

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

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FOR THE RECORD

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Allen: Most churches fail to ask members for donations in wills

Louisville—When the philanthropist who inherited the McDonald's fast food fortune left the Salvation Army \$1.5 billion in her will earlier this year, it was one of the largest bequests ever made.

But most non-profit organizations recognize it is just a drop in the bucket compared to the massive transfer of wealth that will provide charities an estimated \$6 trillion during the next half-century.

As the World War II generation passes away and the baby boomers begin to die, nonprofit organizations are strategizing to be remembered in carefully planned estates.

But while charities ranging from CARE to the Boy Scouts encourage donors to remember them in their wills, the vast majority of churches are woefully absent from the mix, according to the president of Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

"That is a huge missed opportunity in financial stewardship," said Barry Allen, who estimates that less than 2 percent of committed church members include their congregation in their wills.

"The No. 1 reason is because nobody in the church ever asked them to (contribute in their wills)," Allen added. "The leadership does not think of these kinds of gifts."

But other forward-looking charities have been positioning themselves for decades to reap dividends when old friends like Joan Kroc depart. Her \$1.5 billion gift to the Salvation Army was announced last month.

"I couldn't speak," said George Hood, the Salvation Army's national spokesman, in describing the moment he heard the donation's size. "I said, 'Excuse me, did you say 'billion?'" It was pretty stunning."

But not entirely surprising. While the Salvation Army is best known for collecting nickels and dimes in red buckets at Christmas, it foresaw the millions it might raise through wills. Any donor, not just wealthy ones, can contact the Salvation Army and ask for help in planning an estate.

Other charities offer similar services. CARE, for example, has sample will language on its Web site. It also has financial planners eager to show wealthy donors how they can reduce their estate taxes with a gift to CARE.

In the fiscal year ending last June, CARE received \$40 million in bequests, including one gift of more than \$28 million.

The Salvation Army employs a battalion of estate experts to tap into wills.

□ See *Too many churches ...* Page 9

Battling burnout

How can churches keep lay leaders from becoming drained?

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

Louisville—The growing number of burnout cases reported among church lay leaders is causing many ministry specialists to look for ways to lessen the burden on these members and revitalize their ministry.

"You know the saying, '20 percent of the people are doing 80 percent of the work?'" asked Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Ten to 15 percent of the people doing 85 to 90 percent of the work is really more in balance."

While the statistical evidence about burnout among lay leaders in churches is mostly anecdotal, Rainer said evidence is causing a growing concern among pastors and church leaders.

"The bottom line is we have too few people doing too much of the work in churches today," he said. "We give our best workers five, six or seven different jobs, and eventually the usual response is for these workers to drop out from ministry and even sometimes to drop out of church completely."

Rainer said the problem is increasing in scope as the culture of the church changes.

"I think there is an increasing level of congregational expectations put not only on pastors, but on lay leaders like deacons as well," he said. "While we don't have any hard data, the anecdotal evidence shows us the number of hours they are expected to put in grow from year to year."

Anne Ortlund, author and co-founder of the national pastoral care organization Renewal Ministries, said she and her husband saw firsthand the destructive results of burnout in the life of a lay leader.

"A wonderful fellow in his mid-30s at our church served as head of the trustee board, and he did a fantastic job," she said. "A lot of people depended on him and put a lot of responsibility on his shoulders."

But after ending his three-year stint as head of the board, she said, he soon dropped out of church completely and never returned again.

"He was completely burned out, and we didn't know it, even though we were very close to him," she recalled. "If we had known how burned out he was, we would have done things differently and taken better care of him, but we didn't"

□ See *Specialists offer ideas ...* Page 12



Corbis photo

SBC president calls for studying denominational name change

Nashville (ABP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham announced last week that he will appoint a committee to study renaming the SBC. As "a network of churches that circle the planet," the SBC must consider changing its name to "reflect who we are and what we are doing nationally and internationally," Graham told the convention's Executive Committee Feb. 16.

Southern Baptists are viewed in the nation and the world as leaders among conservative Christians, said Graham, pastor of the Dallas-area Prestonwood Baptist Church. "I have loved the Southern Baptist Convention and its name," he said. "But this name that I love and you love speaks of our region and doesn't move us beyond to the great cities of the Northeast, to the West and the Midwest. It's time to consider a new name that reflects our future."

Graham said he will appoint a name-change study committee in the next few weeks that is "geographically and generationally" representative, reflecting "the heart and compassion and theology of the SBC around the world." "It is my prayer that the committee can bring a recommendation to the SBC in 2005," he said. "Timing is everything," he added, noting that "seven or eight" previous studies of a possible name change resulted in no change, including one initiated by W.A. Criswell in 1974. The last effort was in 1999.

"Why would we do this?" he asked. "Only one reason—to strengthen and lengthen our witness here in America and around the world ... because we are determined to do whatever it takes to connect with our culture and our country and the continents of the earth."

SBC Executive Committee approves plan to leave BWA

By Trennis Henderson & Greg Warner
Editor & Associated Baptist Press

Nashville (ABP)—Southern Baptist Convention leaders intent on severing ties with the Baptist World Alliance took a major step in that direction Feb. 17.

Despite pleas from Baptist leaders worldwide and some Southern Baptists not to leave BWA, the SBC Executive Committee voted 62-10 to approve a recommendation to withdraw SBC membership and funding from BWA, the 99-year-old fellowship of 211 Baptist bodies worldwide.

The proposal will now go to messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention in June for final approval. The action would take effect Oct. 1, deleting the final \$300,000 of annual SBC support for the Baptist World Alliance.

The hour-long debate was limited to Executive Committee members only. BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz was present but was not invited to speak to the recommendation.

Lotz: 'We are very sad'

"We are, of course, very sad," Lotz said in an interview after the vote. "Any time there is a breach in fellowship, it is sad. ... We're going out sad, but we're going out with love for Southern Baptists."

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman presented the two-page report and recommendation calling for the SBC to withdraw from the global Baptist organization.

He described an earlier report released in December as an interim report that serves as background to the committee's final recommendation.

The initial report complained that the BWA sanctions theological positions contrary to Southern Baptists' conservative views and has ignored the SBC's complaints.

In its final report, the nine-member study committee claimed that some BWA leaders, including Lotz, "took the opportunity to vent what appears to be pent-up feelings of hostility about our convention" in response to the December report.

"Due to these revelations, we need not now justify or vilify, but can simply do what we preferred to do in the first place, which is to politely withdraw from an organization that, at least for us, no longer efficiently communicates to the unsaved a crystal-clear gospel message that our Lord Jesus Christ is solely sufficient for salvation," the report

New Orleans Seminary delays SBC effort to consolidate control

Nashville (ABP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the lone holdout in a lengthy Southern Baptist Convention effort to gain stronger control over its entities, is under increasing pressure to change its charter to make the SBC the "sole member" of its corporation.

The seminary's trustees voted in their Oct. 6-8, 2003, board meeting to decline an earlier request to make the SBC its sole member.

Following two hours of detailed discussion, the SBC Executive Committee voted Feb. 17 to officially

Kentucky Baptists divided on BWA vote

Nashville—Kentucky Baptist members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted 2-1 last week in favor of the SBC cutting ties to the Baptist World Alliance.

Preston Bailey, a member of Elizabethtown Baptist Church, and Rick Bowden, pastor of Ormsby Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, voted in favor of the proposal while Jim Hales, a member of Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, voted against it.

"I think we did the right thing" in recommending withdrawing from BWA membership, Bailey said.

"There seemed to be some real significant differences" between the two groups, he added. "On certain issues you have to draw the line."

SBC officials claim the BWA is becoming increasingly liberal, a charge denied by BWA leaders around the world.

Bowden, attending only his second meeting as an Executive Com-

mitted.

Some Southern Baptist leaders, including study committee member Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, said the SBC proposal is based in part on the BWA's decision last year to admit the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as a member.

While "much has been made about the inclusion of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship into the BWA as having been the cause of our present recommendation to withdraw from the organization," the final report added, "One soaked by a rain need not blame the last raindrop."

"The decision of the BWA to include the CBF merely served as a confirmation that we must, as a convention, allow the world to see us without having to look through a BWA lens—a lens which for us has become too cloudy."

The plan approved by the Executive Committee calls for SBC leaders to study how the convention "may establish an even closer bond of fellowship with conservative evangelical Christians around the world" and earmarks the deleted BWA allocation for that effort.

"For us, the decision is one of stewardship," the report states. "If we can multiply the harvest by reap-

proached in recent weeks by Woman's Missionary Union members, church members, former pastors and associational members concerned about the SBC's proposed action.

"It has caused me to go into much prayer," he noted. "I was really hoping there would be some way to go forward with some changes compatible to both sides."

In light of the 62-10 vote for the SBC to leave the BWA, Hales said he will support the majority decision, encouraging fellow Baptists to "roll our sleeves up and do the best we can under the circumstances."

Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU, is among WMU leaders who pledged last month to continue working with BWA's Women's Department.

"The relationships are the big thing for us," Bolton said after last week's vote. "For those of us who are leaders of Kentucky WMU, our primary concern is the relationship we have with the women of the world." Trennis Henderson

plying the funds, there is no true Christian who should take issue."

Chapman: Building new bridges

"We believe we can take the money being contributed to the Baptist World Alliance and we can begin to build strong bridges with conservative evangelical Christian Baptists in all parts of the world," Chapman explained.

While "we do not intend to organize a fellowship body similar to the Baptist World Alliance," he said committee members believe international networking efforts will produce "a much stronger contribution to our witness to the world."

Speaking against the study committee proposal, Executive Committee member Nancy McGuigan of Coatesville, Pa., read a resolution adopted by the administrative committee of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey's Executive Board.

Urging SBC and BWA leaders "to begin immediately to find a way for reconciliation for the good of the Kingdom," the resolution called on Baptists around the world "to pray fervently for God to bring unity through the power of Christ and to bring reconciliation between the BWA and the SBC for a unified wit-

ness to a world in need of Christ."

Calvin Wittman, a pastor from Arvada, Colo., commended the study committee for its report. He affirmed the plan to withdraw from the BWA "since we are not in agreement theologically and in the ways we seek to practice the Great Commission."

National Woman's Missionary Union President Janet Hoffman, also a member of the Executive Committee, issued a call for Baptist unity.

Citing WMU's commitment to continue to support the work of BWA and its women's department, Hoffman said, "It would be a blessing in the view of many if we did not rush to judgment" before SBC and BWA leaders explored ways to find unity.

Bruce Martin, a pastor from Fayetteville, N.C., responded that SBC leaders also "have biblical responsibilities" that extend beyond a call for unity.

Chapman said the bottom-line question is: "Does the Baptist World Alliance best represent who we are to Christians and Baptists around the world or has the time come that Southern Baptists can best represent themselves? We do have the voluntary right to withdraw just as we have the voluntary right to engage."

the trustees would comply.

The "bottom line" is that he and the trustees understand that the seminary is owned by the SBC, Kelley said. He added, however, that seminary officials would prefer the option of working out alternative changes to the charter that would address the same concerns.

"Sole membership" is a legal term pertinent to non-profit corporations. Naming the SBC as sole member allows the convention to control the election and dismissal of entity trustees while granting the trustees authority to direct the

organization's work and financial affairs. The requested changes grant the SBC specific powers designed to thwart any attempt trustees might make to withdraw from the SBC fold, as trustees of some state convention entities have done.

Kelley said seminary trustees have been disinclined to make the change because they consider it a violation of Baptist polity, and because peculiarities of Louisiana law could cause the SBC to become more liable, rather than less, if it becomes the seminary's sole member.

'Chaos on Wheels'

Extreme evangelism team part of regional youth conferences

By Jessica Perkins
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Manly, Iowa—The name is "Chaos on Wheels," but the ministry is designed to bring peace.

The high-flying stunt BMX/skateboard group travels with other evangelists to youth conferences throughout the country. Team members use biking and skateboarding to share their faith with middle and high school students.

Chaos on Wheels will be an important component in the KBC's four upcoming "Soak-A-City" youth evangelism conferences. The events will be held in:

■ Mount Washington, March 31-April 2.

■ Pikeville, June 10-12.

■ Ashland, Sept. 4-6.

■ Franklin, Oct. 8-10.

The events also will feature evangelistic illusionist Brock Gill.

The Chaos on Wheels group will showcase extreme BMX bike stunts, including 40 high jumps, at each show.

Chaos got rolling when leader Jeremiah Anderson graduated from high school in 1995 and started a small bike shop in Manly, Iowa.

Not having found his place in traditional middle and high school sporting events, Anderson had developed an early interest in BMX free-styling and skateboarding in the seventh grade.

"I was inspired by the 1980s movie 'RAD.' My dad bought me a BMX stunt video, and my friends and I watched it and practiced all the time," Anderson recalled. "My dad let us build ramps in the backyard."

Through much practice, trial and error, Anderson learned the importance of perseverance and stuck

with the sport during high school.

"The cool thing to do in high school was to be in sports, and I just looked for something I could do," he said.

