we can reach the hearts and minds of New Yorkers, we affect the whole world. That is what's so exciting—and it's also very humbling."

The emphasis also comes at a time when experience in other Strategic Focus Cities provides a strong foundation. Since its launch in 2000, more than 45,000 people have accepted Christ and more than 300 churches have been started in Chicago, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Boston, Seattle, Philadelphia and Miami.

Future efforts already have been announced for Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada.

Dave Howard, city coordinator for New Hope New York, said that despite the challenges of reaching such a complex and diverse city, project leaders have focused on seeing where Baptists can make an im-

NYC at a glance

- Eight million people live in the five boroughs of New York City, and a total of 21 million live within the city's 75-mile radius.
- The Metropolitan New York Baptist Association includes 214 churches, with an average size of about 65 members.
- More than 20 ethnicities are represented in the city. The Bronx, which is 48 percent Hispanic, has no Southern Baptist churches.
- The most unchurched group in New York is white non-Hispanics.
- Staten Island is the most unchurched borough, with more than 147,000 people for each congregation. Manhattan is second, with more than 118,000 people per church.

Source: PrayNewYork.com

—and working in partnership with other evangelicals with similar goals.

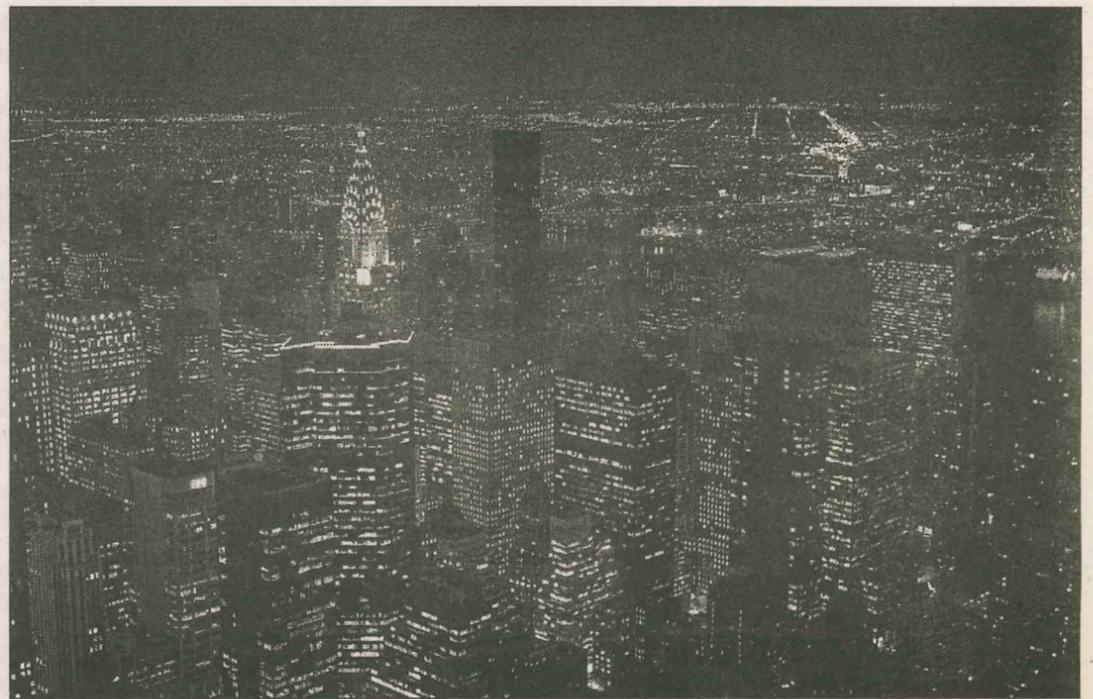
During the past two years, in partnership with the 214 churches of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, New Hope New York leaders have developed a five-pronged strategy consisting of:

Prayer. The PrayNewYork.com Web site was launched in 2002 for individuals to stay connected with the effort through regular updates on prayer needs.

Among New York churches the effort includes area-wide prayer conferences as well as smaller-scale "concerts of prayer" and other opportunities designed for five or six churches at a time.

