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WMU Kentucky Notes



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More Americans believe in devil, hell, poll finds

Princeton, N.J. (RNS)—While the portion of Americans who believe in God has remained relatively steady at upward of 90 percent, increasing numbers of Americans believe in heaven, hell, angels and the devil, a new Gallup poll shows. According to Gallup's Tuesday Briefing report, 81 percent of Americans believe in heaven, and 70 percent believe in hell. Those figures are up from 72 percent and 56 percent, respectively, since 1997.

Belief in heaven or hell is stronger among Republicans, frequent church-goers, Southerners and those with a high school diploma or less.

More than three-fourths of Americans—78 percent—believe in angels, which is up from 72 percent in 1994. Belief in the devil also has grown—70 percent of Americans believe in the devil, up from 65 percent in 1994.

"As science, technology and rational explanations uncover and explain more and more about the known world, Americans are likely becoming more intrigued by the unknown," said Albert Winseman, Gallup's religion and values editor.

The 2004 figures are based on a telephone poll of 519 adults.

See no ethics



Does advertising study reflect your workplace?

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Arlington, Texas (ABP)—In a study that could have implications for most workplaces, two researchers recently completed a comprehensive study of advertising executives that found they often fail to see the ethical implications of their work.

Even those ad execs who do see moral problems often refuse to talk about them, said Meme Drumwright, who suggested this "see-no-evil, speak-no-evil" attitude permeates much of the corporate world.

"Our thinking is that the problem extends to other industries as well," said Drumwright, associate

professor of advertising at the University of Texas in Austin.

But she noted later that churches can nurture ethical thinking among professionals.

Drumwright, chair of the bridging disciplines program in ethics and leadership at the University of Texas, and Patrick Murphy, a marketing professor at the University of Notre Dame, interviewed more than 50 advertising practitioners at 29 agencies in eight cities to discover how they perceive ethical issues.

The researchers said most of the professionals they interviewed suffer from "moral myopia," a distorted moral vision that keeps ethical is-

ssues from coming into focus, and "moral muteness," an unwillingness to talk about moral concerns.

In an article to be published in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Advertising, they write: "We do not believe that moral myopia or moral muteness is unique to advertising or marketing. Indeed, the recent round of corporate scandals suggests that moral myopia and moral muteness are apparent in many industries."

The researchers noted that they collected their data before the collapse of Enron, whose bankruptcy is linked to morally questionable accounting procedures.

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Oak Grove ministry strengthens marriages for military couples

By Amy Ritchart
Clarksville (Tenn.) Leaf-Chronicle

Oak Grove—Master Sgt. Bobbie Parks and his wife, Stephanie, can readily list the many reasons their marriage is strong.

As they approach their 15th wedding anniversary, the couple has brought their family through the challenges of military life, and they know each other well.

Nonetheless, they chose to attend a six-week marriage seminar.

As part of a growing succession of happily-married couples, the Parks were seeking to safeguard their relationship in a country where—on average—about 18,000 divorces are finalized each week.

The National Center for Health Statistics recorded 957,200 U.S. divorces finalized in 2000 in the 46 states that track divorce statistics.

The Parks recently completed the "Covenant Marriage" course at First Baptist Church of Oak Grove, and earlier this month renewed their vows in a 22-couple marriage ceremony at the church.

"The class is really focused on protecting your marriage," Mrs.



I DO Bob and Stephanie Parks exchange vows before Roy Callahan during a Covenant Marriage ceremony at First Baptist Church of Oak Grove. Happily married, the couple used a marriage seminar to build upon their relationship. (Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle photo by Alicia Archuleta)

Parks said. "There are so many things, especially being in the military, that can separate you. It's really important to protect your marriage and bring your family together."

The Covenant Marriage class is designed to help couples build skills

in communication, intimacy and conflict resolution, God's role in marriage, and thus, sustain a lasting marriage, said instructor Mary Callahan.

The class is part of a new national social revolution making an

effort to counter the divorce rate. Well-known programs include the Practical Application of Intimate Relationship Skills and the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program—the most popular course that is also used by the U.S. military.

Couples learn skills to help them navigate life's challenges and help their marriage flourish, Callahan said. Class members also are encouraged to look at marriage as a binding institution, rather than a contract, which can be broken.

In Montgomery County about 20,000 divorces were recorded in 2000, according to census figures.

"With so many divorces, we want to make sure we promote covenant marriages," Callahan said. "A covenant is really different than a contract. You are in it for the long run."

Callahan said the course grew out of First Baptist's military support group that began during the 101st Airborne Division's one-year deployment to Iraq. Now the course is ongoing. "We'll start more marriage covenant classes in the fall," Callahan said.

□ See *Oak Grove ministry* ... Page 3

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 2.

BAPTIST
DIGEST

Tony Rengifo, a Southern Baptist missionary to Mexico, died May 19 in Raytown, Mo., of complications from an ongoing illness. Rengifo, a native of Peru, and his wife, the former Maria Renee Torres, were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in 1987. He served as a professor at Costa Rica Baptist Theological Seminary in San Jose until he transferred last year to the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary in Mexico City. Rengifo, 65, was undergoing treatment for leukemia and blood clots.

The General Board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting May 18-19, adopted a statement affirming Christian involvement in public schools. The statement affirms "the ultimate responsibility of all parents for their children's education, and their right to choose alternatives."