Anderson's love of BMX free-styling and skateboarding laid the groundwork for an opportunity to use his talents to serve God in full-time ministry. Through his bike shop and through riding in local skate parks, Anderson began to develop relationships with other riders who also had a passion for Jesus.

"We started riding together and connected," said Anderson. "It's obvious that God made our paths cross."

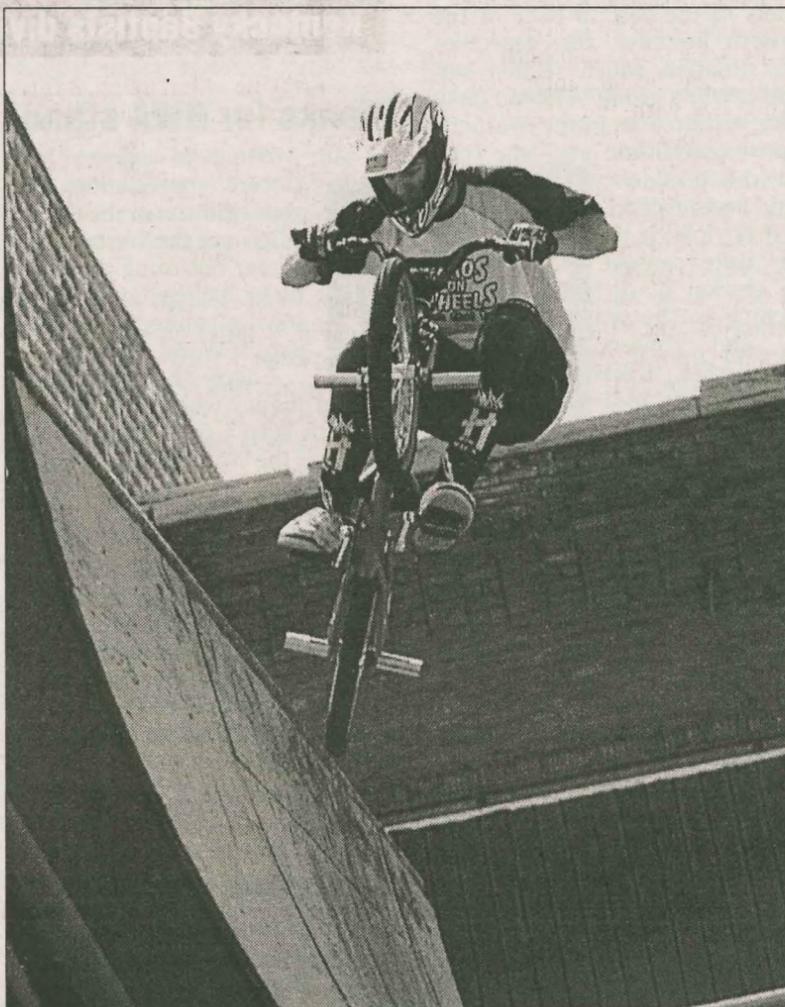
Chaos had humble beginnings, performing stunt shows at county fairs. But team members began to see the positive impact they were having on younger kids and decided to take things to the next level.

The team transforms its love of the sport into opportunities to teach students about God's love and purpose for their lives.

"Our goal is to make sure that students know that the reason we're able to do anything is because we know Jesus is our Lord and Savior," Anderson said. "We can only reach our full potential by allowing God to take over. We model Philippians 4: 13, 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'"

The Chaos team consists of Anderson, 28, four full-time and four part-time riders. They perform about five to eight shows per month.

Anderson said team members take advantage of every opportunity to connect with kids and share stories of their own spiritual journeys. They offer practical advice about things such as bike safety, but



AIRBORNE Jeremiah Anderson, leader of "Chaos on Wheels," performs a bike stunt off a ramp. Anderson and his team will appear at four Kentucky Baptist Convention youth evangelism events later this year.

include messages to students about peer pressure and how to survive as a Christian in a culture filled with mixed messages about morality.

"My message to students is to not be afraid of what you believe and of who you are. Being a Christian in high school is hard. Everyone is trying to figure out who they are."

"Through high school I was afraid to speak up (about Jesus). I

think back to friends of mine that I will probably never see again and the missed opportunities that are there," Anderson said. "It's hard no matter what you do."

For more information about KBC Soak-A-City events, visit www.kybaptist.org/soakacity. For more information about Chaos on Wheels, visit www.chaosonwheels.com.

Vermont is 'wide-open mission field' for Kentucky volunteers

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Burlington, Vt.—As the last state in the nation in which Southern Baptist work was established, Vermont is a wide-open mission field.

As mission partners with the Baptist Convention of New England since 1996, Kentucky Baptist churches have an ongoing opportunity to help meet those ministry needs.

Terry Dorsett, director of missions for the statewide Green Mountain Baptist Association, noted that most of Vermont's 25 Southern Baptist churches average 30 to 40 members each.

"We don't have the facilities, the resources, the volunteers" that many Baptist congregations in the South take for granted, Dorsett said. He added, however, that Vermont Baptists do have "people just saying yes to whatever God tells them to do."

One example is the work of John and Joann Tracy at Barre Baptist Fellowship. Starting their ministry in Barre 14 years ago, they were able to purchase a storefront facility a few years ago that previously doubled

as a gun shop and skate-sharpening business.

With a second-floor barbershop still serving as a tenant, the congregation and mission volunteers transformed the facility into a combination worship center and soup kitchen.

The 25-member congregation served more than 5,000 meals last year and distributed an additional 8,450 pounds of food to people in need.

Doors "open to everybody"

"Our doors are open to everybody," Tracy explained. "When it's 20 degrees below zero, they're only thinking of getting warm and having a meal. Last year we baptized nine people who came to us through our soup kitchen ministry."

Texas Baptist mission volunteers H.B. and Jo Graves and Johnnie and Lahoma Loar are working together to serve First Branch Baptist Fellowship in Chelsea.

"From all over the South, people have heard of the need for Jesus up here," Mrs. Loar said. "We let people know we have a need and

God works in their hearts to meet the needs."

Baptist churches throughout Vermont worked with more than 1,000 mission volunteers last year, Dorsett said, and 44 mission teams already are committed to work in the region this year.

Larry Martin, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions growth team, said the KBC's partnership with churches in Vermont and throughout New England "is open-ended and it's stronger than it has ever been."

"It's an opportunity for Kentuckians to be involved in one of the great mission fields in North America," he said. "It also is an opportunity to learn from people who have been working with a post-modern society for at least a couple of decades."

Ross Bauscher, director of the KBC's partnership missions department, said a growing number of Kentucky Baptist churches are sending mission teams to Vermont and the five other New England states. He noted that teams are working on such diverse projects as construction, vacation Bible school,



GOD'S BLESSINGS H.B. Graves, a church planter mission volunteer at First Branch Baptist Fellowship in Chelsea, Vt., noted that "the Lord has really blessed us tremendously."

revivals and prayerwalking.

Bauscher recently sent a list of 2004 project requests to Kentucky directors of missions. The list includes a number of renovation projects for Vermont congregations, ranging from installing vinyl siding and roofing to building a baptistry and a handicapped access ramp.

For information about mission projects in New England, contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 244-6462 or (888) 254-5724.

"We can only reach our full potential by allowing God to take over."

Chaos on Wheels founder Jeremiah Anderson

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

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Erosion of orthodoxy

Shawn Merithew and Jerry Gifford make excellent points in their letters in the Feb. 10 issue of the Western Recorder. One aspect of this situation which seldom surfaces is why a group of liberal dissidents withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention and why they lost the presidency and could never recover it.

They lost it because they were content with the erosion of orthodox teaching in the seminaries, and conservatives in churches across the convention decided to correct the situation.

The liberals tried for about 10 years to regain the presidency and could not. Around 1990 when Daniel Vestal was denied the office two successive years, the minority faction decided to withdraw and has not offered a candidate for the presidency again, all the while claiming to be mainstream Baptists.

Out of this struggle the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was born. Vestal was in my church a couple of years ago in an attempt to muster support for the CBF. I attended that meeting, at which time the main message included throwing darts at the SBC. Two of the darts being that the Cooperative Program was described as "a dinosaur" and Bold Mission Thrust was scoffed at as being "a failure." Their strategy is to grow by maligning "the enemy."

I was told recently by one CBF devotee that a Fellowship church cannot be started in Owensboro because there are not enough people interested in the cause. This in a metro area of more than 100,000 people! Mainstream?

In order to be admitted as a member of Baptist World Alliance, CBF has completely severed all ties with the SBC and now the SBC is being chastised for not sitting at the BWA table with them.

If the SBC and their \$425,000 annual support remained in the BWA, the CBF partisans would continue to attack. That's what they do.

*Cordell Day
Owensboro*

Thanks for BWA stand

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for your editorial in the Feb. 3 edition of the Western Recorder regarding the Kentucky Baptist Convention staying connected to the Baptist World Alliance.

I agree that we should "put out money where our mouth is." Let us keep a good thing going because as the Woman's Missionary Union leaders said, "It is the right thing to do."

Although I have moved away from Kentucky, I still have a Kentucky heart and Kentucky churches are part of my prayer calendar every day. I was saddened when the missionaries were fired from their places where they felt called to serve.

Thank you for your excellent coverage in the Western Recorder.

*Virginia Coles
Fond du Lac, Wis.*

Curriculum concerns

I was surprised to see that the new quarterly Sunday school curriculum from LifeWay Christian Resources is on 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus.

Though certainly worthy of study, the January Bible Study also was on 1 and 2 Timothy! Having invested resources to attend the pre-January Bible Study conference at Southern Seminary and having spent careful time preparing and preaching what are controversial texts in many churches, I faithfully delivered unto the saints as encouraged by the Southern Baptist Convention leadership. I think they would have been proud.

So now, having received the curriculum materials we bought through LifeWay, I am questioning the stewardship of spending our resources needed for other vital ministries on materials to repeat this study within four weeks after completing the January Bible Study.

Perhaps this is a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. I am hoping that we are able to return these materials for exchange or credit. If there are other churches with this same predicament, perhaps our combined voices will be sufficient to garner a response and a credit.

*Paul Sisk
Lexington*

Iraq ministry impact

I just wanted to thank you for the great coverage you gave in the Jan. 20 and 27 issues of the Western Recorder to the Iraq missions trip that our church did last December. I'm glad that Josh (Booth)'s pictures enhanced the excellent story by Ken Walker.

One quick story: As you know, the team handed out about 200 Arabic New Testaments. We have heard via one of the Iraq missionaries that a tribal leader says he has now read it and wants to talk to "that pastor" (our pastor, Bill Henard) about it. Think of what that could mean to the Kingdom if a tribal leader became a Christian and led his tribe to Christ! These are exciting days.

*David Booth
Lexington*

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.

A commitment to Christian higher education

It has been the privilege of my family to be products of Christian higher education, made possible by Baptists through the Cooperative Program and special gifts. I am so grateful for the excellent educational opportunities that have been provided by Baptists.

Kay and I are both graduates of a Baptist junior college. It was a privilege for me to serve as Baptist Student Union president. Kay served as a student summer missionary in Michigan and I served in Pittsburgh with Joe Waltz, whose son, David, is now the executive director for the Pennsylvania/South Jersey Baptist Convention.

Kay and I were married the summer after graduation and moved into a Fuller Hall apartment on the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary campus. Again, we are grateful for Southern Baptists who provided most of the cost through the Cooperative Program and other gifts.

Later, our daughters, Anonda and Beth, and a son-in-law, Bartley, graduated from Baptist colleges, and

Bartley from Southern Seminary. Many thousands of students have benefited in similar ways from the generosity and commitment of Baptists to Christian higher education.

We have all benefited from the effective leadership of college presidents and the deep commitment of staff and faculty members. Many of these individuals have served and taught sacrificially, and continue to do so. The impact of the scholarship, teaching and character of each of these people lasts a lifetime.

During the economic downturn, our Baptist colleges have made some big adjustments in order to continue providing quality education in a Christian environment. I am very grateful that the Kentucky Baptist Convention institutions of higher education have come through the economic crisis with strong academic programs and ministries in place.

There are more than 5,400 students enrolled in Georgetown and Cumberland colleges and



FAMILY

Help your adult children gain financial wisdom

By Jeremy White

I have often written of the importance of parents teaching their children about money. Children learn about money from two primary sources: their parents and their own experience.

By the time children are grown and on their own, they already have established their financial habits and tendencies. Is it too late to help them at that time? How

can you pass wisdom along now when they are no longer under your roof?

Certainly, the most formative training period is while your children are young and under your care. It's not too late though. Although it might be easy for parents with financial means to throw money at the financial problems of their children, avoid treating the symptoms only. Here are some practical ideas without simply bailing your adult children out of financial trouble:

- Share with them, as an adult, some of the financial decisions you are now making and why.

- Pay for them to attend a financial seminar or small group study.

- Consider giving a small inheritance now so that you can test them and be available for help and supervision.