Church planting. Reaching thousands of individuals will require new churches for outreach and training, Howard said.

Several major church-planting efforts have launched during the



buildup to New Hope New York.

Howard said leaders hope to see at least three to five additional examples of what he calls "church planting centers," churches launched with a large commitment of staff and financial resources that within a few years could be sponsoring new churches themselves. Opportunities also exist to plant churches of all sizes and types, he added.

Church strengthening. Efforts to provide training and other resources for existing churches not only will help them grow stronger and more effective in reaching their communities but increase the likelihood they can start new congregations in areas of need. "Healthy churches have healthy babies," Howard said.

Collegiate evangelism. A key project in this area is The Leadership Journey, in which about a dozen collegiate ministry interns, working through local churches, will work on area campuses for six months.

A related emphasis encourages development of "campus community churches" that will draw on the college community while focusing on collegiate ministry.

Leadership development. LifeWay Christian Resources has partnered with New Hope New York to sponsor multiple training conferences, in addition to providing a variety of resources to area churches.

The key to implementing much of the strategy, Howard said, is partnership—churches and associations from across the country working directly with either new or existing churches.

"A lot of people want to do short-term trips, and we recognize the value of that," he said. "But we believe that churches connecting with churches is a more powerful relationship than churches connecting with an organization such as New Hope New York."

Volunteer opportunities include doing door-to-door surveys, helping with vacation Bible schools, block parties and other evangelistic events, prayer-walking neighborhoods, or construction to improve church facilities.

For more on how to become involved with New Hope New York, visit www.NewHopeNewYork.com or PrayNewYork.com.

NEW YORK FOCUS
The largest city in the United States—with 21 million people in the metropolitan area—will be a center of Southern Baptist outreach efforts in 2004 and 2005 through New Hope New York. (NAMB photo)

Dinner provides opportunity to share Christ with ambassadors

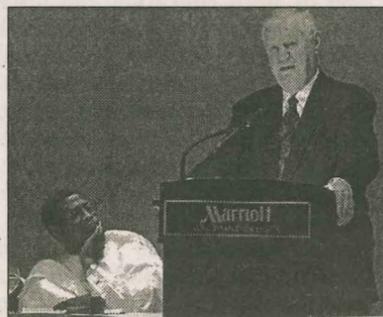
By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

Washington (BP)—A Christmas message on the transforming love of God is not particularly unusual in December, but the audience of ambassadors and deputy ambassadors from around the world made a recent dinner in Washington particularly special.

"An Evening of Friendship and Celebration" was sponsored by Christian Ministries to the Nations and hosted by Segbe Cyrille Oguin, ambassador from the African nation of Benin.

Christian Ministries to the Nations is the ministry arm of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to the diplomatic community in Washington. It is headed by missionary Cecil Mahendranath, who is a former diplomat from Guyana.

Attending the dinner were about 63 ambassadors, deputy ambassadors and their spouses, including



ROYAL AMBASSADOR Henry Blackaby speaks during a dinner for Washington diplomats. The event was sponsored by the North American Mission Board. (BP photo by James Dotson)

at least five Muslim ambassadors, a Chinese diplomat and his wife, and many other non-Christians.

NAMB sponsors such events about every three years, both to raise the profile of Mahendranath's year-round ministry and to communicate the gospel directly to world leaders in a public setting.

"Diplomats are really accustomed to events like this," he said, noting that it is often easier to gain access to diplomats through social gatherings than through making a direct appointment because of the nature of their work.

"They may never have an opportunity to go to church," he said. "But they will come to an event like this—and they heard the gospel from beginning to end."

Mahendranath visits embassies and international agencies throughout the city, sharing Christ with unbelievers and providing discipleship and encouragement to Christians through regular Bible studies and other efforts.

The Christmas program—which featured recording artist Babbie Mason—also included several Christian diplomats who have been a part of Mahendranath's ministry.

Ambassador Oguin served as master of ceremonies, while ambassadors from Lesotho, Zambia and

St. Kitts read Scripture.

