

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

April 27, 2004
Vol. 178, No. 17

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Hunger-fighting goals having no effect, Christian agency says

Washington (ABP)—The number of hungry people in the United States and the developing world is greater now than it was when international leaders set hunger-cutting goals in the mid-1990s, according to a recent report by Bread for the World, a faith-based anti-hunger organization.

At the World Food Summit in 1996, global leaders set a goal of cutting hunger in half by 2015—reducing the number of hungry people in developing countries from 800 million to 400 million.

But in its 14th annual report on world hunger, Bread for the World noted there are 842 million hungry people worldwide now, and that number is rising by 4.5 million a year. The report attributed the hunger growth, in part, to a slowing world economy, wars and natural disasters.

Pledges by United States government leaders to cut the number of Americans living in hunger—from 30.4 million to 15.2 million by 2010—also are lagging behind, the report noted.

Currently, about 35 million Americans either don't know where their next meal is coming from or they have to cut back on what they eat because they don't have enough money for groceries, the report said.

Food insecurity and hunger in the United States have increased three years in a row. Since 1999, the number of children living in homes at risk of hunger has increased by 1 million.

"There is no reason—save politics—that 842 million men, women and children are hungry," said David Beckmann, president of the Bread for the World Institute.

"Even in a time of economic difficulty and conflict, the world—and certainly the United States—could still be making progress against hunger. What's mainly missing is a stronger commitment."

Bread for the World, based in Washington D.C., disputed the assertion that faith-based organizations and other charities can end hunger without federal programs.

"Food banks and church pantries cannot provide enough food to the people who come to them and do not reach many of the people who need help, especially in sparsely populated rural areas," the report said.

Private donations to soup kitchens, food banks and similar programs total \$2 billion and \$4 billion annually, compared to \$44 billion spent each year on federal programs that still are not meeting the needs of all Americans.

East Kentucky invasion



Approximately 200 volunteers from 13 states visited Eastern Kentucky last week to participate in MissionsFEST 2004, a weeklong ministry project co-sponsored by national Woman's Missionary Union in conjunction with local churches and Kentucky WMU. Volunteers worked in and around Prestonsburg and Paintsville. "It's just exciting to know that people came from all the different states and gave their time and money to do this," said Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association. **Above:** Volunteers scrape paint off a house in preparation to repaint. **Right:** A volunteer sorts some of the hundreds of supplies donated. (WMU photos by Kristy Carr) Photos and story on page 3.



Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, April 28.

Bauer: Americans in war for moral identity

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—America is fighting two wars simultaneously, according to former presidential candidate Gary Bauer, and must win both if it hopes to survive as a free nation.

Speaking April 16 at the annual banquet for Right to Life of Louisville, the Newport native said the sanctity of human life takes a back seat in headlines to the war with terrorists, but is equally important.

"Every once in a while, a great nation has to deal with a great issue—war and peace, freedom and slavery, or life and death," Bauer told the audience of about 550 people.

"This is one of those moments,"

said Bauer, president of American Values, a non-profit morals-advocacy group based in Arlington, Va. "I believe men and women of faith are key to winning both of these wars."

The war on terrorism can be seen on the evening news, he said, but the struggle over the country's identity is also vital.

On one side are people who believe life is all about grabbing money and pleasure, and think nobody should judge their actions, said Bauer, a candidate for the Republican nomination in 2000.

On the other are those who believe in an ordered liberty under God and understand what the founding fathers meant when they

said only a virtuous people can remain free, he said.

"If we lose either one of (these wars), there is absolutely no chance we will be able to pass on to our children and grandchildren that shining city on a hill that the founding fathers wrote about and spoke about so eloquently," Bauer said.

He said the war with terrorists existed long before the United States recognized it on that fateful Sept. 11 morning.

Recalling sitting in a traffic jam nearby the morning a hijacked airplane crashed into the Pentagon, Bauer said the attack killed or severely injured friends. The latter include a fellow church member who since that day has endured 15 surgeries.

See Bauer tells Kentuckians ... Page 8



Gary Bauer

Trustees seek SBC vote to resolve dispute

By Lacy Thompson & Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

New Orleans (ABP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary trustees will leave up to Southern Baptist Convention messengers a final decision on how best to tie the institution to the denominational body—but in the process may have deepened their dispute with the SBC's Executive Committee.

At their April meeting, the seminary's trustees approved the motion to present two alternatives to convention messengers during the SBC's 2005 annual meeting on how best to assert the convention's ownership of the seminary. The trustees will ask messengers to decide between making the denomination the "sole member" of the institution's corporation or asserting the convention's ownership through another, yet-to-be-determined legal means.

Trustees approved the motion by a vote of 33-6 after a lengthy discussion in which several seminary leaders raised concerns about the Executive Committee's handling of the case.

Chapman: "Sad day" for SBC

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman released a statement April 19 expressing strong dismay at the "spirit" of the seminary's trustee meeting.

"The unwarranted and unjustified characterizations that cast aspersions upon the integrity and credibility of the SBC Executive Committee is a sad day for Southern

Baptists, one of the saddest since I have been at the Executive Committee," Chapman said.

Sole membership has been an issue since 1997, when the SBC's North American Mission Board became the first denominational institution to amend its legal charter to declare the SBC its sole member. SBC leaders and the Executive Committee have encouraged other denominational entities to make the same move. Their motivation has been to ensure that no entity could follow the lead of some state convention-related institutions and choose to leave the control of the convention.

SBC leaders also have cited concerns with limiting the spread of liability to other entities if one institution or the denomination is sued.

The sole member approach makes the SBC the single controlling legal member of an entity. Thus far, all convention entities have agreed to the sole membership structure except one—New Orleans Seminary.

Last fall, after extensive study, the school's trustees declined to adopt the sole membership model, citing legal and Baptist polity concerns.

Seminary leaders have argued sole membership could be used by the Executive Committee to exert undue authority over the seminary—thus violating historic Southern Baptist polity. Seminary leaders also have said adopting a "sole membership" clause would present special problems in Louisiana because of that state's unique system of state law, which has its ori-

gins in Napoleonic code rather than in English common law like the rest of the states.

During the Executive Committee's February meeting, seminary president Chuck Kelley and committee members presented competing cases on the issue. Following discussion, committee members voted to officially request seminary trustees to amend the school's charter and adopt sole membership.

Trustees voice frustrations

At the seminary trustee meeting, Kelley offered trustees a chance to "lament" and voice whatever frustrations they felt about the process.

One trustee said SBC President Jack Graham had suggested to him the convention could vote to remove the trustees en masse and replace them with a slate more open to giving the SBC sole membership.

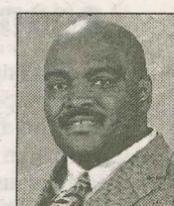
Kelley himself acknowledged he was disappointed by the process. He said seminary leaders previously had been assured their decision on the issue would be accepted no matter what—only to find that was not the case when the decision they reached was not the one desired by the Executive Committee.

Kelley and some trustees noted that presenting the issue to convention messengers at their 2004 meeting—only two months away—would leave little time for educating them on the issues at stake. Historically, SBC messengers almost always have voted in favor of Executive Committee recommendations.

Southern affirms new intercultural studies program

Louisville (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees unanimously affirmed an initiative April 20 that creates a new intercultural studies program.

Seminary President Al Mohler appointed Ken Fentress as dean of the new program.



Ken Fentress

While courses eventually will be added as part of the program, Fentress' immediate task will be to analyze existing seminary courses

to ensure that they meet the cultural diversity purpose demanded by the Great Commission, Mohler said.

"Ken Fentress is one of the most intellectually and academically qualified young scholars in America," Mohler said. "He is also one of the most equipped leaders of this generation. He has served as a pastor and he is a man who is going to bring enormous passion to this."

Fentress currently is assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern, a position he has held since 2003. He is a former pastor who holds degrees from Criswell College, Southern Seminary and Johns Hopkins University.

Fentress noted that "my vision for the new deanship is to seek to develop a new generation of racially diverse leaders who will be prepared to meet the challenges of 21st century Christian ministry with a biblically based, well-informed evangelical theological perspective that will advance the Kingdom of God and the church of Jesus Christ."

He said the initiative is a "definitive step toward faithfully fulfilling the New Testament vision of racial reconciliation."

"It is vital to work toward racial reconciliation because it is consistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ through which God reconciles people of all races to Himself," Fentress said. "Reconciliation with God through Christ is the basis for racial reconciliation in the church (according to) 1 John 1:7."

In other business, trustees:

■ Elected several faculty members, including Chad Brand, associate professor of Christian theology; Gary Bredfeldt, professor of Christian leadership and ministry; William Cutrer, professor of Christian ministry; Russell Fuller, associate professor of Old Testament interpretation; and Eric Johnson, associate professor of pastoral theology.

■ Approved a \$26.9 million budget for the 2004-05 fiscal year, a 5.2 percent increase over the current year.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Network urges prayer for world's teens. A network of youth ministries and missions organizations has issued a call to prayer for 2.1 billion teenagers, most of whom have never heard the gospel. "A Whole Night for the Whole World" is a call for student groups to spend a night in prayer May 29 for global revival in their generation. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board and Wycliffe Bible Translators are among the event coordinators. For more information, visit the Web site www.wholenight.com.

