

April 20, 2004  
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FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS**Annie Armstrong**  
Meet John and Kim Piepmeier. *Page 13.***Poll: Two-thirds of Web surfers seeking religion****Washington (RNS)**—Nearly two-thirds of American adults with Internet access have used it for spiritual or faith-related reasons, according to a recent study released by the Pew Internet and American Life project.

The 82 million Americans who use the Internet for religious activities represent 64 percent of all wired adults in the United States.

The study found that one-third of U.S. Internet users have sent or received e-mail with religious content or spiritual greeting cards, or go online to read current religion news. Others look for information about religious services and holidays. The trend is about the same across different denominations, pollsters said.

Half of the online faithful said they attend church at least once a week and 33 percent describe themselves as evangelicals. Most (69 percent) said they use the Internet for personal spiritual growth, not for work related to their places of worship. Only 14 percent said they use the Internet to plan church-related meetings, which the report called surprising.

Half of those who use the Internet for spiritual purposes are women, 83 percent are white and half are college-educated. They are also likely to be wealthy and between 30 and 49 years old.

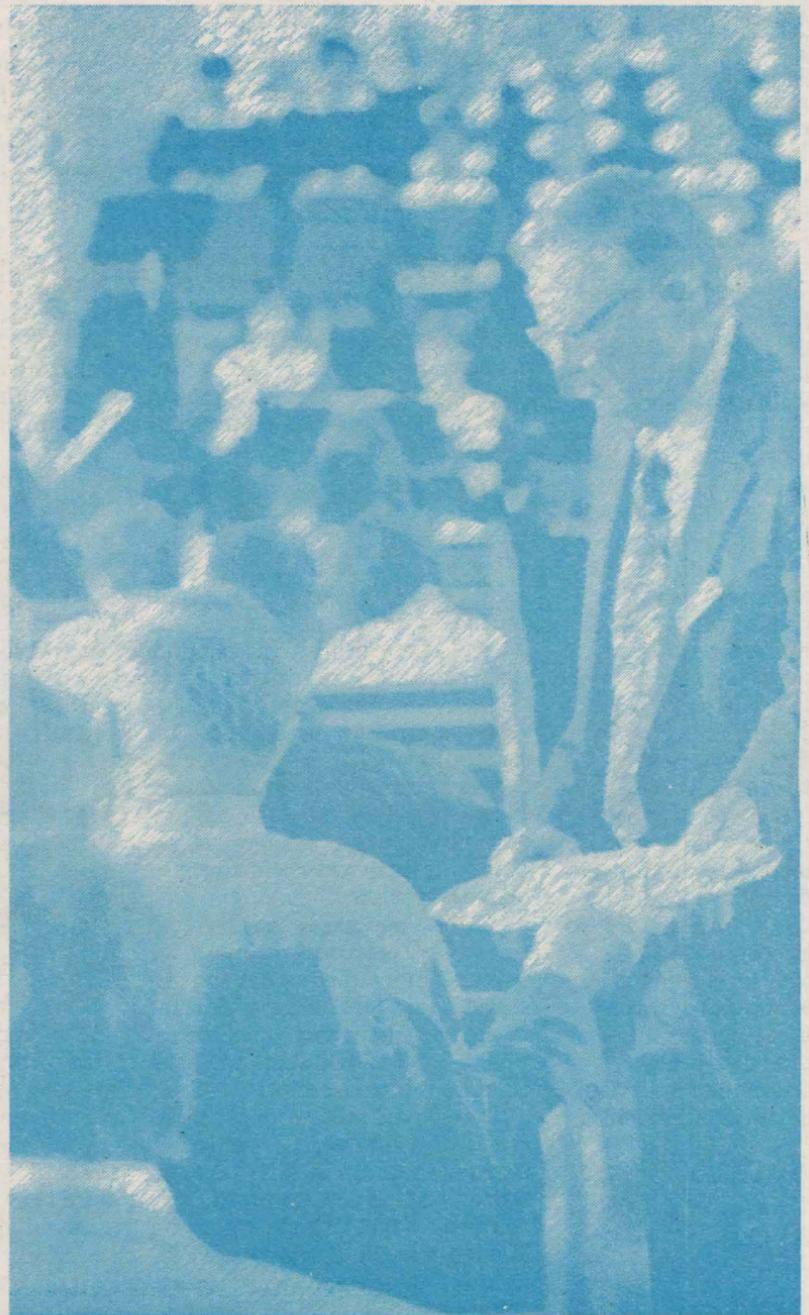
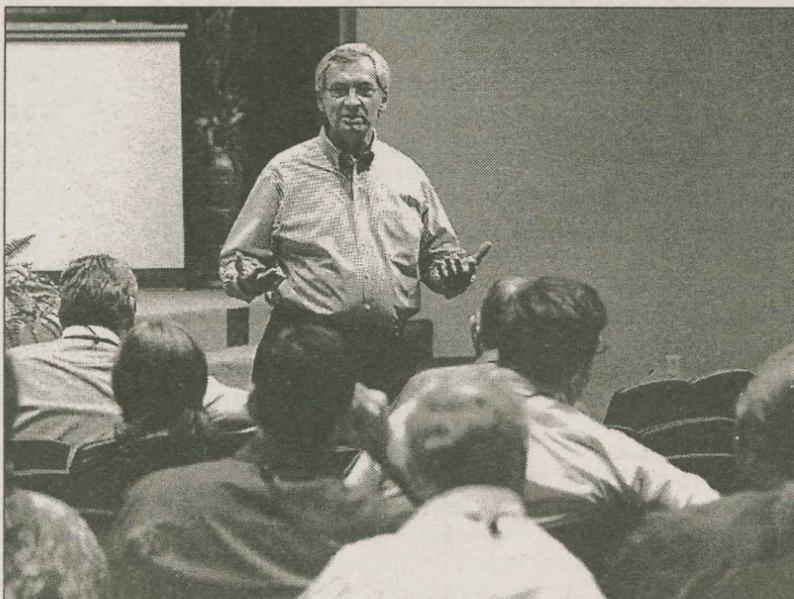
**Offering plate blues****Churches heading for financial crisis, speakers predict****By Tony Cartledge**  
*North Carolina Biblical Recorder***Black Mountain, N.C. (ABP)**—Churches, conventions and Christians are in deep financial trouble and facing a bleak future if church leaders do not actively engage cultural shifts and the perils of consumerism, according to a battery of speakers at a national conference last month.

"We are in bad trouble in the churches," said Loren Mead, founder of the Alban Institute and author of "Financial Meltdown in the Mainline." "And we won't be out of it in your lifetime or mine."

Mead and others spoke to pastors and officials from state Baptist conventions from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia and Florida. The conference, organized primarily by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, drew participants from as far away as Missouri and Alaska.

Churches increasingly are dependent on a donor base that is getting both older and smaller, Mead said, while younger adults are racking up more personal debt and giving less to churches.

Congregations' funding efforts tend to be erratic and short term, focused on survival or breaking even, Mead said. "A lot of churches don't know how to do anything else, and when the energy is focused on survival, there is less energy for mission."

□ See *Speakers tell how ... Page 6***Speaker offers Kentuckians ideas on leadership that works****LEADERSHIP** Minnesota pastor Leith Anderson, author of "Leadership That Works," encouraged Kentucky pastors to help their churches diagnose their needs and find ways to meet those needs. "Step forward and implement the call of Jesus Christ for the congregation." (KBC photo by Larry Brannin)**By Ken Walker**  
*State Correspondent***Crestwood**—An effective pastor is not someone who meets a prescribed list of personality traits, but a leader who can assess conditions in a church and act to help members fulfill the congregation's mission.

That's the message Leith Anderson, pastor of a Minneapolis-area church, brought to about 225 Kentucky Baptist pastors and church leaders last week.

Some churches need 20 new members to create new ministry possibilities, while others need 20 fewer members to move forward, said Anderson, the keynote speaker at the conference titled, "Leadership that Works."

"What does this church need?" said Anderson, author of a best-selling book on leadership. "As a leader, my job is to diagnose the problem."

**Inside: Cultural relevance gets attention, Anderson says. Page 8.**

"If you don't know the answer, then find out," he said. "When you get the answer, the next step is to do what needs to be done. Step forward and implement the call of Jesus Christ for the congregation."

The conference, held at Crestwood Baptist Church, was sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development/evangelism team. Team leader Dan Garland said he was encouraged by the predominance of participants under age 50.

Garland said Anderson touched on numerous topics that are relevant to Kentucky Baptists, particularly the need to relate to the culture.

"The culture needs to be engaged, not screamed at," Garland said. □ See *KBC conference ... Page 8*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, April 21.

## Annuity Board to host wellness walk at SBC

Dallas (BP)—The Southern Baptist Annuity Board, along with several of its life and health vendors, is sponsoring its second annual one-mile wellness walk at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis. In addition to the one-mile walk, a new 5K course will be set up for runners and walkers who want the additional challenge.

The 2004 Living@YourBest Wellness Walk and 5K Run will be June 14 at 6:30 a.m. at White River State Park, within walking distance from most hotels in the downtown Indianapolis area.

Anyone interested in participating can register online at [www.absbc.org](http://www.absbc.org) or call (800) 262-0511. The first 500 registered walkers will receive a free "Living@YourBest" T-shirt.

"The purpose of the wellness walk is to demonstrate the Annuity Board's ongoing commitment to wellness," Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins said. "We want to encourage Southern Baptists to take responsibility for their own health by choosing to live more healthful lifestyles."

# 2003 SBC statistics: membership up, baptisms down

By Polly House  
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention reported a record membership of 16,315,050, up .41 percent over 2002, and grew to 43,024 churches, an increase of 249 congregations, according to statistics released in the 2003 SBC Statistical Summary.

The statistics for 2003 were compiled from data submitted by churches on the Annual Church Profile. LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention compiles the ACP from reports routed through local Baptist associations and state conventions.

The number of new churches represented a .58 percent increase. Membership figures reflected a .41 percent growth. These figures are down from the 2002 growth percentages of 1.04 and 1.21, respectively. Although there was growth overall, LifeWay President Jimmy

Draper said the statistics were cause for concern.

"The incremental growth to me reflects a denomination that's lost its focus," he said. "The Great Commission commands us to go into all the world and make disciples. Although we've seen tremendous strides in overseas baptisms, we are not keeping up with the population growth."

While membership grew, the number of baptisms decreased for the fourth consecutive year. The 2003 total was 377,357, reflecting a 4.44 percent decrease from the 2002 total. This indicated a baptism ratio of 1 to 43, meaning that statistically it took 43 church members to bring in one new member.

"There are two trends reflected in the declining baptisms," Draper said. "The first is a lack of urgency in our churches to baptize. I've heard from a number of people across our denomination who are saying pro-

fessions of faith are good enough, and they are not teaching one of our two main ordinances of publicly identifying with Jesus through baptism. They've de-emphasized it. It is hard for someone to argue to the contrary when more than 10,000 Southern Baptist churches didn't baptize a single person last year.

"The second trend I see is that we as a denomination have lost a sense of urgency in reaching people for Christ. You can't baptize those who have not been led to the Lord. We face some tremendous challenges from an increasingly secularized society and we've got to lead people to a saving faith in Christ if we are going to have a positive influence in our culture."

Other statistics reported are:

■ Additions other than baptisms totaled 422,350, down 2.24 percent.

■ The number of church-type missions declined from 5,439 to 5,114, a 5.98 percent decrease.

■ Primary worship attendance was 5,873,880, a gain of .58 percent.

■ Overall giving grew by about 5 percent. Total tithes, offerings and special gifts totaled \$9,105,505,497, up 4.88 percent. This figure included \$7,170,236,005 in undesignated receipts. When all other sources of income were added in, the total receipts reported by churches were \$9,648,530,640, up 1.98 percent.

■ Music ministry enrollment/participation grew by 2.63 percent, with a total of 1,701,848.

■ Sunday school enrollment grew by .24 percent, with a total of 8,193,886.

■ Discipleship training enrollment was 2,001,560, a decrease of 4.72 percent.

■ Missions participation also showed a decrease: WMU enrollment fell by 11.52 percent to 852,205; men/boys missions education enrollment fell by 3.91 percent to 418,606.

## Revivals to reinforce SBC Crossover ministry

Indianapolis (BP)—A wide range of evangelistic events will be reinforced by revival services June 10-12 during Crossover Indianapolis, the annual evangelism emphasis in the host city of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

It's a strategy local leaders believe will go far in helping new believers in Christ be assimilated into local congregations, while also involving vocational evangelists and pastors from across the country to lead the revivals.

"We wanted to see how many of the street decisions we could have baptized into our churches and disciples," said John Rogers, director of evangelism for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and local coordinator for the effort.

Individuals and groups interested in volunteering for Crossover may sign up directly through [www.TheBridge.namb.net](http://www.TheBridge.namb.net), the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's online system for linking volunteers with projects. Others can sign up to pray for Crossover—whether on-site via prayerwalks or from their homes

across the country—through [www.CrossoverPrayer.org](http://www.CrossoverPrayer.org).

The response from both volunteers and churches thus far has surpassed expectations, Rogers said.

"In Metro Association alone we have 65 ministry events and 43 revivals," he said. "We have a potential of about 130 ministries across the state, and somewhere around 80 to 90 revivals."

Most of the events are planned for June 10-12, but Rogers said about 30 churches in Southeast Baptist Association also are planning evangelism events and revivals for the following weekend.

Crossover has been a part of the SBC annual meeting each year since 1989, providing an opportunity for messengers to the convention to participate in evangelistic events around the host city—primarily on the Saturday before the convention. More than 33,000 individuals have been led to faith in Christ through the effort.

As in past years, events in the Indianapolis area will include door-to-door evangelistic surveys, about 30 community block parties spon-

sored by churches, "StreetReach" evangelism teams presenting the gospel in public areas through entertainment and inner-city evangelism teams sharing the gospel on the streets of low-income areas. Prayerwalking teams also are being enlisted to pray for event venues and neighborhoods both before and during Crossover.

