



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Smaller, mid-size churches among 'unsung heroes' in strengths study

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Hartford, Conn. (RNS)—A new study by two social scientists shatters many myths about what type churches are best at certain roles.

Certain assumptions have long been made about what makes for the strongest congregational life.

For example, many people believe that megachurches provide the best worship experience or that the best churches generally make children's ministries a priority.

But "Beyond the Ordinary: 10 Strengths of U.S. Congregations" finds a wide variety in the strengths of the nation's congregations.

"Beyond the Ordinary" is the latest phase of published research on results of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey of 2,000 congregations and their 300,000 worshippers taken in April 2001.

Whereas many polls about congregations have been based on the impressions of a minister or other key leaders, this study determined congregational strengths based on the perspectives of parishioners.

"The view from the pew is just different," said co-author Cynthia Woolever, professor of sociology at the Hartford Institute for Religion Research in Hartford, Conn.

She and co-author Deborah Bruce found that small congregations had many of the 10 strengths they examined, far more than mid-size and large churches.

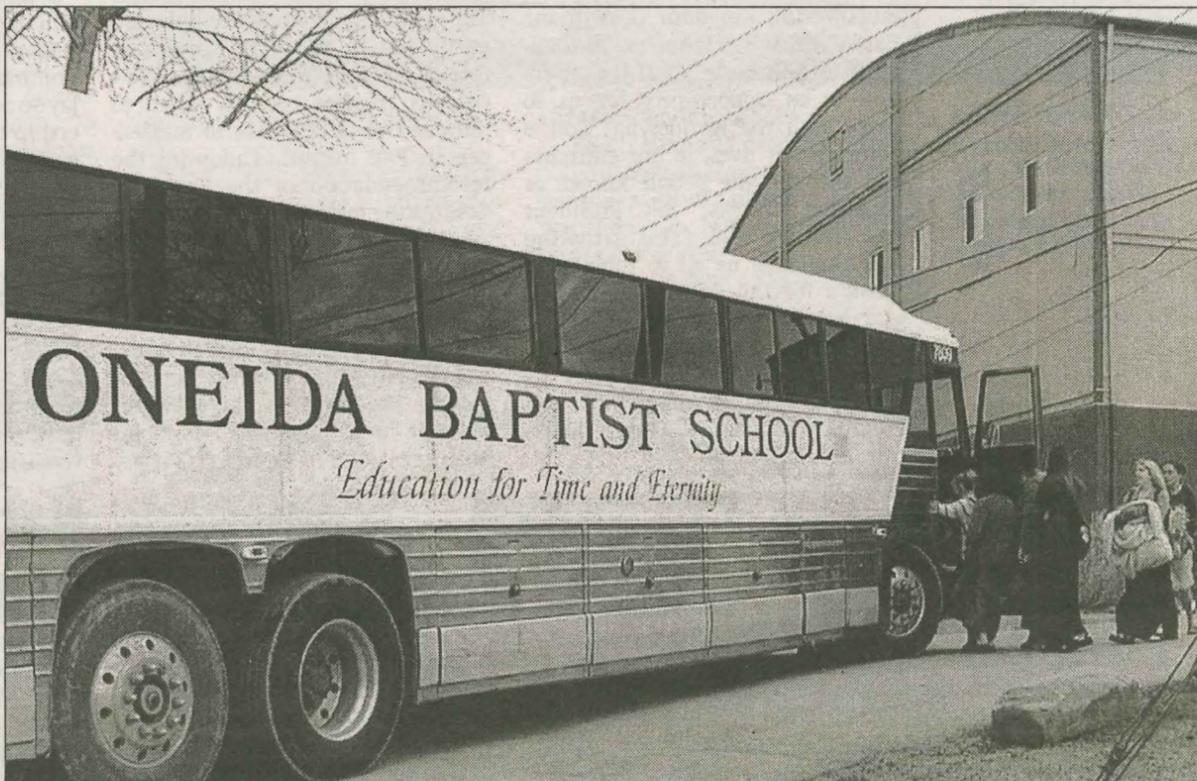
Congregations with fewer than 100 worshippers and mid-size congregations of 100-350 worshippers are "unsung heroes," she said, receiving higher average scores for strengths such as growing spiritually and caring for children and youth than larger congregations.

"Congregations that are very small often feel they just can't do good work," said Bruce, associate research manager in the research services office of the Presbyterian Church (USA). "This certainly refutes this."

Despite being limited in clergy (as many small congregations do not have full-time pastors) these churches ranked highest in congregational participation, sense of belonging, sharing faith and empowering

□ See *Small, mid-sized ... Page 10*

On the road again



LOADING UP Members of Oneida Baptist Institute's choir get on board the school bus to travel to another performance at a Kentucky Baptist church's Sunday morning worship service. Most performance days, choir members are on the road before their fellow students wake up. (Oneida Baptist Institute photos by Denise Spencer)

Oneida choir logs 5,000 miles each year

By Denise Spencer
Oneida Baptist Institute

Oneida—At 7:30 on a Sunday morning, most Oneida Baptist Institute students are just beginning to think about getting out of bed.

But OBI choir members are likely to be piling onto a bus to head across the commonwealth—if they're not already on the road.

From mid-October through early May, the 36-member choir takes to the highway nearly every Sunday. In the course of a year they will sing an average of 20 concerts and travel approximately 5,000 miles.

The Oneida choir typically leads the worship service in the churches they visit.

The choir sings about a half-dozen selections ranging from southern gospel to traditional hymn arrangements.

Several students perform brief dramatic monologues depicting the various reasons young people come to Oneida. Afterward, Oneida president Bud Underwood speaks about the Christian boarding school in Eastern Kentucky.

After the service, the church feeds the hungry choir. It may be a potluck meal, pizza or the funds to visit a nearby fast-food restaurant.

Earlier this year, the choir traveled to perform at Lick Fork Baptist Church in London. It was their second time to sing there.

"Our people love Oneida," Pastor Gary Kirby said, noting that his congregation includes a 1935 OBI graduate and a couple of other



GETTING READY Choir members put on robes before their performance at Victory Baptist Church in London. The choir performs about 20 times each school year.

people who attended Oneida.

"We're always very much impressed with the kids' manners. They act like they feel at home when they're here," he said. "They love to feed the students and listen to them sing. I think they would sit there and listen to them all day."

Choir director Tim Cochran gets the students ready for their performances.

He begins teaching the performance pieces as soon as students begin school each August. Every year, their first concert will be approximately eight weeks into the first semester. Because the choir

sings in churches week after week, teaching is especially challenging.

"It's not like a regular school choir or church choir," Cochran explained. "We can't do a concert and then begin to learn all new stuff. I do have to incorporate new music to keep the kids interested, but we have to keep practicing the 'old' songs, too."

The choir rehearsal is a fine arts class in the school. The choir is comprised mostly of high school students, but a few middle schoolers are in the group. "We let seventh and eighth graders take

□ See *Choir members become ... Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 5.

2004 SBC in Indianapolis highlights 'Kingdom Forever'

By Michael Foust
Baptist Press

Indianapolis (BP)—Southern Baptists will gather in Indianapolis June 15-16, focusing on the theme "Kingdom Forever."

The theme, drawn from Matthew 6:13—"For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever"—is the second consecutive year in which the theme has centered on the Southern Baptist Convention's Empowering Kingdom Growth initiative which was launched in 2002.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is an opportunity for us to share with the world what God is doing in our lives, in our churches and through the people known as Southern Baptists," SBC President Jack Graham said. "This gathering will challenge us all to renew our passion for the Great Commission and issues of eternal impact."

The annual meeting will feature "Kingdom Challenge" sermons by such speakers as David Jeremiah and Franklin Graham and singing by the Gaither Vocal Band.

Major business items to be considered by SBC messengers include: **Baptist World Alliance.** Messengers are scheduled to vote on a recommendation by the SBC Executive Committee to withdraw from and defund the Baptist World Alliance effective Oct. 1.

Sole membership. A motion pertaining to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and sole membership may be considered. The seminary remains the only SBC entity not to adopt the corporate model of sole membership. New Orleans trustees recently voted to present two alternatives to messengers in 2005 instead of adopting the recommendation of the Executive Committee to name the convention as sole member of the seminary's corporation.

Annuity Board name change. Messengers will consider a proposal to change the Annuity Board's name and expand its ministry assignments. The entity's name would change to GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist

Convention, and it would be permitted to serve evangelical ministry organizations outside the SBC.

Jack Graham, completing his second one-year term as president, will deliver his president's address at 11:10 a.m. on June 15. Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., is the only announced candidate to succeed Graham.

"Kingdom Challenge" sermons will be presented by David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in California; Jay Strack, president of Student Leadership University in Florida; Roy Fish, evangelism professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and evangelist Franklin Graham.

The week prior to the convention, hundreds of Southern Baptists will come together for "Crossover Indiana," an evangelism-focused strategy that uses block parties, door-to-door visits and other efforts to spread the gospel in and around Indianapolis. In addition, harvest revival services will be held June 10-12

in churches across the region.

"We are so fortunate to have the pre-convention activities of Crossover, which will greatly boost God's Kingdom work here," said Stephen Davis, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. "Our pastors and churches are very appreciative of the hosting of volunteers who will be arriving early to help us penetrate the Indianapolis area and beyond with a tremendous evangelistic effort. We are expecting an increase in new church starts as a result."

Messengers wishing to propose resolutions must submit them at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider them. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at www.sbcannualmeeting.net.

For the second year, online registration is available to churches and their messengers. Churches can register their messengers online at www.sbc.net.

SBC PREVIEW

Ministers' Wives Conference. Bible study teacher and author Beth Moore will be the featured speaker at this year's Ministers' Wives Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15 in Indianapolis. The conference theme will be "The Designer's Label," based on the Message translation of Colossians 3:10. The 11:30 a.m. ministers' wives luncheon will be in the Sagamore Ballroom of the Indiana Convention Center. Advance tickets, at \$10 each, may be ordered by sending a check payable to the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Marilyn Foley, University of Mobile, Box 13220, Mobile, AL 36663-0220. Advanced ticket orders must be postmarked by May 15. Tickets purchased at the SBC annual meeting will be \$12 each.

Directors of missions conference. Building healthy associations in the 21st century will be the focus of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions' 43rd annual meeting June 13-14 in Indianapolis. "Together ... To Pray ... To Care ... To Share!" will be the theme of the conference, which opens with a 10:30 a.m. worship service June 13 at the Radisson City Centre in Indianapolis. Gary Vidito, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Taylorsville, will deliver the after-dinner entertainment Sunday evening. Also featured during the two-day conference will be Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; O.S. Hawkins, president of the Annuity Board; James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources; Robert Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board; and Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Wives of the directors will meet from 2-5 p.m. Sunday and 9-10 a.m. Monday.

Evangelists' conference. Evangelists will focus on the theme of "Jesus ... Not Ashamed!" during the worship service sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The worship service will be from 9 a.m. to noon June 13 at the Indiana Convention Center. Three Southern Baptist evangelists will be the featured speakers: Johnny Tucker of International Missions Association in Citronelle, Ala.; Sammy Tippit of Sammy Tippit Ministries in San Antonio; and Jerry Burgess of Divine Design Ministries in Whitley City. The Vocational Evangelists

Annual Retreat will be June 11-12 at the Holiday Inn Select in Indianapolis. Among the retreat speakers will be Bailey Smith, former SBC president and founder of Real Evangelism, Inc., in Atlanta; and Benny Jackson, president of COSBE. Evangelists may make reservations by contacting Melonie Wallace at mwallace@namb.net or (770) 410-6304. The annual business meeting will begin with an 11 a.m. luncheon June 14 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. COSBE members may make reservations by contacting Margaret Allen at allensingers@aol.com or (405) 359-7146.

FAITH luncheons. Church leaders interested in learning more about LifeWay Christian Resources' FAITH evangelism strategy are invited to the FAITH/Sunday school awareness luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention's lunch break June 15 at the Marriott Indianapolis Downtown. For churches that already use FAITH, a Force Multiplier luncheon will be held simultaneously, also at the Marriott. Tickets are free but required for entrance and can be obtained by contacting Patricia Murphy at (615) 251-2888 or by e-mail at patricia.murphy@lifeway.com. LifeWay also will host a FAITH awareness luncheon for Hispanic pastors June 13 at Northside Baptist Church. Contact Julio Fuentes at (305) 829-8799 for reservations.

Seminary luncheons. The six Southern Baptist seminaries will host luncheons June 16 during the SBC annual meeting. Locations include: **Wabash Gate**, Indiana Convention Center's Wabash Room 3; for tickets (\$10) call (888) 442-8709. **Midwestern**, Indiana Ballrooms E, F and G at the Indianapolis Marriott; for reservations, call (877) 414-3720. **New Orleans**, Indiana Convention Center's Wabash Ballrooms 1 and 2; for ticket information, visit www.nobts.edu/alumi. **Southeastern**, Indiana Convention Center's Sagamore Ballrooms 1 and 2; for tickets (\$12) call (919) 761-2202. **Southern**, Indiana Convention Center's Sagamore Ballrooms 3 and 4; for reservations, call (502) 897-4143; **Southwestern**, Indiana Convention Center Sagamore Ballroom 5; for tickets (\$15) call (817) 923-1921, ext. 7260.

Baptist World Alliance breakfast. The Baptist World Alliance will host a "Windows on the World" breakfast June 15, 7 a.m., at the Convention Center Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis. For tickets (\$20) contact Carolina Mangieri at (703) 790-8980, ext. 129.

National WMU launches 3-year emphasis on 'Christ Followers'

Indianapolis—National Woman's Missionary Union will launch the 2004-2006 emphasis of "Christ Followers" during its annual Missions Celebration June 13-14 at the Indiana Convention Center & RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

"Building on the new emphasis, this year's event is designed to encourage, equip and motivate us all as we take a closer look at key attributes of a true follower of Christ," said Wanda Lee, executive director of national WMU. "Together we will discover how God is working around the world through committed Christians who live a missions lifestyle because of a genuine love for Jesus Christ and for others."

Laurita Miller, a nationally known Christian dramatist, will bring biblical followers of Christ to life through dramatic monologues.

Other leaders of WMU's Missions Celebration include Amy Moody, worship leader, speaker and singer; Wanda Lee; Janet Hoffman, WMU national president; 2004 Acteens

panels; and a host of field personnel representing the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board.

Sessions begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 13, and conclude Monday evening prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

In addition to five plenary sessions, the gathering will provide opportunities for leadership training during three one-hour break-out sessions.