Williams retires from medical/dental organization. James Williams, 69, executive director of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship, has announced his retirement effective May 1. Citing his wife's declining health, Williams said, "We have prayerfully concluded that it is time to locate near family and a primary support system." Williams has headed BMDF, an organization that enlists health-care professionals as volunteer and career mission workers, since 1997. He previously was president of the former Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. Fred Loper, associate director of BMDF, will serve as acting executive director.

Missouri Baptist leaders appeal lawsuit dismissal. Attorneys for the Missouri Baptist Convention have appealed the dismissal of a lawsuit against five institutions that set up self-perpetuating boards—and state convention messengers will be asked to authorize the use of Cooperative Program funds to pay for the ongoing lawsuit. Convention messengers voted in 2002 to sue the institutions, demanding the agencies' trustee boards be returned to convention control. The convention already has spent approximately \$1 million on legal costs. The funding for legal fees initially came from convention reserve funds.

College trustees reaffirm textbook policy. Trustees of a Louisiana Baptist school reaffirmed a controversial textbook policy April 19 and named one of their own as interim president. The policy adopted last December by Louisiana College trustees requires all professors to receive approval from their department chairs and the school's vice president for academic affairs for all textbooks and classroom materials. Trustees elected fellow trustee John Traylor, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Monroe, La., as interim president.

President of Baptist medical group resigns over partnership with CBF

Memphis, Tenn. (ABP)—The president of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship has resigned and is withdrawing his membership from the organization over its affiliation with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Danny Barnhill, a medical doctor from Shreveport, La., issued his resignation just days after the organization's annual meeting. "Many facts, of which I was not previously aware, have been brought to my attention since I took office one week ago," he wrote.

The Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship, based in Memphis, Tenn., is a volunteer organization of Baptist physicians and dentists who work together in Christian mission causes and recruit medical professionals for career and volunteer missions. It originally was designed for Southern Baptist doctors and still works primarily with Southern Baptist Convention organizations.

"My personal beliefs match perfectly with those stated by the SBC," Barnhill said in an e-mail to BMDF members. CBF "has many liberal social and political philosophies and agendas with which I do not agree. Because of that, I am not comfortable being an officer in or financially supporting the new CBF-affiliated BMDF."

Barnhill said the partnership agreement with the CBF and the current BMDF leadership "appears to desire to break the BMDF ties with the Southern Baptist Convention," a charge BMDF officials deny.

Mary Clawson, immediate past BMDF president and a medical doctor from Bay Springs, Miss., said the organization has many partners.

"The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is the oldest of these partners. Projects with the IMB continue to be the majority of our work," she said. "Renewing an existing partnership with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship does not reflect a desire on part of BMDF to move away from the agencies or auxiliaries of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Other BMDF partners include CrossLink International, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Medical Missions Response, the SBC North American Mission Board, the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Polish Baptist Union and others.

"BMDF has differences of opinion about elements of belief and practice with several of our partners," Clawson said. "As long as BMDF is free to operate without compromise of our own convictions, we do not view these differences as a barrier to working together."

According to a statement released by BMDF officials, "We are an independent and autonomous Baptist organization. Our commitment is to work collaboratively with all members of the worldwide Baptist family and other Great Commission Christians. Our goal is to share the gospel with people in all places through healthcare missions."

MissionsFEST 2004

Volunteers travel to E. Kentucky to assist churches with ministries

By David Winfrey
News Director

Prestonsburg—Volunteers from as far away as Colorado and Arizona traveled to Eastern Kentucky last week to paint, organize, prayerwalk and do a variety of other ministry projects

MissionsFEST 2004 was organized by the national Woman's Missionary Union in conjunction with the Enterprise Association of Southern Baptists and Kentucky WMU.

The weeklong effort gave many area churches a newfound appreciation for outreach ministries, according to Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Association.

"We know we're a mission field, but I want us to see that we can be missionaries," said Biddle, whose association serves Prestonsburg, Paintsville and four surrounding counties. "I want us to see that we can serve God in different ways."

Some volunteers from local churches already have talked about going on a mission trip to do MissionsFEST in another city, he said.

"Our biggest thing is to encourage churches to continue to do what they've done (during MissionsFEST)," he said.

That's already happened at Garrett First Baptist Church, according to Pastor Randy Osborne.

As volunteers worked on house renovation projects at nearby houses, Osborne said he's had other requests that he forwarded to the church's men's ministry.

"I've already promised these people that we'd have it done before the end of summer," Osborne said, praising the volunteers for helping make the church more visible in the community. "I just look for greater things down the road."

Fix-ups & outreach

Volunteers split their efforts between performing ministries and working on "in-house" projects for local ministries and churches.

At Benedict Baptist Church near Prestonsburg, volunteers from Lawrenceburg painted Sunday school classrooms, organized materials for children's ministries and turned an



NEW ROOF Volunteers from Missouri install a new roof on a storage shed for a family near Prestonsburg. Approximately 200 volunteers from 13 states were in Eastern Kentucky as part of MissionsFEST, an annual missions program organized by national Woman's Missionary Union in conjunction with local churches and the state WMU. (Photos by David Winfrey)



unused room into a pastor's office.

"It's just lifted our spirits so much," said Betty Gayheart, Woman's Missionary Union director at Benedict Baptist Church. "I have never seen a group of ladies who care as much as they do and who work as hard as they have."

Volunteer Phyllis Wells said she and 10 other members of First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg made the drive to minister all week.

"I want to come back. I believe this should be a (continuing) project for us," she said.

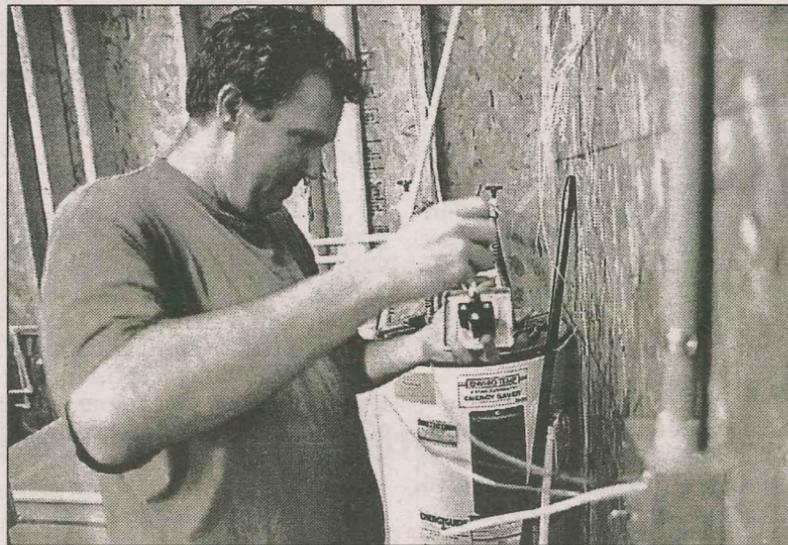
Outreach work included prayerwalking and making door-to-door visits to give away 2,200 "Jesus" videos, Bibles and 3,500 single light bulbs in sleeves that state Jesus is the "Light of the world."

At least three people made professions of faith, including a woman in Paintsville, Biddle noted.

"It was their last visit of the day," he said. "They just talked to her a little bit, and before they were done, she gave her life to Christ."

Biddle said the outreach projects were new to many local residents, even some who attend church.

"You can look around here and see a lot of churches, but a lot of



ELECTRICAL WORK Eric Simmons of Pilot Mountain, N.C., installs an electrical switch at Garrett First Baptist Church.

them don't have an evangelism (focus)," Biddle said.

"They don't offer people real hope," he explained. "They exist. They meet on Sunday, but really don't minister in their communities. That's what I push our churches to do."

"Radically involved"

The Eastern Kentucky MissionsFEST was the first of four being held throughout the country this year, according to Kristy Carr, volunteer connection specialist for national Woman's Missionary Union.

The "pre-arranged" mission trip is an ideal opportunity for Christians to explore ministry options and understand the goals of WMU, she added.

"WMU challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God," she said, quoting the group's mission statement.

Organizers hope volunteers will realize that God has equipped them to do whatever ministry He calls them to, she added. "What they'll do with that is as important as what they've done this week."

Volunteer Clyde Worrell, 86, of Walker, La., compared the week to a "pit stop."

"In your church, you get to doing the same things over and over," he said. "When you come out like this, it just builds you up."

Jeri Losey, minister with senior adults at South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., brought her fourth team of volunteers to a MissionsFEST event.

"We just love coming," Losey said while painting a house railing. Nearby, her husband was helping put a new tin roof on a storage building. "Jesus didn't stay inside a church building," she said. "We need to get outside the four walls and reach the people."



MORNING DEVOTION Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Association of Southern Baptists, thanks the volunteers during the morning devotion time.



HIGH BRUSH Volunteers from Texas and North Carolina paint a car shed.

Kentucky Baptist communicators earn awards

St. Louis—Kentucky Baptist communicators earned half a dozen national awards during the recent Baptist Communicators Association annual workshop in St. Louis.

Kentucky Baptists who received awards include:

Western Recorder Editor Trennis Henderson, News Director David Winfrey and State Correspondent Ken Walker, second place for newspaper feature writing package for "Responding to the Call," a package of articles and photographs about the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's missionary appointment service held in conjunction with last year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Henderson also received an honorable mention for newspaper first-person column for "Hey, Christ followers: Click responsibly," a column cautioning against forwarding e-mail rumors.

