


**PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**WESTERN RECORDER**

**March 16, 2004**  
**Vol. 178, No. 11**

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Baptists**  
 Lawsuit against five Missouri agencies thrown out, but convention promises to press on. *Page 2.*

**Lottie Moon**  
 IMB leaders project jump in Christmas offering. *Page 2.*

**Cooperative Program**  
 Giving up in first six months of fiscal year. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
 Pray for SBC & BWA to find common ground. *Page 5.*

**Resources**  
 Tips offered for closing the church's "back door." *Page 8.*



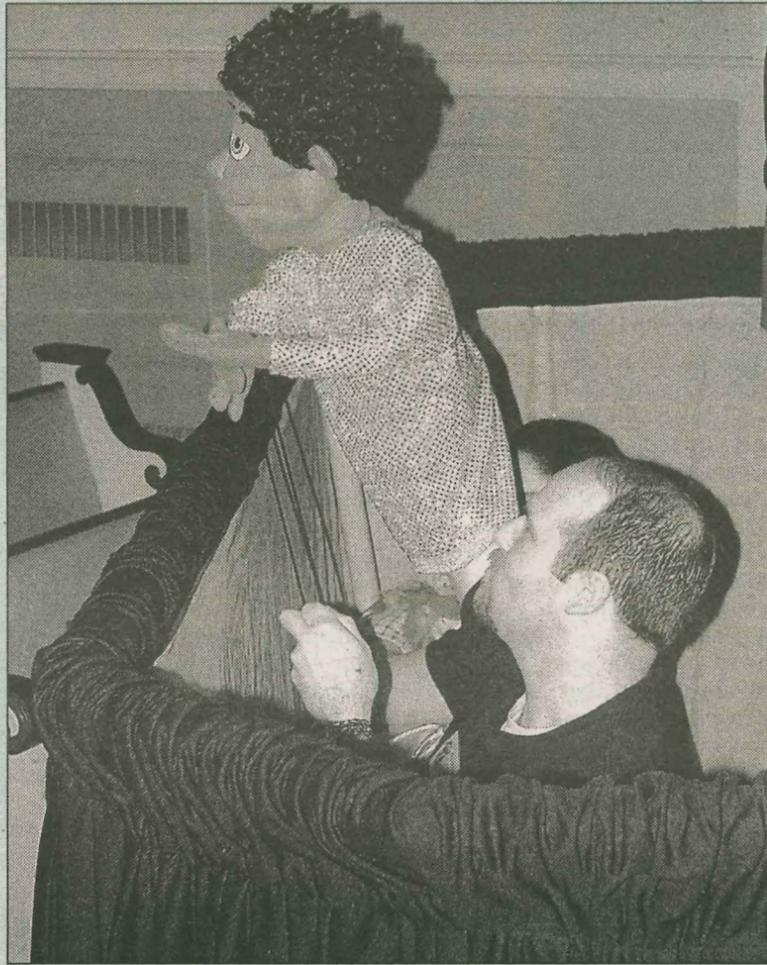
**Annie Armstrong**  
 Meet home missionary Mike Daily. *Page 9.*



## Creativity in worship



More than 2,400 people from 187 churches recently attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries Festivals in Elizabethtown and Lexington. The annual event, which features 30 teachers for everything from drama to juggling, was held in two cities for the first time this year because of the event's growth, according to Tom Smoot, director of the KBC's creative ministries group. **Right:** Jason Anderson of Kirksville Baptist Church performs a puppet routine. **Above:** A student learns about balloon sculptures. (KBC photos by Larry Brannin.) *Story on page 3.*



Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 11.

## Survey: Many soldiers pray to cope with stress

**Washington (RNS)**—A survey of U.S. military members has found that prayer is among the coping mechanisms used to deal with stress, with women turning to it more than men.

The top ways to cope are thinking of a way to solve a problem and talking to a friend or family member, reported the "2002 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel."

Eighty-three percent of military personnel said they try to figure out how to solve the problem and 75 percent said they talk to someone about it.

"We also see that saying a prayer

is a common strategy for about half of the men and 70 percent of military women," Robert Bray of the Research Triangle Institute told reporters last week.

Research Triangle Institute, a North Carolina-based science research firm, was contracted by the Defense Department to conduct the survey.

Overall, 53 percent said they said a prayer as a means of coping.

The 2002 survey, the eighth in a series that began in 1980, was completed by more than 12,500 service members.

It also looked for the first time at the level of religious or spiritual interest of military members.

It found that about 20 percent of them were in the category of "highly religious or spiritual" while 56 percent had a medium level of religiosity or spirituality.

About a quarter of them were found to have a low level of spirituality or religiosity.

Researchers found that military personnel with high levels of religious or spiritual interests were much less likely than others to perceive "a lot" of stress in their family. They also found that those with high spirituality or religiosity were much less likely than those with low levels of faith to say they had seriously considered suicide in the year before the survey.

## Money adviser predicts bleak financial future for churches

**By Ken Walker**  
*State Correspondent*

**Louisville**—Unless Christians learn to handle their finances wisely, the church faces a bleak future, according to the leader of a ministry that teaches biblical principles of money management.

Howard Dayton told a Louisville audience March 5 that the average American church member spends \$20 a year on missions and \$1,174 on gambling.

At the same time, he said, giving to churches continues to decline steadily.

Dayton, the chief executive officer of Crown Financial Ministries, recalled a pastor who told him that 58 percent of his church's income came from people age 65 and over. When an elderly member died, he said, it required five young couples to replace that senior's giving.

"If we don't teach young people how to handle money God's way, it's not going to be adequate," said Dayton, speaking at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in an appearance sponsored by the Louisville Christian Foundation. "It's why I'm so passionate about people learning to handle money God's way."

"I think there are millions of believers in the pews who have money as a focus of their life and not the Lord," Dayton added. "True riches in life is in an intimate relationship with Christ."

Even though many pastors teach about tithing, they fail to advise people to follow biblical guidelines in managing the other 90 percent, Dayton said.

As a result, most church members act like the rest of the world, which Dayton said is on an alarming financial track.

In the past two years consumer debt has increased 20 percent, and since 1992 savings rates have dropped in half, Dayton said. Money spent on gambling rose from about \$10 billion in 1982 to more than \$64 billion in 2001, he added.

Bankruptcies also have skyrocketed, from 412,000 in 1985 to 1.6 million by 2002. If this trend continues, during the next decade one of every seven households will go bankrupt, Dayton warned.

The impact on the church can be seen in a survey researcher George Barna completed last year that pointed to a 57 percent decrease in tithing in 2001, Dayton said.

Noting that 37 percent of those who attend church regularly give practically nothing to God's work, Dayton said the trend is even bleaker for people under age 35.

□ See *Financial adviser ... Page 6*

## Judge dismisses lawsuit against Missouri entities

Jefferson City, Mo. (ABP)—A Missouri judge has effectively dismissed a lawsuit filed by Missouri Baptist Convention leaders against five institutions that trustees removed from convention control.

Cole County Circuit Judge Thomas Brown ruled March 11 that the suit's plaintiffs lack the proper legal standing to assert their claim against the institutions.

Convention spokesman Gary Taylor said the MBC likely will amend its petition or file an appeal.

Convention messengers voted in 2002 to sue the five institutions—the Baptist Home retirement home system, the Missouri Baptist Foundation, Missouri Baptist University near St. Louis, Windermere Baptist Conference Center and the Word & Way newspaper. In 2000 and 2001, trustees of all five agencies changed their institutions' charters to make the boards self-perpetuating.

Previously, the institutions' trustees had been nominated by an MBC committee and elected by messengers to the convention's annual meeting.

The lawsuit demanded the agencies' trustee boards be returned to convention control. Because the MBC itself is an unincorporated association under Missouri law, convention leaders decided to name the MBC Executive Board and six sympathetic MBC-affiliated churches as the plaintiffs.

But Brown said the convention's constitution and bylaws "are not ambiguous" and "the members of the Missouri Baptist Convention are individuals called 'messengers.'" He said the churches and Executive Board do not count as "members" of the convention under its own governing documents and therefore do not have legal standing to sue the entities.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

# BWA Executive Committee addresses SBC concerns

By Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

Falls Church, Va. (ABP)—Responding to concerns cited by Southern Baptist Convention leaders, the Baptist World Alliance's Executive Committee endorsed a 10-point "declaration and affirmations" of historic Baptist doctrines last week.

BWA President Billy Kim also issued a call for 100 days of prayer leading up to the SBC annual meeting in June. "I believe if we pray, only God will turn it around and then we will shout with joy about what God has done," Kim declared.

The actions came during a regularly scheduled committee meeting March 9-10 at BWA headquarters in the Washington suburb of Falls Church, Va. It was the group's first meeting since the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted in February to recommend that the SBC break all ties with the 99-year-old umbrella group for Baptist denominations around the globe.

The BWA statement—written by a five-member ad hoc committee appointed by BWA President Billy Kim—expressed "great appreciation for the SBC's contribution to Kingdom work around the world," but added that committee members "regret the current tensions which have led the SBC Executive Committee to recommend withdrawal from BWA membership."

### Sole sufficiency of Christ

Responding to an SBC study committee's stated reasons for the recommendation to cut ties, the statement also affirmed historic Christian doctrines "including, but not limited to" the unique nature of Christ, the "centrality of the Great Commission" to the Christian faith, and BWA's "joyful affirmation of faith in the mediation of Jesus Christ as solely and entirely sufficient for salvation."

The SBC study committee's report contained allegations that BWA leaders had been open to "positions contrary to the New Testament and to Baptist doctrines." The report also accused BWA meetings and officers of exhibiting a "decided anti-American tone in recent

## BWA statement of 'declaration and affirmation'

The Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance during their meetings March 8-10, 2004, has listened to the issues raised by the Southern Baptist Convention regarding its membership within this alliance. While saddened by misunderstandings, we wish to state that:

1. We hold a great appreciation for the SBC's contribution to Kingdom work around the world.
2. We are grateful for the contributions of the SBC to the BWA.
3. We regret the current tensions which have led the SBC Executive Committee to recommend withdrawal from BWA membership.
4. We have sought to hear these concerns clearly and consider them seriously and prayerfully.
5. We have engaged in lengthy discussion, study and prayer and

wish to affirm again for all to know:

a. Our adherence to the historic doctrines of our faith including but not limited to:

i. The uniqueness of our Lord Jesus Christ

ii. The centrality of the Great Commission

b. Our joyful affirmation of faith in the mediation of Jesus Christ as solely and entirely sufficient for salvation, "for there is salvation in no one else" (Acts 4: 12).

6. We acknowledge that we are not a denomination but an alliance of Baptists who seek to live out the life of Christ in the various tongues and nations that God has created.

7. A worldwide alliance must reflect the concerns of Baptist bodies around the world as we try to un-

derstand, to live and to proclaim the whole gospel of Jesus Christ.