SBC mission boards launch joint 'Acts 1:8 Challenge'

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

Woodstock, Ga. (BP)—Holding a joint meeting for the first time in history, trustees of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and International Mission Board adopted a resolution affirming the Acts 1:8 Challenge, a missions emphasis for local churches.

The new initiative, jointly developed by the two mission boards in consultation with state Baptist conventions and associations, is designed to help local churches accept Jesus' challenge to reach "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth."

A joint celebration service was held May 19 at the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church in Woodstock. In addition to NAMB and IMB trustees, participants included state convention executives, associational directors of missions and Woman's Missionary Union leadership.

"This could be the beginning tonight of revival around the world, for the hearts of men to be aflame with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ," said Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Comprehensive strategy

In accepting the Acts 1:8 Challenge, churches commit to embracing a comprehensive missions strategy in partnership with associational, state, national and international missions.



ACTS 1:8 Southern Baptist Convention leaders—including trustees of both the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board—kneel in prayer at the close of the May 19 launch of the Acts 1:8 Challenge. (BP photo by John Swain)

"Christ reminded us that our mission field is the 'uttermost,' but it is also Jerusalem. It is Samaria, but it is also Judea," said Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, representing state convention leaders. "It is the whole of our mission field that He has called us to and that He has empowered us by the Holy Spirit to reach—not to our glory, but to His glory."

The service included a public commitment by the first two churches to accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge—Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., and First Baptist Concord of Knoxville, Tenn. The "Acts 1:8 Covenant" was signed by the churches' pastors—Terry Fox of Kansas, chairman of the NAMB board, and Doug Sager of Tennessee,

IMB board chairman.

The covenant indicates partner churches will "be intentionally engaged in the Great Commission, awakening Christians to God's calling to join Him on mission, and helping take the gospel to all people groups."

"Kingdom-growing responses"

The covenant also suggests a series of "Kingdom-growing responses to the commitment"—including raising awareness of missions in the church, prayer, giving, personal participation in missions and evangelism, and starting new churches.

IMB President Jerry Rankin noted, "We have always had a vision for being obedient to the Great Commission task of our Lord. But could

it be that God has now brought us to the point of learning to face that task with a servant heart of empowering, enabling and facilitating one another with a new dimension of cooperation?"

NAMB President Robert Reccord said he believes God is working in the hearts of young people today to take leadership of Southern Baptist mission agencies.

"I believe God has ordered our steps to give us something so critically important that I want to give them something worth having," he said. "I want to be able to say, 'I'm Southern Baptist, and I'm proud to be Southern Baptist. For I'm a child of the King, and I'm going to tell anybody I can about the King, win them to the King and disciple them for the King.'"

Jim Freedman, president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions and director of missions for Nashville Baptist Association, noted that associational ministry has been around for 279 years—long before state or national bodies. And it was there that churches first realized the value of cooperative missions.

"We can reach more people for Jesus together," he said. "With Baptist associations across the Southern Baptist Convention, we can reach our Jerusalems."

Churches interested in learning more about the Acts 1:8 Challenge can visit www.ActsOne8.com or call (800) 422-8718.

IMB 'cautiously optimistic' about finances

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

Atlanta (BP)—The financial outlook for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board is optimistic but "tempered with caution," the board's vice president for finance told trustees during their May 17-18 meeting in Atlanta.

Trustees named leaders for two regions of overseas work during the meeting and tightened oversight on the selection of non-Southern Baptists to serve in volunteer projects through the IMB.

Major cutbacks in IMB spending in 2003 succeeded in restoring positive financial operating trends while still allowing the agency to sustain significant growth in the missionary force, reported David Steverson, the board's finance officer.

The IMB was forced to limit appointments and cut stateside staff in June 2003 because income from churches was not keeping pace with growth in the number of new missionaries coming forward for overseas service.

"Adjustments paid off"

"The adjustments we made paid off, but—more importantly—when Southern Baptists were informed about the changes we were forced to make, they responded in a marvelous way," Steverson said.

Receipts for the 2003 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering were running about \$20.5 million ahead of the previous year's pace, and Steverson said he is anticipating a final total of more than \$135 million—a 17.4 percent increase over 2002—when the books close this week.

He said the IMB has seen an increase in net assets of 9 percent. He added, however, that net assets will have to increase another 29 percent to return the agency to the financial position it held in 2000 before it began using

unrestricted funds to fill the gap between the cost of supporting new missionaries and income from the churches.

Trustees elected Phil Templin, former leader of the IMB's Middle America region, to lead the newly formed Middle America and Caribbean region. They also named Dickie Nelson, former leader of the board's Caribbean Basin region, to lead the new South America region.

Trustees created those regions during their April meeting by consolidating the Middle America, Caribbean Basin, Western South America and Eastern South America regions. The regional leader position in Eastern South America was vacant. Larry Gay, leader of the Western South America region, is considering other opportunities offered him by IMB leadership.

Consolidating those four regions into two—along with a similar action in other regions at the April meeting—reduced the number of overseas administrative areas from 15 to 11.

The trustees' overseas committee expressed concern about an increase in the number of non-Southern Baptists participating in short-term volunteer projects through the IMB. The trustees approved three actions proposed by the committee:

- Enforcing a requirement that all volunteers submit information about their denominational affiliation prior to acceptance for service and maintaining a record-keeping system to track that information.

- Clarifying and possibly redefining the policy that governs participation of non-Southern Baptist volunteers to ensure the integrity of witness and ministry efforts.