Brenda Smith, news and Web specialist for the KBC communications department, earned two second-place writing awards. Her winning entries included online publication series for "Missionaries bid farewell to 'Old Kentucky Home'" about people with Kentucky ties who were commissioned as IMB missionaries last year and newspaper feature article for "'Stupid article' spurs woman to volunteer work" about a Mission Service Corps missionary serving in Eastern Kentucky.

Vickie Grassman, communications director for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, received a second-place award for specialty items for "stress snakes," a promotional item distributed by KBHC.

Mike Prather, a graphic designer who provides contract design work for the KBC, earned a first-place award for specialty printed item for a pocket folder designed for the KBC partnership missions department.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

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

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

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

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

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Who are revivals for?

After reading the article, "Kentucky Baptist evangelists ponder: Are revival meetings dead?" in the April 13 issue of the Western Recorder, I am terribly disappointed—disappointed at the comments from the evangelists and their understanding of revival. They made remarks that revivals didn't reach the lost or bring lost people into the church. My question to them is: Who do they think revival is for?

I have always been taught that revival is for the believer. It inspires, instructs and encourages laypeople. Sometimes it brings us to much-needed confession or convicts us of sin and to be obedient to Christ. The word "revival" confirms that its purpose is for believers. How are you to "re-vive" someone who is dead in Christ?

Reaching the lost is a different task completely. Building sincere relationships is the key. I often have heard never to invite someone to church who you haven't already invited to your home for a meal. This is an important concept that often gets avoided because of our own personal cost involved. But what better way for an unbeliever to understand his or her need and importance of a personal relationship with Christ than to experience a genuine relationship with the next closest thing—a believer.

Joy Sparks
Lexington

Revivals still work

The Georgia Baptist Convention recently studied the issue of revival meetings. They discovered in Georgia that about half of their churches (51 percent) conducted a revival meeting the previous year.

I quote from a Jan. 26 article in the Christian Index: "Churches that did not hold a revival reported a baptism-to-church member ratio of 1 to 36, while those that held

revivals but had no decisions had a baptism ratio of 1 to 24. Churches that held a revival and had at least one conversion had an even better ratio of 1 to 19."

The article led to two conclusions:

1. "If all of our churches had conducted revivals and sustained the 1 to 24 baptism-to-resident member ratio, we would have reported 6,922 more baptisms in Georgia than the previous year."

2. "Not only are revivals effective, but they are one of the most cost- and time-efficient ways of reaching the lost for Christ."

As a full-time vocational evangelist, I affirm the conclusions of the Georgia study (and believe the same would be true of a similar study, if conducted in Kentucky). In the last five years, I have preached in approximately 200 revival meetings (about half in Kentucky). When properly planned, promoted and prayed for, revival attendance is excellent and people are responding to the gospel, especially adults.

The church that does not have at least one revival meeting a year (two is better) is missing one of the best methods for re-energizing the church toward evangelism.

I served for 30 years as a pastor in Kentucky, as well as being president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and am grateful to Kentucky Baptists. Indeed, in a few weeks I will be moving my evangelism ministry to Bowling Green. If I were a Kentucky Baptist pastor today, among my evangelism methods would be revival meetings on a regular basis.

Don Mathis
White House, Tenn.

Hollywood theology?

Now that the world's "Easter attention" has passed, interest in "The Passion" probably will begin to dwindle. Like Dante in "The Divine Comedy," some folks get very

religious at certain seasons. Paul commented on that in Galatians 4:8-11, I believe.

However, without downgrading the tremendous truth depicted in the movie, let us note two things. One: We should not get our theology from Hollywood, whether Cecil B. DeMille in my youth or Mel Gibson now. Take truth where you find it, but don't take everything on the silver screen as truth.

Two: For all the good it did in stirring spiritual emotions, "The Passion" is rooted in Gibson's own theology. According to a Sept. 15, 2003, New Yorker profile of him, he believes that "there is no salvation for those outside the Church. Put it this way. My wife is a saint. She's a much better person than I am. (But) she's Episcopalian. She believes in God; she knows Jesus. And it's just not fair if she doesn't make it (to heaven); she's better than I am. But that is a pronouncement from the chair (that she will not be saved). I go with it."

"Nuff sed?" Romans 8:28.

Charles Blair
Clinton

'Passion' prompts prayer

I was very pleased to read Freddie Gage's commentary in the March 30 issue of the Western Recorder about the Mel Gibson film, "The Passion of the Christ." I have seen the film and I felt very humbled by it.

I thank God for Mel Gibson for doing this film. I pray it will be seen worldwide and bring more people to Jesus.

Connie Hannah
Waynesburg

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

Praise reports and prayer concerns

Excellent reports continue to circulate about attendance and decisions for Christ during Easter worship services. Let me share just a few with you!

Reports indicate that Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green had 3,700 people in attendance, with four worship services. Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg had 1,100-plus in worship and 30 decisions for Christ.

Members of Crestwood Baptist Church have reported an attendance of 2,200 in their new facilities.

Jerry Oakley, director of missions for Warren Association, shared that Hillvue Heights Church had a record attendance of 6,000 at a special service in Diddle Arena on the Western Kentucky University campus.

In addition, I had the privilege of speaking at Rineyville Baptist Church recently. Pastor Mitch Ash also reported record attendance on Easter Sunday. He is praising God for the renewal that he is experiencing with the congregation.

I praise God for these outstanding reports and for every church where the gospel is proclaimed through teaching and worship every Lord's Day.

Please join with me in prayer each Saturday for teachers and worship leaders in all the churches. Pray that all who attend will experience the presence of God. Pray that the Holy Spirit will draw those who need a relationship to God and a church fellowship to encourage them in the Christian journey.

In addition, there are several directors of missions who need the prayers of all Kentucky Baptists:

Harry Hunter, DOM, Lincoln and Casey County associations, has been receiving treatment to shrink a tumor on his liver, in preparation for surgery to remove the tumor. I have known Harry for more than 20 years to be a person of prayer and great faith. Please pray for him and his wife, Charlotte, as they prepare for the surgery.

Wilburn Bonta, DOM, Russell



CHURCH

Why should tithing be a priority for Christians today?

By Doug Strader

Tithing is as old as the days of Abraham in the book of Genesis when he gave a tithe of everything he had to Melchizedek in Genesis 14:20.

Throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites were called upon to give a tithe to the Lord; some scholars even think some Old Testament passages teach a triple tithe or 30 percent.

In the New Testament, tithing is not as pronounced. However, Jesus talked about the people tithing on their herb gardens, and neglecting the weightier matters of justice, mercy and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23). But He did not say they should not have been tithing their herbs. Paul certainly talked about proportionate giving in his letters, especially to the Corinthians.

In light of what the Bible teaches, why should we tithe in our day?

■ Because the Bible does teach tithing.

■ It is a fair way for everyone to give proportionately to God's work. One who makes \$10 a week or one who makes \$1,000 a week can faithfully tithe and be blessed by the Lord if they give with the right motive.

■ By giving a tithe, I can inspire others to give a tithe to the Lord.

■ By giving a tithe through my church, I am helping my church do its missions and ministry at home and around the world.

■ As a parent, I am teaching my children that the tithe belongs to the Lord and I give it before I pay any bills.

■ I also teach my children that I can be faithful to God and live within my income without going into debt.

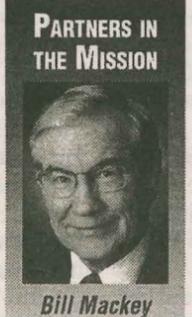
■ I experience the blessings of God when I am tithing, because God's Word teaches that if I am faithful to tithe, He is faithful to give me spiritual blessings.

■ When I tithe, I can lie down each night knowing that I am being faithful to God with my finances.

These are not the only blessing and benefits of tithing. There are many more that you will experience when you are faithful to God with your finances. I know for a fact that when you give God His part, He blesses what one has left over beyond one's comprehension.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

Church involvement is spiritual 'weight-training' for children

Q: Should I make my child attend church activities?

Critics accused writer Anne Lamott of child abuse and brainwashing when she wrote about making her 14-year-old son attend church. Here's her response, as recorded in the August 23, 2003, issue of *The Christian Century*: "We live in bewildering times and a little spiritual guidance never hurt anyone. Besides, teenagers left on their own would opt out of many important things that they don't enjoy, like homework and flossing their teeth. It's good to do uncomfortable things. It's weight-training for life."

Tom Landry once said that a coach is a person who gets players to do what they don't want to do so they can be what they want to be. The same could easily be said of parents.

Children should be allowed to make as many choices as possible. However, there still are many situations where children simply should not have the opportunity to decide for themselves, in part because they do not have the experience or the ability to choose wisely. (When to go to bed and what to eat come to mind.)

There are many aspects of church and church-related activities that children will not see as "fun." Sitting still and being quiet during worship might not be "fun"; memorizing Bible verses might not be "fun"; singing in a choir might not be "fun."

Fun or not, wise parents see the value and understand the important role these experiences play in their child's spiritual development. They make sure their children are present and participating.

So stay the course. Make 'em go. Think of it as weight-training for your child's spiritual life.—David Garrard

Q: How can local churches help strengthen marriages?

One of the most significant ways for churches to help strengthen marriages is to provide a comprehensive approach to marital education. Far too often, the subject of marital breakup is not brought to a pastor's office until the breakup is nearly complete.