In conjunction with WMU's Missions Celebration, the WMU Foundation will host the Legacy Dessert Party on June 13 at 9 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency. This is the only portion of the WMU program that requires pre-registration. The dessert party is free, but tickets must be reserved by May 15. To reserve a maximum of four tickets, call the WMU Foundation toll-free at (877) 482-4483.

For more information about the 2004 WMU Missions Celebration, call (888) 968-0322 or visit www.wmu.com.

Pastors focus on Jesus' preaching

Indianapolis (BP)—The 2004 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference will focus on the theme, "Jesus Came Preaching," from Mark 1:14. The conference will be June 13-14 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

"My prayer is to raise the awareness of the validity and need for biblical preaching week-by-week in our churches' pulpits," said Pastors' Conference President Ted Traylor, senior pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.

The conference will explore the theme through four sessions, with each emphasizing one aspect of Jesus' preaching: the gospel, the Kingdom, repentance and the Word.

Among this year's featured speakers are Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.; Johnny Hunt, pastor of

First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.; Stephen Olford, president of Encounter Ministries in Memphis, Tenn.; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn.; and Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mike Haley, a former homosexual, also will be a featured speaker. Haley is a leader of Focus on the Family's "Love Won Out" conferences addressing the issue of reaching homosexuals with the gospel.

"We are in a critical period in the life of our Southern Baptist Convention," Traylor noted. "We have the need to raise a new level of awareness of the denomination with the coming generation of preachers. It is my hope that this will be a positive influence for all who attend."

Western Recorder board elects two staff members

Louisville—The Western Recorder board of directors elected two people to fill key positions on the state Baptist paper staff April 27.

Janet McIntosh, the Recorder's part-time accounting coordinator since 2000, was named marketing and business manager. She succeeds Mauri Smith who resigned earlier this year for health reasons.

Dannah Prather, communications and grants coordinator for the Baptist Children's Home and Family Services in Carmi, Ill., was named partnership editions editor. She succeeds Joyce Martin who retired last fall.

"I am pleased to have both Janet and Dannah joining our full-time staff," said Western Recorder Editor Trennis Henderson. "They both have extensive experience in Baptist life and will make significant contributions to our ministry efforts among Kentucky Baptists."

McIntosh is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. She also studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Prior to joining the Western Recorder staff, she held several positions at Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville, including bookkeeper and financial secretary. She also was a business office manager at Ten Broeck Hospital in Louisville.

Prather, a native Kentuckian, is a graduate of Murray State University. She previously was associate director of communications for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and also has been a reporter and photographer for newspapers in Elizabethtown, Campbellsville and Hodgenville.

KHBC relocation draws mixed responses

Smithwick insists Bullitt County site is positive move

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—A Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children proposal to relocate its Spring Meadows facility to Bullitt County had drawn mixed responses from potential neighbors.

A recent public hearing by the Bullitt County Board of Adjustments attracted more than 75 Mount Washington-area residents critical of the plan. They voiced concern about having a facility for abused and neglected boys located nearby.

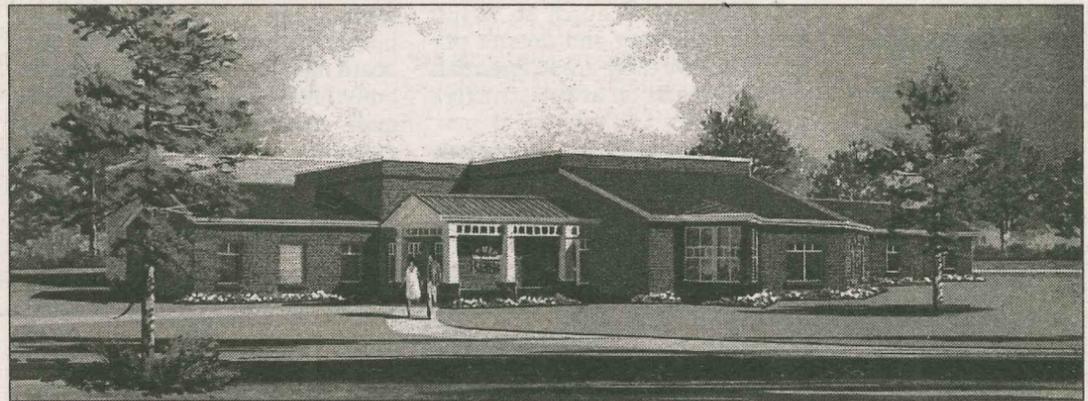
Despite the opposition, board members voted 4-1 to approve a conditional-use permit for the proposed facility. The 10-acre site is located off Bardstown Road just outside the Mount Washington city limits.

Before finalizing plans for purchase of the property, however, KBHC officials still await approval from the Bullitt County Planning and Zoning Commission for rezoning to allow a planned KBHC office facility.

"There's been a lot of erroneous information shared," noted KBHC President Bill Smithwick. He said concerned residents "are afraid these kids are going to steal their cars and damage their property. We've tried to explain that we do not take children we really can't control or can't help."

Acknowledging that boys at Spring Meadows occasionally have run away from the Middletown campus, Smithwick said, "Even when they do run away, they have not proven to be a threat to anybody."

"The facility we build will be designed to keep kids from running away," he added, "because when



they run, they put themselves at risk."

Middletown Mayor Byron Chapman said the Spring Meadows campus has had a positive reputation at its current location.

"They've been nothing but good neighbors," Chapman told the Louisville Courier-Journal. "You don't even know they're there. We've had no complaints at all."

The proposed relocation is part of a long-term KBHC strategy to move from aging campuses to self-contained treatment facilities. In addition to the move from Middletown to Bullitt County, future plans call for selling the Glen Dale campus and building a facility in the Elizabethtown area.

Programs under one roof

The new Spring Meadows campus, expected to cost approximately \$2.5 million, is designed to include a 17,000-square-foot facility to house 20 boys. It will include residential living, dining, a school, recreational facilities and offices.

Smithwick said providing facilities and programming for 20 residents is comparable to the number currently being served in Middletown. While that is a significant decrease from Spring Meadows' population of about 60 residents in the mid-'90s, he said a growing number of children and youth are being served through foster care rather

than residential services.

KBHC currently provides care for 120 children and youth in seven residential facilities across the state and works with more than 150 children and youth in foster care.

"The tradition of this organization changing to meet the needs of the kids of the current period continues," Smithwick said.

Responding to concerns that the current Spring Meadows program is being eliminated, he added, "We are not closing; we are moving forward."

"We are taking the same programs to Mount Washington we have now, except we will have a much better facility. It will include all we have at Spring Meadows under one roof. We'll be able to do the same programs better."

The proposed office facility, projected to cost more than \$2 million, will contain 19,000 square feet. It will include KBHC administrative offices, Cornerstone Counseling services, pregnancy and adoption services and metro Louisville regional offices currently housed at three sites.

KBHC officials hope to have both facilities on the Bullitt County campus completed by the summer of 2005.

"We feel confident it is all going to work out," Smithwick said. "We're not putting in a juvenile jail. We're not putting in anything that's a threat to the community. It will be good for Mount Washington."

SPRING MEADOWS The proposed Spring Meadows campus in Bullitt County will feature a 17,000-square-foot residential facility for 20 boys.

Choir members become ambassadors for Oneida Baptist Institute

Continued from page 1

choir because that's their only opportunity to be involved in music," Cochran said.

Fewer than half of all Oneida students are Christians, and choir members are not required to be believers.

"There is probably a higher percentage of Christian students in the choir than in the school overall," Cochran said.

For students who are Christians, choir is a way to share their faith.

Sophomore Jessica Burgor said she enjoys choir because "I like to sing and praise the Lord."

She added, "I like meeting different people." This is Jessica's second year to be in choir. She was in a church choir back home, so singing comes naturally for her.

Junior Chuck Switzer has been in Oneida's choir for three years, and also has additional church choir experience. "I like going around telling about God through song," Chuck said. He noted that he sees himself as representing the school when he is on a choir trip.

Underwood agreed. "The nearest

a lot of churches come to seeing our students is being with the choir," he explained. "They are ambassadors for our school. I have a deep appreciation for the choir because of their willingness to go out and represent Oneida."

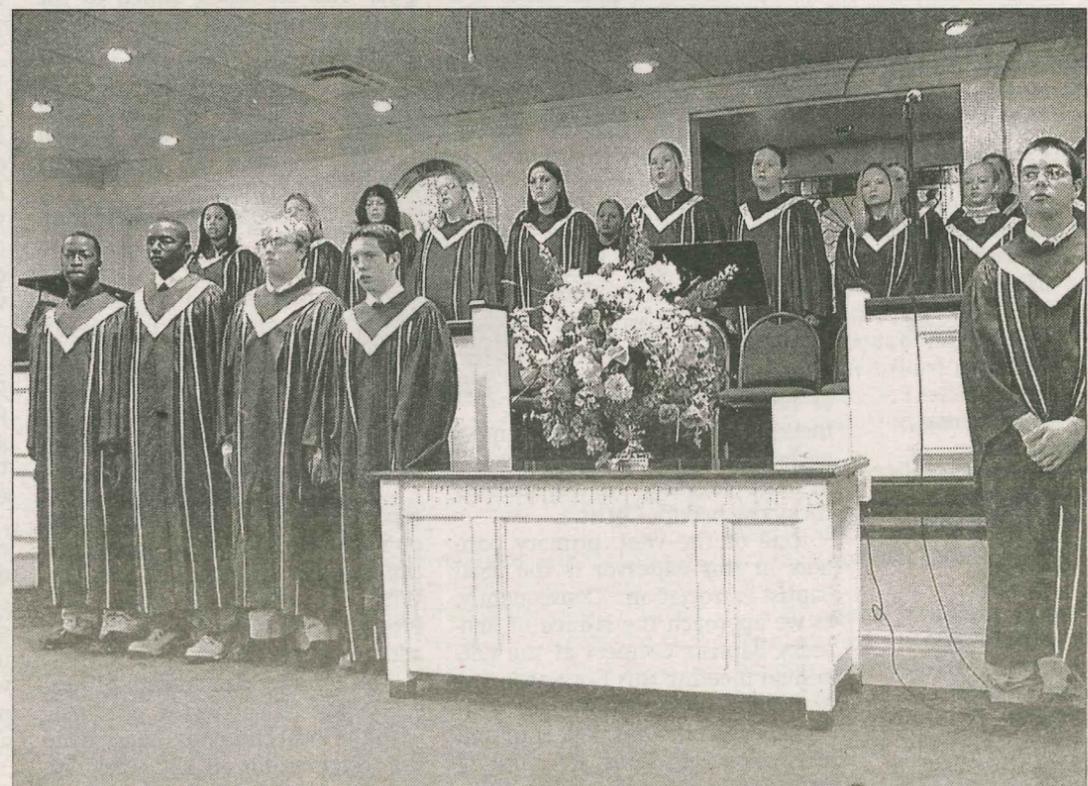
Representing their school comes at a bit of a sacrifice for choir members. In addition to getting up earlier than their peers on Sunday mornings, they often give up most of their free time on Sunday afternoons.

Occasionally, the choir also sings at evening services, and the students don't return to campus until after dark. Students generally make one overnight trip per school year.

"I tremendously appreciate their willingness to give up their free time on Sundays to travel with the choir," Underwood said.

Churches can schedule the choir by calling Kay Underwood at (606) 847-4111, ext. 203. The choir generally stays booked a year in advance.

"No church is too big or too small for us to go to," Cochran said. "We've been to some churches where there were more of us than of them."



PERFORMANCE Oneida Baptist Institute's choir is the primary connection many Kentucky Baptists have to the Christian boarding school in Eastern Kentucky. (Oneida photo by Denise Spencer)

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Structure your church to grow, not plateau

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—How do you structure a church so it just keeps on growing and doesn't plateau? I believe there are 10 essentials you must focus on as you structure your church.

1. You must develop an unshakable conviction about growth. First and foremost, you need to settle on the idea that God wants His church to grow. And He doesn't want it to stop growing! You don't ever need to apologize for wanting your church to grow. Churches must grow because people are going to hell without Jesus Christ. As long as there is one person within driving distance of your church who does not know Jesus Christ, you must keep growing.

2. You must change the primary role of the pastor from minister to leader. You can grow a church to 300 with pastoral skills or ministry skills, but growing beyond 300 will require leadership skills. As a leader, you must learn to communicate your vision in personal and practical ways. You also must learn to motivate your church through your messages, and understand that it's easier to motivate a group than it is to motivate individuals.

A leader also equips others for ministry. Otherwise, you'll burn out and the church won't grow. An expanding ministry also demands you learn how to raise money. Those who write the agenda must underwrite the agenda, and you must learn to manage your time. Effective leaders know where their time goes.

3. You must organize around the gifts of your people. The team God gives you will show you how to structure. Organizing around the gifts of your people will allow the church to focus on ministry, not maintenance. A gifts-based ministry encourages teamwork. It also makes better use of the talent around you.

Building your structure on the

gifts and talents within the church promotes creativity and allows for spontaneous growth. Ministries bubble up, rather than waiting on a board meeting to dissect every possibility. And decision-making becomes more efficient while the structure grows more stable.

4. You must budget according to your purposes and priorities. Obviously the budget of the church shows the priorities and the direction of the church.

I'd suggest you take the budget items and ask of each item, "Which purpose does this fit under?" This will help your people visualize what you're trying to do, and what you're doing with God's money.

5. You must add staff on purpose. Build your staff by first adding generalists and then specialists. First, you want to add people who can do lots of things. Then as you go down the road, you can add more and more specialists.

When do you want to add staff? As soon as you can—immediately, if possible. You want to build as many volunteers as quickly as you can and also add staff as quickly as you can. Any time you add a staff member, that's a faith step and allows the church to grow to the next level.

6. You must offer multiple services. To expand the structure, you will have to multiply; and to multiply, you have to offer multiple worship services.

At what point should you add a new service? I would say when you can have at least 75 to 100 people in that service. If you're trying to reach new people, you have to have a large enough crowd so that the new people who just walked in don't feel like everybody's looking at them.

7. You must create affinity groups to enhance community. The more affinity groups you have, the more ways you have to connect with people. You want to avoid your church becoming a single-cell amoeba, so deliberately structure your church

COMMENTARY

GIVING

Funding a church building pledge? Here's one option

By Laurie Valentine

It seems like a lot of churches are in the midst of—or about to start—a building or capital campaign. The members of those churches are prayerfully considering how much to give and how to make gifts to those campaigns.