Several "Kindness Explosion" ministries also are planned to present a gospel witness through acts of kindness. One church, for instance, plans to offer free minor car maintenance and car washes.

Volunteers also will be working with the weekly outreach service of "Families in Crisis Ministry," which provides food and clothing distribution, meals and other services.

Church planting also will be a priority for Crossover, with 16 new churches benefiting from Crossover events and volunteers.

About 10 churches in downtown Indianapolis also will be working with NAMB's Inner-City Evangelism Team, a group of experienced street evangelists who share Christ alongside local volunteers.

## Day of prayer focuses on Arabs

Richmond, Va. (BP)—On Pentecost Sunday, May 30, Southern Baptists across the nation are being invited to unite in prayer.

The goal? Asking God to help 43 million people in seven countries of the Arab world understand how much He loves them.

"Beyond the Wall: Loving the Peoples of the Arabian Peninsula" marks the 17th year for such a focused, 24-hour prayer effort, said Wendy Hines, associate director of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's prayer strategy office. The effort spotlights a different people group each year.

"The people of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen are in need of Jesus," Hines said. "Believers are few, and the church is virtually nonexistent. Those who do follow Christ keep their faith secret in order to remain part of the com-

munity.

"Apart from the Holy Spirit's help, this will not change."

A free resource kit for the emphasis is available in English, Korean and Spanish. The kit includes four video segments, a music video and a bonus "Kids on Mission" episode—in VHS and DVD formats—as well as a sermon outline and planning tips.

Also available free of charge: a 30-day pocket prayer guide, bulletin inserts and brochures explaining how to pray more effectively for the peoples of the world. Resources can be ordered at [www.resources.imb.org](http://www.resources.imb.org).

"Please pray with us for the salvation of these precious people," Hines urged. "Committed intercessory prayer connects God's people with the peoples of the world."

"God is eager to reach them, and He has given us the privilege of participating as He draws the people of the Arabian Peninsula to Himself."

## SBC, BWA leaders meet; SBC proposal remains unchanged

Nashville—A six-hour dialogue April 13 between leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance failed to sway SBC leaders from recommending that the denomination withdraw from BWA membership.

The two groups did agree, however, to hold an annual dialogue session and left open the possibility of the SBC choosing "once again to become a fully participatory member of the Baptist World Alliance" if issues of concern could be resolved.

BWA representatives from six nations met with members of the SBC's BWA study committee in a final reconciliation effort before the SBC votes in June on whether to end its 99-year relationship with the global Baptist fellowship.

BWA president Billy Kim of South Korea, who proposed the meeting, co-chaired the closed-door session with Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee. Chapman also chairs the SBC study group that recommended severing ties to BWA.

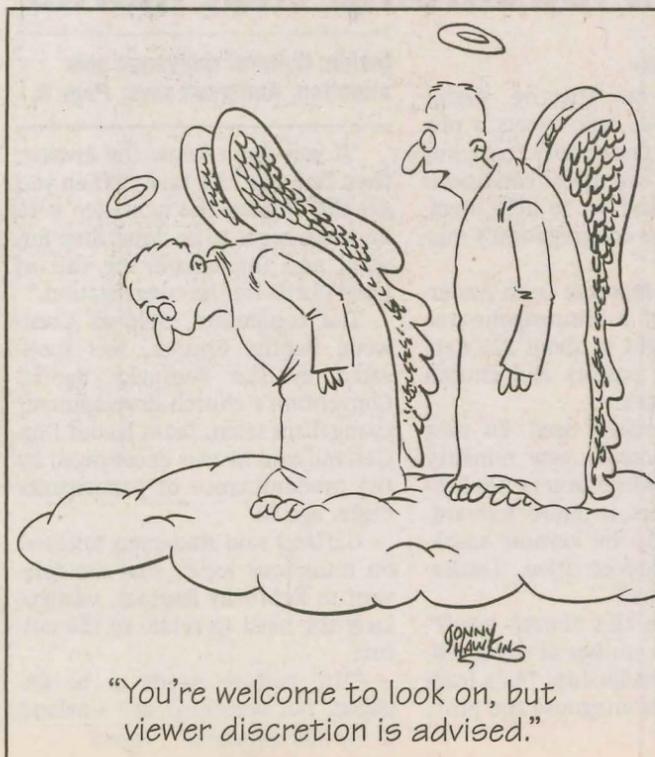
Participants said they had agreed not to comment beyond a joint statement released through Baptist Press.

In addition to suggesting future dialogue, the statement described the meeting as "a full and frank discussion of concerns, conducted in a warm and mutually respectful spirit."

"It was a very cordial meeting," BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said.

Gary Smith, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, said if leaders of the two groups had been holding such discussions all along, "we probably wouldn't have reached our recent impasse."

Based on reporting by Baptist Press and EthicsDaily.com



"You're welcome to look on, but viewer discretion is advised."

# Calls sway legislators to seek same-sex marriage ban

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

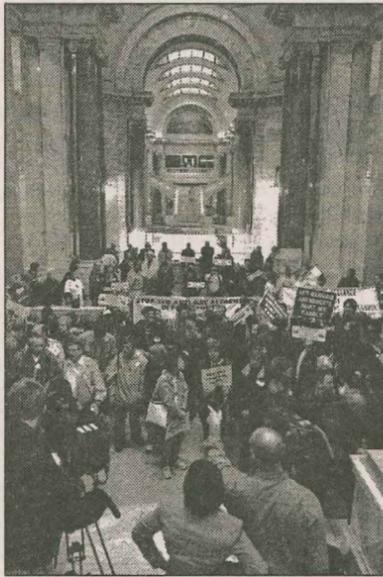
FRANKFORT—Reversing a series of amendments expected to derail the legislation, both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly voted last week to propose a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

The actions came in the closing days of the 2004 General Assembly as legislators responded to thousands of phone calls, letters and e-mails from constituents.

Senate Bill 245, introduced by Sen. Vernie McGaha (R-Russell Springs), initially proposed that "only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Kentucky. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized."

Opponents began to introduce amendments designed to alter the bill's intent, including deleting the provision that marriage be limited to one man and one woman.

After a walkout by Republican supporters of the original bill, Democratic leaders agreed to drop the amendments and consider the bill's initial language. House members voted 85-11 in favor of the bill



**CAPITOL CONCERNS** Supporters and opponents of a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage gathered April 12 outside the Kentucky House of Representatives chamber to express their views. (Lexington Herald-Leader photo by Mark Cornelison. Used with permission)

April 12 and the Senate gave its final approval by a vote of 33-5 the next day.

The proposed constitutional amendment, which required a three-fifths majority in each cham-

ber, does not require approval by the governor. Barring a successful legal challenge, it will be placed on the statewide ballot in November for voter consideration.

McGaha said he introduced the measure in response to "the trend that seems to be starting to take hold across the nation with the gays wishing to have the privileges and rights that heterosexual couples have.

"It is an issue that I think needed to be addressed," he added. "With the events that were occurring in California, Massachusetts, Oregon and other places (concerning same-sex marriage), I'd rather be proactive than reactive in Kentucky."

Despite the strong vote in favor of SB245, some legislators took issue with the proposal.

Describing the amendment as "gay bashing" and a "hateful thing," Rep. Kathy Stein (D-Lexington), told fellow lawmakers, "I am ashamed to be a member of this body tonight."

McGaha, a member of New Hope Separate Baptist Church in Adair County, told the Western Recorder, "I do this because of my faith. I think it's very clear biblically what the definition of a marriage is."

The Family Foundation, the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gam-

bling Problems and the Kentucky Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee were among groups that urged supporters of the measure to contact their legislators.

Kent Ostrander, executive director of the Family Foundation, described last week's action as "a major and historical victory for marriage and the family because it has stopped for the first time those who are pushing the radical gay agenda from further encroachment."

Public Affairs Committee chairman Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, said he was "very encouraged by the support of Kentucky Baptists as they made phone calls, wrote letters and sent e-mails to their representatives.

"In our constitution, we have the freedom in this form of government that does allow us to voice our Christian concerns," he emphasized. "The separation of church and state does not mean that Christians are not to voice their opinions on political issues."

McGaha said long-time legislators indicated citizens' response to SB245 was "the greatest outpouring of support they had ever seen."

Citing the last-minute passage of the measure, he added, "This is one time the citizens' work paid off."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

### Campbellsville

University will break ground April 26 for the E. Bruce Heilman Student Center Complex. The facility will house a new dining hall, bookstore, post office, student lounge, student service offices and a grill. Alan Medders, vice president for development, said \$2.3 million of the estimated \$5.4 million cost already has been raised.

### Clear Creek Baptist

Bible College will host the 2004 Literacy Missions Conference April 23-24. Lillian Issacs, literacy missionary emeritus for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, will be the event's special guest. For more information, call Rebecca Carnell at (800) 266-6477, ext. 264.

# Three Georgetown vice presidents resign to accept other posts

GEORGETOWN—Half of Georgetown College's six vice presidents are resigning to pursue other opportunities.

Rather than an administrative crisis, however, Georgetown President Bill Crouch describes the moves as positive examples of the school's strength and stability.

"We have great news, not bad news," Crouch said. "I think it is fabulous that Georgetown College is now producing vice presidents who are going off to other places. We're celebrating, thanking these people for what they've done for the college."

Among the administrative changes:

**Judy Rogers**, vice president for leadership and ethics since 1997,

has been named president of Cottey College, a small, two-year women's college in Nevada, Mo. Crouch said Rogers' responsibilities will be assigned to other administrators and that position will not be filled.

**Bill Pollard**, Georgetown's provost and dean of the college since 2000, has been named vice president and dean of Transylvania University in Lexington. He previously was Georgetown's vice president for academic affairs. Rosemary Allen, chair of Georgetown's English department, has been named interim provost.

**Michael Dawahare**, vice president for institutional advancement since 2001, has resigned to start a



Judy Rogers



Bill Pollard



Michael Dawahare

weekly alternative newspaper, The Lexington City Paper. Georgetown spokesman Jim Durham said former Kentucky Gov. Martha Layne Collins, Georgetown's scholar-in-residence, and Darryl Callahan, a special assistant to the president, will coordinate development responsibilities previously handled by Dawahare.

Rogers said she had "a wonderful experience at Georgetown to learn

and broaden my administrative knowledge."

Concerning her move to Cottey College, Rogers added, "I have aspired to a presidency for the last six or seven years. I think this is the right time for me and a wonderful opportunity."

While the timing of the vice presidential changes has produced "a significant turnover," Rogers said, "I know Dr. Crouch is moving very quickly to name replacements and put processes in place for the transition."

"This is not a crisis mode situation," Allen agreed. "Everyone sees this an opportunity for the people leaving and for the people staying."

# Morning fire, smoke damage Cox's Creek church facility in Bardstown

By Holly Cecil  
The (Bardstown) Kentucky Standard

Bardstown—It might have damaged the church and its education department, but the fire that broke out early April 13 didn't damage the spirit of the Cox's Creek Baptist Church congregation.

"We'll have our service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the pavilion, and Sunday school in the parsonage," Pastor Matthew Johnston said.

Cox's Creek Christian Academy, which has been in the Baptist church structure for three years, was more severely affected, suffering nearly a complete loss from the fire.

"We lost everything," Cox's Creek Christian Academy principal Burrell McKim said. "Computers, copy machines, file cabinets, records. ... We lost all our score keys, all the equipment."

The school, which has about 27 students, also lost most of its Accelerated Christian Education workbooks, on which

most of the curriculum and tests are based.

The school likely will resume classes in about a week, when book replacements have come in. McKim will likely conduct class at home until the building is repaired, he said.

The community has offered the school and church monetary and moral support.

Church and school officials said they hope insurance will take care of most of the loss.

"It's just the building," McKim said. "We're more concerned with the kids than the building."

No one was in the church or building when the fire started about 1 a.m. Tuesday, April 13.

When firefighters responded to the fire alarm, they found smoke billowing out of windows of the two-story structure connected to Cox's Creek Baptist Church.

"Within a few minutes of my being there, fire started coming out the win-

dows," said Charles Montgomery, second assistant chief for Bardstown-Nelson County Volunteer Fire Department.

Eighteen Bardstown-Nelson County volunteer firefighters and six Northeast Nelson firefighters fought the fire, which began in an interior room of the education building.

The two-story structure connects to the church by a breezeway. There, the church had its Sunday school classes.

The fire did not spread to the church, but filled it with smoke.

"When I opened the (church) door, I could only see the first couple of pews," Montgomery said.

Heavy fire damage is making it difficult for investigators to determine the cause of the fire, Montgomery said.

The interior room and the room above it suffered heavy fire damage, while the rest of the structure, including the church, had moderate to heavy smoke damage.

The building, which was built in the 1960s, was not completely destroyed. A few things were salvaged from the education department, but not much that is usable, Johnston said.

One firefighter was injured, falling about six feet off a ladder, due to an unstable floor. He was treated for minor injuries and released from Flaget Memorial Hospital.

This isn't the first disaster to hit the church, according to Johnston.

In 1942, a tornado swept through, destroying all but the front wall of the church. It was rebuilt then, just as it will be rebuilt now, he said.

"Jesus Christ doesn't live in the building built by hands, but in the hearts of those who trust in Him," Johnston said.

Other churches in the community also offered to help, with space and other things, Johnston said.

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## 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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## EKG: Questions to ponder and pray about

By Carlisle Driggers

Columbia, S.C. (BP)—In God's good timing, Southern Baptists in 2002 made a decision to focus our attention and resources on the call of Jesus to His Kingdom on earth even as it is in heaven. In making that decision, we recognized that we need to stand up and be obedient to our Lord as He summons us to

"Seek first His Kingdom" (Matthew 6:33) more than anything else.

