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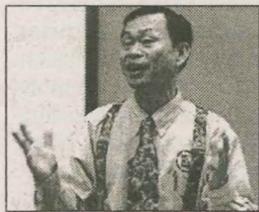
FOR THE RECORD

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Study indicates family-friendly movies can do well at box office

Camarillo, Calif. (RNS)—Movies that have family-friendly ratings and lack sex and violence are the ones that sell at the box office, an analysis by the Christian Film and Television Commission has found.

A total of five of the top 10 movies at U.S. box offices in 2001, 2002 and 2003 had what the commission considered very graphic or excessive sex while 19—or 63 percent—had either a Christian or a moral worldview.

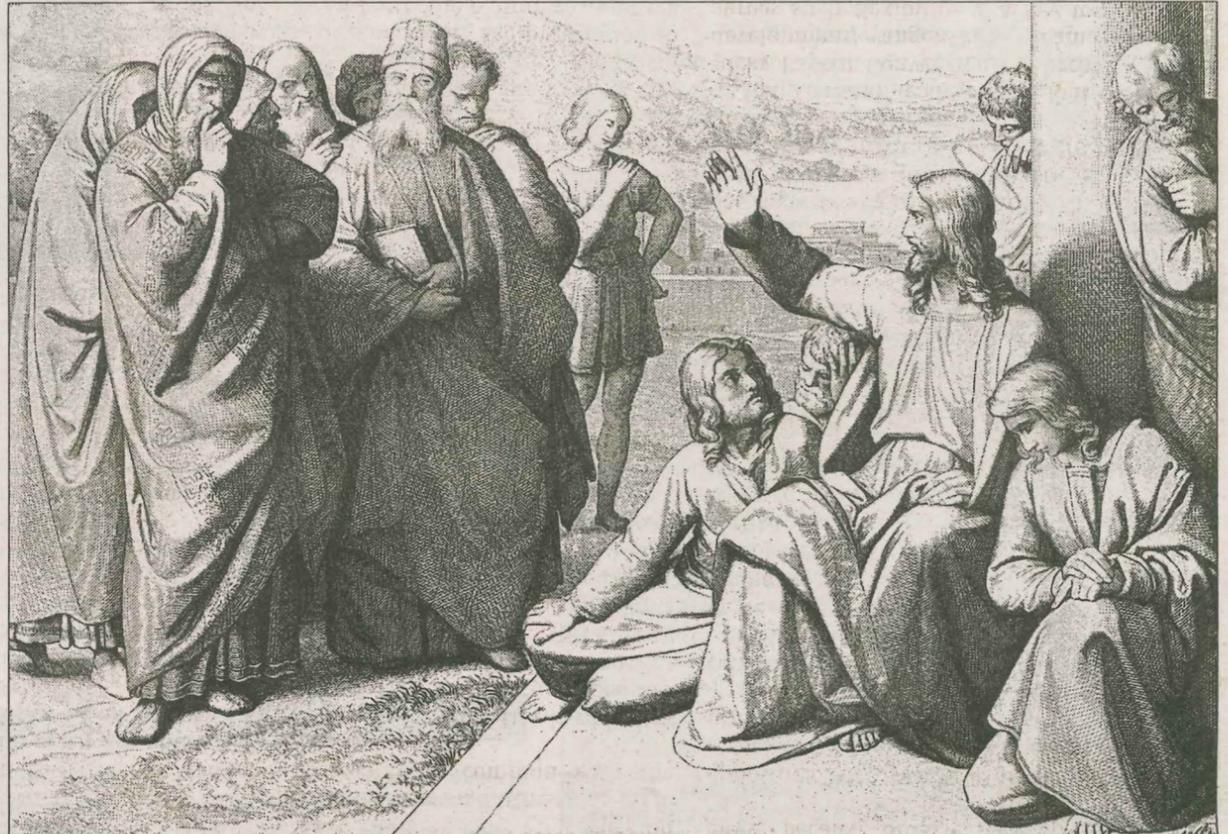
Researchers found that the more sex and nudity a movie included, the worse it did at the box office.

In 2003, 78 movies with no sex averaged \$37.6 million while 35 movies with extensive, graphic or excessive sex averaged \$17.1 million. In the same year, movies with no nudity averaged \$34.6 million while films with full male and/or female nudity averaged \$11.8 million.

"Clearly, sex does not sell as well as the mass media wants us to believe," said Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission.

Movies in 2003 with what the commission considered "very strong moral content"—such as "Finding Nemo" and "Cheaper by the Dozen"—earned an average of \$92.5 million. Films with "very strong immoral, negative content" earned an average of \$14.6 million at the box office in the same year.

Who were Pharisees?



JESUS AND THE PHARISEES This 1843 engraving was based on a painting by German artist Johann Fredrick Overbeck. Southern Seminary professor Joel Drinkard says Pharisees don't all deserve to be seen as the "bad guys." (©Corbis photo)

Some scholars ask: Do they get bum rap?

By Heather Wecsler
Religion News Service

Shreveport, La. (RNS)—Pat Madden often calls his adult students in the Catholic Diocese of Shreveport, La., Pharisees. But he doesn't mean the label as an insult.

"The Pharisees were educated laypeople, people who wanted to do a little extra for their faith," Madden explained. "If you're doing more for your faith than just going to church on Sunday, if you're com-

ing to religion class after work on a Wednesday night, then you share something in common with the Pharisees."

Louisville's Joel Drinkard, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, won't go that far. But he said he thinks Pharisees deserve to be seen in a "better light than they are often cast."

"The common response we tend to have is to describe the Sadducees and the Pharisees as being the 'bad

guys,' because often in the New Testament they are among the ones opposing Jesus," said Drinkard, a professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern.

But that misses a more realistic picture of the Pharisees, he said.

"They were the ones who were there every time the church door opened," he noted.

"By no means, were all the Pharisees the bad guys."

□ See *Some scholars ask: ... Page 6*

Kentucky Baptist evangelists ponder: Are revival meetings dead?

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—Booking as many concerts at flea markets, retirement homes and community centers as churches, Glenn Dawson takes an evangelistic message to whoever will listen.

As the new president of the Kentucky Baptist Vocational Evangelists, the Lexington native hopes to enlist more members in the group, which has remained small (fewer than 20 members) since its founding in 1989.

Among his plans are compiling a membership directory, establishing a Web site and taking a higher profile at next year's state evangelism conference.

But Dawson—whose unusual presentation blends music, ventriloquism and visual illusions—said he thinks the biggest challenge evangelists face is adapting to the

disappearance of lengthy revivals. "Revivals and evangelism are not mutually exclusive," Dawson said. "You can be in evangelism and not do revivals."

"I'll (often) go in and do a Saturday night banquet and then do a Sunday program. I've done vacation Bible school programs where I've sung two or three songs Sunday morning and done a concert in the evening."

Some KBVE members, such as last year's president, Joe Mobley, lament the diminishing presence of revivals.

Speaking at the recent state conference, he noted receiving e-mails regularly that proclaim evangelism is dead or that pastors won't use evangelists any more.

But after participating in an interdenominational crusade in London last summer that led to 220 people praying to receive Jesus

as their personal Savior, Mobley doesn't agree.

The response to evangelist Rick Gage, whose messages also prompted 495 commitments to Christ and other decisions, shows that God still works through such events, Mobley said.

"If there's ever been a time when evangelism is prevalent, it's today," Mobley said. "If there's any prayer gone into the message, evangelism still has power. The prayerlessness of people is the reason we don't see things happening in churches like they used to."

But another evangelist thinks the time has come for churches to adopt new methods.

Wyman Copass, a pastor who returned to full-time evangelism last fall, said the hectic pace of life is forcing churches to adapt.

While some evangelists are critical of a trend to schedule revivals

during a weekend or even on a single day, the Bowling Green resident said they can make a difference.

"If people prepare for it, some of the best revivals are one day," Copass said. "I've gone in on Saturday night, had a banquet, and then done meetings Sunday morning and Sunday night. It's a good emphasis if it's done right."

Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development/evangelism team, agrees such flexibility is a key to deal with a changing culture.

There are reasons many pastors have shied away from using evangelists, Garland added, including bad experiences with evangelists who demanded large offerings or failed morally.

More importantly, he said, extended meetings generally don't fit today's culture.

□ See *Kentucky Baptist ... Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, April 14.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Baptists respond to Mexican flood. Flash floods hit parts of Piedras Negras, Mexico, April 4, prompting Texas Baptists to send blankets, clothes, food and drinking water. According to reports, more than 50 people have been confirmed dead, another 100 are missing and more than 600 homes were destroyed. Dexton Shores, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas River Ministry, is delivering a truckload of blankets, clothes and drinking water to be distributed in the city. A Texas Baptist Men's disaster response unit traveled to the region with water purification equipment.

Southwestern trustees elected deans. Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary elected two of their fellow board members as deans April 6 and voted to create an undergraduate college on the seminary's Fort Worth campus. Trustees elected board chairman David Allen as dean of the theology school and Denny Autrey, chairman of the trustees' academic affairs committee, as dean of the J. Dalton Havard School for Theological Studies in Houston. Allen, pastor of MacArthur Boulevard Baptist Church in Irving and professor of expository preaching at Criswell College in Dallas, has been a seminary trustee since 1992. Autrey, a seminary trustee since 1999, is pastor of First Baptist Church in Lindale, Texas. He was chairman of the search committee that recommended Paige Patterson as seminary president.

Campbell University inaugurates president. Jerry Wallace was inaugurated April 2 as president of Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. Campbell is affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Wallace was elected last year to succeed retiring Norman Wiggins, who was president since 1967. Wallace served as chairman of the department of religion and philosophy and professor of religion from 1975 to 1981. He was named dean of the university, then appointed vice president of academic affairs and provost. He later was a special assistant to Wiggins and a professor in the Campbell Divinity School.

N.C. attorney general rejects pastor's complaint. The attorney general of North Carolina has told a Baptist pastor that his complaint against the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina appears to be a private matter. Gene Scarborough, pastor of North Rocky Mount Baptist Church, filed the complaint Feb. 9 after the state convention ousted McGill Baptist Church of Concord from convention membership because the church baptized two men believed to be homosexual. Scarborough said the action violated the state convention's constitution, which says it will not exercise authority over any other Baptist body. The convention argued Scarborough's complaint was not valid because the convention is "an unincorporated religious society."

CBF, World Vision team up to battle AIDS. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is entering a ministry partnership with two other groups to aid children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Africa. The moderate Baptist group will participate in the Hope Child Sponsorship Program in conjunction with World Vision and the Baptist Convention of Kenya. The program will unite 350 children in the Soweto area of Nairobi with sponsoring families and churches in the United States. Sponsors will provide \$30 a month for each child.

Women's ministry group moves to Atlanta. Baptist Women in Ministry, started in 1983 to support Southern Baptist women serving as ministers, will move its offices to Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology in northeast Atlanta. Founded in Louisville, the organization most recently was based at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kan.

