

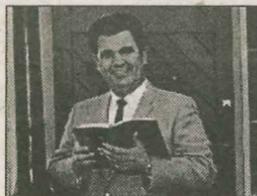


WESTERN RECORDER

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Half of Americans say volunteering more important than giving money

Washington (RNS)—Fifty percent of Americans believe that giving time to charity is more important than giving money, a poll by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has indicated.

Twenty-two percent of those surveyed said money is the more important gift to charitable causes and 23 percent said time and money had equal importance.

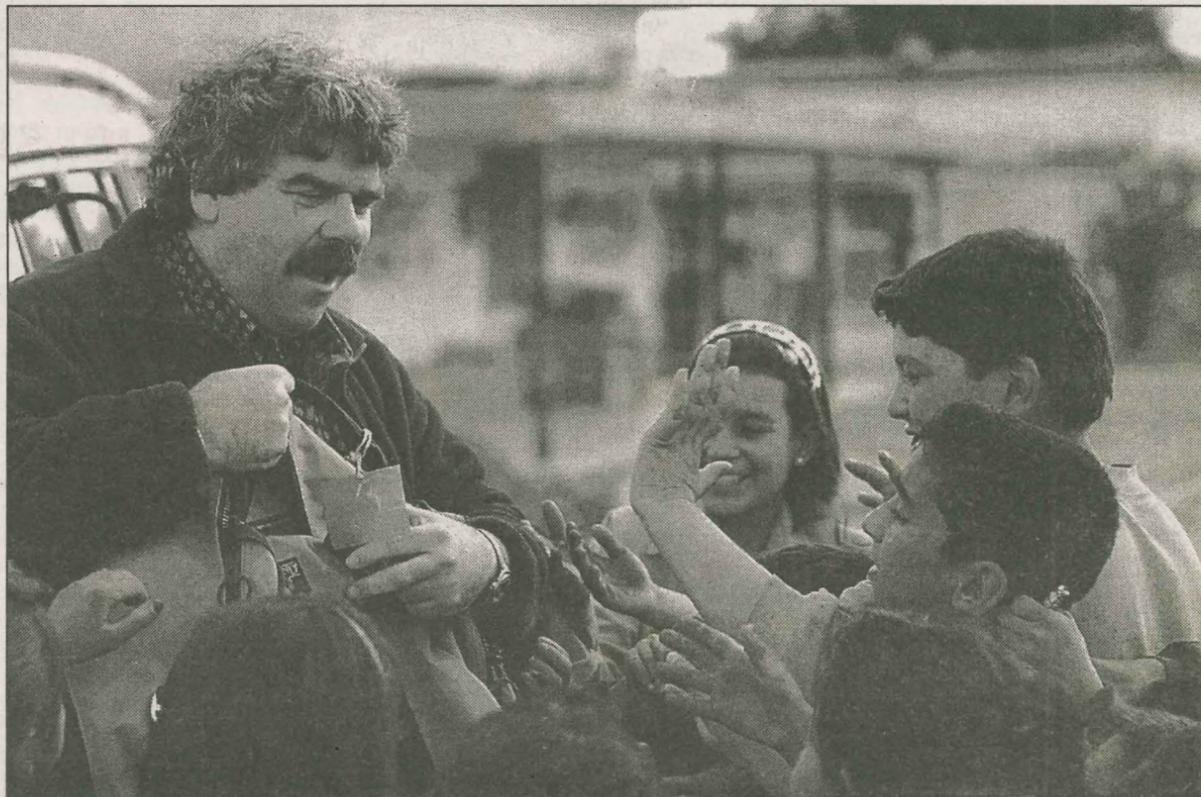
"This research suggests that there's an emotion, viscerally connection to volunteering that just cannot be duplicated by writing a check," said Brad Hewitt, Thrivent's senior vice president of charitable programs and volunteering.

The survey also indicated that people who are committed to prayer and regular worship attendance are most likely to have volunteered with a church, school or nonprofit organization in the past year.

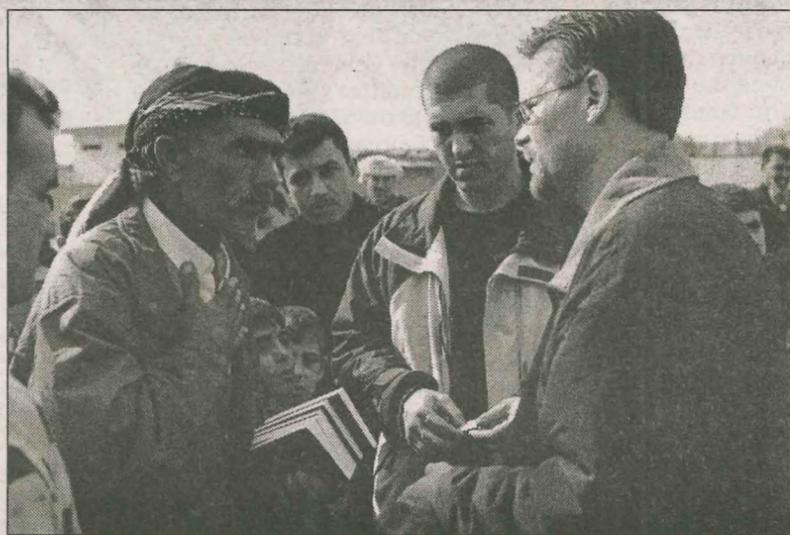
Sixty-six percent of those who attend religious services weekly said they had volunteered in the past year. In comparison, 25 percent of those who never attend religious services said they had volunteered in that time frame.

Churches and synagogues are most likely to receive financial support. Fifty-seven percent of Americans said they financially support faith groups, compared to 33 percent who support education, 30 percent who support give to medical research and 27 percent who aid social service organizations.

Visiting Iraq



A group of 10 Baptists from Lexington and Grayson recently returned from a two-week mission trip to northern Iraq, where they distributed food collected by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Volunteers say they helped pave the way for more encounters between other Christians and the mostly Muslim citizens of this country. **Above:** Roger Davis hands out candy and toys to Kurdish children living in a community stadium. **Right:** Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, gives Bibles to one of the Kurdish tribal leaders after delivering food to his tribe. (Photos by Josh Booth) *Story on page 3.*



Tour workshops offer ideas for smaller Kentucky churches

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Small churches can make a large impact by recognizing they play a key role in building God's Kingdom, a consultant told small church leaders in Lexington last week.

Small congregations are often the first contact many people have with church, said Doug Miller, a young adult associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department.

Miller, speaking at one of eight stops on the KBC's annual "Small Church Growth Tour" told the 63 pastors and church leaders attending that small churches are particularly attractive to childless couples.

When couples become parents, it's not unusual that they move to a larger church that has more children's activities.

"They may not stay in small churches, but that's OK," said Miller, who was speaking at Palomar Baptist Church in Lexington. "Isn't the point to build (God's) Kingdom?"

Using material compiled by Christian demographer George Barna, Miller reviewed recent small-church statistics.

The average small church has fewer than 90 people in attendance, members without college degrees, incomes below the national average, and a lower proportion of attendees who are "spiritually active," according to Barna's research.

Miller said that last comment bothers him, but it can be explained by the families prevalent in many such churches.

Third-generation church members tend to attribute their salvation to family and church attendance

rather than personal acceptance of Jesus as Savior, Miller said.

"I'm not saying this is absolutely true, but does this start to make sense?" he asked.

"One of the things Barna mentions in other reports ... is if you ask most people why they're a Christian, they say, 'Because I'm an American citizen.' We are Baptist by tradition."

In addition, Baptist church members often aren't mentored, or disciplined to help them develop a mature faith, Miller said.

Another challenge to small churches is aging populations. Miller said too often members of World War II's "builder" generation won't yield power and help train younger leaders.

"What's going to happen when the builders have died out, we don't have their wallets any more and we

don't have their churchmanship?" Miller said.

"The day is coming when we'll have to say, 'We know you started it all and you pay the bills, but someone paved the way for you and we want you to help pave the way for someone else.' That day is coming sooner than you think."

This is one reason more churches should consider budgeting for young-adult activities, Miller advised.

Churches commonly allocate funds for seniors, children and youth, but Miller said he seldom sees any churches sending young adults on mission trips to help develop their faith.

"Give people opportunities," he said. "Let them participate. It's like putting Super Glue on their feet. You can't get rid of them."

See Tour workshops ..., page 6

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, January 21.

Baptist pastor in Tajikistan killed, BWA reports

Washington (ABP)—A Baptist pastor was murdered last week in the Republic of Tajikistan, according to Baptist World Alliance officials.

Serghei Basarab, a pastor in Hujand in northern Tajikistan, is the 10th Baptist to be murdered in that country during a 10-year period.

Basarab was shot Jan. 12 by an Islamic fundamentalist as he knelt in his home for morning prayers, according to Wesley Brown, seminary professor and missionary for the American Baptist Churches U.S.A. in Prague, Czech Republic. Basarab's wife, who heard the shot, reportedly found him dead.

Basarab was pastor of one of six churches that make up the Baptist Union of Tajikistan, a member of the European Baptist Federation.

Alexander Vervay, president of the Baptist union, described Basarab as "a much loved leader" and requested that Baptists around the world pray for his family.

"The cost of discipleship and faithfulness in some contexts today may be martyrdom," Brown said. Baptists and other Christians in neighboring Muslim-dominated countries such as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan also suffer persecution, BWA officials said.

In 1993, nine members from one family that attended the Baptist church in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, were killed on New Year's Eve.

Debate over SBC's ties to BWA hits global proportions

SBC study plan unchanged by worldwide outcry

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Nashville (ABP)—Despite pleas from Baptists around the world, there appears little chance Southern Baptist leaders will reverse or delay their plan to withdraw the Southern Baptist Convention from the Baptist World Alliance, the 99-year-old international Baptist organization the SBC helped create.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee and chair of the study committee that proposed the break, declined to predict if the nine-member committee would reconsider.

