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U.S. unchurched rate up sharply, recent study says

Ventura, Calif. (RNS)—The portion of adults who generally do not attend church has risen sharply in the last 13 years, a recent study shows.

The percentage of Americans who are "unchurched" grew from 21 percent in 1991 to 34 percent in 2004, according to a report by Barna Research Group.

Researchers defined unchurched as those who have not attended a church service in the past six months, other than for a holiday service or for a special event, such as a wedding or funeral.

While men comprise a bit less than half of the national population, they make up 55 percent of the unchurched.

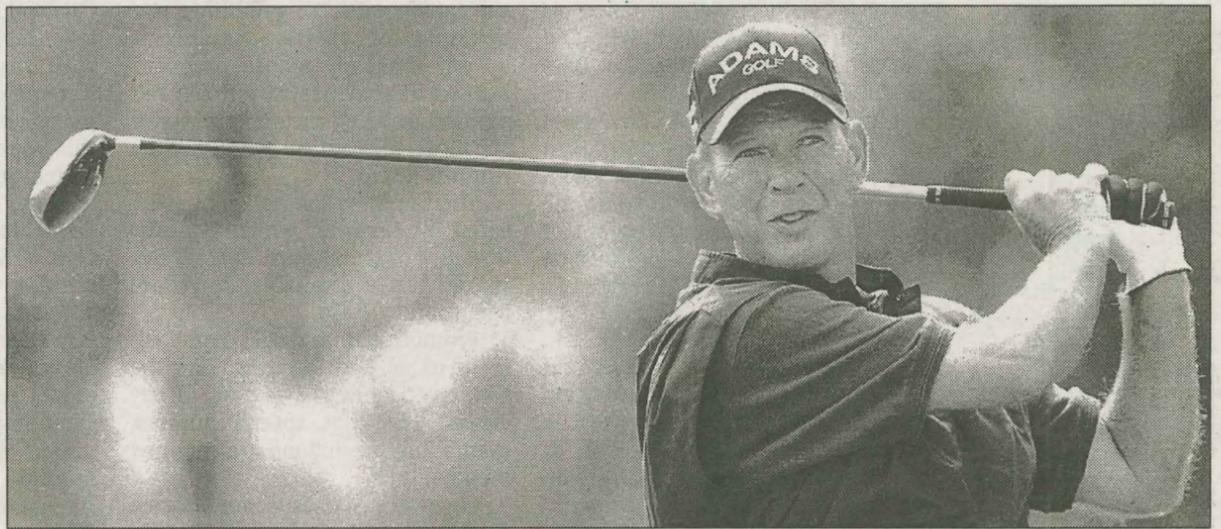
Also, while 26 percent of American adults are single and have never married, 37 percent of the unchurched can be similarly described.

George Barna, the Ventura, Calif.-based researcher, said the unchurched tend to be independent and their hesitancy to commit to activities extends beyond just congregational gatherings.

"Evidence of this arm's-length approach to life ... includes lower levels of voter registration, less money donated to nonprofit organizations, fewer nonprofits supported, lower levels of media usage, and less engagement in community service activities," he said in a statement.

The findings were based on phone interviews of 1,014 adults in late January and early February. They had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Champions Tour 'revival'



A SWING AND A PRAYER Larry Nelson, who helped recruit Tom Randle to lead the Champions Tour Bible study, is among those expected to tee it up during the Senior PGA Championship, May 27-30 in Louisville. (PGA photo by Stan Badz)

Spiritual growth accompanies more fans, sponsors

By Art Stricklin
Baptist Press

Austin, Texas (BP)—When the Senior PGA championship arrives in Louisville later this month, Kentuckians will get to see firsthand why the "Champions Tour" has seen huge gains in prize money, television viewers and fans.

But equally impressive and lesser known is the growth that the 50-and-over golfers have seen at their weekly Champions Tour Bible study.

Held Thursday or Friday night each tournament week and directed by tour Bible study leader Tom Randle, more than 100 players, caddies, wives and other Champions Tour golf figures now attend on a regular basis.

"It's just amazing to see the way it's grown over the years," said longtime caddy Gary Cline, who works for Terry Dill. "You see a lot of people when you get to our age; they need to get their life straight."

"There is a revival going on with the tour Bible study," Randle

said. "We've got people coming here (who) you would have never guessed they would be anywhere near here 10 years ago."

Senior golfing veteran Larry Nelson—who won the FedEx Kinko's Classic earlier this month—helped bring Randle on the tour in the late 1990s to start the program, which was molded after the successful chapel program on the PGA Tour.

"Tom has a great relationship with a lot of people out here, no matter if they come to the Bible study or not," Nelson said. "He really helps a lot of people and fills a very needed role out here."

Randle attends most of the tournaments on the Champions Tour, often arriving on Wednesday or Thursday and departing after the weekly study.

"The Bible study is very grace-oriented, and that helps draw a lot of people in," Nelson said.

With the players away from homes most weekends, the weekly study has become a church fellowship body for many players.

"Getting in a Bible-based church and getting in the tour Bible study have been two of the biggest developments in my spiritual growth," golfer Bruce Lietzke said. "For a long time, I didn't have my priorities right, but this has really helped."

With golf's individual nature, worry is a big part of the sport. Many golfers and caddies have found the weekly study and Randle's constant guidance to be a source of encouragement in what can be a pressure-packed profession.

"On the golf course, most of us learn we're not invincible," Cline said. "It can be a car wreck out here, but now more than ever we know we can turn things over to God."

The one-hour study includes some fellowship time, a brief message from Randle with time for questions and a time of prayer for each other, family and friends.

"They want to hear the Word of God, and Tom is very helpful," Nelson said. "Guys are there with a purpose."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 19.

Former Kentucky prison escapee returns to share God's love

By David Winfrey
News Director

Russellville—Twenty-six years ago, Leonard Adamson cut through one fence and climbed over another to escape from Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange.

Today he regularly returns through the front gate to tell inmates about the love of God he eventually found on a Minneapolis sidewalk.

As an ordained minister, prison chaplain and volunteer missionary, Adamson visits up to six state prisons each month.

"I don't like prisons and I don't even care to be there," said Adam-

son, 53, a member of Crossroads Church in Russellville. "But I love people, and since God's come into my heart, those people have been part of my life."



Leonard Adamson

But in 1978 he was so eager to leave that he endured being shot 12 times in a successful escape that freed him from the LaGrange facility for 10 months.

About two or three times each year, he visits a church to share his testimony, which includes wrong choices, demonic voices and running from the law and God.

A native of Ottumwa, Iowa, Adamson moved to Kentucky when

his father, a bivocational minister, became pastor of a church in Winchester.

An army veteran, Adamson said he dabbled in drugs and alcohol, straining his marriage to the breaking point.

A charge of assaulting his wife gave him his first taste of jail.

There, he made some friends who "had a bright idea" to break into a clothing store and rob the safe. "We ended up getting busted, and I got probation."

His marriage ended and another burglary got him his first prison sentence.

"It was just a revolving door from that time."

In 1976, Adamson was convicted of armed robbery at two Louisville

grocery stores, illegal trafficking of pharmaceutical drugs and auto theft.

For using a firearm to commit a felony and having a previous criminal record, Adamson received two life sentences.

After about two years, Adamson began looking for a way to get out.

Just before entering prison, his girlfriend had a baby, and Adamson convinced himself that if he could break out he, could find a way to make a new life and bring along his new family.

By enrolling in rehabilitation training for radio and TV repair, Adamson secured a pair of heavy-duty cutters he planned to use on the prison's two perimeter fences.

□ See Former prison escapee ... Page 3

Kentuckians named to SBC committees

Indianapolis—Four Kentucky Baptist pastors are among committee members appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham to serve during the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 in Indianapolis.

Serving on the SBC Credentials Committee are:

Ronald Shaw, pastor of Community Baptist Church in Somerset.

Art Beasley, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester.

Serving on the SBC Tellers Committee are:

Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville.

John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset.

Gay cruise raises pressure to drop stock

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Dallas (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Annuity Board faces another round of criticism for owning \$14 million worth of stock in Carnival Cruise Lines, which is hosting "the First Annual Official Gay Days Cruise" beginning May 30.

The four-night Bahamas cruise, aboard Carnival's ship Fantasy, is sponsored by Gay Days Inc. and coincides with Orlando's Gay Days celebration June 1-7.

The Southern Baptist Convention and its leaders have been outspoken opponents of gay rights. Since 1997, the SBC has been boycotting the Walt Disney Co. largely because of its gay-friendly policies and events like Gay Days at Disney World.

Shares valued at \$14.5 million

But Annuity Board officials said May 13 that Carnival's gambling business and association with the new gay cruise are not enough to prompt the retirement agency to divest itself of the cruise line's stock.

The Annuity Board owns 329,700 shares of Carnival in its Value Index Fund and 26,400 shares in its Equity Index Fund as of Dec. 31—together valued at \$14.5 million as of May 13.

Some Southern Baptists object to the board's holdings in companies

such as Carnival because of their involvement in gambling and other questionable activities. Carnival advertises the world's largest on-board gambling casino.

The Annuity Board said its screening policy for stocks prohibits investment in "any company that is publicly recognized, as determined by the Annuity Board, as being in the liquor, tobacco, gambling, pornography or abortion industries, or any company whose products, services or activities are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board."

The Gay Days Cruise is not sponsored by Carnival, which typically does not organize such outings but makes space available to travel agents and groups.

Promotional material from Orlando-based Gay Days Inc. says the Gay Days cruise "is not an all-gay cruise" but that special dinners, events and excursions are planned for gays.

Carnival spokesperson Vance Gulliksen told Associated Baptist Press the company "caters to a very broad demographic and does not discriminate based on race, age, sex, marital status, religion, national origin, physical or mental ability or sexual orientation."

A statement from the Annuity

Board said the relationship between Carnival and Gay Days Inc. "can be likened to any objectionable sponsor (alcohol, tobacco, gaming, etc.) booking convention space at a hotel, convention center, etc."

Will SBC boycott Carnival?

"If the Southern Baptist Convention should choose to boycott Carnival as it did Disney, we would take appropriate action as we did with Disney," the Annuity Board statement added. "We are in sympathy with the moral concerns of this issue and are continuing to research and evaluate this particular holding."

In March, Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins acknowledged criticism of the agency's Carnival holdings but said avoiding all questionable stocks is virtually impossible. Hawkins noted Carnival receives only 3 percent of its revenue from gambling.