There's a giving option that allows you to coordinate your plan for giving to your church's building program with a tax-saving way to transfer a portion of your assets to your family: a charitable lead annuity trust.

A charitable lead annuity trust is a gift arrangement that provides a fixed income stream to one or more Baptist causes for a designated period of years. At the end of the trust term, the property remaining in the trust either can be returned to you (this is a "grantor lead trust") or be distributed to your children and/or other family members (a "non-grantor lead trust").

While a lifetime gift to a "non-grantor" CLAT does not get you a charitable income tax deduction, it does provide a way to pass property to others at reduced gift and estate tax cost. Gift tax savings come from the fact that the value of what you are "gifting" is the current value of the remainder interest in the trust at the time it is created. With careful coordination of the amount being paid to the church's building program and/or other Baptist causes and the trust term, you can reduce the remainder gift value significantly. Estate tax savings result from the removal of the asset, any subsequent appreciation and the future income it generates from your estate.

Example: Helen and Robert White set up a five-year 6.5 percent CLAT funded with \$50,000 of stock. The \$3,250 per year income stream will be distributed to the Whites' church for its building program. Over the five-year term, the building program will receive a total of \$16,250. Assuming the trust assets earn an average annual total return of 7.8 percent, there will be \$51,320 left to distribute from the trust to the Whites' son and daughter (the remainder beneficiaries of the CLAT) at the end of the five years (the gift tax cost was only \$35,450, so they transfer \$15,870 of value tax-free).

Charitable lead annuity trusts provide an opportunity to provide significant current support to Baptist causes and reduce transfer tax costs of passing wealth to your family.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

so it won't become one big group that doesn't reach other people.

8. You must intentionally break through attendance barriers with big days. People like to be around crowds. When you have big, special days—maybe Easter, maybe a Friend Day—there's something about seeing an extra 100 people (or an extra 1,000) that expands your congregation's vision. They see what the church can be, and they see what it can look like.

9. You must add surplus seating space and parking. When it comes to building a facility, most churches build too little and too soon. And then the shoe begins to tell the foot how big it can get! You want to build as big as you can, which means having more than enough seating and parking. We didn't build at Saddleback for years because we knew we wouldn't be able to build big enough—we were growing so fast. Don't limit yourself by building too early.

10. You must continually evaluate your progress. Take a regular and honest look at what is going on in your church—and where your church is going. If you try to study everything you'll end up with the paralysis of analysis, so decide to track three or four significant numbers, such as attendance or small groups.

Then compare the numbers of where you are now with where you've come from and where you want to be. Don't compare yourself with a church down the road. Frankly, that won't help evaluate the health of your own church.

Finally, decide on a standard for measuring the health of your church and shoot for it. The process is constant; you might hit the mark you've set today, but tomorrow is a new day. Continually evaluate your progress and make the necessary adjustments to grow healthy while growing larger.

Rick Warren is pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of "The Purpose-Driven Life"

'Kentucky Baptists Connect' partners

With 2,400 churches strategically located across this great state, it is possible to share the gospel with every unreached person in Kentucky—if we work together! That's the key message of the "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis you're beginning to hear about.

Born out of the Mission Study Committee report presented last May to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board, Kentucky Baptists Connect is at its heart simply a way of helping us all partner together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. By working hand in hand—together—we can see Kentucky reached for Christ.

One of the vital, primary partners in this endeavor is the local Baptist association. Consequently, as we approach the launch of Kentucky Baptists Connect at the KBC annual meeting this November, the first contacts are being made with directors of missions. KBC staff and directors of missions are working on guidelines for the partnership, especially as it relates to the work

of new church development strategists who are being added to the Mission Board staff. These regional strategists will work very closely with associations and are to be a resource in church development and growth available to associations and churches.

During the preparation phase, the strategists are making contacts with associations and churches in order to discover needs. This will help us plan ways to meet these needs. Directors of missions already have provided significant feedback for which we are very grateful.

(By the way, the mission study report calls for the continued development of resources in specialized training with directors of missions. With the growth in Cooperative Program giving, we hope to provide additional resources.)

The primary partnership of Kentucky Baptists Connect is, of course, with the local churches that provide the resources for all KBC work. We are all grateful for the growth in Cooperative Program giving by

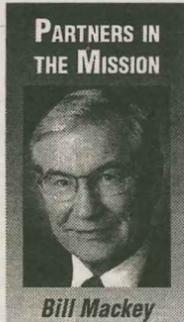
Kentucky Baptist churches this year. Due to the commitment of Kentucky Baptists, there is strong missions outreach in Kentucky and around the world.

In addition to the above partnerships, the agencies and institutions also are partners in Kentucky Baptists Connect. A subcommittee of the Kentucky Baptists Connect Advisory Committee will meet with the college presidents in late May at their request to discuss involvement of the colleges. I am very pleased with the positive responses of the college presidents.

Woman's Missionary Union already is very involved and has been participating with KBC staff work groups in developing Kentucky Baptists Connect strategies focused on the initial launch.

As Kentucky Baptist partners connect with the Lord, each other and individual Kentucky Baptists focused on the mission, I believe God can use us to make a great Kingdom impact in Kentucky and around the world. Please join me in making this partnership and mission of our Lord a priority in prayer!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Bill Mackey

Scriptures provide guidelines for effective parenting skills

Q: As we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day, what are some basic biblical principles and reminders for effective parenting?

Thousands of books have been written on parenting. While many of these are helpful, Christian parents should know what the best book says. Here are a few of the many passages from scripture that pertain to parenting.

PARENTING

Pray for wisdom (James 1:5). The responsibilities of parenting can be overwhelming! How good to know we can depend on God and ask for wisdom beyond our own understanding.

Pray for your children (1 Samuel 12:23). Pray for their protection. Pray that God will help them grow as Jesus did in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and others. Pray that they will find and follow God's ways. Couple your prayers with teachings about what is right and good.

Practice unconditional love and forgiveness (Luke 15:1-24). Jesus told the story of the lost son and the loving father to remind us of God's love for us. Children come to know God's love and forgiveness as they see that same kind of love in us and receive forgiveness from us.

Set a good example (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). These familiar verses, known as the *shema*, form a framework for godly parenting and Christian homes. They remind us to love God with all our heart. They encourage us to know God's ways and to incorporate them into the ordinary activities of everyday life. They specifically challenge us to teach God's ways to our children.

Discipline your children (Proverbs 19:18). The Bible contains many references to discipline, but this particular verse reminds us what lies at stake. When we fail to teach our children restraint and self-control, we are party to their destruction.—David Garrard

Q: My father recently died, which has got me thinking about how alone I am. My husband and I divorced nearly 20 years ago. We were high school sweethearts and are both Christians. I recently found out he is not married. Is it God's will for me to pursue the relationship again?

I believe there is nothing in Scripture that would forbid the relationship. After all, you were married, and reconciliation is one of God's great miracles (2 Corinthians 5:19). However, if you choose to contact your former husband again, consider the following:

MARRIAGE

Essential closure on the past. If he has experienced a second marriage or significant relationship since the two of you were together, it is important to confirm that he has "closed the door" on that relationship. He needs to find closure on that chapter of his life before he can experience the next.

Realistic expectations for reconciliation. If you and your former husband reconcile, it is not a matter of "picking up where you left off." There must be a process of forgiveness for you both. Do not go into this with the illusion that "time heals all wounds," for time alone does not do so, without the required spiritual work on both of your parts.

Realistic expectations within reconciliation. It might be that you both have been single for many years. If reconciliation does take place, get ready for a multitude of adjustments to married life. Seek the caring wisdom of a respected marriage and family therapist or pastoral counselor.

An intentional view of life as a journey. Whatever you do, don't simply live in a dream world that your former husband will somehow find you—that you should continue to put your life on hold until that happens. You can choose not to pursue it, or you can choose to give it a try, but simply hoping will not make it so.

Be prepared for whatever happens. The odds might be more in favor of rejection than reconciliation. While it might be worth the risk, realize the risk is real.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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



Moms deserve more than one day a year

Editor's Note: One of the most popular editorials I've published over the years wasn't written by me. It was a guest editorial I invited our older daughter, Emily (now 17), to write a few years ago for Father's Day. This year, I invited our younger daughter, Audrey, to write a similar tribute for Mother's Day. Audrey, 14, is a freshman honor student at South Oldham High School, where she is active in drama and music. Reflecting that dramatic flair, her article includes a quote from actress Sophia Loren—undoubtedly a first for a Western Recorder editorial. Enjoy.

When I think of my mother, and what the Bible says about her, three verses in Proverbs instantly come to mind: "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. ... Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. ... Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31:10, 28 and 31).

To me, those three verses basically define what Mother's Day is all about. I believe the greatest and most honorable job a woman can ever have is to be a mother. She sacrifices a world of pleasure and opportunity revolving around herself to focus her energy on her children. Out of all the people I could think of to honor, my mother—as I'm sure any mother would be—is on the top of my list. Who more deserves a day to be honored and have appreciation expressed to her?

As long as I can remember, one of my most time-consuming interests has been drama. I have appreciated my mom's sacrifices to help me pursue this dream. More than once, she has put other pri-

orities on hold to update and print out my resumé, drive me to an audition, help me with lines or sit through an occasional not-so-interesting play. I know that each of these selfless acts is her way of showing how much she loves me.

As both a daughter and an actress, I can relate to Sophia Loren when she said, "Is my mother my friend? I would have to say, first of all she is my mother, with a capital 'M'; she's something sacred to me. I love her dearly. ... Yes, she is a good friend, someone I can talk openly with if I want to."

My mom has played many roles in my life. She has been my counselor, my cheerleader, my chauffeur, my teacher, my agent, my shoulder to cry on, and many times, my best friend—but most importantly, my mom.

I was very surprised to learn that Anna Jarvis, who campaigned in the early 1900s to make Mother's Day a national holiday, later said she regretted ever even starting Mother's Day. But if you think about it, her concerns really make a lot of sense. You see, Jarvis didn't want to start a special commercialized day to help Hallmark sell more cards or restaurants gain more business. She simply wanted every mother to be honored by her children.

So don't limit Mother's Day to just one special day on the calendar. Find thoughtful ways to honor your mother every day of the year—not just with nice, fancy gifts, but with good attitudes, acts of service, even a kind word or a pleasant smile. It all starts with showing consistent gratitude to your mother, who also may become your greatest friend.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DAUGHTER



Audrey Henderson

Paying the ultimate price

By Peter Beck

Louisville (BP)—I had never heard of Pat Tillman before he joined the Army two years ago.

Not being a big football fan, I had no idea that he played for the Arizona Cardinals. But the minute the story broke about his enlisting as a Ranger, I knew Pat Tillman be-

cause I was, at one time, just like Pat Tillman. I, too, was an Army Ranger.

Like so many others, I felt a certain amount of shock when his recent death was announced. I read with a great deal of interest all of the stories that appeared. I knew Pat Tillman because I knew guys just like him—guys with that certain *esprit de corps*, that do-anything, go-anywhere attitude. You could see it in their eyes. It wasn't pride and it wasn't arrogance. But it wasn't far from it. It's that look that comes when you know that you're ready to take what the world throws at you. Pat Tillman had that look.

Tillman was, in the football arena, the little engine that could, the little guy who somehow made it big. When he walked away from it all for the life of an Army Ranger, the media couldn't understand why a young man in his professional prime would give up millions of dollars. Some thought him an idealist, a go-getter with a never-say-die attitude. Others heard him say that he wanted to do something for his country but they really didn't understand. They never will. Not until they walk a mile in his shoes.

The same response came recently when Southern Baptist personnel

were killed in Iraq. And before that in Yemen and the Philippines. The media questioned the missionaries' right to be in these foreign lands. They questioned their dedication to a cause that insists that it offers the only correct answer to life's ultimate questions. While some acknowledged the great sacrifice of these soldiers of the cross, the media for the most part didn't understand. They never will. Not until they take up a cross and follow Jesus.

Pat Tillman can teach us a thing or two about being an American. He was a hero. Not because he once played football for millions of dollars. Not because he jumped out of airplanes for thousands. Not even because he died in the line of duty, making the ultimate sacrifice. He was a hero because he was willing to do what so many can't. He was a hero because he knew the Ranger creed and lived it:

■ Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor and high *esprit de corps* of the Rangers.

■ Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.

■ Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task what-

ever it may be, 100 percent and then some.

■ Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

■ Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

■ Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.

Pat Tillman was a hero because he heard the call to duty and answered. In the end, Pat Tillman died for his country, going where millions of others couldn't go.

So, too, will many of us die in the name of Christ. We have been given our marching orders: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). We know the cost: "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:39).

Pat Tillman proudly wore the beret of an Army Ranger, carrying his nation's colors into battle, willing to die for the cause. Are you carrying the cross of Christ and the sword of truth? Or have we learned nothing from those who've gone before us?

Peter Beck is director of marketing for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville

BAPTIST DIGEST

ERLC launches voter registration effort. The Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has launched an initiative to register and educate American voters. The goal of the "grassroots voter mobilization and education effort" is to register 2 million Americans for the 2004 election cycle. The effort's iVoteValues.com Web site also will "promote awareness of the immediate and long-term importance of values-based voting." The bottom line, according to ERLC President Richard Land, is to challenge voters to vote their values, "not their pocketbook or their party."

N.C. Baptists evaluate giving plans. Officials of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention say there's no way to know the potential impact of changing the convention's giving options to a single plan that forwards most of its national missions allocation to the Southern Baptist Convention. The convention currently has four giving plans, including one that benefits the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Conservative leader Bruce Martin has proposed eliminating the four plans in favor of a single plan that benefits the SBC. Jim Royston, state convention executive director, said more than 20 percent of churches give more than \$9 million through the three alternate plans.

Southeastern trustees affirm inerrancy. Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., voted April 19 to affirm both the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy and the Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. Southeastern President Daniel Akin said the two statements,

previously used informally to interpret both the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and the seminary's Abstract of Principles, will make clear Southeastern's conservative positions on biblical inerrancy and gender roles.

CBF receives \$5 million anonymous gift. An anonymous donor has made a \$5 million contribution to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, designated for global missions. It is the fourth anonymous multimillion-dollar donation to CBF missions in the past three years. The latest gift will be used to deploy new field personnel, assist long-term volunteers and support indigenous missionaries among other initiatives, according to Barbara Baldrige, CBF's global missions co-coordinator.

Annuity Board offers Spanish, Korean videos. Responding to the growing needs of language congregations, the Southern Baptist Annuity Board has introduced a retirement video series available in Spanish, Korean and English. The video highlights the benefits of the board's Church Annuity Plan. Free copies of the video are available by calling the Annuity Board at (800) 262-0511.