8. Our goal is to ensure that all we do as the BWA will honor Christ, bear witness to His Kingdom and contribute to the unity of His Body as expressed through Baptists around the world.

9. We are grateful for the solidarity of support the BWA has received from Baptists around the globe. We believe that this attests to the faithful and unselfish contributions the BWA has made for nearly 100 years.

10. We express our sincere and prayerful desire to continue working together with Southern Baptists through the Baptist World Alliance.

We call upon Baptists everywhere to join us in the great challenge of lifting up Christ so that He may draw all people unto Himself.

years" and accused the group's international relief arm, Baptist World Aid, of funding "questionable enterprises."

Prior to issuing the statement, BWA Executive Committee members spent about two hours responding to and discussing the SBC's allegations.

Speaker after speaker characterized the charges as completely without merit.

Fausto de Vasconcelos, a Brazilian Baptist leader and chairman of BWA's evangelism and education committee, described his anguish over the situation because of the close relationship that Brazilian Baptists have had with the SBC over the years. Noting his 10 years in the United States as a student in Southern Baptist seminaries, he said, "I am a Southern Baptist."

Responding to the SBC report's charges of liberalism, he added, "I have not seen or heard anything that has to be defended at this point. The idea in Brazil is that we're not dealing with a theological matter, but with a political problem. I have never read or heard anything that would convey the slightest idea of liberalism" in BWA life.

Paul Montacute, the director of Baptist World Aid, said he had repeatedly asked members of the SBC study panel to provide examples of the "questionable enterprises" they had accused BWAid of funding, but that they refused to cite any.

"We were amazed that such a powerful committee of Southern Baptist leaders could make unsubstantiated charges," he said. "We're still waiting to hear what it is that we've been up to and what makes it a 'questionable enterprise.'"

### 'Anti-Americanism' charge denied

BWA Executive Committee members expressed indignation at the charges of "anti-Americanism." Theo Angelov, secretary of the European Baptist Federation and a survivor of Communist persecution of Christians in Eastern Europe, noted his father was arrested and imprisoned for eight years on charges of being an American spy even though he had never visited the U.S. The government was suspicious of his father, he said, merely because he was a Baptist.

"Now, will we be accused from the other side?" he asked. "Such an attitude is not Baptist. Do we need

such a war as Baptists?"

The SBC/BWA issue "is a conflict which originated here in America and has been exported to the rest of the world," Angelov added. "Let's pray for the leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention. May the Lord bless them and forgive them."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and Kim both urged committee members to pray for a miraculous reconciliation between BWA leaders and SBC leaders prior to the SBC's vote on the issue in June.

Lotz, Kim and other BWA representatives are scheduled to meet with SBC leaders for a dialogue session in the next few weeks.

"If we really honestly pray for the next 100 days, I believe a miracle can happen in the problem we face today," Kim said.

Noting that "many Southern Baptist brothers and sisters want to stay with the Baptist World Alliance," Kim added, "Humanly speaking, there isn't much hope that they will stay. But with God's economy and the Holy Spirit working, I still have a little ray of hope that they will stay with us."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

## IMB leaders project 18-22 percent jump in Lottie Moon gifts

Richmond, Va. (BP)—If initial projections hold, Southern Baptist giving to the 2003 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions will be up between 18 and 22 percent over the previous year, Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin announced March 10.

Surpassing the \$133 million goal—or reaching the \$150 million challenge goal—would mean loosening restrictions on missionary appointments that were imposed in 2003, Rankin said.

The record \$115 million Southern Baptists gave to the offering in 2002 was an increase of 1.15 percent but \$10 million short of the goal.

"We are overwhelmed and praise God for the outpouring of support from our churches in their giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," Rankin said. "We are grateful

for the special promotion Woman's Missionary Union has given in encouraging churches to give generously.

"If the pattern of receipts continues through the next three months at this increased level, we should be able to relax some of our appointment restrictions and move waiting candidates to the field."

IMB staff and missionaries have been blessed by testimonies of how God stirred both large and small churches to new levels of sacrificial giving when they heard missionaries were being kept from the field for lack of finances, Rankin said.

"Gifts from some of the larger churches have been unprecedented, but it has been an almost daily emotional experience to hear from smaller churches that have multiplied their giving two, four or even six times," he said.

A one-time outpouring of response will not suffice, however, when God is continuing to call more and more new missionaries for overseas service, Rankin said.

"As grateful as we are for these gifts to the Lottie Moon offering, it will be important for churches to sustain this increased level of giving to next year's LMCO, as well as to the Cooperative Program," Rankin said. "Once we send missionaries to the field, it is imperative that we sustain their support."

"I also would encourage churches to give just as sacrificially to the Annie Armstrong Offering at this Easter season," Rankin added. "The North American Mission Board also has had to defer sending missionary personnel in a crucial hour. Southern Baptists must seize the opportunity to impact our nation and Canada with the gospel."

With God moving in unprecedented ways all over the world, Southern Baptists will be found faithful to their missions mandate, Rankin said.

"Last year, baptisms overseas exceeded 500,000 for the first time. Our missionaries were able to engage 192 new people groups," he said. "Global events are creating a spiritual hunger, traditional barriers are falling, and the harvest is accelerating. That's why God is calling out more and more missionary personnel."

"Southern Baptists have been blessed richly in numbers and resources, and I believe we will give an account to God for how we respond to the responsibility and opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord," he added. "I believe we will be found faithful in doing whatever it takes to reach a lost world."

## State CP gifts up during first six months of KBC fiscal year

By David Wintrey  
News Director

Kentucky Baptist churches gave more money to the Cooperative Program between September 2003 and last month than they have in the first six months of any previous KBC fiscal year.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has received \$11,239,376 for the Cooperative Program, the joint funding mechanism for Kentucky and Southern Baptist missions.

(Sixty-four percent of CP receipts are used in Kentucky for missions, ministries and KBC agencies. Thirty-six percent is forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for missions and SBC agencies.)

The total is 2.3 percent more than receipts during the same period last year and 1.3 percent more than the CP year-to-date budget, which was adjusted down in December, according to Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team.

"It is the first time we've been over \$11 million in the first six months," he added.

Despite being a record, the total is still 3.1 percent below the original CP budget, which was passed by KBC messengers at the 2002 annual meeting.

In December, the KBC Mission Board revised the CP budget from \$23.2 million to \$22.1 million.

The six-month CP receipts total is 1.3 percent more than half of the adjusted budget. "We'll have to continue to watch each month," Ashby said.

Still, he noted that the record year-to-date giving comes despite an icy Sunday on Jan. 25 that affected the offering plates throughout the state.

January receipts were nearly \$2.2 million, but approximately \$300,000 less than the previous year. "The rule of thumb is (if) you miss a Sunday because of ice and snow you never make it up," Ashby noted.

Six-month totals for special offerings and funds also showed increases compared to the 2002-03 fiscal year:

■ Kentucky-restricted only funds totaled \$252,764 for the first six months, a 5.2 increase compared to the previous year and 12.3 percent more than budget.

■ The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions received nearly \$3.2 million in the last six months, a 13 percent increase compared to the same time in the previous fiscal year.

■ The Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions received more than \$852,161 in the past six months, a 3.8 percent increase compared to the same period the previous year.

## Getting creative

Annual festival exposes churches to multitude of artistic worship expressions

By David Wintrey  
News Director

Elizabethtown—Nobody has to convince Wade White that creative ministries work is a good idea for his church. He sees it every time the youth practice their interpretive movements.

"The reason I like it is because it brings the kids together as a team," said White, youth minister at Grand River Baptist Church near Land Between the Lakes. "It gives them leadership roles within the group."

In a church that average 90 people in Sunday school, 25 youth and seven adults regularly take part in interpretive movement practices and performances.

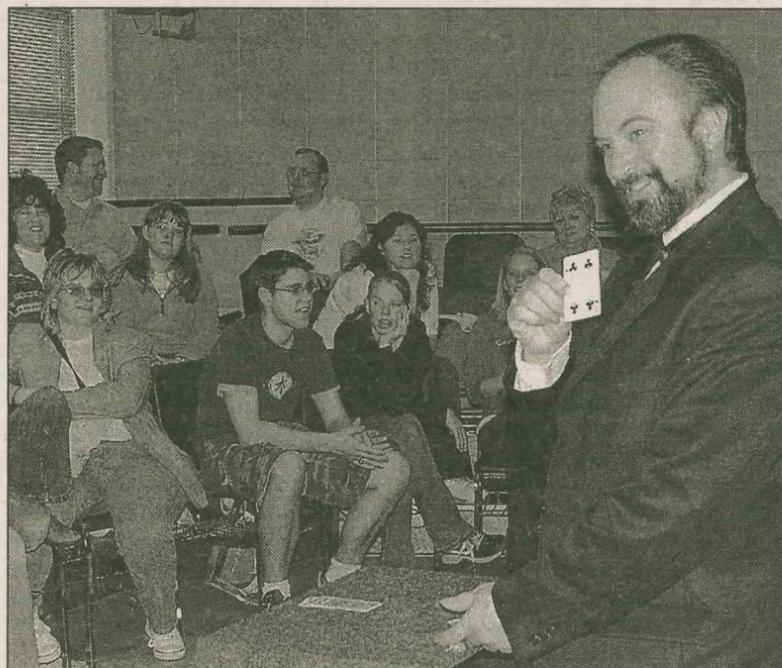
"It's also a way to minister to others," White said.

Such comments are common to Tom Smoot, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's creative ministries group and organizer of the annual KBC Creative Ministries Festival.

"The young people want to do something visual because they live in such a visual world," Smoot said. "So if they can translate visual images into their church into something



**INTERPRETIVE DANCE** The "Beautiful Feet" dance team of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green performs to a song at the festival in Elizabethtown.



**TA-DA** David Hennig of Mason, Ohio, shows students how to use illusion in ministry.



spiritual, then I think that's what they want to do."

More than 2,400 people from 187 churches attended the two creative ministry festivals held last weekend at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington and the previous weekend at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

This was the first year the festival, filled with performances and workshops, has been held in two locations, a necessity because of the event's growth, Smoot said. "There's not really any one church right now that can hold us."

### A variety of skills

Thirty faculty from six states taught classes ranging from juggling, puppetry and interpretive movement to clowning, drama and technical aspects.

Ten years ago, most creative ministry involved puppets, Smoot said. But today interpretive movement, in which participants often act out the message of a song, has become one of the most popular forms of creative ministry at the festival.

Another growing trend is the production of videos, as more churches and youth gain access to editing tools on their computers.

"It's just an ongoing cycle," Smoot noted. "I'm beginning to get



**EYE ON THE BALL** Larry Kelley of Jester Ministries in Louisville, was among the 30 staff from six states who taught creative ministry skills during the two recent festivals.

more calls about puppets again."

Smoot promotes creative ministries for any size church. "There are so many different areas that they can get involved in that there's almost something for everybody," he said.

A shy person who doesn't want to stand before an audience might blossom behind a curtain with a puppet, he added. "He might be the best puppeteer you could ever have. I have seen that firsthand."