"I will raise the matter for discussion in a conference call with the committee within the next two weeks," Chapman told Associated Baptist Press in an e-mail interview Jan. 15. But, he added, "the position we have taken makes it very difficult to consider delaying or withdrawing the proposal."

In several e-mails to overseas BWA leaders, Chapman reiterated the committee's intention to use the money the SBC sends to the BWA—until recently, \$4525,000 a year—to form an SBC-led alternative organization that would be run by the Executive Committee.

The committee's proposal will be presented to the SBC Executive Committee in February and, if approved, to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

The study committee's Dec. 19 proposal sparked immediate objections from Baptist leaders around the world.

Chapman acknowledged the criticism, as well as some support, but said the committee will not respond hastily.

"I need to wait long enough to give opportunity for most of those who are inclined to write to do so, in order that any evaluation the committee may make will be based upon a good cross-section of responders," he said. "I feel obligated to keep the whole matter as low-key as possible. This means I may have to live with the public criticisms of Southern Baptist leadership until we have something to say that is well thought out before release."

Liberalism charges "unacceptable"

World Baptist leaders are protesting both the SBC's planned pullout and the allegations of liberalism the SBC says justifies the move.

"We declare unacceptable the allegation of liberalism made by the committee," said Latin American Baptist leaders in one of the strongest statements.

"We deplore the recommendation of this committee," the statement continued, "and we urge strongly the Executive Committee and the assembly of the SBC to reject this recommendation outright, so that this great organization may

remain as a member of the BWA and may continue supporting its funding."

The official statement was signed by seven Latin American leaders from four countries, including Fausto Aguiar de Vasconcelos of Brazil, president of the Union of Baptists in Latin America, and two BWA vice presidents.

A similar statement was issued by another of the six regional BWA groups, the European Baptist Federation, which covers Europe and the Middle East. The EBF executive committee pleaded with Southern Baptists to maintain the unity of worldwide Baptists.

"Do we realize how much our witness to the world will be harmed when we try to explain that we are different groups of Baptists who cannot work together?" the European leaders asked. "One of the biggest tragedies of contemporary Christianity is division."

Baptists in Italy said the worldwide Baptist fellowship had been wounded and "enfeebled" by the SBC action, which was "made on the basis of false motivations and pretexts." The union's executive committee blamed the action on "fundamentalism, with its tendency towards intolerance and sectarianism." That tendency "is the antithesis of our own Baptist tradition," which owes much to the influence of Southern Baptist missionaries, the Italian Baptists said.

"No contingency plans"

Chapman said "no contingency plans were discussed" when the committee adopted its proposal.

"The committee members made a decision based upon over five years of appealing in various ways to BWA staff to hear our concerns," he said. "They listened but did not hear. We felt we had no other alternative, lest we become a problem for the organization and its staff, which is something we did not want to happen. As a result, the position we have taken makes it very difficult to consider delaying or withdrawing the proposal."

The proposal from the SBC study committee suggests creating a new worldwide network of "conservative evangelical Christians." Some of the more conservative Baptist bodies around the world already have expressed interest in the new SBC-led organization, the committee said, raising the possibility of two competing worldwide organizations of Baptists.

But Latin America Baptists, a traditionally conservative group, said they want nothing to do with the new organization.

"We take the liberty of pointing out to our older brothers that, not only are we unwilling—under any circumstances—to go along with their efforts to create a new, parallel organization to the BWA," the leaders said. "But, furthermore, we categorically reject the possibility."

The Latin leaders also denounced charges of liberalism against BWA, which they called "a Christ-centered and Bible-centered organization."

BWA leaders urge SBC to maintain Baptist harmony

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Washington—International Baptist leaders from such diverse settings as Australia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria and South Africa are voicing disappointment over a study committee proposal calling for the Southern Baptist Convention to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance.

Closer to home, former Southern Baptist leader Duke McCall said the SBC proposal is the result of "rivalry, jealousy and pride."

McCall served as BWA president in 1980-85. He also was president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville for 30 years as well as former executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

"On the pretense of believing the Bible, Southern Baptist leaders are proposing that Southern Baptist members reject the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ in John 17:20-23," McCall said. "He prayed 'that they all may be one ... that the world may believe that Thou didst send me.'"

"Southern Baptists are being asked to reject Christian fellowship with all the other Baptists," he added. "Instead of unity, the world will see division which compromises our Christian witness because of rivalry, jealousy and pride. ... How can anyone claim to believe the Bible and reject the high priestly prayer of the Son of God?"

Noting that language, culture, tradition and education differ among Baptist groups around the globe, McCall said, "What unites them is a saving encounter with Jesus Christ through the miraculous mediation of the Holy Spirit. ... God help us to be obedient witnesses for Christ's sake."

Don't besmirch witness

Noel Vose of Australia, also a former BWA president, expressed "great sorrow" over the SBC proposal to cut ties to BWA.

"The unity of all who gather around the cross and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead ... is of absolute importance," Vose said. "The difference and disruptions between believers must give place to the Holy Spirit of reconciliation, that the witness of Christ's body be not besmirched."

Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark, who also has served as BWA president, noted that "for almost a hundred years we have as Baptists had a fast-growing, worldwide fellowship. It is now being threatened because one of the most prominent members of our group wants to dominate."

As BWA leaders prepare to celebrate the organization's centennial congress next year in England, Wumpelmann added, "We are for the first time most seriously threatened by one of our own, even one we

had learned to respect and love for inspiring leadership and thoughtful support over so many years."

As the SBC Executive Committee meets next month and considers withdrawing from and defunding BWA effective Oct. 1, Wumpelmann said, "What can we do but pray? Therefore let us pray for the Southern Baptist Convention, for its Executive Committee ... and for the rest of our global fellowship."

Reactions among other Baptist leaders around the world include:

BWA Vice President Ken Manley of Australia: "The consequences for our region of the SBC breaking with our world Baptist family are difficult to contemplate. It is perhaps difficult for a convention such as SBC where they form such a powerful majority in their own country to appreciate what it is like to live as Baptist Christians where we are in a minority."

"On behalf of all Baptists throughout this region, I appeal to SBC leaders and people: please think again! You are valued and needed for the sake of God's Kingdom and by God's people. ... I find it hard to believe that you can turn your back on your Baptist brothers and sisters around the world."

BWA Vice President Dorothy Selebano of South Africa: "I was shocked at the news about the SBC withdrawing membership but when I recovered, I remembered God's Word which says: 'All things work together for the good to them that love Him.'"

"We may not be able to comprehend it now. Let us leave this issue in the capable hands of the living God. We will continue praying for our brothers and sisters in the SBC and for the BWA."

Brian Winslade, national leader of the Baptist Churches of New Zealand: "Coming from a small Baptist union way down in the South Pacific, I continue to be appalled at the attitude and behavior of SBC leadership. ... Historians will one day judge the attitudes of current leadership within the SBC as a blatant denial of Baptist principles and destructive of Christian unity. We can behave better than this. Our prayer for the SBC is that they will breathe deeply, behave as mature followers of Jesus and reverse their decision."

Theo Angelov, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation: "The SBC churches, believers and missionaries were an important part of the building of a 'New Europe' after the Second World War and the falling of the Communist regimes. ... We cannot believe now the relations should be broken and the links torn apart. 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."

Nripen Baidya, Bangladesh Baptist Aid: "We are praying for the SBC leaders and believe God will guide them to change their decision to keep the global Baptist harmony. ... May God bless BWA and SBC leaders to come in a mutual understanding to keep the Baptist harmony alive."



Morris Chapman



Duke McCall

'A gift to me from God'

Kentucky volunteers find northern Iraqi Muslims receptive to both food and Bibles

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—While many Christians in America have been praying for Iraq, a group of Kentucky Baptists recently had a chance to minister in the war-torn country.

Ten volunteers from Lexington and Grayson spent two weeks in December distributing food in northern Iraq.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board coordinated the collection of 2.4 million pounds of food and is overseeing its distribution.

The Kentucky Baptist volunteers said they believe the Dec. 4-18 project helped create additional opportunities for the gospel of Christ to be heard in the Muslim-dominated nation.

The team included eight members of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington as well as two people from Greenup Baptist Association. They were the first Southern Baptist volunteers to enter the region, populated by a mixture of Kurdish and Iraqi people.

"We blazed the trail for other teams," said Asa Greear, Greenup's director of missions. "We helped the missionaries see how much they could do with passing out Arabic-English New Testaments. In the debriefing, one guy made the comment, 'I can do more up here than I realized.'"

Real estate agent Mike Moynihan called the trip "a gift to me from God."

Moynihan, a member of Porter since 1997, said, "We proved to ourselves ... that the Iraqi nation is a people who want to be free ... spiritually. There is a terrorist element there, but the nation does not hate us."

26,000 pounds of food

The group distributed 200 Bibles along with 650 bags of food weighing about 40 pounds each, according to Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial.

The food came from boxed shipments donated by Baptist churches throughout the United States. The team repackaged food in smaller quantities to expand the number of families that could be helped.

The sugar, flour, lentils, beans, rice and other staples were enough to feed about 2,000 people for four to six weeks.

The team departed for the Middle East on Dec. 4, arriving in Jordan the next day. Thanks to lost luggage, volunteers had to wait there an extra day before going to central Iraq. From there, they drove north, arriving Dec. 9.

It took two days to repack the food and another day to distribute it at four sites. Prior to that, the team and an American military officer met with four Kurdish tribal leaders to discuss the project.

"We went through the military because of the safety factor," Henard said. "(We wondered) when we were giving out stuff, would we be attacked? But in all four groups, there wasn't a single problem. The people were well-behaved, appreciative and helped unload the truck."

"We are brothers"

The distribution began at a stadium temporarily housing people and continued at three tent villages scattered throughout the city.

At the stadium, Henard told the leader the food was a gift from the American people to help them in their struggle for freedom.

The chief replied, "We are not friends, we are brothers," before embracing the pastor and kissing him on the cheek.

When Henard followed up with the offer of a New Testament, the leader put the Bible on his head and said, "If this is a gift from you, I must receive it and I must read it."