Last week's statement from the Annuity Board noted more than 300 companies in "prohibited industries" are on a list of restricted investments. "The Annuity Board has a strong moral policy," the statement added. "However, we could go through every stock in the Fortune 500 and probably find some reason why we shouldn't invest in any of them."

Pastor: God delivered hope after '99 shooting

Dallas (ABP)—Nearly five years after it happened, Pastor Al Meredith still vividly remembers the phone call that changed his life and the path of his congregation: "You've got to get down here. Someone's shooting the kids."

It was the evening of Sept. 15, 1999, when a man walked into a youth prayer service at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and opened fire, killing seven people before pulling the trigger on himself.

Speaking at a prayer breakfast during the recent Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse Conference, Meredith became choked up as he recounted some of the lives that were lost that evening.

He spoke of Sydney Browning, the "most popular" person in the church; Kim Jones, a recently con-

verted Texas Christian University student; and Shawn Brown, a seminary student who was married 22 months.

But God provides hope through the darkest times, Meredith said, and the shooting is no different. Because of the attack, Meredith was able to share the message of hope in Jesus as he offered the invocation at the 2000 Cotton Bowl Classic.

As the congregation began to deal with the deaths, the church became an example of clinging to faith through tragedy, Meredith added. Members of the youth group spoke to assemblies about their experience and faith, while Meredith spoke at numerous ministers' meetings about crises.

The congregation has felt a stronger presence of God in worship since the incident, Meredith noted. "God

has given us such a sweet spirit of joy and forgiveness."

As individuals heard about the church's positive outlook, they became interested in it, he said. Attendance increased 50 percent in the past four years to 1,500 during Sunday worship.

"People came looking for the church," he said.

The work and growth of the church since the shooting is a testimony to God's reliability, Meredith added. "God is God all the time," he said. "He is not under review."

Even amid the hope, pain still runs deep throughout the congregation, Meredith said. But church members continue believing God will carry them onward.

"Don't ask us when we'll get over it," he said. "We'll never get over it. We'll get through it."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Students seek to impact Chicago. The "Impact Zone," a May 22-29 ministry pilot project in Chicago, will involve college students helping rehabilitate substandard housing and gaining insights from corporate leaders from a Christian perspective of servant leadership. The experience, sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, is based largely on the World Changers model of mobilizing student volunteers to rehabilitate substandard housing in cooperation with local governments. The schedule calls for students to spend four days on work projects and leadership training in the evenings, followed by all-day leadership training on Friday. For more information, visit www.studentz.com/impact.

Hunt receives Judson-Rice Award. Alma Hunt, 94, who led the Southern Baptist

Woman's Missionary Union from 1948-1974, received the fourth annual Judson-Rice Award April 30 from the independent news journal Baptists Today. The award, which bears the names of Luther Rice and pioneer missionaries Ann and Adoniram Judson, was presented by Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, Hunt's successor as national WMU executive. Previous recipients of the Judson-Rice Award for leadership with integrity are Jimmy Allen, Tony Campolo and Russell Dilday.

Hill heads moderate Missouri group. The moderate Baptist General Convention of Missouri, organized two years ago, has named former Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director Jim Hill as interim executive director. Hill succeeds retired Baptist college administrator H.K. Neely, who had been serving on a volunteer, part-time basis

as the organization's executive since it was founded. Hill served as the MBC's executive director from 1998 until 2001. He resigned after conservative leaders took control of the state convention's governing board.

Baylor senate: 'No confidence' in Sloan. For the second time in a year, the Faculty Senate of Baylor University has voted "no confidence" in President Robert Sloan. The 28-5 vote, taken in a closed-door session May 4, was similar to the group's 26-6 no-confidence vote last September. Larry Brumley, associate vice president for university relations, questioned whether the 33-member senate represents the interests of the entire faculty. The senate asked the school's trustees to conduct an independent referendum on Sloan's leadership among the entire 820-member faculty. Trustees voted 31-4 last September to affirm Sloan.

Proposal urges SBC to reject public schools

Nashville—A former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention has asked denomination officials to consider a proposed resolution that would encourage Southern Baptists to remove their children from public schools and instead support "thoroughly Christian education."

The proposed resolution states that public school education is "officially godless" and public schools teach the acceptability of homosexuality.

It also "encourages all churches associated with the Southern Baptist Convention to work aggressively to counsel parents regarding their obligation to provide their children with a Christian education."

T.C. Pinckney, a former SBC second vice president, co-wrote the resolution for consideration at the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 in Indianapolis.

Pinckney, editor of the independent Baptist Banner, co-wrote the proposed statement with Bruce Shortt, a Texas attorney. Shortt is the Texas coordinator of Exodus Mandate, an organization seeking to replace public schools with private, Christian and home-school education.

SBC President Jack Graham issued a statement last week, noting that the 2004 Resolutions Committee "will prayerfully consider each proposed resolution and will then recommend those resolutions that best reflect the heart of Southern Baptists."

SBC messengers adopted resolutions on education in 1999, 1997 and 1996.

In the '99 resolution, messengers made an appeal "to all Southern Baptist churches to consider carefully ... supporting educational programs that follow biblical principles, whether they are implemented in Christian, private, public or home schools."

In the '97 resolution, messengers affirmed "the right of all parents ... to teach their children at home," while also affirming "the godly teachers in public schools who stand on the front lines to teach and train children who cannot be, or whose parents choose not to home-school."

Barrett Duke, the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's vice president for public policy, told the Washington Times May 12 that Southern Baptists have "never said public education is incompatible with Christian life."

He added that "we are also concerned about what happens in public schools, some of which is contrary to Southern Baptist faith and sensitivities." Based on reporting by Religion News Service and Baptist Press

Former prison escapee shares God's love

Continued from page 1

Adamson had observed that the tower guards, spaced 100 yards apart, had shotguns, which are less powerful and less accurate than rifles over longer distances. Furthermore, a tower on the back side of the grounds wasn't occupied on Saturday mornings, meaning the guards would have to shoot 100 yards to reach him.

"I'd hunted and I knew weapons," he recalled. "I knew they maybe could hit me but they couldn't kill me."

So at 9 a.m. on Sept. 3, 1978, dressed in multiple layers of clothing, Adamson crawled to the first fence and quickly cut his way through the soft chain links.

Five other men had committed to escape with Adamson, but when they didn't follow him through the fence, he found himself the sole target for the tower guard who was now shooting.

With buckshot stinging his body, Adamson quickly discovered that the second fence was too hard to cut through and would have to be climbed. As he scaled the top and jumped over, the barbed wire grabbed his jacket, leaving him suspended "like a yo-yo" as the guards fired more shots.

Adamson said he was shot 12 times before he slipped out of his jacket, ran down an embankment and into a wooded area, where he stayed three days before walking to Louisville.

A life on the run

He secured a fake identification card and began running to avoid the law. He quickly realized his plan to reunite with his daughter was just another dream he could not fulfill.

"A man on the run, he can't be with family and he can't be with friends," he said. "He has to keep moving and he always has to be putting on that false face, being somebody other than who he really is."

Under the name Bill Hogue, Adamson traveled to Colorado. As much as he was trying to avoid the law, he said, he also was running from God, what he describes as demonic voices taunting him, and the influence of his mother and father.

"It's one thing when you've been a minister's son and you've heard the Word time after time," he said, crediting the prayers of his mom and dad as spiritual influences.

"I'd tried to ignore a lot of

things I'd been taught. ... Well, I had ignored them," he said matter-of-factly.

Certain the police were close to catching him, Adamson left Colorado and headed east.

"As I left that area I went up along the Canadian border. And the voices were still there. I went to Milwaukee, Wis., and the voices were still there. I went back down to Ottumwa, Iowa, where I was born. ... I knew that I was about to die and go to hell and that those voices that I heard was going to be for eternity tormenting me.

"I knew the importance of being a new creature, but yet I still didn't want to give in to God. I still wanted to run."

A welcoming open door

The running ended July 7, 1979, he said, in Minneapolis where he had started visiting an all-night Christian mission and coffeehouse.

"It's one thing when you're an outcast to find an open door," he explained. "At times when I was really discouraged and stuff, I'd just go in there and sit."

On a sidewalk near the mission, Adamson decided to commit his life to Christ, but he said the demonic voices continued taunting him, daring him to give up the items he kept for security, including a razor, his fake ID and money.

"They said, 'Leonard, if you're going all the way with God,' they said, 'you don't need that razor,'" he recalled. "I said 'I didn't need anything but God.'"

He said he felt like a fog was lifted when he dropped the last of his personal belongings, but when he looked up he saw a policeman between himself and the mission.

"That spirit inside of me said, 'Run.' And I said, 'No I'm not. I've made a quality decision and I'm going all the way.'"

As he approached the officer, he blurted out: "My name's Leonard Adamson. I'm on escape from La-Grange, Ky., where I'm serving a life sentence. If you want me, I'll be in this mission."

Inside the coffeehouse, he walked up to a table and told a group, "I want to be saved."

"It was just like shelling corn and throwing it to the chickens, because they were on me," he recalled. "One little black lady, she's trying to give me her Bible, and somebody ran and they got the preacher."

Having prayed to receive Christ into his life, he said, "I felt freedom."

But his spiritual freedom would come at a cost to his physical freedom. As he walked outside, "the police were there, in fact they had multiplied."

"They took me to the jail and placed me in the insane cell," he said. "I'd finally made one of the wisest choices in life, and the whole world thought I was crazy."

He was returned to Kentucky prisons, where he began "studying God's Word, renewing my mind."

Gone, he said, were the old cravings for drugs, alcohol, "or anything else that was abusive to the will and the purpose of God."

To his surprise, he was paroled in October 1985, and he moved to Russellville. Two years later he was allowed to return to Kentucky prisons to minister to inmates.

"A lot of people knew me and they knew there was such a change in my heart," he said.

"I share the Word and what God can do with any man," he added. That difference impacts both inmates and officers, he said. "It gives them hope."

Prison "invasions"

Adamson's authenticity is one of the first things people notice when they meet him, according to Eric Allen, director of Mission Service Corps missionaries with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"The joy of the Lord just flows out of him," Allen said. "He gives his life back to the prisons."

Working with Agape Service Foundation in Russellville, Adamson coordinates monthly "invasions" at Kentucky prisons. Musicians and as many as 100 volunteers visit the prisons, working alongside chaplains to befriend inmates, sharing a word of encouragement and hope.

Today, he gets to visit his 27-year-old daughter in Bardstown as well as an "adopted" son and five grandbabies.