The Empowering Kingdom Growth Task Force of the Southern Baptist Convention is convinced that if Southern Baptist leaders all over the nation could plan and conduct their work in keeping with the Kingdom emphasis of Jesus in the four Gospels, our people in the churches would take on new purpose and dedication. How will there ever be a spiritual awakening until believers become obedient to Christ? And how will that obedience ever come about unless those believers devote themselves to what Jesus wants, namely for them to live as Kingdom citizens?

It appears that at no time in recorded Christian history has there been a significant group of the followers of Jesus who understood His call to the Kingdom and then stayed with it until marvelous results began to happen. With all the size and resources of the SBC, the EKG Task Force is asking, "Why cannot the Southern Baptist Convention and all related entities be the first body of believers to put our hearts and souls into a true Kingdom focus?"

Our Baptist leaders are in position to help us focus on God's Kingdom. Just think how the Spirit of Christ would become free to move upon us if we started asking Kingdom-focused questions and kept asking them until the world is turned upside down for Jesus' sake.

Among the possible questions:

■ The seminaries, Bible schools, colleges and universities asking, "Are we merely graduating students or are we truly producing Kingdom-focused leaders?"

■ The state conventions asking, "Are we just adding to our history or are our efforts and plans truly designed to expand the Kingdom of God?"

■ The North American Mission Board asking, "Are we more interested in putting together a new SBC entity or leading Southern Baptists to truly focus on the Kingdom

of God across the nation and the continent?"

■ LifeWay Christian Resources asking, "Are we simply selling materials as an end in itself or is our intention to truly help bring in the Kingdom of God on earth with all that we produce and sell?"

■ The churches asking, "Are we perpetuating our own traditions, hopes and dreams, or are we making sure that all we are doing has a Kingdom focus to it?"

■ The SBC Executive Committee asking, "Are we about bureaucracy for bureaucracy's sake or is our business truly Kingdom business?"

■ The International Mission Board asking, "Are we seeking to grow our organization or are we truly working to enable Southern Baptists to grasp a Kingdom awareness for the world?"

■ The children's homes asking, "Are we in the business of childcare alone or do we approach our work from a commitment to the Kingdom of God?"

■ The Baptist associations asking, "Is our purpose to enhance our own organizational structure or to truly lead our churches to live out a focus on the Kingdom of God far beyond our area?"

■ The state Baptist papers asking, "Is our intent mainly to report or make news or to support Southern Baptists in becoming enthusiastic and involved in all kinds of exciting Kingdom endeavors?"

■ The retirement homes asking, "Are we providing care for the elderly or is our purpose for what we do being derived from a Kingdom awareness?"

■ The SBC and state Baptist foun-

dations asking, "Is our bottom line money or are we truly securing the funds to support and strengthen Kingdom growth everywhere?"

■ Woman's Missionary Union asking, "Is our motive to keep our traditions alive or to measure our plans by Kingdom purposes?"

■ The Baptist hospitals asking, "Are we so concerned about health-care that we do not see our mission as a vital part of the Kingdom of God?"

■ The Annuity Board asking, "Is our desire alone to generate the best benefit plans we can for Baptists or to ensure that all our efforts have a Kingdom focus to them?"

■ The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission asking, "Do we concern ourselves with certain issues of our own choosing, or do we see our work as contributing to the larger picture of the Kingdom of God for the nation and world?"

One of the most beloved writers of devotional literature is Selwyn Hughes of England. In his most recent book, "The Lord's Prayer," he observes:

"The Kingdom of God was the motif running through everything Jesus taught. However, I pick up many Christian books and magazines today and find that, with one or two exceptions, the Kingdom of God is not mentioned. Yet Jesus made it the central note of His preaching and also His praying.

"It is time now to ask ourselves: What exactly does Jesus mean when He uses the word 'Kingdom'? The word for kingdom (*basileia* in the Greek) means 'rule' or 'reign.' The Kingdom of God, then, is the rule or reign of God, His sovereignty, for which we are to pray. Jesus spoke of the Kingdom as being in the present as well as in the future. In Luke 17:21 He said, 'The Kingdom of God is within you.' Wherever there is a heart that is surrendered to the claims and demands of Jesus Christ, there the Kingdom exists."

The question before Southern Baptists right now is: Will we be captured by the Kingdom of God?

Carlisle Driggers is executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention

## COMMENTARY

## Cooperative Program supports campus ministry

Kentucky Baptists exceeded all March records in support of missions through the Cooperative Program. Gifts currently exceed the adjusted budget by 5.4 percent. This means much-needed support for ministries in Kentucky and around the world is coming in strong!

One of the ministry areas supported by CP Missions is the work we do with college students. Campus ministries involve more than 5,000 students each week on 60 college campuses across Kentucky.

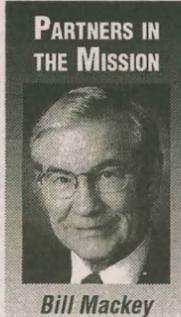
I hope you can see these big numbers as representing real people, though. For instance, within those big numbers of students touched are 20 football players at Campbellsville University who recently have made commitments to Jesus Christ. That's 20 more young people for the Kingdom!

Another good example is the collegiate ministry at Morehead State University, which is under the cre-

ative leadership of Gene Parr. Gene reported the following outreach ministry with the movie, "The Passion of the Christ":

"Over a month ago one of our BSU alumni couples called and expressed a desire to sponsor students to see 'The Passion of the Christ.' We knew that the MSU Student Activity Council sponsored free movie admission on Friday nights at the local cinema. It also happens that the graduated student working with the SAC is one of our former BSU presidents. He was very supportive and helped us connect with the people who own the cinema chain and book the movies. So they were able to work with us and show the movie on a Friday when we could expect school to be in session.

"That night was last Friday, April 2. I stood outside and watched as our students held the SAC ID-card scanner recording students going into



Bill Mackey

## GIVING

## Receiving a tax refund? 'Purge urge to splurge'

By Jeremy White

The 2003 Tax Act lowered tax rates for all taxpayers—particularly for many families. According to recent IRS statistics, the average refund paid in the first quarter of 2004 has increased to nearly \$2,000.

How tempting to "spend it all in one place" when you receive an unexpected

large lump-sum amount like a refund.

Purge the urge to splurge. Put that refund to good use with some of these ideas:

■ Pay off the debt-hangover from the holidays. Enjoy the satisfaction of getting rid of that persistent credit card debt or installment loan.

■ Give until it feels good. If you didn't tithe last year, make up for it by giving your refund to your church or to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. If you have tithed on only your "net" pay, then consider your refund as another source to tithe.

■ Add to your emergency savings. You've been telling yourself you need more savings, so boost your layoff fund by depositing all or most of your refund.

■ Fund a Roth IRA. Investing in quality mutual funds inside a Roth IRA instead of buying a large-screen TV could be a \$100,000 difference over 30 years. Where will that TV be then? Let the power of compounding work for you.

■ Begin a college savings plan. The Education Savings Accounts or 529 plans offer excellent choices for tax-free growth if used for education.

■ Buy the insurance you have delayed. Whether it is additional term life insurance or disability insurance, finish off your financial protection plan by obtaining needed insurance.

■ Set it aside for a vacation. Plan to enjoy a vacation with your family without relying on debt.

■ Use it for prevention of future expenses. Pay for a medical checkup or pay for a car tune-up—even if both your body and car are running well.

■ Start a business. Your refund could be the seed money for starting a side business or making your hobby profitable.

Put your refund to good use and resolve to reduce future refunds.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Web site at [www.consultcpa.com](http://www.consultcpa.com).



## How can bride & mom resolve conflicts over wedding plans?

**Q: I was looking forward to a blissful wedding to the man of my dreams. Then my mother stepped in and started controlling all of the arrangements. What can I do to get her to let me plan my own wedding?**

Your problem is not unusual. A lot depends on how your mother has viewed you up to this point in your life.

It might be that she can be a "control freak" about everything else and this is no exception. It could be that you have had a history in which she has viewed you as not very responsible, and she feels that this situation is not any different. It might be that your parents feel that financial investment equals control, and since parents of the bride typically pay for much of the wedding day festivities, they feel they deserve some say in how it goes.

Actually, there is a wide continuum of brides and how much control they have or even want in their own wedding. Much of this depends on the age of the bride.

One would think that if someone is old enough to take on the adult responsibilities of a marriage, she would be mature enough to deal with wedding plans. So it could be that your parents are not quite sure you're ready for the leap into matrimony. If this is the case, you can reassure them with your own calm, positive perspectives instead of getting stuck in re-run conversations from the past.

It also is possible that they really are seeing something you're not seeing. Seek "second and third opinions" from several other people. ("In the midst of counselors, there is safety"—Proverbs 15:22.) Maybe your parents have a valid point and pride keeps you from giving them any input.

Weddings, like marriage itself, can be exercises in conflict resolution and compromise. Go into the process with the knowledge that you can have "negotiables" and "non-negotiables" for the celebration. As the minister likely will indicate, this is not a private matter. It is a celebration of community, your brothers and sisters in faith as well as your brothers and sisters (and parents) in genetic origin.

At the same time, your mom would be wise to acknowledge that it really is your day. You can assure her of your supreme desire to have a celebration that honors Christ. Especially if your blood family also is part of your faith family, that should be something they will understand.

You can also assure them (make sure this is true) that it is not your desire to "break the bank." Wisdom would dictate that marriages that start off on a good footing financially will have a better shot at success than those that go into debt for the sake of appearances. It is always the meaning of the day that you will remember more than how much something cost.

Now back to the practical part of your question. Much of the control issue is likely tied to the financial investment, so allow those contributing to the day to have some input. Let them submit their ideas to you and give them the assurance that you will incorporate as much as you can into the result but that in the end, it will be your decision. These are going to be your memories for "as long as you both shall live."

Come to one firm conclusion in your heart: your willingness to go it alone financially if the control restrictions are more than you can bear. Ultimately, you cannot have it both ways. As you "speak the truth in love" in this most emotionally charged of situations, it will set a good precedent that will lay the foundation for you and your husband to make sound decisions together over the course of your marriage, with the welcome input of the wisdom of those who have gone before.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

**Scott Wigginton**, executive director of LifeCare Counseling at Walnut Street Baptist Church and associate professor/department coordinator of Christian counseling at Boyce College in Louisville. E-mail: swigginton@sbs.edu.

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



### MARRIAGE

## A few reflections on current news issues

There are times when so many issues and events are unfolding simultaneously that it's difficult to limit my editorial observations to a single topic. This past week was such an occasion. Among significant issues reported in this week's Western Recorder are:

**Proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.** Members of the Kentucky General Assembly voted overwhelmingly last week to endorse a proposed amendment that declares "only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Kentucky." The measure, which will be placed on Kentucky's November ballot, also specifies that "a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized."

Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers went on record last fall calling on Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to define marriage solely as "the union of one man and one woman."

While debate continues over whether the Kentucky constitution needs a similar provision, recent moves toward legalizing homosexual marriage in Massachusetts, San Francisco and elsewhere have made the topic a front-burner issue throughout the nation.

Supporters of same-sex marriage or civil unions have accused amendment proponents of "gay bashing," intolerance and homophobia. Such charges, however, fail to ring true. Rather than an unhealthy fear of homosexuality, those calling for a historic, biblical view of marriage are reflecting a healthy, reverent fear of God and His Word.

**Southern Baptist Convention membership up, baptisms down.** While Southern Baptist churches' Annual Church Profile statistics for 2003 show a slight membership gain of 0.41 percent, the number of baptisms declined for the fourth straight year. The 2003 total of 377,357 baptisms is a 4.44

percent decrease from the previous year.

Kentucky Baptist Convention statistics released last month revealed a similar pattern: a membership gain of 0.5 percent and a baptism decrease of 5.6 percent.

What are the reasons for the baptism decline?

According to James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, "We as a denomination have lost a sense of urgency in reaching people for Christ. You can't baptize those who have not been led to the Lord."

As important as it is to welcome new members into our churches, the key to long-term spiritual growth and vitality is to recapture a passion for personal evangelism and lead individuals to personal faith in Jesus Christ. There is no substitute.

**SBC, BWA leaders hold "cordial" dialogue.**

Members of the SBC's Baptist World Alliance study committee met last week with BWA leaders from six nations. While SBC leaders declined to reverse their proposal to withdraw membership and financial support from the global Baptist organization, there were a couple of small, hopeful signs.

The two groups agreed to meet annually for ongoing dialogue and left open a tiny crack in the door for the SBC to rejoin the BWA "in the not-too-distant future" if issues of concern are mutually resolved.

While it appears doubtful that the two organizations will find sufficient common ground to renew a formal relationship, choosing to conduct discussions in "a warm and mutually respectful spirit" is a significant step toward showing the world a positive Christian witness even amid differences.

And one not-so-newsworthy item: Yes, that's a new photo of the editor this week. Time marches on.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Treannis Henderson

## A personal tribute to Jean & Larry Elliott

By Joyce Dover Whitten

Since the brutal drive-by shootings of my sister and brother-in-law, Larry and Jean Dover Elliott, in Mosul, Iraq, on March 15, I have spent much time reflecting on my memories of two wonderful people I was blessed to have in my life.

Our mother told us that our grandfather

prayed for his grandchildren before they were ever born. I am the fifth child and Jean was the sixth of seven children. Being only two years and nine months apart, we were always very close. I have always known that Jean was very special. She always had a gentle, quiet spirit and was extraordinarily loving, caring and thoughtful of others and put others before herself.

My husband, Ron, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rising Sun, Ind., and Larry answered their callings to the gospel ministry about the same time which added a special dimension to the close relationship we already had.

Larry was a hard worker, liked to help people, was energetic and a joy to be around. He was a great sports enthusiast, especially during March Madness. Larry had an unforgettable laugh that was filled with gusto. He and Jean had a way about them that made people feel special and

at ease. I definitely will miss their wonderful sense of humor and the laughter we shared.

Jean and Larry loved Jesus Christ with all their hearts, minds and souls. They were obedient in doing His will whatever it involved, regardless of the risks. They often

quoted Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you." They lived their lives by this verse.