- Talk with them about some of the financial lessons you have learned. For example, you might have learned a lesson about investing in the past. Share that with them. Let them benefit from your experience.

- Locate professional advisers and counselors for them. Perhaps you can pay for the appointments. Your adult children might not have major problems, but they could benefit from a financial planning session, or a personality/self-awareness testing from a counselor, or a meeting with an attorney.

- If you own a business, involve your children in the significant decisions of the business. Even if they do not work in the business, consider making them a member of the board of directors or give them a small amount of ownership to let them see the overall operations.

- Involve your adult children in the giving decisions you are making now and for the future. If you have a special missions interest, invite them and pay for them to participate in mission trips, conferences or conventions of ministries you support.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah

Should parents take children to see 'The Passion' movie?

Q: Should I take my children to see "The Passion of the Christ"?

Although "The Passion of the Christ" is rated R, many parents and church leaders plan to have kids as young as 10 see the film. Jerry Johnston, pastor of First Family Church in Kansas was quoted in USA Today as saying, "I hope they are disturbed enough to make their peace with Jesus."

PARENTING

Up front, I need to say that I have not seen the movie. In fact, this article is being written before the movie's release. However, I have read reviews in newspapers and magazines, including Newsweek, which featured a vivid cover photo of Jesus on the cross. I have also looked carefully at the new book that contains pictures from the movie. Without question, "The Passion" will present the suffering of Jesus with the same realism that characterized the opening sequence of "Saving Private Ryan."

I would agree with pastor Matt Stoehr that most images of Christ on the cross are too tame. However, young children simply do not need to be exposed to such violence in order to understand that Jesus suffered for them. They can be made aware of what happened to Jesus without having to watch Him being brutally and realistically beaten for 45 minutes. The argument that kids are mature for their age and see similar acts of violence on TV is a circular argument that ignores developmental factors.

The simple answer is "No." Let the attention surrounding the movie be a springboard for conversations with your children about Jesus' love and sacrifice, but do not expose them to the visual violence of the film. After all, fear-based responses to Jesus are typically not lasting—at any age. —David Garrard

Q: I'm frustrated that I can't seem to find a mate. Is there any hope for a single gal who's over 35?

The decision to marry is not to be taken lightly. In 1 Corinthians 7 there are scriptural advantages and disadvantages of both marriage and singleness. With a notebook and pen in hand, use your Bible as you make notes on the prayerful decision of whether God is leading you to seek a mate. If you have the settled conviction that the answer is "yes," consider the following strategy:

SINGLES

Relationship guru Rachel Greenwald has found that 50 percent of those currently married were introduced to their mate by good friends and family members. Her advice, in a word, is to network. Family and friends know people you are yet to meet who might be right for you.

Second, Greenwald suggests having truth-tellers in your life, people who will be straight with you about the things you are doing to keep yourself from meeting people with marriage potential, or the things you are not doing that would move you in that direction. We all need truth-tellers in our lives, even though it might be a little painful to hear.

Finally, consider using the Christian Web site e-harmony.com. Designed by Christian psychologist Neil Clark Warren, this site is based on a personality inventory that analyzes dozens of the most important areas of compatibility. Warren and his staff scientifically examine areas of commonality especially in the area of values.

A biblical look at mate selection would include a study of love stories such as Ruth and Boaz, and Issac and Rebecca. Spend time discussing this subject with a trusted mentor, pastor, spiritual director or pastoral counselor with whom you can clarify your values and goals. Look at this as embarking on the exciting journey of finding a companion for life. This process can bear the good fruit of introducing you to someone with whom you could happily serve God as your life companion all the rest of your days.—James Stillwell

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



A call to be 'totally dependent on Christ'

During more than a decade covering Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee meetings as a state Baptist paper editor, I found last week's two-day gathering in Nashville to be one of the most eventful meetings of that group I have ever attended.

Obviously, the deliberations of the SBC's executive body generally aren't overly stimulating, with most business focusing on budget allocations, administrative policies and similar items.

Last week, however, the agenda included voting to recommend severing a 99-year-relationship with the Baptist World Alliance and a two-hour discussion about New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's response to charter changes proposed by the Executive Committee.

Other issues included a call by SBC President Jack Graham to study changing the convention's name and a report by SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman promoting evangelistic opportunities in conjunction with the release of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." A bonus during the meeting was a brief report by Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey about current ministry efforts in the Bluegrass State.

Why should Kentucky Baptists be interested in the Executive Committee's various business items? Because of the potential long-term impact of each major decision.

The BWA issue has been a major topic of discussion in Baptist life in recent months. SBC officials claim the BWA has experienced "an increasing influence of positions contrary to the New Testament and to Baptist doctrines." BWA leaders have strongly denied those charges, describing them as inaccurate generalities.

Regardless of which side is right, Chapman is correct that Southern Baptists "have the voluntary right to withdraw just as we have the voluntary right to engage." While I believe it is a mistake for the SBC to abandon its historic relationship with the BWA and disrupt global Baptist unity, the final decision will be made by SBC messengers in June. Hopefully, each messenger will carefully study the issue, pray and seek God's will.

The New Orleans Seminary issue, while not as far-reaching as the BWA debate, does relate to the topic

of Baptist polity. Should the SBC Executive Committee seek to pressure another Baptist entity to comply with its requests? Are national Baptist entities organizationally autonomous or is structural hierarchy creeping into SBC life? Once again, the issue likely will be resolved on the floor of the convention by SBC messengers.

Graham's suggestion for an SBC name change study has both pluses and minuses. While a 1999 study found "no compelling rationale" for a name change, Graham is right that the issue deserves another look "if it will help us connect with culture and communicate the gospel."

More troubling, however, is Graham's suggestion that "we are a global network of churches." While Southern Baptists work in cooperation with Baptist groups around the world, the SBC Constitution specifies that the SBC is "a general organization for

Baptists in the United States and its territories." The SBC is historically, geographically and culturally a national denomination—and that is as it should be.

While partnering with Baptists around the globe, there is no need for the SBC to export its denominational structure or traditions to other cultural settings. Rather, we should respect, value and learn from our international Baptist brothers and sisters. That is especially significant as the SBC considers dropping its BWA affiliation.

Chapman's focus on "The Passion" was timely and refreshing. Noting that the movie will teach people what Jesus did, Chapman added, "We must teach them why He did it." Hopefully, churches throughout Kentucky and the nation will take advantage of the opportunity to use the movie as an evangelistic outreach tool.

Mackey's enthusiastic report about Kentucky Baptist ministry was a highlight. Citing God at work through ministry centers in Eastern Kentucky, church growth, collegiate ministry and other efforts, he told Executive Committee members, "We're totally dependent on Christ. I see God at work through spiritual vitality and work in our state."

Last week's meeting was a reminder of both the challenges and opportunities Southern Baptists face. May SBC leaders, convention messengers and grassroots members be "totally dependent on Christ" as we seek God's will and direction.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

'The Passion of the Christ': a work of art

By Phil Boatwright

Thousand Oaks, Calif. (BP)—Ever since Cecil B. DeMille's 1927 version of "King of Kings," Hollywood has relied on the greatest story ever told to add to studio coffers. But how does an actor portray a personage that is both man and God? It hasn't been successfully done.

That is, until Mel Gibson came forth. Director Gibson and actor Jim Caviezel, as Jesus, have given moviegoers a work of art in "The Passion of The Christ," which opens nationwide Feb. 25.

Perhaps the reason for the success of this production is that the film examines what Jesus as man undertook on our behalf. Make no mistake, Gibson's Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. But Gibson's purpose here is to detail the final 12 hours of Christ's life, when mankind was allowed to destroy His human life in order that we might have an eternal one.

It is certainly a director's film, and Mel Gibson manages the behind-the-camera job impeccably. He orchestrates the proceedings with a deliberate slow pace in order to add tension. Aided by Caleb

Deschannel's superb Baroque-like cinematography, a potent score by John Debney and Jim Caviezel's sincere and muted performance, Gibson brings a mood and sensitivity never before captured when telling the story of Christ.

One scene stands out as not only technically impressive, but emotionally electrifying.

I will merely give you a heads-up. The end of Christ's journey at Golgotha is seen from above, the camera pulling back, revealing the momentary bleakness of earth, when suddenly ... well, what happens just before the earthquake is artistically original and spiritually truthful. It is a great movie moment.

"The Passion" is justly rated R for its graphic depiction of beatings, the crucifixion and perhaps the most believable death scene ever to be placed on screen. But Gibson wisely cuts to past moments in Christ's life to help us cope with the brutality.

"The Passion of the Christ" is meant to shock, unnerve and clarify the ordeal of Christ's sacrifice. It is not a movie one sees, then goes out for pizza. And it is unsuitable

for children or immature teens.

Gibson retells the event with a breathtaking realism that is wisely used to reveal Christ's purpose. For surely no man would go through this ordeal unless armed with the strength of love and the knowledge of who He is.

I expect that ever since man first drew etchings on cave walls, every artistic endeavor has been debated. Since ancient times, artists have used their craft to entertain, motivate, educate and persuade. But ultimately, the purpose of art is to uplift the spirit of man. Gibson has used his art form to help those who only know the name Jesus as an expletive to understand the nobility of Christ and the passion of God. This Passion stirs the soul.

The New Testament makes it clear that Christ came to die for the entire world and that all men placed Him on that cross. He, who was without sin, made the ultimate sacrifice by taking on the sins of all people. Gibson's film, while showing the physical horrors Christ endured, is not really about what mankind did to Him, but about what He did for us.

Phil Boatwright reviews films from a Christian perspective on the Web site www.movieporter.com

BAPTIST DIGEST

New York Baptist leader Quinn Pugh dead at 74. R. Quinn Pugh Sr., who served as executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York for 12 years before retiring in 1996, died Feb. 13 following heart surgery at a Savannah, Ga., hospital. He was 74. Before going to work for the New York convention, Pugh led the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association from 1979-84 in expanding its ministry throughout the diverse population of New York City. Pugh previously was pastor of churches in Kentucky, Louisiana, Georgia, New Jersey and Maryland.

FamilyNet to integrate Fox News in programming. FamilyNet, the television broadcast subsidiary of the North American Mission Board, will integrate Fox News Channel reports in its regular programming as part of a three-year strategic alliance with the network. The relationship, announced Feb. 12, gives FamilyNet access to 170,000 stories per year fed through Fox's NewsEdge service.

IMB's Avery Willis honored. International Mission Board trustees recently honored Avery Willis, senior vice president of overseas operations, as a visionary servant leader in celebrating his retirement from 25 years of missionary service. "During his tenure, the board has sent out, trained, equipped and nurtured more than 7,600 new missionaries," IMB President Jerry Rankin said. Willis said he will continue a writing and teaching ministry. "This isn't a retirement; it's a reirement," he said. "I'm just quitting my day job so I can go serve the Lord in ministry."

Registration opens for SBC childcare, children & youth. Registration is now open for families who wish to enroll their children in the preschool childcare, the children's conference or the youth Centrifuge from June 13-16 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. For information, visit www.sbc.net and click on "2004 SBC Annual Meeting Pre-Registration." Information also is available by writing to SBC Childcare, Sandy Osborne, Ballwin Baptist Church, 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO 63011.

Missionaries: Answer God's call now

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

Richmond, Va. (BP)—The earth teems with people who are hopelessly lost without Christ, and Christians must obey God's call to missions now because time is running short, several new missionaries told an audience at a recent appointment service in Richmond, Va.

The new workers were among 57 new Southern Baptist missionaries who shared how God called them to overseas service.

"My first volunteer mission trip was to a small community in Mexico," said one new worker who will be serving with her family in East Asia. "On a crowded, dusty and dirty street, God revealed to me the hopelessness of those without Christ. I knew then God was calling me to share His hope with the lost."

Her husband said he was influenced by a conference where a speaker spoke of the necessity of missions.

"The final speaker spoke of the nations, and the Spirit grabbed my heart," he said. "My life changed in an instant as I realized my time on earth was short, and the lost were dying every day."

Another couple said their life plans were changed by the 9/11 terror attacks.

"On Sept. 11, 2001, I was in a board meeting in downtown



PAUSING TO PRAY The International Mission Board's 57 newly appointed missionaries join in a time of prayer during a Feb. 3 service at Bethany Place Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

Manhattan when the world was changed forever, and so were our lives and plans," the husband said.

His wife added: "From the affluence of the Pacific Northwest to the poverty of unreached Asia, God has taken us from defiance to compliance, through reliance on Him."

Obedying God's call isn't always easy, but understanding how His heart breaks for the lost makes it easier, other new missionaries said.

"When I accepted Christ, I told God I would do anything except preach or be a missionary," said Chris Hortin of McLeansboro, Ill., who will serve with his family among Romanian people in Eastern Europe. "I said, 'I won't.' I said, 'I can't.' I said, 'I'll try.' I said, 'I will.' He must increase, I must decrease."

Speaking to the last group of missionaries appointed before his

retirement, IMB Senior Vice President Avery Willis urged the new missionaries to remember that the way they live out the gospel is what people will remember, not the words they speak or even specific deeds they perform.