"I've been blessed," he said. "I've got my health and I've sure got a lot of the Word of God living in me."

Drawing from his own story, his message remains consistent to those he meets.

"God turned me around," he said. "Without God, any man is a walking dead man. But with Christ he has all hope, he has life."



Maybelle and Dwayne Baker



Linda and Larry Gaines

IMB, NAMB appoint mission workers with Kentucky ties

Nashville—Several missionaries with ties to Kentucky have been appointed recently by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and North American Mission Board.

Missionaries appointed by the IMB to serve overseas include:

Stu and Liz Butler will serve in Eastern South America. He will serve in evangelism and church planting and she will serve in community and home outreach. Butler, who attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, served as a Brotherhood intern for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Young Mo and Hedly Kim will serve in Eastern South America. He will serve in evangelism and church planting and she will serve in community and home outreach. Kim, a graduate of Southern Seminary, worked as a custodian at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. He also has been assistant pastor of Virginia Korean Baptist Church in Fairfax.

Missionaries with Kentucky ties appointed by NAMB include:

Dwayne and Maybelle Baker serve in Savannah, Ga., where he is director of the Savannah Baptist Center. Baker, a native of Lexington, is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Larry and Linda Gaines serve in Hamilton, Ohio. He is director of New Life Baptist Mission, an inner-city Baptist center. Gaines, a native of Monterey, is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville. Mrs. Gaines, also a Kentucky native, is assistant director of New Life Baptist Mission.

Todd Martin serves in Lexington, where he is a US/C-2 student evangelism specialist working with international students at the University of Kentucky. Martin is a graduate of the University of Florida and is a student at Southern Seminary.

Jean-Feder and Lamerice St. Juste serve in Louisville, where he is a Nehemiah Project church planter working to start a Haitian congregation. St. Juste, a native of Haiti, is a graduate of Boyce Bible College, Jefferson Community College in Louisville, and Southern Seminary. He has served at First Haitian Baptist Church of Louisville.



Stu Butler



Kim Butler



Young Mo Kim



Hedly Kim



Todd Martin

KBC board approves slight increase for 2004-05 CP budget

Bagdad—After two years of budget shortfalls and a reduced budget this year, the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board has approved a 1.45 percent increase for the KBC's 2004-2005 Cooperative Program budget.

The budget, approved during the board's recent meeting at Cedarhurst Baptist Conference Center, includes "tentative budget details." Final budget allocations will be approved in September by the board's business and finance committee in response to strategies adopted to fulfill the KBC mission study report. The budget's total dollar amount approved by the board, however, will

remain unchanged.

The total CP budget of \$22,504,000 is an increase of more than \$320,000 from this year's revised budget of \$22,181,335. But the new budget still remains below the current year's original budget goal of \$23.2 million. That budget was reduced to keep spending in line with projected income.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team, told board members that current giving is 4.7 percent ahead of last year and 4 percent ahead of the revised budget.

The 2004-2005 CP budget, which takes effect Sept. 1, includes 64 percent for Kentucky Baptist ministries,

institutions and agencies and 36 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

In other action, board members approved a proposal to revise KBC bylaws related to expenditure requests.

Charles Barnes, chairman of the board's administrative committee, noted that KBC messengers approved a request last fall to earmark \$730 for Baptist World Alliance hunger relief efforts.

While adopting the motion from the floor of the convention "worked fine," Barnes added, "If this motion had been for \$750,000 how would it have been processed? The bottom

line is that as we currently stand, there is not a good way to process that kind of major motion that might come on the floor of the convention or the Mission Board."

The proposal calls for any motion requiring the expenditure of money by the convention or board to be referred to the administrative committee or appropriate standing committee before being presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the KBC or Mission Board.

The recommendation approved by the board will be forwarded to the KBC committee on constitution and bylaws for consideration at the KBC annual meeting in November.

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

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Bible hotline?

We should just have a Bible hotline where we could get the correct biblical viewpoint.

These guys (no females could "man" the phones) could decree the truth anytime someone thought about Scripture outside the lines of the one doctrinal creed. Everyone could get a copy of the "only truth" creed and call "the criterion by which we interpret Scripture" hotline when we have a question. New Bibles would be written since the old ones make no mention of inerrancy, infallibility, a prioritized list of more important historic Baptist beliefs or the men who can rightfully interpret the Scriptures for us. Everyone would sign both the creed and the interpretation commentary of the creed.

On second thought, the laypeople should not be trusted with Scripture. That would leave the possibility of reading the Bible by oneself and relying on the Holy Spirit to help. What if one's phone was out of order and one couldn't reach the correct biblical viewpoint hotline? Another alternative would be to just

have massive gatherings where the correct biblical viewpoint was orated by the hotline men. No dissenting voices would be permitted.

Eventually, the correct biblical viewpoint utopia would be everywhere and everyone could be exactly like the hotline men. Priesthood of the believer, a personal relationship with God, Jesus being the criterion by which we interpret Scripture, freedom in Christ and language such as this would be done away with so the truth men could be exalted. Priorities will concentrate on doctrine, not people. Could it be Jesus was intolerant of similar religious leaders? I guess I will have to ask the hotline men.

Keith Felton
Georgetown



Bible drill's impact

As a participant, as a parent of participants and as one who serves as a Christian educator, I have a deep appreciation for our State Bible Drill Competition.

Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington was delighted to host one of the state drills this year, an event that

was a celebration. On that very special night children, parents, family, friends and faithful volunteer leaders from many churches in our area came together to celebrate God's Word and the importance of committing Holy Scripture to memory.

The time and the effort our children, their parents and their leaders had given to this most worthy of goals brought a smile to the hearts of all who were present. One would most certainly include the presence of the Lord God in that number.

A special word of thanks goes to Wendy Dever, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention preschool/children's Sunday school group, and Alice Seymour, preschool/children's secretary, for their outstanding planning and leadership of this event. They are the best.

Hank Ellington
Lexington

What are you thinking?

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

How to handle 'news overload'

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—There is no question that in these days most of us are having an information overload—especially with world and local news. We constantly are barraged by the traffic of news, and most of us don't know how to handle it.

We must understand that what we are seeing and hearing every day is substantially affecting us; that is, we are always deeply affected by what we experience.

The constant negative images of war, murder, child abuse and crime have the potential to actually change who we are without our knowing. For instance, if we watch constant violence, we can become quick to anger and slow to forgive.

If we watch government, corporate and religious corruption, we might become cynical and skeptical of leaders everywhere. Others will then experience these shifts in our behavior.

FIRST PERSON

We don't, however, have to allow the news to shape us in this way. We can escape its influence. But to do this we need to prepare our hearts for it, for "out of the heart come the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

We must receive news with a guarded heart and with a deep sense of stewardship of life. Only then can God lift us to a new level of relationship with Himself. In short, we must practice the presence of God in our lives at all times, for it is prayer and faith and time in God's

Kentucky Baptists on mission

I recently had the privilege of participating in revival services and two unique dedication services. Let me tell you about them.

The revival services were at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Pendleton County, five miles out of Williamstown. It was special to be invited for the second year by Pastor Ronald Angell. He is a very energetic and effective leader who has visited every unreached home in the community.

I praise God that the church has experienced more than 30 percent growth in Sunday school and worship during the past year. On the spring high attendance day, 214 people were in Sunday school and 270 people attended worship. It was a great launch day for the revival services.

The congregation loves spirit-filled music, fellowship and learning the Word of God. They pray faithfully for their pastor and

church ministries.

One year ago, I asked this congregation to adopt me as their state missionary and they responded readily. They have sent prayer cards all year, for which I am grateful.

On a recent Saturday, it was my distinct privilege to participate in the dedication of the Haven of Rest Family Ministry near the new Big Sandy Federal Prison in Inez. The ministry grew out of a vision that founder Eileen Mullins received from God while visiting her son in a federal prison. She saw a strong need to minister to the families of prisoners by providing lodging and a place of support when visiting their loved one. At the time, it was a big vision with no specific location or money.

June Rice became her partner and shared the vision along with other people, including Tom Biddle, director of missions in Enterprise Baptist Association. Eventually a lo-

Word that brings us into the center of His will—even while watching or reading the news.

The key Scripture in helping us prepare in this way is found in Romans 12:1-2, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (worship). And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Do not focus on the "news" of this world but on the "good news" of God's Kingdom! And remember, our lives are always the product of choices we are making with Him each and every day.

Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

cal businessman whose wife serves on the ministry's board of directors donated the land for the facility.

A group of women from Central Baptist Church in Winchester, and a group from Spartanburg, S.C., who assisted with construction also were present for the dedication. Many people have shared the vision and passion for this ministry.

That same weekend, I also had the privilege of participating in the dedication of the new Family Life Center at Forest Hills Baptist Church in South Williamson where Carl Hess is pastor. It has been a long journey, and the congregation is justly proud of their accomplishment.

Pray for the facility to be used as an effective outreach tool to the community. Hess is an inspiration to his congregation and me. He has great energy to preach and lead although he struggles daily with multiple sclerosis.

Please pray for all Kentucky Baptists who are involved in challenging ministries!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Find creative ways to teach children the value of money

By Jeremy White

Probably like many parents and grandparents, I've struggled with teaching my children the value of money.

I often get frustrated when they hear the cost of something, say \$10, and they reply, "Oh, that's not very much."

My parents helped me create some teachable moments for my children (their grandchildren). Our family was planning a Florida vacation after my busy tax season. My parents wanted to give my children an opportunity to earn some spending money for their Florida trip.

My parents paid my children \$1 for each gate that my children painted on the farm. My kids worked diligently, brushing on aluminum paint for 16 farm gates. Watch out, Florida, these kids had \$16 in their pockets to burn.

During our stops at the numerous tourist traps and souvenir shops, my children repeated the same refrain, "Can I buy this? It's only \$5." But now, I had a better way to respond.

With my currency exchange translator lesson, I said, "Think about this. Is this item worth the amount of work it took to paint five gates on the farm?"

I could see the wheels turning in their little heads, considering the value of the purchase. They knew how much work it took for five gates. They could compare that to the cost of the item. This then helped them to determine either "Yes, it's worth it" or "No, it isn't worth five gates."

It worked. They said "no" more often to themselves rather than me being the bad guy. I think parents still retain veto power for kids' purchases—even if it is with their own money. But find ways to help your children understand the value of money by relating it to the amount of work it takes to earn that much money.