- Clearly communicating that policy to staff and field personnel on a regular basis and asking IMB staff to regularly report to the overseas committee on non-SBC volunteer participation in IMB projects.

NAMB trustees approve agreement with new Puerto Rico convention

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has entered into a cooperative agreement with the newly formed Convention of Southern Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico.

NAMB trustees approved the agreement during their May 19 meeting at the board's headquarters in Alpharetta, Ga.

Also during the meeting, trustees appointed Mike Carlisle as vice president of a new Strategic Communications Group, agreed to begin endorsing chaplains to serve with Southern Baptist disaster relief and approved 71 missionaries for the United States and Canada.

In other action, NAMB President Robert Reccord urged trustees to be advocates for the Federal Marriage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Citing the legalization of same-sex "marriage" in Massachusetts, he encouraged trustees to express their views to legislators and urge others to do the same.

"It only becomes a matter of time until the dominoes start falling in other states if people of faith do not start standing up firmly and quickly," he said. "Time is running out, and if somebody doesn't get moving fast, time is going to be gone."

The cooperative agreement with the Puerto Rico convention marked a significant change in a longstanding relationship. Before the convention was formed last year, churches and associations in Puerto Rico related directly to NAMB through national missionaries. The new

relationship is the same as that of state conventions, in which the convention and NAMB will partner on supporting missionaries and missions work.

The formation of NAMB's Strategic Communication Group was part of a reorganization designed to increase NAMB's effectiveness across a broad range of media. Included under the group are all Internet, radio, television, video production, editing, design and marketing functions. Although FamilyNet, NAMB's broadcasting arm located in Fort Worth, Texas, remains a wholly owned subsidiary, production of some programming aired through FamilyNet will be created by the new communications group.

Carlisle has served at NAMB since 1998, most recently as chief information officer. A former pastor and church planter in California, he also has served as national director for Evangelism Explosion and as an assistant to the president for Times Mirror Cable Television.

The first Southern Baptist disaster relief chaplain, endorsed May 18, is Daniel Lovin, an Illinois pastor who has been endorsed to work with the Illinois Baptist State Association.

NAMB also implemented a new area of chaplaincy by recognizing eight inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola as "certified chaplain's assistants." The inmates have been taking courses through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Literacy missions legacy

Ministry pioneer Lillian Isaacs returns to Kentucky for conference at Clear Creek

By Jessica Perkins
Kentucky Baptist Conventin

Pineville—What started out as a simple request by Lillian Isaacs 45 years ago quickly became the basis for a life-long venture of bringing literacy missions to Southern Baptists.

With the support of First Baptist Church of Pineville and Women's Missionary Union, Isaacs laid the groundwork for literacy ministry, which includes teaching children, adults and internationals how to read.

Last month, she was back in Kentucky, at the site where it all began.

Isaacs was the special guest at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2004 Literacy Missions Conference, April 23-24 at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

During Isaacs' visit, Clear Creek officials also presented a \$10,000 check to the Lillian Isaacs Foundation for the continued support of literacy missions.

The ministry took root in May 1959 after Isaacs attended a WMU meeting at First Baptist, Pineville, on behalf of a woman in her community who had a desire to teach people in Appalachia how to read and study their Bibles.

The pews of churches in Appalachia during the 1950s were packed with people who had minimal reading skills. Isaacs said her husband, John, a pastor and teacher at Clear Creek, regularly encountered frustrated pastors who were struggling to teach their congregations how to study their Bibles.

"Ministers would ask him, 'How can we have training union with people in our churches when we have to read all of the parts?'" Isaacs recalled. "We have to teach people to read and that will solve that problem," he said.

With previous missionary experience, Isaacs saw literacy training as a great opportunity to share Christ with the people in her community. She immediately began asking God how to start this ministry.

"I've always felt for people who could not read. I ran into those

kinds of problems with people who needed help filling out forms and such. When I asked the Lord if I should go ahead with this, His answer was, 'Yes, look into it,'" Isaacs said.

So Isaacs attended the local WMU meeting in May 1959 with the intention of asking the women there for money to buy literacy training materials, but she was in for a surprise when the words came out of her mouth.

Request falls flat

"I was just going to ask for money, but instead I said, 'Let's get trained and teach people to read.' That wasn't what I had planned to say. That was the Lord. All the ladies stopped fanning themselves and got really quiet," Isaacs said with a laugh.

"On the way home I had tears in my eyes because I didn't think the meeting had gone very well," she said. "I told the Lord, 'I forgot to ask them for the money.'"

But the story did not end there.

"When I got home, the phone was ringing, and it was Mrs. Ethel Golden. Ruth, a woman who did ironing for Mrs. Golden, had overheard our meeting and asked her when she was going to take one of those workshops and teach her to read. So Mrs. Golden wanted to look into it," Isaacs said.

Thus the groundwork was laid for a literacy ministry in Kentucky. In October 1959, the Home Mission Board funded a literacy-training workshop at Clear Creek. A teacher from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, came and led the sessions.

"Over 200 people attended that workshop," Isaacs recalled.

Eventually, community volunteers began working with local pastors and the WMU to start literacy groups in the community.

"The WMU was the best friend the program had. They helped us pay to advertise the program in local newspapers," Isaacs said. "And some papers ran our ads at no charge."