A shining example of Jean's love and thoughtfulness is shown in the last gift I received from her. In an e-mail dated Jan. 29, 2004, Jean wrote, "What I have to do between now and July is overwhelming ... decide on every item in my house ... what to sell, give away or store since we will be taking only what we can get into our suitcases to Iraq. The hard part will be putting prices on what we plan to sell. ... It's going to be a job."

I talked with Jean and Larry on the phone on Feb. 15 and talked with Jean again the next day—the same day they flew to Amman, Jordan, on the way to Baghdad. I could hear the joyous anticipation in their voices as they related that their call had been confirmed.

Two days later, I received in the mail an envelope containing an

old Coke tin in the shape of a Coke bottle with a note from Jean that read, "Dear Joyce, So wonderful to talk with you this morning on the phone. Thank you for calling. This is a little addition to your Coke collection. Hope you will like it! Maybe I can find an Arabic Coke for you in Iraq. Give our love to Ron and all your family. I love you so very much! Love and Thanks, Jean."

Jean had told me two and a half years earlier that she had an old Coke tin she'd like for me to have. My first thought after reading her note was that Jean wanted to be sure I received the Coke tin in the event something would happen to her. In the midst of all they had to do to prepare for a preliminary trip to Baghdad, then the awesome task of returning to Honduras to sort through 25 years' accumulation in preparation for an anticipated move to Iraq in July, Jean was thinking of me! With all she had on her mind to do, she was thinking of me! That's the kind of person my sister Jean was—full of love and always thinking of others.

In an e-mail from Baghdad, Jean wrote lovingly of a mother and her small son and daughter: "It's amazing what smiles and laughter can do. ... Please pray that we can be a light to these people and that they will come to know the True Light."

To know Jean and Larry was to love them.

### FIRST PERSON

## Speakers tell how churches should face financial issues

Continued from page 1

Most churches have no financial reserves to speak of, he said. Financial planning is disconnected from the congregation, and those who are concerned about financial matters often face resistance from clergy and lay leaders who don't want to deal with it.

"We have lost generations of young adults, youth and children by not teaching stewardship," he said.

Mead outlined a long list of growing financial challenges for churches, beginning with extensive deferred-maintenance issues, a particular problem for older and larger churches. Churches have put off needed upkeep "because we've had a pinch in our budgets for a long time."

Churches increasingly are being asked to pay taxes, or fees in lieu of taxes, in order to receive city or county services, he added. A growing number of lawsuits are raising church liability costs; medical insurance premiums increase annually; demographic shifts often take members away; and competition from other good causes continues to rise.

"Nobody in the church is talking about this," Mead said. "We think one good year will fix it." The picture looks bleak 10 years down the road, he said, but "we're so focused on getting through this year that we're not looking down the road."

Mead said churches must start talking directly about finances, training clergy as well as children and youth to appreciate the importance of giving. Pastors must get over their reluctance to understand and talk about financial matters.

"We must stop being amateurs in fundraising" and get professional help, he said. Annual campaigns should be well planned and administered. Regular capital campaigns should be planned to deal with routine maintenance. And systematic planned giving efforts should reach every member.

Baptists especially must get over their prejudice against endowments and actively encourage members to include the church in their estate planning, he said.

Howard Dayton, founder and CEO of Crown Ministries, said money has a spiritual as well as a practical impact on churches.

The Bible has more than 2,350 verses that deal with money, he told the audience. How Christians handle money has a direct correlation to their intimacy with God, he said, because money is God's major competitor.

Charitable giving as a percentage of income continues to decline, and the younger generation is unlikely to reverse it. Adults age 35 and younger have more debt, less savings and are less generous than any previous generation, Dayton said.

Pastors should talk about money and teach members how to handle all of their income, not just 10 percent of it, he said. Though pastors may feel unprepared or hesitant to talk about money matters, "teach-

ing God's people to handle God's money is a big thing," he said.

Dick Towner, author of "Good Sense Resources" and affiliated with the Willow Creek Association, said the misuse of money is an evil power that opposes God.

"The failure of the local church to give adequate attention to financial matters prevents the church from fulfilling its redemptive potential," he said, and is "the largest example of self-marginalization in our history."

### Three key truths about money

Towner said all the biblical references to money boil down to three truths: God created everything, God retained ownership of all He created, and humans are made trustees of part of God's creation.

Trustees have more responsibilities than rights, he said, and are held accountable for what they do with what is entrusted to them.

Towner also advised churches to institute a ministry of financial stewardship that teaches, trains and supports church members. An effective financial ministry is both practical and spiritual, he said, assisting people who are "seduced by the gospel of materialism" while "looking in all the wrong places for the contentment that only Jesus can provide."

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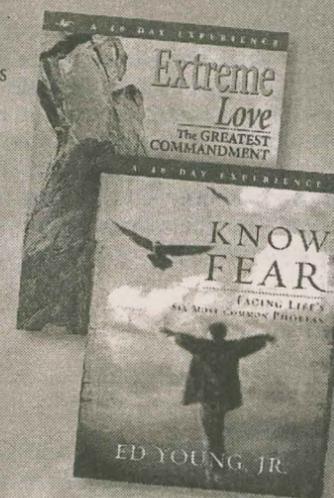
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■ American consumer debt is up 20 percent in the past two years.

■ American savings has fallen to half what it was two years ago.

■ One-sixth of Americans will gamble in a casino this year.

■ The number of bankruptcies could reach 1.6 million this year.

Source: Crown Ministries

# Raising expectations

*Author urges churches to 'Raise the Bar' for youths' role in worship and ministry*

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Wake Forest, N.C. (BP)—If teenagers can win Olympic gold medals at age 15, then why can't the church trust them to lead Christian ministries?

That's the question Alvin Reid asks in his new book, "Raising the Bar: Ministry to Youth in the New Millennium."

The 44-year-old evangelism professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., is convinced that churches have underemphasized the role of youth in spiritual awakening.

"Student ministers are realizing that this generation of young people [is] not satisfied with the latest game or ice-breaker. They want real, honest biblical substance," he said.

Reid credits authors Neil Howe and William Strauss, who wrote "Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation," for helping him compile a list of 10 positive traits that

give reason to be optimistic about today's teens:

**They are optimistic.** This is a contrast to the "busters" who preceded them. Reid referred to a recent survey in which nine of 10 millennials described themselves as happy, positive or confident.

**They are team players.** "I have personally noticed a remarkable change in youth groups in the past three years, particularly in their commitment to group activities, including evangelistic outreach. They are remarkably com-

mitted to missions projects and personal evangelism when sent out in teams."

**They are not distrustful and accept authority.** One study of 12- to 14-year-olds found that the people they looked for answers were their parents. Reid quoted researcher George Barna: "It is the rare teenager who believes he or she can lead a fulfilling life without receiving complete acceptance and



support from his or her family."

**They are rule-followers.** From 1995-2000, homicide, violent crime, abortion and teen pregnancy dropped at a faster rate than any previous period. Reid quoted one writer who said the 1990s witnessed rapid improvement in adolescent conduct.

**They are watched over, not neglected.** While broken homes abound, this generation's parents show a greater concern for the well-being of their children than those immediately preceding them, Reid said.

In the summer of 2002, he said, child abductions received unprecedented attention not because such crimes are on the rise but because of national concern for children.

**They are colorblind.** If a church

wants to exclude someone on the basis of race, Reid said, in a few years they won't have any youth left. "My son gets angry at the thought of a church that would have the audacity to exclude someone on the basis of the color of his skin."

**They are bright.** Reid said this generation understands technology better than his parents, recalling how his daughter was adept at handling CD-ROMs at the age of 4. "If they can learn chemistry in high school, they can learn theology at church," Reid said.

**They believe in the future.** The idealism of the '60s generation is seen in this group without so much of an anti-authority edge. The author mentioned a recent news report on the rising number of G-rated movies, citing youths' influence on marketing.

**They want a challenge.** Many people decry low standards in some public schools, but Reid said the level of expectation in most churches is just as low.

As a contrast, he mentioned First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., where 180 youth meet at 7:15 a.m. on Sundays to sing or play in the youth choir and orchestra. When the pastor challenged students to dedicate a year to mission work after high school, 17 went to Argentina.

**They seek genuine spirituality.** Reid again cited Barna, who found in a survey that while two-thirds of teens are interested in a meaningful relationship with God, fewer than one-third are active in a church.

"Obviously, youth ministry in America has not produced a generation of young people who are passionate about the church," Reid said. "However, it is also an indictment on the state of the church in America."

Yet, Reid said he finds an optimistic sign for the future in a U.S. Census Bureau projection: In 2006 there will be more youth in America than at any time in our nation's history.

"I just think in the providence of God, our Lord knew that," Reid said. "So that may be our hope."

**WANTING MORE** Author Alvin Reid said teens expect more out of church today. "Student ministers are realizing that this generation of young people [is] not satisfied with the latest game or ice-breaker. They want real, honest biblical substance," he said. (File photo)

## Tates Creek Baptist Association EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

*If Not Us, Who?*

Thursday, April 29, 2004

Red House Baptist Church  
2301 Red House Road  
Richmond, KY

6:30 p.m.



Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.



Dr. Dan Garland

**You are cordially invited to attend!**

## RECOGNITION OF DECEASED KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The 2004 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptist in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Date of death
4. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
5. Name of church where member, association, state where located
6. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before August 31 to:

Executive Office  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
PO Box 43433  
Louisville KY 40253-0433  
ATTN: Wanda Karolyi  
e-mail address: Wanda\_Karolyi@KYBaptist.org

These obituary entries will be reported to the 2004 KBC annual meeting in Lexington. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

## KBC conference promotes 'Leadership that Works'

**Anderson said too many pastors leave a church before their efforts bear fruit, comparing that to farmers plowing up rocky soil and leaving before the harvest.**

*Continued from page 1*  
said. "If it's the latter, we're going to become cloistered and withdraw (from society). I think a lot of our churches are struggling with that."

But being an effective leader doesn't mean directing every ministry, explained Anderson, senior pastor of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minn.

At his first church in Colorado, Anderson said trying to manage an evangelistic visitation program left him with headaches and nausea. Only after he put laypeople in charge of the visitation program, he said, did the congregation grow exponentially.

"I got out of it and let them go," the pastor said. "I was terrible at it. If you can't step up and do it, let somebody else do it."

Anderson outlined five other characteristics of leadership that works, including:

**Live Christianly.** Pastors tend to rationalize that when they get past a particular financial or personal problem, they will be able to move on, he said. But those struggles represent opportunities to show members how to overcome similar dilemmas, Anderson noted.

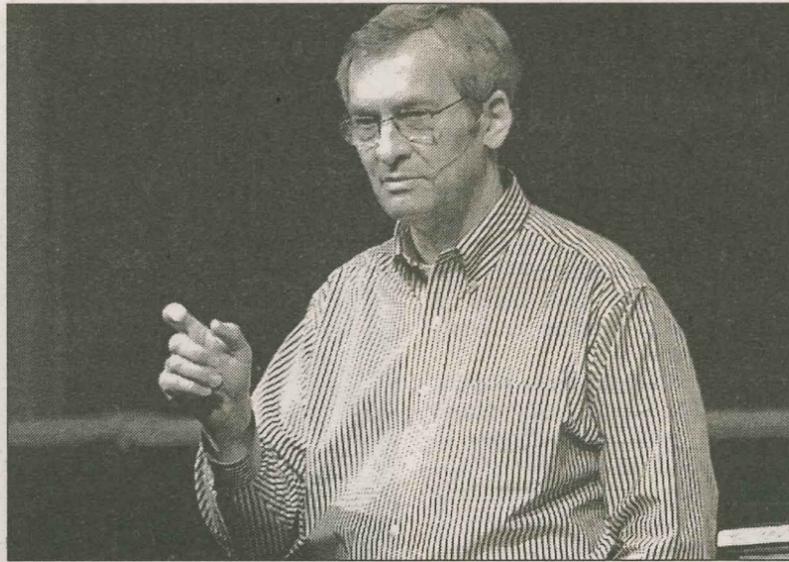
"It could well be not when we get over the hump, but how Christianly we live in the midst of the crisis."

**Choose multiple mentors.** Pointing to biblical examples, Anderson said mentors can include historical figures, authors or famous people.

He advised searching for others worthy of emulating and who can help shape godly character. The goal is to know them so well one can envision their advice even if mentors aren't available, Anderson said.

"There's a danger of only having one," he added. "That's like investing everything in one stock. You want to have a mutual fund."

**Learn the leadership context.** Anderson recalled meeting a pastor at



**STRENGTHS, NOT WEAKNESSES** Speaking to Kentucky pastors last week, pastor and author Leith Anderson said: "We need to ask what are we good at, what can we do and how can we utilize that instead of trying to compensate for weaknesses that we're probably not going to correct." (KBC photo by Larry Brannin)

a church near a military post. After nine years, he still didn't know soldiers' ranks.

Likewise, in Minneapolis, many evangelical pastors fail to learn about Catholic and Lutheran life, even though two-thirds of their members come from those backgrounds.

"Never make the mistake of assuming the context is the same where you are now as where you were before," Anderson said. "It's critically important we adapt to the culture where we are."

**Beware of the cutting edge.** Don't be fascinated with the latest fads or trends, he said. Instead, Anderson suggested observing what has worked elsewhere and determining if it can be successfully adapted to one's church.

**Trust God for the long term.** Pointing to investor Warren Buffett becoming rich by holding stocks for dozens of years, Anderson said the best years of a pastor's stay come be-

tween the sixth and eighth year.

But too many pastors leave before their efforts bear fruit, he said, comparing that to farmers plowing up rocky soil and leaving before the harvest.

In an interview afterward, Anderson said one reason many pastors fail to assume leadership is they lack the experience or social skills to persuade people to follow them.

But such shortcomings can be overcome through feedback from mentors and learning how to assess situations, he said.