This idea might not work as well with allowances. But consider extra chores or projects to become a "currency exchange" for understanding.

Even in your own life, consider that next purchase at Wal-Mart for \$100. Is that worth X number of hours of your work?



Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Web site at www.consultcpa.com.

Summer reading plan offers kids hours of fun & learning

Q: How can I encourage my child to read this summer?

With the right approach, summer reading can be fun as well as formative. Look for—or create—a program that offers incentives. Rewards can be based on the number of books read or on the amount of time spent reading. Make sure you encourage your child to read a variety of books, and be sure to carve out some time to read to them.

The Louisville Courier-Journal offers a program called The Summer Reading Spectacular. Children use calendars to track the amount of time spent reading each week, trying for a total of two hours per week throughout the summer. Boys and girls who read at this minimum level get their name printed in the paper and receive a special prize. Children of any age can participate. There likely are similar programs in many towns and cities throughout the state.

Most public libraries have some kind of summer reading program or club for kids. Some churches also offer summer reading programs. Either way, your librarian or age group minister should be able to suggest books that will help your child grow spiritually. These may include books about what it means to be a Christian, books about how we got the Bible and books about Christian athletes or entertainers, as well as fantastic Christian fiction, such as C.S. Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia" tales. Your local Christian bookstore personnel also will be helpful.—David Garrard

Q: My husband and I are in the process of recovering from an affair he had about six months ago. While I have forgiven him, I continue to struggle with thoughts that make me distance myself from him. What will help me move on?

Recovering from the sin of adultery is never an easy proposition. It helps if the spouse who had the affair is willing to provide concrete evidence that the infidelity has ended (such as co-writing a termination letter to the lover, changing a job or neighborhood context in which the affair took place and ceasing all contact with the other person. This might include changing e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers.)

MARRIAGE The unfaithful partner must be willing to take down walls with his or her spouse and open up windows through which he or she answers questions about the affair.

Trust gradually is rebuilt through consistent behavioral reminders of fidelity. I often remind couples of President Ronald Reagan's words about nuclear disarmament, "Trust, yet verify." The offended spouse should seek specific evidence of fidelity. Does he or she have regular access to cell phone bills? Does the spouse call if there is a schedule change or if he or she will be late for dinner?

Assuming that mounting evidence suggests genuine remorse and repentance, it still is common for the injured spouse to deal with flashbacks and intrusive thoughts about the adultery. The spouse who has been betrayed must remember the words of Paul who admonished us to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). Individuals who consistently reject lies from Satan and dwell on truth. Being consistently reminded that one's true identity lies not in the spouse, but in Christ, and that evidence suggests a return to fidelity can help healing begin to take place.

Beyond "not thinking" certain things, this will require filling one's mind with truth. "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things" (Philippians 4:8).—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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



Associations help connect people to Jesus

As the Kentucky Baptist Convention rolls out its five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis this fall, Kentucky Baptist churches, agencies and institutions will partner with KBC staff to pursue the ambitious goal of "connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

One other group that will play a crucial role in the success of the effort is the local Baptist association. Kentucky Baptists have 75 associations across the state that help equip and involve congregations in local and regional ministry. This year's Associational Emphasis Week on May 23-30 is a timely opportunity to highlight and support both the historic and contemporary impact of Baptist associations.

The 25-word KBC mission statement adopted last year by the state convention Mission Board emphasizes that "the mission of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is to assist Kentucky Baptist Convention churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

The Mission Study Committee report noted that "the work of directors of missions and partnership with associations will be vital in carrying out the KBC mission, objectives and goals" in such areas as evangelism, missions, leader training, networking and strengthening churches. The report called on KBC leaders to help provide "enhanced training and resourcing for directors of missions."

Among the ways that is being addressed on a practical level is providing four regional church development strategists who are responsible for helping provide ministry resources to churches and associations. Regional strategists and the areas they serve are: French Harmon, North Central Kentucky; Jim McGee, South Eastern Kentucky; Ronnie Sivells, Western Kentucky; and Alan Witham, South Central Kentucky.

Witham said one of the key priorities of associa-

tions is "bringing churches together to do together what individual churches could not do by themselves."

"The association provides an intentional way to have fellowship and to serve with other churches," he added. "It provides a means through which the power of cooperation can operate and provides opportunities for churches to do missions, both locally and abroad."

Describing the role of the regional strategists, Witham said, "We want to assist local churches and associations in accomplishing their goals and dreams. Most churches and associations want to see growth in spiritual maturity and numerically. We can help do that by personalizing Kentucky Baptist Convention resources and going to the associations and churches to offer assistance."

Citing the 2004 Associational Emphasis Week theme, "Go, Be My Witnesses," Witham said, "It's a reminder that we should have an outward focus that extends beyond the walls of our churches."

"A lot of people are unaware of all the things being done in each association" in such areas as leader training, evangelism and mission projects, Witham noted. He added that next week's associational missions emphasis provides churches an opportunity to "increase awareness, highlight ministries and celebrate victories that have been accomplished" through cooperation on the associational level.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey also affirms the essential role played by Baptist associations. Noting recently that directors of missions "are serving in very strategic roles among Kentucky Baptists," Mackey emphasized that KBC leaders "value ministry partnerships with DOMS and associations."

As associations help Kentucky Baptists become more effective witnesses on the local level and beyond, they provide a vital link in "connecting all people to Jesus Christ."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Treannis Henderson

The centrality of forgiveness

By David Gushee

Jackson, Tenn.—The couple sits in front of me, weary with life and with each other. They barely glance at each other as we talk.

Their problems are many, but their most central issue is forgiveness. Bill has wronged Jill and Jill is unwilling to forgive. Jill has wronged Bill and Bill is unwilling to forgive. So there they sit, stewing in their anger, withholding from each other what each most needs—forgiveness. It is a scene I have witnessed many times in my ministry. It is a scene undoubtedly witnessed many times this week in pastoral offices and counseling suites.

In 1999, the South African Christian leader Desmond Tutu published a book with the stark title, "No Future Without Forgiveness." The book is a memoir of his experience chairing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. It was charged with the extraordinary task of sorting through the crimes of the apartheid years, telling the truth about these crimes, and facilitating forgiveness for them, thus moving the nation toward internal reconciliation.

His conclusion is embodied in his title: There is no future for South Africa without forgiveness.

There is no future for any of us without forgiveness. There is no future for any relationship without forgiveness. So why is it so incredibly difficult to forgive?

We need to understand forgiveness with precision if we are to make

progress on this issue. When we do think more deeply about it, we realize that this everyday concept actually is surprisingly complex.

I propose that forgiveness is a four-dimensional reality. In one sense, forgiveness is the act of pardoning an offense against you. If I scream at you in a fit of anger, you will feel that you have been wronged. To pardon me, you must decide to forgive me, you must decide to pardon my offense of screaming at you. If you do so, the act is put behind us, forgiven.

This helps us understand a second dimension of forgiveness—the decision to cancel the debt that has been created by another's wrongdoing against you. When you are wronged, at least in any significant way, you sense the other person owes you something to make it right.

The intuitive sense that a wrong act creates an imbalance in relationships is nicely symbolized in the classic image of the justice system as a blindfolded woman holding a set of scales. When someone is wronged, the scales become unbalanced. They are only balanced again when something is put in the second scale to even the weight. The wrongdoer must pay a price to balance those scales.

Even in intimate interpersonal relationships, those who are wronged at least begin the forgiveness process needing the scales to be balanced. The wrongdoer must at least acknowledge he or she has done you wrong and ask for forgiveness. When you accept that apology and

grant forgiveness, you are acknowledging the apology and request for forgiveness have themselves balanced the scales—or at least they have eased your sense of resentment enough that you can cancel the rest of the debt.

The third dimension of forgiveness is dissolving angry, resentful and bitter feelings toward the wrongdoer. When you forgive someone, you are set free from the need any longer to hold onto the anger that you have felt toward that person for the offense against you.

This leads to the final dimension of forgiveness—the full restoration of relationship. When you are wronged, you must forgive not only the offense but also the offender. The harm that has been done is not just that a wrong act has been committed but that a valued relationship has been damaged. If the forgiveness process is successful, not only is the particular act put behind you, the relationship also is restored. You are reconciled.

Because people are fallible, sinful creatures, each of us harms, offends and wrongs someone else on a daily basis. And when we are harmed we get angry. It is the most natural thing in the world to damage and then ruin our relationships because we are unable to forgive either the sins or the sinners who harm us.

This is why forgiveness is emphasized so constantly in the Bible. It is the decisive fact of the Christian message—God forgives sinners. No one is worthy of it. Everyone needs it.

David Gushee is a professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Kentuckians receive top honors for disaster relief work

Louisville—Three Kentucky Baptists recently were honored with Southern Baptists' highest awards for outstanding contributions to disaster relief.

Larry Koch, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was presented the Robert E. Dixon Award by the Southern Baptist North American Leadership Board for outstanding leadership and going "above and beyond the call of duty" to help disaster victims.

Bernard Randall, a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Monticello, and Terry Shinkle, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Burlington, were each honored with the Distinguished Service Award for their notable abilities and accomplishments as disaster relief volunteers.

The awards were presented at the

annual Disaster Relief Roundtable gathering, held this year in Hendersonville, Tenn. The honorees were nominated by peers and chosen by the Disaster Relief Roundtable Steering Committee, an elected group that provides leadership to the organization.

Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief ministry began in 1984 and is a part of a larger network of Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief volunteers organized through the North American Mission Board.

As a whole, Southern Baptists compose the third largest relief organization in the United States. Baptist units work in conjunction with other organizations, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross. Volunteers operate mobile mass feeding units; use chainsaws to clear tree limbs and debris in the wake of tornados, floods and hurricanes; clean mud out of flood-damaged homes; and more.

Koch, a member of Parkland Hills Baptist Church in Taylorsville, took on the role of disaster relief associate in 1997, after serving as pastor of three Kentucky Baptist churches. He had been a disaster relief volunteer since 1988 and has responded to 39 disasters from 1988 through the present.

"Larry has always been very willing and quick to respond to any need we've had in West Virginia,"

said Leon White, director of missions for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists. White nominated Koch for the award.

The Kentucky unit often is called upon to respond to serious disasters across the country, including the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York.

Kentucky influence

Mickey Caison, manager of adult volunteer mobilization for the North American Mission Board, said Koch's example as a volunteer inspired him to serve. Caison saw a video clip of Koch and other Kentucky volunteers serving in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo, which devastated Charleston, S.C., in 1989. In the clip, Koch challenged every state Baptist convention to get involved in disaster relief ministry.