At Island Baptist Church near Owensboro, Pastor John Galyen said he's seen creative ministry ideas become an outreach tool. The church, which averages 105 people in Sunday school, attracts about 60 people to Wednesday night craft and creative ministry workshops, he said.

Two families recently joined whose children first visited the church as a result of the Wednesday night activities, he noted.

Creative ministry has "allowed our kids to expose our church to more contemporary styles of worship and music that otherwise, they may not have been exposed to or cared for," Galyen added.

"It gives the youth a sense of belonging to the church," he said. "They feel like they're contributing to the worship."

For more information about creative ministry, contact Tom Smoot at (888) 254-5714.

### LEARNING PUPPETS

Youth at the recent Creative Ministries Festival learn how to handle puppets during a workshop. More than 2,400 people recently attended the two workshops held in Elizabethtown and Lexington. (KBC photos by Larry Brannin)

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON  
Editor

DAVID WINFREY  
News Director

MAURI SMITH  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

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

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

To subscribe: Send \$12.19 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.75 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

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

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (888) 254-5729, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters from subscribers on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

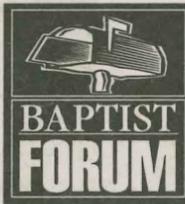
To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors:  
Chairman **Bill Thurman**, Lexington;  
Vice Chairman **Linda Polley**, Elizabethtown;  
Secretary **Mike Harmon**, Princeton;  
**Skip Alexander**, Campbellsville;  
**Dan Francis**, Erlanger;  
**David Harmon-Vaught**, Louisville;  
**Ken James**, London;  
**Don Mantooth**, Morehead;  
**Bill Marshall**, Louisville;  
**Floyd Price**, Prestonsburg;  
**Rodney Travis**, Hopkinsville;  
**Marc Whitt**, Richmond.

## Actions damage witness

Once again, my decision to distance myself from the Southern Baptist Convention is vindicated by the action taken to remove support from the Baptist World Alliance and to deny booth space at the June 15-16 SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis.

The isolationist attitude of the current SBC leadership does not, in my opinion, reflect the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I look for the fruit, hoping that the Holy Spirit will bring conversion and renewal to the hearts of the convention leadership. But the witness of these actions shows a severe lack of love, no apparent joy, and creates resentment instead of peace. I can only imagine that these actions damage our witness worldwide,



not only among other Baptists but among other Christians.

Baptists who oppose this sad behavior need to join in rejecting the actions of the SBC Executive Committee. I am a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, a retired Army chaplain endorsed by the SBC and a former SBC pastor. The SBC in which I grew up and was educated would have been seeking cooperative solutions to join hands rather than turning away from brother and sister Christians.

Jerry L. Martin  
Henderson

## 'Appalling' advertisement

I just read the ad in the March 2 issue of the Western Recorder for the Family Foundation and was appalled by the comments from Kent Olander.

If I am reading him correctly, every single parent is incapable of

raising their children correctly. My wife's father died when she was only 8 years old. Her mother never remarried. Does this mean that my wife is now unable to properly raise our two children?

His comments on the ability of a parent to be able to raise children who are proper ladies or a man's man are condescending, insensitive and unfounded. Comments such as this only strengthen my view that the "anti-gay" marriage movement is not based on well-thought-out arguments.

Also, the comment that gays should not be able to marry because they might have sex outside of marriage is circular logic. If they can't marry then any same-sex sex must be outside of marriage.

I find it disappointing that the paper that I look to for uplifting spiritual inspiration is promoting such illogical and unfounded statements.

Michael Bristow  
Louisville

## Confrontation with a drug dealer

By Samuel Atchison  
Religion News Service

Trenton, N.J. (RNS)—"I ain't never gonna stop selling drugs! If I get locked up, somebody else'll be out here to take my place."

Thus did a young drug dealer justify his decision to peddle his wares near my inner-city home. His discourse came in the midst of a dispute we had over an incident that had occurred while I was out of town several weeks earlier.

It seems that upon returning home from work one day, my wife verbally took issue with the fact the young man and several members of his "crew" were conducting business outside our house. Having heard my wife's diatribes before, the others moved on. One, however, chose to stay and curse my wife out.

Now, three weeks later, I was faced with having to make him apologize to my wife while his cohorts stood only a few feet away. My goal

was to defend my wife's honor without getting killed in the process.

Through role reversal—"What if it were your woman?"—I challenged. I was able to get him both to admit he had disrespected my wife and to render something of an apology. Yet even this half-hearted confession was less apology than apologia. For it was framed and conditioned by a series of self-righteous justifications designed to enable him to save face.

Everybody knows you're a "church man," he said. No one is going to disrespect you by selling drugs on your stoop. But you don't own this street and drugs are a fact of life.

His point was that while there was a certain grudging respect for my family and me, that respect and its influence among those in the "game" had limits. We'll respect you to a point, Reverend, but business is business.

For those who long for a return

to "traditional values," this should serve as a cautionary tale, for the confrontation took place across the street from a church where neither the pastor nor members live in the neighborhood.

In the face of unemployment, poverty and boredom, the young do not often accept the chastisement of their elders. Respect for authority is in short supply.

Indeed, what little consideration my family and I enjoy is because, in the words of one local addict, we're considered "good neighbors."

Clearly, though, such deference has its limits. Without outreach and investment from the larger community, drug dealers and other street hustlers will continue to do the wrong thing. In so doing, they will terrorize those—like my family—whom they might otherwise respect.

After all, business is business.  
Samuel Atchison is a prison chaplain in Trenton, N.J., and a fellow of the George H. Gallup International Institute in Princeton, N.J.

## Celebrating 100 years of ministry

At age 100, Ekron Baptist Church is experiencing some of the best years in its history. Attendance is at record levels, ministries abound, worship is dynamic, Sunday school is effective and lay leaders are making it happen under the able leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Charles Blanc.

Pastor Blanc is the only full-time staff person and his wife is part-time secretary. He is an enthusiastic visionary leader who has high expectations of church members. His wife, Frances Nell Blanc, is a great organizer and seems to know the needs of every church member.

The church had a history of short terms for pastors until the Blancs came 37 years ago. He was bivocational for seven years.

Charles is from a strong Baptist family in Knoxville, Tenn., where he was minister of music in a large church before going to seminary to study theology. A student pastorate in the Brandenburg area provided

the contact with Ekron.

In the past five years, ministries and growth have soared. The church family life center has a full gym and walking track and a schedule of activities for all ages, led by lay leaders. Basketball clinics are scheduled for children and youth on Saturday.

Blanc said the growth began about five years ago when the church changed the worship service to provide variety. This also coincided with the sale of some farms in the area that have become small subdivisions.

Activities listed in one Sunday bulletin included a deacon and wives fellowship meal and a church Valentine banquet. The bulletin also listed prayer requests and names of people shut in or homebound. Deacons and Sunday school classes provide care for the church family.

Ekron has become a regional church. Due to the special emphasis on "bring a friend," the worship

service was held in the family life center on the day I attended recently. Some 295 people attended the worship service with 215 in Sunday school.

The worship service used a blended style with praise choruses and hymns, in addition to puppets and handbells. Blanc directed music along with several lay leaders. The service was broadcast live over a local radio station.

Parking has been added in order to accommodate the growth. It appeared to me that 50 percent of the audience was under age 35.

Both of the Blancs' sons and a daughter are active in the church. One son leads the puppet ministry, handbell choir and the "Stomp Band." All of them led worship effectively the Sunday that I was present to help launch their year of centennial celebration.

Praise God for churches like Ekron where the members are eager to serve, and leaders like Rev. Charles Blanc who continues his innovative leadership at age 77!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## RETIREMENT

## Is your retirement plan contribution level keeping up

By Don Spencer

Imagine for a moment it's 10 years ago. You have just enrolled in your employer's retirement plan. You have decided to contribute a certain amount (or percentage of pay) each month to your plan.

Now, 10 years later, a question: Are you still contributing the same amount or percentage?

If so, chances are you will not have adequate retirement income. According to a recent study, 62 percent of people saving toward retirement continue to contribute the same percentage for an extended period of years. Unless that amount was more than adequate, inflation erodes the value of that contribution each year. That means you are contributing less in real dollars each year and your retirement plan is not keeping up.

Financial planners have suggested for many years that one should save between 10 and 15 percent of compensation in order to provide adequate retirement income. For many people, increasing to 10 to 15 percent seems to be an insurmountable goal. The solution is so simple—do it in small increments. Make a commitment simply to increase your contribution by at least 1 percent of compensation this year and each year thereafter until you reach the 10 to 15 percent level.

Studies have proven that people who use an escalating saving mechanism such as this are more likely to achieve that goal. Almost 80 percent of those who made the commitment followed through and continued to increase their contribution for at least three years.

A special word to ministers and church employees in Southern Baptist Annuity Board retirement plans: The Annuity Board offers the 1% Club as an avenue for you to make a commitment to save 1 percent more per year. You can sign up online for this special promotion. Each year the Annuity Board will send you a reminder and a new salary reduction agreement. This gives you an opportunity to save on taxes and to build a larger retirement account by making gradual, easily managed increases to your retirement contributions. All contributions are voluntary. This club exists only to encourage you to take personal responsibility for preparing for your financial future. To sign up, go to [www.absbc.org](http://www.absbc.org) and click on the 1% Club logo.

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



## Happy couples typically share major relationship strengths

**Q: What do happy couples do that unhappy ones don't?**

Happy couples typically have built at least five key areas of their relationship into solid strengths, according to a study from University of Minnesota marriage researcher David Olson. Happy couples communicate well, are flexible as a couple, are emotionally close, have compatible personalities and agree on how to handle conflict.

When given Olson's 165-question inventory, happy couples identify those five areas as strengths; unhappy ones don't. For example, about 75 percent of happy couples agree on the high quality of their communication; only 11 percent of unhappy couples do.

Similarly, 75 percent of happy couples agree that they can change and adapt when necessary, while only 20 percent of unhappy couples do.

Olson's latest work reveals two new required areas of strength: flexibility and emotional closeness. Couples must feel they can adapt to change and feel close and connected.

Olson classified happy and unhappy partners through his couples inventory, a marital tool that is now used by more than 45,000 counselors and clergy around the country. He based his latest findings on the inventories of 21,501 married couples nationwide.

Olson identified five other areas that also affect a couple's happiness: their sexual relationship, choice of leisure activities, the influence of family and friends, the ability to manage finances and an agreement on spiritual beliefs.

To build strengths as a couple, pay attention to your relationship like you did when you were dating. And make a point to praise your spouse for the positive things.—*Jon Rainbow*

**Q: Should I reward my child for having a good report card?**

Too many of today's children already have learned to ask, "What's in it for me?" when presented with a request, challenge or opportunity. Such an attitude reflects the selfishness that characterizes our society in many ways.

The child who constantly receives rewards might never learn the importance of self-motivation. Parents who constantly give rewards might find themselves having to up the ante in order to get results.