Southern Baptist author Henry Blackaby offered a message on the love of God.

"The person who has come to know the profound love of God in his own life is so radically transformed, they are never the same again," Blackaby said. "The heart is changed, and therefore the life is changed. God's purpose is to love every solitary person, and He does."

Diplomats lined up at the close of the program for Blackaby to sign gift copies of his widely used discipleship book, "Experiencing God."

Oguin said he was honored to host the event because of the influence Mahendranath has had on his life and the life of his family since he first arrived in Washington.

"What we did here tonight is to let other people see the love of God through ourselves," he said. "So we can testify to what the Lord Jesus has done through our work, our home and our family."

"They may never have an opportunity to go to church, ... but they will come to an event like this."

Missionary
Cecil Mahendranath

PRAYER PARTNERS

By Eugene Siler Jr.

The plan of salvation is very simple—maybe too simple for those sophisticated people who think that the greater the benefit, the more you have to work for it. But salvation is the gift of God and the greatest gift you can receive.

It is through the grace of God that we receive it, not from our good works, as stated succinctly by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace are you saved by faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast."

My favorite passage that simplifies the plan of salvation comes from the story in Acts relating to the jailing of Paul and Silas for preaching. After they were beaten and placed in stocks, instead of complaining about their treatment and the conditions of the jail, Paul and Silas were praying and singing. When a violent earthquake shook the jail, the doors flew open and the chains were loosened. The jailer, thinking the prisoners had escaped, was about to kill himself when Paul told him to stop because everyone was still there.

The jailer fell trembling before Paul and Silas and said those resounding words from Acts 16:30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Their answer was simple and instant, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Similar guidance is found elsewhere in the New Testament. For instance, we know from Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Judge Eugene Siler is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Licking Valley Church recently called **Stephen Fite** as pastor.

■ **BEREA**—Westside Church recently called **Allen Livingood** as pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Mount Zion Church recently called **Darren Cupp** as pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Immanuel Church recently called **Don Vogel** as minister of music.

Rosedale Church called **Sonny Brausch** as associate pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church recently called **Allen Bishop** as minister to children.

■ **FORT THOMAS**—Highland Hills Church called **Becky Alexander** as associate/family minister effective Jan. 4.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church recently called **Hershael York** as pastor. He also is associate dean for ministry and proclamation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of theology.

■ **GRAND RIVERS**—Sugar Creek Church recently called **Andrew Sexton** as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Airline Church recently called **Jeff Hesley** as minister of music and youth.

Ambassador Church recently called **Billy Fowler** as minister of music.

Zion Church recently called **Doug Hamblin** as education and administration associate. He previously was minister of education/children at Crestwood Church in Frankfort.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church recently ordained **Brad Turner** as a deacon. **George Smith** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the **Crossmen** in concert Jan. 17, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Midlane Park Church will host **Clay Smith** in concert Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. **Gary Bozarth** is pastor.

New Cut Road Church recently called **Thomas Judd** as associate pastor. **Greg Smith** is pastor.

Ormsby Heights Church will host the **Crossmen** in concert Jan. 18. For more information, call (502) 447-6867. **Rick Bowden** is pastor.

Shively Church called **Jason Stewart** as minister of music and worship effective Jan. 1. He previously served at Southside Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C. **Bruce Truman** is pastor.

Student's faith journey endures homelessness, anger at God

By David Roach

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Louisville (BP)—Jennifer Lyell drove to Louisville last fall in her Hyundai Accent to begin classes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

But five years ago she was living in the back seat of that same car, and seminary was the last place she expected to drive it.

Today Lyell is preparing for a career in Christian ministry. But her path to ministry included homelessness, desperation and a conversion at a Billy Graham crusade.

By age 19, Lyell had risen to an upper management position in a major theater company. She soon discovered that success did not necessarily lead to contentment.

"I was still very young. I had a lot of power. I was making good money," she said. "And yet I was still pretty miserable. And that pretty much crashed my entire worldview because those were the things that I thought led to happiness."

Frustrated with life, she quit her job. Without any money for housing, a 20-year-old Lyell was forced to live in her car.