Isaacs and her family moved to



LILLIAN ISAACS Southern Baptist literacy missionary emeritus (left) and Kentucky Baptist literacy consultant Rebecca Carnell (right) present an award during the recent literacy missions conference at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Alaska in 1960 to do more mission work. She and her husband started similar programs for residents there. She worked as a volunteer, teaching people at her church, in her home and in the homes of her pupils.

She eventually was appointed as a paid missionary. She was placed in charge of the literacy work in Alaska and in the eastern part of the United States.

Dedicated prayer warrior

Isaacs, now retired and living in Florida, is the literacy missionary emeritus for the North American Mission Board. She speaks to groups about her experiences to encourage others to get involved in beginning literacy programs in their communities. She also has written a book, "Making the Word Known."

Isaacs' friends describe her as a woman of prayer and faithfulness.

"She is a dedicated prayer warrior. She prays for me all the time. Every time I call her, she has a Bible verse for me," said Rebecca Carnell, literacy consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Challenges still await literacy volunteers. According to the Kentucky Adult Literacy Survey of 1997, approximately 40 percent of adults in Kentucky are functioning at the lowest levels of literacy.

Literacy missions continues to pay dividends throughout the com-

Literacy awards

During the Kentucky Baptist Convention's recent literacy missions conference, two volunteers were recognized for their work:

■ **Amy Cummins**, a member of South Side Baptist Church in Covington, was awarded the Lillian Isaacs Award for her work teaching adults to read and tutoring children.

■ **Denise Edwards**, a member of Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church, Harrodsburg, was recognized with the D.M. and Kay Aldridge Award for her ministry teaching English as a second language.

mmonwealth.

From June 2002 to May 2003, volunteers reported 146 professions of faith from 41 ministries throughout Kentucky, plus 30 ongoing Bible studies and three missions or church starts.

Individuals interested in bringing a literacy missions training workshop to their community should contact Rebecca Carnell at (502) 244-6461 or (888) 254-5725.

For more information about the Literacy Missions Ministry or the Literacy Missions Conference go to www.kybaptist.org/literacy.

Oak Grove ministry strengthens marriages for military couples

Continued from page 1

"Our goal each year is 50 couples," Mrs. Callahan added.

First Baptist Pastor Todd Gray said it's important for couples to learn in practical terms to live in a marriage.

"There's more to a great marriage than a commitment to each other," he said.

Sgt. Crawford Leonard and his wife, Tonya, considered their marriage strong before they enrolled in the covenant course, but said they learned more about their relationship during the course.

"We wanted to bring everybody in the family closer together," Mrs. Leonard said. "We've always had good communication. (Learning new techniques) was a way to control the emotions and solve whatever problem was coming."

Marriage should be viewed as a

formidable institution, Mrs. Leonard said. "Nowadays, marriage is taken lightly," she said. "We're here to show it is serious."

First Baptist's covenant course also includes discussion of the book "Five Love Languages," written by marriage counselor and author Gary Chapman.

Chapman's teachings also are used in conjunction with Fort Campbell's PREP course, which was developed by Denver University researchers.

"The premise (of PREP classes) is that conflict in marriage is going to happen," said military chaplain Capt. Billy Graham. "So, what are you going to do when it arises?"

Turning the tide

Graham and several other military chaplains recently completed

four PREP marriage retreats for couples at Fort Campbell.

He said the retreats address communication and problem-solving.

"It's the beginning step of couples being able to express themselves without exploding," Graham said. "You leapfrog from there into problem-solving."

"It appears that, not just in the military, but across the scope of our culture in America there is more interest in marriage and building marriages. There is a huge interest in making a marriage work."

Graham also pointed to a declining divorce rate.

In 1991, nearly five of every thousand people were granted a divorce, according to National Center for Health Statistics compiled for the 46 states that track divorces. In 2001, that number was down

to four of every thousand people, according to National Center for Health Statistics data.

"Our culture is leaning toward, 'Let's make our marriages work,'" Graham said.

Classes offered throughout the community and military marriage retreats allow couples to make their relationships more fulfilling, he added.

Lynn Stovall, who completed First Baptist's covenant course, said she and her husband, Pfc. Jeffery Stovall, struggled with marital issues during the year-long deployment.

"When he came back, we decided we were in this marriage for the long haul," she said.

"Our communication skills are much improved as a result of being here—we're starting over."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers were in Columbus, Ohio, last week and could be busy in Kentucky or Indiana this week. Last week, 21 volunteers helped residents of 16 homes remove mud and debris from flooded homes. The workers saw their work result in one profession of faith, according to Larry Koch, director of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief. Volunteers were on standby late last week to see if local authorities asked for help in Louisville and surrounding counties after tornados and flash flooding damaged several homes on May 27.

Reba Cobb was hired earlier this month as interim executive director for the Kentuckiana Interfaith Community. Cobb previously was executive director from 1998 to 2001 before serving as coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship resource center in Atlanta and later in Washington with the Children's Defense Fund.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Maintain BWA support

On April 14, the deacons, ministerial staff and congregation of Georgetown Baptist Church went on record in support of the Baptist World Alliance. We encouraged the continued support of our denomination for the work of the Baptist World Alliance through prayer, fellowship and financial contributions.

We feel it is not necessary to repeat all of the arguments and reasons given for or against continued fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance. Such issues have been sufficiently reported in Baptist state papers, Baptist media outlets and the secular press.