"As a victim I took the challenge personally," said Caison, who was serving as a pastor in South Carolina at the time the hurricane struck. "God used that challenge to call me to become involved in Southern Baptist disaster relief."

Bernard Randall has been a disaster relief volunteer since 1996. Koch and fellow volunteer Harold Moore of Ashland nominated Randall for the national award.

"I knew from the beginning that he would be a good team member," Moore said. "It has been eight years now and my first impression has

proven to be an accurate one. Bernard's actions remind you of what Christ would do if He were on the response."

Randall's attitude accurately reflects the purpose of disaster relief ministry to serve Christ in the midst of crisis, Koch said.

"He sees disaster relief as his mission and he has given himself fully to it," Koch said. "To see him interact with the victims of a disaster is truly a joy. He becomes the hands, feet, eyes and ears of the Lord."

Terry Shinkle demonstrates a similar dedication and brings excellence to his work, Koch said.

Shinkle, who has been a disaster relief volunteer since 1989, uses his experience as a maintenance man to keep equipment for his Northern Kentucky-based unit in top condition and reliable.

Back injuries have forced Shinkle to slow injuries in recent years, but his spirit remains undimmed, Koch said.

"His heart is in disaster relief ministry and he has demonstrated over and over again his commitment to quality service for the Lord," Koch said.

Koch credited excellent equipment, talented people and strong volunteer commitment for Kentucky's reputation nationally among disaster relief units.

"They just love to be able to help people."

HONORS Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Coordinator Larry Koch (left), stands with Terry Henderson, disaster relief associate for the North American Mission Board; Bernard Randall; and Terry Shinkle during an awards ceremony at the Disaster Relief Roundtable Steering Committee. Koch, Randall and Shinkle were honored for their disaster relief work. (NAMB photo)



Connecting People to God

2004

SUPER SATURDAY

Church Leadership Conference

Connecting People to People!

Super Saturday will help your leadership team learn new skills and techniques to discover ways to **Connect People to God and to People**. Learn to express caring through teaching and gain confidence in your gifts and abilities.

Mark Your Calendar

August 14
Erlanger First Baptist
Owensboro Bellevue Baptist

August 21
Elizabethtown Severns Valley Baptist

August 28
Lexington Immanuel Baptist

September 11
Paducah Lone Oak First Baptist
Somerset Somerset First Baptist

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
Church Development and
Evangelism Team
P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433
888-254-5710 or 502-254-4780
Please visit our Web site at:
www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday

Super Saturday relates to the leader training, networking and strengthening churches objectives of the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis.

Remembering someone you love

Memorial Day a perfect time to pay tribute to loved one

As you approach Memorial Day, let me suggest you prayerfully consider making a tribute gift in memory of someone you love. Let the focus of your gift be a living memorial to further the cause of Christ in this world through that special person's church and/or other favorite Baptist causes. Tribute gifts allow you to remember a family member, friend or minister who has been a vital part of your life. Tribute gifts also help assure the accomplishment of Christ's mission.

You might desire to give in the form of a check. Such gifts generally are tax deductible in amounts up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. Gifts of appreciated assets, like securities, generally are tax deductible in amounts up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. When you give appreciated assets that you have owned for more than a year, you are entitled to a deduction for the full market value, not just the original cost amount. As a result, you receive a tax deduction on the unrealized gain without having to pay a capital gains tax.

You might have a cash value life insurance policy the original purpose of which no longer exists. Gifts of life insurance can be an excellent tax-advantaged way to make a memorial or tribute gift. Also, retirement funds may allow you to give more, while eliminating taxes.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Perhaps you desire to make a tribute gift, but you are not ready to part with that much money or property. You will be pleased to know there are ways to make such a gift without jeopardizing either your income or your security. These involve giving from what remains after you no longer need the asset.

Finally, a bequest in your will or trust is another way to specify a tribute gift. After distributing property to family members, you can name the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to receive the remainder of your estate as a living memorial or tribute gift.

Please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me about how to honor someone this Memorial Day.

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

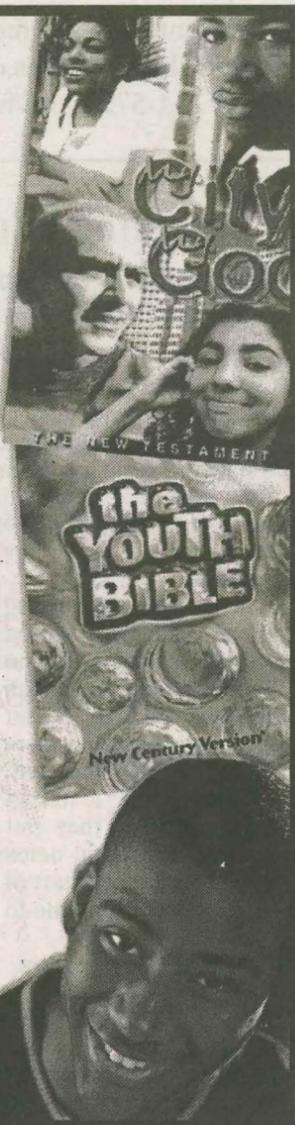
Share the Good News.

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

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



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Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "Meat offering baken in the ____" (Leviticus 2:7)
- 7 Part of a curved line
- 9 The sound of a cow
- 10 "As a man wipeth ____, wiping it, and turning it upside down" (2 Kings 21:13)
- 12 "My heart standeth in ____ of thy word" (Psalm 119:161)
- 14 Sweaty smell, in other words
- 16 Gold, chem. symbol
- 17 Peach state, abbr.
- 18 A cow's baby
- 20 Rounded dishes
- 21 Old Testament, abbr.
- 22 "The tongue of the wise ____ knowledge aright" (Proverbs 15:2)
- 24 Electrical engineer, abbr.
- 25 Compass point, abbr.
- 26 Tap gently
- 27 U.S. island commonwealth, abbr.
- 28 A man's name
- 31 Dish
- 34 Velocity, in other words, abbr.
- 35 Plan again
- 37 "Certain also of your own ____ have said, For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:28)
- 39 By way of
- 40 "Come unto ____, all ye that labour" (Matthew 11:28)
- 41 Occupational therapy, abbr.
- 42 "And he struck it into the pan, or ____, or caldron, or pot" (1 Samuel 2:14)
- 44 A shady place formed by trees or plants
- 46 A Catholic sister
- 48 Of the Navy
- 50 "____ maketh me to lie down in green pastures" (Psalm 23:2)

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- 51 Mouths or openings, Lat.
- 52 "For my ____ are many, and my heart is faint" (Lamentations 1:22)
- 53 "Yet they had a file for the ____ and the axes" (1 Samuel 13:21)
- 27 "Meat offering baken in a ____" (Leviticus 2:5)
- 29 Poem
- 30 "So the eyes of man are ____ satisfied" (Proverbs 27:20)
- 31 "Make clean the outside of the cup and the ____" (Luke 11:39)
- 32 California city, abbr.
- 33 "Believeth in him should not perish, but have ____ life" (John 3:15)
- 34 "The bowls, and the ____, ... wherewith they ministered, took they away" (Jeremiah 52:18)
- 36 "To him was given the key of the bottomless ____" (Revelation 9:1)
- 38 "And ____ lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran" (Genesis 11:26)
- 42 Knock out (boxing), abbr.
- 43 "And Seth lived ... and begat ____" (Genesis 5:6)
- 44 Average, abbr.
- 45 Barrels, abbr.
- 47 "I am the Lord that brought thee (Abram) out of ____ of the Chaldees" (Genesis 15:7)
- 49 "And Joshua sent men from Jericho to ____" (Joshua 7:2)
- 50 "____, everyone that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)

Last week's solution

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Baptist ethicist hopes to help couples 'get marriage right'

"I wanted to offer help to regular people struggling to make sense of their own marriages (and divorces)."

Ethicist David Gushee

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

Jackson, Tenn. (RNS)—David Gushee's concept of marriage shifted dramatically a few years ago after he counseled a couple entering a Christian union from rocky pasts.

When the pair met, the man was in a miserable marriage. His wife-to-be, who was attending Gushee's church, got involved with him against the advice of Christian friends. Friendship blossomed into a romance that took on a sexual dimension. When the man finally got divorced, the lovers wanted to get married and asked Gushee to perform the ceremony.

"In considering their request, I looked through my standard premarital counseling material and realized that it was geared toward the committed young Christian couple," says Gushee, a leading evangelical ethicist and author of a new book on marriage. "It assumed that the couple was Christian and was undertaking marriage on that basis."

Like most Christian clergy, Gushee would rather marriages began that way. Then it hit him that "marriage is marriage, whether the couple is explicitly Christian in their approach to it or not."

That recognition made him realize how wide the gap is between the biblical model of marriage and the cultural one.

In a time of great debate over the sanctity of marriage, Gushee offers insight, practical advice, case studies and true hope in his new book.

Titled "Getting Marriage Right:

Realistic Counsel for Saving and Strengthening Relationships," Gushee explores the problems of marriage and recommends principles to strengthen the institution and the relationship.

"It is not a typical marriage enrichment book," Gushee said, "but it can be very helpfully used in that way."

Gushee begins with the biblical concept of covenant, arguing that marriage is a covenant relationship involving binding mutual promises and obligations.

Such a relationship should include affectionate companionship, sex, procreation and partnership in child rearing if a couple has children. Christian marriage partners also have a right to expect sexual fidelity and a shared commitment to a permanent relationship, Gushee said.

That kind of relationship is a long way from the romance-laced, "me-oriented" approach to wedded bliss common in the United States, he said.

Beginning with practical scriptural models based on personal and pastoral experience, Gushee organizes his book into two parts. The first explores the decline of marriage as an institution, why the institution collapsed and the consequences of divorce for children. The second part explores how marriage might be rebuilt, paying particular attention to the union as a covenant.

Gushee, an ethicist and senior fellow at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., has seen the victims of di-

orce among his peers and students.

"In researching and writing the book, my vision grew. I became fascinated by marriage and divorce as complex intellectual issues," he said. "As a Christian ethicist and teacher, I wanted to offer a significant analysis of these issues. As a pastor and churchman, I wanted to

offer a perspective that could help ministers and church leaders do better in ministering to their hurting congregants.

"As a human being, I wanted to offer help to regular people struggling to make sense of their own marriages (and divorces). I wanted to help them 'get marriage right.'"