In addition, most team members spent time in the local marketplace, shopping, talking and handing out Bibles.

They also worshiped at an Assyrian house church, where they served the Iraqi Christians their first Communion.

While in the marketplace, Greear said the men purchased Iraqi Kurdish outfits, hats and scarves and exchanged greetings despite the lack of an interpreter.

One merchant gave Greear a chest bump, a sign of friendship. Greear encouraged Baptist workers living there to send future volunteers to the same shops.



FRIENDLY WAVE A Kurdish teen living at a stadium in northern Iraq, waves and smiles for the camera.

"There's an openness," Greear said. "If I could speak Arabic or Kurdish, I could have had several opportunities to share my faith."

The trip bolstered the faith of other team members, including Guy Causey, principal of Bluegrass Baptist School.

"I was reminded that people, no matter where they are, need to know Christ as Savior," Causey said. "When we told them we were Christians, one man said, 'That's OK, Jesus was a prophet of peace.'"

"Who knows what seed was sown?" Causey added of the Bible distribution. "I have a firm belief that what we were able to give out (will impact people) because God's Word won't come back void."

For college sophomore Josh Booth, who snapped more than 700 pictures of the trip, the miracles started before he left Lexington.

In November his 35mm camera was stolen. Then, two replacements didn't work. But a church member who heard about his plight provided him enough money to purchase a digital camera.

"I felt like Job," Booth said. "I was in better shape after I got robbed than before I got robbed."

Booth was accustomed to telling others about Christ in one-on-one encounters, but he said that wasn't possible in Iraq.

Still, he said, God opened doors for Bible distribution, especially af-

ter the capture of dictator Saddam Hussein on Dec. 14.

"We had people coming and asking for Bibles at our hotel," Booth said. "I gave one guy a Bible, and he came back and said, 'Can I have one for my brother?'"

A different in-flu-ence

John Newland, pastor of First Baptist Church of Grayson, had a different experience. Sick with the flu, he got separated from the team and had to remain in central Iraq.

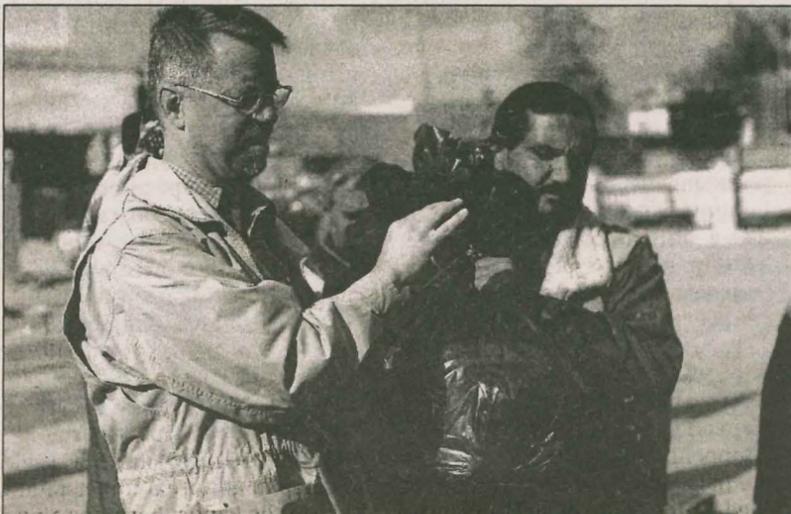
While there, Newland got a firsthand look at the difficulties of reaching Iraq with the gospel. He met one lay minister imprisoned briefly last February for distributing tapes of evangelical radio broadcasts.

"I feel I've gained a better understanding of Arab culture, what it will take to reach them and how to pray for (Southern Baptist) personnel," Newland said. "We need to pray for their wisdom and discernment—to know when it's right to witness."

The Iraqi people are so beautiful, Moynihan said, that it hurts him to know that many of them are bound for hell because they don't believe in Jesus Christ.

"We need to go back," said Moynihan, who is anxious to speak to other Kentucky Baptists about his experiences. "I'd go back tomorrow."

GROCERIES A Kurdish man unloads a bag of food from the food truck at the stadium. Ten Kentucky Baptists traveled to Iraq last month to help distribute food collected by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. (Photos by Josh Booth)



HELPING HAND Guy Causey helps a Kurdish man carry a bag of food.

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

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What does 'Follow Me' really mean?

By Wanda Lee

Birmingham, Ala.—During the fall of 2003, members of the Birmingham business community joined Woman's Missionary Union national staff in our building for weekly lunch and learn leadership seminars. We heard testimonies by way of video from people who have achieved great success in business while integrating their faith into daily life. Without fail, each person described his or her life in terms of servanthood modeled after Jesus.

While servant leadership is not a new concept, it is a model of leadership that few seem to practice today in either the secular world or the religious professional world.

We tend to live very segmented lives, putting business practices in one box while keeping our faith in a "Sunday only" box. I'm not sure that is what Jesus intended when He issued the call: "Follow Me."

Serving as a new denominational employee these past four years has been an eye-opening experience. I have met some incredible servants of the Lord who are faithfully following God's call to use their lead-

ership gifts while serving others.

I have also met some well-intentioned leaders who have lost sight of the servant aspect of leadership. They have adopted the philosophy that "the end justifies the means" without realizing the message this sends to an observing yet unbelieving generation.

FIRST PERSON

In their zeal to follow what they understand to be God's call in a given situation, they succumb to the practice of bulldozing their way over and through anyone who is in their path. Often they fail to see how many people they hurt along the way and, more importantly, how much damage they do to the message of Christ.

In his book "Servanthood: Leadership for the Third Millennium," Bennett Sims wrote: "Servant leadership concentrates on building up people, not polishing the system or the leader's self-importance. When this is done, ... the system will essentially build itself."

The greatest leader of all times had tremendous influence over His world. He practiced servant leadership before it was the popular

thing to do.

I am of course referring to Jesus who was quoted in the Scriptures as saying that "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28).

The leaders who serve others after the model of Jesus will be the ones who make a long-lasting difference in our world. What an incredible force for good when God's people see themselves not as rulers seeking success at any cost, but as servants who put others before themselves.

Wherever you serve in the Baptist family, my prayer is you will examine the leadership style of Jesus and follow only after Him, building up people in the faith and in missions.

When we do, the Kingdom of God will be made known to all around us who have yet to meet the greatest leader of all times.

Wanda Lee is executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union. Reprinted with permission from the January 2004 issue of *Missions Mosaic*

Keep telling it like it is

Well, Trennis Henderson, your Jan. 6 editorial in the Western Recorder concerning the Baptist World Alliance and Southern Baptists again reaffirmed my placing your name in my personal list of "editorial heroes."

Along with C.R. Daley, Marv Knox, Mark Wingfield (former Western Recorder editors); Joe E. Trull (editor, Christian Ethics Today); John Pierce (editor, Baptists Today) and others who have been the spokesmen for the truth, you stand tall.

Keep on telling it like it is! Keep on informing the average Baptists in the pew who have little or no

idea of the power structure now in place in our SBC. The very idea that two men (Judge Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson) about 20 years ago could start a movement that has caused such a division among Christian brothers and sisters is almost unbelievable, yet it has happened. According to God's "infallible Word" in Proverbs 6:16-19 the Lord hates seven things and the last one is: "He that sows discord among brethren."

Regardless of their own perceived good intentions of cleansing our schools and convention leadership of heretics, infidels and liberals, their plan has only resulted in indescribable hurt and anguish to thousands of God's good people in

our SBC. It now is going to alienate our Baptist brothers and sisters around the world. I believe that God, one day, will judge the hypocritical and Pharisaical attitude being shown by many in leadership positions of our SBC.

Hal Shipley
Murray

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. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

Two great churches experience Kingdom growth

God is at work in two very diverse churches in very different locations. Mt. Zion Baptist Church is located in Owsley County in Eastern Kentucky. Little River Baptist Church is located in Christian County in Western Kentucky.

Little River has a large percentage of children and youth; Mt. Zion has mostly adults. Little River is 200 years old and Mt. Zion is less than 85 years old.

However, the churches are similar in growth patterns. Jack Frost has been pastor at Mt. Zion for 10 years. Earl Grace has been pastor at Little River for 10 years. Each church grew slowly for several years but has responded with excellent growth during the past year.

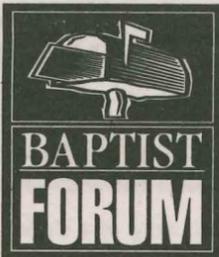
Frost had served churches in the area for years before going to Ohio as a pastor. Due to hearing loss, he retired and moved to Berea. He then supplied at churches but eventually accepted a call to serve as pastor of

Mt. Zion.

His hearing has since returned and now serving at age 82, Frost calls every member each week and visits each family once a month. His greatest fulfillment is in seeing someone come to faith in Jesus Christ, follow in baptism and serve the Lord.

Frost has developed people around him. Frank Wilson, who works outside the community, is one of the church's Sunday school teachers. He became a Christian about 12 years ago and started teaching Sunday school because no one else wanted to teach. Wilson does an excellent job of making life applications of the Bible passages.

Little River Baptist Church just celebrated its 200th birthday and is alive with new members, including children and youth. There have been 15 additions, eight by baptism, during the past three months.



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

STEWARDSHIP

Older investors are often the target of scams

By Don Spencer

Senior adults are too often the target of investment fraud and abuse. With limited resources and living on fixed incomes, these folks are targeted with investment scams that promise high returns.

Scams that target older investors include sales of unregistered securities, charitable gift

annuities, Viatical settlements in which terminally ill people sell their life insurance policies for up-

front cash, and Ponzi schemes that pay some investors returns with money raised from later investors.

Here are several tips for older investors:

■ Check out any salesman touting strange deals. Extensive background information is available on investment salespeople and firms through the state securities office.

■ Don't be a courtesy victim. Con artists will not hesitate to exploit your good manners. Save your good manners for friends and family, not strangers looking for a quick buck.

■ Beware of anyone who suggests putting your money into something you don't understand or urges you to leave everything in their hands.