LifeWay unveils Holman Bible translation

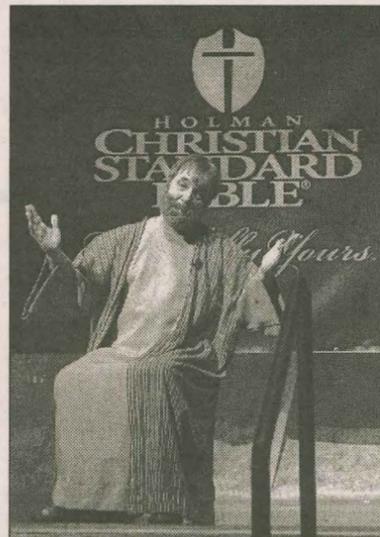
Nashville (BP)—Describing the occasion as "a historic event for us," James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, opened the April 2 dedication service for the new Holman Christian Standard Bible.

"We pray future generations will see this as a profoundly historical day as well," he added. "This just doesn't happen that often."

Draper was joined by Broadman & Holman Vice President Ken Stephens, Holman CSB General Editor Ed Blum and several hundred LifeWay employees and guests in celebrating the completion of the first major English-language translation of the Bible in more than 30 years.

Although there have been numerous revisions of existing translations of Scripture, the Holman CSB is an all-new translation directly from the original biblical languages. LifeWay officials said new Bible translations are so rare that there have been only seven pure translations in the past 570 years.

The 20-year project involved an international team of 100 translators, editors and biblical scholars representing 20 denominations and non-denominational churches.



TESTIMONY Actor David Payne portrays the Apostle Paul in a Roman jail during the Holman Christian Standard Bible dedication ceremony in Nashville April 2. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Work on the Holman CSB began in 1984 under Arthur Farstad, the former general editor of the New King James Version. After his death in 1998, leadership of the project passed to Blum, a translation project colleague of Farstad's and a former pastor and Dallas Theological Seminary professor.

nary professor.

Blum said team members—who all affirm a personal belief in biblical inerrancy—were based throughout the nation as well as Canada and Africa. They stayed in contact through the Internet and through committees—three in Dallas and two in Nashville.

"Never before in history has there been as much information about the Bible as there is today—from archaeological discoveries to analysis of ancient manuscripts to years of study and statistical research on individual Bible books," Blum said. "Translations made as recently as 10 or 20 years ago do not reflect many of these advances in biblical research."

Among reasons cited by the Holman CSB team for the new translation is to safeguard the Scriptures from trends toward cultural pluralism, political correctness and drifting ideology.

The first printed editions of the full Holman CSB will be released April 15, including a large print hardcover and formats to fit church classroom and worship assembly needs. Other editions, including leather and paperback pocket sizes, will be released later in 2004.

NAMB: Construction leads volunteer projects

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Most Southern Baptist volunteer missions trips involve construction, with evangelism events, vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible schools also popular, according to a survey of 215 churches and 408 volunteers.

The study was conducted last year by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board based on activities during 2002.

Among other findings: Most projects are more than 500 miles from the sponsoring church. Interest also is high among churches in sponsoring more opportunities suitable for the entire family.

The survey, which focused on projects in the United States and Canada outside the local church community, was commissioned to help NAMB and state conventions be more effective in facilitating and promoting volunteer missions, said

Jim Burton, NAMB's director of volunteer mobilization. Previous data on numbers of volunteers has been available, but the NAMB effort provides additional data on distances traveled, projects conducted, funding and other details.

"To help us in our long-range planning, we felt like we had to have a more detailed picture of what's happening in SBC volunteerism," Burton said, noting the research likely will be repeated regularly to track ongoing trends among the estimated 500,000 volunteers sent out each year on mission trips by Southern Baptist churches.

The study found that 52.7 percent of mission trips include construction projects. Burton said that means more than 200,000 volunteers a year are involved in construction efforts.

"We realize that we have got to give more attention to growing the significance of that construction

experience, because we estimate that Southern Baptist churches are saving about \$35 million a year by using volunteers," he added.

Among other survey findings:
■ Among volunteer activities, 28 percent reported evangelism ministries, 25.3 percent helped lead VBS, 15 percent led backyard Bible clubs, 8 percent conducted block parties and 32 percent listed other activities. Participants were allowed to select multiple ministry types.

■ A total of 5,139 volunteers participated in mission projects from the responding churches, with 52 percent of those being above age 25. Students in grades 7-12 made up 37.3 percent of the volunteers, followed by ages 18-24 at 10.7 percent.

■ Eighty-eight percent of volunteers rated their experience as "very positive," while another 11 percent chose "somewhat positive." Only 1 percent rated the experience as "somewhat" or "very" negative.

Judge won't amend lawsuit against Missouri agencies

Jefferson City, Mo. (ABP)—A Missouri judge, who recently dismissed a lawsuit against five Missouri Baptist agencies, won't allow the plaintiffs to amend the suit.

Judge Thomas Brown, who ruled March 11 that the Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board and six of the convention's churches did not have legal standing to file the original lawsuit, ruled April 7 that the convention officials could not amend the lawsuit to make individual messengers the plaintiffs.

Instead, the convention will file a new lawsuit that names state convention messengers as plaintiffs, according to convention attorney Michael Whitehead. "If the judge won't allow us to amend under one case number ... we'll proceed with a case naming messengers," he said.

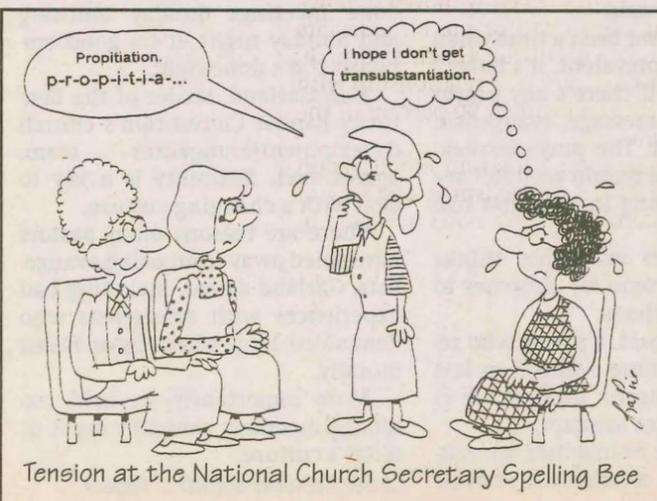
The pastors of at least five of the plaintiff churches will be named as plaintiffs in the new filing, he added.

Meanwhile, Whitehead said, the convention will appeal Brown's latest ruling, meaning both lawsuits will be in the court system at once. "That's the complexity we were hoping to avoid" by amending the suit, said Whitehead. He insisted both convention messengers and the MBC Executive Board have a right to represent the annual convention.

Clyde Farris, an attorney representing Missouri Baptist University, appealed to the convention to abandon the case. "It is the defendants' hope and desire that those who have brought this suit, instead of spending more money and creating more acrimony trying to get someone else

to file a new suit or appealing this decision, will now work with these Baptist institutions for the goals that are in the common interest of Missouri Baptists," Farris noted. "Too much time and money has been wasted."

The Missouri Baptist Convention voted in 2002 to sue five institutions that amended their charters to elect their own trustees and remove themselves from convention control—the Baptist Home retirement home system, the Missouri Baptist Foundation, Missouri Baptist University, Windermere Baptist Conference Center and the Word & Way newspaper. Previously, the institutions' trustees had been nominated by a convention committee and elected by messengers to the convention's annual meeting.



Tension at the National Church Secretary Spelling Bee

Lisa Whelchel to address KBC women's conference

By Kelly Upchurch
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—She's a down-home Texas mom who just wants you to pull up a chair, grab a cup of coffee, and get ready to have a little girl talk.

It's tough to reconcile this Lisa Whelchel with Blair, the self-centered, wealthy young woman she played on the popular '80s TV sitcom "The Facts of Life."

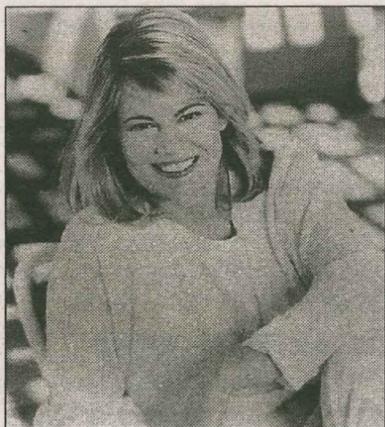
Whelchel will be the keynote speaker for the upcoming Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, May 17 at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset. The conference also will feature Jennifer Kennedy Dean and the musical group SoulReal.

The 41-year-old Whelchel left acting behind when she was 25 for life as a minister's wife and mother of three. She now is the author of four books and the leader of Mom-Time, a ministry to mothers.

Whelchel said she's eager to share with other wives and mothers what she's learned as a wife, home-school leader and mother.

"I want to talk about issues we can all relate to, such as making time with the Lord, juggling priorities and trusting God's character even when things don't make sense," said Whelchel, whose speaking style is conversational and fun, and frequently punctuated by a brilliant smile. "It will be more like conversation, how you feel when you have been with your girlfriends talking through issues over coffee."

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, the



NOT BLAIR Lisa Whelchel, who starred on TV's "The Facts of Life," will be the featured speaker at the Women of Worth Conference, May 17 in Somerset.

child star cracked the door to her career at age 13 as a blossoming Mouseketeer for "The New Mickey Mouse Club."

In 1979 she landed the part of "Blair" on the cast of the popular '80s sit-com "The Facts of Life." She played Blair for nine years, until the series ended in 1988.

From TV to mom

Four months after the show ended, Whelchel married long-time friend and minister, Steve Cauble, with every intention of returning to acting. She said she was unaware of a whole new whirlwind and a new role God would ask her to play.

After a 10-month honeymoon, the newlyweds learned they were expecting their first child. Son Tucker was born in 1989, followed

the next year by daughter Haven, and the year after that by daughter Clancy.

Whelchel said she accepted her new role as minister's wife and stay-at-home mother of three.

"It was clear God wanted me to be the one to raise my children," she said. "He wasn't blessing my career as He had done before."

Besides, she said, actresses have a hard time getting jobs in Hollywood while pregnant, sitting in the doctor's office or nursing a child.

"The people in Hollywood have all been very supportive (of being a stay-at-home wife and mother). I think they all yearn for what I have in a happy family and the fact that I am not striving for fame and yet I'm happy," Whelchel said.

She said friends in Hollywood tell her they can see something different in her but don't know what it is except "it's like a rainbow. They can see I don't carry all the baggage so many others do."

Whelchel often shares a copy of her second book, "The Facts of Life and Other Lessons My Father Taught Me" with people who are curious about her fulfilled life.

The book describes her conversion as a 10-year-old going to church on her own and how God wooed and pursued her heart, and eventually won.