Let's Go!



The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions office needs your help with these projects this year:

Poland

- June 15-29 Construction/English classes in Olawa
- July 6-19 Senior Adult Camp in Warsaw
- July 14-27 Construction in Barycz Orphanage
- Sept. 7-29 Construction in Wroclaw

Europe (International Baptist Convention)

- Summer Construction in Metterich, Germany
- June Construction in Suffolk, England
- August 13-23 Vacation Bible School in Wiesbaden, Germany

New England

- June 28-July 2, July 12-16 & July 19-23 Kids' Camp at New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass.

To volunteer or get more information, call the KBC Partnership Missions office at (502) 244-6462 or toll-free (888) 254-5724; or visit www.kybaptist.org/partnership.

Admissions: A hopeful beginning

Interviews let prospective students & parents explore all Oneida has to offer

By Michael Spencer
Campus Minister

Last year I began working with our admissions department, interviewing prospective students and their families. I'm well aware of what a big step it is for any family to consider boarding school. It is an emotional time. I want them to know that Oneida Baptist Institute is a good choice for their child.

Some prospective students come to us with obvious needs. A quick perusal of their applications makes it clear that they need a change of schools. Some need a chance to regain trust and to change behaviors. Others need time away from home to mature and experience independence.

However, some students are more of a mystery. There is no obvious problem, but things are not going well. Many times parents have taken other steps to try to help their child, and these have not been as successful as they had hoped. I am acutely aware of all the trust those parents are placing in us, and I know our staff will work to find a way to motivate this young person.

The admissions process is a time when many questions are asked by the interviewer. It is also a time when students and families ask us questions, and we try to patiently and fully answer each one. Many aspects of Oneida might seem unusual to someone who hasn't lived in a dormitory, had required work or been in chapel every day.

Part of the interview is asking students about their personal goals. I am always impressed with

their insight. The most frequent goals are to improve grades, to participate in new opportunities, to grow closer to God and to make new friends. I also ask my interviewees about their dreams for life. At first, I expected I would hear a lot about being famous musicians and athletes. Instead I've heard many good dreams, from being a veterinarian or a pharmacist to being a professor of Asian studies or an animator.

At times I see tension, hurt and anger. When families aren't working well together, everyone can be frustrated, and a history of hurt is often simmering under the surface. I am glad to assure families that most OBI students make real improvements in grades, maturity, behavior and relating to adults.

A critical part of each interview is allowing the student to tell us that he or she is willing to be an OBI student and will abide by our rules and expectations. Every parent and every child freely chooses to be part of our school family.

No one is forced or ordered to be a student here. When the interview is finished, a great adventure begins. The student starts the process of moving into a dorm, making new friends and learning how to succeed as thousands have succeeded before him. Parents begin a tearful—and hopeful—farewell, as they trust that God has led them to our ministry to bless that young life.

We constantly are aware of the trust, hopes and dreams of students and families. With the support of our thousands of friends, we minister to families who need Oneida Baptist Institute as an alternative and a hope.

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



THIS IS ONEIDA

W.F. Underwood

Continuing to move from rock bottom

Ohio native likes studying to prepare for mission service

Growing up in Ohio, Ryan Krall usually went to church just to see friends. The influences of unchristian friends started to drive his behavior. "What my friends did, I did," Ryan said. "It led to alcohol addiction and greatly affected the relationship with my

parents." Ryan thought moving to an apartment would solve the problem. "I soon found myself hitting rock bottom," he said. "I lost my apartment because I couldn't pay the rent. In depression, I started drinking until they put me into a hospital detox unit. This was the start of the path that took me to Christ."

The detox program required Ryan to find a shelter. "Teen Challenge, an alcohol/drug treatment ministry, was the last resort, and I entered in January 2001," Ryan said. "During a revival meeting there on Feb. 26, the pastor asked a question, 'If you die tonight on your way home, where would you spend eternity?' I wasn't sure, and that night I asked Christ to take my life and do what He desired. A peace and a great joy came over me."

God also restored Ryan's relationship with his family. In September 2003, he graduated from the Teen Challenge International Ministry Institute.

"I felt God's pull on my heart toward missions," Ryan said. "I searched for a good missions Bible college and a pastor visiting our church (1989 alumnus Ron Renner) referred me to Clear Creek. I checked it out on the Internet and enrolled without visiting the campus."

Ryan likes the "family school" atmosphere of Clear Creek. "I feel like I'm one with folks here. All of us in Kelly Hall are in the same boat, trying to keep up with homework," he said. "My favorite class is hermeneu-

tics, breaking down the Scriptures to get the meat out of it; that's important. I look forward to what God is going to do in preparing me for mission work."



CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE

Bill Whittaker

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

Two new cable music channels target Christians

Nashville (ABP)—The cable TV industry, which didn't warm to the idea of a gospel music network a decade ago, will be asked to welcome two such channels this fall.

The Gospel Music Channel plans to offer music videos, concerts and biographies representing a broad range of Christian music—from gospel and soul to rock and rap, according to Associated Press.

It will compete with the MP Network, a cable channel that targets with an even narrower niche—18-to-34-year-old Christians.

A gospel cable channel in the 1990s failed to find enough local cable systems that would dedicate channel space to Christian music. But in the age of digital cable, when more channels are possible, industry observers say the new networks will have a better chance.

An estimated 1,400 radio stations nationwide air gospel music, according to the Gospel Music Association. Sales of religious music accounted for 50 million units in 2003, which is 5.8 percent of the music sold in the United States.

Study: Christian teens pirate music, too

By Adelle Banks
Religion New Service

Nashville (RNS)—The Gospel Music Association has embarked on a campaign to counter music piracy after commissioning a study that found purchasers of Christian music are as likely as other teens to engage in the practice.

Overall, the online survey of 1,449 teenagers found 80 percent of teenagers surveyed had engaged in at least one kind of music piracy—such as making copies of CDs for other people, downloading unauthorized free music or uploading music files to the Internet to share with others—in the past six months. Only 8 percent said unauthorized downloading and copying CDs for others was morally wrong.

But it was the more specific findings about Christian youth that association officials found disappointing, if not surprising.

Researchers found that 77 percent of born-again Christian teens engaged in music piracy compared to 81 percent of all other teens. Statistics for teen buyers of gospel, worship or contemporary Christian music were in the same range.

Hoping for better results

"On a gut level we had hoped that it would be true that Christian teens did have a little bit more of a moral stake in this issue," said Tricia Whitehead, spokeswoman

for the Nashville-based music association. "We hope that we can set ourselves apart a little bit and, in this case, we didn't."

With sales flat this year and down 5 percent last year, members of the Christian music industry suspected that they, along with the rest of the music world, were the victims of piracy, she said.

The association used the survey to help shape a new campaign it recently kicked off.

"This furthers our resolve that we, meaning the industry, parents and spiritual leaders, need to do a better job educating the hearts and minds of young people to the basic biblical principle, 'Thou shalt not steal,'" said GMA President John Styll at a news conference announcing the "Millions of Wrongs Don't Make It Right" campaign.

The association has developed a five-page brochure—something they do want to be downloaded—that can be posted on artists' Web sites and available at their concerts.

"Most of us would never even consider stealing something—say, a picture or a piece of clothing—from a friend's house," the brochure reads. "Yet when it comes to stealing digital recordings of copyrighted music, people somehow seem to think the same rules don't apply."

The brochure goes on to list criminal penalties—as high as \$250,000 in fines or five years in

prison. It recommends uninstalling peer-to-peer software—mostly used for illegal downloading—and opting for authorized Web sites.

Invoking music stars

It also features quotes and photos of artists Steven Curtis Chapman, Stacie Orrico and Shaun Groves, who give their perspective on the matter.

"Students I've spoken with adopt a Robin Hood complex, saying they're stealing from wealthy people and therefore it's not wrong," Groves said. "The reality is that my wife and two kids live in an apartment. We drive 10-year-old Camrys, not BMWs."

Study researchers found that teens rarely get moral advice about music downloading or CD copying from parents or church leaders.

"They've been influenced most often by their peers when it comes to just talking about this issue," said David Kinnaman, vice president of the Barna Group.

Whitehead emphasized that industry representatives aren't shunning technology but are asking teens to use legal services to download their preferred music.

"If they still want to continue on that idea that they can get one song and put together their own album, they can do that legally and at a higher quality and for a really reasonable cost," she said.

Musical notes

Among the key findings from the survey on music piracy:

■ 77 percent of born-again teens have engaged in music piracy in the past six months.

■ 21 percent of teens said that both CD copying and unauthorized downloading are morally OK.

■ 65 percent of teens have a "whatever works" philosophy, saying music piracy is not a moral issue or saying either CD burning or downloading is fine while the other is not.

■ 58 percent of teens who believe piracy is wrong have engaged in the practice in the last six months.

■ 77 percent of purchasers of contemporary Christian music have engaged in music piracy.

■ 80 percent of purchasers of worship music have engaged in music piracy.

Source: The Barna Group

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SOAK A CITY YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCES

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2004

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The Soak A City Youth Evangelism Conference is a great opportunity to train and involve your students in evangelism and missions. In order to encourage more participation, we are reducing the cost to \$40 per person and have secured the local YMCA as a place for your students to stay. Please contact Jay Parker at KBC for more information.



"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." — John 7:38



Soak A City relates to the evangelism and missions objectives of the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis.



Church Development and Evangelism Team
P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

877-254-5650 or 502-244-6465
Please visit our Web site at:

www.kybaptist.org/soakacity

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following projects, missionaries and volunteers in Poland, Brazil and the International Baptist Convention in Europe, where Kentucky Baptists have partnerships:

■ **Studia**, a Christian coffee house in Czestochowa, Poland, that is run by Baptists and is becoming a popular hangout for students.

■ **A military policeman** who is being disciplined to plant house churches among ethnic Germans in Brazil.

■ **Volunteers** who will travel to Sofia, Bulgaria, this month and next to provide evangelism, musical drama training, community playground construction and a national training conference for children's Sunday school teachers.

■ **Volunteer teams** from Tennessee and Florida serving next month in Jena and Weimar, Germany.

■ **Massive outreach** efforts planned this summer to take the gospel to the 2.3 million people in Budapest, Hungary. Leaders estimate that fewer than 5 percent have a personal relationship with Jesus.

■ **Special need:** St. Paul Vincent Baptist Church in Nice, France, needs an interim pastor from mid-June to mid-September. For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AUBURN**—New Friendship Church will celebrate 170 years of ministry with Homecoming Day May 23. Former Pastor **Tom Lawhon** will speak in the morning worship service. Activities include a noon lunch and an afternoon talent and music program.