Children must learn the benefits and value of doing something just because it is right, good or helpful to them regardless of whether anyone notices or offers rewards. When it comes to schoolwork, New York psychologist Ken Christian says, "The key is to value learning and to value study itself." Lisa Earle McLeod adds, "School is an investment you make in yourself."

At the same time, rewards for good or improved report cards can lead to family fun, can help create interest and can make memories that tie families together in important ways. One family I know always went to a special pizza place when report cards came out. The trip became a family tradition that continued even through college days.

If you choose to reward report cards, keep it simple. Be sure to reward an improved grade as well as a particular grade, and be sure to maintain the integrity of the reward or it will lose significance. Do not let the reward become an end in itself. Keep the focus on what your child is studying and learning as opposed to what he or she will get if he or she does well.—*David Garrard*

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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



## Pray for SBC, BWA to find common ground

A potential breakthrough began unfolding last week in the current Southern Baptist Convention/Baptist World Alliance impasse.

Addressing specific concerns raised by SBC leaders, the BWA Executive Committee endorsed a clear, concise 10-point "declaration and affirmation" that spells out who the BWA is and what the global alliance of Baptists believes.

Among concerns cited by a nine-member SBC study committee and adopted last month by the SBC Executive Committee is that "the prominence of a number of European and North American conventions has resulted in an increasing influence of positions contrary to the New Testament and to Baptist doctrines." More specifically, the committee questioned the BWA's commitment to the Great Commission as well as "the absence of a clear doctrinal statement advocating the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation" in a recent BWA missions statement.

Maintaining New Testament and Baptist doctrines, pursuing the Great Commission and affirming Christ as the only way of salvation certainly are valid, vital issues in Baptist life. How did BWA leaders respond to those charges and concerns? By clearly affirming each of those historic Baptist perspectives.

"We have engaged in lengthy discussion, study and prayer and wish to affirm again for all to know our adherence to the historic doctrines of faith including

but not limited to the uniqueness of our Lord Jesus Christ (and) the centrality of the Great Commission,"

the BWA Executive Committee declared last week. The statement also cited "our joyful affirmation of faith in the mediation of Jesus Christ as solely and entirely sufficient for salvation, 'for there is salvation in no one else' (Acts 4:14)."

In addition to those statements, BWA President Billy Kim called for 100 days of prayer leading up to the SBC annual meeting in June.

"If we really honestly pray for the next 100 days, I believe a miracle can happen in the problem we face today," Kim said. "I believe regardless of what happens if we

have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, we are brothers even if we have differences. ... May God help us stay together, love together, work together, pray together and have a great victory."

In its initial report released in December, the SBC committee emphasized that "we wish Heaven's blessings on the BWA and its constituent conventions in every noble work for the Savior." The ball is now back in the SBC's court. Surely everyone on both sides of the controversy desires a win-win solution for the sake of God's Kingdom.

SBC and BWA leaders are scheduled to meet again in the next few weeks for a time of dialogue. Pray that it also will be a time of cooperation, reconciliation and spiritual victory for the cause of Christ.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Sanctity of marriage: Let your voice be heard

Efforts to legalize casino gambling in Kentucky appear to be dead for the year, based on recent developments.

While gambling advocates claim the biggest obstacle was internal disagreement in the gambling industry, opponents who made their views known to state lawmakers also can take partial credit for helping derail the legislation.

That doesn't mean it's time to relax on the moral front in the current legislative session, however. The issue of same-sex marriage is expected to reach the floor of the Kentucky House this week.

The state Senate recently passed a bill seeking to place a state constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would define marriage as being only between a man and a woman. According to a legislative alert sent out last week by Robert Reeves, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention communications department, the measure "faces an uphill battle in the Kentucky House of Representatives."

Once again, concerned citizens can express their views by leaving a message for their legislators on the toll-free Legislative Message Line at (800) 372-7181. Let your voice be heard.—*Trennis Henderson*

## Homosexuality: From mental disorder to marriage

By Mark Kelly

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Have you been listening to the homosexual couples around the country asking why they shouldn't be allowed to marry? Have you noticed how few answers to that question are being reported in the mass media?

One reason, of course, is that the major media have abandoned their responsibilities as impartial reporters and made themselves advocates for the cause of "gay liberation."

But the main reason you're not hearing a convincing reply is that so many Americans—even many Christians—actually believe homosexuality is a legitimate "alternative lifestyle choice." That's just not true, though many regular folks are afraid to say it for fear of being labeled a "homophobe."

The propaganda campaign to "normalize" homosexuality began in the early 1970s, when homosexual psychiatrists finally convinced the American Psychiatric Association to revise the manual used to diagnose mental disorders. The APA changed the diagnostic criteria to say that a person with homosexual feelings didn't have a disorder unless those feelings distressed the person or prevented him or her from functioning socially.

In succeeding years, the APA

gradually edged toward removing homosexuality from the manual entirely. Once that was done, it was only a matter of time before governments were convinced to repeal or quit enforcing sodomy laws.

Some Americans still understand, however, that homosexual feelings are not normal, no more than sexual feelings for a child or an animal. Homosexuality is a mental illness, a disorientation with complex roots, often in painful childhood experiences.

While a person might not be at fault for having such feelings, homosexual activity is sinful because it involves a choice to reject God's plain intent in creation. The Apostle Paul links homosexuality to a person's choice to worship the creature, rather than the Creator (Romans 1:20-32). Genesis 1:27-28 states God created mankind male and female and told them to "be fruitful and multiply." Even schoolchildren know male and female bodies were designed to work together for the purpose of reproduction.

The U.S. Supreme Court says the individual's "right to privacy" includes the right to define who he is and the freedom to live according to that self-definition. It's a dangerous belief.

In *Roe v. Wade*, it got us abortion

on demand, which has cost us the lives of millions of unborn children—with horrible physical, psychological and spiritual consequences for their mothers. In *Lawrence v. Texas*, it got us a federal override of state laws prohibiting sodomy. And with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, it got us a court-ordered right to homosexual marriage, a move that threatens to spread rapidly across the country.

We are not homophobes. We simply believe that God had the right idea when He created mankind male and female. We recognize homosexual feelings for the psychiatric disorder they are. We believe God desires wholeness for people who have homosexual feelings. We believe Jesus has the power to deliver any of us from the power of any sin. We believe our responsibility is to reach out in love to everyone who is lost and hurting.

Christians too often are silent when they need to be speaking the truth in love, but great numbers of us should have the courage to tell the truth about the emperor's new, rainbow-colored clothes. If you don't want America to make a serious mistake, tell your local, county, state and national lawmakers that you will not accept homosexual marriage in any form.

Mark Kelly is the author of "Proof Beyond Reasonable Doubt: The End of Christian Apologetics."

## Financial adviser urges Christian view of handling money

**Howard Dayton noted that a survey last year found a 57 percent decrease in tithing in 2001.**

*Continued from page 1*

Young adults today have more debt, almost no savings and are less generous than any previous generation, Dayton said.

But the good news is that young people respond to good teaching, he said. A recent survey of those who had completed a Crown small-group study on money management had paid off \$20,000 in debt, increased savings by \$10,000, and increased their giving to church by 62.5 percent.

"The Lord has given them a heart to be obedient once they learn God's financial principles," Dayton said.

### Two approaches to teaching money

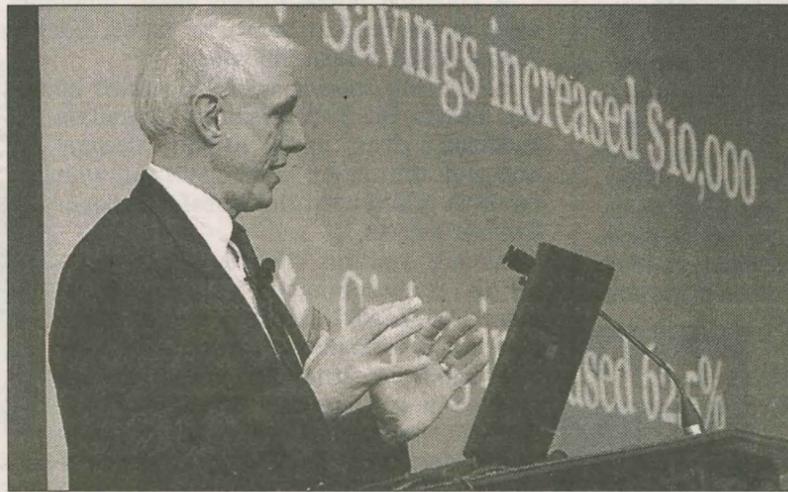
In an interview after his seminar, the Gainesville, Ga. resident said inspiring people to give and handle money wisely comes from a top-down and bottom-up approach.

"Top down" means pastors must teach biblical financial principles from the pulpit, Dayton said.

But he said this means emphasizing a holistic approach to stewardship, since people need to grasp that their pastor is trying to help them and not just get their money.

The bottom-up approach involves laypeople using resources from Crown and other groups to teach other laypeople how to handle money God's way, Dayton said.

As for turning around the bleak statistics on giving, "God's the only one who can do it, through His pre-



**MONEY TALK** Howard Dayton of Crown Financial Ministries warned that churches could face future budget problems "if we don't teach young people to handle money God's way." (Photo courtesy of Louisville Christian Foundation)

cious word and what we sense clearly as a vision for Crown."

That vision is to teach biblical financial principles to 300 million people worldwide, including 30 million in the United States. Since it has reached only nine million Americans thus far, the ministry has a long way to go, Dayton said.

Many Kentuckians have studied Crown's materials, according to the ministry's new representative for the state.

Gary Montgomery of Somerset said more than 1,000 residents in 50 churches completed Crown's studies in 2003, many of them Kentucky Baptist congregations.

Montgomery recently completed his first leadership training session at Louisville's Highview Baptist Church, qualifying 24 people to serve as Crown small-group leaders.

Barry Allen, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, was among those on hand to hear Dayton's talk.

Allen agreed with Dayton's concern that the younger generation doesn't have the same perspective on financial stewardship as the elderly.

"We feel a real burden at the foundation to do something about that in the constituency we serve," Allen said.

### Financial plan

Here are some of the steps Howard Dayton suggests for a biblical standard of living:

■ Use an eternal perspective. Life on earth is a dot on the timeline of eternity. Instead of thinking just about today, consider how your financial decisions affect tomorrow.

■ Make an effort to live simply. Possessions require time, attention and often money to maintain. A quiet, simple life allows more time to nurture a relationship with God.

■ Recognize the enemy. Our struggle is against spiritual forces of wickedness (Ephesians 6:12). Prayerfully examine your relationship with Christ and money so the latter doesn't exert too much influence.

■ Spend in a way that pleases God. Submit all spending decisions to the Lord. Recreation, rest and leisure activities are fine, but not all spending should be self-directed.

■ Don't compare yourself to others. Some use such comparisons to justify spending more than they should. But many people have suffered financially while trying to "keep up with the Joneses."