"When Jesus tells me, 'You did not choose Me, but I chose you,' I believe Him. He came looking for me," she writes. "Whether you realize it or not, God has been wooing you your entire life. He waits

patiently for special moments to reveal His love for you."

Trials along the way

Whelchel doesn't pretend that her life has been perfect. In her autobiography, she candidly reveals her deepest insecurities, weight battles, financial woes, marriage dilemmas. And she explores how God used those trials for good, in His time and way.

"Be still and know that I am God," were the words she said God whispered to her through many dark years when things weren't working out in her life.

As a self-proclaimed "do-er" and not a "be-stiller," Whelchel stated that she struggled. But being still and waiting on God plunged her deeper into God's heart, where eventually His perspective came shining through.

"When we are still, God sure knows how to be God," she writes.

"I simply want to be remembered as someone who had a personal relationship with the Lord," Whelchel said. "He is real to me and a very intricate part of my life."

Registration for the Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference costs \$15 if postmarked by May 10, and \$20 at the door. For registration and other details, visit www.kybaptist.org/wow.

Free childcare is available (birth to preschool) from 3:30 p.m. through the end of the event. Call Monica Wallace (606-678-4159) at Beacon Hill Baptist Church to register for childcare.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Former Miss Kentucky Monica Hardin will be the featured speaker for the the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church secretaries appreciation conference, April 26-27 at the KBC building in Louisville. The conference, which features information on event planning, retirement, record keeping and other issues, is free and open to the first 100 registrants. For more information, call (502) 245-4101 ext. 330.

Gary Bauer will be the speaker at the Louisville Right to Life banquet, April 16. Bauer, a native of Covington and graduate of Georgetown University, is a former Republican presidential candidate and domestic policy adviser to President Ronald Reagan. For more information, call (502) 895-5959.

Kentucky Baptist evangelists ponder future of revival meetings

Continued from page 1

"Are revivals going to end? No, not totally," Garland said. "But using revivals as the only evangelism strategy you've got is ineffective. It's not going to make a big difference."

Three pastors whose churches have experienced growth in recent years agree that reaching non-Christians in the 21st century requires a different approach.

"To put up a sign and say, 'We're having revival'; lost people aren't going to darken the door," said Troy Dobbs, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

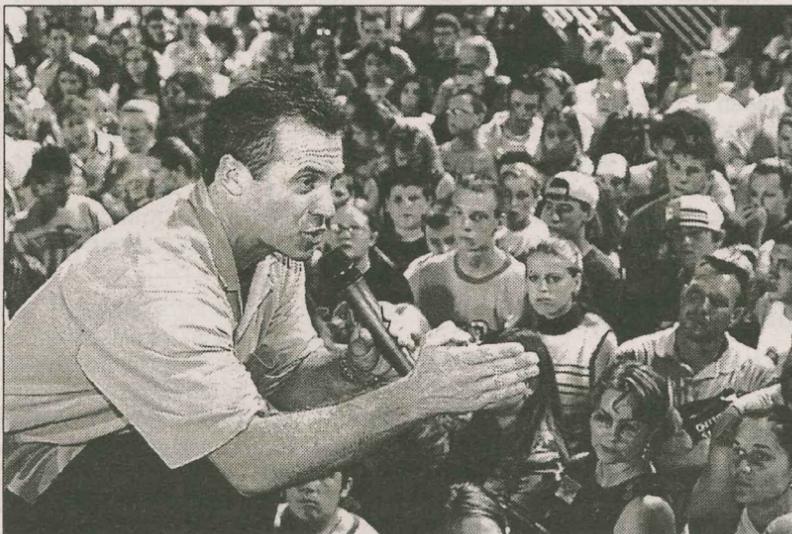
Since Dobbs came to Crestwood more than three years ago, average Sunday attendance has grown from 650 to 1,325, but without traditional revivals.

Instead, Dobbs emphasizes building relationships. The first contact with a non-Christian might be through the church's Upward Basketball program, which eventually leads to that person following Christ, he explained.

Revivals might still work in more rural areas, Dobbs said, but he continually asks God to show him what will draw others to Christ in a suburban Louisville context.

"I'm always encouraging people to invite (friends) to come," Dobbs said.

At Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, Pastor John Mark Toby calls evangelism a full-time, year-round process.



RICK GAGE This "Share Jesus Celebration in London, Ky., last year is among the examples evangelists cite for the enduring effectiveness of well-coordinated revival meetings. (Sweetlight Images photo by Mike Williams)

The church has seen between 20 and 25 conversions within several months after each of its last two fall revivals.

Relationships & special events

But Toby credits that primarily to its use of "The Net," a strategy of sharing a personal testimony that was developed by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The program is used in Sunday school classes, which also have developed "FISH" teams, an acronym for fellowship, intercession, service and hope. FISH teams encourage every member to share his or her con-

version story with people in neighborhoods and work settings.

"My approach to evangelism isn't that we're rolling in a show for four or five days," Toby said. "As a pastor, I'm emphasizing evangelism 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. A revival has long-lasting effects beyond the day of the calendar. It's a movement of God, not an event."

Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort usually holds an annual evangelistic event. In recent years a pair that featured a Christian entertainer, and the Power Team, led to 135 professions of faith.

But former associate pastor Jamie Ward said neither was billed as a revival.

The church also takes an unconventional approach to an annual four-night meeting series. Each August it holds "Magnificent Mondays," scheduling guest speakers for four consecutive Monday nights.

While the latter can't be directly tied to the 150 baptisms Buck Run performed the past three years and a half years, Ward said the meetings are a highlight of the year for members.

And, they indirectly encourage relationships that lead to conversions, he said.

"In over three years I can't tell you one person who has come forward at the end of a service," said Ward, who recently moved to Bowling Green to become an associate pastor of Hillvue Heights Church. "It's because of a relationship with a church member 90 percent of the time."

Dawson agrees an emphasis on personal evangelism is one way of interesting more non-Christians in the gospel.

"The message is the same but the method of delivery continues to change," the Lexington resident said. "I think we need to talk to people in a language they understand and accept people the way they are. Whatever gets them to church and understanding the Word is the important thing."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Responding to the second-guessers

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Before the first wave of hot tears had dried, before the funerals had ended for four Southern Baptist aid workers killed by unknown attackers in Iraq March 15, the second-guessers had swung into action.

We told you so, said various domestic and international critics in solemn tones. We warned you. Western evangelical workers shouldn't be in Iraq—or anywhere else in the Muslim world. They put themselves in unnecessary jeopardy. They endanger local Christians and secular relief workers. They hide their religious agenda behind a box of food or a rebuilding project.

The same objections were raised after three Southern Baptist hospital workers were murdered in Yemen at the end of 2002. Decades of effective service by the three—and heartfelt tributes from many local Muslims whose lives had been saved and enriched by their work—didn't seem to count for much with the critics.

Confusion amid chaos

To be fair, some of the most pointed questions over the last 15 months have not come from open opponents of evangelical missions. They've come instead from friends, church members and others "in the family" who are struggling with anger and confusion about a world seemingly gone mad. Things have changed, they reason. Isn't it time to reconsider the wisdom of sending our best and brightest into dangerous places? If people don't want us there, why don't we bring the missionaries home—or at least send them to someplace safe?

"Bring them home," applied widely, would mark the end of Southern Baptist involvement in international missions. Some other American church bodies have made that choice, as evangelical mission work has become more expensive and less socially acceptable. Do we want to join them?

"Send them someplace safe"

sounds more reasonable. But let's think this notion through to its logical conclusion. Suppose we stop sending workers to places where they face actual or potential dangers: war zones, violent or chaotic regions, places where the government or the power structure opposes Christianity or mission work, isolated places where no one invited us, places vulnerable to extremist attacks.

One or more of those categories covers the communist world and the Muslim world—in other words, a third of humanity. An increasingly anti-Christian brand of extremism grows stronger daily in India, home to 850 million Hindus.

Africa? Too much suffering, too much death. The "10/40 Window" stretching from North Africa to East Asia, home to most of the world's unreached people groups, essentially would be off-limits. Latin America teems with drug gangs and guerrilla groups who kidnap foreigners for ransom.

That leaves Europe, Australia and North America. Wait; scratch Europe. That continent is reeling from its own version of 9/11: the March 11 terrorist bombing in Madrid that killed 200 people.

Oh, scratch North America too. We haven't forgotten about 9/11 and the Oklahoma City bombing, have we?

"Nowhere is 'safe,'" observed Wendy Norvelle, associate vice president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. "We've got people who use the Madrid subway. We've got people in Haiti. We've got people in Africa. Almost anywhere there's violence or unrest, we've got people there."

Southern Baptists have lost eight international workers to terrorist bullets and bombs since Dec. 30, 2002. That is a heartbreaking number, a sobering number. It's a tiny fraction of the total number of believers who die or suffer for their faith each year.

Active, location-specific security precautions for missionaries and

their families are common sense. Not to be in places of potential risk, however, is disobedient to Christ. He is there, working through His followers to heal the hurting and give hope to the hopeless.

After the devastating Madrid subway bombing, missionaries who live in the area went among the shocked people of the city to pray, join them in grief and find ways to minister. One missionary, prayerwalking with a friend along the train platform, found a young woman on her knees crying convulsively.

"My heart broke for her"

"We both knelt down," he said. "I told her that we were Christians and would like to pray for her. She gave no reply except the unashamed sobbing that was surely for a lost one. When we finished praying she looked up and said, 'Help me, help me,' and I asked, 'How?' She gave no reply, but then said, 'How could they? How could they?' I had no answer. She just reached out to hold my hand and my heart broke for her."

"For what seemed like 15 minutes I knelt with her in an embrace while she did nothing but cry, and I began to cry. Then she asked me, 'Where is my God?' ... I began to share the gospel with her and tell her that God, loving us so much, became a man named Jesus to pay for our sins so that we could have fellowship with Him."

"Christ whispered these words in my ear: 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.' In that moment, I realized what being a missionary is all about. ... I found out later that her name was Mary and she was from Switzerland. Her boyfriend 'exploded in the train,' as she put it in her broken English.

"Was her life changed that night on the platform not far from the death place of her boyfriend? I know that I cannot answer for her. But God has changed my life for letting me bear some of that pain with her those few minutes, in His name and for His glory."

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

least you can do for someone; it is the most you can do for someone."

Meditation on Scripture prepares the heart and mind for prayer. David prayed in Psalms 5:1, "Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my sighing" (meditations).

William Bridges, a practical Puritan writer, wrote: "Practicing without meditation is unfruitful; meditation without reading is hurtful; to meditate and to read without prayer upon both is without blessing."

In his book, "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life," Donald Whitney makes a strong connection between meditation and prayer. As he closed this section in his book, he asked three probing questions:

■ Since prayer is expected, will you pray?

■ Since prayer is learned, will you learn to pray?

■ Since prayer is answered, will you persistently pray?