Questions for churches wanting to strengthen marriages and families should include:

- Do you require thorough premarital counseling for those who are married through your church?
- Do you require your church staff to observe regular times of marriage education to teach by example and strengthen their own marriages?
- Do you offer regular marriage strengthening educational opportunities for those in healthy marriages?
- Do you offer special care for families as they deal with the stress of having children and preschoolers?
- Do you offer special opportunities for enrichment to those in mid-life/empty nest marriages?
- Do you provide education to strengthen the marriages and parenting skills of those in step-families?
- Do you offer a divorce recovery program that provides a foundation to prevent rebound marriages and multiple divorces?
- Does your church provide affordable marital therapy from a faith perspective to all those who seek it?

Our churches need to be Holy Spirit-directed places of grace where broken people can find wholeness and direction. We are salt and light by the way we live. While affirming the biblical paradigm—a view that works well both theologically and societally—let our words always be "with grace, seasoned with salt" so that "the world will know we are Christians by our love."—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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



Will your vacation make an eternal impact?

Thousands of students each fall begin the new school year by writing essays about "What I Did on My Summer Vacation." As gratifying as it is to look back and reflect on what has been accomplished, even more significant is the opportunity to look ahead and make plans for the future.

With spring in full bloom and summer rapidly approaching, countless young people and adults have the potential to make this summer both memorable and meaningful. One way to do that is to take part in summer mission opportunities.

And many volunteers no longer even wait until summer. Numerous groups of high school and college students spend their spring breaks serving in a variety of mission projects, ranging from construction to drama teams to one-on-one witnessing.

A recent example of volunteer missions in action was last week's MissionsFEST 2004 in Prestonsburg and Paintsville. The April 18-24 missions blitz in Enterprise Baptist Association attracted approximately 200 participants from more than a dozen states. Volunteers worked on construction and repair projects, painting and cleaning, "Jesus" video distribution, community surveys, food and clothing distribution, prayer walking and other ministry efforts.

The Eastern Kentucky emphasis was sponsored by national Woman's Missionary Union in cooperation with Kentucky WMU and Enterprise Association. Similar projects will be held in Pittsburgh in June; Omaha, Neb., in July; and Worcester, Mass., and Providence, R.I., in October.

Baptist workers in Eastern Kentucky "have gotten so excited about this, it will strengthen the work they do. It will open a lot of doors," noted Brenda Price, Kentucky WMU associate executive director. "Hopefully, it will get a lot of participants excited about going back home and doing similar ministry projects."

In addition to mission opportunities through

WMU, there are many other ways both adults and young people can get involved in either short-term or ongoing mission efforts.

Several hundred college students throughout Kentucky will spend this summer in ministry locations ranging from summer camps here in the state to settings as diverse as Florida, Poland and East Asia.

"Students from all over Kentucky will have life-changing experiences from serving throughout the country and around the world," said Lizzi-beth Spence, KBC collegiate ministry specialist. "These students will learn valuable lessons that will strengthen churches now and in the years to come as they graduate from school and get involved in local church leadership."

Adults have ample opportunities to get involved through Missions Service Corps. Eric Allen, the KBC's Mission Service Corps director, said there currently are 140 MSC missionaries in Kentucky serving an average of 20 hours a week in such efforts as prison ministry, food and clothing distribution and campus ministry.

Unlike a one- or two-week mission project, MSC workers commit from four months to two years. Kentucky participants range in age from early 20s to 70s. "This is a strategy that allows people to serve wherever God has called them," Allen explained. "There is a place of service for anyone."

Other mission options are as diverse as disaster relief and partnership mission trips to New England, Poland, Malta and throughout the European Baptist Convention. Local churches and associations also offer an assortment of mission opportunities such as vacation Bible schools, backyard Bible clubs, food closets, construction projects and more.

What will you do on your summer vacation? Consider giving part of your time making memories that will last for eternity.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

A first-class witnessing opportunity

By Ginger Plowman

Opelika, Ala. (BP)—I knew something strange was going on when I couldn't find my seat. After combing the aisles of the airplane two times, seat assignment in hand, I was convinced I had lost my mind. Was I on the wrong plane? Would I wind up in China, rather than Florida?

Embarrassed that someone who flies as often as I do was not capable of finding her seat, I quietly asked the flight attendant for assistance. "No wonder you can't find your seat," she replied after studying my ticket. "Your seat is in first class, not back here." I assured her there must be some mistake, as I would never take out a second mortgage on our home in order to fly first class.

She escorted me to the front of the plane, commissioned me to a leather reclining seat and offered me a Pepsi. Bewildered by my good fortune and intrigued by the many luxurious gadgets in which the first class indulge, I began to investigate my options for play. I resolved to take full advantage of my stroke of luck before the air police realized the mistake and ushered me back to my rightful place.

As I reclined, scanned through the channels on my personal pull-out television and slurped my Pepsi, the gentleman sitting beside me began to squirm. It was obvious he was sitting next to an amateur first-classer, and an obnoxious one at that.

After answering several of my

"What's this thing do?" questions, he glanced back toward the direction in which I had come and stated in a heavy Latin accent, "I don't think I've ever seen someone board first class from the back of the plane." I explained that my sitting in first class was some sort of mis-

take. He didn't seem surprised.

Ten minutes into our conversation, I learned that the man was a vice president with one of the world's largest Fortune 500 companies, a perfectionist, a philosopher and a multimillionaire. He knew what he wanted out of life, and he got it—or so it seemed.

I decided that sharing the gospel with this man would be a waste of time. He was simply out of my league intellectually, financially and socially. I silently vowed to keep the conversation casual. I listened with interest as he told about his line of work. My plan was working.

Then suddenly, the tables turned. He asked me about my occupation.

After telling him about my ministry of writing and speaking on biblical principles, he asked, "So, what brought you to a point of becoming religious?" So much for my plan. How could I not witness to this man who viewed my Jesus, the Savior who bled and died for me, as nothing more than a religion?

I jumped in with both feet. I shared my testimony of how Jesus rescued a rebellious, promiscuous, alcohol-abusing teenager from the grip of hell and brought her to a place of peace, joy and content-

ment.

He listened intently. Then with tears streaming down his face, he asked how to become a Christian. I told him. As the plane landed, my millionaire friend proclaimed, "You have given me such a gift. I want to do something for you. What is something that you need or want? Whatever you request, I will do it for you."

The temptation was heavy and dark. A new car, a new house, a condo at the beach and visions of sugarplums danced in my head.

Then another voice interrupted my thoughts. It was a voice from deep within, a voice that I recognized and obeyed. "What would bring me the greatest pleasure is to know that as a result of our meeting, you are seeking the Lord with all your heart. My request is that you read the Book of John." With fresh tears and a warm handshake, he gave me his word.

It's a common misconception to think that we must raise support, fly halfway around the world and sleep in a grass hut on a dirt floor in order to witness to the lost. The harvest is everywhere. It's at the checkout counter in Wal-Mart, in your workplace, on an airplane and around your kitchen table.

Let us be willing to share the gospel of Jesus Christ anytime and anywhere. You might be surprised at where you wind up. I don't know about you, but I could get used to leather recliners and unlimited Pepsi.

Ginger Plowman of Opelika, Ala., is author of "Don't Make Me Count to Three!" and an assistant director for Proverbs 31 Ministries

87-year-old Owensboro pastor plans to keep preaching

Life's lessons

Reflecting on the past 70 years of ministry, Bill Castlen offered the following insights on preaching:

■ Preach a message instead of a sermon.

■ Base a message on the Bible: "I don't do three points and a poem type preaching. I don't preach at random."

■ Never preach to address problems, but to meet the congregation's needs.

■ Preach not just plain truth, but vital truth.

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Owensboro—The night Bill Castlen decided to follow Jesus as his personal Savior on March 13, 1934, he sensed God directing him to preach.

Less than two weeks later he delivered his first sermon, and 70 years later he is still going.

Castlen stepped down last fall as minister to senior adults at Walnut Memorial Baptist Church to care for Allene, his wife for 65 years.

However, the member of First Baptist Church of Owensboro continues to fill pulpits, preaching recently at Wing Avenue Baptist Church.

Castlen, who turns 87 in October, hopes to find another position soon as an interim pastor.

"When God called me to preach, I knew for the rest of my life I would be a preacher," said Castlen, who marked his latest milestone with a quiet dinner with his son, Jim. "I felt a desire to see others saved, and that desire has followed me the rest of my life, too."

When the Owensboro native attended a revival at First Church of the Nazarene, his life was anything but saintly.

'Troublemaker' finds God

A self-described thief and troublemaker, Castlen had recently had a conflict with his father that resulted in him moving in with a friend above a grocery store.

In addition, at age 16 Castlen had dropped out of high school. His conversion changed that. Suddenly,

he had a desire to learn everything he could, especially lessons from the Bible.

After his mother gave him his own Bible, he came across the Sermon on the Mount.

"That was the greatest sermon preached by any man," Castlen said of Matthew 5-7. "I took a fountain pen and wrote across the first couple pages of that message, 'Dear Lord, help me to live my life like this.'"

According to those who know him, the longtime evangelist and pastor has succeeded.

Son Jim said his father instilled in him a high view of Scripture and a love for missions and evangelism.

Jim recalled when his father helped start a Southern Baptist mission in California in 1957.

"It met in a VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) hall," the younger Castlen said. "We'd go in on Sunday morning and we'd have to sweep the place out, clean up the beer cans and put out hymnals so we could have church."

Those youthful experiences set a career path for Jim, who became a missionary to the Philippines and Australia.

After returning to the States, he joined the faculty at Clear Creek Bible College and now serves as director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association in Hazard.