The veteran pastor said mentors helped him gradually develop his leadership abilities. A key development was strengthening his analytical thinking.

"We need to ask what are we good at, what can we do and how can we utilize that instead of trying to compensate for weaknesses that we're probably not going to correct," Anderson said.

## Anderson: Relevance grabs world's attention

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Crestwood**—When the world's largest retail complex opened in a suburb of Minneapolis, Wooddale Church saw an opportunity to use the highly-publicized event to make the church relevant to the culture.

The day the Mall of America opened in 1992, it attracted lines of motorists more than three miles long.

The reaction would forecast the mall's status as a bigger tourist destination than Graceland, Disney World and the Grand Canyon combined, according to Leith Anderson.

Sensing the attraction the shopping center would have for the public, Anderson said leaders from his church discussed what they could do to adjust to that popularity to further the gospel.

Ultimately, they decided to ask management if they could hold a church service in the mall the Sunday after it opened. Not only did a representative approve the request, she gave them the space free of charge.

Roping off an area for about 400 chairs, Anderson said the church shifted its morning service to the mall. But it never expected such a rousing reception.

"To our amazement thousands of people came and stood all around the concourse," the pastor said.

Preaching from Acts 17 about Paul's trip to Mars Hill, Anderson said the apostle spoke in a similar venue, meaning Mall of America was a descendent of the market in Greece.

After the service, a woman asked for his notes; she turned out to be a reporter for the Minneapolis Tribune. The next morning two front-page photos and a story about the service appeared in the paper, quoting from his sermon.

Relayed on wire services, that story eventually appeared in newspapers coast to coast. His message didn't attract attention because it was new but because it was culturally relevant, Anderson said.

Today, Wooddale Church is still striving to touch people outside its building. Among its half-dozen satellite churches is one that meets at

9 a.m. Sundays in a sports bar.

Featuring testimonies, an emcee and a videotape of the sermon from his Saturday sermon the night before, the unusual service has been running for more than a year.

Anderson said it represents taking action to remain culturally relevant to today's society, not something that happened long ago.

"We try to repeat blessings because we're reluctant to trust God for another blessing," he said. "What was the culture of last year or the last decade or when you grew up isn't there anymore."

### 'Effective churches'

**Crestwood**—During last week's leadership conference, Pastor Leith Anderson of Minneapolis outlined indicators of an effective church.

Anderson said typical measures, such as membership or building size, aren't accurate barometers.

He said the three keys of an effective church include:

■ **It teaches biblical Christianity.** Some Christians think reaching non-believers means being cautious about their message, Anderson said.

But church visitors expect to hear about the Bible, just as they expect to hear music at a concert, he said.

Still, truth delivered without love is anything but Christian, Anderson added.

Many people in society come from abusive homes, he noted, and they can quickly spot dysfunctional or abusive behavior. "If they can tell the love of God is there, it's like a sigh of relief that they have found such a place."

■ **It has cultural relevance.** Posing the question of whether the culture is a friend or enemy of Christ's gospel, Anderson said the way a church answers that question will determine everything it does.

Those who believe the culture is the enemy will tend to separate themselves from the culture, he said. While some fear becoming so accommodating there is no noticeable difference, Jesus modeled interacting with the culture but without sinning, Anderson said.

■ **It has an outreach orientation.** Sixty percent of new churches don't survive 12 years, and those that do survive typically develop an inward focus, Anderson said.

Now nearing three decades at Wooddale, the pastor said he and members combated that tendency in creative ways. Instead of a members-only softball team, the church's sports ministry dictated that 20 percent of a team be non-Christians.

The church also grants use of its facilities only to non-Christian community groups.

"One thing we're constantly thinking through is: 'How does this reach people for Jesus Christ?'" he said.



Alma Randolph is available for concerts, worship services or conferences. She has been guest soloist for numerous Christian events throughout the country. Alma has shared her musical ministry at numerous KBC events. Scheduling information: (270) 926-8270

## Evangelicals see Morocco as bridge to Muslim world

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—In early March, Pastor Rob Schenck found himself in front of 100 suspicious Moroccan university students, humbly admitting Americans' ignorance about their country.

"I said, 'I come in the spirit of Christ with humility and the love of God' and I watched as their facial expressions changed," recalled Schenck, the president of the National Clergy Council, who joined a delegation of evangelical leaders in seeking dialogue with the country's moderate Muslims.

"It was almost dramatic, their eyes, their smiles. Suddenly they went from clearly suspicious frowns to smiles."

That experience in Marrakech was one of many bridge-building moments that evangelical leaders hope will lead to such wide-ranging joint efforts with Moroccan Muslims as a contemporary Christian music festival and development projects to aid those without potable water.

The delegation traveled to the northwest African country that is 99 percent Muslim from Feb. 29-March 8, meeting with governmental and religious leaders.

Richard Cizik, the National Association of Evangelicals' vice president for government affairs, said the trip was a follow-up to a forum last May in which his organization helped draft guidelines to foster better relations between Christians and Muslims.

"Our intention here is to develop dialogue with Muslims on religious freedom, democracy and human rights and the response of Morocco's governmen-

tal leaders would seem ample evidence that we've begun in the right place," Cizik said.

He said the dialogue led to exploration of projects to help poor, rural Moroccans who are in need of literacy assistance and who lack potable water and electricity.

The connections between the evangelicals and the Moroccans were guided by Michael Kirtley, an international free-lance photojournalist who started an organization to reduce misunderstanding between America and the Arab world after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Kirtley, the president of Friendship Caravan, said the cooperation is highly unusual, given that some evangelical spokespeople have harshly criticized Islam and evangelical Christians may be viewed with uncertainty.

Harry Thomas, pastor of a Medford, N.J., charismatic church, said the trip was an eye-opener for him as well.

"I think what is presented to our United States ... and what is presented in evangelical Christianity oftentimes is very slanted," he said. "We see the Muslims as our enemies ... when in fact there are many moderate Muslims who are just as afraid of terrorism as we are."

Thomas, the director of the Creation Festivals of contemporary Christian music, is working on the plans for the concert in Marrakech. He said the artists would come at their own expense and the aim would be bridge-building, not proselytizing.

And Schenck plans to help send evangelical medical teams to the region by this fall.

## One year after bombing, widow back in Philippines

By Shawn Hendricks  
SBC International Mission Board

Manila, Philippines (BP)—The night before a terrorist bomb took the life of Southern Baptist mission worker Bill Hyde, he told his wife he had great respect for single women living on the mission field. One year later, those words continue to comfort her.

Lyn Hyde returned to the Philippines in March to continue God's work among the Filipinos. Her husband and 20 others were killed March 4, 2003, when a bomb exploded in an airport at Davao City in the southern Philippines.

Before the bombing, the Hydies had served there for 25 years. Since the tragedy, Lyn's new life has been difficult, but she said she knows the Philippines is where she needs to be.

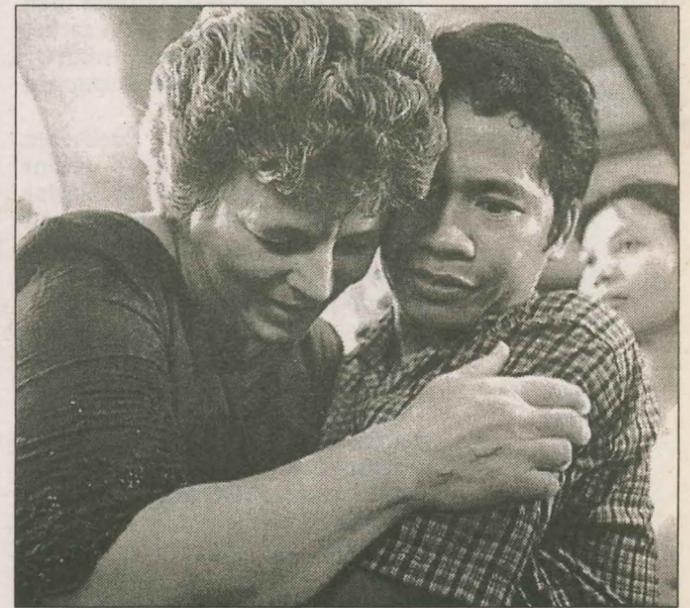
On the day of the bombing, "my life blew up as if it were a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle," she wrote in a recent e-mail message from the field. "The Lord has not yet put them back together, but there has been progress."

"Although a terrorist bomb killed my husband," she said, "I knew it had not killed God's call on my life."

Lyn now works as a member of a missions mobilization team in a different area of the country. She's partnering with three other couples to challenge Filipino churches to send out and support their own missionaries. The team also provides training for those who answer God's call to go.

While learning the responsibilities of her new role, she also is leading a group of nationals through the "On Mission with God" study by Avery Willis and Henry Blackaby.

"My previous 25 years in the



Philippines has equipped me for this new role," she said.

It's those previous years on the field with her husband that Lyn will always hold dear to her heart. She remembers the little things he'd do, like bringing her yellow roses from time to time, but most of all, she remembers his spiritual leadership.

"My most cherished memories of Bill are the morning prayer times we had together before starting each day," she said. "How I miss not having him to begin the day in that way."

Lyn's year away from the field has helped her heal and grow spiritually.

"It was a time for initial healing and a time for seeking the Lord's direction for my future," she said.

### Facing doubts

Lyn admitted she wondered if God wanted to send her back to the Philippines at all. She was torn between the place she had grown to love as her home and a new opportunity in a different country.

"I was having difficulty sleeping at night with my thoughts pulling me back and forth between two countries," she said. "I was fearful I would make a mistake in my decision."

She prayed that God would clearly show her where He needed her to go and asked Him to do it within a designated time. A few hours before the deadline, a missionary friend felt compelled to call her and told her, "Consider the stewardship of your 25 years in the Philippines." One of her leaders from the field said the same thing to her a few months earlier.

"When I heard those words again, a great sense of peace came over me," she said. "I knew without question that this was God's confirmation that He wanted me to return to the Philippines. I have not doubted my decision since that time."

She said she continues to draw strength from prayer, her hope in Christ and knowing that Bill has gone home to be with God.

"In the midst of the challenges ... Bill is among the 'great cloud of witnesses' cheering me on."

**LYN HYDE** In this picture from last year, a Filipino pastor comforts Lyn Hyde during a memorial service for her husband. "Although a terrorist bomb killed my husband, I knew it had not killed God's call on my life." (BP file photo)

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## Researcher: Relationships key for churches to help kids

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

Dallas (ABP)—Churches can help children and youth succeed by focusing more on relationships than programs and on strengths rather than problems, family ministry leader Eugene Roehlkepartain insisted.

Roehlkepartain delivered a keynote address at a recent conference sponsored by Baylor University's Center for Family and Community Ministries and the North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

"What do children need to succeed?" asked Roehlkepartain, director of family and congregation initiatives for the Search Institute, a research and consulting organization that promotes healthy children, youth and communities.

The answer is at once incredibly complex and deceptively simple, he said.

Based on interviews with more than 2 million youth, the Search Institute identified 40 "developmental assets" that impact the degree to which children and adolescents develop positively, Roehlkepartain said.

These assets include the kind of family support and parental



**CHURCH ACTIVITY** Involvement in a church group was among 40 "developmental assets" recently identified that increase the likelihood that children will make wise decisions, avoid risky behavior and develop maturely. (RNS file photo)

involvement in schooling that a child receives, physical safety, involvement in a religious group, daily homework, personal integrity, decision-making skills and self-esteem, he explained.

The more "development assets" a young person has, the greater likelihood she or he will make wise decisions, avoid risky behavior and develop maturely, he said.

"Many people think this is just common sense," that the value of

the characteristics are obvious, he acknowledged, adding common sense sometimes is uncommon.

The Search Institute discovered the average U.S. youth possesses just 18 of the 40 assets, and 62 percent have fewer than 20 percent of the assets.

The typical youth who attends church at least one hour per week possesses 21 assets, which is "average but still too low," Roehlkepartain said.

Helping youth get more development assets doesn't require more programs, he said. "The real challenge is to cultivate a society

that is deeply sensitive to developing children and teens."

Parents alone cannot develop youth adequately, he stressed. "If you breathe, you're on the team," he said of the widespread need for church members to help children and teens.

A couple of factors are crucial to the success of such an endeavor, he said. "First, we've got to shift away from over-reliance on programs and curriculum to a primary reliance on relationships," he said.

"Our greatest gift ought to be our authentic presence with them," he insisted.

"Second, we must shift from focusing on children's problems to lifting up their strengths," he said. "Focus more attention on what's right with young people, not just the problems."

"Examine how we nurture children and youth," he said of churches. "Provide caring mentors, guides, friends and role models."

Churches should not desert the cause just because other social-service providers are present, he cautioned. "We can't afford to pit ourselves against other people of goodwill. The faith community has to enter the public square. ... We're there because we want to make a difference in the lives of kids."

"Is it easy? No. Is it messy? Yes. Is it worth it? Undoubtedly."

### 'Developmental assets' for children

Minneapolis—A study by the Search Institute found that the following 40 "developmental assets" help insure children will make wise decisions, avoid risky behavior and develop maturely:

1. **Family support.** Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. **Positive family communication.** Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. **Other adult relationships.** Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. **Caring neighborhood.** Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. **Caring school climate.** School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. **Parent involvement in schooling.** Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.
7. **Community values youth.** Young person perceives that local adults value youth.
8. **Youth as resources.** Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. **Service to others.** Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. **Safety.** Young person feels safe at home, at school and in the neighborhood.
11. **Family boundaries.** Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. **School boundaries.** School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. **Neighborhood boundaries.** Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. **Adult role models.** Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. **Positive peer influence.** Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. **High expectations.** Both parent(s) and teachers encourage high performance.
17. **Creative activities.** Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater or other arts.
18. **Youth programs.** Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports or organizations at school and/or in the community.

19. **Religious community.** Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.

20. **Time at home.** Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

21. **Achievement motivation.** Young person is motivated to do well in school.

22. **School engagement.** Young person is actively engaged in learning.