It is our deep conviction, as members of a church which has been affiliated with the SBC since its inception in 1845, that a continued relationship with 47 million Baptists in 211 Baptist conventions around the world is a good, wise and God-honoring course of action.

We do understand that a special study committee and the SBC Executive Committee have expressed disagreements and differences of opinions with the BWA and its leadership. Yet, we are convinced that such differences are far outweighed by our common goals all over the globe of world evangelism, human rights, religious liberty, Baptist fellowship, relieving human suffering and promoting Christian unity amid diversity.

It is our hope, prayer and plea that the messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 15-16 in Indianapolis will rescind the proposal to withdraw from and defund the Baptist World Alliance. We also ask that the \$125,000 cut from the SBC annual contribution to BWA (action taken at the 2003 convention) will be reinstated as a goodwill action of faith and unity.

It is true that the Baptist World Alliance and the Southern Baptist Convention can exist without rela-

tionship to the each other. However, we support and prayerfully encourage the continued relationship by our denomination with brothers and sisters around the world through the Baptist World Alliance.

Ken Holden, pastor
Russ Fendley, deacon chair
Carolyn Dyer, church clerk
Georgetown Baptist Church

Positive example

Thank you so much for your May 18 article about Leonard Adamson and his prison ministries.

For four years I have taught theatre and drama at the Green River Correctional Complex in Central City. I have met Leonard many times.

He is an inspiration to us all. His love for Christ and his compassionate witness is evident each time you meet him. The men are blessed to be around this fine example of what can happen when you turn your life over to Him.

Karen Willis
Central City



Graduation day offers new start

By Trey Graham

Melissa, Texas (BP)—Graduation, the time of dreams, the time of new beginnings for students across America, is upon us.

This stage in life—**COMMENTARY** what we can change the world, but we can change ourselves and make a new start. Every person can give themselves a final exam, judging whether they have used their God-given abilities.

Do you remember that time in life when it seemed that every door of opportunity was open, you just had to choose which one you wanted? Do you sometimes wonder where all that youthful enthusiasm and naive ambition went?

Never forget the young man who spent an entire day picking up starfish and throwing them back into the ocean. When asked by passersby why he was returning the animals to the sea, he replied, "If I don't,

they will die." The strangers tried to remind him that there were thousands of starfish on the beach and he could not possibly help them all. "True," he answered, throwing another starfish into the ocean, "but it sure made a difference to that one."

Let's make a difference to one person we meet today. Let's decide to look at the rest of our lives, beginning today, as a new start and a gift from God to make His world better. Like the collegian setting out to change the world, all of us would do well to try to change our little corner of the universe for the glory of God.

All of us, whether we graduated this month, last year or 50 years ago, need to look to God for guidance, to ask His direction for how we can seize our opportunities as graduates of life's school of daily learning.

Trey Graham, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Melissa, Texas, is the author of "Lessons for the Journey"

Mount Gilead marks 175th anniversary

Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church in Scottsville has the opportunity for continued ministry today due to the sacrificial leadership of its pastor and lay leaders. These leaders are just the latest from a great heritage that dates back 175 years.

Kenneth Fisher, who surrendered to the ministry at age 52, became pastor of Mount Gilead in 1995 at a crucial time in the life of the church. Attendance was low so Fisher gave his service freely for the first year until things improved.

It is obvious that God has done a special work in his life. The congregation has grown and made improvements to the building and grounds. He has led the church to resume its support of missions through the Cooperative Program.

Ralston and Eunice Bewley have carried several leadership roles over the last 18 years. Ralston has been a deacon, church clerk and treasurer.

Eunice has taught Sunday school and served as pianist for 50 years.

Diane Bewley Taylor, daughter of the Bewleys, served as chairperson for the church's recent 175th anniversary celebration. The celebration included an old fashioned day with dinner under a big oak tree.

The guest preacher, Charles Ausbrooks, a former member, rode his horse to church. He portrayed evangelist Mordicai Ham, who preached a revival at Mount Gilead in 1901 when 66 people professed faith in Christ.

The oldest member present for the celebration was James Murl Pitchford, 98, the last Pitchford to reside on Pitchford Ridge, the well-known name of the community. His grandfather settled on the ridge in the late 1700s.

Thomas Scrivner was the founding pastor of Mount Gilead. He surrendered to preach in June 1829 at age 54. With little formal education, he struggled with the call to preach.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

GIVING

Appreciated bonds can help achieve charitable goals

By Laurie Valentine

While interest rates continue to be at historical lows, it is anticipated the future will bring a higher interest rate environment.



As a result, some corporations and municipalities that issued bonds when interest rates were at their highest may be making plans, before interest rates start to climb, to call those bonds prior to maturity and issue new long-term bonds paying a lower rate.

If the amount you receive when the bond is called exceeds your cost basis, you will incur capital gains and be liable for capital gains taxes. And there is a good possibility that your options for reinvestment of the proceeds will not produce a cash yield as large as the interest being paid on the called bond.

If this is your situation and you have a desire to make a gift for the benefit of one or more charitable causes, consider using your appreciated corporate and/or municipal bonds to fund your gift. If you have owned the bond at least one year and one day, your charitable income tax deduction is based on the bond's current market value, not what you paid for it. Your gift of the bond is not a sale, so you don't recognize any capital gains on the gift transfer. (This assumes you make the gift before receiving notification that it has been called.)