"When I first began pastoring, I figured out pretty quickly that people don't remember your sermons very long," Willis said. "In fact, when they talked about the preceding pastors, they never mentioned their sermons. Mainly they mentioned a life message. What was left was not words or even specific deeds but a life message."

"The apostle Paul went into Asia with this deep burden and love for the people, and there's nothing that will replace that," he added. "People will hear that message when you can't even speak their language. They can see and feel and sense your love."

The missionary's ministry is not his or her own life but multiplying Christ's life into the hearts of others, Willis added.

"In Acts 20, Paul said he didn't consider his own life as worth anything except to proclaim the gospel of God's grace," Willis said. "You will do many other good things, but the ministry you go to do is to tell people that repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ is the way to get into heaven."

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Fighting Internet porn

Pastors, author: Evangelicals must get serious about addressing 'dirty little secret'

By Beau Black
Religion News Service.

Fort Worth, Texas (RNS)—"I'm a guy, and I'm supposed to look at porn, right?"

That question, said author Henry Rogers, sums up America's attitude toward pornography.

Pornography is a multibillion-dollar industry and widely available via the Internet—no longer just a dirty little secret.

More surprising, however, is that evangelical churches, who over the past decades have led the public policy crusade against indecency, are slowly starting to admit there is widespread use of pornography among men in their own pews.

Between 40 percent and 70 percent of evangelical Christian men admit they struggle with pornography, said Rogers, a corporate chaplain who records his own experience in his book, "The Silent War."

In Kentucky, Guy Futral said he knows of at least six pastors and staff who were fired from Kentucky Baptist churches because they were discovered to have been visiting Internet porn sites.

"Probably more than that were quietly let go for the same reason," said Futral, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development team.

Among all Kentucky Baptists (not just pastors and staff), the numbers probably follow those found by Rogers, Futral added. "Baptists, as a group, usually follow fairly closely, the trends in society."

Epidemic proportions?

Rogers and other like-minded experts say pornography addiction has become a problem of epidemic proportions, one that divides men from family and faith.

It is a tricky problem to address.

"The devil loves a secret," said Al Meredith, pastor of Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. "You don't have to go down to an adult store now and risk being seen in the parking lot" when it's readily available on the Internet at the office or at home.

Unlike eating disorders or substance addiction, pornography and sexual addiction still bear a stigma that years of Oprah-ization have drained from other behaviors. Many pastors decline to preach on lust, much less pornography.

Now, because of the spread of Internet pornography and studies indicating the number of men who look at it, churches like Wedgwood and McLean (Va.) Bible near Washington, D.C., along with Promise

Keepers and the college-targeted Passion ministry, are wading into battle, speaking out against pornography and launching counseling and support groups to help those who struggle with it.

While some secular experts question whether pornography is a problem at all, Christians generally understand it to be sin, said Eddie Traugher, a Garland, Texas, counselor at Austin Street Church of Christ.

Scripture clearly condemns pornography, he said. "According to what Jesus says, you look lustfully at a woman, you've committed adultery in your heart."

Viewing pornography can have the same addictive effect on brain chemistry that alcohol or drugs do, Rogers added. "It satisfies for a season, but you want more. It's the same with alcohol."

Rogers said he has observed the effect of pornography on the marriages of men he's counseled. "Your wife won't compete with pornography. The woman on-line will do whatever I want, and my wife won't do that," he said. "Nothing cuts at the heart of a woman more than finding out her husband isn't satisfied with her."

And men aren't the only ones falling into the trap.

Shannon Ethridge, author of "Every Woman's Battle," recalled a recent survey of Today's Christian Woman magazine readers. Of the conservative Christian respondents, 34 percent admitted to accessing visual porn on the Internet. "I think women are finally saying, 'Hey, I'm not the only one.'"

From activity to addiction

How does viewing pornography turn into an addiction? Colorado Springs-based counselor Doug Weiss identified some warning signs: pornography, preoccupied with pornography, spending more time with it than you want to, losing interest in other activities, and promising to stop but repeatedly failing.

Finding someone to open up to is a crucial first step in overcoming pornography as an addiction, Traugher said.

Whether it's a counselor, pastor or friend, confessing sins is a biblical and psychological imperative.

Next, he said, "you have to be willing to perform a 'radical amputation'—getting rid of the Internet, using a filter, getting rid of magazines, not going to certain parts of town" to begin to break the addictive cycle.

Weiss urges churches "number one, get out of denial." Second, he

said, pastors must talk about pornography from the pulpit, admitting their own struggles. Rogers said he looks forward to the day when pastors don't call the "porn guy" to come speak but deal with it themselves. Finally, Weiss encourages churches to "pick a leader and start a (support) group."

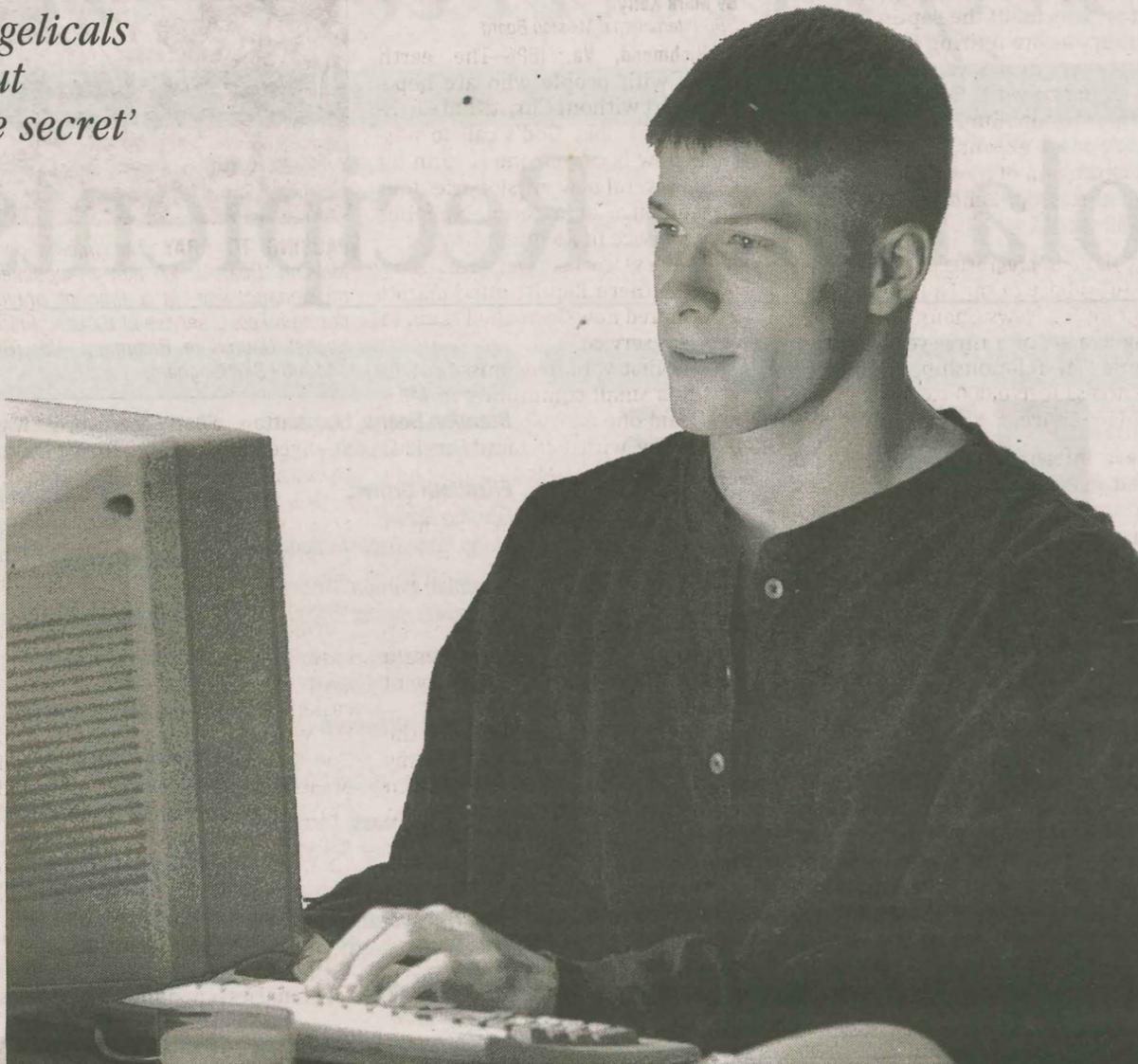
Dave Brown, men's pastor at McLean Bible Church, said that aside from offering counseling and encouraging accountability, his group's approach involves refocusing men on "what biblical manhood is" including "the given responsibilities God has given them in their families, marriages, churches and communities."

"All of us struggle with sin," said Meredith. "The only one who gains from (keeping it secret) is the devil. All of us know what I struggle with if anyone knew what I struggle with, they'd throw me out of here."

Ethridge points to the Bible for inspiration. "There's always that feeling that no one will understand," she said.

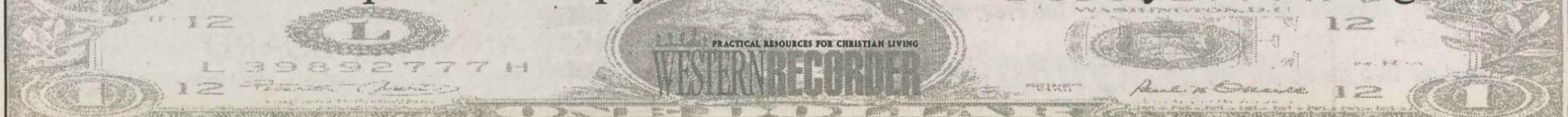
"But it goes back to Scripture, that no temptation has seized you except what is common to man. There's nothing new under the sun."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey



One Kentucky Baptist leader knows of at least six pastors and staff fired from churches because they were visiting Internet porn sites.

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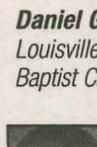
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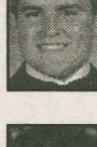
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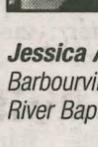
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Foundation head cites obstacles to church endowments

By David Winfrey
News Director

Louisville—A perpetual negative attitude toward fundraising is one of three obstacles church leaders must overcome to get members to consider including their churches in their wills, according to Kentucky Baptist Foundation President Barry Allen.

"Neither the pastor nor the congregation look with favor on the 'annual' stewardship sermon," Allen noted.

Instead, church leaders should develop a year-round strategy to make stewardship (not fundraising) a regular part of discipleship, he said.

Brochures, newsletter articles

and occasional seminars throughout the year will educate members about estate planning options, Allen noted.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation has a host of resources for such education campaigns, he added. "We can offer something there because we have nothing to sell and we're not trying to twist anybody's arm."

Two other hurdles for churches to overcome, he said, are:

Philosophical obstacles. Some church leaders contend that emphasizing "legacy gifts" will hurt the ongoing giving to support the church budget.

But "the money that a person gives for this is not the same money they give through the offering

plate," Allen said.

Sometimes church leaders fear the congregation might stop giving if it relies on an endowment for monetary needs.

"The image is a church that has money but no mission," he said.

But endowments are for projects over and above the regular operating budget, Allen insisted.

Pulpit timidity. Many pastors are reluctant to promote endowment giving because they are untrained about the topic.

"Many pastors are more comfortable asking for money that will be used immediately to relieve human needs and letting providence provide for the long term," Allen said.

Allen points to the Kentucky

Baptist Foundation's estate-planning services, seminars and printed materials to help a pastor or committee promote such a program.

An endowment should not be the sole responsibility of the pastor, he added. "You need a group in the church who has the specific assignment of keeping this matter before the church on a regular basis."

In addition to public education and appeals, Allen recommends that pastors and other respected church leaders take the initiative to have private conversations with people to challenge them to include their churches with other charities in their wills.

"If you don't ask for it and get it, somebody else will."

"If you don't ask for it and get it, somebody else will."

Kentucky Baptist Foundation President Barry Allen

Too many churches unwilling to ask for will donations, Allen says

Continued from page 1

In the Salvation Army's western territory alone, 25 representatives travel 13 states, meeting with potential and established donors. Salvation Army officials say they apply no pressure to give, they're just there to help.

But most donors get the hint.

"For more than 20 years, we've been writing wills and estates and legacies," said Hood. "We saw that a long time ago as a source of the cash security we would need. We've done that as well as anybody."

Kroc, widow of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc and former own-

er of the San Diego Padres, did not meet with Salvation Army estate planners. But the evangelical Christian charity—described by management guru Peter Drucker as "the most effective organization in the United States"—gave her something better than advice, a cause she wholeheartedly trusted.

A worthwhile cause

In the mid-1990s, Kroc presented the Salvation Army an ambitious idea: the creation of a community center extraordinaire in San Diego, which she would partially fund with a gift of more than

\$80 million.

Allen said churches, too, have causes their members can believe in and will want to support through bequests in their wills.