23. **Homework.** Young person does at least one hour of homework every school day.

24. **Bonding to school.** Young person cares about her or his school.

25. **Reading for pleasure.** Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

26. **Caring.** Young person places high value on helping other people.

27. **Equality and social justice.** Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.

28. **Integrity.** Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.

29. **Honesty.** Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy."

30. **Responsibility.** Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.

31. **Restraint.** Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

32. **Planning/decision making.** Young person knows how to plan, make choices.

33. **Interpersonal competence.** Young person has empathy, sensitivity and friendship skills.

34. **Cultural competence.** Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.

35. **Resistance skills.** Young person can resist negative peer pressure, dangerous situations.

36. **Peaceful conflict resolution.** Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

37. **Personal power.** Young person feels control over "things that happen to me."

38. **Self-esteem.** Young person reports having a high self-esteem.

39. **Sense of purpose.** Young person reports that "my life has a purpose."

40. **Positive view of personal future.** Young person is optimistic about personal future.

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

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Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 Fellow
- 5 Halfway, prefix
- 8 Charles, for short
- 12 Aircraft, prefix
- 13 Summer, Fr.
- 14 Alley Oop's girlfriend
- 15 "And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and \_\_\_ the men of the city" (Judges 8:17)
- 16 Resident, abbr.
- 17 "Shall \_\_\_ words have an end?" (Job 16:3)
- 18 "We are troubled on every \_\_\_ ... we are \_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 4:8) (2 words)
- 21 To make free of
- 22 Boy's name
- 23 "The \_\_\_ and flags shall wither" (Isaiah 19:6)
- 26 Belonging to the author of much of the New Testament (2 words)
- 30 Referring to the nose, prefix
- 31 "Let me \_\_\_ the death of the righteous" (Numbers 23:10)
- 32 Belonging to the National Security Agency, abbr.
- 33 Stutter
- 35 Sticks with a knife
- 36 Adjective suffix
- 37 Weep
- 38 "That the \_\_\_ might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God" (2 Corinthians 4:15)
- 45 Elbow-shaped pasta, for short
- 46 "But let your communication be, \_\_\_" (Matthew 5:37)
- 47 "\_\_\_ that great city, that was clothed in fine linen" (Revelation 18:16)
- 48 \_\_\_ Domini
- 49 "Of \_\_\_, the family of the Erites" (Numbers 26:16)
- 50 "But this woman ... hath not ceased to \_\_\_ my feet" (Luke 7:45)

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38	39	40			41				42	43	44	
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48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 51 Chinese food
- 52 Noise
- 53 Feminine name ending

Down

- 1 One of the Mamas and the Papas
- 2 Sun, prefix
- 3 "They bring thee \_\_\_ heifer without spot" (Numbers 19:2) (2 words)
- 4 "Far above all principality, and \_\_\_, and might, and \_\_\_" (Ephesians 1:21) (2 words)
- 5 "The sons of Ezra were, Jether, and \_\_\_" (1 Chronicles 4:17)
- 6 Roman road
- 7 "Hath done \_\_\_ unto the Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:29)
- 8 "My \_\_\_ they \_\_\_, although I was an husband unto them" (Jeremiah 31:32)
- 9 Deception
- 10 "A strong delusion, that they should believe \_\_\_" (2 Thessalonians 2:11)
- 11 "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the \_\_\_ of the sea" (Romans 9:27)
- 19 Ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
- 20 What you lose when you stand
- 23 Drs: assistants
- 24 "Therefore, the children of Israel \_\_\_ not of the sinew which shrank" (Genesis 32:32)
- 25 That, Sp.
- 26 "And he answered ... I go, \_\_\_; and went not" (Matthew 21:30)
- 27 Abbreviation for America
- 28 Where scientists work
- 29 Selective Service System, abbr.
- 31 "I made haste, and \_\_\_ not to keep thy commandments" (Psalms 119:60)
- 34 "I said of laughter, it is \_\_\_" (Ecclesiastes 2:2)
- 35 Soak
- 37 "I will \_\_\_ all my raiment" (Isaiah 63:3)
- 38 "Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from \_\_\_" (Numbers 23:7)
- 39 "Thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek \_\_\_" (Psalms 3:7)
- 40 "Bakbukiah and \_\_\_ ... were over against them in the watches" (Nehemiah 12:9)
- 41 "Salathiel, which was the son of \_\_\_" (Luke 3:27)
- 42 Got down from
- 43 "Have ye not \_\_\_ out the priests of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 13:9)
- 44 To be, Lat.

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
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## Poll gauges how American evangelicals see themselves

### Survey says:

Washington—Ten key findings from a poll on American evangelicals:

■ 35 percent attend religious services more than once a week.

■ 66 percent believe Bible is actual Word of God.

■ 75 percent believe evangelicals are part of mainstream U.S. society:

■ 75 percent believe evangelicals have to fight for voices to be heard by American mainstream.

■ 48 percent think only born-again Christians go to heaven.

■ 58 percent read religious books, newspapers or magazines weekly.

■ 57 percent watch or listen to religious broadcasting weekly.

■ 90 percent believe that spreading their faith is important.

■ 84 percent believe only hope for salvation is through personal faith in Jesus Christ.

■ 83 percent oppose gay marriage.

Source: Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—A new survey finds the vast majority of U.S. evangelicals view themselves as part of mainstream American society while at the same time believing they must fight to be heard by mainstream Americans.

The results of the survey, conducted for the PBS television program "Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly" and U.S. News & World Report, were released at a news conference last week.

The wide-ranging survey by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research of Washington, D.C., looked at political, religious and racial diversity among evangelicals as well as their beliefs, values and behavior. Findings reveal a division among evangelicals about the leaders who are often depicted as their representatives as well as whether someone must be "born again" to enter heaven.

But a significant percentage of evangelicals relate a tension between having arrived on the American scene and being a community of Rodney Dangerfields within the larger society.

Three-quarters of all evangelical Christians believe they fit into mainstream American society and exactly the same percentage—75 percent—said they have to fight to get heard by mainstream Americans.

"These are folks that perceive themselves to be very much in the modern world—and they are, in fact, very much in the modern world—but they do not see themselves as be-



**WHO'S MORE LIKED?** More self-described evangelicals said they have a favorable view of Pope John Paul II than those who said they have a favorable view of Jerry Falwell.

ing of the world," said John Green, a political science professor at the University of Akron who acted as an adviser to the survey.

The national poll was conducted in March and April and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Researchers found distinctions among evangelicals about leaders such as Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell who are often viewed as their representatives. Just 44 percent of all evangelicals offered a favorable view of Falwell while 54 percent viewed Robertson positively.

The world's most prominent Catholic ranked higher than some evangelical brethren. Pope John Paul II earned a favorable rating from 59 percent of evangelicals.

There also are distinctions on key theological viewpoints.

While 48 percent of all evangelicals surveyed said only born-again Christians will go to heaven, 45 percent said they do not believe that. Half of white evangelicals believe that to be the case and fewer black evangelicals (42 percent) think

born-again Christians are the only ones who will enter heaven.

Researchers found that while evangelicals generally were opposed to gay marriage—83 percent—that view did not equate with a universal call for a constitutional amendment banning such unions.

Forty-one percent of evangelicals said an amendment is needed while 52 percent said it was sufficient to prohibit gay marriage by law without changing the Constitution.

### Evangelicals & politics

Moreover, evangelicals were almost evenly divided over whether gay marriage would provide a litmus test for their vote in an election. Forty-six percent said they would not vote for a candidate who disagrees with them about gay marriage but agrees with them on other issues, while 42 percent said they

would vote for such a candidate.

Overall, 63 percent of evangelicals said they would support President Bush in the presidential election while 31 percent favored Democratic candidate John Kerry.

Michael Cromartie, director of the Evangelical Studies Project of the Ethics & Public Policy Center, said the overall survey confirms the state of evangelicalism, but he questioned if some of the findings related to theological views are actually those of evangelicals.

"There is a certain point where you are no longer evangelical," he said. "Part of the definition of being an evangelical is its exclusivity of the gospel, and that the way of salvation is through Christ, and when you start saying ... 'I believe everybody goes to heaven,' what are you, a liberal Protestant now? What are you?"

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## A school in the 'wilderness'

### International students often have funny stories about their first visit to Oneida

While most of our students come from here in Kentucky, we have other students from across the U.S. and around the world. Our international students often make amusing comments in describing their first trips to Oneida Baptist Institute. In the essays written each spring titled, "My Oneida Experience," seniors often tell about their first eye-opening experiences traveling to OBI.

"Kim" (not her real name) was born in Korea. Before coming to the U.S., she had lived in the Philippines, where her father was temporarily employed. Rather than having Kim return to Korea when his job was completed, the family began to look for a boarding school in the U.S. Another school had been chosen, but at the last minute they discovered that the dormitories were not open on the weekends. Kim's family asked a pastor friend to help them find a boarding school for their daughter. With a little research, he told them about a "good Christian school in Kentucky."

Kim's first impressions of Oneida were not encouraging. She thought she was in the "wilderness." She described her dormitory room as the size of a "closet," and she had to share the space with up to three other students. "There were tons of things I had to do for myself that I had never had to worry about before, such as doing my laundry and vacuuming my room ... and there was a lot of stress from living with other people. But when my parents visited and asked me if I wanted to go somewhere else, I said 'no' because I felt like Oneida was the answer to

my prayers. I had become a Christian my sophomore year, and I had always been thirsty for my faith to grow. I constantly prayed for God to draw me closer to Him. I truly felt God had sent me to Oneida for a reason."

Kim has been a wonderful student! She has been on the honor roll the entire time she has been with us. Kim also has taken nearly every advanced placement class we offer. She gets along very well with her peers, and, yes, she even has begun to appreciate and value her roommates.

In their essays, seniors are asked to share the most important thing they have gained by being at OBI. Kim wrote, "I have gained many true friendships and a gratitude for all the things I have. I have also learned to be more patient and forgiving. ... The single most important thing I have gained by coming to Oneida is probably the growth of my faith in Jesus Christ. I had not been exposed to such an evangelistic environment before. I believe

this place and the people have impacted my life by helping me to become a better Christian. Getting closer to God is the best thing that has ever happened in my life. ... 'I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29:11)."

Oneida is blessed to have a very diverse student body. Many international students have discovered God's gift of salvation while here. Your gifts given through the Father's Day Offering help make it possible for us to open our doors to students from around the world.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Better acquainted with His Word

### Tennessee student thankful for Clear Creek environment

One of the children in your church's summer vacation Bible school might end up at Clear Creek. First-year student Cameron Debity was saved in VBS during the summer of 1993 at Rural Vale Baptist Church in Tellico Plains, Tenn.; he was 10 years old.

"I haven't had the traditional family setting," Cameron said. "I was raised by a hardworking single mother who occasionally took me to church. A friend of hers invited me to VBS. Mom married when I was 15, and now I have a stepfather, stepsister and a half sister. My mother and sisters are very involved in church."

A severe automobile accident brought Cameron to a rededication of his life at age 18.

"I became busy with opportunities at churches and schools to share my testimony," Cameron said. "I announced my calling to the ministry shortly afterward. After attending two secular schools, God called me to get quiet and still; my former school had 30,000 students. I also needed to become better acquainted with

His Word. Our county has very few full-time ministers; many of the bivocational pastors attended Clear Creek. I'd heard nothing but great things about the school and have found it to be true. I like the amount of love and fellowship we have here. The lower tuition is also good"

Cameron first visited the campus with alumnus B.J. Wall who remembered living in Kelly Hall.

"He said the living conditions were not so good," Cameron said. "We were amazed to see the remodeled building; it is the nicest college dorm I've stayed in. When I visited, I knew this was the place."

Home is 165 miles away, and Cameron already has accumulated several miles returning for preaching assignments.

"My heart's desire is to preach in different places, to travel with the gospel," he said. "I once feared sharing my faith, but now it's second nature. I'm in the pastoral major but take evangelism electives. The Lord has lit a fire in my heart, and I do my best to keep Him in my conversations."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# To the ends of the earth

*Couple trades Mississippi heat for Alaskan Arctic Circle to share Christ with natives*

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

Kiana, Alaska—John and Kim Piepmeier said God first began working in their lives through their local church. But it wasn't long before they were involved in full-time missions service, which took them to a land about as close to "the ends of the earth" as anywhere.

Their ministry is now to Kiana Baptist Mission and the people of Kiana, a remote Native Alaskan village above the Arctic Circle where the only Hondas around are small all-terrain vehicles. In the winter-time—when temperatures can reach 50 degrees below zero—the family car is a snowmobile.

For the Eskimos who live there, this is life as usual. For these Missouri natives—as with any missionaries called to a radically different environment—the certainty of God's call has helped them adjust.

"The Bible tells us that the Lord has many offices and places where He wants each of us, and I feel that's what He's done with us," John said. "He's equipped us with the ability to handle it and enjoy it here. I don't think it takes any kind of special person. It was just being available, and really seeking after the Lord."

The Piepmeiers are among nearly 5,200 missionaries in the United States and Canada supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

## Accident leads to ministry

John and Kim were 36 years old when they became Christians, and it was three or four years later that they began to feel God might be calling them to full-time ministry as Mission Service Corps missionaries. The program allows missionaries to serve under the auspices of the North American Mission Board but with responsibility for raising their own personal financial support. In their case, God worked through the circumstances of a motorcycle accident that left John partially paralyzed and on a disability pension.

They first served in resort ministry at Lake of the Ozarks in their home state. In August 1999, they felt God wanted them in Alaska. They



Kim and John Piepmeier

learned of the need in Kiana, and within a few weeks they were ready to leave. They said God's confirmation of their decision came when they were able to sell their house, car and personal belongings within three weeks.