Please commit to pray for each of our churches on Saturday for the Sunday worship of Holy God.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Naming the right trustee is vital to estate planning

By Laurie Valentine

Both revocable and irrevocable trusts are important planning tools for many individuals.

Whether you are using a revocable living trust as part of your plan for management of assets in the event of incapacity or an irrevocable trust for tax planning, one of the most important decisions as you plan the trust is your choice for trustee.

Under Kentucky law, the trustee of a trust may be an individual, a bank, a trust company or any other entity that has trust powers. An individual serving as trustee does not have to be a resident of Kentucky nor does he or she have to be related to you.

As you select a trustee or successor trustee, think about the types of assets that are or could be in the trust. You will want to name a trustee who understands the management of those types of assets and who knows about taxes, investments and financial matters.

The trustee should be someone who is a self-starter. There is little supervision of the management of a trust. Your choice should be someone who will not neglect responsibilities due to lack of time, interest or knowledge.

Don't just assume the person or entity you wish to name as trustee is willing to serve. Ask the individual before you complete your planning. If possible, allow him or her to review the trust agreement before it is signed to better assure that all necessary powers are granted and that the person clearly understands any special or unusual provisions.

Finally, make sure you have selected a trustee who can be objective. Trustees must make decisions that affect the interests of both the income beneficiaries and the remainder beneficiaries. While family members might be appropriate choices, in some cases you might need to consider a professional, corporate or institutional trustee. These trustees are accountable not only to the beneficiaries, but also to their own management, directors, auditors and other examiners.

The choice of a trustee is a crucial decision in the establishment of a successful trust arrangement. Making the best choice requires thoughtful and careful consideration of various factors.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



The discipline of prayer and meditation

Prayer needs to be a vital component in the life of every Christian. Let me share with you some Scripture and thoughts on this important subject.

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results" (James 5:16). James put this statement together in such a way that the result is a highly charged affirmation of prayer as both powerful and effective.

Prayer is appropriate in the full range of life situations—in times of trouble and suffering, happiness and joy, and sickness (James 5:13-14).

"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:17-18).

We are to pray in faith. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering" (James 1:6). Prayerlessness itself might be a demonstration of a lack of faith. One of the strongest

obstacles to prayer is our need to feel like we're doing something productive—a need that comes from our desire to be self-reliant and to take things into our own hands.

We pray in the name of the Lord—that is to pray in submission to His lordship and all that His name represents. The focus of prayer is not prayer, but God.

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3). The purpose of prayer is that we get a hold of God, not just get a hold of whatever we want.

We pray in confession. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you double-minded. ... Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you" (James 4:8, 10).

Prayer accomplishes much. Billy Graham once said, "Prayer is not the

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

How can a spouse identify & respond to emotional abuse?

Q: I don't like the way my husband talks to me and I feel that he is emotionally abusive. He denies this and says it is the way he was raised. What constitutes emotional abuse?

Emotional abuse can take several forms. It might include long periods of withdrawal and intentional silence where one spouse "punishes" the other with his or her disapproval and emotional absence. An individual might break, hide or even sell personal items that are valuable to his or her spouse. Sometimes abuse will take the form of trying to isolate a spouse from friends and family in an attempt to control and manipulate his or her behavior.

Abuse often is marked by rough, insulting and intimidating language that might include profanity and even physical threats. An abusive spouse often is blaming and critical and the abused spouse is left feeling inadequate and wondering what he or she has done wrong. The verbal abuse might also include name-calling, ridiculing and belittling.

Threats to harm one's spouse often are not the only threats used. Many times the abuser will threaten to take the children, to invent and propagate a lie or even to commit suicide if the spouse does not comply with his or her demands.

If some of these factors (all of them need not be present) are descriptive of your husband's behavior, go immediately to a trusted pastor, Christian minister or counselor, and talk to that person about what is going on. Your husband must not be allowed to continue in this behavior without being confronted with his sin. If you are not willing to do this for yourself, remember that your children will be profoundly affected by growing up with this ungodly and abusive model.—Scott Wigginton

Q: I recently have heard the term "the parenting triangle." What does it involve?

Chip Henderson, pastor of Pine Lake Church in Brandon, Miss., addressed that issue during a recent children's day emphasis. Preaching about the importance of providing parameters and discipline for young children, he talked specifically about how various misbehaviors that are often dismissed as "cute" or "precocious" in very young children lose their charm and become obnoxious and irritating in older children.

Henderson compared this pattern of parenting to a triangle. The wide base or bottom of the triangle represents permissive parenting with few, if any, rules and restraints. The gradually tapering sides of the triangle represent attempts by parents to pull in the reins and bring behavior under control as the child grows.

While this approach works at first glance to have merit, Henderson believes the triangle needs to be reversed. Discipline needs to be tight during the early years. Then, as the child grows, parents can relax rules and grant more and more freedom as the child demonstrates the self-control such freedom demands.

For this reason, pastoral counselor Wade Rowatt encourages parents to establish a tight fence around children when they are young. As the child grows, the boundaries of the fence gradually can be enlarged. The fence eventually can come down when the boundaries have been internalized. However, children need lots of guidance in the early years in order to learn such self-control.

Thus, the "parenting triangle" actually should rest on its point because when it comes to discipline, parents generally will find it easier to loosen up than tighten up.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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



Cooperation: A Kentucky Baptist hallmark

Cooperation is a cherished Baptist principle—especially in Kentucky.

While the Southern Baptist Convention and several state Baptist conventions have endured painful controversy in recent years, the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists remain committed to moving forward together for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Cooperation isn't a new concept among Bluegrass Baptists. As Southern Baptist congregations throughout the nation observe Cooperative Program Sunday on April 18, it is fitting to recall Kentucky Baptists' prominent role in helping create the convention's unified giving plan nearly 80 years ago.

Duane Bolin, a history professor at Murray State University, captured that truth in his KBC history, "Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation." In a chapter simply titled "Cooperation," Bolin wrote:

"On a summer Sunday, July 28, 1985, William W. Marshall, the executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and officers and members of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission and Historical Society converged on the small but thriving university town of Murray in southwestern Kentucky. The small group of convention leaders drove west to take part in an important celebration, a celebration of remembrance. The convention had appointed a committee in 1979, and then voted in November 1981 'to place an appropriate marker' on the grounds of Murray's First Baptist Church 'indicating Kentucky's part and the part of First Baptist Church in the beginning of the Cooperative Program.'

"Marshall delivered the sermon during the morning worship hour, emphasizing 'the Cooperative Program as a worldwide endeavor for all Southern Baptists.' The unveiling of the historical marker, a handsome bronze marker provided by the Kentucky Historical Society, followed the morning service. ...

"The founding of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845 preceded the founding of the Baptist

church in Murray by one year. But it was the leadership of Murray's charismatic and controversial pastor, H. Boyce Taylor, that placed the western Kentucky church in the fulcrum of convention affairs. Taylor came to the church as pastor in 1897 ... and served for 34 years in a remarkable, often tumultuous tenure that resulted in dramatic changes in the cooperative work of Kentucky Baptists and eventually the Southern Baptist Convention.

"On this day, in 1985, the unveiled historical marker revealed the significant highlights of Taylor's and the church's contribution to Southern Baptist work. The marker reads:

"The Cooperative Program. Under leadership of H. Boyce Taylor, First Baptist Church, Murray, began in 1900 a new approach to church finance. Taylor, pastor

1897-1931, avidly promoted this unified budget plan; appointed chairman of State Baptist committee, 1913, 'to consider ... unifying our work' under one budget. During 1914-15 Taylor and layman F.D. Perkins toured state promoting unified plan.

"The Gen. Assoc. of Baptists in Ky. (now Ky. Bapt. Con.) adopted first 'budget plan for the collection of funds' in 1915. Taylor served as chairman of first budget committee. This was Kentucky's part in the development of world mission budget plan adopted by Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis, 1925, known as the Cooperative Program." ("Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation." James Duane Bolin. Kentucky Baptist Convention, 2000.)

Much has changed in Southern Baptist life since 1925—and even since 1985—but Kentucky Baptists' commitment to cooperation in ministry and missions beyond the local church remains a hallmark in the 21st century.

As your church celebrates Baptist cooperation and determines your congregation's role in that effort, keep in mind our KBC heritage of visionary ministry to Kentucky and beyond.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tannis Henderson

Love held Jesus to the cross

By Micca Campbell

Goodlettsville, Tenn. (BP)—As a little girl, I remember gazing at a picture of the Crucifixion that hung on the wall in my Sunday school class. Christ's body was thin and hung limp to one side. His head and hung low as blood trickled down His face from the crown of thorns He humbly wore. It appeared that the nails in His hands and feet were what fastened Him to the cross. Soon I would discover it was something much more than nails that held Him there. It was the love of a heavenly Father for a sinner such as I.

Years later, I was a young adult when I saw the true picture of the Crucifixion in the Word of God. The Bible painted a different picture of Christ's death than the one I had known as a child. "Yet many shall be amazed when they see Him—yes, even far-off foreign nations and their kings; they shall stand dumbfounded, speechless in His presence. For they shall see and understand what they had not been told before. They shall see My Servant beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know it was a person standing there" (Isaiah 52:14-15, Living Bible). In that moment, I realized they had not simply nailed Christ to a cross, placed a crown of thorns upon His

head, gashed His side with a spear, spit in His face, gave Him vinegar to drink, gambled for His clothes and beat Him with a whip, but they beat Him until He became unrecognizable flesh hanging on a cross.

My mind suddenly flashed back to the first time I walked into the hospital room after my husband had been burned in a house fire. Porter's skin was completely black, his head had swollen to twice its normal size and the skin on his arms was gone. He was unrecognizable.

If Porter had been told ahead of time that working in that house would result in being burned over 80 percent of his body, suffering for eight days, leaving his wife and child behind in death, I'm sure he would have chosen not to go in. Not knowing what was ahead of him, Porter didn't have that choice, but Christ did.

Christ knew the horror of what men and women would do to Him and yet He chose to suffer. He chose the cross. He chose to leave heaven and come to earth. He left His Holy Father and His heavenly home to come to the dark land of sin and corruption. The King of all kings considered Himself nothing, a pauper at best. Born to die. He willingly paid the price for our freedom.

And yet, He was innocent. Christ

didn't deserve death. He had never sinned. Christ never lied. He never stole anything, never disobeyed His Father, never harbored hatred and bitterness toward others. He never spoke against His neighbor or yearned for His neighbor's wife. No, Jesus Christ didn't do any of this, but we did.

Suddenly, I saw myself at the foot of the cross. In one hand I held a hammer and in the other a whip. I, too, had nailed Christ there. It was my sin. Yet Christ was willing to die for me in my place as payment for all my past, present and future sins. It wasn't man's will or nails of iron that held Jesus there. It was the obedience of a Son and the love of a Father that held Christ on that cross. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Christ didn't die for me only, He died for "whosoever"—and that includes you. More so, if you were the only one in the world, He still would have come for you alone! Whosoever you are, a parent, a teenager, a man, a woman, a grandparent or a child, Christ chooses you. Will you choose Him and His death on the cross as payment for your sins? Your life will never be the same.