Sleeping in summer heat of more than 100 degrees and bathing in gas station restrooms, Lyell grew bitter and blamed God for her circumstances.

"I was sleeping in the car one night, woke up, turned on the radio and heard, 'It's 2:12 a.m. and 105 degrees outside,'" Lyell said. "And I can remember lying back down in my seat and speaking to God and saying, 'I don't know what You're doing up there,' basically just cursing God and shaking my fist in His face and saying, 'You've done this to me,' when in reality I had done it to myself."

After six months of living in

her car, Lyell saved enough money to rent an apartment, but she remained bitter at God.

That's when things began to change. Two weeks after moving into her new apartment Lyell heard that Billy Graham was preaching a crusade in St. Louis, near her hometown of Marion, Ill. She decided to attend but had no intention of committing her life to Christ.

When Graham finished preaching one night, the crowd began to sing the chorus, "Awesome God."

"I wasn't feeling convicted at all at that point," Lyell said. "They started singing 'Awesome God,' and I hadn't heard it before and I didn't know the words ... so I was struggling to figure out all the words. I could figure out, 'from heaven above, with wisdom, power and love,' because it rhymed. But I couldn't get the verb, 'reigns.'"

Lyell listened to the song several times before she finally understood what the crowd was singing.

"I know the nanosecond I was saved because when I heard the word, 'reigns,' ... it hit me. I remember having a visual of myself lying in my car physically shaking my fist at God and just feeling like I was turned inside out, feeling unbelievably overwhelming remorse that I had blamed this awesome God for the choices I had made in rebellion against Him."

At that moment, Lyell remembers committing her life to Christ and promising to obey Him.

The Sunday after her commitment to Christ, Lyell returned to the church she had attended as a child and made a public profession of faith. Within weeks she was baptized and began to grow in her relationship with God.

As Lyell reflected on her salvation experience, she developed a



FOUNDATION LEADERS Officers of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation board of directors for 2004 are (from left): Laurie Valentine, assistant secretary, Louisville; Charles Barnes, vice chairman, Louisville; Arnold Caddell, chairman, Burlington; Shirley Spalding, secretary, Louisville; and Barry Allen, treasurer, Louisville.

■ **MARION**—Crooked Creek Church called **Gordon Holland** as interim pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church recently called **Seth Hawkins** as age group minister.

Cloys Bruce has retired as pastor of Little Bethel Church. He is available for interim pastorates, supply preaching and revivals.

■ **ONEIDA**—**Joel Rackley**, former pastor of Oneida Church, died Dec. 15 at age 64. Rackley, who was pastor of Skinquarter Church in Moseley, Va., also was a former pastor of Bethlehem Church in Springfield.

■ **PADUCAH**—Immanuel Church recently honored administrative secretary **Pat Burnett** for 25 years of service. **Jamie Broome** is senior minister.

Lone Oak First Church recently called **Howard Fuller** as minister of education.

■ **PROVIDENCE**—Shady Grove Church recently called **Bill Lady** as pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—**Chris Holloway** recently resigned as pastor of Liberty Church.

Poplar Grove Church recently called **Bill Ramage** as interim pastor.

■ **SMITHLAND**—Mint Springs Church recently called **Kerry Stewart** as interim pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—High Street Church recently called **Jonathan Hall** as minister of youth. **Jammie Vance** is pastor.

Mount Pleasant Church recently called **Roy Helm** as pastor.

burden to share the gospel of Christ with others and even began to participate in world missions.

"I started reading everything on missions that I could. It was such an odd thing to me that I had grown up in this country where I had sat in church from when I was 6 to when I was 16 and heard someone preach every single Sunday." She said she began to recognize that "there are a lot of places in the world where those things don't exist for Him to use."

So Lyell began to take action based on her passion for world mis-

sions. After earning a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University, she enrolled at Southern Seminary to prepare for a career in ministry. She is working toward graduating with her master of divinity in 2005.

Lyell said she thanks God daily for the miracle He worked in her life, but she warns other Christians not to glorify sensational testimonies.