Benevolence gifts should expand church ministries, not take the place of tithes and offerings for regular church budgets, he added.

"Legacy gifts should be used to enhance the ministry of the church," he said. "It's got to be looked at as over and above."

Allen added that members making bequests already are making a distinction with their dollars.

"The money that a person gives for this (bequests) is not the same money they give through the offering plate," he said.

Allen argues that churches should explore bequest-funded endowment options for both practical and theological reasons.

"One of my convictions is that every adult Christian should have a Christian estate plan," he said.

Theologically, Allen points to Proverbs 3:9-10, which instructs people to "Honor the Lord with thy substance" (King James Version).

"My interpretation of that, the word 'substance' is 'everything,'" Allen said, including life insurance, appreciated savings and growth on retirement accounts. "Those are all resources for which a tithe is appro-

priate. But again, most people don't think about that."

Practically, Allen said, such gifts can help churches offer scholarships, launch benevolence ministries or involve more members in mission trips.

"It makes it possible for churches to be involved in ministry opportunities that they otherwise would never be able to do," he said.

A scholarship fund in Danville

At Calvary Baptist Church in Danville, interest from the church endowment funds scholarships for members entering college.

"Every little bit helps when you start getting books and whatever necessities they've got to have for their school," said George Teater, chairman of the church's wills and trusts committee.

Last year, the church gave approximately \$2,000 to eight students, Teater noted.

The church regularly promotes the fund among members through the church newsletter and bulletins. Many members have embraced the opportunity to contribute through their estates, he added.

"Most everybody is receptive to education."

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey and Mark O'Keefe for Religion News Service

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1:30 pm Friday – 5:00 pm Saturday
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WESTERN RECORDER
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

The why behind the what

Christians must be ready to explain what it all means, leaders insist

By Trennis Henderson & Greg Warner
Editor & Associated Baptist Press

Nashville (ABP)—While Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" will graphically show movie audiences the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, it's up to Christians to explain why Jesus went through the pain of the cross, Christian leaders say.

"The film will teach them what Jesus did," said Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, in a written advisory to churches. "We must teach them why He did it."

Steve Pate, a Baptist leader in Denton, Texas, predicted the film will spark a pilgrimage to America's churches like what happened after terrorist attacks in 2001.

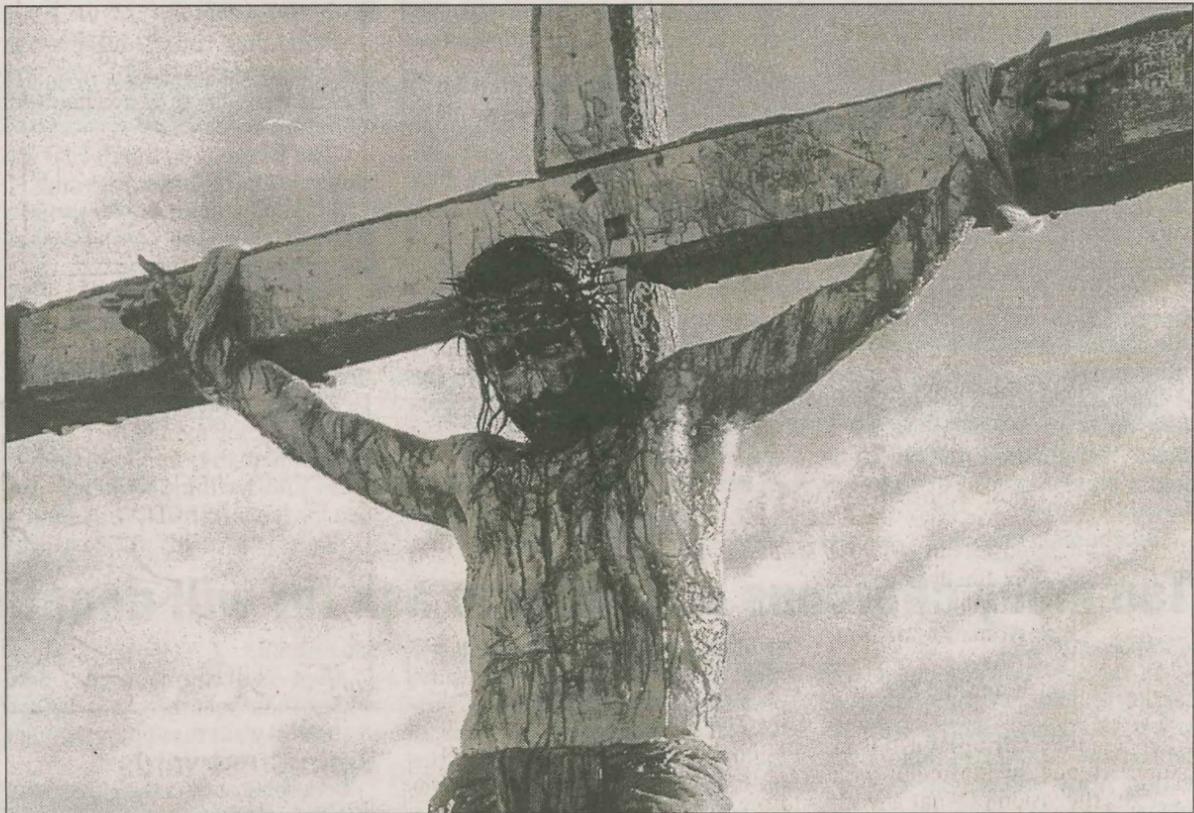
"People came to our churches in droves after 9/11, and they didn't get the answers to their questions, and they're not there now," lamented Pate, associate director of missions for Denton Baptist Association. "If we don't get them this time, we may not get another chance, because they are going to stop thinking of the church as a place where answers to life's hard questions can be found."

In an hour-long interview on ABC's "Primetime," Gibson acknowledged the movie covers only the last hours of Jesus' life, giving viewers an incomplete record of his life and message. But he said the movie is an accurate account and the one he felt inspired to make.

Adult help urged for young viewers

The film, released this week, is rated R for violence. Some viewers say it is shocking or even "unwatchable" because of the brutality of the crucifixion.

"I have to say that my heart was stirred to the very core," Chapman told members of the Executive



Committee Feb. 16.

SBC President Jack Graham added, "You'll never get closer to the cross this side of heaven" than by watching Gibson's movie. "You can't watch it and stay the same."

Pate cautioned youth ministers who take their young people to get parents' permission and provide time for discussion after viewing the film. "They are going to need to talk about what they have seen," he said.

"To see this film is a life-changing event," Pate added. "I will never approach the cross the same way. See this film, and you will never approach the Lord's Supper the same way. You can't. It's impossible."

Early criticism of "The Passion," even before filming began, leveled charges of anti-Semitism against Gibson.

Jewish critics have since said that Gibson, though not himself anti-Semitic, would inspire anti-Jewish feelings with the film.

In interviews with Newsweek

and "ABC Primetime," Gibson said the film does not blame Jews as a group. "We're all culpable. I don't want to lynch any Jews. ... I love them. I pray for them."

In fact, Gibson's sole appearance in the film is his hand holding a spike being driven during the crucifixion. Gibson said he shot that scene to symbolize that everyone, himself included, is responsible for Jesus' death.

Jewish defenders

Meanwhile, Jewish film critic Michael Medved, a frequent and respected critic of Hollywood, warned fellow Jews they were missing the point. "The organized Jewish community and its allies in interfaith dialogue may not welcome 'Passion,'" he said, "but overreaction will provoke far more anti-Semitism than the movie itself."

Rabbi Daniel Lapin agreed, saying Jewish opponents of the film "have inflicted lasting harm."

"By selectively unleashing their fury on wholesome entertainment

that depicts Christianity in a positive light, they have triggered anger, hurt and resentment," said Lapin, president of Toward Tradition, an organization that seeks to build bridges between Christians and Jews.

Chapman acknowledged Gibson's conservative Catholic beliefs but said those views, even if wrong, do not keep people from seeing a true picture of Jesus in the movie. Chapman quoted another Executive Committee staff member who said God can use "those who are theologically deficient to effectively accomplish his purposes."

Frank Ruff, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' field representative to the SBC, declined to take issue with the view of Catholics as "theologically deficient."

Ruff said films like "The Passion" are "our 21st century stained-glass windows. It makes more of an impact than just words."

With additional reporting by George Henson of the Texas Baptist Standard

Actor Caviezel knows firsthand burden of carrying one's cross

By Laura Erlanson
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Every Christian knows the challenge of striving to be Christlike.

But perhaps none so intimately as actor Jim Caviezel, who portrays Christ in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of The Christ," which opens this week.

Caviezel, a devout Catholic all his life, said for him, being a Christian is a continual conversion process—a process that he said helped him get through filming "Passion."

"Makeup times were from 2 in the morning till 10. And I experienced a shoulder separation while carrying the cross, hypothermia every day," he recalled in a recent phone interview.

"The time of rest was getting less and less. The physical pain was becoming overwhelming," he said. "It came to a point where I needed to get into my heart, to literally pray from the heart."

"How do you do this? By beginning to pray, starting to pray. Then grace comes."

Caviezel said while his faith helped him during filming, it was not a prerequisite for his getting the role.

"What's important is that Mel hired me based on what he felt I could do in the work," Caviezel said. "And I think that's important to note."

"If you had someone work on your house, do you say, 'Are you a Christian?' (The person replies,) 'I'm not, but I just built the Eiffel Tower in Paris.' (And you reply,) 'I'm

sorry. I only hire Christians.' That's not good."

Caviezel first met Gibson when producer Steve McEveety invited him to talk about a role in a surfing movie.

The two talked about the movie for a while, but the meeting took an unexpected turn.

"About an hour into it, Mel Gibson shows up," Caviezel said. "It kinda threw me, so I said hello. We talked. ... The subject kind of changed and we were talking about what Christ really went through. He was talking about subject matter, and he was talking about other films that had been done and how they hadn't really shown that side."

"And I stopped him, and I said, 'You want me to play Jesus, don't you?'"

"And he took a big whiff on his cigarette, and he goes, 'Yeah.'"

The next day Gibson called to

discuss plans for the film, Caviezel recounted.

"He said, 'You sure you wanna do this?' And I said, 'Yeah.' And it was as if he was trying to talk me out of it. He said, 'It's gonna be rough, you know.' I said, 'Well, we're all called to carry our cross. If we don't carry it, we're gonna be crushed by the weight of it.'"

Caviezel understands that many will not accept or even comprehend the film's message. Even among Christians, there will be different interpretations and inferences. People should be totally honest about their beliefs, even at the risk of offending someone, he said. But at the end of the day, we must "agree to disagree."

"It's not going to be me that converts you," Caviezel said. "It's going to be the Holy Spirit."

"I pray that people don't see me, they see Jesus," he said. "That's it."

Now playing

"The Passion of the Christ" will be playing in at least 49 theaters throughout the commonwealth, including:

Ashland: Town Cinema 10

Bardstown: Keystone Cinema

Bowling Green: Great Escape 12

Campbellsville: Green River

Central City: Cine 3

Corbin: Cinema

Danville: Cinema 4

Elizabethtown: Movie Palace 6

Erlanger: Erlanger 9

Florence: Florence Cinemas

Frankfort: Franklin Square Cinema

Georgetown: Theatres of Georgetown

Glasgow: Highland 7 Cinema

Goode: Southside Cinema 4

Hardinsburg: Ford Theatres Countryside Cinema

Harlan: Cinema 4

Hartford: Mall Cinema

Hazard: Cinema; Hillside Theatre

Hopkinsville: Martin Five

Inez: Main Street Cinemas

LaGrange: Oldham 8

Lexington: Hamburg Pavilion 16; Kentucky Theatre; Lexington Green Movies 8;

Movies 10

London: Regency Cinema

Louisville: Dixie Dozen Cinemas; Showcase Cinemas, Louisville;

Showcase Cinemas

Stonybrook; Tinseltown 19

Madisonville: Martin Four

Maysville: Cinema 4

Middlesboro: Cinema 4

Mt. Sterling: 10th Frame

Murray: Cheri

Newport: AMB Newport on the Levee 20

Owensboro: Malco Cinema 12

Paducah: Kentucky Oaks 12

Paintsville: Movies Cinema 3

Pikeville: Riverfill 10

Prestonburg: Strand

Princeton: Capitol Cinemas

Richmond: Richmond Mall Cinema 8

Russell Springs: Key Twin

Somerset: Showplace

Wilder: Great Escape 14

Williamsburg: Movies 5

Winchester: Movies 9

Source: www.thepassionofthechrist.com



Jim Caviezel

What will be new at Cedar Crest?

Kentucky WMU helping cast vision for improvements

More than likely, mention the name Cedar Crest and many of you might immediately begin thinking about past memories as a camper on the pristine camp. For those of you who don't know what or where Cedar Crest is, it is a part of Cedarmore.