Micca Campbell is assistant director of Certified Speakers, a division of Proverbs 31 Ministries in Nashville

Some scholars ask: Do Pharisees get a bum rap?

"Some Pharisees were hypocrites, as, of course, were some Christians; others were not."

Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville

Continued from page 1

"Jesus, in so many of His teachings, is closer to the Pharisees and the Pharisees' understanding and belief than to the other sects of Judaism at the time," Drinkard added.

That's a far cry from how most Christians think of Pharisees.

After all, throughout the Gospels, Jesus often castigates them as "blind guides" who don't practice what they preach. Indeed, their name has become synonymous with hypocrite.

Some Christians even confuse the Pharisees with Jerusalem's Temple elite, those whom the Bible cites as calling for Jesus' crucifixion.

In truth, the Pharisees get "a bum rap," says Thomas Smith, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University in New Orleans and an early church historian.

History of Pharisees

"The Pharisees," he said, "were a major component of the 'glue' that held Judaism together after ... the destruction of the Temple" (in A.D. 70). Indeed, the Pharisees were the predecessors of the modern rabbis.

Drinkard noted that the New Testament includes descriptions of Pharisees who didn't oppose Jesus or His followers. The Pharisee Nicodemus, for example, earnestly



sought to understand Jesus' teachings in the Book of John.

"In Acts 5 when the disciples are brought in and being tried a second time, it's (Pharisee) Gamaliel who stands up and says, 'Let's be careful what we do. If this be of God, we dare not oppose it.'"

And Acts 15 includes a reference to early Christians who were Pharisees, he added.

Smith said Pharisees were in the lineage of scribes who first came to prominence at the end of the Babylonian exile in the sixth century B.C. They focused on careful interpretation of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, and in finding ways to make it applicable to everyday life.

By Jesus' day, the Pharisees had introduced two concepts into Jewish thinking, said Rabbi David Kline of Temple B'nai Israel, a Reform synagogue in Monroe, La. Kline also teaches biblical studies at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

The first was an oral tradition to complement the Torah. This tradition ultimately would form the foundation of the Talmud, a multi-volume Jewish sacred text. The second idea was even more revolutionary—a belief in an afterlife.

The Sadducees, Judaism's priestly caste which included the temple elite—including Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest who handed Jesus over for execution—did not share the Pharisees' belief in resurrection.

Was Jesus a Pharisee?

Jesus, however, obviously did. Indeed, as He is portrayed in the Gospels, Jesus shared a great deal in common with the Pharisees, including His teaching style.

"It's probably a bit beyond the evidence to say definitely that Jesus was a Pharisee," Smith said, "but it is a distinct possibility."

So why do the Gospels portray the Pharisees in such a negative light? The answer might reflect Christian attitudes at the time the Gospels were written more than attitudes during Jesus' day, Smith said.

The Gospel writers portrayed the Jewish religion as obsolete, and Jews as rejecting the true Messiah, he said.

Smith notes that Mark, the earliest of the Gospels, doesn't depict the Pharisees quite as harshly as

subsequent Gospels.

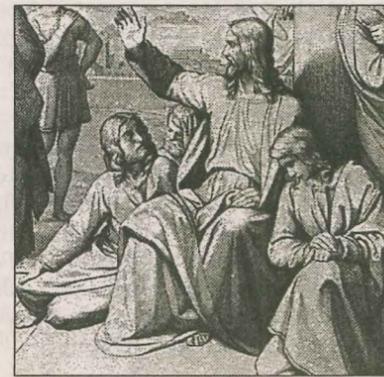
Madden said the Pharisees enjoyed argument, and it's quite conceivable they would have debated at length with Jesus over interpretations of the law.

But he suggested that the Gospels used the Pharisees mostly as foils for Jesus to provide a counterpoint to His teachings.

Amy-Jill Levine, a professor of New Testament studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, agrees.

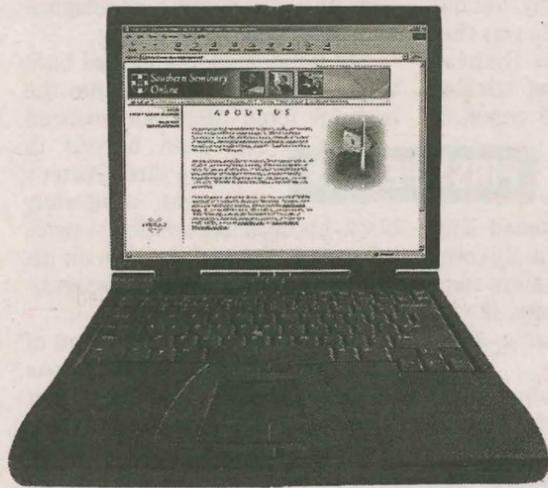
"For a modern, albeit inexact, analogy: The New Testament's depiction of Pharisees is much like the depiction of very liberal Democrats by very conservative Republicans, or vice versa," she said. "Some Pharisees were hypocrites, as, of course, were some Christians; others were not."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey



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Loss of a friend

Cedarmore's Sam Satterley showed Christ's character

March was a difficult month for our ministry. Sam Satterley, a faithful servant at Cedarmore for the last 40 years, passed from the earth to be with the Lord.

Sam, who served as Cedarmore's maintenance director, was diagnosed with cancer only a few short weeks ago. The diagnosis was a devastating one, yet the loss of our friend in such a short time was even more devastating. You see, Sam was one amazing person. Sam began his service at Cedarmore back in the time of tremendous expansion when Boone Lodge was constructed. He would share stories of carrying stones from the lake bed to be used in the walls of the dining hall and lobby.

Sam witnessed more history at Cedarmore than any other single person, and he could tell stories about people and events from each of the last four decades. Sam lived through the days when Cedarmore had nearly 15,000 visitors per year, and he witnessed times in which Cedarmore was used far less.

My family and I met Sam and his wife, Delores, when we lived

at Cedarmore while I served as associate director. From the moment you met Sam, you would have thought you had known him forever. I count Sam as a man who truly exhibited great contentment in God's provision and providence in any and all circumstances. Sam exhibited this in many ways. He and Delores were so faithful to pray in their prayer room, lifting up the needs of those they loved and even those they did not know.

All who knew him will miss his presence at Cedarmore. I will miss him as a great friend and brother in Christ. Although the loss is tremendous to many, Sam's love for the Lord will live on. His funeral service was a testimony of his faith and love for our Lord Jesus. He touched so many people through the years. He will be remembered as a faithful servant, husband, father, grandfather, deacon, prayer warrior and friend.

Please continue to remember his wife, Delores, his sons, Owen and Doug, and their families.

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



David Melber

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Rebecca Souder

Across

- 1 "The ____ of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23)
- 5 "Jesus Christ our ____" (Romans 1:3)
- 9 Civil Servant, abbr.
- 11 "To God ____ wise, be glory" (Romans 16:27)
- 12 "Walk in the ____, as he is" (1 John 1:7)
- 13 Of age, Lat. abbr.
- 14 "The fallow ____" (Deuteronomy 14:5)
- 15 "The grace ____ our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all" (Revelation 22:21)
- 16 Tender loving care, abbr.
- 17 "Whom I ____ with my spirit in the gospel" (Romans 1:9)
- 19 "The Word was made flesh, and ____ among us" (John 1:14)
- 21 New England state, abbr.
- 22 Electrical engineer, abbr.
- 23 Abraham's wife (Genesis 12:5)
- 24 Southern continent, abbr.
- 25 "We have seen his ____ in the east" (Matthew 2:2)
- 26 All news station, abbr.
- 27 "He ever ____ to make intercession" (Hebrews 7:25)
- 31 Heligram, abbr.
- 32 Got down
- 33 "And ____ himself in water" (Leviticus 15:5)
- 36 "My heart's desire and prayer to God for ____ is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1)
- 39 "One ____ stretched forth his hand ... unto the fire" (Ezekiel 10:7)
- 42 French article
- 43 Assistant, abbr.
- 44 "... and shall call his name ____" (Isaiah 7:14)

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49	50					51				52	
53			54								

- 48 Biblical land: ____ of the Chaldees
- 49 "I am the true ____" (John 15:1)
- 51 "He ____ again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:4)
- 52 Spring month
- 53 Preposition
- 54. "His name shall be called ____" (Isaiah 9:6)

Down

- 1 "For ____ is my witness" (Romans 1:9)
- 2 Chemical suffix
- 3 "... that Jesus Christ is come in the ____ is of God" (1 John 4:2)
- 4 "The coasts of ____" (Matthew 15:21)
- 5 "He that hath the Son hath ____" (1 John 5:12)
- 6 King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33)
- 7 The damsel that opened the door for Peter (Acts 12:13)
- 8 Dental technician, abbr.
- 9 "That ye may know what is the hope of his ____" (Ephesians 1:18)
- 10 "After the most straitest ____ of our religion I lived a Pharisee" (Acts 26:5)
- 12 "He that ____ not knoweth not God" (1 John 4:8)

- 16 "When for the time ye ought to be ____" (Hebrews 5:12)
- 18 "We which have believed do enter into ____" (Hebrews 4:3)
- 20 American actor and humorist, initials
- 21 "... put my finger into the print of the ____" (John 20:25)
- 23 Jr. 's dad
- 24 "The Lamb that was ____" (Revelation 5:12)
- 28 Mary was a ____ when Christ was born
- 29 When you'll reach your destination, more or less, abbr.
- 30 Bachelor of Theology, abbr.
- 34 "Do not think that I will ____ you to the Father" (John 5:45)
- 35 "Come down, and ____ his son" (John 4:47)
- 37 Shade tree (Hosea 4:13)
- 38 "Take my yoke upon you, and ____ of me" (Matthew 11:29)
- 40 Habitual
- 41 Battery, abbr.
- 45 Kitten's cry
- 46 Biblical land (Genesis 4:16)
- 47 Before, poetic
- 49 South Carolina's neighbor to the north, abbr.
- 50 Neuter pronoun
- 52 Missouri University, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	H	O	L	Y	3	G	H	4	S	6	T	7	U	R
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NATIONAL NOTES

Gallup: Republicans more "religious." Republicans are more "religious" than either Democrats or independents, according to a new Gallup Poll. Gallup's annual survey of leading religious indicators, which measures religiosity on a 1,000-point scale, gave Republicans a score of 722, while Democrats got 653 and independents scored 581. In a series of seven categories used to score the index—from church attendance to confidence in organized religion and whether or not religion is "important in life"—Republicans consistently rank higher than Democrats.