Source: "Your Money Counts," © 1996, Crown Financial Ministries



COOPERATIVE BAPTIST  
**FELLOWSHIP**

### Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has the following opening in the Atlanta Resource Center:

#### Coordinator of Administration (Full-Time)

Position reports directly to the CBF Coordinator. Responsibilities include overseeing the daily operations of the CBF staff including direct supervision of the offices of Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Facilities/Office Management, and the CBF Resource Link. The Coordinator of Administration will assist the CBF Coordinator by functioning as chief of staff and will act in the absence of, and on behalf of, the CBF Coordinator as required. The position relates to the CBF Coordinators and staff personnel, Coordinating Council members, State and Regional Coordinators, churches, constituents, and partnering organizations.

**Requirements include:** Bachelor's degree required; graduate level work preferred. A minimum of 10 years experience in organizational management, supervision and administration, preferably with non-profits. Qualified candidate will possess demonstrated skill in organizational leadership, written and verbal communications, and human relations. Proven comprehensive knowledge of the theories, principles, and practices of administrative management and working knowledge of the fields of Human Resource Management, budgeting, accounting, and information systems required.

**To be considered,** qualified applicants should e-mail resumés to: [searchcommittee@thefellowship.info](mailto:searchcommittee@thefellowship.info) or mail to: CBF, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 1876, Raleigh, NC 27602.

**Deadline for resumés** is April 30, 2004, but the process will remain open until the appropriate candidate is found.

CBF is a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice. The Fellowship's mission is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.

## The Lexington Passion Play

EASTER DRAMA

### Gardenside Baptist Church

- \* See the Easter Story as never before
- \* Outstanding drama
- \* Cast of more than 100
- \* Exciting choral presentation
- \* Mandatory childcare for children birth through 3
- \* Doors open 90 minutes before presentation

Thursday, April 1 – 7:30 p.m.	Wednesday, April 7 – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 2 – 7:30 p.m.	Thursday, April 8 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 3 – 3:00 p.m.	Friday, April 9 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 3 – 7:30 p.m.	Saturday, April 10 – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 4 – 3:00 p.m.	Saturday, April 10 – 7:30 p.m.

Order free tickets at [www.lexingtonpassionplay.com](http://www.lexingtonpassionplay.com)  
or (859) 277-1541

Gardenside Baptist Church ♦ 1667 Alexandria Drive ♦ Lexington, KY 40504

From generation to generation

WMU's Heritage Fund helps continue missions call

It is believed women own as much as 60 percent of our nation's wealth, but they do not always control it.

Some women do not know these four important factors: their income and assets, their expenses and debts, their net worth and their earning capacity. It is also believed women's philanthropy is "caught" not "taught." I believe it is a combination of both.

An article titled, "Inspiring Women to Give," by Martha Taylor and Sondra Shaw-Hardy, suggests there are five stages in the "inspiring women to give process." Stage one is described as motivation: finding women's values, vision and voice. Stage two is knowledge: fulfilling women's philanthropic potential. Stage three is action. Stage four is leadership, and stage five is legacy.

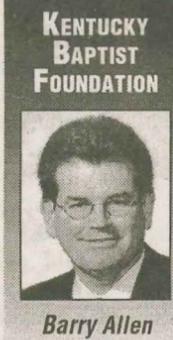
The legacy stage is about looking to the future. Women in this stage have almost completed their philanthropic journey. They have become donors and are now thinking about how to transfer their values to the next generation, how

to work with family members in philanthropic planning and decision-making, and how to teach philanthropy to the next generation. In this final and far-reaching stage, women come to understand their philanthropic role extends beyond the personal and includes their family and succeeding generations. Most women donors consider this a very private stage.

The theme of this year's Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting is about passing on the missions call "from generation to generation." It is my prayer that Kentucky Baptist women will take seriously their philanthropic role in leaving a legacy through financial stewardship to ensure those called to missions in the next generation will be supported.

Please call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free for assistance in how you can be involved in passing on the missions call to the next generation through the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; (888) 254-5701; www.kybaptistfoundation.org



Barry Allen

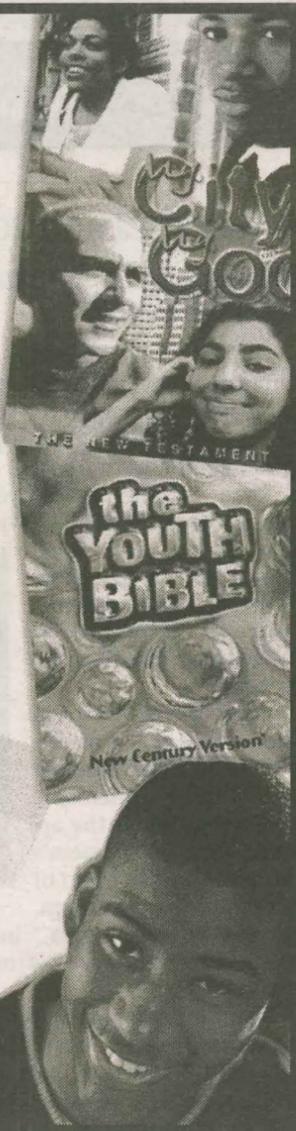
Share the Good News.

You can help Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children share the gospel with the youth in our care. We are in need of donations to purchase Bibles.

If you feel led to help, please make checks payable to KBHC and mail to:



10200 Linn Station Road  
Suite 200  
Louisville, KY 40223



WESTERNRECORDER + Your church newsletter  
Two great publications, one less post office headache

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Rebecca Souder

Across

- 1 "\_\_\_ and see" (John 1:39)
- 5 Town near Bethel (Joshua 7:2)
- 6 "Them that \_\_\_ in riches" (Mark 10:24)
- 11 Valley near Jerusalem (Joshua 15:8)
- 13 "\_\_\_ is he" (Romans 14:22)
- 14 Aluminum, chem. symbol
- 15 Nashville's state, abbr.
- 16 "I am the \_\_\_" (John 14:6)
- 18 "Trees of the Lord are full of \_\_\_" (Psalms 104:16)
- 19 Large stringed instruments
- 21 Do, \_\_\_, mi
- 22 "We beheld his \_\_\_" (John 1:14)
- 24 "Like a refiner's \_\_\_" (Malachi 3:2)
- 26 East Indies, abbr.
- 27 "Whosoever \_\_\_ in him should not perish" (John 3:16)
- 31 "A great \_\_\_ dragon" (Revelation 12:3)
- 33 "Unto the \_\_\_ of the earth" (Acts 13:47)
- 34 Resound
- 35 "The \_\_\_ of death is sin" (1 Corinthians 15:56)
- 37 "To sit up \_\_\_" (Psalms 127:2)
- 38 "When \_\_\_ the king had heard these things, he was troubled" (Matthew 2:3)
- 40 "Naphtali is a \_\_\_ let loose" (Genesis 49:21)
- 43 Calendar numbers
- 46 Victory in Europe, abbr.
- 47 "He was \_\_\_ the world" (John 1:10)
- 49 Accomplish
- 52 "He \_\_\_, and denied not" (John 1:20)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12		13			
14			15		16	17		18	
		19					20		21
22	23					24		25	
26				27	28		29		30
31		32		33				34	
35			36			37			
	38				39			40	41
42		43			44		45		46
47	48				49	50			51
52		53	54		55				56
57									58

- 56 "Made it a \_\_\_ of thieves" (Matthew 21:13)
- 57 "No man hath \_\_\_" (John 3:13)
- 58 Road, abbr.

Down

- 1 "Poured out the \_\_\_ money" (John 2:15)
- 2 "Took no \_\_\_ with them" (Matthew 25:3)
- 3 St. Paul's state, abbr.
- 4 "He cannot \_\_\_ into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5)
- 5 "I \_\_\_ the living bread" (John 6:51)
- 6 "Father, glorify \_\_\_ name" (John 12:28)
- 7 Egyptian sun god
- 8 \_\_\_ and downs
- 9 "He that \_\_\_ his rod" (Proverbs 13:24)
- 10 Kind, variety
- 12 "Glory as of the \_\_\_ of the Father" (John 1:14) (2 words)
- 16 "The \_\_\_ was made by him" (John 1:10)
- 17 "Love one another, \_\_\_ I have loved you" (John 15:12)
- 19 Company, abbr.
- 20 "Go thy way; thy son \_\_\_" (John 4:50)
- 23 "As much as \_\_\_ in you" (Romans 12:18)
- 24 Iron, chem. symbol
- 25 "As many as \_\_\_ him, to them gave he power" (John 1:12)
- 28 Printer's measure
- 29 "I ... was in the \_\_\_ that is called Patmos" (Revelation 1:9)
- 30 "\_\_\_ fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- 32 "Jesus Christ, Who \_\_\_ for us" (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)
- 36 Gun lobbyists, abbr.
- 39 Eastern seaboard state, abbr.
- 41 "\_\_\_ man spake like this" (John 7:46)
- 42 Type style
- 44 Correspondence enclosure, abbr.
- 45 Doctorate degree, abbr.
- 48 Negative votes
- 50 Committee for Economic Development, abbr.
- 51 "To this \_\_\_ I was born" (John 18:37)
- 53 State where man first flew, abbr.
- 54 Far East, abbr.
- 55 Northwest state, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	H	O	L	Y	3	G	H	4	O	5	S	7	U	R			
A	O		H	A				9	A	A	R	O	N				
10	N	A	R	R	O	W		T	I		I	A					
		14	D	A	N			15	H	E	B	R	O	N			
16	S	B		18	Y	E	A	R	S	U		20	N	E			
		21	E	R													
23	A	G	E		24	T	R	E	S	P	A	27	28	W			
29	M	A		30	J		O	D	E		T	O	E	S			
		34	T	W	O		O	C	I		36	W	E				
37	W		38	I	T		39	T	O	R	T	O	40	I	S	E	
42	I	R	O	N		44	M	U	T		46	N		47	R	E	O
						49	W	O		A	P	O		I		O	

## Ideas offered to assimilate members, close 'back door'

**"Every aspect of church life should point toward involvement, service and intimacy."**

Wayne Jones, associate team leader of the KBC church development/evangelism team

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Bowling Green—Warning that many churches lose new members almost as quickly as they gain them, Wayne Jones said connecting new members to the life of the church is essential to "shutting the back door."

Jones, associate team leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention church development/evangelism team, was among more than 20 church growth leaders who led breakout sessions during the recent KBC Evangelism Conference in Bowling Green.