■ **BEDFORD**—Antioch Church will hold revival services May 21-23 with **Evert Staib** as evangelist.

■ **BEECHMONT**—Hazel Creek Church will hold revival services May 23-26 with **Don Piper** as evangelist.

■ **BEREA**—Bethel Church recently called **Billy Long** as associate pastor.

White Lick Church recently called **Tony Renner** as youth director.

■ **BREMEN**—Mount Pisgah Church recently called **David Gardner** as interim pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Maple Grove Church recently called **Ronnie Hooks** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSBURG**—Pleasant View Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary June 27. **Matt Boyd** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church called **Chuck Sumner** as minister of youth effective May 23.

■ **CLOVERPORT**—Cloverport Church recently called **Daniel Calves** as pastor.

■ **DWALE**—Benedict Church recently honored **Gordon Fitch** for 25 years of ministry.

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

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

■ **GREENVILLE**—New Cypress Church recently called **Tommy Drury** as pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Shawnee Run Baptist Church recently called **Ralph Neal** as pastor.

■ **HAWESVILLE**—**Wallace Gooch** recently resigned as pastor of Mount Eden Church.

■ **HENDERSON**—Watson Lane Church recently called **David Mabrey** as youth director.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church recently called **Ron Wilburn** as supply music minister. **Phil Schultz** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Farmdale Church recently called **Michael Sprowles** as minister of music.

Fern Creek Church will present a youth and children's choir concert June 2, 6:30 p.m. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Korean First Church recently called **Paul Kim** as pastor.

Westport Road Church called **Chip Pendleton** as pastor effective May 31. He currently is pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Shepherdsville.

■ **MORTONS GAP**—**Don Canode** recently resigned as pastor of Salem Church.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will host a night of Southern gospel music presented by the church's music ministry, May 23, 6 p.m. **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

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.

12-16 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.

14-18 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.

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

14-18 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.

15-16 Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis.

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

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

19-26 Kentucky Changers, Calloway.

19-26 Kentucky Changers, Hopkinsville.

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

21-25 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.

21-25 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 4-6.

21-25 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.

25-26 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek, grades 7-12.

25-26 GA Overnight, Jonathan Creek, grades 4-6.

25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, grades 1-3.

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

■ **PAINT LICK**—Mount Tabor Church recently called **Tim Robbins** as pastor.

■ **PHILPOT**—West Point Church recently called **George Craig** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—**Roger O'Bryan** recently resigned as pastor of Eddy

Creek Church.

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

■ **WHITESVILLE**—Old Panther Creek Church recently called **Henry Delk** as pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FUNDRAISING: Fundraising professional since 1988. Extensive work with churches and Christian organizations. Represent over 30 national companies. Bramblett Marketing Associates, (800) 867-1876; bma@ziggycom.net.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Buechel Park Baptist Church is located in Louisville, Ky., and is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. BPBC enthusiastically affirms the historic traditions of Baptist life. Responsibilities include worship planning, and leading adult and youth choirs. Send resumé to: Personnel Ministry Team, Buechel Park Baptist Church, 2403 Hikes Lane, Louisville, KY 40218.

SEEKING: Minister to students. An historic church in Beaufort, S.C., is seeking an individual who is called to be a minister to students. The individual who fills this position will be responsible for ministry with middle, high school and college students. A master's degree from an accredited seminary is required and three years of experience is helpful. Further information is available on www.bcob.org. Send resumé including philosophy of ministry to: Ms. Pat Nolan, chairperson, Minister to Students Search Committee, PO Box 879, Beaufort, SC 29901.

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: Experienced full-time minister to youth for a growing, 1,500-member congregation affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Applicants must have educational training, ministry experience and a strong passion for the following ministries: evangelism, Bible study, discipleship/spiritual formation, missions involvement for youth. Must have experience with developing one-on-one relationships with youth; planning retreats and mission trips; and working with volunteers. Qualified applicants may send resumé to: Minister to Youth Search Committee, St. Matthews Baptist Church, 3515 Grandview Ave., Louisville, KY 40207; or e-mail: jwatts@smbc.louisville.org.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/associate pastor in dynamic, growing Southern Baptist church. Must be willing to become a full-time member of the community. Bachelor's degree required; salary and benefit package commensurate with experience and education. Send resumé to: Cynthiana Baptist Church, PO Box 355, Cynthiana, KY 41031; or e-mail: waynespivey@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of children and youth. Correspond by calling Pastor Brad King at (859) 236-4956.

SEEKING: Church planter to work with a team as we plan a new work in Northern Kentucky sponsored by Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and American Baptists. Dream with us now; funding comes later. Contact latoniabaptist@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Songleader for Sunday services for small rural church. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction, Ky. Contact Pastor Jimmy Parker at (502) 833-1626.

SEEKING: Youth pastor for Gethsemane Baptist Church, 10400 Blue Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40229. The candidate must feel a sense of God's call to the ministry with a gift to teach, preach and administer the youth program. Resumé should be sent to the church to the attention of the Personnel Committee. E-mail: GethsemaneBaptist@aol.com. This is a part-time position—benefits include salary and housing.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Salem Baptist Church, Shelby County. Send resumé to: Pastor Selection Committee, 8311 Mount Eden Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumé to Ovesen Heights Baptist Church, PO Box 253, Hodgenville, KY 42748-0253.

SEEKING: Kentucky Baptist Convention has an immediate opening for a senior accountant. This position has primary responsibility for payroll, general ledger, fixed assets and reconciliations. Should possess strong analytical and problem-solving skills, good communication skills, high energy, self-starter, ability to work both independently and as a team player, prioritize multiple projects to meet deadlines. Strong computer skills, with knowledge of spreadsheets and word processing software. Degree in accounting and 3-5 years experience required. Great environment, attractive pay and benefits. Mail resumé to: Administrative Services Department, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433; or e-mail to: sracct@kybaptist.org.

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; e-mail: wbc1849@infionline.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.

Freeing India's sex slaves

Christian couple seek help in offering hope & God's love to forgotten women

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

Allahabad, India (BP)—Shobha has sad eyes. Tired eyes.

Not dead eyes, yet. But dying. The heavy makeup on her face can't hide it.

She sits in a doorway at the end of a grimy lane in Allahabad, a city in north India, and warms her hands over a brazier against the chill. A dingy sweater the color of faded peaches covers part of the garish blue sari she wears to attract customers.

Her 4-year-old daughter, Aiesha, alternately hugs her knee or plays a few steps away.

It's a slow day. A cold wave—or the recent police raid on the area—has temporarily driven away clients for Shobha and other prostitutes huddling in other doorways nearby.

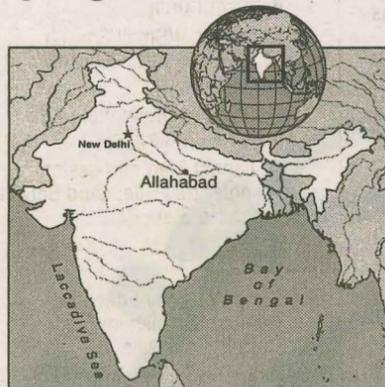
Sometimes Shobha entertains one man a day, sometimes five, sometimes more. The going rate is 30 to 50 rupees per visit, about a dollar. A healthy percentage of her income goes to the local madam and other assorted pimps and middlemen.

Shobha came to Allahabad's red-light district eight years ago, she says, because her family was poor and she was hungry. She doesn't say whether her father pushed her—or sold her—into the flesh trade. Such transactions are common for rural families in Uttar Pradesh, India's most crowded state, and one of its poorest.

Village parents often sell a young daughter outright to sex traffickers, who can make a tidy profit by selling her in turn to urban pimps and brothels. Village girls can be bought in Nepal for 10,000 rupees (little more than \$200) and sold in Delhi for up to 60,000 (nearly \$1,300), says an observer of the trade.

Sometimes, he adds, parents "mortgage" a daughter for a contracted period—usually several years. By the time they save the money to redeem her (if that time ever comes), "she has suffered a lot."

Shobha hugs her own daughter,



who lives in her home village with relatives, can escape the life she has led. As for herself, she says, "I have no hope. I have only this place."

Shobha claims to be over 30, and looks it. But local prostitutes (more than 1,100 reportedly work in Allahabad's main red-light area) often say they're older than they really are.

"These girls usually start around age 14," says Qamar Joy Zaidi, a local Christian leader who has aided many women trapped in the trade. "By the time they are 18 or 19, they're finished." Physically exhausted, dead inside.

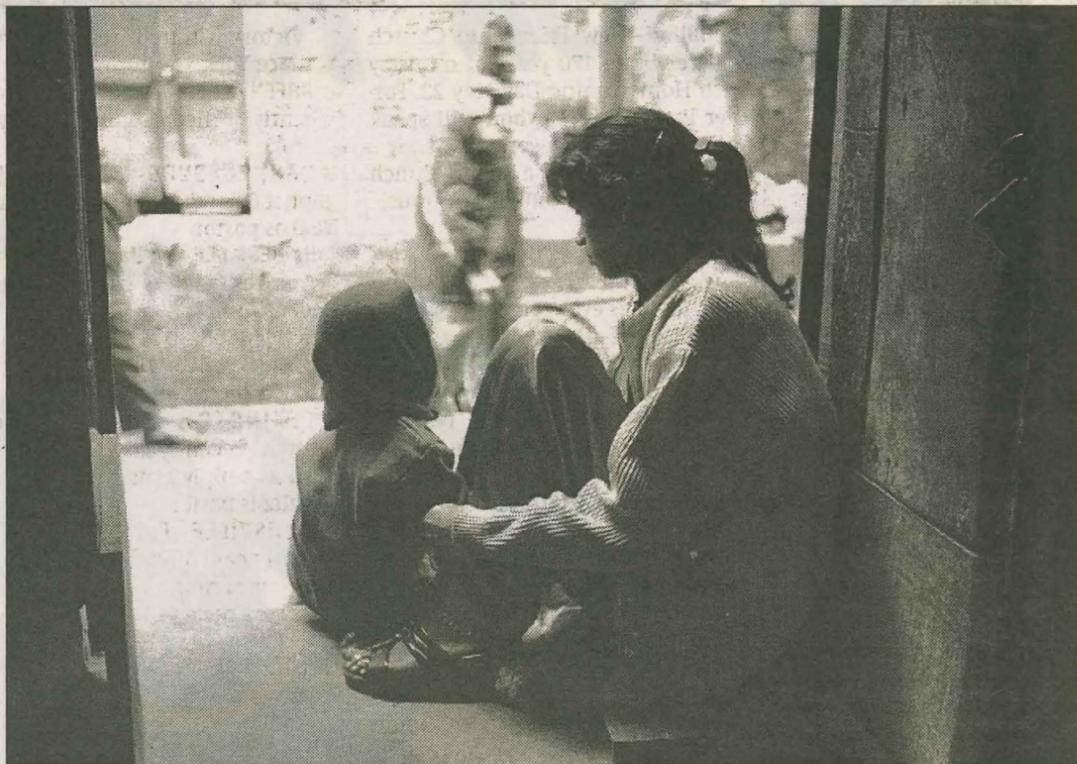
Working to rescue

That's why Zaidi, his wife, Grace, and their team of mostly female volunteers try to rescue girls from prostitution while they're young, or better still, before they become entangled in the business in the first place. Otherwise, he says, they become "hardboiled eggs," essentially beyond reach.