■ Don't judge a book by its cover. Con artists can sound and look extremely professional and have the ability to make even the flimsiest investment deal sound as safe as putting money in the bank.

■ Beware of sales people who prey on your fears. Con artists know when people worry about outliving their savings.

■ Don't make quick decisions after a tragedy. It will likely just make things worse. If you find yourself suddenly in charge of finances due to death or illness, get facts before you make decisions.

■ Don't let embarrassment or fear keep you from reporting investment fraud or abuse.

For senior adults and for those who have not yet reached the senior years, there is an excellent resource available on the Internet at www.nasaa.org. There is a link on their home page to the Senior Investor Resource Center. It has several sets of tips and a quiz you can take online to test your knowledge in this area.

Education and awareness are your best weapons in the fight against investment fraud.

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



Seek to make regular family devotions a positive venture

Q: How can our family establish and maintain a regular devotional time?

Here are two ideas for family devotionals that can be fun while at the same time helping you get in the habit of having a devotional time together.

The first idea we'll call "The Word and A Word." Here's how it works. Meet at the table each morning or evening at a pre-arranged time. First comes "The Word." Have one family member lead a short devotional thought.

This can be a single verse of Scripture, a short passage or even a reading from a devotional guide. The leader closes this part with prayer.

Next comes "A Word." Have a different family member be responsible for teaching everyone a new word for the day. Pronounce the word. Then let everyone take turns trying to spell the word and telling what they think it means. After everyone has had a chance, the leader gives the correct definition and spelling. Leaders are responsible for a week at a time.

The second idea comes from University of Georgia head football coach Mark Richt, although I don't think it is original with him. Richt's family saves their Christmas cards and puts them in a basket on their dinner table. When they come together for a meal, they choose one of the cards, read it and pray for the person or family who sent it.

Be sure to make prayer and Scripture reading part of any devotional you do. Keep devotionals brief, especially with younger children. Check your church library or Christian bookstore for additional ideas and age-appropriate devotional materials.—David Garrard

Q: My wife and I seem to be caught up in a struggle over who is right about almost everything. How can we break this cycle?

Compromise and cooperation are hallmarks of equality. If partners consider one another equally important, and each feels equally valued in the relationship, you will create the best circumstance for love and happiness to thrive. When neither person feels short-changed, it is easier to have an attitude of generosity, goodwill and cooperation.

The following principles facilitate making decisions by consensus (rather than unilateral decisions that leave one partner dissatisfied):

■ **Look for solutions that are win-win.** The idea of winning and losing can work in games like chess or basketball, but not in marriage. When you are connected to someone in marriage or other close relationships, when you "win" and they "lose," you'll lose as well, in the long run.

■ **A win-win approach looks for solutions that please and work for both of you.** If your heart's dream is to vacation in Hawaii, and your partner's dream is Orlando, you might need to work hard to come up with win-win solutions. Possibilities might be to have a short Orlando vacation this winter, and next year, have a week in Hawaii. Or, you might find a third destination that pleases you both.

■ **Recognize that "compromise" solutions do not have to be lesser solutions.** Cooperative, problem-solving approaches can result in creative solutions that are better choices.

■ **Realize that your differences can add zing to the relationship.** If you value differences, acknowledge that although your preferences are different, neither of you is inherently right or wrong. This can keep you from the trap of insisting on having your own way.

Seek to make a commitment to yourself and to your spouse that you will work through your differing perspectives. The commitments we hold, plan for and follow through with shape our lives.—Jon Rainbow

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Words of advice for Emily and her peers

The pages of the calendar are turning far too rapidly these days. Emily, our 17-year-old daughter, began her final semester of high school last week.

It seems like it was just a few short years ago that Pam and I helped Emily find her kindergarten classroom on the first day of school. A few weeks later she was in first grade and the hands of the clock haven't stopped spinning since.

In the past several months, she's experienced such teenage rites of passage as getting her driver's license, having a boyfriend and being accepted to the top college on her wish list. Last Friday night, she represented South Oldham High School's Student Council on the homecoming court—and looked way too beautiful. (Are those little tear droplets clouding my eyes as I try to type these words? Nah, surely not. ... Well maybe.)

Of course, my goal here isn't just to brag about how wonderful my first-born child is (and yes, my second-born is equally wonderful, Audrey dear). I realize that virtually every parent, grandparent, aunt and uncle reading these words also lives in your own version of Garrison Keillor's idyllic Lake Wobegon "where all the children are above average."

I'm also aware that most editors wait until their child actually graduates from high school or heads off to college before regaling readers with tales of their offspring's incredible accomplishments. (Don't worry, I'll be glad to expound on the topic then too.)

My primary reason for musing about Emily's last few months in high school is to remind her (and myself) and every other high school senior out there (and their anxious parents) about the importance of making wise choices and creating

positive memories in these precious moments together.

Emily's most significant life choice came several years ago when she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. I humbly titled my editorial that week, "The biggest news in the world." And it was the biggest news in the world at our house because my daughter had become my sister in Christ.

Joyfully sharing her perspective as a new believer, 8-year-old Emily helped me write my editorial that week. "I have been a friend of Jesus for a long, long time," she began. Explaining that she realized she was a sinner who needed to trust Jesus as her Savior, she added, "I know that I am going to heaven when I die. I just wish that everyone would make the same important decision."

It has been a joy to watch her grow into a godly young woman. As our family

cherishes these next few months together and celebrates Emily's growing independence, I pray that the choices and memories we make together will honor Christ. I also pray that Emily and her peers (including your children and grandchildren) will continue to live their daily lives relying on the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit.

Emily, as you wrap up your high school career and prepare to explore a whole new world, I thought of several Scripture passages to share with you. But I kept coming back to one your mom and I have challenged you with dozens of times before: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

I know you can do it, Emma-Doodle (oops, I mean Emily). I love you—and I'm proud of who you are.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

What are BWAid's 'questionable enterprises'?

By Paul Montacute

It is now three weeks since past and present leaders of Baptist World Aid asked the chair of the Southern Baptist Convention's committee on its relationship to the Baptist World Alliance to substantiate its accusation that the BWA has funded "questionable enterprises through Baptist World Aid."

On Dec. 23, four days after the release of the SBC report, BWAid leaders wrote to SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman asking for details of these "ques-

tionable enterprises." Receiving no reply, a further message was sent Jan. 5 expressing the need for early clarification. Chapman replied: "There is no need to worry about an answer. Should the committee desire to expand on their original statement, I will send it to you."

BWAid leaders replied that they were "amazed that such a powerful committee of Southern Baptist leaders would make unsubstantiated accusations against a Christian ministry, without the immediate ability to provide evidence of such 'questionable enterprises.' Surely all committee members would have been made aware of the details of such a serious accusation before affirming or signing your report!"

Pointing out that "time is of the essence here," the BWAid leaders

asked that "if you cannot immediately provide the evidence to back this allegation, please have the graciousness to retract it publicly right away, before any more harm is done to those involved in Christian ministry to 'the least of these' around the world, and the people they are assisting in His name."

Chapman in his reply of Jan. 6 said: "I didn't say the statements were unsubstantiated. Had the committee planned to retract what we said, we would have had no reason to say it."

One week later, the BWAid leaders are still waiting and wondering what these "questionable enterprises" are.

As BWAid director, and looking back over 13 and a half years of service with the BWA, I wonder, was it questionable to:

■ Feed and provide shelter 10 years ago for the hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees who fled the genocide?

■ Provide pastors in Eastern Europe with Bibles, commentaries and other Christian literature?

■ Ship Bibles and other materials to Cuba?

■ Care for those who are HIV positive, AIDS orphan children and those caring for them?

■ Ship food to Moscow in the frozen winters as the Cold War began to thaw?

■ Erect numerous schools, clinics and other buildings for our Baptist conventions and unions around the world?

■ Work with indigenous national leadership, entrusting, empowering and enabling them in their humanitarian ministries?

■ Stand in the shoes of the most downtrodden at times of desperate need?

■ Encourage collaborative responses, such as in Baptist Relief Europe, so that small and large groups of Baptists could be involved?

■ Work with local Baptists to care for those suffering from nearly a decade of war in the Balkans?

■ Support the Burmese refugees in the forest camps along the border with Thailand?

■ Pioneer agricultural projects so that villagers could learn to feed themselves?

■ Assist in the rescue and caring for those impacted by natural disasters such as earthquake and floods?

If these are questionable enterprises, then I am glad that Baptist World Aid has been a part of them.

You can show your support for Baptist World Aid by sending donations to: Baptist World Aid, 405 N Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22045. Further information about BWAid projects is available at www.bwanet.org and BWAid@bwanet.org

Paul Montacute is director of Baptist World Aid. Reprinted from ethicsdaily.com

Our two sons

Actions show it's never too early to think of the future

Justin and Glen are college students. Both have taken seriously Jesus' teaching in the parable of the talents, "well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."

Recently my wife, Larie, and I sat in the foundation's conference room and observed them executing their four basic estate planning documents: a will, durable power of attorney, living will directive and health-care surrogate designation. Justin had executed his documents several years ago, but changes were needed due to changed circumstances. Glen was executing his for the first time. At the conclusion I offered a prayer of thanksgiving (a) for the demonstration of their faithfulness in the Christian discipline of estate stewardship, (b) for their mother's role model, (c) for the Christian attorney who advised and prepared the documents, (d) for the foundation's ministry and staff, which will serve as the fiduciary of a tithe of their estates, or for their entire estates if certain circumstances exist at the times of

their deaths, (e) for the ministries of the Baptist causes that will benefit, until Jesus comes again, from the endowments supported by the bequests in their wills and (f) for the multitudes whose lives will be touched for Jesus' sake in the future by Justin's and Glen's faithfulness and generosity.

I was gratified by their affirmation of my three convictions about estate stewardship: (1) every adult Christian, age 18 and older, should have a Christian estate plan; (2) one does not have to be an older adult and/or responsible for a significant amount of financial resources to have a Christian estate plan; and (3) Christian estate planning is not about death and dying; it's about living, dreaming, creating, fulfilling, leaving a legacy and making a difference in the world for the cause of Christ.