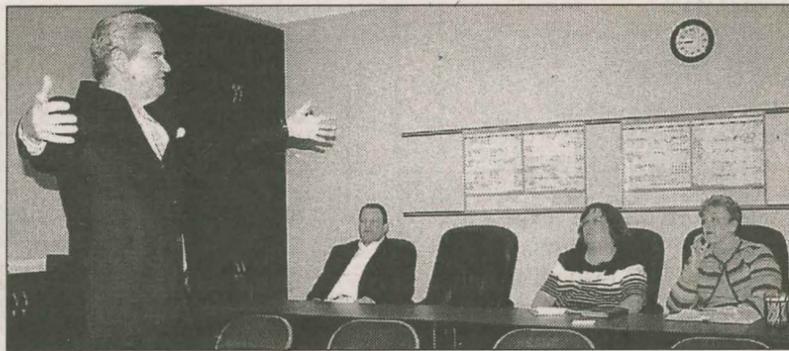
Citing Jesus' parables in Luke 15 about the lost sheep, lost coin and prodigal son, Jones noted, "To be an effective Great Commission church, we have to be about seeking people out."

"Every church does have a front door and a back door," he added. "We need to recognize that people can get lost in the process of having come into the body. We want to make sure about how we keep people and how we assimilate them."

Pointing to the KBC mission study goals of 250,000 new church members by 2010 and "at least 80 percent of the new members becoming active," Jones said research indicates that "one out of every two persons in our church rolls is lost to Kingdom service through Christ's church."

"Our churches are doing a woeful job in assimilating new members," he said. "Every person needs to feel a sense of belonging."

"There's a difference between being a member of a church and feeling like you belong to that



**KEEPING MEMBERS** Wayne Jones, associate team leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention church development/evangelism team, speaking at a workshop during the recent KBC Evangelism Conference in Bowling Green, urges churches to help members gain "a sense of ownership." (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

group. Ask: 'What am I doing to help people feel that they belong in our church?'"

One key to assimilating new members is to "help them acquire a sense of ownership," Jones said.

"Give them an opportunity to participate," he suggested. "Give them some job whether it's plugging in the coffee pot or setting up the chairs."

Jones said characteristics of new members who are being assimilated into the life of the church include:

- They begin to identify with the goals of the church.

- They begin to attend worship services regularly.

- They experience spiritual growth and progress.

- They have five to 10 new friends in the church. Without those friendships, Jones said, there generally is a high drop-out rate.

- They have an appropriate task or role that matches their spiritual giftedness.

- They are involved in meaning-

ful relationships in a small group.

- They regularly tithe to the church.

- They participate in the Great Commission by spreading the good news to friends and relatives.

Warning that many longtime

church members feel that they don't have time to develop new relationships, Jones noted, "The new person has a very difficult time fitting in when they sense that you or I are too busy for them."

"One thing you can do is put new people together as new groups. There are churches that are forming new Bible study classes out of their new member classes. These people likely are hungering for relationships."

Affirming the need for both small group and corporate worship experiences "for us to be balanced as believers," Jones said. "More growth occurs in the small group experience but we need both."

"Every aspect of church life should point toward involvement, service and intimacy," he added. "It's important to let the church know that every single person is important."

### 15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

LifeWay has the solution—a 15-passenger mini-bus that meets Federal safety standards.



- Mini-Bus
- 15 Passengers (No CDL)
- 2/1 Seating
- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- Raised Roof
- Longer Wheelbase
- Dual Rear Wheels
- Steel Construction

#### SERIOUS CONCERNS

- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

• Call us: 1-800-370-6180

• Visit us: [carpenterbus.com](http://carpenterbus.com)

**LifeWay**  
CHURCH BUSES  
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.  
Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

### Can we depend on you to help?

#### Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering important support for Oneida's ministry

This June will be the 10th anniversary of the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute. The offering was approved by Kentucky Baptists in their annual meeting in November 1994. The offering's origin was the result of understanding the limited financial resources available to OBI though the Christian education portion of the Cooperative Program gifts. Kentucky Baptists support five educational institutions through the budgeted Christian education CP gifts. Every four years, a committee reviews the formula that is used to determine the percentage each of those five institutions receives.

I am sure no one would be surprised to learn that nearly every year the committee comes to the conclusion that each institution is using its funds wisely. They understand that each institution has additional financial needs unique to that institution. Historically, OBI receives the smallest percentage of the educational funds provided through CP gifts. I believe the committee that reviews this process every four years would heartily agree that each institution is worthy of a greater portion of the Christian education funds. However, there are only so many dollars available. Unless one is prepared to take money away from one institution in order to help another, there is no easy solution to the dilemma of how to provide greater financial assistance.

Since additional assistance is not easily available, other alternatives have been considered. Since OBI receives the smallest percentage of

the Christian education funds, a suggestion was made that Oneida be given an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to respond in a different way. Would Kentucky Baptists support the idea of providing additional financial support through an annual offering? After much discussion, the idea eventually was presented to Kentucky Baptists to consider. The majority agreed with the idea of giving each church an opportunity to provide additional financial assistance through the annual Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

#### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

During the next several weeks I will use this column, as I often do, to tell stories of students who have been helped by Oneida. I hope these true stories will inspire you and provide a blessing by knowing that you have helped to make these successes possible.

Around the middle of May, every church that is part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will receive a packet of information about the Father's Day Offering. If your church has not supported the offering in the past, I hope you will encourage your pastor and congregation to consider that possibility this year. I believe you will find the materials informative and encouraging. It often takes only the encouragement of one person to persuade a congregation to support the offering. I hope the stories in this column during the next several weeks will inspire you to encourage others to consider Oneida to be a unique and worthy KBC ministry. Can we depend on you to help?

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### A rededication to Christ in Iraq

#### Bell County happy he met Clear Creek grad

On Feb. 12, the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division returned to Fort Campbell from Iraq. In the jubilant crowd was a Bell County couple, reunited after almost a year.

Ryan Shepherd deployed for Iraq on March 2, 2003, leaving his wife, Jaylen, and three-month-old son, Alex. "I really missed them," Ryan said. "It was hard to believe how big Alex had grown."

Stationed in Northern Iraq as part of the stabilization and peacekeeping forces, Ryan remembers the celebration at the apprehension of Hussein's two sons. "I wasn't part of the group that got them, but it was in our area," he said. "We felt like we were getting our job done."

Ryan said serving around Mosul wasn't as bad as near Baghdad and in the southern part of the country, but "there were too many bombs, and trouble was spread throughout the country."

Ryan trusted Christ and was baptized at age 13 at Mill Creek Baptist Church, in the Straight Creek community of Bell County. He graduated from Bell County High School in 2000 and began

active Army duty in August 2002. Ryan said that when he left for Iraq he was out of fellowship with Christ.

"While doing artillery duty at Q-West airfield outside of Mosul, the Lord was dealing with me," Ryan stated, "And had been for some time. I needed to rededicate my life." Soldiers in an adjacent

gun battery were reassigned and one of them, Joseph Riley, came to Ryan's section.

"I soon discovered that Joe had lived in Bell County," Ryan said. "We became friends and he talked to me a lot about God." Joe is a 1999 Clear Creek graduate and also serves as a chaplain's assistant. "We worked together and bunked together," Ryan said. "After six weeks he helped bring me back to a right relationship with the Lord."

On March 6 Ryan and Jaylen left for a vacation in Mexico, returning to Fort. Campbell. It is uncertain if he will have another tour in Iraq. "I'm a soldier," he said. "We do what we have to do. I was really blessed by the prayers and support of folks back home."

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

#### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# 'Daily' ministry in Miami

*South Florida missionary 'can't wait to see what God will do next'*

By Lee Weeks

SBC North American Mission Board

**Miami**—To say Michael Daily likes a challenge would be an understatement.

As director of church and community ministries with Miami Baptist Association for the past 17 years, Daily has helped Miami's nearly 300 Southern Baptist churches minister to thousands of people each year—including many international refugees—with food, clothing, healthcare, education and job training.

In a city of 3.5 million people, the needs can seem overwhelming. Yet Daily recognizes them as opportunities for God to change lives for eternity.

Daily and his wife, Ana, are among nearly 5,200 Southern Baptist missionaries in the United States and Canada supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

In addition to being featured in the recent Week of Prayer, their work also is profiled in the North American Mission Study, which this year focuses on "The World at Our Doorstep."

Behind Miami's scenic beaches, trendy boutiques and restaurants lies the poorest city in the United States with a population above 250,000.

Tens of thousands of residents—from the homeless in the inner city to the migrant camps in the rural areas—try to survive on incomes well below the national poverty level.

"To do ministry here in Miami you have to be patient," Daily said. "It's not a nine-to-five job at all. Every day is different and every week

## The big picture

■ While Miami/Dade County's population according the U.S. Census is about 2.3 million, undocumented immigrants swell that figure to approximately 3.5 million or higher.

■ People from more than 160 countries in Miami speak more than 140 languages. Of the 266 churches in the Miami Baptist Associations, 82 are Spanish-speaking, 70 are Haitian-Creole and 102 are English-speaking. Other language groups represented by churches include Portuguese, Korean, Chinese, Russian, Persian and Filipino.

■ Michael Daily is one of more than 600 church and community ministries missionaries currently serving through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

is different. ... It's multicultural yet the cultures retain their distinct cultural identities. It's not a melting pot; it's a true mosaic."

While leading health fairs and mobile dental clinics for migrant camps in rural South Dade County, for instance, Daily quickly realized that thousands of workers in Miami's farming communities had little or no access

to basic healthcare.

From there, a vision was born for a free medical clinic.

For seven years, Daily worked tirelessly on the project. He secured funding grants and volunteer staff—all the while trying to convince a local municipality to permit



the clinic to open. While the idea was rejected by many local leaders, Daily remained undeterred.

In 1996, the Good News Care Center opened in nearby Florida City, a largely Hispanic community. Today, nearly 200 patients are seen each week in the 2,000-square foot modular building located beside Florida City Baptist Church.

## Caring for body & spirit

"The purpose of the clinic is not only to serve the body, but by servicing the body we're going to service the soul," said Mrs. Daily, a native of Brazil who has served as the clinic's administrator since 1999. "We've had some beautiful people accept Christ after coming here because they were sick. And by serving their need we show them the way to the Lord."

The clinic distributes New Testaments, in Spanish and English,

and shows the "Jesus" video in the waiting room. Many of the clinic's 3,500 patients are treated for high blood pressure, diabetes, and sexually transmitted diseases. Mothers in their 40s often will receive their first-ever gynecological exams at the clinic, Daily said. Early diagnosis of cancer and heart disease has saved a number of lives as well.

Ministering in a multicultural region where more than 140 languages are spoken can be physically and emotionally rigorous. But Daily doesn't mind the 12-hour days spent crisscrossing the county networking with community agencies and helping churches meet community needs. He realizes he's impacting the world.

"I can't wait to see what God will do next," Daily said. "Jesus said that we would do even greater things than we saw Him do. That's because He does it through us."

**DOOR-TO-DOOR** During home visits in the Redlands Community Migrant Camp in Miami, Mike Daily (second from right) hands a Spanish-language Bible to a resident while pastor Lazaro Guzman invites her to a local Hispanic church. Ministry to migrants and other internationals is an important part of Daily's work as director of church and community ministries for Miami Baptist Association. (NAMB photo by Ken Touchton)



## CORNERSTONE COUNSELOR

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, a statewide, multi-service agency, has immediate job opportunities in Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Paducah and Somerset.