Food. Shelter. Acceptance. Freedom from violence, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Literacy. Job skills. Basic civil rights. That's what these women need to have any hope of breaking the bonds of sexual slavery.

Most of all, they need the saving love of Christ.

Joy and Grace Zaidi have waged a long, often lonely struggle to help women and children victimized by the vast Indian sex industry. They've made some enemies along the way. So far, they've received little support from the minority



PAPA'S PASSION Qamar Joy Zaidi hugs an abused child who has found love and comfort at the Christian shelter Zaidi and his wife started in Allahabad, India. The young women and children there, many of whom have been rescued from sex traffickers, call him Papa.

Christian community in north India. Respectable pastors don't want to be seen with prostitutes. Congregations don't want them showing up in church on Sunday.

Zaidi can deal with opposition. Years ago he was jailed for criticizing Indira Gandhi, India's late prime minister. In his jail cell, he recounts, "I found the living Christ." Mrs. Zaidi, a widely respected community leader, ran for mayor of Allahabad a few years ago (she lost, but garnered thousands of votes in a surprisingly strong race).

Needy people of all kinds, especially women and children, find shelter and solace in their home and through several social organizations the Zaidis lead. Their telephone often rings late at night about another female victim of a beating, burning or rape.

Together, they form a Christian "power couple" in Uttar Pradesh, and a significant force for positive change.

But they're grandparents now. "I'm getting old," Zaidi protests with a trademark wry grin. They could use some help. They're starting to get it from some evangelical friends, including Southern Baptists, who want to see the gospel spread among both Hindu and Muslim families in Uttar Pradesh, home to 166 million people.

Zaidi, whose father was a Muslim, has excellent contacts in both the Hindu and Muslim communities, particularly in Varanasi,

a city holy to Hindus that has a large Muslim minority. There he partners with an organization that aids Muslim women in need. And, like other Indian women, they have many needs.

Tradition dies hard

Tradition, particularly in a land as old as India, dies hard. Half a century after India became the world's largest democracy, countless women remain little more than property, forced laborers, objects of exploitation. They have few rights under the law, which is seldom enforced anyway in many parts of north India. That goes for Hindus, Muslims, even minority Christian women. To become second-class citizens would be a step up.

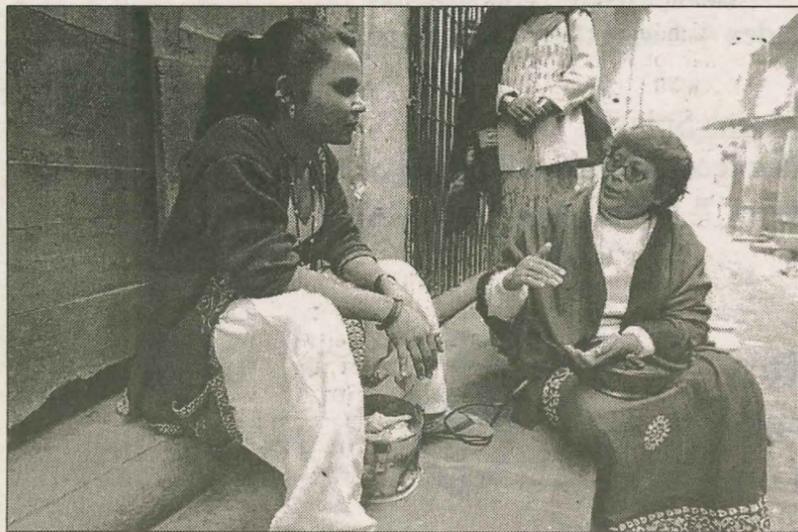
"The birth of a girl here is a burden, not a joy. If she is born first, it is a curse," Zaidi explains. Often she is not even fed properly, much less loved, nurtured and educated. Mortality and suicide rates for Indian women are among the highest in the world.

Those factors, along with poverty and geographical location, contribute to the sex industry in Uttar Pradesh. Zaidi describes the region as a "big bowl" into which are poured thousands of children and young women lured, sold or kidnapped from within the state as well as from neighboring Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar and across international borders from Nepal, Bangladesh and other countries.

How to break the cycle? By fighting for the right of all Indian women to be treated like human beings. By helping them change what so many see as their "fate" of abuse and exploitation. By cherishing them as children of God, deserving of love because He loves them. By demonstrating His love in a way they can see, understand and respond to in faith.

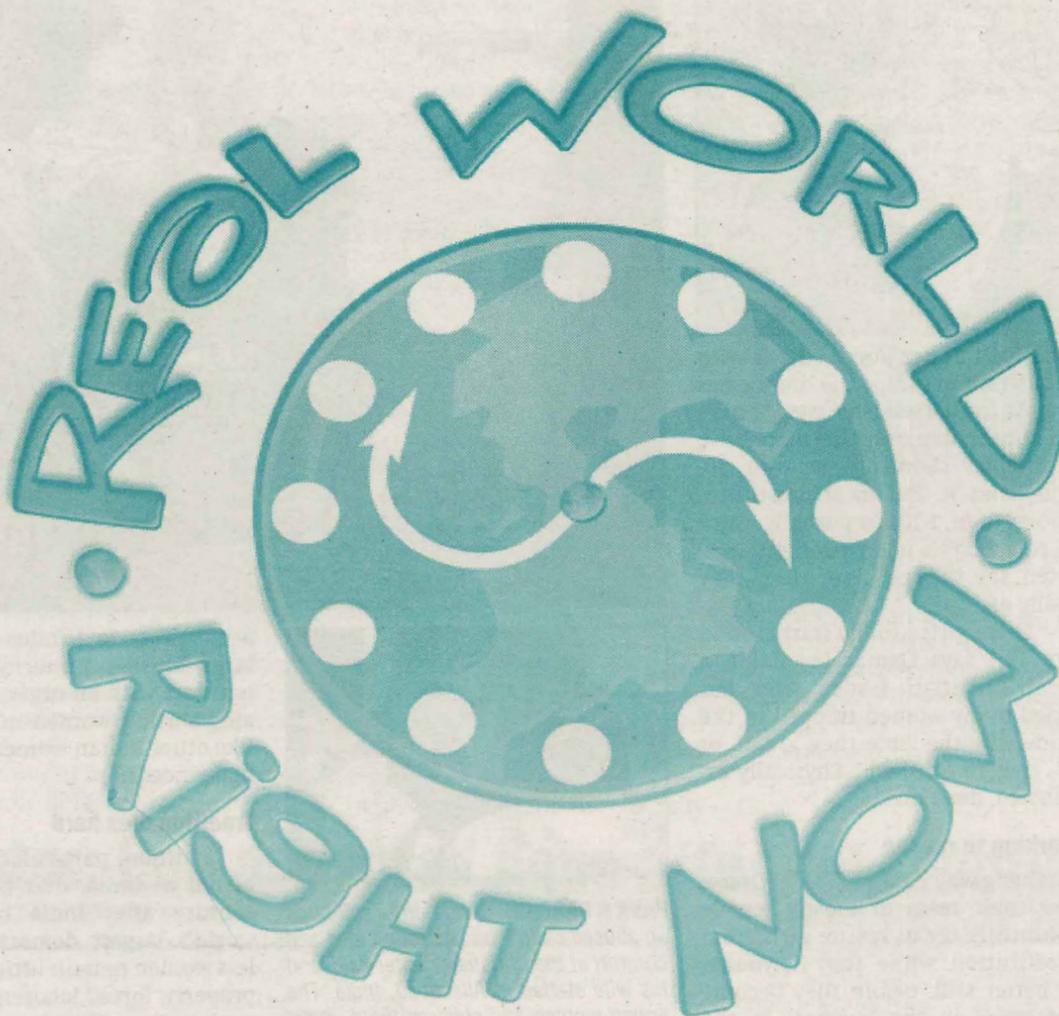
"These are my people," Zaidi says. He sees them as the rejected, invisible seeds of the future church in north India. If other Christians join him in serving them, he may be right.

WAITING Shobha, a prostitute in Allahabad, India, sits in a doorway at the end of a lane with her 4-year-old daughter, Aiesha, as a potential client walks by. Sometimes Shobha entertains one man a day, sometimes five or more. The going rate is 30 to 50 rupees per visit, about \$1. (IMB photos)



SEEING THE NEEDS Grace Zaidi (right), a Christian community leader in north India, talks to a prostitute about ways to escape the sex trade. To escape sexual slavery, Indian women and girls need food, shelter, acceptance, freedom from sexually transmitted diseases, education, job skills and basic civil rights. Zaidi and her husband also seek to share the love of Christ.

MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP



Mission Adventure Camp for Girls at Cedar Crest

Weeklong Camp Sessions

June 14-18	Grades 4-6
June 21-25	Grades 4-6
June 28- July 2	Grades 4-6
July 5-9	Grades 4-10
July 12-16	Grades 4-10

Mother/ Daughter Overnights

June 18-19	Grades 1-3
June 25-26	Grades 1-3
July 9-10	Grades 1-3

Overnights at Jonathan Creek June 25-26

Mother/ Daughter Overnight

is for girls who have completed grades 1-3 and their mothers (or "mother substitute").

GA Overnight

is for girls who have completed grades 4-6 and their chaperones.

Acteens Splash

is for teenage girls who have completed grades 7-12 and their chaperones.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

888-254-5726

www.kywmu.org

502-244-6485

kywmu@kybaptist.org