Appreciated bonds can be a good option for funding life income charitable gifts such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts. In exchange for your gift of an appreciated bond, a charitable gift annuity can be issued that will pay you or you and one other individual a fixed payment each year for life and ultimately benefit the charitable causes you designate. The annuity payments to you will be based on the market value of the bond at the time you give it and the suggested payout rate for someone your age. The payout rate could even be higher than the bond's interest rate.

A charitable remainder trust will pay you and/or others an income stream for life or a term of years, with the remainder passing to the charitable beneficiaries you name in the charitable remainder trust agreement at the end of the trust term. Check out the benefits of using bonds to accomplish your charitable giving objectives.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

"Often," he once said, "have I tossed upon my bed ... thinking of perishing sinners, and yet feeling incompetent to preach the gospel to them."

Scrivner labored day and night, preaching in schools, homes and under the forest trees. He traveled extensively to preach and established churches at Fountain Run, 1829; Mount Gilead, 1829; Peters Creek, 1830; and Indian Creek, 1835. He was called as pastor of Dover in 1833.

He read the Bible and prepared discourses in the saddle while traveling five to 20 miles to the churches. He never allowed bad weather to keep him from his appointments.

In 1858 Scrivner resigned his pastoral duties at age 83, having baptized 2,000 people and witnessed the conversion of as many more. What a legacy for Kentucky Baptists!

I am personally challenged and inspired by the personal sacrifice of historic ministers like Thomas Scrivner, current bivocational ministers like Ken Fisher, and lay leaders like Ralston and Eunice Bewley.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Could your child handle the criticism of 'American Idol'?

Q: How can I help my child face the constant pressures and criticism that often come in life?

Panel one has Lucy calling Charlie Brown the most wishy-washy person she has ever known. Panel two brings more criticism, with Lucy describing Charlie Brown as weak, dumb, boring and hopeless—not much use to anyone. Panel three shows Lucy and Charlie Brown standing side by side, not speaking. Panel four brings things to a close with Lucy saying, "Incidentally, how come I never hear you sing anymore?"

Could your child survive "American Idol"—not from a talent standpoint, but from the standpoint of taking the criticism the show dishes out? Simon Cowell can be pretty mean. One night he's your best buddy; the next, he's ripping you to shreds. How would your child respond?

Children must learn to receive criticism without letting it destroy them. Constructive criticism motivates and instructs, but even helpful criticism has to be heard in order to be helpful.

Shows like American Idol can provide opportunities to talk with your child about criticism. Ask, "How do you think so and so feels when Simon says those things to her? How would you feel?"

Use these conversations to reinforce basic biblical truths about self-worth and self-esteem. Teach your children that their ultimate sense of worth and value comes from knowing that God made them and loves them more than they can imagine. Their value does not depend on what they do, how well they do it or what someone else thinks. Help your child learn to listen to some criticisms and ignore others. When you find it necessary to criticize, remember that children hear and receive criticism best within the context of encouragement and praise.

In the end, self-worth grounded in God's love enables all of us to keep singing, even if some of the notes are off key.—David Garrard

Q: My church is beginning to develop ministry efforts to single moms. However, that's only half the story in single parent land. What can churches do to reach out to single dads?

A recent article in Holiness Today magazine by Jeanette Gardner Littleton gives the following suggestions:

- Connect dads, married and single, so they can network ideas and help one another with both spiritual and practical issues.
- Offer training in setting up time-management systems for household help.
- Offer parenting seminars. Especially helpful will be information about dads relating to daughters.
- Offer childcare classes for dads. Answer practical questions about kids with fever, basic childhood diseases, etc. Make available a list of emergency tips and phone numbers.
- Offer seminars about child custody and legal issues.
- Offer child care for a single parents night out. This is crucial for any single parent ministry.
- Host potluck lunches and dinners. It's great to sample a casserole made by someone else every once in a while.
- Plan single parent activities, both with and without the kids.
- Provide consistent female role models for children of single dads, such as having older women "adopt" grandchildren, and married couples "adopt" children of single parent dads. These families can "adopt" Dad too.

The above suggestions also are ways in which churches can provide much-needed ministries to "widows and orphans and those who are in distress" (James 2:27).—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

Share God's love with a retired minister

The need is great. More than 10,000 retired Southern Baptist ministers—including more than 460 from Kentucky—receive annuity payments of less than \$300 a month, according to Southern Baptist Annuity Board statistics.

Among that total nationally, approximately two-thirds receive less than \$200 a month, more than 2,000 receive less than \$100 a month and nearly 1,000 retired Southern Baptist ministers receive less than \$50 a month. In Kentucky, 187 retired ministers are below the \$200-a-month level of support and 43 receive \$50 or less each month.

Obviously, such stark statistics reflect serious financial problems for elderly retirees facing rising health care costs, utility bills and other basic necessities with extremely limited financial resources.

What can grassroots Southern Baptists do to help ease the financial burden of faithful servants of God who often served small churches that provided modest salaries and little or no retirement benefits? The answer is the Annuity Board's "Adopt An Annuitant" program.

Funded primarily by contributions from individuals and local churches, Adopt An Annuitant currently provides annuity supplements to approximately 3,000 retired ministers or their widows who have the greatest financial needs. Qualified recipients are eligible for a supplement of \$200 per month for an individual or \$265 per month for a couple.