Alliance endorses same-sex marriage. The Alliance of Baptists, a member of the National Council of Churches, has adopted a statement supporting same-sex marriage. Opposing a proposed constitutional amendment limiting marriage to one man and one woman, the group said such action would "deny same-sex couples a legal framework in which to provide for one another."

Trustees elect Iorg president of Golden Gate Seminary

Mill Valley, Calif. (BP)—Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary elected Jeff Iorg as the seminary's seventh president April 26.

Iorg will assume his new position Aug. 1, succeeding William Crews, who retired after leading the seminary from 1986-2003.

"Now it is time to move forward together," Iorg told trustees. "You have agreed with God, and we have agreed together with God that I am to be your president. How humbling and exciting, all at the same time."

The election, on a 30-3 vote by trustees, was the result of a search process that started at the board's October 2003 meeting. The 10-member search committee, made up of trustees, nominated Iorg to the full trustee board in March.

"Dr. Iorg is just the right person for this key leadership position," said Crews, who is now serving as the seminary's chancellor. "His superb leadership at the Northwest Baptist Convention and experience at the local church along with his teaching experience uniquely qualifies him to lead this seminary."

Iorg has served as executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention since 1995. He was the founding pastor of Greater Gresham Baptist

Church in Gresham, Ore., and also has served as pastor of a church in Missouri and as a staff pastor in Texas. Since 1990, he has taught as an adjunct preaching, evangelism and leadership instructor at the seminary's Pacific Northwest campus.

Golden Gate operates campuses in Northern California, Southern California, the Pacific Northwest, Arizona and Colorado.

"Answering this call has been a profoundly moving spiritual experience for me," Iorg told trustees.

"Some people see a seminary presidency as a place in the spotlight. I did too until a few years ago. But now I know better. While some see a spotlight, I see a consuming column of fire. God has called me to walk into it and be consumed by it."

"We have boundless opportunity and seemingly insurmountable obstacles before us. To me, that is the perfect situation. God must be trusted, and trust Him we will. God is advancing this seminary into the future. I intend to get in step with Him."

Iorg is a graduate of Hardin Simmons University, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has written numerous articles and curriculum materials.



Jeff Iorg

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Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

Minister's Golf Challenge Monday, May 17, 2004

The Office of Church and External Relations would like to invite you to participate in the Campbellsville University Minister's Golf Challenge. The tournament will be held on Monday, May 17, 2004, at the Campbellsville Country Club. The purpose of the tournament is to enjoy a time of fun and fellowship and support one of several important efforts at the university.

Registration is \$50 per person or \$200 for a whole team (4 members).

For more information, contact us by calling 1.800.264.6014 or 270.789.5211 or register online at www.campbellsville.edu.

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- \$25 Tax Deduction

Bleeding to block out pain

'Cutters' common obsessive-compulsive category among youth, counselor says

By George Henson
Associated Baptist Press

Dallas (ABP)—Why would teenagers cut their bodies on purpose?

According to Dallas counselor Carrie Beard, cutting—and other forms of self-mutilation—cause physical pain that teens can deal with, blocking out emotional hurt they feel unable to handle.

Even churchgoing teens can be involved in cutting, said Beard, a former college minister. The youth ministers in Dallas who heard her speak at a recent seminar agree. More than half of those in attendance said they had had firsthand contact with youth who cut themselves.

"Some cut to make sure they are alive," Beard said. "They are in so much pain they feel dead and want to make sure they are alive. If it hurts and they bleed, they must be alive."

Typical cutting items include razors, safety pins, wall tacks, knives or other sharp kitchen papers, paper clips, pencil lead, watch or belt clasps and even the wire from spiral notebooks, she said.

Out of control

Teens start cutting in a variety of ways. They might accidentally cut themselves the first time. They might get so angry they cut themselves and find they like the sensation. Or they might hear about it from a friend. But for some teens, it becomes a compulsion they seem unable to resist.

Some teens say it is as if someone else's hand is doing the cutting, Beard said, and they feel no control to stop it.

An obsessive-compulsive disorder such as cutting is hard for most people to fathom, Beard admitted. "If you understand it, you probably

have it."

Most cutters are secretive about it with adults, but they generally are not as shy with friends, she said. "When you have one cutter, you're going to have a cluster," she said. "If someone is getting attention by cutting themselves, others are going to try it. So not all kids who cut themselves are OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder). Some just want to get attention or be a part of the group."

School classes and even church youth groups can become cutting clusters, she noted.

For most, the fascination with cutting wanes. But teens with obsessive-compulsive disorder usually cannot quit without help.

"Some try it because they hear it helps but fight off this emotional pain, but after once or twice, say, 'This is dumb' and quit. Others go home from school every day and cut themselves."

Cutters usually cut their arms and legs so the cuts can be covered up with clothing. Cuts seem to be more prone to cutting, Beard noted.

"If you see long sleeves during the middle of August, that could be a hint," she said.

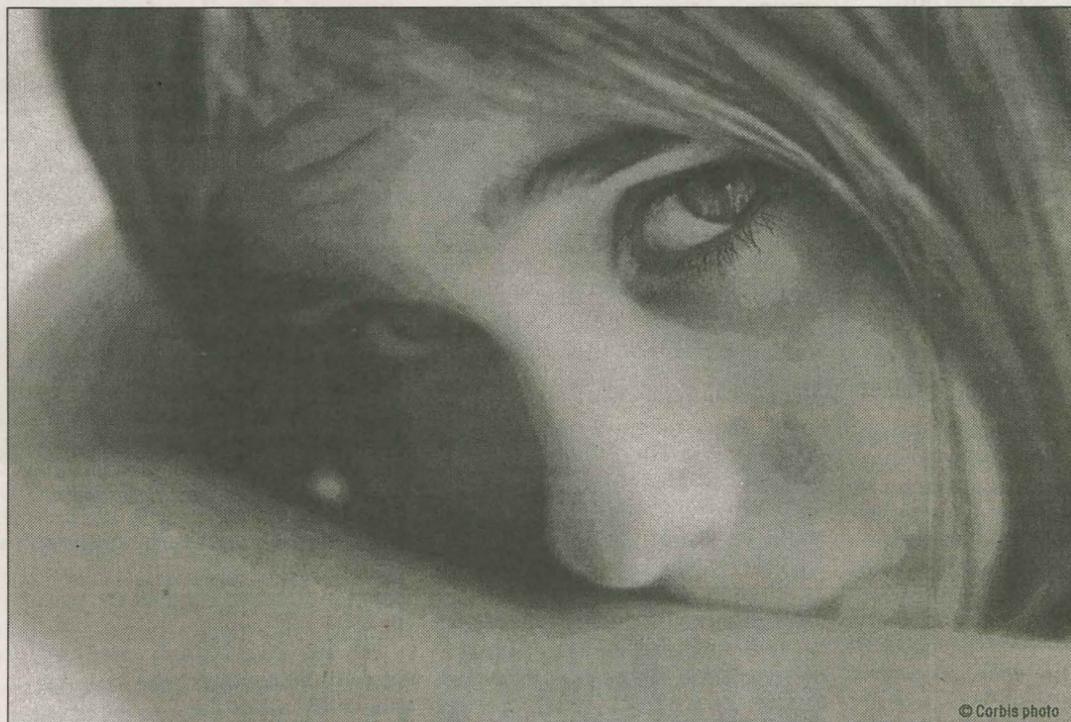
At the cutting stage, most are not suicidal. The cuts are used as a release from pain, but "eventually it gets to the point of, 'What is the kid going to do next?'" Beard said.

Cuts can go deeper than anticipated and cause accidental death or serious injury, she added.

"If you find out a student is cutting, you have to tell the parents," she cautioned.

Cutting is a real problem on many college campuses "because Mom and Dad aren't there to see," Beard said.

Even a seemingly "perfect" teenager can be cutting, she said. "Kids



© Corbis photo

can look perfect on the outside, but they often are looking for a secret. Cutting can be that secret."

Toxic shame

Toxic shame—an overwhelming feeling that not only are they bad people, but they never can be fixed—is a common trait of cutters, she added.

"Often it's not about anything they did, but just the way they feel about themselves," Beard said.

"Eighty percent of teenagers and college students will experience toxic shame at some point. Some for a few months, and some will carry it on into adulthood."

Warning signs that someone is a candidate to begin cutting themselves include always feeling they are bad, hitting themselves or banging their head on the walls.

"It's about a kid's belief system—that they are bad and that nothing is going to change that," she said.

Youth ministers and parents can

help by giving positive feedback and reminding teens they are loved and will not be abandoned.

If they see themselves as having value and know that the people closest to them are going to love them unconditionally, they can begin to have hope, she said.

Treatment involves talking to discover root causes of self-esteem issues, removing sharp objects, and prescribing medication, which generally takes 14 to 21 days to become effective.

Family and friends can help by educating themselves about the disorder, making sure they get treatment, working with the therapist and staying positive. Youth ministers also can play a part in the process.

"Let them know: 'I'm not going anywhere. I'm going to be here for you,'" Beard said. "Often times that will give the young person the strength and encouragement they need to get started with the healing process."

Counselor: Some fears common among obsessive-compulsive teens

By George Henson
Associated Baptist Press

Dallas (ABP)—Obsessive-compulsive disorders take all shapes and sizes, from dangerous self-mutilation to an odd fixation on air-conditioning vents, according to counselor Carrie Beard.

Beard told youth ministers at a recent seminar that obsessive-compulsive disorders can be as varied as the people afflicted, but they share some common traits.

In all cases, the actions one takes are the compulsion, she explained.

"They try to make the obsession go away by doing the compulsions," she said. "If I just do this, I can quit thinking about it." But each time, the brain returns to the same issue, causing these actions to be repeated over and over, she said.

Obsessive-compulsive cycles are time consuming and eventually take over the person's day, affecting school or job performance, social life, interpersonal relationships and everything else that is part of a routine day for most people.

"These people are just tired when

they come in for treatment," Beard said at a seminar sponsored by the Dallas Baptist Association. Beard, a counselor in private practice, works as a consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission.

People with these obsessions—thoughts, images or impulses that occur again and again and feel out of control—usually don't want to have these ideas and realize they are not normal, she said.

"People obsessed with air-conditioning vents know that chances are pretty good that no one is stuck in there, but they can't quit stopping to check," she noted.

Most obsessions are associated with fear—"If I don't do this, something bad will happen."

Beard listed the five most prevalent obsessions of teenagers:

■ Fear of infections by germs and dirt. This is most evidenced in repeated bathing and washing. "Some teenagers I have met with this obsession have rubbed their hands raw because they have scrubbed them so long."

■ Fear they harmed someone else, physically or through words. If teens think they might have said something to hurt someone, they will apologize profusely and repeatedly, even if they don't know what they may have said and are told that whatever it was, it is forgiven, Beard said.

■ Religious or moral doubt. "They have excessive worry about hell, being a sinner or feeling they are just bad," she said. "If a person is obsessed on religion, they are not hearing grace. They are just hearing punishment for sin."

Many times such people deal with that by shutting out sermons by counting tiles, slats in window blinds or other things, she said.

"This is not what we have all done as kids because we were bored. Our relief came when the service was over. We were bored, and when it was over we forgot about it. If you were compulsive, you'd have to go back in after you've gotten to the car to make sure you didn't miss any. This may sound funny, but sympathetically, this is ruling these

people's lives," Beard said. "The person with OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) can't hear grace because they have to do something themselves. So they count."

■ Forbidden thoughts. "This is usually stuff like seeing people without clothes on, having sex in inappropriate places or wanting to kill somebody," she said. Most try to crowd these thoughts out by ordering and arranging things.

■ A need to ask, tell or confess. This isn't done five or six times, but 30 or 40 times, Beard said. "This often leads to compulsive praying that almost becomes a chant: 'Forgive me, please forgive, oh, please forgive,' over and over again."

Symptoms tend to come and go, often are brought on by stressful life situations, and can begin at any time from preschool through adulthood, but usually begin before age 40.

Family and friends can play a big part in treatment, she said. "These people are not crazy. The body's chemicals are just off." Medication is highly effective in combating the disorder.

Church ministers amid muddy Ichthus music festival

Wilmore-area churches pulled together when nearly 1,000 Ichthus-bound people had nowhere to go.

Wilmore—A Wednesday night prayer to be of service turned into a Thursday opportunity for a church in Wilmore, according to its pastor.

Members of Mt. Freedom Baptist Church prayed April 21 for the local Ichthus Christian music festival that weekend and asked God where they might be of service, according to Pastor David Hewitt.

For 35 years, the Ichthus festival has brought well-known contemporary Christian musicians and speakers to the 110-acre staging area and campsite near Wilmore.

But when 28,000 festival goers arrived the next day, so did heavy rains that reduced the festival ground's roads to impassible mud paths.

Vehicles became trapped, and traffic backed up along Highway 68 for miles. Some cars waited as long as seven hours to enter the festival grounds. Organizers eventually turned some campers away, though they were still allowed to hike in for concerts.

Nearly a thousand Ichthus-bound people had nowhere to go.

That's when Wilmore-area churches pulled together to extend a hand of Christian hospitality to the weary.

Hewitt said Mt. Freedom didn't hesitate to open the church to approximately 150 Ichthus attendees.

Thursday night, three groups, including Bushy Fork Baptist Church



TENT CITY Mt. Freedom Baptist Church in Wilmore opened its doors and lawn to campers for the Ichthus Christian music festival in Wilmore after heavy rains made festival roads impassible. (Photo by Peg Keeley)

from Utica, set up camp in the parking lot.

Hewitt said church members opened their hearts, the building and—most importantly—the restrooms to the misplaced campers.

By Friday, campers in buses, trailers and tents scattered around the parking lot and lawns of the church.

"I could not be more proud of a congregation," Hewitt said. "Everyone joined together to minister to the 'World at Our Door.' What Satan meant to use for the campers' discouragement, God used for

their—and our—good. What started as ministry to others quickly became our blessing."

The church doors remained open to those in need around the clock for three days, with church members on hand to provide support, comfort and much-needed water to wash away the mud. A mission group prepared Saturday morning breakfast for the campers.

Blessing and being blessed

The church was a blessing to the "refugees," but also found the festival goers to be a blessing to

church, according to member Peg Keeley.

"The young people were enthusiastic about their relationship with Christ, did not allow the wet weather to dampen their spirits and were extremely courteous and careful with the church building and property even though mud was the order of the day," she said.