His sister, Joy Robinson, lives in Louisville, where she works at the Printing House for the Blind.

"Dad gave me an appreciation for the local church as God's avenue for

reaching the world," Jim said. "I find myself quoting him frequently. That stuff's down in the well and naturally comes up."

Re-treading, not retiring

O'Dell Beauchamp, pastor of Walnut Memorial for 11 years before moving to Missouri last summer, recalled Castlen coming to his office in 1997 to declare he wasn't retiring but re-treading.

After Castlen asked how he could be of service, Beauchamp installed him as minister to seniors.

Although Woody Neel was nearing 60 when Castlen joined the staff, the businessman asked the longtime pastor to be his spiritual mentor.

They met on Monday mornings for one-on-one discussions. Neel noted that such experienced people have considerable wisdom to share.

"Brother Bill helped me be a better Christian by example," Neel said. "If you can't learn something from him—not only what he says but how he lives his life—you're brain dead."

Initially, Castlen worked as a traveling evangelist after attending Bible college in Nashville.

Military duty interrupted his career, and after World War II he and a friend started holding tent meetings in Owensboro that led to the formation of People's Baptist Church.

They were co-pastors for nine years before Castlen departed for California, where he was pastor of

two missions.

In 1959 he moved to Florida, where he was a pastor or associate pastor at three different churches in the Miami area.

Returning to Kentucky

In 1978, People's Baptist asked him to return. Although he tried to get the independent congregation to affiliate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, those plans never materialized.

By the time Castlen approached Tom Shelton in 1987 about a position in Ohio River Baptist Association, his varied background left the director of missions a little suspicious.

After an all-day meeting, Shelton was satisfied with Castlen's credentials. He recommended him to Rockport Baptist Church, where Castlen served as pastor for 10 years despite a 100-mile round-trip commute.

"Bill did one of the finest jobs that's ever been done at Rockport," Shelton said. "He nurtured those people. He was fabulous to work with; first-class and congenial, he just led in a marvelous way."

For now, retirement isn't in his vocabulary. Castlen hopes to outlast a half-brother who drove his own car until three weeks before his death at 103.

"I don't want to die until something kills me," Castlen said. "I'm going to live as long as my brother did, or die trying."



Castlen

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Blessed in both places

Volunteers mean everything as we prepare for summer

Greetings from Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. This time of year is always exciting, and at the same time filled with a whole lot of things to do.

While we begin preparing for summer more than a year in advance, the last 12 weeks are the final press. Grass begins to grow and buildings are reopened, most time in need of repairs.

During the past two weeks, we have been blessed in an amazing way, and the blessing has come to each property. Springtime each year marks the time in which the Campers on Mission have their annual rally at Cedarmore. This spring the campground at Cedarmore was full and the volunteers were in full swing. In spite of the less-than-desirable weather, Field's Cabin at Cedarmore now has a roof. Many other projects were completed, and, as always, we owe the campers a debt of gratitude.

At Jonathan Creek, we had a team of more than 40 volunteers from Morgantown Community Church. They arrived with all types of equipment, and within 48 hours

they completed more than we ever thought possible. On a side note, a majority of the group were comprised of high school-age students. Without question, they were the most driven and hardworking kids I have ever seen. For those who believe the younger generation does not understand hard work, come and watch them next time they are here. You will be amazed.

Volunteers play such a huge role in our ministry. To put things in perspective, we have hundreds of acres to mow, 62 buildings, 1,069 beds, 241 showers, 306 toilets and about 130,000 square feet of buildings to paint and clean. To service all this, we have four maintenance people, two at each location.

The task is huge, and we cannot function apart from your help. To the Campers on Mission and Morgantown Community Church, thank you from the bottom of our heart. To those who have yet to come and work, the invitation is always open. Come and be blessed by serving.

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

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David Melber

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Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Many shall ____ to and fro" (Daniel 12:4)
- 3 "An half ____ of land" (1 Samuel 14:14)
- 6 "And ____ his son reigned" (2 Kings 21:18)
- 10 "As ____ is written" (Mark 1:2)
- 11 Certified Public Accountant, abbr.
- 12 A type of bird that wasn't to be eaten (Leviticus 11:13)
- 14 Master of Arts, abbr.
- 15 Louisiana, abbr.
- 17 "The ____ of heaven" (Jeremiah 33:22)
- 18 "The children of Gad called the altar ____" (Joshua 22:34)
- 20 "A Prophet was beforetime called a ____" (1 Samuel 9:9)
- 21 "____ that believeth on him is not condemned" (John 3:18)
- 23 "And Jacob ____ his clothes" (Genesis 37:34)
- 24 "For the grace of God that ____ salvation" (Titus 2:11 NKJV)
- 27 The sixth note of the musical scale
- 29 One of the sons of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 30 "A ____ work of a sapphire stone" (Exodus 24:10)
- 32 "He passed through the midst of ____" (Luke 17:11)
- 35 "Ye ____ of this world" (John 8:23)
- 36 "I will nourish you, and your little ____" (Genesis 50:21)
- 37 North Dakota, abbr.
- 38 "That which groweth of ____ own accord" (Leviticus 25:5)
- 39 "The mountains skipped like ____" (Psalm 114:4)
- 41 Northeast, abbr.
- 42 "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also ____" (Galatians 6:7)

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56								57		

- 44 "I ____ daily with you" (Matthew 26:55)
- 46 "I am he that liveth, and was ____" (Revelation 1:18)
- 48 New Testament language, abbr.
- 50 "____ ye now believe?" (John 16:31)
- 52 "The ____ shall take him by the heel" (Job 18:9)
- 54 "Jael the wife of ____" (Judges 5:24)
- 56 "Be ____ with such things as ye have" (Hebrews 13:5)
- 57 "____ the kine to the cart" (1 Samuel 6:7)
- 19 "Abram ____ as the Lord had spoken" (Genesis 12:4)
- 22 "____ and Medad do prophesy in the camp" (Numbers 11:27)
- 25 "All flesh is as ____" (1 Peter 1:24)
- 26 "And I said unto him, ____, thou knowest" (Revelation 7:14)
- 28 "Why make ye this ____, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- 30 "Neither shall there be any more ____" (Revelation 21:4)
- 31 Vessel, abbr.
- 32 "The ____ beguiled me" (Genesis 3:13)
- 33 "____ did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord" (1 Kings 15:11)
- 34 "He will ____ them with his troops" (Hab. 3:16)
- 40 "I am come that they ____ have life" (John 10:10)
- 42 Rear Admiral, abbr.
- 43 "Escaped the ____ of the sword" (Hebrews 11:34)
- 45 "The unclean spirit had ____ him" (Mark 1:26)
- 47 A period of time
- 49 One of the men who was not with Adonijah (1 Kings 1:8)
- 51 Alternating Current, abbr.
- 53 "____ the beginning" (Genesis 1:1)
- 55 "Let there ____ light" (Genesis 1:3)

Down

- 1 "A pure ____ of water of life" (Revelation 22:1)
- 2 Utah, abbr.
- 3 Associated Press, abbr.
- 4 "____ stilled the people before Moses" (Numbers 13:30)
- 5 Ex Officio, abbr.
- 6 Army Post Office, abbr.
- 7 A title before the surname of a married woman (Acts 2:30)
- 8 "God had sworn with an ____" (Acts 2:30)
- 9 New York, abbr.
- 11 "David dwelt in the ____" (1 Chronicles 11:7)
- 13 "Elisha passed to ____" (2 Kings 4:8)
- 16 Arranged, abbr.

Last week's solution

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Bauer tells Kentuckians: America in war for moral ID

Continued from page 1

Bauer said terrorist attackers believe the U.S. is a decadent society and they are ready to push it into oblivion.

Initially, Bauer questioned what Osama bin Laden and other terrorists hoped to accomplish. But after talking with friends in government, he learned terrorists have been airing their beliefs for years.

The attackers believe the U.S. is a decadent society and are ready to push it into oblivion, Bauer said.

When they look at this nation, he added, they see men abandoning their children in record numbers and more pornography consumption than any other civilization in history.

But Bauer insisted they are interpreting America's problems as the essence of its identity.

"I think they're wrong," Bauer said. "When people look at America, they don't see men and women like you at events like this. They're much more likely to see events like halftime of the Super Bowl and say, 'Oh, yeah, that's America.'"

Still, the former domestic policy adviser for President Ronald Reagan said he can understand how the terrorists made the mistake.

For instance, Bauer questioned whether Americans can say they love life in light of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion on demand nationwide.

Drawing a historical parallel, he said the Supreme Court made a similar mistake with its Dred Scott ruling in the 19th century that declared a runaway slave had no constitutional rights.

That decision sparked the Civil War and still harms our cul-

ture, yet the Supreme Court voted the same way when it came to the rights of unborn children, Bauer said.

"Ever since then, our unborn children have had the legal protection of a Styrofoam cup," Bauer said. "That decision has spread poison in this country that eats away at the essence of what America is all about."

Before concluding his talk, Bauer sounded an optimistic note. Despite its problems, America is also the nation that produced fire fighters and police officers who ran into the jaws of death at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, he said.

Bauer cited the heroics of Todd Beamer and others who forced a hijacked plane down in Pennsylvania instead of it hitting the White House or another target.

"Because of your fellow Americans we never experienced that," Bauer said. "I hope none of us will be on a plane faced with that choice, but there is something we can do without doing something dramatic ... and that's to stand without hesitancy for groups like this."