"I think as a church, sometimes we have a tendency to focus on sensational stories and neglect the consistent faithfulness."

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Broadway Baptist Church, a CBF affiliate in Louisville, Ky., is seeking an experienced minister of adult education and discipleship with an emphasis in developing small-group ministries and outreach. For more information, go to www.broadwaybaptist.org/search.htm, or write to the church c/o Education Search Committee, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207.

SEEKING: Associate pastor of youth and single adults. We have a fast-growing congregation with an average Sunday school attendance of more than 600. Desired candidate should have a seminary degree and 3-5 years experience leading youth ministries. Resumes with references should be submitted to: Search Committee, Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Elkton church to lead morning/evening worship services. Submit resume to: Elkton Baptist Church, PO Box 547, Elkton, KY 42220.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for South Campbellsville Baptist Church. We are looking for the man God has prepared for this position. Prayerfully submit resume to: South Campbellsville Baptist Church, 601 S. Central Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718, Attn: Darrell Mays.

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

'Queen of Gospel Music' Vestal Goodman dies at age 74

Celebration, Fla. (BP)—Vestal Goodman, known as the "Queen of Gospel Music," died Dec. 27 in Celebration, Fla., near Orlando while visiting family members during the Christmas holidays.

"She had been ill with the flu and turned worse last evening," the Southern Gospel News reported Dec. 28. She was 74.

Goodman's career in gospel music began as part of the popular Happy Goodman Family in the 1940s.

The family began singing together in 1949 and performed almost continuously through the late 1990s. According to Associated Press, the Happy Goodman Family were original members of "The Gos-



pel Singing Jubilee" syndicated TV program that was a pioneer in gospel music broadcasting. It appeared on more than 100 U.S. stations, and the group performed in more than 3,500 concerts.

In recent years, Goodman was a fixture in the Bill Gaither "Homecoming" concerts and videos.

The winner of numerous Grammy and Dove awards also was known for her trademark beehive hairdo, full-length gowns and a white handkerchief she often waved while singing.

The couple were regulars in the mid-1980s on "The PTL Club" with Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker.

"Jim and Tammy were two of the

kindest, most sincere Christians I ever met," Vestal Goodman wrote in "Vestal!", her 1998 autobiography.

"Jim Bakker was not concerned about having a bunch of money."

The Goodmans left the show in 1988 after three years and were not linked to financial improprieties as others on the show were.

Her husband, Howard, and singing partner for more than 50 years, died in 2002 at the age of 81.

Howard's two brothers and former members of the Happy Goodman Family, Rusty and Sam Goodman, also preceded her in death.

"Besides being talented, she loved people and people loved her," John Styll, president of the Gospel Music Association, told The (Nashville) Tennessean daily newspaper.

Styll added that "in her later

years, she developed a kind of hipness—even in the contemporary (Christian music) crowd. She was bigger than her genre."

"All the Happy Goodmans are together again," a fan wrote on the Southern Gospel News Web site. "And they can really sing about heaven now. And Jesus probably got a front row seat for this event."

"She was a spirit of optimism, a spirit of joy," Gaither told The Tennessean. Even in life's crises, "the glass was always half-full to Vestal."

She is survived by her son and daughter, Rick and Vicki, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Goodman's funeral was held Jan. 1 at Christ Church in Brentwood, Tenn., near Nashville.

With additional reporting by Religion News Service

Coming up roses



MIMES IN MINISTRY Volunteer mimes Naomi Laine, 17, and her sister, Hannah, 15, from Escondido, Calif., are members of a group that performed skits along the Rose Parade route Dec. 31 as part of an evangelistic outreach. (BP photos by Kelli Cottrell)

Rose Parade route offers outreach opportunity

Pasadena, Calif. (BP)—Jessica Terena, 14, sat in a folded camping chair with her family. They were snuggling to keep warm and trying to find ways to entertain themselves while waiting for the coming morning's Pasadena Rose Parade.

In a moment of boredom, they were greeted by Southern Baptist volunteers who made balloon hats, gave them a brochure with the order of the parade participants and the plan of salvation and took their pictures.