Cedarmore is comprised of approximately 1,400 acres with three separate camps on the property. First is the main camp where most who attend will stay. Camp RaBro can hold about 100 campers, and finally, Cedar Crest can hold up to 180 campers. The Woman's Missionary Union was the driving force behind the birth and life of Cedar Crest. Today the Martha Ware Chapel stands tall upon a hill in honor of one such woman who "caught the vision of what a week at a mission's camp could do for a boy or girl, and through the years was an enthusiastic promoter of the camp program."

For years, Cedar Crest has offered a rustic and unique camp setting to youth from all across our state. GA's and Acteens alike have participated in camps for many

years. Perhaps most importantly, missions have been taught, and no doubt many young ladies have felt God's call upon their lives while staying at Cedar Crest.

Today Cedar Crest stands in great need of many repairs and improvements. Kentucky Baptist Assemblies is faced with a great challenge of so many needs, yet few resources. As we have pondered what steps to take, we have found out that others are seeing the need and want to help in some way.

Kentucky WMU joined with us in the drive to see Cedar Crest improved. Our state

WMU director, Joy Bolton, has challenged people across our state to help. Perhaps the most important way is to come and see Cedar Crest and give time toward addressing many of the needs. I am grateful for the desire of Kentucky WMU to see the facilities at Cedar Crest be the best they can be. I am also certain that the changes that will take place over the coming months will rekindle a fire in the hearts of people throughout our state.

David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at 3043 Beal Road, Hardin, KY 42048; phone (270) 354-8355.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

Kudzu



MARLETTE 2-24



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Elaine Okupski

Across

- 1 Son of Abijam (1 Kings 15:8)
- 4 Pull against the bit
- 8 Capable
- 12 Scottish cap
- 13 Jacob's brother
- 14 Narrow strip of wood
- 15 Representative
- 17 "If they drink any deadly thing, it shall not ___ them" (Mark 16:18)
- 18 "Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a ___" (Psalms 84:3)
- 19 Large water birds
- 20 "Stand ____, and sin not" (Psalms 4:4) (2 words)
- 22 Unit of hay or cotton
- 24 Fathers
- 25 Son of Asa (Matthew 1:8)
- 29 "Neither do men light a candle, ... but ___ candlestick" (Matthew 5:15) (2 words)
- 30 Challenged
- 31 Period of time
- 32 "The ___ is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7)
- 34 Irish girl's name
- 35 Thomas Hardy heroine
- 36 "And if someone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your ___ as well" (Matthew 5:40 NIV)
- 37 "And four wagons and ___ oxen he gave unto the sons of Merari" (Numbers 7:8)
- 40 Slipped
- 41 "Then Jacob ___ his clothes" (Genesis 37:34 NIV)
- 42 Old Testament book named for the Jewish leader who supervised the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall

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41					42	43					44	45
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

- 46 "The children of ___ of Hezekiah, ninety and eight" (Nehemiah 7:21)
- 47 Region
- 48 Strong brew
- 49 Announces
- 50 "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath ___ out her seven pillars" (Proverbs 9:1)
- 51 Title of respect
- 19 "I was ___ when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalms 122:1)
- 20 False god
- 21 Grandmother
- 22 Drills
- 23 Anna's tribe (Luke 2:36)
- 25 Containers
- 26 Herod's wife (Mark 6:19)
- 27 Operatic solo
- 28 Armored vehicle
- 30 Song for two voices
- 33 "If ___ be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather?" (1 Corinthians 9:12)
- 34 "And they came to ___, where were twelve wells of water" (Exodus 15:27)
- 36 "Create in me a ___ heart, O God" (Psalms 51:10)
- 37 Greek letters
- 38 An infinitesimal amount, a jot
- 39 "The beauty of old men is the ___ head" (Proverbs 20:29)
- 40 "I will ___ thee the bride" (Revelation 21:9)
- 42 Nope
- 43 Before
- 44 Boxer Mohammed ___
- 45 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider ___ ways" (Proverbs 6:6)

Last week's solution

1	M	U	L	T	5	P	L	Y	8	S	A	N	S	
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17	T	I	N	X	I	18	E	N	D	20	P	A		
22	E	N	S	N	A	R	E	23	O	24	O	G	M	
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Specialists offer ideas to avoid lay leader burnout



Continued from page 1
find out until it was too late."

Ortlund founded Renewal Ministries with her husband, Ray, a pastor and author, specifically to meet the needs of pastors and lay leaders who are burned out in ministry. She said that some of the same advice they give to burned-out pastors is applicable to lay leaders as well.

"Pastors and Christian leaders need to learn to manage their time, and not say 'yes' to everything," she said.

She also suggests that lay leaders be involved in a small group Bible study in which they can share discussion and accountability with others.

"We have seen a lot of people saved from burnout through a simple group of four to six people getting together two hours a week," she said. "In these groups the people get to know and trust each other and pray for each other, and people's needs get met in these groups before they explode."

Guy Futral, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development office, said congregations also are responsible for giving their lay leadership the right tools to keep from burning out.

"Congregations and their pastoral leadership need to make their expectations of lay leaders clear," he said.

"One of the issues the laity has in churches is the habit of many church leaders to recruit for a certain job without a clear description of duties the job entails," he said.

Undefined expectations can soon result in lay leaders finding

5 signs of burnout

How can clergy spot lay leaders who are moving from simply busy to dangerously burned out?

Guy Futral, team leader for the leadership development office of the KBC, says that it is often difficult to help someone who is burning out because the signs can be so subtle.

But he offers the following five sure signs that something is wrong:

■ A formerly content church worker suddenly starts to refer to his or her work as a drudgery rather than a joy.

■ A church worker begins to complain about his or her job and ask how many more months they have to do it.

■ A normally cheerful church member begins to act tired and irritable with other people in his or her group.

■ One member of a team or committee suddenly starts demanding to be in control during committee or group meetings and events.

■ A formerly active church worker starts missing multiple meetings or services.

leaders the training and resources they need to do fulfill their church roles, he added.

"For instance, if you recruit a new Sunday School teacher, he or she is going to need training, materials and someone to talk to and ask questions of," Futral said. "Giving them the resources they need reduces the frustration that often leads to burnout."

Finally, Futral suggested that church leaders shift their thinking about ministry positions from committee members who serve terms of a few years to teams that are project-oriented and focused around smaller, shorter-term assignments.

"The idea behind this thinking is bringing people into a project that reflects their own passion, and letting them choose their assignment rather than be appointed," he said.

"This kind of thinking and structure leads to more openness and volunteerism among the laity, versus committees with slots to fill looking for members to appoint to a term," he added.

"If you approach someone and say 'I'd like you to teach this Bible study for six months,' they are more inclined to respond to a short-term, intensive assignment like that than to a three- or four-year term on a committee," he said.

"We live in a fast-paced time, and the demands on the lives of clergy and lay leaders are enormous," Futral added. "An approach like this has been shown to be more effective as the culture of the world and the church changes."

themselves in jobs they can't do or don't like to do. "They can quickly grow tired of the responsibility," he added.

Setting limits, expectations

Congregations and clergy also have the responsibility to give lay

A different kind of courage

Older student faces different challenge at Oneida, but hard work is paying off

By Michael Spencer
Oneida Baptist Institute Campus Minister

If you visit the Oneida campus, you will see hundreds of students from all over the world. They will look remarkably similar to any other group of young people in any school in America. If you could learn the individual stories of our students, you would see some truly remarkable young people. In ways that might not ever be recognized by anyone, they are reaching incredible goals simply by being in school.

"Arnold" (not his real name) is one such courageous student. I remember interviewing him in the admissions process. He did not bring us any problems. His situation is one that we see several times a year.

Almost two years ago, Arnold was a senior in a public school. Through no fault of his own, Arnold's personal world fell apart. Two close friends passed away. Arnold became depressed and distracted, unable to go to school. Instead of graduating, he became a chronic absentee.

After a while, returning to school just didn't seem possible, and Arnold went on with his life. More than a year passed and Arnold decided he wanted to graduate, but by that point he was significantly behind in credits, and it had been a long time since he was in the classroom. The family helping Arnold told him about Oneida, and he applied.

We are always cautious about taking a student who is older than the norm because there are special rules and challenges for these stu-

dents. They must live by the same rules as our sixth graders. They must accept discipline. They must work and go to chapel. They must accept all of our rules, and live with a few extra just for them.

Accepting this role is a challenge for some students. Arnold impressed me with his seriousness, and we gave him his opportunity. We aren't sorry. There is no student happier to be at Oneida than Arnold. Though he will graduate two years behind his class, there's no shame or embarrassment. He faced his difficulties and overcame them. Even though he must take two Bible classes every day to get his credit, he does well in both.



W.F. Underwood

Arnold, like many of our slightly older students, has proven to be a positive influence. He sits in the front of the class, takes tireless notes and shows a work ethic that I wish more students would imitate. He's a good roommate and a dependable worker.

OBI's doors always have been open to students who needed a second chance. Every situation is different, but the Oneida ministry can meet the needs of many students by giving them the opportunity to overcome their personal obstacles and challenges.

We thank God for bringing us Arnold and other slightly "out of place" students. Because we are a private school supported by Kentucky Baptists, we can be flexible and focus on the needs of an individual student in a way that large public schools are unable to do. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your support. Arnold will be a proud OBI graduate, and he will have you to thank.

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

Remembering W.B. Bingham II

'53 speech helped preserve Clear Creek's support

The death of Middlesboro Pastor W.B. Bingham II this month reminded me of "Preacher" Bingham's 1953 state convention testimony on behalf of Clear Creek.

The messengers met in Owensboro with much talk about reducing state Cooperative Program funding going to Clear Creek. W.B. Bingham told of his mountain heritage and then delivered what he called his "Owensboro Address," a paraphrase of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

"One score and seven years ago, Dr. L.C. Kelly brought forth into Bell County a new institution, conceived in wisdom and dedicated to the mountain preachers, that all of them might have a chance to be taught God's word. Now we are facing a great question, the question of whether it shall remain so dedicated and shall long endure. We have come to this great association to discuss the work in this great field; work that means much to those who have given their lives in service to this great cause.

"It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. The brave men and women, living and dead, who have struggled there and con-

secrated their lives to that great cause, earth may soon forget, and heaven alone reveal. We cannot, we must nor forget that it is for us, the mountain preachers, that they have dedicated this great institution, which they have so nobly advanced.

"It is now for us Kentucky Baptists to here dedicate ourselves with Dr. Kelly and his co-workers to take increased devotion to that cause for which they have given lives in service and devotion. That we here highly resolve that these shall not have labored in vain; that this association of Kentucky Baptists under God shall have a new birth of vision, and that the mountain preachers Bible school—of the mountain preachers, by the mountain preachers—shall not perish from the earth until Jesus comes."

Kelly later reported, "W.B. stole the show. (His message) left all hearts warmed toward him and the cause he represented." Bingham was with Kelly at his death and promised to always support the school. He kept his word. Clear Creek lost one of our best friends.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

2,000-year-old hymn inspires contemporary worship album

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

Atlanta (RNS)—The latest CD born of the popular Christian music movement known as Passion differs from most contemporary religious music with intriguing new renditions of both ancient and more contemporary hymns.

In this case, Passion is the college discipleship movement led by Louie Giglio in Atlanta, not Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ."

Passion's seventh album, "Passion: Ancient and Modern Hymns—Live Songs of Our Faith," was recorded live last April in Atlanta when 1,300 campus pastors and community leaders gathered.

Event leaders, who call themselves artist-worshippers rather than performers, include Chris Tomlin, the David Crowder Band and Charlie Hall.

The CD, available in stores this week, was inspired by "Phos Hilaron," perhaps the oldest surviving Christian hymn. Literally translated "hail gladdening light," the hymn already was considered ancient by the fourth century.

When Jesus' early followers gathered in Jerusalem, they sang the hymn at evening prayers as part of a tradition known as the lighting of the lamps.

A candle—kept lit by believers—burned perpetually in what was believed to be the empty tomb of Jesus. Its glow symbolized the "light of the world."

When believers gathered for worship, the candle called them to celebrate their risen Lord as it was brought forth from His tomb.

"Phos Hilaron"

According to the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, the "Phos Hilaron" is the hymn sung in Eastern Orthodox churches at "Hesperinos," the equivalent of Vespers for Western liturgical churches. It is widely known in the English translation, "Hail Gladdening Light!" by J. Keble.

Working with Tomlin and Crowder of the David Crowder Band, Passion director Louie Giglio saw the hymn as a musical connector to help believers bridge the past and the present. Written around A.D. 200, the melody of "Phos Hilaron" has been lost, but the words survive.

"It amazes me to think that we can participate in a song that's been sung for close to 2,000 years," Tomlin said. He sings "No One More Worthy," based on the ancient hymn, on the CD.

All the hymns on the CD are at least 100 years old. The new renditions include "How Great Thou Art," "The Solid Rock," "Doxology," "All Creatures of Our God and King" and "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

That last one just made the cut. Written around 1907, it words were too new, but its original music qualified it since it is from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, composed in 1824.