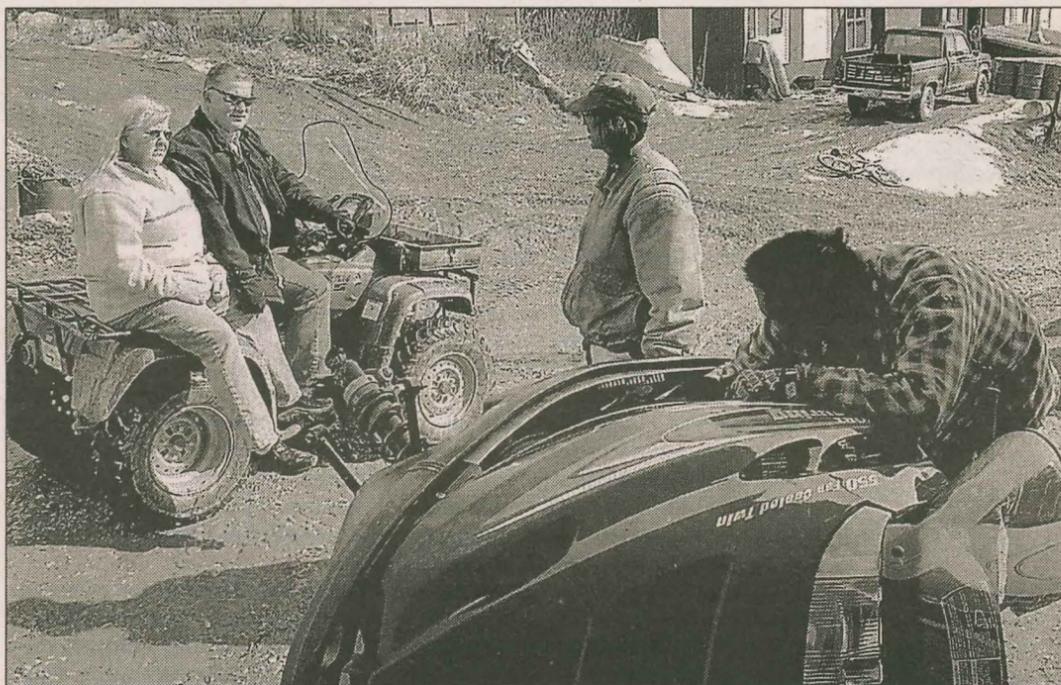
"We just knew that the Lord had directed us there," John said. "Some people say, 'Well, how can you be away from your family?' But the Lord just kind of prepared our hearts for everything, including the remoteness of Kiana."

As they got out of the plane that fall, they were awed by the natural beauty of the landscape and the Northern Lights. But they also had to adjust to the reasons the area is so sparsely populated. Most food—and anything else—is flown in to Kiana's small airstrip. Milk costs \$5 for a half gallon; bleach is \$20 a gallon. When they visit the nearest warehouse club in Anchorage—a \$500 round-trip flight for one person—they carry along Rubbermaid storage containers to mail their purchases home.

"The way of life is just very different," John said. "There's no reason to get worked up or worried about anything unless it's life-threatening; even then there is no reason to get worked up. If anything goes wrong or needs to get fixed, you do it yourself. You can't call a service guy or technician."

## Harsh conditions

The weather, of course, is a constant struggle. Their septic system is



a particular challenge, understandable in an environment surrounded by frozen tundra. They purchase their heating fuel in 55-gallon drums and deliver it themselves.

"After being 50 below, zero feels very warm," John said. "The shortest daylight of the year is Dec. 21 and we won't see the sun the week before or after, but we'll have about two hours of gray light each day."

The harsh conditions likely had something to do with why there had not been a Southern Baptist presence in the town since 1975, when former missionary Valeria Sherard retired.

"There had been a whole generation that had grown up without the Baptist mission running all the time. Some people have told me they can really tell the difference, and they want their children to be involved here," John said.

Sherard, who now lives in Mississippi, served at the small mission church for 15 years.

"I think because she had been there for so long that we have been more accepted," John added. "People do allow us and want us to come in and pray with them. They are appreciative that we would take the time to go to the Lord with them."

Initially they got to know the people by attending basketball games, schools, the store, and just visiting residents.

"It's a small village," Kim said. "Going around the outside of the village you'd be lucky if you got a mile and a half. So when you're new in town everybody knows you real quick."

Kim even took advantage of her own interest in sewing to have women teach her particular native crafts. She formed friendships in the process.

"We even started a women's sewing club on Thursday nights where women of the village could come over to our house," she said.

The ministry to children and youth is also strong, with a Good News Club offered on Friday afternoons and a youth group every Sunday night. Sunday attendance is often made up of more children than adults.

"I just have to ask God to lead me in sharing each Sunday, to have faith that God will allow me to speak in a way that both adults and children will understand," John said.

The only other church in town is a Friends (Quaker) congregation that has existed for more than 100 years, and many of the people are connected in some way with both. Each church has a bell, which they ring 30 minutes before the service, then again at five minutes.

## Helping residents find freedom

As in other areas, substance abuse, depression and even suicide are problems, they said. Poverty itself is not a major issue, with many holding good jobs in the oil industry or at the nearby Red Dog Mine, the largest zinc mine in the world. But residents often feel trapped.

"It is really something that is a problem, with lack of hope or lack of having a future, a goal set in their lives," John said. "They feel like there is just nothing to look forward to."

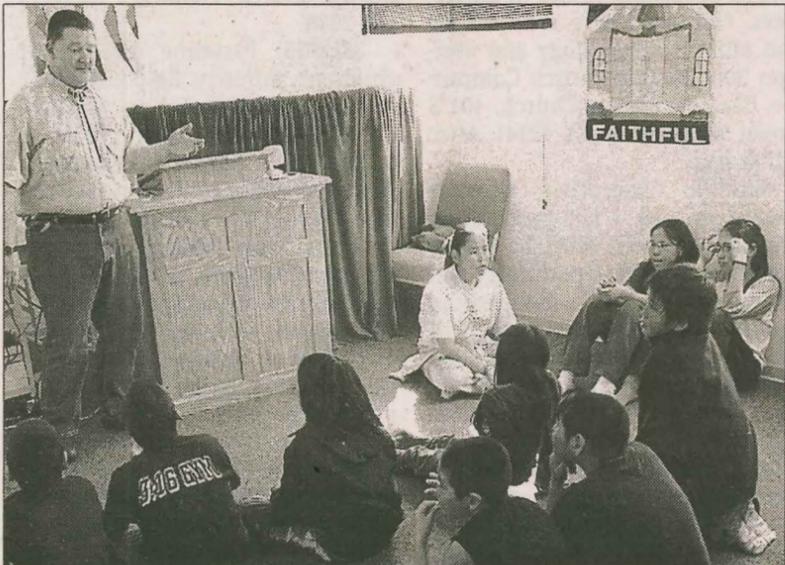
But the Piepmeiers are making a difference. Since they arrived, 73 people have accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

Among the adults whose lives have been transformed by the gospel was one man who has been free of using and selling alcohol and drugs for more than a year. He has become active in the church and is growing in his relationship with God.

"That's a wonderful blessing to see those things happening in the village," John said. "You start with one, and soon we know we will have two, and four, and eight as it keeps multiplying."

## ARCTIC CIRCLE

Missionaries John and Kim Piepmeier (left) talk with a group of young men in Kiana, Alaska, from the back of their "Honda," which serves as their family vehicle during the summer months. During the winter, snowmobiles are the preferred form of transportation in the remote Eskimo village. (NAMB photos by Gibbs Frazier)



GOOD NEWS CLUB John Piepmeier, pastor of Kiana Baptist Mission in Kiana, Alaska, shares with children during a "spiritual birthday" celebration.



## COMFORTING PRESENCE

The Piepmeiers pray with Johnson Black, a recent widower, during a visit to his home.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following missionaries and churches in Europe and Brazil, where Baptists are in partnership with Kentucky Baptists:

■ **A group** of Polish refugees who have been visiting an outreach center in Belgium. They have been reading the Polish Bibles that are put on the tables during the coffee-house hours. Pray that God's Word will lead them to the Way and the Truth.

■ **A couple** who is preparing to move to Sofia, Bulgaria, as strategy coordinators. Pray for God to prepare their way so that when they arrive, they can begin ministering immediately.

■ **Martha Moore**, a Baptist representative to Germany, and Journeyman Julie Bradfield ask for prayer for "Second Steps," a discipleship group that meets weekly on Thursday evening. The students are hungry to grow in the Word and need guidance in areas such as relationships and dating, and sharing their faith.

■ **A "Jesus" film** campaign in Prague, Czech Republic. Offers are being sent to every mailbox in Prague for a free video or book. The churches already are feeling overwhelmed from the response from the film showing. Pray that they will be strengthened and make effective contact as they deliver the requested materials.

■ **A German-Brazilian** team in Brazil that has begun a plan to reach university students at three major universities.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALBANY**—Cave Springs Church recently called **Dan Newton** as pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Mount Zion Church will hold revival services May 2-5, 7 p.m., with **Greg Deaton** as evangelist. **Darren Cupp** is pastor.

■ **BETHLEHEM**—Bethlehem Church will hold revival services April 25-28 with **Terry Rhye** as evangelist.

■ **BETSY LANE**—Calvary Southern Church will hold revival services May 5-8 with **Paul Badgett**, pastor of First Church, Pikeville, as evangelist. **Doug Lewis** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—East Cadiz Church will hold revival services April 30-May 2 with **Mike Rust** as evangelist.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Mercer Church will hold revival services May 16-20, 7 p.m., with **James Shutt** as evangelist.

■ **ELKTON**—Elkton Church recently called **Mike Cummings** as youth and activities minister.

■ **HENDERSON**—Eastview Church recently called **Kenneth Wilkerson** as pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Casky Church will hold revival services April 25-28 with **Doug Anderson** as evangelist. **Will Stone** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Calvary Church will hold high-attendance Sunday and homecoming April 25. **Harlan Avera Jr.** is pastor.

Pine Grove Church recently ordained **Steve Blankenship** as a deacon. **Bobby Phillips** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church recently called **Clay Hall** as minister to youth and **Chris Miracle** as minister to children. **Derek Yelton** is pastor.

Cedar Creek Church recently called **Greg Brewton** as minister of music and worship. **Timothy Beougher** is pastor.

East Audubon Church recently called **John Lepper** as interim pastor.

Garfield Avenue Church recently called **Craig Bassler** as pastor.

Walnut Street Church recently held a dedication service for a Steinway piano given in memory of **Anna**

**Ashcraft Ensor** by **Clyde Ensor** and family.

West Broadway Church will host a community-wide senior adult revival April 28-30, 11:30 a.m. Speakers will include **Norman Coe**, **Thurman Coleman** and **Charlie Davis**. For more information, call (502) 491-1920.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Sharon Church will host an Experiencing God Weekend April 23-25, including an all-night prayer emphasis.

■ **MONTICELLO**—New Salem Church will hold homecoming services May 16, 10 a.m., celebrating 180 years of ministry.

Rectors Flat Church recently held a dedication service for its new facility.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church recently honored **Penny Franklin**, Christian Life Center ministry assistant, for 20 years of service. **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.

■ **MUNFORDVILLE**—First Church will honor **Shirley Hornback** April 25 for 20 years of service in the church's nursery ministry. **Kevin Coulter** is pastor.

■ **PENROD**—Penrod Church will hold revival services April 25-30, 7 p.m., with **L.C. Gray** as evangelist.

■ **PROSPECT**—First Church recently called **Brandon Culver** as interim youth minister.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church recently called **John Laida** as interim pastor.

■ **SIDNEY**—Sidney Church will hold revival services May 10-14 with **Thurman Coleman** as evangelist. **Rick Gannon** is pastor.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Plum Creek Church has called **Harvey Richardson** as interim pastor.

### What's going on?

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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

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.

20 Start-a-Class Tour, Eminence Baptist Church.

22 Bivocational/Small Church Event, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville.

24-25 Daycare Orientation, KBC building, Louisville.

28-31 Baptist Men on Mission wrangler trail ride, Land Between the Lakes State Park.

### June

5 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville.

5-12 Kentucky Changers, Maysville

10-12 Soak A City—Youth Evangelism Conference, Pikeville.

12 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

13-14 National WMU Annual Meeting, Indianapolis.

14-18 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.

14-18 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, Grades 4-6.

15-16 Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis.

18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, Grades 1-3.

19 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Living Hope BC, Bowling Green.

19-26 Kentucky Changers, Calloway.

20-27 All State Youth Choir/Orchestra, Murray State University.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Large, three-manual Allen church organ (1990). Draw knobs and multiple commercial speaker cabinets; like-new condition. Replacement cost today: \$90,000 and up; will sell for \$35,000; buyer to remove. Call (606) 324-1632.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Evergreen Baptist Church. Please send resumés to: Pastor Selection Committee, Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Website: [evergreenbaptistchurch.us](http://evergreenbaptistchurch.us). E-mail: [psc@evergreenbaptistchurch.us](mailto:psc@evergreenbaptistchurch.us).

**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](mailto:westsidebaptist@charter.net).

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

**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:** 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](mailto:DiannaL@ibc-lex.org).

**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:** 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 resumés to: Two Hearts PCC, 300 Oxcart Drive, Ashland, KY 41101, or call (606) 327-6322.

**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.

**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.landlers@firstbaptistnet.com](mailto:richard.landlers@firstbaptistnet.com).

## Joking with Jesus: Christian comedians keep it clean

By James Sweeney  
Religion News Service

**Cleveland (RNS)**—The ballroom at an Independence, Ohio, hotel was full of Christian spirit, but that didn't mean comedian La Vance Lining could count on easy laughs.

Lining riffed on Michael Jackson ("One more milk bath, and he's going to be invisible") and the dangers of sex ("Now you can catch some things you can't get rid of—kids").

By the end of his 20-minute routine, everyone at the evening event, held by a local church, was laughing.

"Keep it all the way real in Christ," Lining said before plugging the self-produced CDs he had for sale.

Like other comics hoping to make it big, Lining, 37, faces long odds. His determination to make his faith part of his act makes it even harder. On this same night, while Lining performed for church members, comics were playing to bigger crowds and for more money at Hilarities and the Improv in downtown Cleveland.