Atheist loses case involving chaplains. A judge recently dismissed a lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of congressional chaplains. Michael Newdow, who also filed the suit protesting the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, had contended that the legislative prayers of chaplains violate the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. He also hoped the court would halt the salaries of congressional chaplains. Judge Henry Kennedy of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia determined that Newdow lacked standing for his complaint about being offended by an April 2003 prayer uttered by a guest chaplain when he visited the Senate.

State puts marriage amendment on ballot. Georgia's House of Representatives passed a state constitutional marriage amendment March 31, sending the issue to voters this fall. Georgia is the second state this year to send a constitutional marriage amendment to voters. Utah is the other. Georgia has a law banning same-sex "marriage," but some legislators say an amendment is needed to prevent Georgia's state court from declaring a state constitutional right to same-sex marriage.

Out of prison, former Baptist leader back in pulpit. Former prison inmate Henry Lyons, the past president of the National Baptist Convention USA, has become an interim pastor and is getting remarried. He has accepted a position as interim pastor of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, a struggling congregation in Tampa, Fla., the St. Petersburg Times reported. That church split from Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, where Lyons used to serve as pastor. Lyons was released from prison in November after being convicted of state grand theft and racketeering charges for swindling millions from the corporate partners of the denomination.

Bill would offer money for security at houses of worship

Washington (RNS)—A bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled a \$100 million bill earlier this month that they say will help protect "soft targets" such as churches and synagogues from terrorist attacks.

The High-Risk Non-Profit Security Enhancement Act would open \$50 million in government grants to allow hospitals, theaters and houses of worship to beef up security.

The money could not be spent on routine security systems that are "reasonably necessary due to nonterrorist threats," but instead for concrete barricades, shatter-proofing windows and fortifying entrances.

An additional \$50 million would be available for local police departments to provide additional security to areas with high concentrations of at-risk targets, such as hospitals, schools or museums.

"It's not a question of if, but when, where and at what magnitude our charities ... will face a very catastrophic event," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn. "That is the reality."

Supporters say the bill protects the separation of church and state by delivering money to middleman contractors who will install the new security measures, and will not directly fund faith-based groups.

Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, major landmarks like Washington National Cathedral have increased security and vigilance, particularly at heavily attended events such as holidays or public services.

'Get on the right track'

Even late-arriving students getting help reaching major life-changing goals

Last week I shared the story of a young man who had been here for seven years. We wish we could have all of our students for seven years, but we know that is not realistic. We believe the longer students remain at Oneida, the greater our opportunity to make lasting, positive changes in their lives.

While the ideal situation is to have students here for many years, we realize some students will enroll rather late in their school years. It concerns us when we hear about a student who needs to enroll in his junior or senior year of high school. Normally, if the student needs to be here at this time in his life, it means he had needs earlier that simply have gotten worse. If we could have had him sooner, say at the beginning of his freshman year, quite possibly the current needs never would have developed. Additionally, the extra time at Oneida gives us the opportunity to help students develop other life-changing skills.

One reason our school is on a quarter system is to facilitate our students who need to enroll throughout the academic year. Actually, we enroll students nearly every week. "Arthur" (not his real name) needed to enroll in the middle of the second quarter of his senior year.

Arthur is an older student who had been experiencing some challenging situations at home over which he had no control. His parents were separating, and Arthur recently had experienced the death of two close friends. Without the stability of a family, he made some bad decisions that eventually caused him to drop out of

school. He lived with his mom for a while and later with his father. When things did not go well with either of them, he moved in with his grandparents and later lived with a friend.

Arthur began to realize his mistakes and thought about getting his GED. A friend asked him to consider Oneida Baptist Institute. Arthur knew a little about OBI and began the process of seeing if it would be possible for him to enroll. He had been saving money from his part-time job to help with the expenses of returning to school if the opportunity arose.

When we first met Arthur, he appeared to be a young man who had lost hope and did not know how to get himself out of the predicament he had gotten into. He told us he had an interest in computers and possibly singing in the choir and being involved in drama. He also told us he wanted to get closer to God. I first noticed Arthur during breakfast one morning when I saw that he had taken time to give

thanks before eating. Arthur told us he wanted "to get on the right track" and we believe he has. He has been a hard worker in the classroom and with his after-school job. It would have been better if we could have had him three or four years ago, but he will be able to reach his goal of graduating this May.

Because of his home situation, Arthur was able to afford only a few dollars a month room and board. Our many friends, including those who give to the Father's Day Offering, help Arthur and many other students with special financial needs.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Before you smash the keyboard

Here are some alternatives to cope with ministry stress

I teach my preaching students to reap the harvest of the eye; to look around for examples to illustrate the life message they want to communicate. All of us who use a computer sometimes are tempted to smash the keyboard. Here are a few suggestions that your eye already might have reaped.

Consider the "Esc" button. Ever want to escape when that cantankerous member calls on the phone or enters the parking lot? David pondered the escape approach (Psalm 55). Some things we can't escape; we have to stay and face it. Some things we better escape—gossip, procrastination, hurried unprofessional work. Trying to meet ministry commitments under stress, the Lord provides authentic ways of escape (1 Corinthians 10: 23).

Consider the "Insert" button. Before we smash the keyboard, why not insert a positive attitude and bold action. Remember Esther? Insert a sense of humor. Has your spouse said recently, "You're not much fun anymore?" In his book "Laugh Again," Chuck Swindoll encourages us to give "the child

within us permission to look at life and laugh again."

Consider the "Delete" button. Practice loving forgiveness. That's difficult because we don't forget or we want to get even. We'll smash it all up if we don't insert some forgiving love.

Consider the "Pause/Break" button. Do you need to pause to develop relationships? That's been a weakness of my ministry. Get off the road and out from behind the desk and go to lunch with a colleague. Remember that walk Jesus took to Emmaus? They recognized Him while eating.

Consider the "Ctrl" button. We have to use the control button in combination with other computer commands. When tempted to smash the keyboard of life, let's remember Who has control. Without Him we can do nothing. We could claim as our motto the slogan of the Kosher National Meat Company, "We work for a Higher Authority."

Before you smash the keyboard, and smash out at life, just look a little longer at the buttons. There are alternatives.

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



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a Service of Worship & Celebration

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Reception Following Service

Calvary Baptist Church

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Friday, May 28, 2004

Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club
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Feeling God's protection



TRAINING OTHERS An Van Pham teaches a training conference for ethnic church planters. Pham said he knows God has a plan for his life. "If I follow that plan, many people will come to faith in Him." (NAMB photo by Paul Obregon)

Missionary endured prison, danger at sea

By Joe Westbury
Georgia Christian Index

Atlanta—God has uniquely protected An Van Pham so that he could serve God in Vietnam and in Georgia.

His father was killed in front of him during the war in his native Vietnam. After accepting Christ, he was imprisoned, but was reaching so many people for Christ he objected to being released. And, he and his family survived a death-riddled voyage as they escaped Communist Vietnam.

Today, Pham helps start and support Asian churches in Georgia. He and his wife, Lienhoa, are among nearly 5,200 missionaries in the United States and Canada supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Life was not easy when Pham grew up in war-torn South Vietnam. Active in church, he was baptized at age 12. But one day the war, which had raged around him but never touched him, came to his village.

"Something happened the night the communists came to my village and killed my father," he said. "I remember seeing my father's body, his blood on the ground, and wondering where I would go for eternity if the communists also killed me? I was barely a teenager, but I understood that my father was with Christ that night because he had accepted Him into his heart."

"That night I began to cry—not just for my father's death, but for my sins. I knew I had never personally asked God into my heart, and I understood that He let my father die so that He could save me."

Prison "cell groups"

In 1975 when South Vietnam fell to the communists, he was jailed along with thousands of others who were known to be sympathetic to the Americans. That's when a sec-



An Van and Lienhoa Pham

ond miracle occurred in his life.

"For the first six months in prison I was so angry with God. I constantly asked why He allowed the communists to win the war and close the churches. I asked Him why He called me to be a pastor and then sent me to jail? Since I didn't receive a response I stopped praying and cut off my relationship with Him."

Months later, disease spread through the prison and nearly half of the prisoners began to die for lack of medicine, he recalled.

"I noticed that my body was turning red, I had fever, and I felt like my body was shrinking. I knew that I was dying and that there was only one option. I needed to restore my relationship with God. When I prayed and asked forgiveness of my sins He brought another miracle into my life; my health began to improve."

Pham began ministering and witnessing to other prisoners.

Pham said God used that experience to teach him a lesson about the value of small groups.

"I learned from that day that God wanted me to serve Him through cell groups. When you are in prison, you have no Bible, so you have to teach others one-on-one. It's actually quite easy. So I began to win people to Christ, to train them, then equip them to be cell group leaders to reach others."

"After three years I cannot tell you how many cell groups were begun in that prison," he said. "Then one day a guard came to my room and told me I had served my time and could go home. I asked him if I could stay. He said 'Are you An Van Pham?' I said yes, and he said 'You go home now. You cannot stay here any longer.'"

Pham said God taught him that wherever he goes God has a plan for his life to reach others with the gospel.

Adrift at sea during escape

Late one night Pham, his wife, his baby son and 120 others, covered by a simple fish net, fled the country in a small boat. After many days their engine failed and drifted on the sea. Many people died from starvation and dehydration, and their bodies were slipped over the side.

But the survivors eventually were rescued off the coast of Thailand. A Southern Baptist missionary carried Pham's son—whom previously was thought dead and almost thrown overboard—to a hospital where he revived. The family lived in a refugee camp until they immigrated to the United States.

Pham was appointed as a missionary in 1987, working with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

With the same dedication he had in prison, today Pham travels the state as he helps plant churches among the growing Asian population. Just as in his prison days, he finds himself winning unbelievers to Christ, helping train them, and then sending them out as missionaries to their friends.

Pham said he knows the needs of Asians in Georgia, and he's grateful that Baptists share in his ministry through the Easter offering and the Cooperative Program.

"Each year we give our money to support the work of our missionaries, and God blesses that faithfulness. He multiplies every penny to further His Kingdom."

Answered prayer



SOMETHING TO CHEER Missionaries Stephanie Smith (above) and her husband, Ross, saw 15 people related to their hockey team become Christians while they were being prayed for during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

Missionaries see team members accept Christ during prayer week

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

St. Paul, Minn. (BP)—Missionaries featured in the Week of Prayer for North American Missions often feel the prayers of thousands of Southern Baptists, but rarely is it felt as directly as this year with Ross and Stephanie Smith.

The Saturday night before the March 7-14 Week of Prayer—when they already had heard from hundreds of individuals and groups who had been praying for their hockey ministry—about half of their Minnesota Northern Lights hockey team made professions of faith in Christ.

"We've been planting seeds all season, but right during the North American Missions Emphasis we had 12 players accept Christ, as well as two girlfriends and a dad," said Stephanie Smith, an athletic trainer who serves as a missionary in a youth evangelism role with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. "To us it's proof that the concentrated prayers of everybody really paid off."