Hewitt said Christians often miss blessings because they aren't willing to open their churches to people they don't know.

"These campers were literally covered with mud, cold and hungry," he said. "Yes, they tracked mud on our carpet. And yes, they pitched tents on our grass, but the cost of being used by God in this way cannot compare to the wonderful blessing we received."

Christians must remember that their actions are not all self-focused, Hewitt noted. "We are not here for us," he said. "We are here to be salt and light, joining with God in His Kingdom work."

By Sunday morning, most of the Ichthus "refugees" who had camped at Mt. Freedom and the other area churches were on their way home.

Summing it all up, Hewitt said, "Summing of the campers liked our accommodations so well that they made reservations for next year."

Compiled from reporting by Peg Keeley, a member of Mt. Freedom Baptist Church

St. Matthews Baptist Church's Response to Actions of the SBC Regarding the Baptist World Alliance

The following "Open Letter from St. Matthews Baptist Church" is meant to provide a helpful witness during this challenging era in Baptist life. We humbly offer this prayerfully worded letter to help strengthen the fellowship among Baptists by expressing our conscientious witness, as is the right and responsibility of each Baptist individual and congregation. The letter seeks to model Baptist polity of giving witness without being infected by the germs of political divisions and animosity.

Among the signers of the letter are two former presidents of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Dr. Eldred Taylor and Dr. Verlin Kruschwitz.

As a church we are grateful to God for our shared partnership with churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention to reach the world for Christ.

With this intent,
D. Leslie Hollon, Ph.D., Pastor
David Harmon-Vaught,
Chair, Denominational
Relations Committee
Dr. Eldred Taylor
Dr. Verlin Kruschwitz

An Open Letter From St. Matthews Baptist Church

St. Matthews Baptist Church's commitment to serve Christ most effectively in the 21st century motivates us to partner with Christians worldwide in order to "proclaim the Kingdom of God and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." Our church's guiding motto is "Faith Partners in God's World." Since 1905, the Baptist World Alliance has been a faithful partner in the following important areas: evangelism, human-rights advocacy for persecuted Baptists and other Christians, disaster relief and a global fellowship for Baptists.

A study group of nine men within the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee initiated a decision-making process that endangers the work of the Baptist World Alliance and our relationship to the BWA. Their

recommendation for the SBC to sever its affiliation with the BWA recently passed through the SBC's Executive Committee, and given their influence, will probably pass during this June's annual convention of the SBC.

Given the divisive nature of world conditions, a unified Christian witness among Baptists is more important than ever. Christians are to model community for living and working together with such a vital witness that the world is inspired to live similarly. The challenge is more than we can accomplish on our own, but in God's power the seemingly impossible is shown to be possible. Therefore, now is the time for us to renew our witness for Baptist unity and speak with our brothers and sisters around the world. We must stand against threats to 210 Baptist union affiliates of 193,000 churches representing 47 million Baptists. Our voice joins in the unity of our national Woman's Missionary Union in expressing their opposition to a pending SBC action.

To illustrate what is at stake, we quote Branko Lovrec, former president of the Baptist Union of Croatia, as he expressed his dismay to the study committee's chair who also leads the Executive Committee:

"I have personally been very proud of our Baptist identity and unity, since we have been more than others united in one body of believers called Baptist. Now, how can I present the truth to our media and other denominations that are falling apart in my country of Croatia?"

"Should I tell them that on the international level similar things are happening—the division over peripheral matters? Or should I keep silent and say that we are still together as one body united for close to 100 years? I ask God to help me in my personal thinking what to do and how to react."

We disagree with the report of this Study Committee and grieve the consequences which are already ensuing from their recommendation. We believe the SBC's departure will significantly and needlessly hinder the worldwide Christian witness of Baptists. Therefore, we propose the following:

1. We affirm our partnership with the Baptist World Alliance as an Adoniram Judson Global Impact Church, including our participating next summer in the BWA's Centennial Celebration in Birmingham, England.

2. We express our disagreement with the Study Committee's charges against the BWA (1) as: anti-American, liberal teachings, refusal to allow the current leaders of the SBC to influence BWA positions, and allowance of women to serve as pastors. In response to these accusations—Baptists from America have been treated as not more important nor less important than Baptists from other countries. Every charge of "liberalism" has been refuted. The SBC leaders have been given significant opportunities to persuade others in the BWA to think like them. The Study Committee's position is an attack on scriptural authority which allows for local church autonomy in women expressing their spiritual gifts.

3. We urge the Convention messengers to vote against the Study Committee's recommendation.

4. We move that our church apply for individual church membership into the BWA, should the SBC withdraw from membership in the BWA.

5. We request that the president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention appoint a Study Committee to consider ways that churches of the KBC can contribute to the BWA as a part of our cooperative giving (2).

6. We continue our servant-leadership efforts in helping to network ministry partnerships, locally and globally, for the BWA.

We affirm our desire to embody hope for a fractured world. Our casting a 21st century vision for Christianity in general, and Baptist Christians in particular, is strengthened by our partnership with the Baptist World Alliance. Being a good steward of Christian relationships is essential. We recommend the historic actions, represented within this document, as an avenue for us to continue the legacy and promise of Baptists in the cause of worldwide Christianity.

(1) Excerpts of the Study Committee's Report have been available through the press, e.g., The Western Recorder.

(2) The model of such a committee worked well for all Kentucky Baptists in response to issues raised by the Baptist Faith & Message, 2000.

10 years after massacres

Missionaries in Rwanda seek to restore hope in 'Christian' nation

By Sue Sprenkle
SBC International Mission Board

Kigali, Rwanda (BP)—It happened 10 years ago, but the images still haunt the tiny African country of Rwanda: mutilated bodies strewn across church altars, mass graves filled with thousands of bodies, human skulls stacked on top of each other.

Last month marked the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century.

The assassination of an ethnic Hutu leader unleashed a torrent of rage against the ruling Tutsi minority. About 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu militias in a bloodbath that continued for 100 days before a Tutsi-dominated rebel army seized control.

When the massacres started, tens of thousands of Rwandans fled to churches for sanctuary. But they found little protection there.

Many sanctuaries were turned into slaughterhouses.

It was no surprise, then, that soon after the genocides Rwandans left the church in a mass exodus.

"When you have pastors and church members hacking up other church members and pastors, you can understand their apprehensiveness and distrust," said Rusty Pugh, the International Mission Board's strategy facilitator for Rwanda.

"There were so many killed in the churches that most people don't want anything to do with God," he added. "They feel like He wasn't there when they needed Him most."

The flight from the churches was a major reversal for a country where the great East African Revival began in the 1930s. Operation World statistics in 1993, before the genocides, claimed more than 80 percent of Rwanda was "Christian." Now, while the same number is still



the official statistic, Christian workers in Rwanda estimate the true figure is closer to 25 percent.

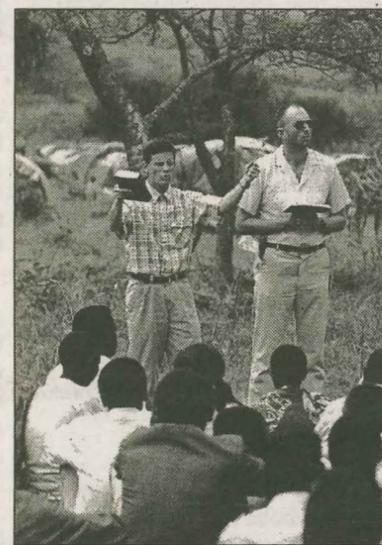
Christians or authentic disciples?

That "Christians" could participate in genocide reveals serious flaws in their understanding of their faith. Syncretism—applying a veneer of Christianity over traditional religion—is a serious problem with which missionaries and national church leaders wrestle. Church members who don't understand genuine conversion and authentic discipleship are easy prey for ethnic hatred, according to missions strategists.

One Southern Baptist missionary saw the shift away from the church firsthand. He and his family left Rwanda on the last convoy in 1994. When they could return to Rwanda, it became obvious that something different had to be done to reach the people who truly had no relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

"There is still potential for violence here—tribal divisions are still high," the 24-year veteran said. (For security reasons, his name is withheld.)

"The only way for true revival to occur is to be changed from with-



RWANDA Missionaries have returned to Rwanda, but many native residents still lack a sense of hope, missions strategists say. **Above:** Refugees jammed into canoes 10 years ago for their downriver escape from Rwanda to Tanzania. **Left:** David Hooten, a Southern Baptist missionary to Rwanda (left), translates for Larry Booth, a volunteer from Florida, as he preached 10 years ago to refugees. (IMB archive photos)

in—and we know that can only happen through Jesus Christ."

Inviting people to discover this peace is difficult when most have bad memories of church and "Christians," he added. So the missionary and a few believers began meeting in local home groups. Groups of 10 to 12 people share their hopes, dreams and struggles. They try to develop a sense of trust—something lost 10 years ago.

They also learn that saying you are a Christian and being a Christian are two different things.

"In the home assemblies, we try to equip people with having Jesus' attitude of servanthood, how to treat people and how to love all people," the missionary said. "I feel like we are on the verge of something significant here."

He said the only way to get true revival and healing in Rwanda is through local believers—Hutus and Tutsis—working together in bringing their country to Christ.

There is a glimmer of hope in this country still steeped in darkness and hatred, Pugh added.

"You can see the hope, but it's small. I see the Rwandan believers making small steps," Pugh said. "The work is hard and slow, but you do see some successes."

Prayer concerns

Prayer requests for Rwanda include:

■ **True revival.** The seed of revival in 1938 began in Rwanda and spread to other countries. Pray that God will do this again and that it is characterized by a deep desire to please God.

■ **New Christian workers in Rwanda.** Pray for their adjustments and language learning. It has been years since new Christian workers have entered the country, and now many are answering God's call to work in Rwanda.

■ **Home groups.** Pray for a local believer, Afrodicee, who is leading some of the home groups. Pray that others will be called out to lead and host these small groups.

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NATIONAL NOTES

Supreme Court declines VMI dinner-prayers appeal. The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear a challenge to a lower court's ruling that outlawed mealtime prayers at a state-run military college. Last year, a three-judge panel of Richmond, Va.'s 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the Virginia Military Institute's tradition of supertime invocations. The majority judges said then that the unique nature of the military school, emphasizing "obedience and conformity," made its situation different than those in other federal cases dealing with prayers at state-supported institutions of higher learning.

Average donations to churches rose in 2003. The average amount of money given to nonprofits—including churches—rose significantly in 2003, the Barna Group reported. Donations to nonprofit groups increased from a mean of \$991 in 2002 to \$1,079 in 2003, an 8 percent increase. While the amount of donations rose, the percentage of all households who donated money to at least one nonprofit group in 2003—80 percent—remained consistent with the previous two years.

Leaders urge end to Vietnam's crackdown on Christians. American religious and government leaders joined Vietnamese refugees and immigrants April 21 in calling for an end to Vietnam's repression of ethnic minority Christians. About 250 Montagnards gathered at an outdoor rally on Capitol Hill to protest Vietnam's reportedly violent suppression of Easter demonstrations by Christians in the Central Highlands of the Southeast Asian country. At least 10 Montagnards—the name given to mostly Protestant ethnic tribes in the Central Highlands—were killed and hundreds injured on Easter weekend, based on reports from Human Rights Watch.

Final 'Left Behind' book off to strong start. Just weeks after hitting bookstore shelves, the final book in the 12-volume "Left Behind" series is No. 1 on national best-seller lists. "Glorious Appearing," by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, was released March 30. In less than a month, the book reached No. 1 on the USA Today best-seller list and continues to do well in other national rankings.

SBC agency joins uninsured advocacy group. The National Council of Churches and the Southern Baptist Convention's ethics organization, in a rare partnership, together called on the faith community to bring greater awareness of the 44 million Americans without health coverage—including 8.5 million children. "Cover the Uninsured Week" urges leaders from Judaism, Islam and Christianity to commit to educate their congregations about the problem of uninsured Americans. It runs May 10-16. "We're calling the American people to come together to find creative solutions. In the faith community we have an obligation," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

IRS has election reminder for churches

Washington (RNS)—The Internal Revenue Service has warned churches and other houses of worship they risk losing their tax-exempt status if they engage in partisan election-year politics.

The IRS, in a routine advisory issued every four years since 1992, said religious groups are "prohibited from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office."

Churches, charities and schools known as 501(c)3 groups for their section of the tax code, may hold nonpartisan voter education forums or voter registration drives, but may not endorse any candidate.

Nonprofit groups may not make donations to campaigns, raise funds for candidates, distribute campaign literature or "become in-

involved in any other activities that may be beneficial or detrimental to any candidate," the IRS said in an April 26 notice.

But Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., said last week that clergy should be able to endorse candidates from their pulpits as a matter of free speech.

Jones is the lead sponsor of a bill, the Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act, which would allow clergy endorsements without the threat of losing tax-exempt status.

In 2002, the House defeated the bill 239-178; Jones has since reintroduced it.

"It's time to return the freedom of speech to the churches and synagogues in our country," Jones said at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast. "God has been the quarterback on this, and has led this ef-

fort to the 10-yard line."

In 1995, the IRS revoked the tax-exempt status of the Church at Pierce Creek in Binghamton, N.Y., after the church paid for a full-page ad in USA Today in 1992 criticizing then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

The Federal Election Commission, concerned that some political committees are skirting campaign finance laws, currently is weighing proposed rules that could also require some nonprofits—including churches—to register as political committees that would be subject to stricter registration and disclosure rules.

The IRS said it would examine violations on a case-by-case basis, but warned that it has the power to assess fines and prohibit additional political expenditures in cases of "flagrant" violations.

Survey causes Promise Keepers to retool focus

Denver (RNS)—Promise Keepers officials say they intend to change the focus of their Christian men's ministry after a survey they commissioned found that most men do not consider matters of faith a top need or challenge in their lives.

Thirteen percent of 415 Christian men surveyed by Barna Research Group said that faith or spirituality represented one of their top challenges.

By category, family matters and careers figured higher on these men's lists of "top-of-mind" needs and challenges they are facing.

Forty-two percent cited issues related to family or children and 39 percent mentioned money or career issues.

Promise Keepers President Tom Fortson said the Denver-based organization is changing from a "movement" to a mission to have Christian men be a greater influence in society.

"It's time to get out of the arena and into the marketplace,"

Upcoming events

Promise Keepers plans to hold conferences in 18 cities between June and November. Those closest to Kentucky are in:

- Charleston, W. Va., July 9-10.
- Memphis, July 23-24.
- Indianapolis, July 30-31.
- St. Louis, Aug. 20-21.