Call Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and let her assist you in demonstrating your faithfulness to Christ, regardless of your age or financial station in life.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



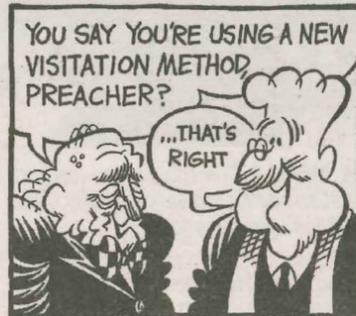
Barry Allen

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake

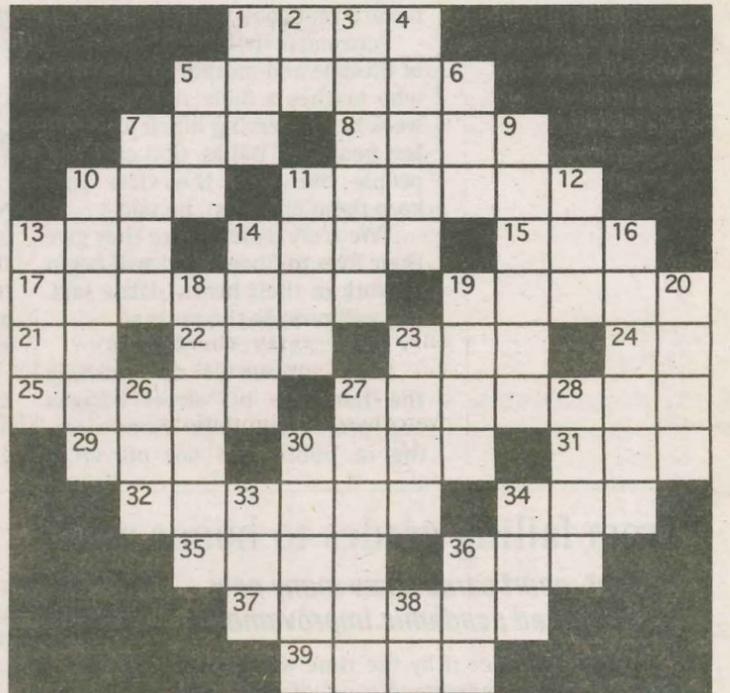


Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "The children of the ___ were gathered together" (Judges 6:33)
- 5 "Why ___ ye not the breaches of the house?" (2 Kings 12:7)
- 7 "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ___ mine own inheritance" (Ruth 4:6)
- 8 A son of Helem (1 Chronicles 7:35)
- 10 "How ___ I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?" (Esther 8:6)
- 11 Moves covertly
- 13 Etruscan god
- 14 "And they straightway left their ___, and followed him" (Matthew 4:20)
- 15 A Babylonian chief god
- 17 "___, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession" (Acts 5:1)
- 19 "And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, ___ and kids" (2 Chronicles 35:7)
- 21 Doctor's degree
- 22 "Go to the ___, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 23 Capuchin monkey
- 24 Artificial language
- 25 "Even upon his forehead, did he put the golden ___" (Leviticus 8:9)
- 27 Political representative
- 29 "Of ___, the family of the Erites" (Numbers 26:16)
- 30 "Have they not ___?" (Judges 5:30)
- 31 "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely ___" (Genesis 2:16)
- 32 A vessel in which substances are pounded



Janet W. Adkins

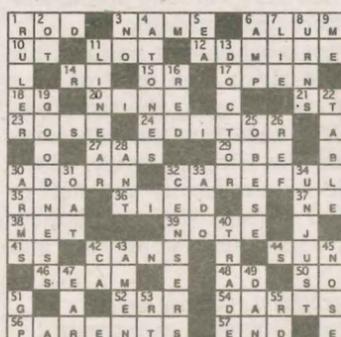
- 34 "He shall not search whether it be good or ___" (Leviticus 27:33)
- 35 "And the priest may bring her ___ and set her before the Lord" (Numbers 5:16)
- 36 Swiss river
- 37 "Bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my ___ of promise" (Numbers 14:34)
- 39 Revise, prepare for publication

- 13 "Thy word is a ___ unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105)
- 14 "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the ___?" (Luke 17:17)
- 16 "Till ye have scattered them ___" (Ezekiel 34:21)
- 18 "And ___ was destroyed of nation, and city of city" (2 Chronicles 15:6)
- 19 "Behold, the people of the ___ now are many" (Exodus 5:5)
- 20 "Certain lewd fellows of the baser ___" (Acts 17:5)
- 23 "And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the ___" (1 Samuel 9:19)
- 26 "With a strong hand, and with a stretched out ___" (Psalm 136:12)
- 27 "He ___ not their soul from death" (Psalm 78:50)
- 28 "The wild beast shall ___ them" (Hosea 13:8)
- 30 "They look and ___ upon me" (Psalm 22:17)
- 33 Confederate soldier Johnny ___
- 34 ___, humbug!
- 36 Play division
- 38 "And Joshua sent men from Jericho to ___" (Joshua 7:2)

Down

- 1 Poetic "ever"
- 2 News agency, abbr.
- 3 "Gather my ___ together unto me" (Psalm 50:5)
- 4 "Thou hast smitten me these three ___?" (Numbers 22:28)
- 5 "And he ___ before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him" (Luke 19:4)
- 6 Genetic material
- 7 "Call me not Naomi, call me ___" (Ruth 1:20)
- 9 Modern Achai in Greece
- 10 "Her ___ goeth not out by night" (Proverbs 31:18)
- 11 "Nor sitteth in the ___ of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1)
- 12 "Arphaxad, which was the son of ___, which was the son of Noe" (Luke 3:36)

Last week's solution



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Workers: Christian revival best bet to end homelessness

By John Hall
Texas Baptist Standard

Dallas (ABP)—A personal spiritual revival is the key for homeless individuals to overcome their multitude of issues and get off the street, according to leaders of Christian ministries.

Ministries providing food, clothing and job training are effectively meeting immediate needs. But those efforts must be combined with a spiritual effort to transform lives and move people toward attaining their own housing, said Charles Little, volunteer leader and deacon at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Dallas.

Rick Brenny, executive director of Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville, has seen spiritual efforts produce results in the homeless ministry he leads.

Brenny said less than 30 percent of people served at homeless ministries typically find permanent housing. But 38 percent of his clients are off the streets, and an additional 40 percent are making progress toward that goal, he said.

Personal revival leads to a change of lifestyle and morality, said Little, who teaches a Bible study twice a week before serving lunch to homeless people in Dallas. God can help people overcome the vices that keep them homeless, he said.

"We truly believe once they give their lives to Christ, God will begin to work in their heart," Little said. "He will provide the means."

There is a lot of work to do.

Laws nationwide are pushing the homeless off street corners and preventing them from sleeping in public but not providing



HOT MEAL A Chicago pastor (center) shares hot meals with two homeless men. Christian shelter workers say only Christ will help many homeless people escape their condition. (BP file photo)

enough shelters to care for them, said Jimmy Dorrell, director of Mission Waco in Texas. And Americans are not inclined to try to help the homeless because they never see the situation improve, Dorrell added.

Then there are the personal issues for the homeless.

Daunting statistics

According to statistics from the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, two thirds of the homeless population report either substance abuse or mental-health problems. As much as half have both.

Specifically, 38 percent of the homeless population indicate alcohol issues, 26 percent say they have drug problems, and 39 percent

have some form of mental-health problem, the group said.

These problems often prevent the homeless from holding steady jobs, Dorrell said. They either get high or drunk and miss work, or they don't take their medication and are unable to function.

Despite their issues, only one in 100 homeless people enter a rehabilitation program, said R.B. Cooper, minister of church and community outreach at First Baptist Church in San Antonio. If they get in a program, only one in 30 get clean, Dorrell noted.

Few facilities are equipped to treat the mentally ill who are homeless, Cooper said. Nongovernmental programs typically do not have the funds or trained personnel to provide needed treatment.

With the deck stacked against the homeless, God is their hope to straighten out their lives and end their addictions, said Little, the Dallas deacon.

Baptists largely use relationships to share the gospel with the homeless.

Dorrell started Church Under the Bridge, an outdoor congregation, to minister to the needy in Waco. Volunteers dress casually and mingle with the homeless at the services, held beneath a downtown interchange on Interstate 35. The friendships that develop help the homeless understand they are still important to others.

"In most cases they have conviction of sin," Dorrell said. "What they don't have is self-valuation. They don't see they are worth saving."

Cornerstone Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in San Antonio couple Bible studies with meals. A Bible lesson is given before a meal at both sites.

A consistent Christian presence speaks volumes to the homeless, said Gerald Davis, a consultant in the Baptist General Convention of Texas Missions Equipping Center.

Homeless ministries show needy individuals that churches care about them and want to help, Davis added. The efforts let the homeless know the message of hope and redemption is for them as well.

"The most effective thing is being there for them," Davis said. "Let them know you are serious and sincere about wanting a relationship with them. Let them know you are serious and sincere about helping them."

From failing grades to honor roll

Recent report cards show many new students had academic improvements

It would be nice if by the time we reached middle age we understood most of life's mysteries. Maybe you have reached that point, but many things still mystify me.

I often have written about the number of students who enroll with failing grades. Just last week several new students confessed to making mostly failing grades. I always ask them why they are failing. I am never surprised when they respond with, "because I am lazy" or "I just don't like school."

Many boys in particular do not see the importance of an education. They are convinced that once they graduate, even with a low grade-point average, they will have no trouble finding a good-paying job. On many occasions I have tried to find some magical words to help them understand their need for a solid education.

It is also never surprising when I see the mid-term grades for the first quarter. Typically it takes about two quarters, or one semester, for a student who has become accustomed to failure to begin to show solid academic improvement. Our biggest challenge during that time is to keep parents from getting overly concerned. They are understandably impatient and want to see better grades from the beginning. They presume that with our small classes, tutoring and required study hall, grades magically will improve within a few weeks.