The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is part of Southern Baptists' annual emphasis on missions in the United States and Canada. Smith is one of eight missionaries whose ministries were highlighted in 8 million pieces of literature sent to Southern Baptists as a way of representing the work of all 5,176 NAMB missionaries.

The decisions of the hockey team members and family members came after nearly two months of ministry opportunities and a general sense that God was moving supernaturally—including hundreds of professions of faith within the hockey community at an outreach breakfast sponsored by another ministry.

"Amazing to see God at work"

"The prayers during the North American Missions Emphasis have affected everything exponentially beyond what we could have imagined," Smith said. "It is amazing to see God at work, and we want the churches and those who have been praying to know they have been involved in what God is doing."

The Northern Lights are a junior-level hockey team operated by the Smiths as a way of bringing a Christian influence to the hockey community, a group that is largely unreached with the gospel.

While the team operates on distinctly Christian principles and many staff members are Christians, only three of the players on this year's roster previously professed to follow Christ.

Smith said that throughout the year the staff has tried to be responsive to players without making them feel like they were being coerced into accepting Christ.

"We have been planting seeds all season long, and in the past few weeks our staff had really been opening up to some of the players individually," she said, adding that the movie "The Passion of the Christ" had a strong impact on many of the players as well.

Then, during a dinner provided by a church mission team, the time seemed right to extend an invitation to players and their family members who wished to make a commitment.

"We told them, 'We know that many of you have voiced questions, and before we go our separate paths at the end of the season, we want to make sure every single person had heard the truth,'" she said.

"A lot of them had been turned off by religion in the past ... but we just really felt like this was the time, and obviously it was God."

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries throughout Kentucky:

■ **Haven of Rest Family Ministries in Inez** Mission Service Corps missionary Eileen Mullins' ministry to families of prisoners will open this spring after the first inmates arrive at the Big Sandy Prison in Martin County. Haven of Rest will provide lodging, meals, encouragement and spiritual counsel to those who visit loved ones at the prison. Pray that family members and friends who receive care from the Christian staff will have hearts open to the gospel of Christ and the restoration He offers.

■ **Rocky Hill Heights Ministry Center in McKee.** Irving Baptist Association and McKee Baptist Church have partnered in a ministry to families in the Rocky Hill Heights multi-housing complex. Director of Missions Bill Nichols is excited they have started construction on a ministry center adjacent to the housing complex. The ministry reaches 35 to 40 children per week through after-school clubs and evangelistic events. Pray for volunteers and materials to complete the building. Pray also for faithful workers who will share themselves and the witness of Jesus with the children.

■ **Bethel and Logan Associations in Russellville.** Director of Missions Rob Johnson and the administrative committees of Bethel and Logan associations are prayerfully considering a merger. Their hope is to form a stronger and more "Kingdom-minded" approach to ministry. Pray for godly wisdom and guidance as the committees consider policies, procedures and strategies. Pray, too, for unity and a cooperative spirit as the churches of these two associations make this decision.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEATTYVILLE**—Faith Church recently called **Paul Hubbs** as pastor.

■ **BEREA**—Calvary Church recently called **Michael Barnes** as pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—Second Church will host its 50th anniversary celebration and homecoming April 25. **Roger James** is pastor.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Mount Pisgah Church will hold revival services April 25, 10:45 a.m., and April 26-28, 7 p.m. **Roger Felker** is pastor.

■ **ERLANGER**—Anchor Church recently ordained **Brad Treas** to the gospel ministry and ordained **Elmer Bales** and **Tim Frazier** as deacons. **Darryl Crenshaw** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will honor Pastor **Robert DeFoor** and his wife, **Sandy**, April 18, 11 a.m., for 25 years of ministry to the church. There also will be a special meal after the service.

■ **HICKMAN**—East Hickman Church will hold revival services April 18-21, 7 p.m., with **Pat Kough** as evangelist. **Ben Stratton** is pastor.

■ **KUTTAWA**—Macedonia Church will hold revival services April 18, 11 a.m., and April 19-21, 7 p.m., with **C.C. Brasher** as evangelist. **John Hagan** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Broadway Church recently called **Kendall Shuler** as minister of adult education and discipleship.

Cloverleaf Church will host **Safe Harbor** in concert April 16, 7:30 p.m. For more information,

call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacey** is pastor.

Valley View Church recently licensed **Derrick Snyder** to the gospel ministry.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will hold revival services April 18-21 with **Charles Sullivan** as evangelist.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Brindle Ridge Church will hold revival services April 19-24, 7 p.m., with **Mike Calihan** as evangelist. **Ron Roberts** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—Several churches in Eastern Kentucky will help sponsor the "Women for Christ" conference April 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg. **Ashley Hartley** of Gastonia, N.C., will be the keynote speaker. For information, call (606) 432-2660.

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

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Salem Church recently called **Bill George** as interim pastor.

■ **SMITHLAND**—Dyer Hill Church will hold revival services April 18-21, 7 p.m., with **Jeremy Short** as evangelist.

■ **VINE GROVE**—New Salem Church recently called **Chuck Gilkey** as minister of youth. He is a student at Boyce College in Louisville. **Gene Waggoner** is pastor.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church will hold revival services April 19-23, 7 p.m. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

24 Kentucky Baptist men's chorale concert, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.

25 Kentucky Baptist men's chorale concert, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

26-27 Church Secretaries Conference, KBC building, Louisville.

27 Senior Adult Celebration, Third Baptist Church, Owensboro.

29 Senior Adult Celebration, Edgewood Baptist Church, Nicholasville.

30 State Children's Bible Drill, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

30 State Children's Bible Drill, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

May

1-2 Baptist Men on Mission equestrian trail ride, Mammoth Cave National Park.

1 State Children's Bible Drill, Greenwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

1 State Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

6 Start-A-Class Tour, Crittenden Baptist Church.

11 Senior Adult Celebration, Scottsville Baptist Church.

13 Senior Adult Celebration, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.

15 Regional Keyboard Festival, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

17 Start-a-Class Tour, Campton Baptist Church, Campton.

17 Women of Worth lifestyle evangelism conference, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

18 Start-a-Class Tour, Salvisa Baptist Church.

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

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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: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Carmi, Ill. Church is located in southern Illinois, with a resident membership of approximately 400, in a city of 5,500. This church is a traditional Southern Baptist church with a strong mission emphasis. Please contact or forward resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 245, Carmi, IL 62821, Attn: Randy Warrick, search committee chairman.

SEEKING: Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., is seeking an experienced person of Christian faith to be on the cutting edge of student ministry. Seeking enthusiasm for students; a heart for God; creativity; strong organizational, relational and communication skills. Responsibilities include the development of age-appropriate Bible educational goals, recruiting and leading both volunteer and paid staff, and administrative duties consistent with a large church and ministry team. Respond to IBC Personnel Committee, 3100 Tates Creek Road, Lexington, KY 40502, or DiannaL@ibc-lex.org.

SEEKING: Part-time (1/2 to 3/4 time) youth minister for Immanuel Baptist, Henderson, Ky. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 540 2nd St., Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for Glasgow Baptist Church, Glasgow, Ky., with experience in leading adult, senior citizens, youth & children's choirs. Duties consist of leading music in all services. Our church is conservative and biblical in theology and averages 300. Contact: Search Committee, Glasgow Baptist Church, 401 S Green St., Glasgow, KY 42141. Attn: Bill Brogan.

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister. Responsibilities include coordinating all activities for a ministry of over 100 children (infants through 6th graders). Experience leading children's programs required, as well as the ability to work with parents, teachers and staff. Cover letter and resumé should be sent to: Westside Baptist Church, 207 Robertson Road South, Murray, KY 42071, Attn: Kyle Evans, or e-mail to westsidebaptist@charter.net.

SEEKING: Executive director needed to lead a non-profit crisis pregnancy center. Must be highly motivated to direct personnel and oversee operations of a fast-growing agency. Areas of responsibility will be administrative, development, fund-raising, as well as community, church and public relations. Training of staff and volunteers is essential. A minimum of a bachelor's degree and/or three years of related experience is required. Please send resumé to: Two Hearts PCC, 300 Oxcart Drive, Ashland, KY 41101, or call (606) 327-6322.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Evergreen Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Pastor Selection Committee, Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Website: evergreenbaptistchurch.us. E-mail: pssc@evergreenbaptistchurch.us.

SEEKING: Full-time minister with youth and young adults. Trinity Baptist is affiliated with CBF and SBC; our multi-racial spiritual family includes exceptionals and foster families. See www.yourtrinity.com for job description. Submit resumé ASAP to 1675 Strader Drive, Lexington, KY 40505. Fax: (859) 254-6795.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Resumé accepted until April 18. Lancaster Baptist Church, 201 Richmond Street, Lancaster, KY 40444.

SEEKING: Associate pastor of music and worship; fast-growing area; prefer seminary grad in music. Send resumé and/or recommendations to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 2230 Lake Saint Louis Blvd., Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367; or e-mail to easterwood@infiniplex.net.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister (paid position; grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Also seeking a part-time music minister. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Brent Highfill, or call (270) 965-2149. turnerchandler@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time music/education minister. Submit resumé to: Elkton Baptist Church, PO Box 547, Elkton, KY 42220, or e-mail elktonbaptist@kih.net.

SEEKING: Part-time director of children's ministry. Responsible for all aspects of providing ministry to children, elementary grades 1-5. Bachelor's degree in education preferred and/or combination of college degree and experience of three or more years leading children's programs. Ability to build and maintain effective working relationships and rapport with children, parents and staff is required. Compensation includes salary, vacation and pro-rated benefits. Position might be upgraded to full-time in the future. Send cover letter, resumé, salary history and available starting date to: Richard Landers, FBC, PO Box 697, Richmond, KY 40476-0697; or via e-mail to: richard.landiers@firstbaptistnet.com.

SEEKING: Established, growing church seeks minister of worship for blended services as well as all-out contemporary worship. 20 hrs/week. Brad Chase, Crestwood Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky. (502) 695-2088.

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Jesus films

More coming to theaters near you after success of Gibson's 'Passion'

By Ted Parks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—So how many times did Jesus die?

That depends on how accurately you add up the long list of movies about Him during the last 100-plus years of cinema history.

And how many more times He will be crucified on screen depends on whether the current passion for movies about the gospel story translates into an entertainment trend.

With Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" generating a loud buzz—and a big box office—other films about Jesus also are appearing on the big or small screen or are currently in production.

Another Jesus movie in theaters—and now on DVD—is "The Gospel of John" by Toronto-based Visual Bible International.