Fortson said in an April 28 statement. "We are calling Christian men to change society by living under biblical authority and teaching others to do the same."

When asked about spiritual needs, the survey found that 36 percent of the men either weren't sure of any or couldn't identify one.

Sixteen percent said that being closer to God was a spiritual need for them.

Overall, 42 percent of men said the church is doing an "excellent" job at generally meeting

their needs as men. But smaller percentages gave the church high marks for helping them in such areas as influencing others for Christ, holding them accountable for their thoughts and actions and developing deep, personal friendships. In the lowest rating, 20 percent of men said the church was doing an "excellent" job in helping them with their job or career.

Asked if they would turn to Christian friends to help them in a crisis, 42 percent said they would.

Researchers also found that 31 percent of the Christian men surveyed said they were actively involved in a small church group that met for Bible study, prayer or accountability.

The 415 men who described themselves as a "committed born-again Christian" and/or an "active churchgoer" were surveyed by telephone between July 24 and Sept. 4, 2003, by Barna Research Group, which is based in Ventura, Calif.

Small, mid-size churches 'unsung heroes' of strengths study

Continued from page 1 leadership.

The researchers found that the sole strength for which large congregations received the highest average score was welcoming new people.

But across congregational size, welcoming newcomers alone is not the sole answer to church growth, they said.

"Chances are, if they can't find something there that's meaningful, they're not coming back," Bruce said. "So just getting them in the door is not enough."

Woolever and Bruce found that conservative Protestant and historically black congregations scored higher on most of the 10 strengths studied than mainline Protestants and Catholics. In the category of focusing on the community, historically black congregations rated higher than their conservative Protestant brethren.

"It's not only a stereotype, but it's indeed true that historically black churches really do a lot for

their communities where they're located," Woolever said.

Conservative Protestant congregations, on the other hand, scored highest on welcoming new worshippers.

The one area in which mainline Protestants led the pack was focusing on the community.

"Historically, liberal and moderate Protestants—that's where they have seen their ministry," Woolever said.

She and Bruce found that across denominations, most worshippers did not rank caring for children and youth as a top priority.

"It may be that some congregations have just given up on that, and it's unfortunate because I think that's one of the things that congregations can do really well," Woolever said.

Overall, the researchers found that the average age of worshippers in the congregation did not have much bearing on its strengths.

"I think the perception is that congregations with lots of young

people are the ones that are doing it all and thriving and so on, but that's really not true," Bruce said. "Congregations with many older people are also doing effective ministry."

Just like the large congregations, though, younger congregations were found to be more welcoming.

The book detailing the findings of the large-scale survey is the second in an ongoing project funded in part by the Lilly Endowment.

Congregations can still conduct surveys to learn about their strengths by going to the project's Web site, www.uscongregations.org.

Despite the generalizations that can be made about different categories of congregations—large and small, theologically conservative or liberal—there remains great diversity from one house of worship to another, Woolever said.

"We really try to stress that every church has its unique combination of strengths and they should focus on those strengths and build on those strengths," she said.

10 strengths

In the study, "Beyond the Ordinary: 10 Strengths of U.S. Congregations," researchers found the following size congregation earned the highest scores for these key strengths:

- Growing Spiritually: Small
- Meaningful Worship: Small
- Participating in the Congregation: Small
- Having a Sense of Belonging: Small
- Caring for Children and Youth: Mid-size
- Focusing on the Community: Mid-size
- Sharing Faith: Small
- Welcoming New People: Large
- Empowering Leadership: Small
- Looking to the Future: Mid-size

Source: U.S. Congregational Life Survey

Kentucky Baptist philanthropy

Making an impact and helping others do the same

My parents taught me the importance and the role of financial stewardship in my relationship to Christ and other human beings. Although I cannot claim perfection in this crucial Christian discipline, I can proclaim to be striving toward it—and to be passing that legacy to our two sons.

I can confirm what Paul contended in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "for God loves a cheerful giver." I enjoy giving to change people's lives in the name of Christ. I enjoy the blessings of growing in my financial stewardship—my philanthropy. My wife

our Christian education institutions, our children's homes, our hospitals and our church.

What an inspiration it is to have the privilege of assisting other Kentucky Baptist philanthropists in fulfilling their stewardship dreams. Whether it be the widower making modest, but regular, monthly cash contributions with a corporate matching gift, or the widower who gave his 40 acres and house and moved to a retirement community, or the family who gave appreciated stock worth several million dollars, each of them is a Kentucky Baptist philanthropist who has demonstrated true biblical stewardship—namely,

giving themselves first to the Lord, then making financial contributions.

I am praying God will call forth from among our Kentucky Baptist family many who will practice that kind of Kentucky Baptist philanthropy.

To the extent we can be of assistance, please give us that privilege.

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

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Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "The foundations of the wall of the city ... the tenth, a ____" (Revelation 21:19-20)
- 11 An enzyme which causes decay
- 12 "And Abigail the wife of ____ the Carmelite" (1 Samuel 30:5)
- 14 Air Force Base, abbr.
- 16 Pale and wan
- 17 Stone or soil containing metal
- 18 A flower necklace
- 19 For each
- 20 Beverage
- 21 The third letter of the alphabet
- 22 City of Angels, abbr.
- 23 The seventh tone on the musical scale
- 24 Edward and Edwin
- 25 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 27 Local magistrate able to perform marriages, abbr.
- 29 "____ man hath seen God at any time" (John 1:18)
- 31 Prefix: twice, double
- 32 Prefix: again, once more
- 33 "The first foundation was ____" (Revelation 21:19)
- 35 Unity, agreement
- 38 National Guard, abbr.
- 39 Third day of the week, abbr.
- 40 "Out of the ____ palaces" (Psalm 45:8)
- 43 Reverence
- 44 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall ____ their strength" (Isaiah 40:31)
- 46 "And the third row a figure, an ____, and an amethyst" (Exodus 28:19)
- 47 Gold, chem. symbol
- 48 "And the fourth row a ____, and an onyx" (Exodus 28:20)
- 52 KJV verb suffix

1		2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
			11						12			13
14	15				16						17	
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21						22					23	
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38					39				40	41		42
			43			44	45					
					46						47	
48	49		50	51		52					53	
54											55	

- 53 Wager
- 54 "And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a ____" (Exodus 28:18)
- 55 A washing of the body

Down

- 1 "And the foundations of the wall of the city were ... the third a ____" (Revelation 21:19)
- 2 "For the price of wisdom is above ____" (Job 28:18)
- 3 12 months, abbr.
- 4 "The God of Israel: and ... under his feet ... a paved work of a ____ stone" (Exodus 24:10)
- 5 "As he saith also in ____, I will call them my people" (Romans 9:25)
- 6 "And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every ... gate was of one ____" (Revelation 21:21)
- 7 "Wisdom cannot be valued with the ____" (Job 28:16)
- 8 Southern continent, abbr.
- 9 A submarine
- 10 "And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a ____ stone" (Revelation 4:3)
- 13 Man's name

- 15 "And there was an herd of many swine ____ on the mountain" (Luke 8:32)
- 26 "Come unto me, ... and I will give you ____" (Matthew 11:28)
- 27 "And the foundations of the wall of the city were ... the eleventh, a ____" (Revelation 21:19-20)
- 28 Letter addendum, abbr.
- 30 Either
- 34 "Doth the plowman ____ all day to sow?" (Isaiah 28:24)
- 36 "No man also seweth a piece of ____ cloth on an old garment" (Mark 2:21)
- 37 Swelled or heaved with great force
- 41 The symbol of victory
- 42 "My manner of life from my ____" (Acts 26:4)
- 43 Magic word: ____ - cadabra
- 45 "Take, ____; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26)
- 47 Of age, Lat. abbr.
- 48 Bachelor of Divinity, abbr.
- 49 A, ____, ____, O, U
- 50 Young Men's Christian Association, abbr.
- 51 "____, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20)
- 53 Barium, chem. symbol

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61

MercyMe takes top honors at GMA's Dove Awards

Nashville (RNS)—The Christian group MercyMe was named last week as Artist of the Year, the top honor at the GMA Music Awards, the annual ceremony of the Gospel Music Association.

The band also won Dove Awards for Group of the Year and Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year for "Word of God Speak."

That song, composed by band leader Bart Millard and co-writer Pete Kipley, was named Song of the Year.

Jonathan Foreman, lead singer of Switchfoot, won the most Dove trophies, earning three with his band and three individually. His band won top Rock Recorded Song for "Ammunition" and best Rock/Contemporary Recorded Song for "Meant to Live."

Switchfoot's album featuring both tracks, "The Beautiful Letdown," was recognized as Rock/

Contemporary Album of the Year. In addition, Foreman won two Doves for his songwriting and one for his production of that album.

This year's awards, which took place at Municipal Auditorium in Nashville, were simulcast at 50 Regal Entertainment Group theaters across the country and will be broadcast May 28 on UPN.

Winners included:

Song of the Year: "Word of God Speak," written by Pete Kipley and Bart Millard.

Songwriter of the Year: Mark Hall.

Male Vocalist of the Year: Jeremy Camp.

Female Vocalist of the Year: Stacie Orrico.

Group of the Year: MercyMe.

Artist of the Year: MercyMe.

New Artist of the Year: Jeremy Camp.

Producer of the Year: Brown Bannister.

Rap/Hip Hop Recorded Song of the Year: "Believe" by Grits & Jennifer Knapp.

Modern Rock Recorded Song of the Year: "Breaking Me Down," by downhere.

Rock Recorded Song of the Year: "Ammunition" by Switchfoot.

Rock/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year: "Meant to Live" by Switchfoot.

Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year: "Word of God Speak" by MercyMe.

Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year: "Everything to Me" by Avalon.

Southern Gospel Recorded Song of the Year (Tie): "The Cross" by The Crabb Family; and "The

Promise" by The Martins.

Bluegrass Recorded Song of the Year: "So Many Years, So Many Blessings" by The Lewis Family.

Country Recorded Song of the Year: "Three Wooden Crosses" by Randy Travis.

Urban Recorded Song of the Year: "Dance, Dance, Dance" by Mary Mary.

Traditional Gospel Recorded Song of the Year: "Poor Man Lazarus" by Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Contemporary Gospel Recorded Song of the Year: "Hallelujah Praise" by CeCe Winans.

Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year: "It's Pronounced Five Tw" by KJ-52.

Modern Rock Album of the Year: "Two Lefts Don't Make a Right ... But Three Do" by Relient K.

Rock Album of the Year: "Lose This Life" by Tait.

Rock/Contemporary Album of the Year: "The Beautiful Letdown" by Switchfoot.

Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year: "Stacie Orrico" by Stacie Orrico.

Inspirational Album of the Year: "Above It All" by The Martins.

Southern Gospel Album of the Year: "The Walk" by The Crabb Family.

Bluegrass Album of the Year: "Wondrous Love" by Blue Highway.

Country Album of the Year: "Worship and Faith" by Randy Travis.

Urban Album of the Year: "Unclassified" by Robert Randolph & The Family Band.

Traditional Gospel Album of the Year: "CeCe Winans Presents ... The Born Again Church Choir"

by The Born Again Church Choir.

Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year: "Limited Edition" by Smokie Norful.

Praise & Worship Album of the Year: "Offerings II - All I Have to Give" by Third Day.

Instrumental Album of the Year: "An Acoustic Christmas" by Tom Hemby.

Children's Music Album of the Year: "Shout Praises Kids 3" by Jeff Sandstrom.

Spanish Language Album of the Year: "Con Poder" by Salvador.

Special Event Album of the Year: "Hero The Rock Opera" by Michael Tait, Mark Stuart, Rebecca St. James, T-Bone, Pete Stewart, Grits, John Cooper, Bob Farrell, Matt Hamnitt, Nirva, Paul Wright, Quinlan and Donnie Lewis.

Musical of the Year: "The Wonderful Cross" by David Guthrie and Dave Williamson.

Youth/Children's Musical of the Year: "Noelle, The First" by Annette Oden and Dave Noel.

Choral Collection of the Year: "High Praises" by Phil Barfoot and Lari Goss.

Worship Song of the Year: "Here I Am to Worship," written by Tim Hughes.

Recorded Music Packaging of the Year: "Hero The Rock Opera."

Short Form Music Video of the Year: "(There's Gotta Be) More to Life" by Stacie Orrico.

Long Form Music Video of the Year: "Third Day Live in Concert, The Come Together Tour" by Third Day.

MERCYME The band won three Dove Awards, including the prestigious Artist of the Year.



Middle school provides fertile ground

Extra patience needed for 6th, 7th & 8th graders, but well worth the effort

I must confess that every so often I wonder if we would be better off without our middle school program. Oneida is one of only a small handful of boarding schools in the U.S. that has a middle school program.

For many years we did not have a middle school. Then in 1977, a seventh and eighth grade were added to our program. In 1981 the sixth grade was also included.

The sixth grade; just think about it. Boys and girls 11 year old going away to boarding school. How many 11-year-old boys do you know who like to take showers or clean their rooms? How many want to get up in the morning and go to school? Come to think of it, just what do 11-year-old boys like to do besides play and get dirty?

As much as we struggle with the 11-year-olds, I am always amazed when parents call and want to enroll their third-grade child. We get those calls more often than you might think. I cannot comprehend how we could care for children that young in a boarding school environment.

Well, back to our middle schoolers. They require special love and lots and lots of patience. Mind you, it is not the academic program that presents us with the greatest challenge. Our youngsters' being away from home and having to take care of themselves is what demands so much effort from our staff. When I have those moments of doubt, I often think of the number of middle school students who make professions of faith in Christ Jesus while they are here. There is no denying the fact that the younger the heart,

the more sensitive one is to God's calling.

We recently completed our spring revival. It was no surprise when a number of middle school students walked the aisle and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Later, we baptized many of those students at Oneida Baptist Church. One of those students was "Victor" (not his real name), a sixth-grader who came to Oneida in January. Victor came to us from a single-parent family and was in great need of male role modeling. Like many boys his age, he was testing his mother's authority. He was showing a great deal of disrespect to her and was fighting a lot with his brother. Taking the attitude that he was the man of the house only created additional problems.

On a positive note, when we interviewed Victor he said he really wanted to be here. He looked forward to learning to read better, and he knew his math skills were poor. He admitted to most of what his mother said about his attitude and behavior.

Victor still thinks he is the man of the house, and he sure has some distance to go before we can brag on him. But if he had not come to us when he did, by the time he made it to high school it might have been too late.