The successful candidates for these positions will maintain a clinical caseload, provide faith-based outpatient counseling for individuals, couples and families. Will also be responsible for related records management.

Requirements: minimum of two years job related experience; Master's degree in a counseling related field and a high degree of skill in nonverbal, oral and written communications. State licensure preferred.

Working a maximum of 17-hours per week, these positions are afforded a competitive salary and an excellent training program. Fax resume to (502) 254-0130, e-mail to jobs@kbhc.org or mail resume indicating position applying for and salary requirements to:

Dr. Suzanne Coyle  
Director of Cornerstone Counseling  
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children  
10200 Linn Station Road, Suite 200  
Louisville, Kentucky 40223

EOE/Females and Minorities encouraged to apply.

No Phone Calls Please

## Leaders defend True Love Waits after study

By Erin Curry  
Baptist Press

**Nashville (BP)**—Amid a recent study that states teen virginity pledges are seldom kept, leaders of the True Love Waits program said it is different because of the faith-based emphasis.

Teens who participate in True Love Waits cannot be lumped with those across the board who sign abstinence pledges, said Richard Ross, a founder of the True Love Waits program.

The popularity of True Love Waits has spawned more than 200 similar programs, though the programs vary widely in impact, he said, describing most other programs as offering only three or four class sessions led by a stranger, and at the end students often are asked to sign an abstinence pledge in their notebooks.

"True Love Waits is completely different," Ross said.

Weeks of study and discussion usually precede the signing of TLW pledge cards, Ross said. The promises often are made in public ceremonies with teenagers surrounded by family, close friends

and a community of faith.

After promising, students receive ongoing support from youth leaders who are part of their world every week, compared to school speakers whom they never see again, Ross said.

"And most important of all, teenagers make their promise to God Himself rather than a notebook," Ross said. "Each of these variables adds power to the promise and makes it more likely a True Love Waits teenager will make it to the altar with purity intact."

## Columbia & Yale study

Last week faculty at Columbia and Yale universities released a study of data collected from 12,000 teenagers ages 12 to 18 who were questioned again six years later. Researchers found that 88 percent of those who pledged to be abstinent reported having had sexual intercourse before they married. The study also concluded that abstinence pledges caused teens to marry earlier.

The study acknowledged, however, that abstinence pledges caused teens to delay the start of

sexual intercourse by 18 months and to have fewer sexual partners than those who did not make a pledge.

Some True Love Waits teenagers do break their promises, Ross said, but that isn't anything new.

"People are fallible. But the fact that a few default on their mortgage doesn't mean we should stop asking people to sign house notes," he said. "The fact that some break their wedding vows does not mean we should stop holding high the sanctity of those promises."

Jimmy Hester, a spokesman for True Love Waits, told The New York Times there is more to the True Love Waits pledge than signing a card.

"Signing a pledge card does not mean you are magically protected," he said.

Since 1993, about 2.4 million young people have signed TLW commitment cards.

"The teaching and challenge to abstinence is not a one-time event," Hester said. "Just like maintaining other appropriate behaviors, it has to be a continuous thing."

**Researchers found that 88 percent of those who pledged to be abstinent reported having had sexual intercourse before they married.**

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following people and churches related to partnership missions work in Poland, Europe, Brazil and New England:

■ **Special need:** The KBC partnership missions department is seeking to fill 10 projects in Poland and Europe between May and October. For information, contact the KBC partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.

■ **A 13-member team from Kentucky working in Brazil this week.** The volunteers will be doing medical, dental and evangelism work in the Parniba Delta Islands with missionaries Vic and Sharon Johnston.

■ **Mark and Vista Sauter,** Southern Baptist missionaries working with the deaf populations in central Europe, as they return home so Vista can have brain surgery.

■ **Missionaries in Budapest** request prayer related to two recent evangelistic events, an English course for Chinese in Budapest and sports camps for Hungarians. They write: "Pray for God to prepare the hearts of the Hungarians and Chinese" as they hear the gospel.

■ **Missionaries in Romania** request prayer for Philadelphia Baptist Church, the newest church in a city of 500,000 people. Pray for the volunteers from Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina who will be serving this month with the church.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ANNVILLE**—Bond Church recently called **Keith Lakes** as youth leader. **Denny McCowan** is pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Ottawa Church will hold spring revival services April 18, with **Roy Faulkner** as evangelist. **Jim Craig** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Rockbridge Church will hold revival services April 4-7, with **Bob Gray** as evangelist. For more information, call (859) 336-9263.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Hazel Patch Church will hold spring revival services April 12, with **Ken Felty**, pastor of First Church of East Bernstadt, as evangelist. **Brian Hammack** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Second Church called **Harrell Riley** as interim pastor.

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

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

■ **HENDERSON**—Eastview Church called **Kenny Wilkerson** as interim pastor.

Hyland Church called **Mike Deal** as interim music/education minister.

New Hope Church called **Jim Adams** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church recently honored **Pat and Jane Thompson** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Hillcrest Church recently honored deacon and Sunday school teacher **J.C. Wilson** for perfect attendance in Sunday school for half

his life. **Wilson**, 70, has not missed Sunday school in more than 35 years. **Tony Hancock** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Liberty Church recently called **David Sargent** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beargrass Church called **James Hinkle** as interim pastor.

Kosmosdale Church recently called **William Earnhardt III** as pastor.

■ **MIDWAY**—The Forks of Elkhorn Church dedicated its new facilities Feb. 1 with **Terry Lester**, pastor of First Church of London and brother of Forks of Elkhorn pastor **Todd Lester**, as guest speaker. Attendance has increased from 35 people to more than 600 in the past decade.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church recently called **Richard Carver** as senior pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Walnut Memorial Church recently called **Jeff Hendricks** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Grapevine Church, Madisonville.

■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church recently called **John Collett** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will host Children's Day March 21.

### 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

### March

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.

22 Sunday School Director/Pastor Workshop, Trace Creek Baptist Church, Mayfield.

22-23 Welcome to Kentucky, KBC Building, Louisville.

23 Sunday School Director/Pastor Workshop, First Baptist Church, Princeton.

26-27 Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

27 Girls in Action/Children in Action missions event, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

29 Sunday School Director/Pastor Workshop, First Baptist Church, Morgantown.

30 Sunday School Director/Pastor Workshop, Immanuel Baptist Temple, Henderson.

31-April 2 Soak-A-City youth evangelism conference, First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington.

### April

15-16 Quarterly prayer meeting for spiritual awakening, Gasper River Association, Morgantown.

16-18 All-State Children's Choir—East, Cedarmore.

16-17 EXALT state Acteens conference, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

18 Cooperative Program Sunday.

18-24 MissionsFEST, Prestonsburg.

21 Kentucky Baptist men's chorale concert, Clifton Baptist Church, Louisville.

22 Kentucky Baptist men's chorale concert, Southern Baptist Seminary chapel, Louisville.

22 Kentucky Baptist men's chorale, women's chorale and orchestra combined concert, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

23 State Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Russell.

23 State Children's Bible Drill, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

23-25 All-State Children's Choir—West, Jonathan Creek.

23 Kentucky Baptist men's chorale concert, First Baptist Church, Barbourville.

24 Regional Keyboard Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

24 State Children's Bible Drill, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

For more information, call (888) 266-6477 or click [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Dr. Frank Farley of Frankfort recently retired from the pastorate and is available for pulpit supply and interim pastorates. May be contacted at (502) 848-0877.

**AVAILABLE:** 30-year-old experienced senior pastor seeks full-time church in the greater Louisville area. For resumé: Mike Sanders, (205) 680-6562.

**AVAILABLE:** Bivocational pastor, experienced with degree. Seeking to do supply work or possible interim. References available. (606) 271-1647.

**FOR SALE:** Used theological books bought and sold. Contact Brent Cloyd, 25100 Indian Ridge Road, Sterling, IL 61081. (815) 622-7899, Cloyd@essex1.com. List sent e-mail only. Will buy pastors' libraries.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Middletown, Ky., is currently accepting applications for Parents' Day Out director. Program will begin week of Sept. 6, 2004, and will meet up to four days a week from 9 a.m. until noon until the end of the school year. Children 18 months through age 4 (by Oct. 1, 2004) are eligible for enrollment. Requirements for director: regular church attender; bachelor's degree in early childhood education; three years full-time experience in early childhood education; and 18 hours of continuing education annually. If interested, please send resumé to: Rev. David Lininger/Parents' Day Out, First Baptist Church, 11721 Main St., Middletown, KY 40243; or e-mail: [dlininger@fbcmtown.org](mailto:dlininger@fbcmtown.org). Resumé deadline: March 29.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Samaria Missionary Baptist Church of Albion, Ill. Send resumé to: Samaria Baptist Church, RR1, Albion, IL 62806, or call Barnard Stennett at (618) 445-3180 or Chad Wisel at 445-3697; or send e-mail to [chadwissel@yahoo.com](mailto:chadwissel@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time secretary, Administrative Services department. Position requires secretarial, computer, spreadsheet and word processing experience. Competitive hourly wage, no benefits. Contact: Administrative Services department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, or (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Minister of adult missions and spiritual maturity. King's Cross Church is an exciting seven-year-old congregation located in Tullahoma, Tenn. The worship style is purposely contemporary to create a non-threatening environment for the unchurched. Membership has grown from 80 to 400 and we have recently moved to a new facility. We are seeking an individual with a theological education and experience in ministry who can lead adults in local and global missions and toward spiritual maturity. King's Cross Church is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. For more information about us, visit [www.kingscrosschurch.org](http://www.kingscrosschurch.org). Send resumé to: Chairperson of the Search Team, King's Cross Church, 222 Turkey Creek Road, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

**SEEKING:** Farmdale Baptist Church prayerfully seeks part-time youth minister. If interested, please send resumé to: Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Highway 127 South, Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Personnel department.

**SEEKING:** Tenor vocalist for Southern Gospel quartet. Professional group is ministry-minded, travels nationally and has an immediate opening. Seeking a committed young man with talent and desire for ministry. For more information, please call (502) 930-0116. Serious inquiries only.

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

**SEEKING:** Experienced associate minister to students for Southern Baptist church in East Tennessee. The qualified candidate will possess proven capability in supporting and implementing an established comprehensive student ministry program. Must have experience in developing one-on-one relationships with students; planning camps, conferences and retreats; working with volunteers; and have a strong passion for discipleship and missions. Interested candidates should e-mail resúmes to: [sfultz@fbconcord.org](mailto:sfultz@fbconcord.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Grapevine Missionary Baptist Church, 85 Sandcut Road, Madisonville, KY 42431.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate minister of youth and families. Salary related to education and experience. Prior church youth ministry experience required; seminary degree preferred. Send resumé before March 31 to: Personnel Committee, Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170.