Like some parents, I was concerned when I received the mid-term grades in September. There was a 25 percent increase in the number of failing grades compared to the same pe-

riod last year. What was wrong? How could so many students be failing? I decided to wait until the semester was over to see how things progressed. It is a challenge for our academic staff to motivate and inspire their students. With such a high percentage of students enrolling with failing grades, it takes a special commitment in our teachers to turn the attitudes and grades around.

Good news! Last week in chapel we called the names of students who earned honor roll status for the second quarter. For the past three years about 43 percent of our students were on the honor roll by the end of the first semester. The highest percentage ever on the honor roll at mid-term was 46 percent. The highest percentage of honor roll students during any quarter was 47 percent in the spring of 2000.

I am elated to report that when the honor roll was called in chapel 48 percent of our students had earned honor roll status! This is the highest percentage we have on record. Though we got off to a bad start, our students turned things around dramatically with a lot of effort and hard work.

Since I have not reached that point in life when I understand all or even most of life's mysteries, I have no idea what the second semester will hold. I do know I am eternally grateful for the support our friends provide, which makes it possible for our faculty and staff to help students find success. How appropriate our school's motto is: "Education for Time and Eternity."

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

Challenged and changed at Clear Creek

Indiana graduate recalls faculty's personal attention

"Brother Slagle, I don't think you'll ever make it. I think the best thing for you would be to just go back home and take care of your chickens."

This would be devastating to most college freshmen, especially coming from one of your teachers. As Bobby Slagle, current vice president of the Clear Creek Alumni Association, related this memory recently, the strangest thing happened. A big smile came over his face, and loving affection shined from his eyes. He looked as though he was talking about his best friend.

The woman Slagle referred to was Anna Starkey, Clear Creek's English teacher in the early 1970s. She spoke these seemingly harsh words to a student who had very little academic preparation or language skills.

"She knew exactly what she was doing! I told her, 'Miss Starkey, God called me here and God will have to tell me to leave. I guess I'll just stay.' She knew I would stay. She did exactly what it took to make me stay," Slagle said.

Miss Starkey continued to give

extra attention to Bobby Slagle. Extra reading assignments led him to a love of reading. "She loved me enough to challenge me, and then devoted extra time to help me meet the challenge," Slagle said. Since his 1974 graduation, Bobby has been a successful pastor, and recently served as chair of the executive secretary search committee for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. "I could never have done most of what I have done without Clear Creek. God used the school to change my life."

Since 1926, God has used Clear Creek to change many lives and prepare them for the ministry. God provides in the "manna" style,

prompting a heart to give just when the need is crucial. Almost one-third of the financial support God supplies comes from individuals and churches wanting to have a part in ministries like that of Bobby Slagle, and understandably so. Wouldn't you like to be part of a success story like that?

Edited from a story written by Jay Sulfridge, director of college relations.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Fallen 'Chaplain' seeks return

Harrington back in pulpit with message for 'straying sheep'

By Bruce Nolan
Religion News Service

New Orleans (RNS)—The voice booms out of the telephone, coming from somewhere near Fort Worth, Texas. It is deep, full, round. A radio voice. A podium voice.

"This is Bob Harrington. They used to call me the Chaplain of Bourbon Street."

Back in the 1960s and 1970s, even before the heyday of the televangelist, that voice was on the airwaves. From a base of operations in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter, Harrington launched a flamboyant personal ministry that thrived on confrontation and media savvy—and floated on that sonorous Alabama voice.

Harrington debated arch-atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair on the "Donahue" television show. He appeared in a feature interview in Larry Flynt's *Hustler* magazine. He broadcast on radio stations and played gospel music through loudspeakers on Bourbon Street. He preached outside strip joints.

He cultivated a reputation as an evangelist toiling in the lowest pit of hell and ringing for more heat. In the era just before televangelists made it Really Big, he was Big.

And then his career turned to ashes.

Harrington, he is the first to explain, immolated himself in his own success. Money begat excess. Excess begat foolish ego. Money and ego together drew women. Then came divorce, flight from New Orleans, ruin as a "motivational speaker" in Florida and now, at 76, he says, a measure of personal peace with his third wife in a double modular home on a Texas horse farm.

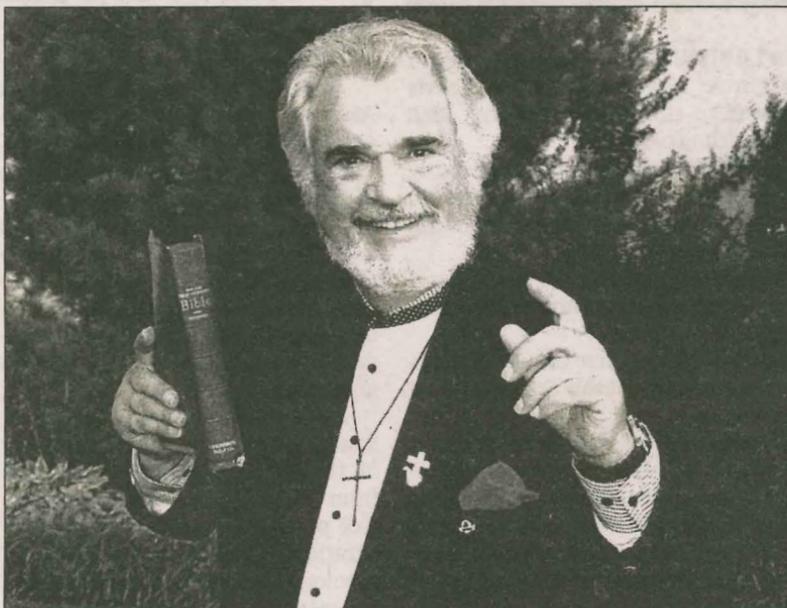
A persistent daughter's influence

Except he's coming back. Chastened, he says. Broken and healed.

In mid-December, Harrington preached in New Orleans and visited family there. His daughter, Rhonda Kelley, is a faculty mem-



EARLIER DAYS Harrington poses with his Bible on New Orleans' Bourbon Street in a 1970s New Orleans Times-Picayune newspaper file photo.



"PURSUING PRODIGALS" Evangelist Bob Harrington was known as the "Chaplain of Bourbon Street" during the heyday of his flamboyant ministry in the 1960s and 1970s before falling out of favor. Harrington has quietly re-entered the pulpit.

ber at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where her husband, Chuck, is president.

"She and Chuck brought me back to the Lord. They are my heroes. My Rhonda never gave up on her daddy. She never dropped me," booms Harrington, with a slight catch in his voice.

Harrington said he is still frequently on the road, now that the invitations to preach have begun to pick up again.

"Any little storefront will do. I don't look for much," he said. "A lot don't know I'm available. I've tried not to promote myself, but it's hard for me not to do that."

In conversation, he has scores of aphorisms and one-liners, little rhetorical devices that are the hand tools of a successful evangelist—or a successful insurance salesman, which he said he was before he was born again in a revival in Sweetwater, Ala., "at 8:45 p.m. on April 15, 1958."

Of his indifferent religious life before then: "You got to be alive to be lukewarm. I was dead lost. Cold lost."

On O'Hair: "A woman more dedicated to nothing than most people are to something."

On his downfall: "Satan threw me a pass, and I ran with it to defeat."

On his health: "I don't lose weight because what people lose they generally go looking for. I've 'released' a few pounds, though."

The road to ruin

Harrington's New Orleans celebrity began to crack up in the late 1970s as word spread that he left his wife of 30 years for a woman working in his ministry. Speaking engagements dried up. So did his income.

He told a New Orleans divorce court in 1979 that he and his wife, Zonnya, were earning \$1,000 a month—down from \$2 million a year in gross receipts four years earlier, he claimed.

He also told the court he had \$53 in their checking account and could not afford to pay alimony. He begged the judge, however, to let him keep his jewelry because his

gold rings and bracelets were crucial to his hoped-for makeover as a motivational speaker. The judge agreed.

In Florida, Harrington hawked a personal enrichment program called Balanced Living that charged executives \$1,000 to \$3,000 to show them how to find success. Harrington confessed in a 1982 *Times-Picayune* interview he had not been fulfilled as an evangelist because he was "out of balance physically and mentally."

"I wanted a more beautiful lifestyle for myself, and now I have it," he said then.

What he got instead, he says now, was bankruptcy, another broken marriage and a kind of soulless alienation that had him entertaining thoughts of suicide. He said he was never arrested, never did booze or drugs. But he piled up debt and triggered lots of lawsuits.

The prodigal father returns

In 1995, he returned to New Orleans. He said he was broke and alone. The Kelleys took him in for a while.

In time he began to preach again, and a few years ago met Becky Birdwell, "15 or 20 years" his junior. They married and live together on the ranch where she raises miniature horses near Mansfield, Texas.

Now Harrington has a new story to tell, a second redemption to accompany the first back in 1958.

The Kelleys are convinced Harrington "is on the right path in his walk with the Lord," Rhonda Kelley said. They are happy for him; Chuck Kelley has extended a personal endorsement of sorts: an invitation to speak at a seminary chapel service early this year.

Harrington said this year he will appear at 77 churches throughout Louisiana (for one evening each) to preach on "The Signs and Symptoms of Straying Sheep."

"I believe I can help more people by revealing hurts," said Harrington, who also plans to release a new book, "Success Over Shame."

"The Lord never leaves us and never forsakes us."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

NATIONAL NOTES

Bush urged to reject "morning-after" pill. Forty-nine members of Congress have called on President Bush to deny a recommendation from within the Food and Drug Administration to approve over-the-counter sales of a "morning-after" pill. In the letter, Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., and others urged the president and FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan to reject the vote of two advisory committees endorsing sale of the Plan B "emergency contraceptive" without a prescription. The FDA plans to announce a decision on the panels' recommendation in February, *The Washington Times* reported. While the FDA is not required to endorse its panels' recommendations, it normally does.