With all the pain and grief middle school students create for us, they do present us with the best opportunity to help them. Like many of our students, his mother, who is trying to raise five children, needed considerable additional financial assistance. Your gifts to the Father's Day Offering helped make it possible for Victor to attend Oneida at this critical stage of his life.

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



W.F. Underwood

Spring Potpourri

Thankful for variety of opportunities and blessings

Graduation is May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro. Former Clear Creek academic dean John Mark Terry will be the commencement preacher. He now is associate dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Thirty-three students will receive degrees. Dean of Administrative Services Donnie Rosenbalm receives the first bachelor of arts in Christian service degree. The degree is designed for non-ordained individuals and includes flexibility for transfer of hours of training in other vocations such as education, administration, social service or counseling.

Pastor Anatoli Korabel and his wife, Liubov, returned to Novgorod, Russia, this week. They visited several Kentucky Baptist churches, spoke in a campus chapel service and had fellowship with friends who support the development of new churches in the Novgorod region, a three-hour drive from St. Petersburg.

As part of our community

service commitment, a campus team worked about five hours at Camp Howard in Harlan County. Upper Cumberland Association owns the facility; Ernest Boggs is director of missions and student Craig Garland is camp director. Team members included: Assistant Professor of Bible Fred Cummings, Dean of Institutional Ad-

vancement Donnie Fox; Director of Admissions Billy Howell, Associate Professor of Bible Roy Lucas, Director of College Relations Jay Sulfridge, Dean of Students David Wade, Director of Maintenance and Facilities Ronnie Washam, and myself.

Robert Williams of London gave \$10,000 to establish the Lillian K.

Williams Memorial Scholarship, named for his wife of 50 years. They were both born in Bell County and provided student financial aid to brother-in-law James Simpson, a 1975 alumnus.

Clear Creek is now part of the Association of Educators for Bivocational Ministry. Our online courses are excellent resources for bivocational ministers.

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



Bill Whittaker

Filtering out filth

New DVD player can help parents tune out foul language and violence

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—A DVD player that filters out objectionable material in movies is now on the market.

The technology allows viewers to watch such films as "Matrix Reloaded," "Catch Me If You Can" and "Braveheart" without the overtly sexual or violent scenes and foul language.

RCA is now selling the DVD player, the "RCA DRC232N DVD Player with ClearPlay," at stores such as Wal-Mart.

The player uses ClearPlay technology, which consists of filters that prevent objectionable material from appearing on the screen or soundtrack when a DVD is played.

Each filter is customized for a specific movie title, and the resulting video display is almost seamless so that it does not distract from the film. About 500 movies are included in the ClearPlay database, and more are added regularly.

"I think there may be a market for something that gives the parent more control and does it in a way that doesn't alter the original presentation," Dave Arland, an RCA spokesman, told Associated Press.

Americans are ready to respond to the images and language in much of today's entertainment, he added.

"The reality is people have pushed the limit so far, that there are people who want to have that kind of control," Arland said.

An on-screen menu allows the viewer to activate filters for three main categories on the DVD player: violence, explicit scenes and nudity and language.

Fourteen subcategories include moderate violence, graphic violence, disturbing images, sensual content, crude sexual content, nudity, explicit sexual situations, vain reference to deity, crude language and humor,

ethnic and social slurs, cursing, strong profanity, graphic vulgarity and explicit drug use.

For each movie, the viewer can choose the preferred settings, activating individual categories or all 14 at once. No special discs are required, and viewers can use the DVDs they already own or rent from a store.

The DVD player comes with 100 movie titles already in the database, and more can be downloaded at www.clearplay.com to be transferred to the player via a burned CD.

Suggested retail price for the DVD players with ClearPlay is \$79, though walmart.com listed the unit at \$69.84.

While many Americans might welcome the new technology, some are fighting against it. Members of the Motion Picture Association of America and the Directors Guild of America have sued ClearPlay and other companies, claiming the filters violate trademarks and alter artistic works.

"ClearPlay software edits movies to conform to ClearPlay's vision of a movie instead of letting audiences see, and judge for themselves, what writers wrote, what actors said and what directors envisioned," the Directors Guild said in a statement.

When films are edited for play on network television, the directors and studios make the changes themselves, unlike with ClearPlay. The filter maker's stance is that its software is not illegal because it does not alter the original DVD.

In 1996, the federal government mandated that all new television sets include a V-chip, which allows parents to block their children from seeing shows containing violence or sex.

For a few years, units that block out most objectionable language on TV programs and movies have been available. Two of the more popular ones are "TV Guardian" and "Curse Free TV."

Disney part of new 'Chronicles of Narnia' film

Hollywood (RNS)—Walt Disney Studios has announced it has entered into an agreement with Walden Media to distribute the motion picture "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

The film, based on the first book in a popular series published by Christian writer C.S. Lewis, is scheduled to be released Christmas 2005 by Walt Disney Pictures. The live-action movie will be directed by Andrew Adamson, known for his direction of "Shrek" and "Shrek 2."

The book deals with a war between good and evil as the lion Aslan fights against dark forces in the magical world of Narnia. The classic series sold more than 85 million copies worldwide starting

in 1950.

Dick Cook, chairman of Walt Disney Studios, and Cary Granat, chief executive officer of Walden Media, jointly announced the agreement last month.

"I think this is just the kind of movie audiences are looking for, and we're thrilled to be able to bring it to the screen," Cook said in a statement.

Added Adamson, in a statement: "It's been a longtime dream of mine to bring these classic stories to a new generation of moviegoers and readers."

The agreement between the Southern California-based entertainment companies permits a continuing partnership for future films in the series.

Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge. Edited by James Kouzes & Barry Posner. Jossey-Bass, 2004. 152 pages. \$22.95. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

I really do not know how they do it. The Jossey-Bass staff continues to assemble the highest quality books on leadership and management available today.

"Christian Reflections on the Leadership Challenge" is another superb book on leadership from a faith-based perspective. The editors wrote "The Leadership Challenge" two years ago, and it has become the best-selling book on leadership of all time.

In "Christian Reflections," Kouzes and Posner have asked five other leadership experts to comment about the practices outlined in "The Leadership Challenge"—Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act and Encourage the Heart—from a Christian point of view.

The second chapter is a succinct distillation of "The Leadership Challenge." If you have not read the entire book, this summary is a wonderful introduction.

The current book then turns to leadership experts John Maxwell, David McAllister-Wilson, Patrick Lencioni, Nancy Ortberg and Ken Blanchard for reflections on the role of faith in Christian leaders.

One thing I like about Kouzes' and Posner's approach is the application to leadership at any level, not just those who head multi-national corporations. It is particularly applicable to the inner workings of leadership in the church, and not just among the staff.

You might not have read "The Leadership Challenge" as I had before reading these reflections. That is alright, because you still will receive a great deal from the book. Wayne Hager

On The Passion of Christ According to the Four Evangelists. Thomas Kempis. Ignatius Press, 2004. 164 pages. \$12.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

An ancient practice in Christian spirituality has been to meditate on the cross of Jesus Christ. No mere intellectual exercise, this practice seeks to allow the passion of Jesus to permeate every fiber of our being and aspect of our living. Whatever else, Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" was, I see it as one man's meditation on the cross shared with the world.

Thomas Kempis, perhaps best known for the devotional classic, "The Imitation of Christ," shared his meditations on the cross (as well as the whole life of Jesus) in a work titled "Prayers and Meditations on the Life of Christ."

"On The Passion of Christ," which Joseph Tylenda has translated and published, is the second of the four parts of "Prayers and Meditations." Reading this book after seeing Gibson's movie was a powerful experience.

Tylenda writes in the introduction: "Thomas firmly believed that whoever meditates devoutly on the most holy life and Passion of our Lord will find all that he needs

to make his life worthwhile. ... If Jesus crucified would come into our hearts, how quickly and perfectly we would be instructed in the spiritual life."

This book of 35 reflections begins with Judas selling Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and ends with Jesus' burial. Thomas does not so much explain the many facets of the passion as he invites us to participate actively with him while he meditates on it. Each meditation is a prayer. Each begins with the words, "Lord Jesus Christ ... I bless and thank you ..." for whatever aspect of the passion is the content of that reflection. He then invites us to picture and experience that aspect.

I found Thomas' reflections powerful and his insights for our life of discipleship challenging. Jim Holladay

The Rebirth of Orthodoxy: Signs of New Life in Christianity. Thomas Oden. Harper San Francisco, 2003. 212 pages. \$24.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

The responses within the Christian community to the apparent breakdown of the modernist experiment and the rise of postmodernism have been varied.

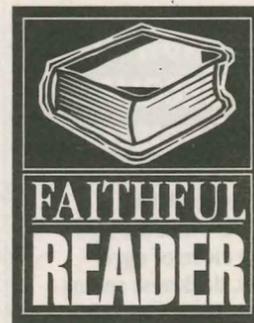
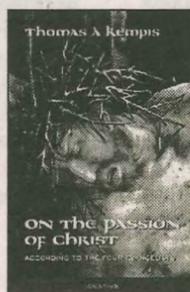
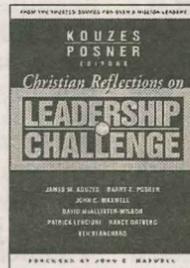
Some people have advocated a retreat to the fundamentalism of the late 19th and early 20th centuries (which is really a retreat into a form of modernism). Len Sweet and others suggest we jump on a postmodern surf board and ride the tsunami where ever it takes us. Dan Kimball sees hope in the "Emerging Church," which is an eclectic blend of ancient and modern forms.

Thomas Oden proposes a return to classic Christianity, or in his words "orthodoxy." By his own admission, he recognizes the possibility that many people will hear him calling for a move to the rigidity of fundamentalism. But he clearly rejects that move. Rather, he advocates a re-examination of the ancient ecumenical consensus achieved by the church in its first 300-500 years.

He would have us revisit not only the content, but the method by which the church arrived at the faith it has proclaimed for 2,000 years.

While this might not sound exciting, Oden is passionate about the possibilities a reaffirmation of orthodoxy portends for the postmodern context. He is convinced of and makes a convincing, if not repetitive, case for the ability of classic Christianity to meet the challenges we face. In his estimation, orthodoxy is more genuinely diverse, universally applicable and trustworthy as a deposit of truth.

I found his argument surprisingly refreshing, though not always satisfying. His opening challenge to the church not to be wedded to the spirit of any age is one we constantly should hear. Though many evangelical Christians might take exception to his understanding of the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, his argument should give us pause. Oden's call to root our responses to the postmodern world in orthodox Christianity should not be overlooked. Jim Holladay



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

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Bruce Walzer

As one observes the close of each day, darkness seems to suffuse even the human body. As light fades away, it reminds us of the short time we have to walk in the light.

James 4:14 declares that life is like a vapor. One is born, grows and life is over. The important thing is that we take advantage of time.

Jesus said to walk in the light while it is day for night comes sooner than we expect (John 9:4, 12:35). What does Jesus mean? He explains in Luke 19:10 that He "came to seek and to save that which was lost."

I wonder if walking in light does not have a lot to do with helping the unsaved find their way out of darkness? Light will dispel darkness and Jesus said not only is He the Light of the world but His followers "are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

We can offer the eternal Light (Jesus) to those we meet each day. But how does one fulfill such a task? John 5:24 gives us a perfect outline: We help those in darkness "hear the Word" and direct them to "believe on Him that sent Jesus" and receive "everlasting life."

Walking in the Light will be superseded only by walking in Glory, so enjoy each day here on earth and be a witness of the Light. Experience the joy of feeling the power of the Holy Spirit move as you tell someone about the love of Jesus. That joy can be felt inside your heart as Jesus moves into a new life for Him.

Bruce Walzer, director of missions for Bell Baptist Association, is president of the Kentucky Directors of Missions Fellowship

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Donaldson Creek Church recently ordained **Brian Ahart** as a deacon.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Lowell Avenue Church recently honored **Lisa Gupton** for 20 years of service as director of music.

■ **CORBIN**—First Church recently honored organist **Gayle Majors** for 20 years of ministry.

■ **CROMWELL**—Green River Church will hold revival services May 14-19 with **Matt Wilkins** as evangelist.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Bethany Church recently held a commissioning service for **Richard Knight**, who will be serving in volunteer missions in Germany.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—**Chad Caddell** recently resigned as minister of spiritual development at Fort Mitchell Church.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Thornhill Church will honor **Ruth Sudduth** with a reception May 16, 3 p.m., for 60 years of service as organist. **Steve Payne** is pastor.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church recently called **Melinda James** as part-time minister of education. **Bob Sutton** is pastor.

■ **FRAZER**—New Salem Church will celebrate its 180th anniversary with a homecoming celebration May 16, 10 a.m. Activities will include dinner and an afternoon program. **Rick Watson** is pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Sand Spring Church will host a Faith and Family Weekend May 8-10 with evangelist **Ron Herrod**. **Mike Hamrick** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church recently honored **Donna Foley** for 30 years of service as church secretary. **Terrence Freeman** is pastor.

Palomar Church recently

called **Jackie Littrell** as minister of music.

■ **LONDON**—Hart Church recently called **David Dodd** as minister of education and outreach. **Jeff Jackson** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will host the **Dixie Echoes** in concert May 15, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 368-5806.

Cloverleaf Church will host the **Sons of Liberty** in concert May 15, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Parkland Church will honor **Tom Curry** May 16 on his 20th anniversary as pastor.

Ray Gilliland, a former Kentucky Baptist layman, died April 26 in Rapid City, S.D., at age 82. His wife, **Dee Gilliland**, retired in 1996 as executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. In addition to his wife, Gilliland is survived by two sons and six grandchildren.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—First Church called **Katheryn Webb** as minister of adult education. She also is associate professor of Christian education and leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. **James Cobban** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Hall Street Church will host **Firm Foundation**, a Southern gospel quartet, May 9, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 683-1303.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church recently ordained **Mike Arterburn** to the gospel ministry. **Dale Darley** is pastor.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church will hold revival services May 23-26, 7 p.m., with **Troy Dobbs**, pastor of Crestwood Church, as evangelist. **Lynn Traylor** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 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.
- 14-18 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.
- 14-18 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, Grades 4-6.
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis.