Old songs, new treatments

Not every worshipper will appreciate the beats, melodies and instruments of these contemporary arrangements. But others will rejoice, recognizing that music, like faith, is dynamic and changes from generation to generation.

Such an outlook is in keeping with Passion's vision. The intent of the ministry, which combines the talents of a cross section of "artist-worshippers" for huge events and multi-city tours, is to support the ministry of college and university students by allowing them to come together to draw support from God and one another.

"Somewhere along the way, tradition became a casualty in the explosion of contemporary worship that has swept the church around the globe in recent decades," Giglio said. "Yet we would be fools to discard the rich treasures that have guided the church through the ages just because they are old."

Poll: Music, TV & movies should tone down content

Princeton, N.J. (RNS)—Three-quarters of Americans think the entertainment industry should reduce the amount of sex and violence in movies, television and music, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

Most Americans said they are offended by the sex, violence and profanity in entertainment, and 75 percent said the industry should make a serious effort to reduce offensive images.

More than 60 percent said they are offended by the violence in entertainment, 58 percent by the profanity, 58 percent by sexual content and 52 percent by homosexuality.

The numbers are lower than a similar Gallup survey of almost 10 years ago. In 1995, 83 percent of Americans said the entertainment

industry needed to correct the offensiveness of TV, music and movies. According to Gallup researchers, the difference in a decade is due to increasingly tolerant views among younger Americans.

Less than half of 18-to-29-year-olds said they thought the entertainment industry has an obligation to reduce violence and sex on screens and in music.

Younger Americans also were much less likely to be offended specifically by violence, profanity, sexual content or homosexuality in entertainment.

The poll said of those who watched the Super Bowl halftime show, only half found performer Justin Timberlake's exposing of Janet Jackson's breast offensive.

Devotion: A Raw Truth Journal on Following Jesus. Mike Yaconelli. Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2003. 60 pages. \$10.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Mike Yaconelli was "something of a wild man."

Those are not my words. They come straight off the back jacket of this 30-day look at what it means to follow Jesus.

Yaconelli had a passion for youth and for seeing young people live as free-spirited, serious, committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

This was the last book he wrote before his unexpected death in a car accident last year. And it is as serious and unconventional as the man who wrote it. The book covers 30 traits that Yaconelli had come to understand were important to young people seeking to follow Jesus.

Each trait gets two pages. In that space he offers a portion of Scripture, a real-life illustration of the trait, a brief definition of the trait, as well as a question or two for reflection.

The material is literally all over the page. In true Yaconelli style, the words are upside down, up and down, crooked and some of them even run off the page.

Despite the silliness in the layout, the material is serious, to the point and sound. Most adults will go crazy trying to follow the material, but the topics are timely.

This would be a good book to give youth during Lent as a way to reflect on what it means to be a Christian. Or youth workers might want to use the material as grist for discussion during youth group meetings. *Jim Holladay*

Dearest Dorothy, Are We There Yet? and Dearest Dorothy, Slow Down, You're Wearing Us Out! Charlene Ann Baumbich. Penguin Books, 2004. \$10.95 each. ♦♦♦♦

Watch out Mitford, N.C., and Father Tim. Dorothy Jean Westray and her hometown of Partonville, Ill., have arrived on the scene.

Fans of Jan Karon and her Mitford series will be pleased to meet a new hometown and its matriarch, octogenarian Dorothy Jean Westray. Dorothy is full of faith, spunk and humor, enough to keep readers chuckling all through these two books.

Dorothy is joined by a host of unforgettable characters who provide the backdrop for Dorothy's exploits. This series will warm your heart and draw you willingly into Dorothy's life as she lives in faith and confidence in a loving God.

As we meet Dorothy, she is trying to decide whether to sell her beloved farm to a development company. Her decision will not only change her life but also have profound effects for her community. All through her story, Dorothy's moves as easily in and out of conversation with God as she does the entertaining assortment of characters living

in Partonville.

Baumbich has created a delightful character in Dorothy and placed her among people who are most memorable. More mature adults probably will find one of their friends among the pages of the book, and younger adults will wish that they had someone like Dorothy from whom to glean wisdom.

If you want some enjoyable, good-hearted reading, try this series. I hope that more books are in the working for the future. *Wayne Hager*

I Thirst: The Cross—The Great Triumph of Love. Stephen Cottrell. Zondervan, 2003. 223 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦

"I thirst." Two simple words from Jesus' lips as He hung on the cross.

Only the Gospel of John records these words; and according to John,

it is these words that triggered the offering of wine to Jesus. And according to John, immediately after Jesus drank the wine, He uttered three more words, "It is finished."

Stephen Cottrell, who serves as Canon Pastor of Peterborough Cathedral in

England, was commissioned by two Archbishops of Canterbury to write a Lenten reflection guide. He has chosen to invite us on a six-week journey into the depth of this cry of Jesus on the cross.

Each chapter contains an extended reflection on one dimension of Jesus' words. After each reflection are questions that can be used both for group discussion and individual devotional time. After the discussion question is a short text for meditation followed by a prayer.

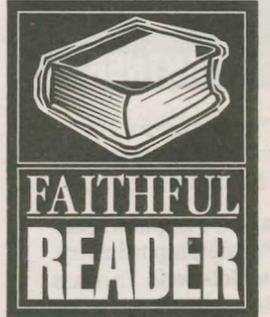
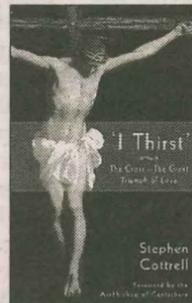
I was amazed at what Cottrell was able to draw out of this cry of Jesus from the cross. Most of the time, Cottrell was able to connect his insights to aspects of Jesus' teaching and ministry.

He not only challenges us to plumb the spiritual depth of this cry, but to look at the social implications. For example, he urges us to hear the cry of thirst of many in our world who live where water is scarce and/or too polluted to drink. He invites us to hear the call of love to examine the way we waste this precious resource.

The last chapter deals with Jesus' call to share the living water with a lost world. He focuses on Jesus' interaction with the woman by the well in Samaria. He points out that authentic evangelism begins with listening, but always includes sharing the water of life. "This is the sign of Christian discipleship—sharing with others what we have received."

In closing, Cottrell asks us to consider this profound truth: "All that love can do is go on loving. ... It either loves, or it stops being love."

Zondervan did not do much to clean up the British-isms in this book, but that is only a minor distraction. I believe this book would be a challenging and renewing experience for groups to use during the season of Lent. *Jim Holladay*



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

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries throughout Kentucky:

■ **God's Appalachian Partnership ministry in McDowell.** This has been a record-breaking year in terms of people fed and clothed, homes remodeled, decisions for Christ and the number of teens involved in their student ministry. They have a tremendous need for a building to house volunteer groups ministering in the area. Prayers are requested as they seek laborers and supplies to build housing on property that already has been donated.

■ **Marriage ministry of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro.** Tony and Becky Vandiver lead the church's marriage mentoring ministry and are giving special attention to married couples dealing with crisis situations. Pray for them as they seek to grow this ministry and strengthen marriages by reaching out to couples in the community.

■ **Bell County Association's deaf ministry in Middlesboro.** Mission Service Corps Missionary Lei Ann Raines teaches sign language classes, interprets for services and Bible studies, and helps local people understand the deaf culture by arranging activities to promote interaction between the hearing and the deaf. With more than 3,000 deaf or hearing impaired people in Bell County, Raines requests prayer that God will develop a church that can help bring the hearing and deaf communities together.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AUBURN—Dudley Moseley**, pastor of New Friendship Church for more than 12 years, died Feb. 5 at age 64.

■ **BAGDAD—Frank Farley** recently resigned as pastor of Beechridge Church.

■ **CADIZ—Oak Grove Church** will hold revival services March 7-10 with **Derrick Norris** as evangelist. For information, call (270) 522-6521.

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE—Campbellville Church** will hold spring revival services March 7-10; Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday, 7 p.m. with **Paul Badgett** as evangelist and **Tim Shockley** as music director.

Saloma Church will hold spring revival services March 26-27, 7 p.m., and March 28, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with **Kenny Rager** as evangelist and **Jason Dunbar** leading worship and music.

■ **CENTRAL CITY—New Hope Church** will host Women's Day March 27, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., with the theme, "Servants by Choice." **Lane Ann Miller** of Hopkinsville will be the featured speaker.

■ **ERLANGER—Erlanger Church** recently ordained **David Borden, Rick Phillips, Jeff Plank** and **Brian Young** as deacons. **Dan Francis** is pastor.

■ **FORT MITCHELL—Fort Mitchell Church** called **Harold Pike** as interim pastor effective Feb. 8.

■ **LA GRANGE—Buckner Church** called **Katie Anderson** as children's minister and **Shawn Baxley** as youth minister.

■ **LEXINGTON—Central Church** will host Lenten services beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, through Easter Sunday, April 11. The theme for the series is "The Stained Glass Ceiling Disciples: Women Who Didn't Make the Window."

■ **LOUISVILLE—Broadway Church's** Men of Broadway will host Breakfast by the Pastor, Feb. 28, 8 a.m. For reservations, call (502) 895-2459. **Chris Caldwell** is pastor.

The St. Matthews Counseling Center will host the "Art, Faith and Healing" art lecture and auction

Feb. 29, 1:30 p.m., at St. Matthews Church. The event is co-sponsored by the Kentuckiana Pastoral Counseling Consortium, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education East Central Region, Personal Counseling Service and the Wayne E. Oates Institute. For information, call (502) 893-9831.

Valley View Church will host Christian comedian **Dennis Swanburg** April 27, 7 p.m. For ticket information, call (502) 935-5142.

■ **MAYFIELD—Katharine Kay Cecil**, formerly of Mayfield, died Feb. 16 at age 82. A registered nurse, she served 12 years as a Southern Baptist international missionary to China. She is survived by her husband, James Cecil, dean emeritus of Mid-Continent College's Baptist College of the Bible.

■ **MOUNT EDEN—Marty Thompson** recently resigned as pastor of Bethlehem Church.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE—Nicholasville Church** recently called **Jeremy Sexton** as full-time minister of youth and music.

■ **OWENSBORO—Buena Vista Church** recently called **Jerry Tooley** as interim pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE—First Church** recently honored **Marion and Corrine Humphries** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **SHELBYVILLE—C.M. Riley** recently resigned as pastor of Clayvillage Church.

■ **SOMERSET—Orden Rice**, a former Kentucky Baptist pastor, died Jan. 27 at age 86. He was pastor of Pulaske Church and Faubush Church as well as churches in Ohio and Florida and helped organize the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Lydia Lucretia.

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

27-29 International Christian Growth Retreat, Kavanaugh Retreat Center, Crestwood.

28 All-State youth choir & orchestra auditions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

28 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Murray.

March

5-6 Creative Ministries Festival-West, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

5-6 State Handbell Festival, Cave City Convention Center.

12-13 Creative Ministries Festival-East, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

12-13 Mission Service Corps Basic Training, KBC Building, Louisville.

13 All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra auditions, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

10-20 Kentucky Changers, collegiate, Morehead.

19-20 Great Commission Prayer Conference, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

19-20 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Cedarmore.

20 All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra Auditions, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

20 Regional Keyboard Festival, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

20 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Jonathan Creek.

For more information, call (888) 266-6477 or click www.kybaptist.org

Dockery offers common ground for Calvinist and Arminian views

Jackson, Tenn. (BP)—Are Southern Baptists Calvinists? Yes and no, said David Dockery, president of Union University. Yes, because some Southern Baptists subscribe to Calvinist beliefs in some form; no, because all do not.

Dockery told church leaders at a PreachingPoints Conference at the Jackson, Tenn., university Feb. 10 that a renewed interest in Calvinism and Arminianism in the Southern Baptist Convention could lead to divisiveness if the issues are misunderstood.

"If we get hung up on these questions, rather than concentrate on a lost world," he said, "we have missed the boat. We must find areas of commonality and then give freedom in some areas where we disagree."

Dockery urged Baptists to consider the issues in their historical context. He traced the history of Calvinist and Arminian thought from the 16th century to today and emphasized the rich Calvinist heritage in Southern Baptist history, in-

cluding the contributions of James P. Boyce and B.H. Carroll and the modified Calvinism of E.Y. Mullins, W.T. Conner and W.A. Criswell.

"The final fault line between the two is eternal security," Dockery said. "If you believe in eternal security, you are probably a Calvinist in some form as opposed to an Arminian. Are you a four- or five-point Calvinist? Maybe not."

The two key issues, he said, are God's sovereignty and man's freedom to choose, which could be considered contradictory. He said he does not believe the ideas are a contradiction but are, instead, an antimony—a combination of two thoughts or principles, each of which is true but seem incompatible.

The gospel is intended for all, Dockery said, but only effective for those who choose to accept it.

"I believe that God saves believers and that He does this through men and women who take His gospel and share it. We cannot lose sight of that."

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Two deluxe, side by side crypts. Evergreen Cemetery. Garden of flowers. \$10,000 value, sell both \$5,000 to settle estate (terms). Call (502) 935-4042 or 593-4588.