**SEEKING:** Experienced minister of children for Southern Baptist church in East Tennessee. The qualified candidate will possess proven experience in planning, supporting and implementing a comprehensive children's ministry program. Must have experience in administering and directing a strong Sunday school ministry; developing strong relationships with parents and children; organizing and promoting an effective outreach program; planning camps; enlisting and training volunteers; and working with church committees and members in carrying out the children's ministry. Interested candidates should e-mail resúmes to: [sfultz@fbconcord.org](mailto:sfultz@fbconcord.org).

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

# Find of a lifetime

*Fluke swing of hammer results in archeologist's greatest discovery*

By Bruce Nolan  
Religion News Service

**New Orleans**—As often happens in other fields, the find of Gabriel Barkay's career as a biblical archaeologist rose at the intersection of careful calculation and happy accident.

In this case, the find was the result of a bored 12-year-old helper who whacked the stone floor of an Israelite burial vault with a heavy hammer.

His name was Nathan. Too scattered and mischievous to be of much help, he had been dispatched to clean a worked-over corner of Barkay's dig just outside the old city of Jerusalem, a largely overlooked archaeological site that Barkay thought might yield material for his dissertation.

But the stone floor turned out to be the ceiling of a concealed void beneath. And Nathan's hammer blow punched through to a repository containing hundreds of vessels of pottery, personal jewelry and other effects untouched for 2,600 years.

Among them was the find of finds—two tiny, tightly rolled silver scrolls.

## Breathtaking discovery

Carefully unpeeled over time, they revealed faint scratchings that took Barkay's breath away: YHWH. The earliest appearance in Jerusalem of the unspeakable Hebrew word for God.

That find came in 1979 and still ranks on many scholars' lists as one of the most remarkable in modern biblical archaeological history.

Barkay, now 60 and a faculty member at Bar-Ilan University near Tel Aviv, retold the story of his find recently at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's new Center for Archeological Research. One of his former students, Steven Ortiz, is a co-director of the center.

The site was high on the west side of the Hinnom Valley, prime commercial real estate in today's Jerusalem, but once outside the walls of the old city.

Starting in 1975, Barkay scraped together some money, hired some helpers and began digging.

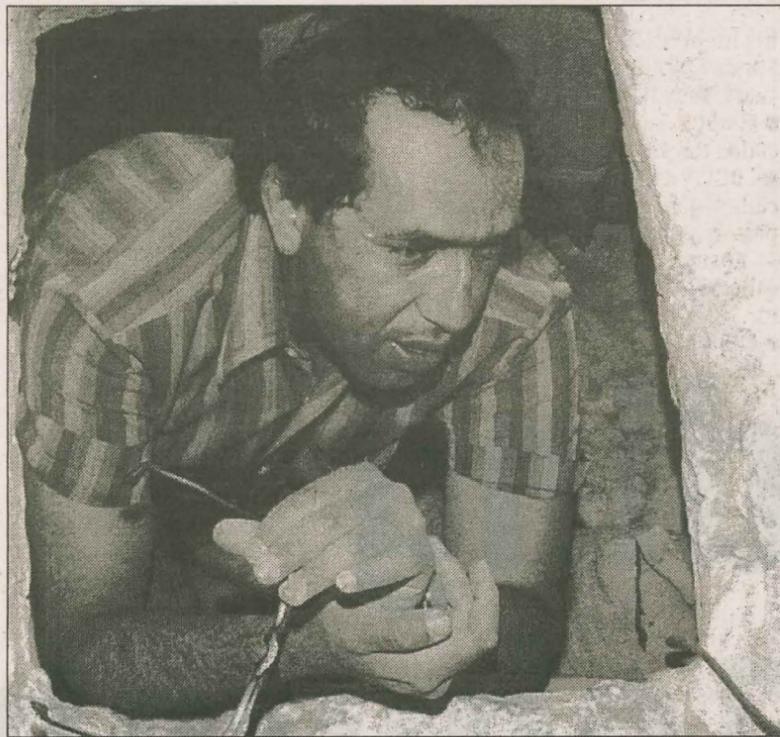
## Students enjoying church's 'cheat sheet' for school prayer

**Dallas (ABP)**—Some schoolchildren might use daily classroom "moments of silence" to pray for all A's. Now a Dallas church has created a cheat sheet to help them do it.

Last year, the Texas legislature mandated a moment of silence in public schools at the beginning of each day.

The children's ministry at Park Cities Baptist Church developed a tool to help children use the time wisely, said Tommy Sanders, minister of childhood education.

"I have children in public schools and (I) volunteer in public schools a



**BIG DIG** Gabriel Barkay poses in a repository he discovered by chance during an archaeological dig in Israel in 1979. The find yielded hundreds of artifacts untouched for 2,600 years—including the oldest Bible fragments ever found.

In various places around the dig, Barkay's team descended through layers of military encampments: from Allenby's British troops in 1916, to Ottoman Turks, to debris left by Rome's 10th Legion, which sacked Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

He found evidence the site had been quarried about the time of Herod the Great, perhaps for stone to build the great Second Temple.

The quarrymen had unroofed a complex of caves used as burial vaults in the sixth and seventh centuries before Christ, about the time the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem and carried its inhabitants off to exile.

The former caves yielded important information about burial customs of the time, but were nothing compared with Nathan's accidental discovery of the treasure trove below, Barkay said.

"This was a gusher of a find. Something totally unexpected and surprising," he said.

The repository contained the personal effects of some of the city's wealthy dead, including their jewelry: 300 intact pottery vessels, 125 pieces of silver, five pieces of gold, arrowheads, beads.

But most important were two little amulets, perhaps worn around a wrist or over the heart.

"By itself, this was a sensation," Barkay said.

lot, and it's been my experience that children don't know what to do with that time," he said.

The church distributed stickers that children can adhere to their assignment folders or notebooks to guide them as they pray.

"We knew there were a lot of acrostics to guide prayer out there, but we wanted to do something new," Sanders said.

"Boys and girls often want to get As in school, so we thought we would give them something to go along with that idea," he said.

The stickers point students to

Unrolled, each scroll of hammered silver was only about 2 inches long. But they contained 18 and 19 lines of text in tiny letters scratched only a quarter-inch tall, Barkay said.

## Oldest Bible fragments

In time, Barkay and other researchers came to see that both contained variations of the so-called triple blessing from the Book of Numbers.

In the New International Version of the Bible, the blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 says: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

To this day, they stand as the oldest fragments of Bible ever found: "older by four centuries than the Dead Sea Scrolls," from the time of Jeremiah the prophet, Barkay said.

The sixth or seventh century find "means that if people were writing it on their jewelry, it means the text was already seen as sacred and already in common use," Ortiz said.

Barkay's dig went on intermittently for seven seasons between 1975 and 1994. In time, its archaeological value was thoroughly mined.

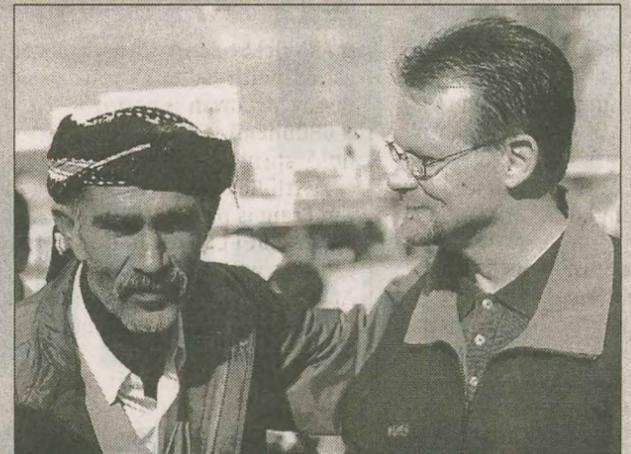
The amulets are preserved in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

words beginning with "A," including adore, admit, appreciate and ask. The sticker also offers suggestions about how the concepts behind each word can be incorporated into prayer.

For example, for the word "ask" the child is told: "Think about those who are sick or have other needs. Pray for needs you have. Remember to pray for your family, friends and teachers at school."

Each child at church was provided with one sticker, but some have asked for more to give to friends, Sanders said.

## Making progress



**MAKING CONTACT** Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, talks with a Kurdish tribesman in northern Iraq last December. Baptists in Iraq point to a new church and the Baptist food deliveries as evidence of God at work in their country. (Photo by Josh Booth)

## Church dedication seen as sign of spiritual life in Iraq

By Erin Curry  
Baptist Press

**Baghdad, Iraq (BP)**—Nearly a year after U.S. troops began liberating Iraq, evangelicals in the fragile country are emerging with new boldness to take advantage of the newly granted religious freedom they lived so long without.

The first Baptist church ever established in Iraq was dedicated with more than 700 people in attendance. Leaders say the church, called the National Evangelical Baptist Church in Baghdad, is the cornerstone upon which future Baptist work in Iraq will be built.

In addition, teams of Baptist volunteers have worked in various regions of Iraq, distributing food and Bibles and sowing seeds of interest in what God wants to do in the nation.

Muthafar Yacoub, moderator of the Baptist Union of Iraq, said the response at the Jan. 16 dedication ceremony of the Baptist church exceeded expectations and was the first time in decades that Christians from a broad scope of evangelical backgrounds gathered openly in Iraq for a church service.

A group of 10 Southern Baptists from Kentucky was among the volunteer teams traveling to Iraq to initiate interest in the gospel. Eight people from Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington and two from Greenup Baptist Association in eastern Kentucky spent two weeks in December distributing 200 Arabic New Testaments and 650 bags of food in northern Iraq.

"(We wondered) when we were giving out stuff, 'Would we be attacked?'" said Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial. "But in all four groups, there wasn't a single problem. The people were well-behaved, appreciative and helped unload the truck."

## Leadership needed

In other Iraq news, John Hull, president of EQUIP, an Atlanta-based organization founded by John Maxwell to provide leadership development for Christians worldwide, said the greatest need of the church in Iraq is for biblical leadership training and resources.

The challenge that has followed Iraq's liberation is a lack of church leaders, Christian materials and facilities to accommodate the growing number of people wanting to practice their faith openly, Hull said.

"Before the war, our church was very small—less than 50 people—and we had to meet in secrecy," said a pastor in Baghdad who was once imprisoned for leading an underground church. "Now our new church building seating 450 is almost completed, and it's already too small for our growing congregation."

EQUIP reported that in Baghdad there are only 12 pastors for the 5 million residents. And in Basra, a city of 2.5 million, there is only one evangelical congregation.

"Saddam drove us underground, but he couldn't stop us—even with imprisonment and torture," Farid Hana, a pastor in Baghdad, said. "Now, our lack of Christian leadership is stopping us from developing urgently needed churches."

With additional reporting by Ken Walker

**you  
could  
be reading  
*your* church  
newsletter**

**right here**

**The Western Recorder church newspaper plan.  
It's easy. It's affordable. It saves staff time. It gives more for your money.  
Call today for details. (502) 244-6470.**

**Western Recorder**  
Practical Resources for Christian Living