Judge: School simulation of Muslim activities OK. A federal judge has ruled that a California school district did not violate the U.S. Constitution when its teachers asked students to simulate Muslim worship and attire in class. The parents of two former seventh-graders in Byron, Calif., filed suit last year after a world history class mandated their son simulate Muslim activities. Among the activities were reciting a Muslim prayer, dressing in Arabic clothes for a presentation, selecting a Muslim name and playing a trivia board game in which students race to reach Mecca. "Objectively, the students ... cannot be considered to have performed any actual religious activities in their seventh-grade world history class," wrote U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton in an opinion issued in December.

Florida planning for faith-based prison. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has announced the creation of what he calls the nation's first entirely faith-based prison at a facility in his state. The plan calls for more than 790 inmates to live in eight dormitories at the Lawley Correctional Institution in Raiford, Fla. Participation by inmates is voluntary and entry into the program will not depend on the inmate's faith preference or lack of faith. Those who choose to be part of the program will be involved in faith-based activities seven days a week. Programs will focus on such issues as family life, personal growth and life skills.

Evangelicals press for more global AIDS funding. Evangelical leaders last week urged the president to make good on his promise to fight global AIDS by providing \$3.6 billion in his budget proposal for 2005. Last year, Bush outlined his Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which called for spending \$15 billion over five years to combat the disease in Africa and the Caribbean. But Serge Duss, World Vision's director of public policy and advocacy, and other evangelicals said they fear Bush intends to ask for only \$2.7 billion in actual spending for 2005, compared with the \$3.6 billion authorized by Congress.

White House urged to do more for healthy marriages.

The Bush administration has reiterated its intention to advance proposals that will foster "healthy marriages," but conservative Christian leaders say the president should also oppose gay marriages. The president first proposed in 2002 that up to \$200 million in federal money be used to develop faith-based and secular projects that help encourage people to get or stay married. The administration also would like to establish a \$100 million annual fund for research and other projects relating to families. Several conservative Christian organizations congratulated Bush on his proposal but said they hope his administration will go further and affirm their support of a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage.

Poll: Americans fear falling into poverty.

More than half of American adults said they fear becoming poor at some time in their life, a 5 percent increase over last year's results in a survey conducted by the nation's Catholic bishops. The "Poverty Pulse" survey is sponsored annually by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development as part of Poverty in America Awareness Month. This year's survey showed that 96 percent of Americans think it is important to address the problem of poverty, and more people than last year reported involvement with community programs that help the poor.

Seventh-day Adventists recognized by slim majority.

Most of North Americans surveyed have heard about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but some of them have them confused with other groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses. A survey last year found that 56 percent of respondents said they had heard or read about the denomination, according to a new report by the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for these new pastors and spouses at churches that are members of the International Baptist Convention:

■ Roger and Nancy Roberts, International Baptist Church in Brussels, Belgium.

■ Clint and Ilse Marie Ashley, Immanuel Baptist Church in Wiesbaden, Germany.

■ Altus and Dianne Newell, Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

■ Bob and Betty Nyrick in Kitzingen, Germany.

■ Ken and Glenna Lyles, Charity Baptist Church, in Vilseck, Germany.

■ Bill Laughlin, Trinity International Baptist Church in Leidschendam, the Netherlands.

■ Frank and Kathy Lovieno, International Baptist Church in Nice, France.

■ Crandell and Jean Lindsey (interim), International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria

■ Huw Williams, International Baptist Church in Javea, Spain.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CORBIN**—Piney Grove Church called **Daniel Plemons** as music and youth minister. He will graduate in May from Cumberland College. **Greg Farmer** is pastor.

■ **COLUMBUS**—Columbus Church ordained **Chad Frizzell** to the gospel ministry Jan. 11. He is pastor of New Vision Church, Mayfield.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—East Fork Church recently called **Adam Jarboe** as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—**Jerry Chase** will retire May 31 as minister of music at Crestwood Church.

■ **FRANKLIN**—Lake Spring Church recently called **Tony Brown** as pastor.

■ **HARTFORD**—East Hartford Church recently called **Rodney Albin** as pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—**Mitch Barnhart**, director of athletics at the University of Kentucky, will speak at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services Feb. 1 at Sand Spring Church. **Keith Madison**, former UK baseball coach, will speak at the men's breakfast that morning.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Ormsby Heights Church recently ordained **Travis Jewell** to the gospel ministry. **Rick Bowden** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church recently honored **Scott Wigginton** for 10 years as director of LifeCare Counseling Center.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will host **The Carolina Boys** in concert, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church recently called **Matt Mason** as minister to students.

■ **PADUCAH**—West End Church called **Bill Spears** as minister of music Jan. 14. **Terry Sills** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church recently called **Amber Meadors** as church office administrator.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.

ERLC's Land: Equipping believers for pro-life cause is major goal

By Dwayne Hastings
SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Nashville (BP)—Whether it's the struggle in Florida to keep Terri Schiavo alive or the rulings by two federal courts to stay the ban on partial-birth abortion that made the legislative victory short-lived, the debate over the sanctity of human life is headline material.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said he isn't surprised at the give-and-take over human life. On his "Richard Land Live!" radio program recently, Land noted that contemporary culture is home to two very disparate civilizations: the Judeo-Christian civilization, which is based on the sanctity of all human life, and the neo-pagan civilization, which promotes a relativist quality-of-life perspective.

A clash of worldviews

"When these two totally antagonistic worldviews come up against each other, it makes a real difference in peoples' lives because real people die when the quality-of-life ethic usurps the sanctity-of-life ethic," Land said. He warned that 30 years of Roe v. Wade has severely eroded the sanctity of human life ethic in the United States.

"By allowing this barbarity—for over 30 years now we have been killing a baby every 20 seconds—we have brutalized our whole society, including our court system, in that we have devalued and de-sanctified human life to the point that a court can as casually sentence a human being to die by malnutrition and dehydration as it can allow a partially delivered healthy baby to be murdered by a physician."

The only hope, Land said, is for the people of God to stand up and say enough is enough. Marking his 15th year as head of the SBC entity for ethical and moral issues, Land said in the November-December 2003 issue of the ERLC's Light magazine, "We stand at a critical juncture, and the choices we make will produce long-lasting results. In another 15 years we will live in a different climate than we do today."

Land is fond of saying that if the culture is going to be redeemed, it hangs on the response of Southern Baptists. He believes that is especially true in the sanctity of human life issue.

Sanctity of life resources

The ERLC understands that many church leaders need resources to help educate members of their congregations on this important issue, Land said. The ERLC produces church bulletin inserts that focus on life issues. Also available are pamphlets, such as "What the Bible Teaches about Abortion," "What They Never Told You about the Facts of Life" and a tract by Land titled, "Is Life a Right?"

"The America we will know—in 15 years—will be much better or much worse than it is now," Land said. "We will live in a society that has much more aggressively affirmed Judeo-Christian values or much more aggressively affirmed neo-paganism, where the only absolute is that there are no absolutes."

One way or another, Land warned, society will move off the balance point upon which it rests today. Where it falls, he believes, is up to Southern Baptists and other Christians and their response to God's leadership.

Daniel Akin unanimously elected president of Southeastern Seminary

By Kyle Smith
Baptist Press

Wake Forest, N.C. (BP)—Daniel Akin was elected president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Jan. 15 with a unanimous vote of the seminary's board of trustees.

"This is a great day, a glorious day, a historic day," said trustee chairman Timothy Lewis, who headed the presidential search committee that recommended Akin. He described Akin as "a man with a great passion for God."

Akin, who previously served at Southeastern as assistant professor of theology and dean of students from 1992-1996, most recently was vice president for academic administration and dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"I am extremely honored and genuinely humbled at this opportunity," said Akin, who was also elected professor of theology and preaching. "I do count it a great, great honor to come back home and be part of one of the greatest schools

in the world."

In an address to seminary faculty members, Akin said, "I don't have a renovation assignment. I have a glorious assignment of climbing on board a speeding train that's gloriously going in the right direction."

"I would like to see Southeastern continue to be the premier school in terms of missions and evangelism."

Before his election by the trustees, Southeastern's faculty unanimously affirmed their support for his administration.

Akin holds degrees from Criswell College in Dallas; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and the University of Texas at Arlington. He has served as pastor of 10 churches in Texas, Florida, Alabama and Virginia in both interim and full-time roles.

He is the author of several articles and books, including "God on Sex," published by Broadman & Holman; the New American Commentary on the Epistles of John; and the Holman Old Testament Commentary on Song of Songs.

Kentuckians among SWBTS graduates

Fort Worth, Texas—Three students with Kentucky ties were among 267 graduates at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's recent commencement ceremonies.

Students from Kentucky include: **Jennifer Rose Garrison**, Williams-

burg, master of arts in ministry-based evangelism.

Michael Shane Garrison, Lewisport, master of arts in Christian education.

Tammi Denise Mallory, Kentucky, master of arts in missiology.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: First Baptist, Sonora, is seeking a part-time youth minister to work with grades 7-12; some musical ability would be helpful. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 187, Sonora, KY 42776. Fax: (270) 369-8867.

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

SEEKING: Valley View Baptist Church in Vine Grove is seeking a minister of music (seminary and some experience preferred). For more information, visit www.valleyview-ky.org. Please send resumé to 501 Valley View Drive, Vine Grove, KY 40175, Attn: Music Committee, or e-mail to chris@valleyview-ky.org.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of recreation and activities for Kings Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, PO Box 380, Mt. Washington, KY 40047.

SEEKING: Secretary/administrative assistant for Green Acres BC in Louisville. Skills required: receptionist, file/financial clerk, computer experience (desktop publishing, MS Office, QuickBooks2003). Pay and benefits negotiable. Send resumé or application to GABC, 5189 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40219; e-mail: dpowell198@aol.com. For more information, call (502) 964-8165.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Apply to Liberty Baptist Church, c/o Joy Fletcher, PO Box 208, Russell Springs, KY 42642.

SEEKING: Parkwood Baptist Church in Louisville seeks to fill pianist position immediately. If interested, contact Joshua Duke, minister of worship, (502) 366-8055.