FOR SALE: 1989 Ford 15-passenger church van. \$2,800. (270) 358-4500.

FOR SALE: Beautiful baby grand piano. Excellent condition. Located in Versailles, Ky. Asking \$5,500. Contact Mike Rogers at zlifemike@yahoo.com, or call (727) 736-6077.

FOR SALE: Gano Avenue Baptist Church at 519 Gano Ave., Georgetown, Ky., is selling its present facility and building new. The facility has approx. 9,000 square feet and seats 250 (with ample parking). It has great potential with many updates. Please call (502) 863-3454 between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to see the facilities and make an offer.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumés to: Brookside Baptist Church, 1351 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, Ky., 40356. Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Northside Baptist, a steadily-growing church, is seeking an interim part-time minister of worship (salary) and a full-time minister of worship (salary and benefits package available). If interested, please send resumé to: Northside Baptist Church, 1800 Pear Orchard Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Resumé deadline: March 15.

SEEKING: Temporary workers—individuals with secretarial experience and computer application skills to work temporary positions. Competitive hourly wages; no benefits. Contact: Administrative Services department, KBC, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for Campbellsville Baptist Church. Send resumés to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Campbellsville Baptist Church, PO Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719. Priority resumés due by Feb. 20, 2004.

SEEKING: Music director for Hustonville Baptist Church. Job description available upon request. If interested, call (606) 346-4931.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Pulpit Committee, Cumberland Missionary Baptist Church, 408 Spring St., Cumberland, KY 40823.

SEEKING: Energetic minister of music, worship and praise. Growing church seeks a bivocational leader. We have a blended style of music accompanied by a worship band. If you are seeking a way to serve God, submit a resumé to: Music Minister Search, Meadow Land Baptist Church, 1188 Detour Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky., is presently seeking a discipleship and evangelism pastor. Beacon Hill is a purpose-driven church with an average worship attendance of 600 and Sunday school of 525. You may visit our Web

site at www.beaconhillbaptist.com for more information. If interested, please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 274 Old Monticello Road, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Positions available in July at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. Resumés with cover letters should be sent to: CCB-BC Student Affairs Office, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. A couple with no "at home" children would be ideal to take both positions. However, there are two separate positions: 1. Kelly Hall director: Supervise student housing; assign rooms; supervise student employees and resident assistants. Must live in two-bedroom apartment provided on campus. 2. Food services director: Operation of campus food services. Responsible for all ordering, planning and serving of meals; supervise student employees; feed from 10 up to 200.

No school visits for ministers

Opponents can't sway Bullitt County board's decision on lunch meetings

Editor's note: Recently ministers from Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville were turned away from Bullitt County schools for visits with students during lunch. The ministers objected, saying they have visited with youth group members for more than 17 years. The following Louisville Courier-Journal article reports on last week's school board meeting, where the issue was addressed. The copyrighted story is reprinted with permission, with the requirement that it appear in its entirety.

By Tonia Holbrook
Louisville Courier-Journal

Shepherdsville—Bullitt County school board members last week did not reconsider a policy prohibiting ministers from having lunch with students.

Facing a sometimes boisterous crowd that spilled out of Bullitt Central High's 500-seat auditorium, board Chairman Layne Abell called for a recess after hearing three speakers criticize a recent decision by Superintendent Michael Eberbaugh ending the luncheon visits.

"I think the board is going to follow policy as it exists," Abell said in an interview afterward.

The board took up other scheduled business after the recess.

Ronald Shaver, senior pastor at Little Flock Baptist Church, told the board that he and other pastors only want to help mentor students with whom they're already affiliated.

"If you're genuinely interested in increasing test scores, we want to be a partner," Shaver said. "Don't close us out."

The controversy arose last month, when two pastors were turned away from North Bullitt High and Hebron Middle schools when they arrived to eat with students who had invited them.

The ministers have said that when they eat with students, they don't discuss religion, pray or evangelize. Little Flock pastors said the visits had gone on for 17 years.

School supporter: "Law is clear"

Francis Manion, a Kentucky attorney with the conservative American Center for Law & Justice, urged the board to protect the rights of ministers. "The Constitution is clear; case law is clear," Manion said. "You may not exclude a minister, a rabbi or anyone else solely because of their religious status."

Church authorities say Eberbaugh's decision changed a long-standing practice, but school board attorney Eric Farris said district authorities didn't know about the pastors' visits until last month.

Farris said the decision was based on three existing district policies: one requiring the principal's permission when students want to invite outsiders to school, another governing religious activities and a third stating that use of school facilities by nonacademic student groups may be denied.

School staff reported the pastors' visits to the central office after one pastor tried to check students out of school during lunchtime with signed notes from

their parents, Farris said. Since then, he said, some students have told school authorities that they were approached by a pastor in the cafeteria about attending Little Flock.

"It just makes it clear why that policy should be in place," Farris said.

"Now there's no question there was a breakdown of that policy, at least in those two schools, but the superintendent has taken steps to see that it's uniformly enforced across the district."

Last week's school board meeting fueled the community debate over who should have access to students.

Church supporters protested last week outside North Bullitt High and Hebron Middle schools and the school district's central office in Shepherdsville.

Their support also was unmistakable at the board meeting. They were lined up in front of the school an hour before the 7 p.m. meeting, and Shaver said he urged a few hundred who could not fit into the auditorium to go home.

Separation or discrimination?

Shepherdsville attorney Rodney Burress, who represented Shaver and three other Little Flock pastors, contended in an earlier interview that the issue isn't one of church-and-state separation, but rather one of discrimination based on religion.

"They have basically said that because these men are employed at a church, they are not to be in the Bullitt County schools," he said. "That is discrimination pure and simple."

Charles Haynes, senior scholar with the First Amendment Center in Arlington, Va., presented the other side of the issue in an interview. While being barred from the schools might seem harsh to Little Flock pastors, they should realize that the world has changed a lot in 17 years, Haynes said.

"It's apparent our society is becoming more complex," he said. "There are more and more people who will want access to students, for whatever reason, and some of them won't be as wonderful as these pastors."

Although some students circulated petitions in school last week, requesting their pastors' return, not every Bullitt County student agrees.

"That's school. It's education," Bullitt Central junior Sera Jadzak said in an interview. "Religion is something you talk about with your family."

But an overwhelming majori-



ty of those at the board meeting sided with the church. Speeches by the ministers' supporters were punctuated with applause, and when Farris defended Eberbaugh's decision, his words were greeted with catcalls from the audience.

"They're not opening up their minds," Bullitt Central junior Cayce Dever said of the ministers' supporters, adding that the interruptions were frustrating. "All they're thinking about is church, church, church."

During his remarks, Farris hinted at personal conflicts between Eberbaugh and Shaver. Farris played a portion of Shaver's Feb. 1 sermon, in which Shaver said he had been at odds with Eberbaugh over a teacher presenting a lesson on the Muslim faith.

Shaver went on to say in the taped sermon that he would "sweat that ol' boy and his lawyers," referring to Eberbaugh, and that "If I want to talk about Jesus, there's nothing wrong with it."

At that, the crowd erupted in applause and cheers, prompting Abell to ask them to calm down.

Multiple perspectives

Before the recent board meeting, school and legal authorities interviewed tried to untangle some of the legal issues involved.

Beth Wilson, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, said that as long as Bullitt schools are enforcing the policy neutrally, treating no groups preferentially, the district generally should be on sound legal footing.

Lisa Gross, a spokeswoman for the Kentucky Department of Education, said that school authorities have the right to determine who can and cannot come into the school.

Burress contended that the public has a right to enter school buildings, at lunchtime or even during instructional time.

But just because schools are public, that doesn't make them public forums, said Haynes, of the First Amendment Center.

"Most legal experts would say

outside adults do not generally have a right to kids in public school during the regular school day," Haynes said. "A lot of these protections and guidelines are intended to make sure the students are safe and their rights are protected."

Burress contended that Eberbaugh's decision is discriminatory because other groups are permitted to eat lunch with students—college recruiters, for example.

But Haynes said the school, not students, invites such visitors and their visits have some bearing on the school's responsibility to prepare students for college.

Encouraging community involvement

Burress also contended that by outlawing the pastor visits, Bullitt schools are going against the Kentucky Education Reform Act and the school district's own policy, both of which encourage community involvement.

"We're not asking for the state to sponsor prayer, to allow evangelism or massive prayer during lunchtime," Burress said. "All we're asking to do is to let these people eat lunch with children they serve as mentors or role models for."

Gross stressed that while community involvement is strongly encouraged, there are no mandates on how schools should handle it.

Haynes said it's important for school districts to review their policies for clarity on such issues "to make sure they're not waiting on the next crisis."

In Jefferson County Public Schools, visitors are required to state the purpose for their visit, and it must relate to an educational program.

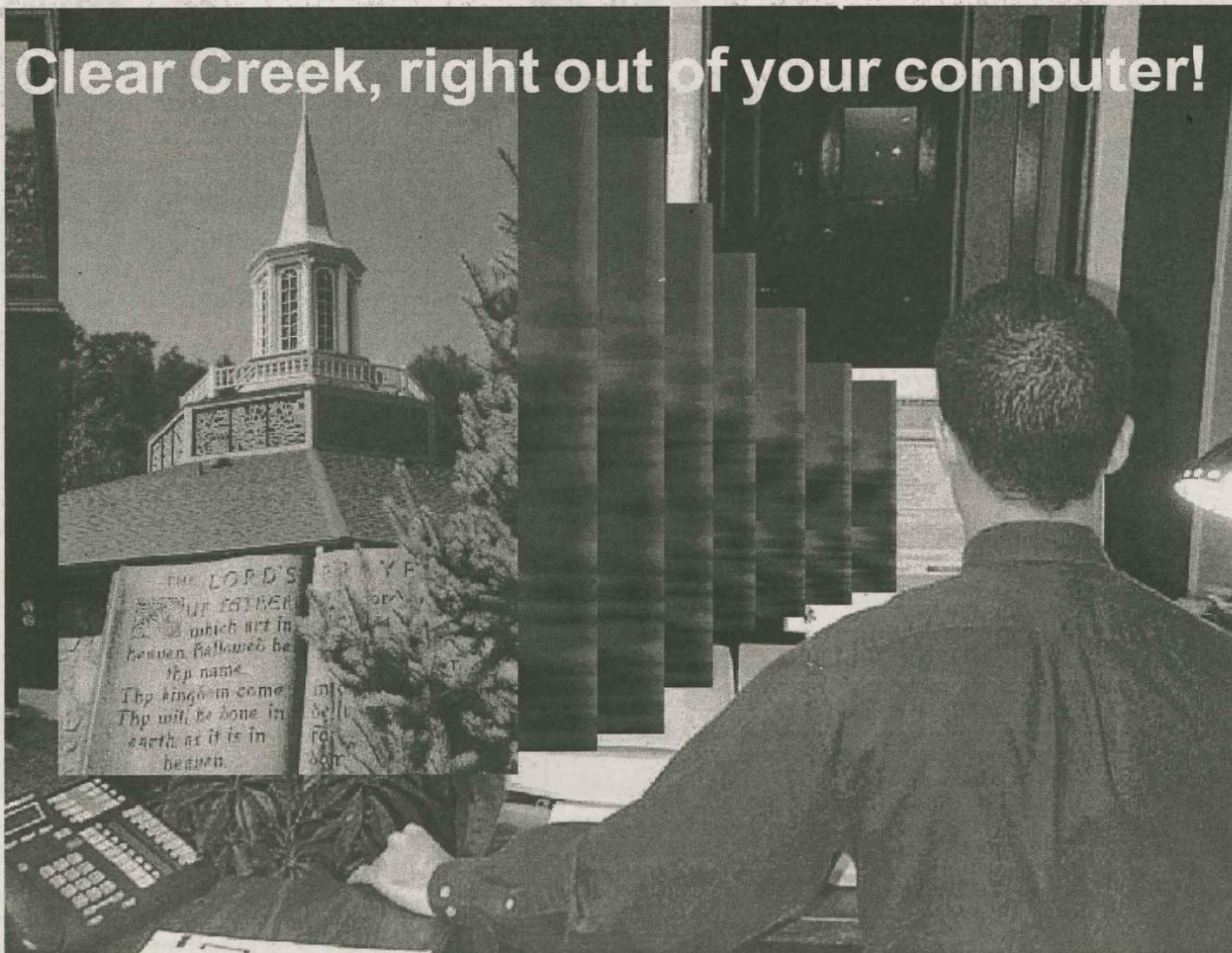
Oldham County school board attorney Barbara Dickens said principals seek her advice when visitors are in question, and she generally poses the following scenario in reference to equal access laws:

"You might agree with this group's mission," Dickens said. "You may not agree with the next one. So, do you want to open the door? Usually that deters them from allowing that."

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

More than 500 supporters of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville attended last week's Bullitt County School Board meeting to object to a policy restricting visits with students during lunch. (© Louisville Courier-Journal photo by Michael Hayman)

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