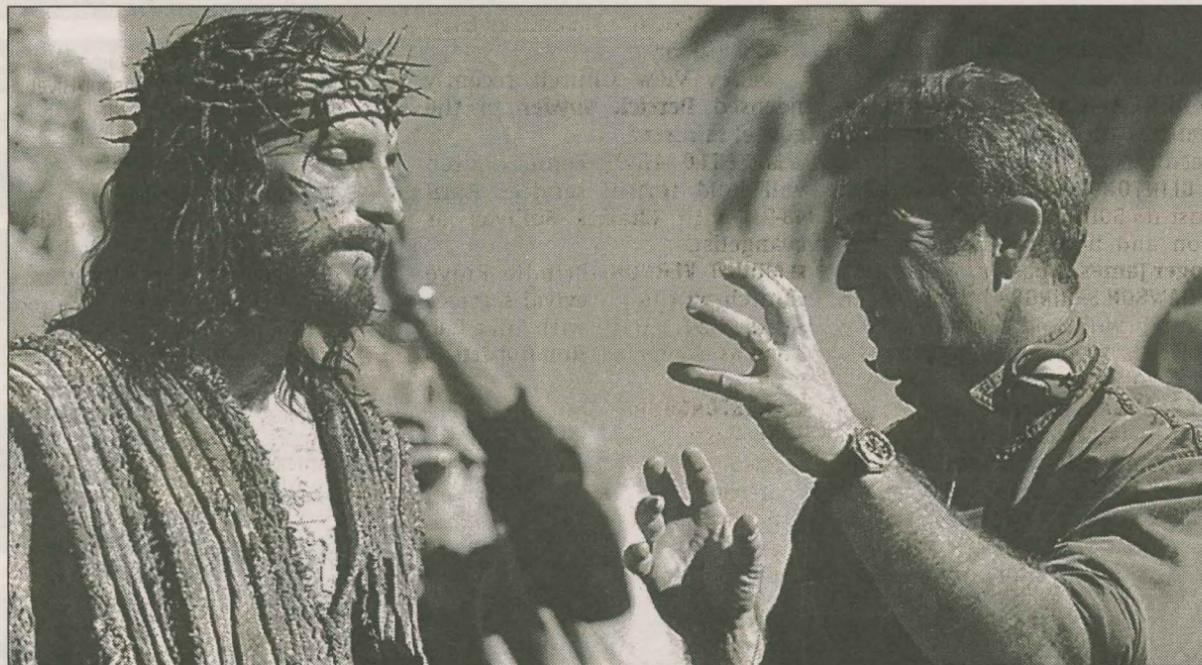
The Canadian-made film reproduces one New Testament Gospel word-for-word. The lines spoken by the actors and narrator—film great Christopher Plummer—come straight from the American Bible Society's Good News Bible, a translation in contemporary English.

Judas, Mark and "Man Dancin'"

But "The Passion of the Christ" and "The Gospel of John" aren't the only choices for seeing the Bible on the screen.

"Judas," a movie that fills in gaps about the betrayer of Jesus while also offering insights into Jesus Himself, aired on ABC Television in early March. With the movie shot during the summer of 2001, ABC reportedly held onto the film, eventually deciding to air it to coincide with "The Passion."

Still more Jesus movies are on



ROLE MODEL Director Mel Gibson talks to Jim Caviezel, who plays Jesus in "The Passion of The Christ." The film's success, earning more than \$300 million at the box office, could spur more films about Christ, observers say. (Photo by Philippe Antonello. © 2003 Icon Distribution Inc. All Rights Reserved.)

screens or in the works overseas. "Man Dancin'," a movie set in modern-day Scotland, weaves the gospel story into what the film's director Norman Stone described as a "witty, gritty, Glasgow gangster film." The movie opened in Britain in February. Meanwhile, a continent away, South African director Regardt van den Bergh is preparing to shoot "The Lamb," a film that tells the story of Jesus from the perspective of a Jewish family living in ancient Israel in Jesus' time.

And back in North America, makers of "The Gospel of John" plan to begin filming "The Gospel of Mark" in a couple of months, a Jesus movie based on what scholars widely acknowledge as the oldest of the New Testament Gospels.

A trend? Many experts say no, pointing to a long tradition of Jesus movies that seem to come in spurts rather than a steady stream.

"I don't think there's going to be a rash of many more films," direc-

tor Stone said, suspecting, however, that the current productions about Jesus will inspire more attention to spiritual themes in the movies.

Getting people thinking

Nancy Mockros, a California-based scholar specializing in theology, film and television, also pointed out that gospel-themed movies seem to come out in groups, each series having its own motivations and modes of portraying Jesus.

Mockros noted that several gospel-related films made at the end of the 1990s—among them ABC's model-animation feature "The Miracle Maker" and the CBS show "Jesus: The Epic Miniseries"—resulted from the climate of thought at the turn of the millennium.

As for the latest movies about the Gospel, Mockros wonders if somewhere in the background might be the big questions on people's minds after Sept. 11.

"I think 9-11 has a lot to do with

... people just becoming more introspective about life," South African director van den Bergh said. A Christian believer, the director suggested that society's current interest in spiritual matters is providential. "If there is a trend, ... then it is out of a need," he added.

Frank Desiderio, president of Paulist Productions, maker of ABC's "Judas," observed that artists have for years "filled in the blanks left by Scripture," supplementing a minimalist biblical narrative with their creative work.

In the 1970s, filmmakers converted Jesus into a hippie in "Jesus Christ Superstar," Desiderio said. A decade and a half later, the controversial "The Last Temptation of Christ" reflected society's changing mores by portraying a very human Jesus dreaming about sexual relations with Mary Magdalene.

Desiderio added, "Every generation wants to interpret Jesus for itself."

Gallup poll: Fewer people playing lotteries, but more going to casinos

Nashville (BP)—The percentage of Americans who play the lottery has dropped significantly in recent years while the percentage who visit casinos has risen slightly, a Gallup poll shows.

The poll suggests that for the first time since Gallup began asking the question, half of Americans aren't playing the lottery.

Specifically, 49 percent of Americans say they haven't bought a lottery ticket in the past year, while 51 percent say they have. The data reflects an 8-percentage point swing from 1999, when 57 percent of Americans said they had played the lottery and 43 percent said they hadn't. In 1996, 57 percent of those polled said they had played the lottery; in 1992 it was 56 percent.

But the news isn't all good for gambling foes.

Thirty percent of Americans say they have visited a casino within the past year—an increase from 1996 when it was 27 percent and

from 1992 when it was 21 percent.

With the exception of casino-playing, participation in every form of gambling is down.

Combining all forms of gambling, including office pools, Gallup estimates that 66 percent of Americans have gambled in some form in the past 12 months.

Other findings include:

■ Men are more likely to gamble. Seventy-five percent of men said they have gambled in the past year compared to 57 percent of women.

■ Churchgoers are less likely to gamble. Seventy-four percent of those who seldom or never attend church said they've gambled in the past year, compared to 52 percent of those who attend church weekly.

■ Fifteen percent said they've participated in an office pool, a decrease from 25 percent in 1999.

■ Six percent said they sometimes gamble too much or that gambling is a source of problems within their family.

Report: 'Passion' popular throughout Middle East

Kuwait City, Kuwait (BP)—Mel Gibson's "The Passion of The Christ" is drawing large and enthusiastic crowds to theaters in the Arab world, according to Christians in that region.

News reports from the Middle East indicate a high level of popular interest—and surprising openness among governmental and religious leaders toward the movie, which graphically depicts the last 12 hours of Jesus' life.

Muslims respect Jesus as a prophet in the same way they regard Moses and Muhammad. Though they have been taught that He did not die on the cross or rise from the dead, they believe He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life.

Christians in the region said widespread viewing of the film could leapfrog barriers of confusion and give large numbers of Muslims an opportunity to understand who Jesus is, according to a report circulated by the Joel News organization.

"The film is so popular here that they have been canceling the other films to show 'The Passion' in all the theatres at the cinema complex," said a Christian living in Kuwait.

Audiences in Qatar were deeply moved by the sight of Jesus' suffering, according to a Christian living in that country.

Accusations that "The Passion" is anti-Semitic actually have sparked Arab interest in seeing it, the Christian in Qatar said. Since Arab Muslims are taught to hate Jews, they want to see "The Passion."

"The message to love your enemies, and Jesus praying for them to be forgiven while on the cross, would hit the Muslim theatergoer in a powerful way," the believer said.

Canadian Christian bookstore won't sell latest book in 'Left Behind' series

Vancouver, British Columbia (RNS)—One of the largest Christian bookstores in Canada has refused to stock the latest book in the most popular Christian fiction series of all time, saying it promotes a dangerous worldview.

Regent College Bookstore, which is affiliated with a world-renowned evangelical graduate school in Vancouver, won't be selling the 12th installment in the phenomenally popular "Left Behind" series, which was released April 6 across North America to huge fanfare.

Although many Christian and mainstream bookstores in Canada have begun to sell the series' final book, "Glorious Appearing," a manager at Regent College Bookstore said the Christian books "mix a dangerous theology with politics, and we don't want to sell it."

Ian Panth, whose Christian bookstore is a nonprofit arm of Regent College, on the University of British Columbia campus, said last week: "The book is very American-centric. It suggests the United States is successful because it has supported the state of Israel. It portrays the Antichrist as a Romanian who has risen up to take over the United Nations. It also paints the European Union as entirely demonic."

Most of the faculty at the evangelical Christian graduate school, Panth said, are appalled by the bad writing and bad theology in the apocalyptic series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, which has sold more than 40 million copies.

In "Glorious Appearing," Jesus returns to Earth and violently destroys non-Christians, including Jews who refuse to convert.

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY



New York City, NY



San Vito, Costa Rica

Servant Leaders at C.U.

Campbellsville University sends out servant leaders each break – students with a mission. Students are given the opportunity during fall, winter, spring and summer breaks to go to various parts of the nation and world, not to lay on a beach or to sleep throughout the day, but to spread God's word. Over spring break, C.U. sent teams of students to three sites in the U.S. and three foreign countries. C.U. students were placed out of their "comfort zones" as one student defined it, and given the chance to speak to what Janelle Rogers, a freshman from London, Ky. called "the forgotten ones."

Rogers was somewhat overwhelmed when she stepped into one of the largest cities in the world, New York City, to spread God's word. However, when returning to C.U.,

her sentiments were, "We could do so much more. I can do so much more."

Caspir Lilly of Bowling Green, Ky., also a freshman, and an aspiring missionary, said his dreams were reaffirmed on his mission to Costa Rica. Lilly said, "It (*spring break missions*) showed me that I am supposed to be a missionary and that God wants me."

Caspir and Janelle are just two examples of the power of serving and learning through missions at Campbellsville University.

For more information, contact us by calling 1.800.264.6014 or 270.789.5220 or visit us online at www.campbellsville.edu.

Find Your Calling at Campbellsville University

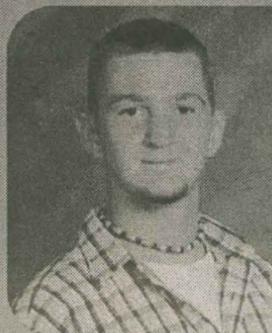
**"out
of our
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zones"**

Spring Break Missions



"We could do so much more. I can do so much more."

Janelle Rogers
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"It showed me that I am supposed to be a missionary."

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