Margie Montgomery, executive director of Louisville Right to Life, said she thought the audience was impressed with the content of Bauer's speech.

"Even though he presented the situation like it is, he gave a ray of hope at its conclusion," Montgomery said. "Everyone needs to keep working hard for the sanctity of life."

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Bob Vickers, former director of chaplaincy for SBC North American Mission Board

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David Sandifer, director of Campbellsville University's Bivocational Ministry Center

Registration costs \$15 per participant. For more information, call David Sandifer at (270) 789-8459 or e-mail dsandifer@campbellsville.edu



Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

The unseen triple play

Discipline leads to once-in-a-lifetime accomplishments for Oneida students

By Michael Spencer
OBI Campus Minister

Jesse Godbold made an unassisted triple play. If you don't know what it is, I'm not surprised. In professional baseball, it's a sight rarer than a total solar eclipse. According to Baseball Almanac, it's happened just 12 times in the history of the game.

A single defensive player gets three outs with one play. Typically, the player will catch a direct hit for the first out, step on a base for the second, and tag a runner out for the third. The last unassisted triple play in the major leagues was in 2003, by Rafael Furcal of the Atlanta Braves. It's even rarer among less skilled, amateur players. Most fans will never see it.

The day after Furcal's triple play, I was speaking in chapel. I used his play as an illustration of what happens when practice and discipline meet opportunity. The days, weeks and years of practice combined so that Furcal made those three outs automatically. He had filled his mind, life and body with baseball practice since he was small, and it all came together in a few seconds to put his name in the history books.

I used that illustration to say that our daily business as disciples—work, prayer, devotion, worship, ministry, reading—might seem mundane, but at times we will have sudden opportunities, and those hours of discipleship will have their effect. By God's grace, we will respond like Jesus.

Our varsity baseball team was playing a re-

gional opponent. Jesse was playing second base. He had been playing, practicing and drilling infield defense for years.

It happened. He caught a line drive off the hitter. Instinctively, he tagged second while the runner was off base. On third, the runner was unsure of what to do, and Jesse ran to third and tagged him. (Not the prettiest triple play in baseball history, but it did the job.)

He could hardly believe it. We could hardly believe it. The opposing coaches really had trouble believing it. But the umpires saw it, and the unassisted triple play was counted. We celebrated. Watching from the dugout, I thought about how Oneida sees special moments like this all the time. The media isn't here to take a picture or write a story, but the big play happens.

A student walks to the stage as his name is called for honor roll. No one knows that it's the first time he's been able to do that.

A student is promoted to the position of job supervisor. A few months ago, she was told she was lazy and worthless. Now she is experiencing success.

A student hugs his parents as they get in the car for a visit home. No one knows that just weeks before, there was so much anger and bitterness that hugs seemed impossible.

A student is baptized into the membership of our local Baptist church. No one knows that before coming to OBI, she had never been in church or heard the gospel.

Every day at Oneida, we see once-in-a-lifetime accomplishments.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Uniting literacy needs to missions

Missions pioneer Lillian Isaacs returns to campus

Southern Baptist literacy missions began at Clear Creek with the first literacy workshop sponsored by the Home Mission Board, Oct. 9-10, 1959. Lillian Isaacs was the leading organizer of that conference. On campus recently for the KBC Literacy Conference, Isaacs told a chapel audience the story of how God used her and others.

A student wife came to Lillian requesting she order the Laubach Literacy Center correspondence course. Lillian completed the order and asked for the payment. "That's why I asked you to fill out the order," the young wife said. "I don't have the money," Lillian said. "But the WMU of First Baptist Church in Pineville would pay for it, wouldn't they?" Her question was quickly followed by a smile of thanks to Lillian.

Lillian got an invitation to speak to Pineville WMU leaders and presented a plan for them to take a literacy workshop and learn how to teach adults to read and write. "It suddenly got silent; the rockers and the fans stopped," Lillian said. She returned to the campus in defeat, arriving home to a ringing phone. "Forgive me, Lillian! Forgive me!"

were the first words Lillian heard when she answered the phone. It was Ethel Golden, in whose home the WMU had met. After the group left, Ethel was asked by Ruth Shephard (a 65-year old woman who ironed for Ethel) about learning to read. Ethel said to Ruth, "You never told me you couldn't read." Ruth answered, "Why should I? You weren't going to do anything about it. But after you take the workshop, you can learn me to read."

Two hundred people from four states attended the literacy conference. Afterward, Ethel taught her eager student, Ruth. A year later at the Mountain Missions Bible Conference at Oneida, Lillian was asked to report on

the literacy project. She took Ruth. On the drive to Oneida, Ruth said, "Today I'm sittin' and ridin' instead of standin' and ironin'—just because I can read." At the conference she told her testimony about learning to read. "Next to being saved, reading is the greatest thing that ever happened to me," Ruth said, and concluded by reading John 3:1-19.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Language arts



WORSHIP Members of Gwinnett Romanian Baptist Church in Suwanee, Ga., pray during a worship service where Southern Baptist missionary Mark Hobafcovich was guest speaker. Women in Romanian churches traditionally wear head coverings during worship. (NAMB photos by Paul Obregon.)

Former refugee starts 'heart language' churches

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

Atlanta (BP)—Having risked their lives to escape from communist Romania in 1980, Mark Hobafcovich and his friends had just arrived as refugees in Australia when a stranger showed up at their door.

"Good morning, boys!" the man said in their native tongue.

It was Sunday morning, and a member of a local Romanian-speaking church invited them to the morning service. Because of the timing of the visit and familiarity of the language, Hobafcovich accepted.

Because of that Christian's witness during a vulnerable time, Hobafcovich eventually accepted Christ as his personal Savior and a call to Christian ministry.

Today, as a missionary and church planter, Hobafcovich is passionate about making it possible for other people to have the opportunity of worshipping in their own "heart language"—the language they use when they relate most intimately with God and others.

Even among immigrants who are reasonably comfortable with English, communication barriers sometimes impede true worship.

"I'm sold-out to this ministry because I am a recipient of it," he said.

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

As a missionary with the North American Mission Board, Hobafcovich previously worked to help Eu-



SHARING THE WORD Mark Hobafcovich preaches at Gwinnett Romanian Baptist Church. As a missionary Hobafcovich—a native of Romania—helped start Romanian-language churches throughout the country.

ropean, Middle Eastern, Brazilian and Haitian churches plant new language congregations.

In January he began serving on the staff of NAMB, where he coordinates the work of national missionaries working to help start churches among all

people groups.

After accepting Christ and being disciplined by the Romanian congregation in Australia, Hobafcovich planted two new churches in Australia. He later started a Romanian congregation in Nashville and became church extension director for the local association.

As a national missionary, he helped locate emerging communities of a particular ethnic group where there might be a few people

The big picture

■ The foreign-born population of the United States is currently 33.1 million, 11.5 percent of the U.S. population.

■ More than 1,000 ethnic and language churches were started by Southern Baptists in 2002, the last year for which figures are available.

■ NAMB supports nearly 600 ethnic and language church planter pastors.

interested in starting a church. He then works with other churches to find sponsors and meeting places so the new church can be started.

His work would often begin with research to see where significant numbers of a particular ethnic group are locating.

"Sometimes we make the local association or state convention aware of the new people that are in their area," he said. "We have research, and relationships with networks of other people groups. And we work together to come up with a specific strategy for reaching that particular people group."

His role was as an encourager and facilitator, giving pastors and churches the resources they need to accomplish the church-planting vision God has given them.

"That's how the Lord did it in His lifetime; therefore, it is a good model for us to follow too, to be mentors to others so they will catch the vision and run with it," Hobafcovich said. "I see a day when the Lord will revive His people and church planting movements will be a reality in North America as in other parts of the world for the glory of the Lord Jesus."

Financial instability greatest threat to East St. Louis ministry

By Michael Leathers
Associated Baptist Press

East St. Louis, Ill. (ABP)—In an inner-city ministry in the shadow of St. Louis, seventh-grader Brandon Smith writes a homemade card for Mother's Day.

Writing on a folded sheet of paper, Brandon thanks his mom for teaching him right from wrong, for keeping him off the streets.

This 13-year-old, a junior-high student at Clark Middle School, is one of 16 children spending a Saturday afternoon in the Christian Activity Center's computer lab making cards for their moms, for their grandmas, for anyone else they love.

For these budding writers, the Christian Activity Center is an oasis in their parched neighborhoods.

No bowling alleys, no miniature golf courses, no movie theaters exist. Parks and playgrounds are sparse. Instead, abandoned buildings, weed-infested lots and pockets of crime abound.

Keeping Brandon and other children off the streets, where drugs and prostitution can flare up on any corner, is the heartbeat of the Christian Activity Center.

Every weekday during the school year, between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., 240 children from 6 to 18 years old find a fun sanctuary within the center's walls. They shoot basketball in the gym, which has been Brandon's main reason to come. He dreams of growing up to be a professional basketball player.

Others bounce on a mammoth trampoline in a rec room near the kitchen. Older boys work out on the weight equipment tucked behind the trampoline. They copy and paste on the 15 computers in the computer lab. A few compose songs in the lab's music studio.

It's more than fun and games, though. With volunteer help from doctors and other clinicians, the center operates a health clinic, providing free screenings and check-ups to uninsured children. More than 1,200 children are served nutritious snacks every month as part of an after-school snack program.