"This is awesome," said Terena, wearing her two-foot high balloon hat made by a volunteer.

A team of 17 teenagers put on mime shows presenting the gospel Dec. 31 along the crowded five-mile parade route.

Another 10 volunteers took free photos of people for JoePix, a ministry where those photographed must first read about the gospel on the JoePix Web site before accessing their free photo.

Martin Davis, a Mission Service



BALLOON ART Volunteer Martin Davis makes balloon animals for children waiting for the Rose Parade.

Corps volunteer in San Diego with Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board, began volunteering to work on parade floats several years ago and noticed there was no Southern Baptist presence along the parade route where a million people congregate each year.

Two years ago he asked local churches to bring volunteers to the parade route to share the gospel.

"It's a blast," said Davis, who makes balloon animals for the kids and shares the gospel with them.

"The most effective ministry so far here has been the mimes because they ask people at the end to raise their hands if they want salvation," said Davis, who also serves on the SBC Executive Committee.

Last year eight to 10 people on the street accepted Christ as a result of the mime ministry.

"It gives people something to do while they are sitting around," said Kala Cooper, 14, one of the mimes. "The reaction is great. People ask us where are we going next and want to follow us. We stick out like sore thumbs."

The skits performed by the mimes are remembered after the parade.

"We had one man tell us he accepted Christ in April because of a skit he couldn't get out of his head that we had performed at last year's parade," said Cheryl Cooper, mother of Kala, who helps the mime team. "That was enough for us to want to come back and help out every year. It's a unique ministry."

Grammy nominees include Crabb Family, Randy Travis, T.D. Jakes

Los Angeles (RNS)—Beaver Dam's Crabb Family is among the nominees announced last month for gospel music Grammy Awards.

The musical family's album "The Walk" is nominated for Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album.

Christian artists were nominated in three categories outside the traditional gospel ones.

"Squeeze," by Robert Randolph & the Family Band, was nominated for best rock instrumental performance.

"Three Wooden Crosses," by Randy Travis, is among the nominees for best male country vocal performance.

And "Colors," by the Oak Ridge Boys, was nominated for best country performance by a duo or group.

Winners will be announced Feb. 8 in Los Angeles.

Nominees in the gospel categories are:

Best rock gospel album:

Worldwide by Audio Adrenaline.

Red Letterz by Fresh I.E.

Jekyll & Hyde by Petra.

Unclassified by Robert Randolph & the Family Band.

Two Lefts Don't Make A Right ... But Three Do by Relient K.

Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album:

Furthermore-From the Studio: From the Stage by Jars of Clay.

Adoration: The Worship Album by Newsboys.

Stacie Orrico by Stacie Orrico.

Worship Again by Michael W. Smith.

Offerings II by Third Day.

Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album:

Wondrous Love by Blue Highway.

The Walk by the Crabb Family.

A Cappella by Gaither Vocal Band.

Always Hear the Harmony: The Gospel Sessions by Engelbert Humperdinck, the Blackwood Brothers Quartet, the Jordanaires & the Light Crust Doughboys.

Rise and Shine by Randy Travis.

Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album:

It's Your Time by Luther Barnes & the Sunset Jubilaires.

Go Tell It on the Mountain by the Blind Boys of Alabama.

Shirley Caesar and Friends by Shirley Caesar & Friends.

Believe by Aaron Neville.

Songs to Edify by the Sensational Nightingales.

Gotta Serve Somebody-The Gospel Songs of Bob Dylan by various artists.

Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album:

Follow the Star by T.D. Jakes & various artists.

...Again by Donnie McClurkin.

Make Me Better by Ann Nesby.

The Gospel According to Jazz Chapter II by Kirk Whalum.

Bringing It All Together by Vickie Winans.

Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album:

Blessed by Association by New Life.

CeCe Winans Presents ... The Born Again Church Choir by Born Again Choir.

Live in Nashville by Chicago Mass Choir.

Speak Life by Colorado Mass Choir.

A Wing and a Prayer by the Potter's House Mass Choir.



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