More than \$6 million is paid out annually in assistance to needy retirees. Almost \$1.4 million comes from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. Investment income from the Annuity Board's Retired Ministers' Support Fund provides additional fund-

ing. That leaves approximately \$4 million funded from direct gifts of individuals, churches, Sunday school classes and other groups.

As Southern Baptists prepare to observe "Adopt An Annuitant Sunday" June 27, Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins said, "The evidence of God's love in our lives is in how we treat others—especially those in need. The church should not stand idly by and wait for government programs to fill in the gap, but should take seriously the command of Jesus to care for the needy."

Noting that the Annuity Board "was founded on the idea of serving those who gave sacrificially to spread the Word of God," Hawkins added, "Even though the Annuity Board has become one of the largest denominational benefits organizations in the world, ... the heart of our ministry is still providing relief to thousands of aged ministers and their widows."

"In addition to helping those in need, we are able to offer our Baptist family the privilege of obeying and serving the Lord in a tangible way by sharing with His laborers," Hawkins told Baptist Press. "(The Apostle) John asked an important question in his first epistle, 'Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?' (1 John 3:17)."

Adopt An Annuitant is one practical way this generation of Baptists can honor those who shared God's love in decades past—and helped paved the way for our own spiritual inheritance.

For more information about the Adopt An Annuitant ministry, contact the Southern Baptist Annuity Board at (800) 262-0511 or online at www.absbc.org.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Being on the right page

By David Garrard

Sam Dawson has red hair, round glasses, freckles and enough energy to light up New York for a month! He reminds me a little bit of Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter movies—fun-loving, faithful, adventuresome. Sam plays Upward basketball with an abandon that belies his small stature. This is his story.

As a fourth grader, Sam participated in Children's Bible Drill this year for the first time. He did well, and entered the April 24 State Drill confident and prepared. I conducted Sam's drill. When I am conducting, I find it distracting to try to keep up with how my St. Matthews kids are doing. Four mistakes is the threshold for state winners. It seemed to me everyone passed. However, after the drill, Lisa Nowak leaned over to me and whispered, "Sam didn't make it."

And yet when we gathered in the sanctuary to recognize all the children and celebrate with the winners, Mark Strader called Sam's name as a state winner. (This occasionally happens because the judges scores are averaged.) We were surprised—and elated. Sam, however, was nowhere to be found. In his disappointment, Sam had torn his participation certificate into pieces and left the sanctuary.

Sam's dad, David, found him wandering the building and gave him the good news, but Sam remained solemn. "I have a problem," he said. "I want to win, but I

don't want to cheat."

"Uh oh," David thought. "What's this all about?" Slowly, the story unfolded.

It seems that on one of the final calls, Sam had been one page off. He realized his mistake, but before he could do anything, I had moved on to the next call. Sam told the

story to his dad, who relayed it to Linda Rodgers, our Bible drill coordinator. Without going into detail, Linda simply told me, "There's a problem with Sam."

In the meantime, we were in the sanctuary, celebrating with the other children. State winners received a special seal for their certificates. Each St. Matthews child also received a gift certificate to Wellspring Christian Bookcenter as a prize for participating in Bible drill and making it to state. Still not knowing the full story, I gave the card containing Sam's seal and certificate to his Sunday school teacher. She presented it to him the next morning during class.

Sam opened the envelope and found a "State Winner" seal, along with the gift certificate. "I can't take this," he told his dad. David assured him the gift certificate was a participation prize, not a winner's award. Sam kept the certificate, but returned the seal to me.

As you ponder Sam's story, consider these facts: A 1999 survey of high school high achievers reported that 80 percent of teens at the top of their class had cheated

in school. In 2002, 82 percent of CEOs of large companies admitted cheating on their golf scorecards.

Organizational psychologist Ken Siegel says, "People are losing the ability to distinguish what is honest and what is not. Lies are getting bigger and bigger. We're seeing this played out everywhere now from Tyco to Enron."

Even Christians are having trouble connecting belief and behavior. A 1994 survey reported that 68 percent of Southern Baptist teenagers lie to their parents and 44 percent cheat on tests.

One page. One thin page. If there's anything thinner in the world than the paper Bibles are printed on, I don't know what it is. So close. Who would know? Who would even care? Sam knew. More importantly, he cared. Sam's honesty cost him being a state winner. It also cost him the opportunity to work toward becoming a three-year state winner, the highest award in Children's Bible Drill. He was willing to let it cost him a nice gift.

Sam's torn certificate has been taped back together and framed to remind him of a day when his character was forged a little stronger. In a world where cheating runs rampant, even among Christians, Sam's story will remind us there are more important things in life than winning.

Sam's gold "State Winner" seal sits on my desk. When it really counted, he was on the right page.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Court overturns Ashcroft's rule against Oregon assisted suicides

Washington (ABP)—A federal appeals court has stopped Attorney General John Ashcroft's attempt to override an Oregon law allowing physician-assisted suicides.

A divided three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled May 26 that Ashcroft overstepped his authority when he declared doctors who prescribe lethal drug doses, which are legal in Oregon, to be in violation of a 1970 federal drug law.

Ashcroft's rule—an interpretation of the federal Controlled Substances Act—also instructed the federal Drug Enforcement Agency to prosecute the doctors.

Oregon is the only state allowing physician-assisted suicide. The state's voters have twice approved the law allowing it—in 1994 and again in 1997.

Ashcroft's interpretation cited a section of the Controlled Substances Act that limits prescription of narcotics to those issued for "a legitimate medical purpose." The attorney general said physician-assisted suicide does not comprise a legitimate purpose, and that the licenses of physicians doing so could be revoked.