Age-appropriate health classes include topics such as hygiene, substance abuse, conflict resolution, sexually transmitted diseases and abstinence. The media center houses more than 2,000 books, magazines and education materials to instill a love of reading. Classes teach biblical principles. Bible verses painted on the walls offer encouragement and hope.

Center is "totally dependent" on outside help

All these ministries, however, could be toppled by the center's greatest enemy—instability—according to director Chet Cantrell. "The population we serve cannot support a ministry. We're totally dependent on outside help to run this ministry."

That help comes from not only financial contributions, but from donations and volunteer support. The center must raise \$13,000 just to pay for building and liability insurance. After that, there are the salaries of eight full- and part-time staffers. Most of Cantrell's salary is still paid by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board.

NAMB relinquished ownership of the Christian Activity Center in July 2001, turning it over to the Metro East Baptist Association, a regional affiliation of about five dozen churches in southwestern Illinois. At one point, NAMB owned 86 Baptist centers but has whittled that down to a handful as it sought to turn the ministries over to local control.

As the new owner, Metro East Baptist Association has said it does not have the financial resources to pick up the cost of any major repair or replacement items. The need to replace heating and air-conditioning units, for example, could deal a severe blow to the center's ability to operate.

Less than one third of the center's annual budget comes from denominational sources. The remaining 70 percent comes from grants, a soft source of income that could easily dry up from one year to the next, Cantrell said. Director since 1989, Cantrell hopes the center can raise a \$4 million endowment, which would allow it to pay staff salaries.

It's a dream that Cantrell hopes to see fulfilled because he believes that centers like the Christian Activity Center are one of the best ways to do ministry.

For more information, check out the center's Web site at www.cacesl.org.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries throughout Kentucky.

Green River Correctional Institute for Juveniles in Morgantown.

Gasper River Baptist Association has an ongoing ministry to the nearly 50 juveniles housed in this correctional institute. Churches in the association work together to provide weekly worship services and special events for the teens there. Director of Missions Bob Martin thanks God for the two young people who became Christians last month as a result of the ministry. Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of the young people there and that more teens will come to know Christ as their hope and salvation.

Cumberland College student mission trip.

Sixteen students from Cumberland College have made a commitment to spend their summer as missionaries in Southeast Asia, teaching English as a second language to university and high school students. Campus minister Dean Whitaker has requested prayer for them as they prepare for the mission and raise the financial support needed to make the trip. Pray also that God will move powerfully among all of the students, both Asian and American.

Mission Service Corps missionaries Jamie and Rachel Reynolds in Blackey.

The Reynoldses have retired from the Montgomery, Ala., police department and are moving to Southeastern Kentucky to direct Camp Calvary in Letcher County. They will coordinate volunteers, plan and direct camps, maintain the property and grounds, assist with job training and equestrian ministry and implement ministry and evangelism projects. Pray for the family as they move to Kentucky. Pray also that God will send other workers to assist them in this ministry.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—Liberty Church will hold revival services May 10-12 with **Jim Franklin** as evangelist. **Phil Haney** is pastor.

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Nelson Association will host a women's celebration May 4 at Parkway Church, beginning with a catered meal at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker **Karen Allenn** of Christian radio station WJIE will focus on the theme, "The Face of a Godly Woman." For reservations, call (502) 348-0146 by April 30.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Berean Church will hold revival services April 28-May 1, 7 p.m. and May 2, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., with **John Walker** as evangelist.

■ **FRANKFORT**—St. John Church will hold revival services May 2-5, 6:30 p.m., with **Mike Caudill** as evangelist. **David Stahl**, music evangelist, will be in concert May 2, 6 p.m. **John Wyatt** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church recently honored **Joyce Oliver** for 10 years of preschool ministry.

Lonnie and Belinda Riley will be guest speakers for morning worship

May 2 at Southside Church.

Correction: West Broadway Church's community-wide senior adult revival services April 28-30 will begin at 11 a.m.

■ **MOREHEAD**—First Church will host the **Covenant Players** drama ministry May 2. **Don Mantooth** is pastor.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—Countryside Church recently called **Royce Pile** as interim pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Hall Street Church will present "God in Us," a musical involving the worship choir, praise team and congregation May 2, 10:45 a.m.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church recently honored **Murrill and Phyllis Curtis** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church ordained **Michael Arterburn** to the gospel ministry April 25.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church will host the third annual "Bluegrass on the Grass," a free bluegrass concert May 8, 3 p.m. Featured artists will be **The Peasall Family**, from the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" **Lynn Traylor** is pastor.

Emeritus missionary James Short dies

Louisville—James Short Jr., an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Mexico, died April 16. He was 78.

A native of Texas, Short and his wife, Sarah Beth, were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in 1956. He served in associational missions in Chihuahua state and as a church planter and developer in Juarez until 1973, when he moved to Mexico City. There he taught on the faculty of the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary and served as treasurer for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Mexico until he retired in 1990.

A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Short served as pastor of churches in Dallas and Adkins, Texas, prior to missionary appointment.

His wife preceded him in death. Survivors include two daughters, Julie Graham and Martha Short, both of Louisville; two sons, James Short III and David Short, both of Louisville; and four grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to the SBC International Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 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.

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

Hurtgen named Campbellsville dean

Campbellsville—John Hurtgen, director of Campbellsville University's Christian studies program, has been named dean of the school of theology, according to President Michael Carter.

Hurtgen has served at Campbellsville since 1990, beginning as an instructor of Christian studies. He most recently was interim dean of the school of theology. A member of Campbellsville Baptist Church, he has conducted revivals, Bible studies and preached at churches throughout Kentucky for more than 20 years.

"I am thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to continue my

service to Campbellsville University as the dean of theology," Hurtgen noted. He said his goals include expanding graduate and undergraduate programs in a way that blends academics, the church and the marketplace.

He succeeds Walter Jackson who served five years as dean.

Hurtgen is a graduate and former adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He is a member of the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature.



Hurtgen

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR SALE: 1980 GMC 12-passenger Blue Bird Mini Bird bus. New motor. Only \$4,000. Clifton Heights Baptist Church. For details, contact Jesse Benton, (502) 893-5958 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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

SEEKING: Part-time church financial and administrative secretary. Growing church seeks an energetic, friendly person to work 15-20 hours per week. Experience with Microsoft Office software and Quicken a plus, but will train the right person. Good pay, vacation and friendly atmosphere. Contact church office at (502) 933-2761 for an appointment.

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.landern@firstbaptistnet.com.

SEEKING: DOM for Crittenden Association. Person should have a minimum of four-year college degree, five years ministry experience, and experience in missions. Send resumé to: DOM Search Team, PO Box 291, Crittenden, KY 41030.

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

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky. Currently the church has 70 to 80 in Sunday school, and 100 to 125 in Sunday morning worship. Please send resumé to: Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 2360 Green River Road, Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Please send resumé to: First Missionary Baptist Church, PO Box 368, Benton, KY 42025.

SEEKING: Daycare help wanted. Lynn Acres Daycare, 5007 Southside Drive. Call Darlene, (502) 363-3300.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Wayne City Baptist, Wayne City, Ill. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Wayne City Baptist Church, Box 183, Wayne City, IL 62895.

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

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.

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

Quick-trip ministry

More young adults opting for short-term mission trips

By Amanda Mantone
Religion News Service

Steve Holt spent his first semester away from home doing typical college freshman things: making friends, going to class, working out. He had new streets to learn and lessons to study, just like his peers.

But when Holt left the classroom, he went to orphanages and churches, not the dining hall or quad. His days were spent evangelizing or talking about AIDS. Holt was getting an education, just not in the liberal arts—he was training as a missionary in Chilibre, Panama.

"It was a nice break between high school and college," Holt said. "To get out, and really get involved in another culture."

The 18-year-old spent five months working for Youth With a Mission, an organization that funnels young people from throughout the world into short-term Christian mission assignments before and after college.