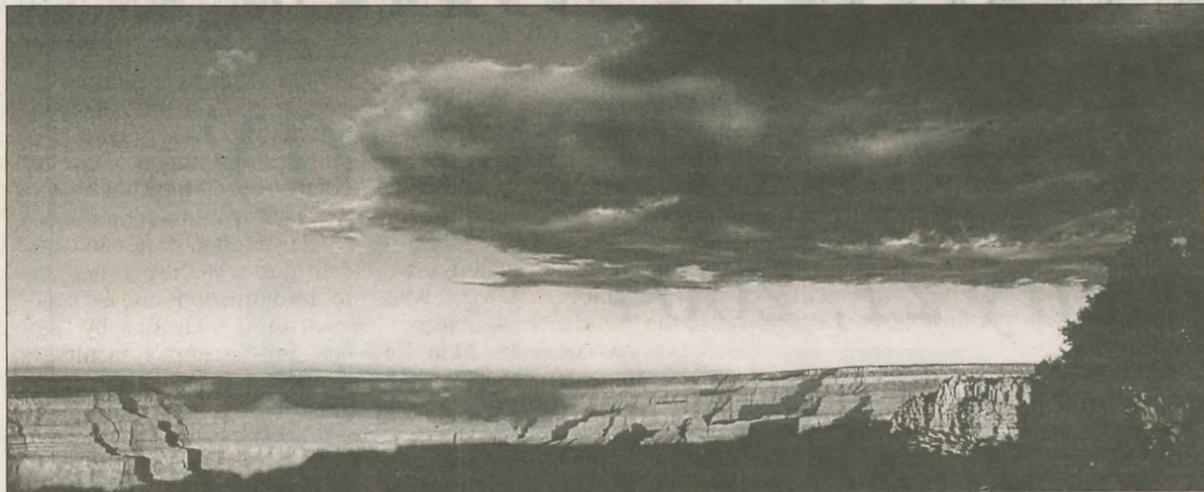
SEEKING: Broadway Baptist Church, a CBF affiliate in Louisville, Ky., is seeking an experienced minister of adult education and discipleship with an emphasis in developing small-group ministries and outreach. For more information, go to www.broadwaybaptist.org/search.htm, or write to the church c/o Education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

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

SERVICE: America's fastest-growing Christian long distance company. 3.9 cents/minute; no monthly fees; no codes or restrictions; 6 second billing; 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com. Home agents needed.

TOUR: Alaska cruise. You are invited to join our Christian Life Tours group on a 7-day inside passage and glacier cruise June 4-11 with optional land tour. Enjoy Alaska with other Kentucky Baptists at the best prices. For brochure or to make a reservation, call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free). OK to leave message.

A Grand debate



NORTH RIM Creationists, scientists and others are debating the sale of "Grand Canyon: A Different View," at Grand Canyon National Park. The book (inset) contains an essay claiming the canyon dates to the biblical flood of Genesis rather than millions of years ago. (Newhouse News Service photo)

Book flap highlights Park Service protests

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Traditional scientists and Christian creationists have lined up on either side of a dispute over sales of a new book at Grand Canyon National Park that claims the canyon dates to the biblical flood of Genesis rather than millions of years ago.

The presidents of such organizations as the American Geological Institute and the American Institute of Biological Sciences have written or signed letters to the park's superintendent expressing concerns that the book's presence could leave visitors with the impression that it is endorsed by the National Park Service.

Answers in Genesis, a Kentucky-based ministry whose president wrote an essay in the book, is urging its supporters to ask park service officials to permit "Grand Canyon: A Different View" to remain on the shelves of the park's three bookstores.

The debate has reached the point that a Washington policy office of the National Park Service is considering how to handle the matter, officials said.

"They sent the book in here and we're looking at it with our attorneys to try to get a policy statement out," said David Barna, spokesman for the National Park Service.

"It's not so much about this book as it is about what we do with the other views of the way geologic features in parks were created."

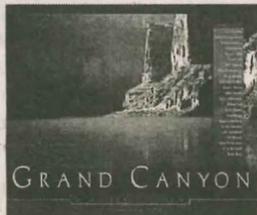
The difference between the views of some groups is—literally—millions of years apart.

"The Grand Canyon was formed millions of years ago," said William Ausich, president of the Paleontological Society, who signed a letter along with presidents of six other scientific organizations.

"It is the job of the National Park

Service to present the best scientific information possible to the public and the book is complete pseudoscience."

Mark Looy, vice president of Answers in Genesis, said four staff members of his organization contributed essays to the book and believe the canyon is much newer.



"The canyon was formed as a result of the aftereffects of Noah's flood, a worldwide global flood," he said. "Most of the canyon was formed by a lot of water over a relatively short period of time."

Kentucky connection

His organization, based in Florence, has raised \$10.5 million toward the construction of a Creation Museum.

The book, written by Tom Vail, features colorful photographs of the canyon and essays reflecting a creationist's view of its development.

"For years, as a Colorado River guide I told people how the Grand Canyon was formed over the evolutionary time scale of millions of years," writes Vail on the Web site of his Phoenix-based Canyon Ministries about the book. "Then I met the Lord. Now, I have 'a different view' of the canyon, which, according to a biblical time scale, can't possibly be more than a few thousand years old."

Barna, of the park service, said interpreters who guide visitors through the park are aware there are different viewpoints on the canyon's development.

"They're instructed in the current scientific and geological explanation, which means very, very old, as in hundreds of millions of years," he said. "I'm certain that park interpretative rangers get stopped frequently by people who believe the creationist view or maybe the Native American view. ... Our explana-

tion is that we recognize that there are a variety of opinions."

Barna expects the books will remain in place.

"The superintendent just reordered additional copies," he said.

A Washington-based group called Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has complained not only about the book but about the Grand Canyon National Park's decisions concerning plaques featuring biblical verses.

The plaques, which date to the 1960s, were removed last summer after a park superintendent feared they were going to prompt a suit, Barna said. The superintendent was overruled by Park Service Deputy Director Donald Murphy, who apologized to the religious organization that donated the plaques and had them restored pending a review by the Justice Department.

Other park service issues

The public employees group also is concerned about park service plans to alter a video that airs in the basement of the Lincoln Memorial featuring demonstrations held there through the years. Conservative groups, including the Traditional Values Coalition, have expressed concern that footage on the video features abortion rights and gay rights groups.

"The Bush administration appears to be sponsoring a program of faith-based parks," said Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

Barna said demonstrations dealing with conservative causes have tended to be in front of the Capitol rather than the Lincoln Memorial.

He said the revised video will not delete scenes of liberal groups, but could include more conservative groups such as Promise Keepers and footage of veterans and presidential ceremonies at the memorial.

But he denies the park service is involved in "political meddling."

'Baby Boot Camp' devotional offers new mommies advice

By Sondra Washington
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

Birmingham, Ala. (BP)—The first six weeks of motherhood can be one of the most difficult seasons in a woman's life.

Life with a new baby often reveals a large gap between expectations and reality, forcing many first-time moms into a world where they soon find themselves completely unprepared.

To help encourage new mothers during this physically and emotionally draining time, Rebecca Ingram Powell uses military themes to help moms cultivate their relationship with Jesus Christ in "Baby Boot Camp: Basic Training for the First Six Weeks of Motherhood," a new book from New Hope Publishers.

"The first six weeks are especially tough, ... your own personal boot camp for moms," Powell writes. "Your body continues to be tried as healing begins and hormones readjust. More mood swings are on the way, with postpartum depression at the front lines. Your drill sergeant wears a diaper and screams every command, waking you at all hours of the night and keeping you on your toes all day."

As a mother of three children ranging in age from six to 12, Powell believes motherhood often is glamorized in a way that leaves new moms with an inaccurate view of the days and weeks ahead.

"You get so much attention when you are pregnant and when you bring the baby home"—prior to the times when "nobody else is around when the baby is up," Powell said. "It is the hardest and loneliest time when you are a new mom. I'd like to think that women are reading 'Baby Boot Camp' when they are up at night and they need a friend."

"You don't have to struggle alone"

Originally written to encourage expecting friends in Powell's Sunday school class, "Baby Boot Camp" consists of 42 brief devotionals—one for each day of the first six weeks—reminding mothers that this season of life is only temporary and that God understands their needs.

"The best part about this boot camp is that you don't have to struggle through it alone," she writes. "Jesus Christ wants to walk the floor with you, climb the walls with you, jump for joy with you and run the race with you. ... This is your heritage from the Lord, straight from His riches in glory."

Using military themed chapters like "All in the Line of Duty," "Holy Warrior," "AWOL: My Paycheck" and "Earning Your Stripes," Powell reveals lessons learned through her own parenting experiences and draws parallels between the training endured by soldiers and the difficulties new mothers face.

"My goal in writing this was to encourage women to establish and maintain a daily quiet time even if it is just five minutes," Powell said.

"Spending daily time with the Lord is vitally important," she emphasized. "Any attempt at parenting without Jesus Christ is in vain. If you don't introduce your children to Jesus, then your parenting has no eternal value."

Powell also hopes churches will use "Baby Boot Camp" to reach unchurched parents.

"Today, we are facing the most unchurched generation ever, but when people become parents, that is a window of opportunity for the church," she said. "New parents realize how inadequate they are for the task (and) they are reaching out to God for biblical answers. ... We need to capitalize on that."

Powell, who speaks frequently to women's groups and parenting organizations, is a monthly columnist for ParentLife magazine where she offers guidance to moms in her column, "A Mother's Heart." She also is a contributor to Baptist Press and has written for BabyLife and HomeLife magazines. She lives near Nashville, with her husband, Rich, and their three children.

New Hope Publishers is a division of Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Our newsletter plan can help you stretch this more than you ever imagined!

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Cumberland College

Campus Discovery Day

February 21, 2004

The faculty, staff and students at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Kentucky invite you to experience some of the excitement of being a college student by taking part in our Campus Discovery Day. You can join us Saturday, February 21, 2004. For more information contact use at (606) 539-4201



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