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



STUDENT CENTER Campbellsville University officials broke ground April 26 for the \$5.5 million E. Bruce Heilman Student Center Complex. The facility will include a 600-seat, 20,000-square-foot dining hall and a 9,000-square-foot student commons, including a bookstore, post office and student lounge. Groundbreaking participants included (from left): Gregory Jenkins of Essex Construction; Larry Noe, chairman of buildings and grounds committee; W.R. Davenport, president emeritus, and his wife, Janet; Bruce Heilman, president emeritus, and his wife, Betty; Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University; Shirley Winters and Kenneth Winters, president emeritus; Jerry Bennett, trustee chairman; and Orlando Diaz, Partners and Associates. (Campbellsville University photo by Joan McKinney)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Religious books (thousands). Send e-mail for list: dudley@dam.net. Evangelist Bill Dudley, 1116 Lacy Drive, Lebanon, MO 65536. (417) 532-2665.

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

SEEKING: Hardinsburg Baptist Church, a county seat church, seeks a pastor to lead congregation of approximately 440 members. Please send resumé to Greta Akridge, 204 Lake St., Hardinsburg, KY 40143.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Madisonville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister to children and families. This individual will become an integral part of a ministerial team and will continue an established children's ministry for birth through 5th grade. Seminary education and prior experience in children's ministry is preferred. A competitive compensation and benefits package is available. Interested applicants may send a resumé to: First Baptist Church, 246 North Main St., Madisonville, KY 42431, Attn: Diann Wilson; or e-mail: ddwilson@charter.net.

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

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

SEEKING: Full time music pastor needed for three Sunday services (traditional and contemporary). Congregation averages 300/Sunday. Members: Southern Baptist Convention and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Mail resumé to: Warrenton Baptist Church, 123 Main Street, Warrenton, VA 20186. Phone number: (540) 347-3509; Fax: (540) 347-2696; email: wbc1849@infionline.net.

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: 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.

Keeping it real

Beth Moore seeks to show God's hope amid life's struggles

By Leslie McKellar
HomeLife magazine

Houston (BP)—Throughout Beth Moore's Bible studies, books and conferences, the popular speaker and author seeks to convey the sense that she understand the difficulties and problems her readers and audiences are going through.

"I don't struggle much anymore with trying to appear to be something I'm not," Moore said. "I think that's a struggle especially for believers because there's such an expectation of what 'church people' ought to look like. And in all fairness to the body of Christ, we also want to be that way.

"In my young adult years, I wanted so much to be a righteous young woman, so I certainly wanted to appear that way and behave that way as much as I could," Moore said. "I used to look around and think everybody had it together, and I was the only one cycling in and out of a pit."

But now that she is a middle-aged woman, she said, she understands that others didn't have it all together. "The fact that they acted like they did, though, left me feeling hopeless. It's so harmful.

"I want people to know I struggled because I want them to feel hope," she said.

As a young woman, "I really did have a heart for God," she reflected. "I wanted so much to be good, but I had a very hard time figuring out how to do that on any kind of consistent basis. I had so many hurts, so many things I was dealing with that were not very obvious in a lot of ways from the outside.

Moore said she became desparate and acted out of a "handicapped" state. "And by 'handicapped' I mean of heart and of mind."

Trapped in a lie

Through years of ministry, she has realized that thousands of women feel the way she used to feel.

"They think, 'If people really knew I'm struggling with this in my home ... or I have this temptation or that, they would think I'm a terrible person and I can't get my spiritual life together,'" she said. "We



NEW VISTAS Women's Bible study author and teacher Beth Moore said she has found new vistas of ministry after finding healing from painful handicaps "of heart and of mind" through God and the Scriptures. Here, she visits with a child in Kenya while there to lead Bible studies for missionary women. (BP photo by Nancy Tate)

need to just say, 'I am so challenged to live in any kind of consistent victory, and I need help learning how.' That's where we need to be.

"We have to learn to be more honest with one another in the body of Christ and certainly more honest with God," Moore said. That outlook, she said, has become "a great help to me."

A big part of Moore's ministry is challenging women to pursue the call of God on their lives—the good work He desires to complete in each of them, whether it's vocational ministry or something else.

But Moore said she's concerned that many women never come to understand their calling.

"We may do good works and noble things, but we will not be able to make the mark God desires for us to make for His Kingdom," she said. "That's why it's critical that each believer seek to know God through His Word, because that's where it's going to be revealed."

Moore said a head-on collision with God and His Word healed her heart so dramatically and miraculously that she wanted to share it with others.

"My ministry was born out of pain and of finding that His Word

was my prescription, and He was my Healer."

Believing in God vs. believing Him

Another major spiritual breakthrough occurred, she said, when she grasped the difference between really believing God and simply believing in Him.

"Our salvation," she said, "begins with believing in God, of course." She describes that as the point when someone acknowledges Christ Jesus is the Son of God and accepting Him as one's personal Savior.

"Believing Him means I take that step past believing in Him. I believe what His Word said is so; I believe He is who He said He is; I believe He can do what He said He can do; I believe I am who God said I am. There's a world of difference between those two."

Now, instead of looking to God simply as a source of answers or direction, she asks God to cause His Word to "literally jump into my belief system and flow in my bone marrow. I want it to become part of me; I want it to change the way I think."

This article originally appeared in HomeLife, a magazine published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

McCartney, pastors seek to move young adults into ministry

Dallas (RNS)—Former University of Colorado football coach and founder of Promise Keepers Bill McCartney huddled recently with almost 400 Dallas-area church leaders about how to move 20- and 30-year-olds off the ministry sidelines and into active church and mission participation.

At the kickoff luncheon, McCartney reviewed the playbook for what is being called "fusion+dallas" being planned for November.

McCartney said young adults "are either going to chase their tails or get passionate about something and live out lives of destiny and pur-

pose. I don't think we are too late, but it's got to happen right now."

He told the group that fusion will include biblical teaching, workshops, praise and worship, and opportunities to connect with local churches, local church missions and international mission agencies.

Brian Mosley, founder of Rightnow, the organization spearheading fusion+dallas, said the Texas gathering could be the first in a series of fusion events across the country to win the nation's best and brightest back to Jesus.

A fusion spokesman said repre-

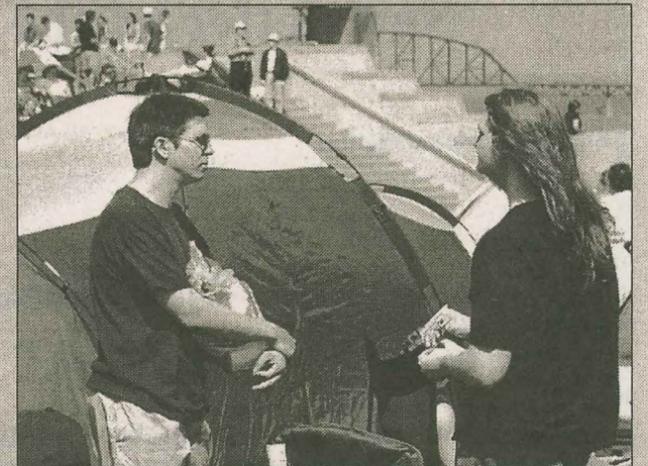
sentatives from about 100 churches and para-church agencies attended the session.

"Churches focus on ministering to children and youth," singles pastor Kenny Marchetti of Lakepointe Church in Rockwall said after the luncheon.

"I think it's neat to have a vision to reach this next generation struggling with such life-defining decisions as education, career, calling and family," he added.

A 2003 Barna study found young adults in this age group to be significantly absent from church participation.

Thunder witness



RIVERFRONT CONVERSATION J.D. Payne (left), associate professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, talks with a man during the daylong "Thunder Over Louisville" air show and fireworks display last month. Professors and students shared their faith during the event. (Southern Seminary photo by David Merrifield)

Southern students, professors share faith at Louisville fireworks event

By David Roach
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Louisville (BP)—More than half a million people saw the annual "Thunder Over Louisville" as an opportunity to view an air show and fireworks display along the banks of the Ohio River.

But a group of students and faculty at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville saw the April 17 event as an opportunity to share the message of Christ with area neighbors and visitors.

Students and faculty took part in "Reaching Out 2004," a Saturday morning event in which teams from Southern shared the gospel at strategic sites throughout Louisville.

The teams witnessed to several hundred people, both downtown during Thunder events and in neighborhoods during door-to-door visitation.

"I know that God has touched many hearts and that we will see fruit from that," said Twyla Fagan, director of Great Commission ministries at Southern.

J.D. Payne, associate professor of evangelism and church planting, said he found many people at Thunder were open to talking about the Christian faith.

"We had people asking questions, asking tough questions," he said. "We were praying with people down there, leaving tracts behind and leaving cards behind."

Compassionate listening

Matthew Cooke, a master of divinity student from Maynardville, Tenn., shared the gospel with a woman who had battled a drug addiction for 20 years. At first, the woman was unreceptive to Cooke. But after he listened to her speak about her life struggles, the woman allowed Cooke to talk about Christ.

"After I listened to her problems for a while and really cared and was compassionate, she started telling me the truth," Cooke said. "A lot of times, people will tell you things to get you out of their face. But the more you minister to people in their entirety, the more they will be willing to let you minister to them in the spiritual realm."

Student Matthew Levant, from Laredo, Texas, said Reaching Out 2004 allowed him to see spiritual warfare taking place. While conducting door-to-door evangelism for a Hispanic church plant, Levant encountered Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons canvassing the same neighborhood.

"I'd go knock on one door, and they'd come following me back and knock on it afterward," he said.

Levant encountered a Jehovah's Witness at an apartment doorstep who insisted salvation comes through good works. But Levant pointed her to Scriptures teaching that salvation comes by faith alone.

Wynesia Dickerson, a master of divinity student from Louisville, met a woman named Laura who had been praying for God to lead her to a church home. Dickerson was able to share Christ with the woman and point her to a local church.

"She had moved from Louisville five years ago, but was still trying to find a church home," Dickerson said. "She was excited and said she was going to come on Sunday."

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Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

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REV. BUELL H. KAZEE

PART-TIME BANJO PICKER; FULL-TIME SERVANT OF CHRIST

by: Stan Williams, Pastor
First Baptist Church of Cannonsburg

Buell Kazee was born in Magoffin County, Kentucky at the head of a little creek called Burton Fork, on August 29, 1900 in a two room log cabin. Burton Fork is an isolated region of Eastern Kentucky nestled in the Cumberland Mountains about four miles from Salyersville. "Brother Kazee," as he was called by most everyone, was the son of Frank and Abigail Conley Kazee, people of faith, who raised their children in the "fear and admonition of the Lord." The Kazee family attended the Mash Fork Missionary Baptist Church where young Buell learned to sing the sacred hymns with a "high lonesome" mountain flavor.

The Singer/Banjo Picker

The Kazee family was a close knit, singing family. In the days before television the fireplace was the "cement" that held families together because that was where the family would gather in the evenings for conversation, music, bean-stringings, and similar activities. There was always a banjo and fiddle close by. During a visit to Aunt Sade's house across the hills, five year old Buell discovered an old, home-made banjo. The neck on the instrument was a whittled piece of walnut, the hoop was made from split white oak, and a home-tanned cat skin hide was stretched over the hoop and fastened with carpet tacks. Aunt Sade gave the banjo to young Buell who learned the claw-hammer style of picking by watching the other pickers and imitating them. This was the beginning of a hobby which included recordings, performances, and lectures.

In 1926, W. S. Carter, the proprietor of Carter's Phonograph Shop in Ashland, Kentucky (who was also a representative of Brunswick-Balke-Collender Recording Company) heard Buell sing. Soon afterwards Buell was in New York City cutting his first 78 rpm record. By the time the Great Depression hit in 1929, he had cut 52 recordings on the Brunswick and Vocalion labels. Most of the recordings were the folk songs and ballads of the Appalachian Mountain area, with "The Little Mohee" and "The Roving Cowboy" becoming two of his his best sellers. In the 1960's with the revival of folk music in America, Buell accepted invitations to perform at the Newport Folk Festival, the University of Kentucky, and Berea College. He also performed in many cities such as Los Angeles, Seattle, Washington D. C., Vancouver, BC, and Toronto.

2004 CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

150th Anniversary

Friendship, Lawrenceburg
Liberty, Princeton
White Sulphur, Fredonia
Utica, Utica
Whitesville, Whitesville
Pleasant Hill, Auburn
Portland Avenue, Louisville
Licking Valley, Alexandria
Pleasant Ridge, Alexandria
Greasy Creek, Greensburg
Franklin Crossroads, Cecilia
Bethlehem, Waco
New Zion, Falmouth
Friendship, Oakland

200th Anniversary

Little River, Herndon
Leitchfield First, Leitchfield
Barbourville First, Barbourville
Knoxes Creek, Magnolia
Wilmington, DeMossville
Mount Pleasant, Somerset
Liberty, Lancaster
Ten Mile, Glencoe
Providence Knob, Rockfield
Big Sinking, Monticello
Russell Creek Assoc, Greensburg

The Preacher

At a young age Buell Kazee made his profession of faith and subsequently felt the call to preach at age fifteen. In time, he would be licensed to preach before his eighteenth birthday and was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Mash Fork Baptist Church. He graduated from the Magoffin Baptist Institute at Salyersville in 1920. In the fall semester of 1921 he entered Georgetown College and graduated in 1925 with a major in English and a minor in Ancient Languages (Greek and Latin). For a brief time he was the Minister of Music and Education for a large church in Oklahoma, before returning to Kentucky where he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Morehead for 22 years. Afterwards, he served as pastor of Devondale Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky for 12 years. He also taught at the Lexington Baptist College. "Brother Kazee" was an author as well as a preacher. Among his published works are; *Faith is the Victory* (Eerdmans, 1951), and *The Church and the Ordinances*, (The Little Baptist Press, 1965) as well as many sermons and tracts.

Buell Kazee's theology was Calvinistic, which he summed up in a sermon entitled, *Thoughts on the Doctrine of Election*, where he wrote, "Election is according to the foreknowledge of God (I Peter 1:2), and wholly of grace, apart from human merit (Rom. 9:11; 11:5,6). Election proceeds from the divine volition (John 15:16)... Election is not "Hard-shellism" ... election takes in the means (gospel) by which the elect are called (II Thess. 2:13-14)."

Buell Kazee died on August 31, 1976 of a heart attack in Winchester, Kentucky. The funeral service was held on September 3, at the Mash Fork Baptist Church and conducted by Rev. Burton Callicuon. Buell Kazee was laid to rest in the family cemetery at Mash Fork.

Although singing and performing mountain music was an important part of his life, to Buell Kazee it was always considered just a hobby. His first love was "preaching and teaching the Bible, holding meetings and Bible conferences, and pastoring..." He was not distracted nor tempted to compromise the high calling of God in Jesus Christ, but remained a faithful servant until the end of his days.