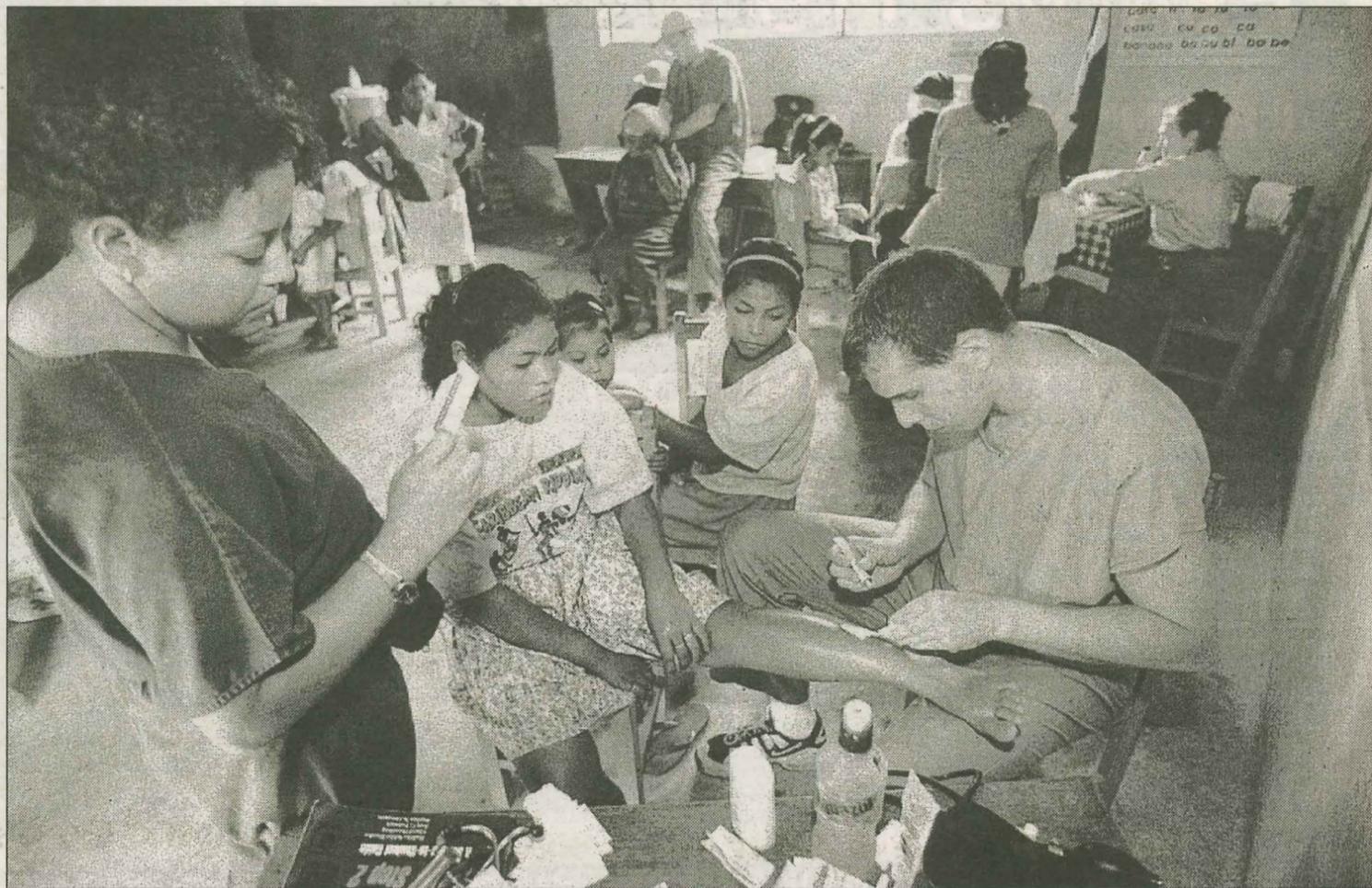
After his semester of mission service, he enrolled at Pennsylvania's Grove City College, and is studying economics and Christian thought—with the goal of attending seminary and then putting his economic knowledge to use as a missionary in a developing nation.

Despite increasing reports of missionaries and humanitarian aid workers killed overseas—including four missionaries who were shot to death in March in Iraq alone—Holt and other students are undeterred. In fact, the numbers of college-age volunteers entering mission work appear to be on the rise.

SBC volunteers increasing

The Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, among the largest missionary agencies, reported a 14 percent jump in the number of collegiate volunteers in 2002—and the number has held steady with 3,500 college students joining each year since.

"On a practical level, students live in a more multicultural world than ever. Traveling to Europe on spring break is as normal as going



to Padre Island," said Felicity Burrow, student missions consultant for the IMB. "Volunteerism is the new fad on college campuses, so mission work benefits from all of these cultural influences in Christian students' lives. Terrorist attacks and other things have made some Christians afraid of serving overseas. Students rise to that challenge."

Howard Culbertson, professor of missions at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla., said he sees the interest in missions on the rise among his students.

"When I came to campus 16 years ago we had 15-20 students per year involved in missions trips. Now we probably have around a hundred every year," he said. "The more students get involved in missions, the greater chance other students have to be in close contact with people who've had global experience."

Experts offer several reasons why large numbers of students are flocking toward mission work.

"College students don't know what to do with their lives, and go-

ing overseas gives them some context and maturing to do," said Todd Johnson, director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass. "The agencies are changing to allow people to come (more) for short-term work."

"A hunger for spirituality"

Ryan Shaw, international director of the Student Volunteer Movement 2—a fledgling group recruiting college students for long-term missions—said college students are part of a blossoming revival of mission work.

"In our generation, young people want to live for something serious. There's a hunger for a deeper spirituality than other generations," he said.

Most college students are serving on missions of no more than two years, and many for as little as two weeks between semesters. The shortest trips are meant as teaching tools, to help students decipher if mission work is their lifelong calling.

Such short-term fervor, though positive, may prove troublesome for the future of missions as a lifelong career, said Ralph Winter, editor of Mission Frontiers magazine.

"In general, the number of missionaries going into long-term is decreasing, while the number going into short-term is exploding," he said. "Whether there's any connection or not no one knows, but I don't think most short-termers think about staying on."

Winter, who was an international missionary for 10 years, said going on short-term mission trips has become the "in" thing to do.

"That's a good thing, not a bad thing," he said. "But it's a very expensive form of missions that doesn't do much good. You can't

translate the New Testament in two weeks."

But college students eager to sign up for long-term service face several obstacles. Many missionary-sending agencies are loath to recruit volunteers with the deep educational debt students carry, crippling many before they even leave home.

"You can count out all the students who have a lot of debt. They'll never make it," Winter said. "It takes 10 years to pay off their loans, and by then they've settled into another job. ... Some organizations will let you become a missionary with \$10,000 or even \$15,000 in debt, but many students have much more than that."

Most missionary agencies require at least a bachelor's degree for incoming missionaries, leaving students in a financial catch-22. Holt said that makes finances a top concern among missionary-minded students.

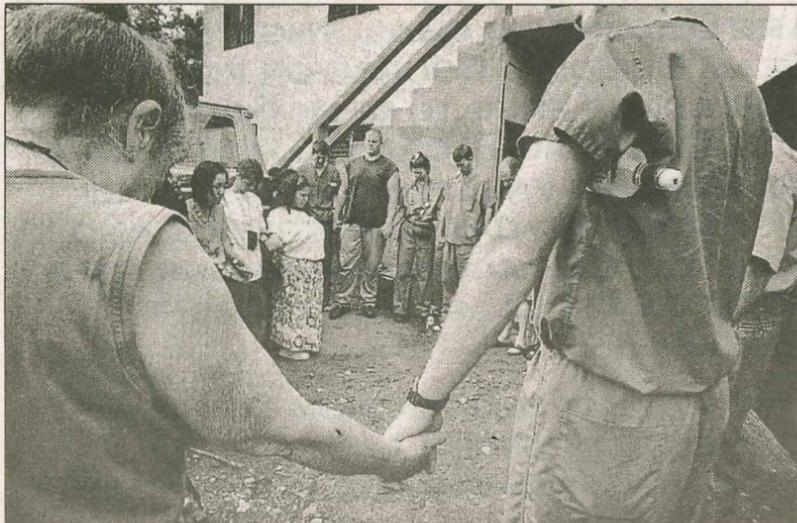
"I would love to just go from college to seminary, and then from seminary onto the missions field," he said. "But realistically, with the costs of a private school and then graduate school on top of that, it's not easy to accomplish."

Despite the risks and setbacks, droves of students looking for summer or post-graduation plans are still enrolling in short-term mission programs. Some say the trend is only beginning.

"Interest in the world is increasing," said Jim Tebbe, director of Urbana, a large-scale conference that draws college students into mission work. "Short-term isn't enough time to be a missionary, but it's enough to have an impact on a student's life. The goal has to be for them to commit longer. And if students are making that kind of decision, they can have a huge impact on the world."

MEDICAL VOLUNTEER

A Texas medical student tends to a Honduran woman at a clinic during a Southern Baptist mission trip to Honduras. Despite increasing danger, growing numbers of young Christians are heading beyond America's borders for short-term mission trips. (IMB photos by Roy Burroughs)



PREPARATION Texas medical students hold hands with Hondurans to pray during a short-term mission trip to Honduras.

PSALMS 119

**I RUN DOWN THE PATH OF YOUR COMMANDS,
FOR YOU HAVE SET MY HEART FREE.**

**DIRECT ME IN THE PATH OF YOUR COMMANDS,
FOR THERE I FIND DELIGHT.**

**IS YOUR SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCING THE DELIGHT FOUND IN
KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN?**

**DO YOU LEAD A TEAM THAT NEEDS TO BRING FOCUS AND
CLARITY TO ITS PURPOSE?**

ARE YOU CALLING ON YOUR CHURCH TO SOLIDIFY ITS MISSION?

**FUEL THE DELIGHT.
SHARPEN THE FOCUS.
ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION.**

AT CEDARMORE.

CEDARMORE IS A GREAT PLACE TO RUN DOWN THAT
PATH WITH YOUR GROUP, TEAM OR CHURCH.

WHETHER YOU ARE LOOKING TO CHALLENGE YOUR
GROUP ON OUR TEAM BUILDING COURSE OR FOR A
PLACE TO SET YOUR GROUP FREE TO SEEK GOD'S
STILL, SMALL VOICE, CEDARMORE CAN HELP. WE HAVE
CONFERENCE AND WORSHIP FACILITIES EQUIPPED TO
MEET THE NEEDS OF MODERN-DAY CONFERENCE AND
RETREAT PLANNERS. WE CAN ACCOMMODATE GROUPS
AS LARGE AS 400 OR AS SMALL AS A LEADERSHIP
TEAM OR SMALL GROUP.

AT CEDARMORE WE MAKE IT OUR MISSION TO
"PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH ALL OF OUR
GUESTS CAN COME TO KNOW CHRIST OR MORE FULLY
EXPERIENCE HIM."

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