They could tell the dirty jokes Lining won't. They wanted laughs, but, unlike Lining, they didn't care whether their routines left audience members thinking about their relationships with God.

Christian comedy is growing in popularity nationwide. It's bigger in the South but is starting to find a niche in the Midwest, even though many comedy club owners mistakenly use the terms "Christian comic" and "clean comic" interchangeably.

Both keep their comedy free of jokes about sex, drugs and other potentially offensive subjects, but Christian comics work their faith into their routines.

Jerry Seinfeld is a clean comic; Bob Smiley is a Christian comic, with the emphasis on Christian.

When Smiley needs new material, he writes the religious message he wants to convey across the top of a blank page. Then he thinks up jokes that get that point across.

The Texas-based comedian performed in Akron, Ohio, in January as part of a youth church festival. Onstage, he was like a younger Robin Williams, bouncing all over the stage and frenetically piling joke on top of joke in a high-pitched voice.

The most risqué Smiley got was a fart joke. He ended his 40-minute set by urging his young audience to pray.

Smiley, 32, has been a full-time comic for more than seven years. He performed 135 shows last year.

### Preaching with laughter

"I think people are starting to look for more positive entertainment," he said. "People that won't come to hear a preacher will come to hear a comedian, and they'll listen when I tell them a little message."

Not all Christian comics are as fervent as Smiley.

Mark Rein is a disc jockey on a Cleveland Christian radio station and leads a service at a North Royalton church. He has done stand-up comedy in front of religious and secular groups for 10 years.

Just as most foul-mouthed comedians have a well-scrubbed routine suitable for corporate gigs, many Christian comics have a secular set for audiences that don't necessarily share their religious views.

Rein "takes the temperature" of a room before he starts and downplays the Christianity if he thinks it might offend. He also worries about upsetting Christians who think any joke concerning God is sacrilegious.

Always eager to fill seats, some comedy club owners have turned to clean and Christian humor.

On Monday nights, the Funny

Bone in Columbus, Ohio, hosts "Bananas," a family-friendly comedy show produced by Guardian Studios, a local company. Advertised on the local PAX affiliate, which Guardian owns, and marketed to churches, the cable TV show brings in busloads of families who know they won't hear sexual references or profanity.

Virtually all of the comics who perform in "Bananas" are Christians, but they keep religion out of their routines, said Steve Howard, a Guardian executive. "Our goal in this is to create a great comedy show, not a great Christian comedy show," he said.

In Cleveland, Hilarities regularly hosts clean and Christian comics, and the response has been good, said marketing director John Lorince.

The Cleveland Improv is taking it further, planning to start a family comedy night in May or June.

"It's been going gangbusters at every one of our clubs that has tried it," said Lee Herlands, director of promotions.

### On stage with God

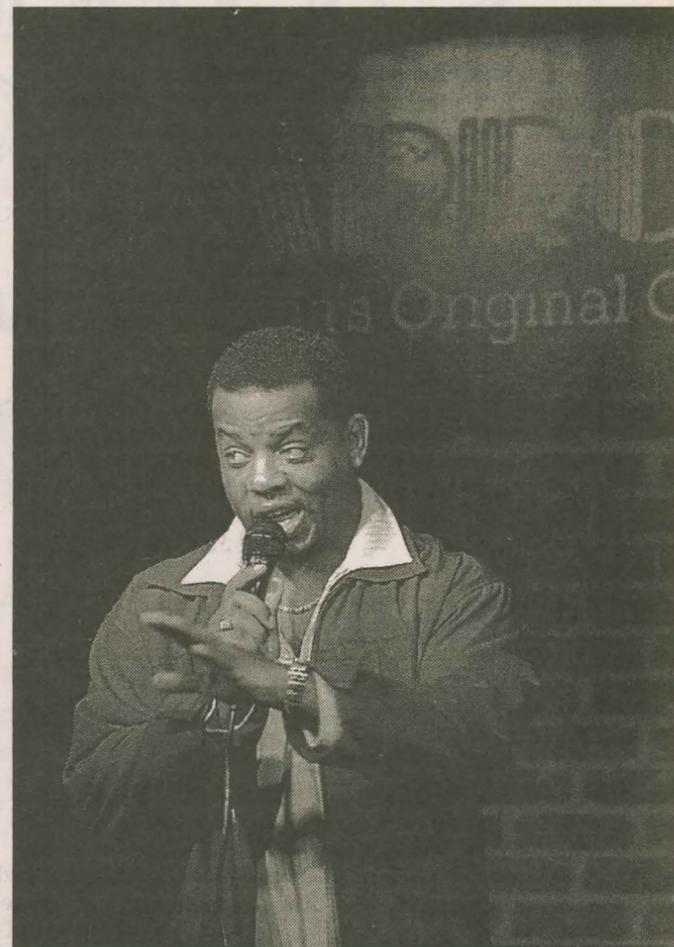
When it does start, Lining hopes to be part of it. Early in March, he was at the Improv, the first comedian on a triple bill. The room was two-thirds full, but whatever energy was present had been largely drained by a painfully unfunny emcee.

"Where the Christians at?" Lining asked, but he got only a few responses.

He plowed ahead: "I want to dedicate this performance to my late father." (Pause) "Yeah, he should have been here five minutes ago, but he's always late."

He joked about "The Passion of the Christ": "A lot of folks are like ... when's the book coming out?"

Lining didn't preach like he had at the previous church event, but



he mentioned his problems with the law. He has a long history of drug arrests and served six months in prison in 2001 for assaulting a police officer and possession of crack. The audience members don't think they're being preached at if they know his past, he said.

Afterward, he analyzed his seven-minute set.

He knew it would have been easier to go with nonreligious material, but he is determined to keep Jesus in the act.

"I'm setting myself up for success or failure depending on how I do," he said. "But I believe this is what I'm called to do."

**LAUGHS AND THE LORD**  
Christian comic La Vance Lining performs his clean comedy routine at the Improv in Cleveland. (RNS photo by Joshua Gunter)

## Big leaguer not afraid to go to bat with teens on tough issues

By Tim Ellsworth  
Baptist Press

**Kissimmee, Fla. (BP)**—Houston Astros pitcher Andy Pettitte remembers the temptations he faced in high school, and he thinks teens today deal with even greater struggles.

"There's no doubt they're dealing with so much more peer pressure—drugs and alcohol," Pettitte said recently. "It was there when I was in high school, but it's getting worse and worse every year, I think."

That's one of the reasons why Pettitte teaches a Sunday school class for high school freshmen and sophomore boys at Central Baptist Church in Deer Park, Texas, during the off-season.

"I just believe it's very important," Pettitte said. "I grew up in the church. I was going to that church when I was 15 years old. I think the youth are very important and I want to be a positive influence on them."

In addition to drugs and alcohol, Pettitte said the rampant divorce rate is another issue confronting

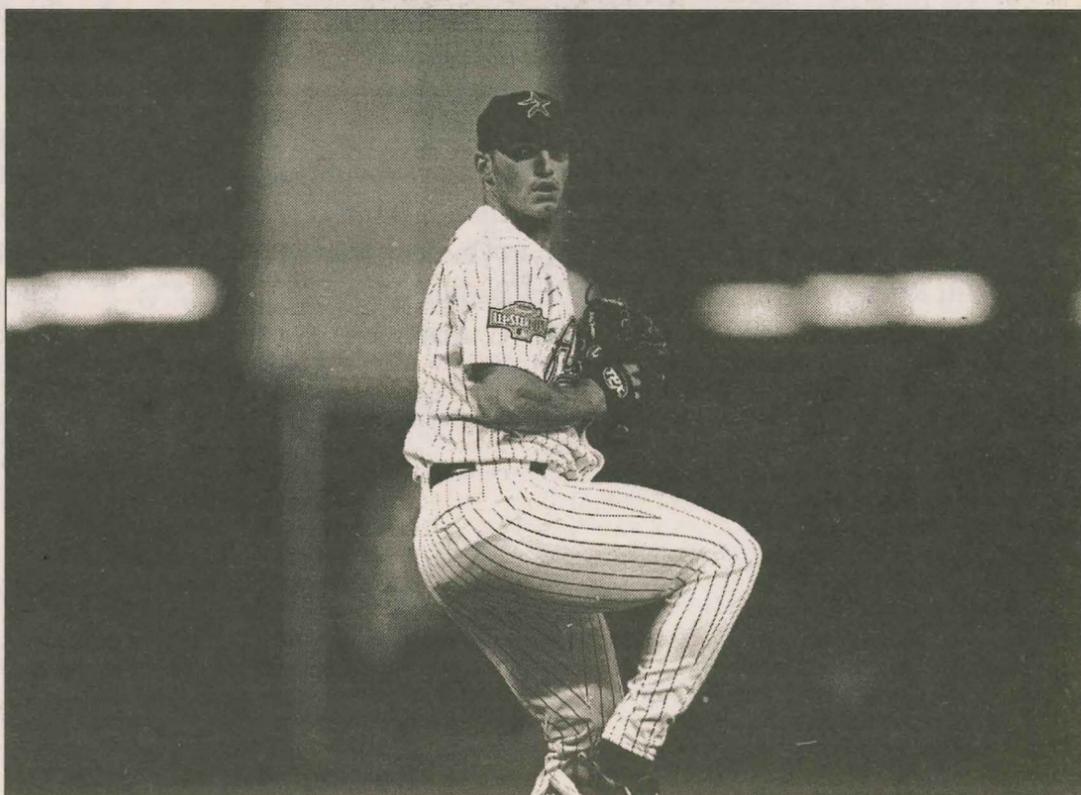
teens today.

"So many more families are ending up in divorce," he said. "Most of these kids don't have both parents, and it makes life tough. They've got a lot of hurts and a lot of heartaches they're dealing with."

A Texas native, Pettitte spent the first nine years of his career with the New York Yankees, where he compiled a 149-78 record and a 3.94 ERA. This off-season, Pettitte signed with the Astros as a free agent, citing his desire to be closer to his family as one factor in his decision.

Pettitte hopes he can be a positive influence on the lives of the teenage boys he teaches in Sunday school.

"More than anything, I'm trying to teach them that God's there for them," Pettitte said. "Life's rough and life's tough, but I've got tremendous faith in the Lord, and that's what I'm trying to teach them. The Bible says that He's going to be our best friend, and He's going to be there for us whenever nobody else is. I've seen that in my own life, and that's the word I'm trying to share with these kids."



**HARDBALL** Houston Astros hurler Andy Pettitte, who teaches Sunday school to high school students, said teens face tougher issues than he did growing up. (Houston Astros photo)

# CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

## *Summer of Service*

During the summer of 2004 Cumberland College students are serving across the Commonwealth, throughout the United States and around the world.

### Whitley County

John Bailey, Jellico, TN, Mountain Outreach  
Katie Bowers, Cadiz, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Joe Durham, Stanford, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Jessica Eubank, Caryville, TN, Mountain Outreach  
Rochell Goff, Williamsburg, KY, Appalachian Ministries  
Courtney Hodges, Georgetown, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Kenny James, Harrodsburg, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Tiffany Jones, Corbin, KY, Appalachian Ministries  
Kathy Link, Harlan, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Meiah Murphy, Grays Knob, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Becca Newby, Benton, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Jessica Perko, Brownsville, KY, Appalachian Ministries  
Chuck Powell, Powell, TN, Appalachian Ministries  
Christina Prado, Sao Paulo, Appalachian Ministries  
Erin Toner, Bledsoe, KY, Appalachian Ministries  
Addy Tucker, Louisville, KY, Mountain Outreach  
Michelle Warnky, Westerville, OH, Appalachian Ministries

### Kentucky

Erica Adams, Barbourville, KY, Highland Park Baptist  
Nathan Barnes, Burlington, KY, Camp Cedarmore  
Jonathan Bright, Corbin, KY, Highland Park Baptist  
Dedra Burke, Ermine, KY, Cornerstone Church  
Megan Hess, Eubank, KY, Son Reach  
Adam Kilchenman, Louisville, KY, Sonburst  
Melody Leach, East Bernstadt, KY, Boone, London, Corbin  
Megan Magallon, Simpsonville, KY, Simpsonville Baptist  
Jessica Mayfield, Garrad, KY, Manchester Baptist  
Becky Parsons, Hazard, KY, Airport Gardens Baptist  
Jill Ross, Walton, KY, New Bethel Baptist  
Bridgette Sowder, Corbin, KY, MAC, Arlington  
Melissa Story, Hillsboro, KY, Hillsboro  
Kaylie Warfield, Owensboro, KY, Owensboro Christian Church

### United States

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Amber Franklin, Lafollette, TN, Camp Carson/Linden, TN  
Justin Geary, Liberty Township, OH, Student Venture, OH  
Tiffany Johnson, Williamsburg, KY, Russell Baptist. Assoc.  
Aaron McCormick, Bellevue, NE, Boise, ID  
Buddy Martin, Bartow, FL, Florida & North Carolina  
Chris Neal, Barbourville, KY, Florida Reach  
Heather Skaggs, Frankfort, KY, Detroit, MI  
Jonathan Sliski, Clinton, TN, Charleston, SC  
Mike Townsend, Lexington, KY, Youth Internship, NC  
Erica Weaver, Ottawa, OH, Millersburg, OH

### International

Tiffany Bailey, Stanford, KY, Cambodia  
Josh Benton, Hartford, KY, S.E. Asia  
Katie Bowers, Hartford, KY, S.E. Asia  
Caleb Brooks, Louisville, KY, S.E. Asia  
Eleisha Caldwell, Totz, KY, S.E. Asia  
Scott Combs, Memphis, TN, Poland  
Aprile Keith, London, KY, S.E. Asia  
Karla Frost, Manchester, KY, S.E. Asia  
Rochell Goff, Manchester, KY, S.E. Asia  
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Charles Locke, Lexington, KY, S.E. Asia  
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