The state of Oregon, a pharmacist, a doctor and several terminally ill patients sued Ashcroft over the rule and won decisions in lower courts.

In their ruling, the 9th Circuit panel's majority said that Ashcroft exceeded his authority under federal law in issuing the rule—and that the rule itself violated Congress' intent in the Controlled Substances Act.

Graham postpones crusades in two cities

By Michael Foust
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Both Billy Graham crusades scheduled for this summer have been postponed to give the 85-year-old evangelist more time to heal from a fractured pelvis.

The Heart of America Billy Graham Crusade in Kansas City, Mo., has been rescheduled for Oct. 7-10, while the Greater Los Angeles Billy Graham Crusade has been moved back to Nov. 18-21. The two crusades originally were scheduled for June 17-20 and July 29-Aug. 1, respectively.

Graham fell in his home May 14, fracturing his pelvis. He underwent surgery May 20 to stabilize the fracture, after which a doctor said the evangelist was "doing great." The fracture came at a time when Graham was recovering from a partial hip replacement surgery in January.

The Kansas City crusade will take place in Arrowhead Stadium,

the Los Angeles crusade in the Rose Bowl.

"It will give Mr. Graham some time to recoup from the procedure that he had," Sherman Barnette, director of the Kansas City crusade, told Baptist Press. "The other thing it will do is give us even more time as far as preparation to get more churches and more people involved in the crusade."

Extra preparation time has been a rarity in recent years, with crusade officials taking a year-to-year approach to his schedule by not announcing any crusades until six to eight months before the event.

Years ago, local officials would have had far longer to plan. But Graham's age has caused crusade officials to take a more cautious approach.

The Kansas City crusade was announced in January, the Los Angeles crusade in February. "We were really on a fast track here in our preparation," Barnette said. "In a

sense, this is going to help us."

The delay in the Los Angeles crusade will result in Graham's visit falling within the 55th anniversary of the 1949 crusade.

That crusade, which lasted eight weeks, is considered to be the event that catapulted Graham onto the national scene. In his biography, Graham said the crusade "forever changed the face of my ministry and my life."

"In the face of his pain and injury, Mr. Graham has said he believes his unfortunate fall was 'of God,' and we agree," Kenneth Ulmer, pastor of Faithful Central Bible Church and Los Angeles crusade co-chair, said in a statement.

"That consensus has been further confirmed by a sense of divine providence, purpose and history as the new dates fall on the 55th anniversary of his historic 1949 Los Angeles Crusade," Ulmer said. "At those meetings, God's grace became global as Mr. Graham's public ministry was launched into national and international prominence."



Billy Graham

See no ethics: Does ad study reflect your workplace?

Continued from page 1

"As we watched it (Enron) unfold, we saw evidence of rampant moral muteness and moral myopia, which paved the way for serious ethical breaches by people of good and ill intent."

Drumwright presented many of her key findings as part of a panel discussion on morality and relativism during a recent conference sponsored by the John Newport Foundation.

Ethical issues seldom are discussed at either the corporate or individual level in most major-market advertising agencies, Drumwright observed. Generally, they are not talked about because they are not seen, her research revealed.

"They don't see the ethical issues unless they are tied to their own self-



interests, such as when they think someone is stealing their idea," she said.

Drumwright and Murphy concluded advertising executives—and by implication other business people—might be affected by moral myopia to varying degrees. Some are morally shortsighted, and others may be practically blind to ethical issues, she observed. Often, moral vision is distorted by rationalization.

"If it's legal, it must be moral"

"A common rationalization we heard was: If it's legal, it must be moral," she said.

Drumwright quoted an agency president who told the interviewers that advertising is "one of the most ethical businesses there is (because) it is so regulated. Everything that we do has to go through our lawyers to make sure it's conforming to the law, and then our client's lawyers, and then we have to send it through the (TV) networks and their lawyers. ... It's really hard to be unethical in this business even if you wanted to."

Rather than seeing legal requirements as the "moral minimum," many advertisers equate legality with morality, setting the bar no higher than what the law demands, she said.

Another problem advertisers face is becoming so immersed in their clients' corporate culture they lose all objectivity.

"Anthropologists refer to this as

'going native,'" Drumwright said. For ad agency representatives, "going native" means becoming so identified with their client's perspective and product claims, they lose the ability to make critical moral judgments.

Another way advertisers rationalize unethical behavior is by compartmentalizing—"separating work life from personal life," she said.

She pointed to the example of an ad agency executive who had a young daughter. As a mother, she expressed concern about the potential influence waif-thin models could have on her daughter's concept of beauty and self-esteem. But as an advertising practitioner, she told herself clients have the right to run their businesses the way they want to and project any image they wish.

Other advertising professionals displayed ethical concern by refusing to work for clients representing certain businesses, such as cigarette makers.

But they saw no problem accepting bonus money from their employer if the agency that employed them benefited from cigarette accounts. Drumwright saw that as "a form of compartmentalization."

Pockets of ethical behavior

Research did uncover isolated examples of advertisers with moral vision who were willing to talk to coworkers and clients about ethical concerns, she noted. Some even

displayed what he called "moral imagination"—the ability to generate moral alternatives beyond simplistic answers.

These individuals differed from their industry peers primarily in one respect: They worked in a corporate culture that valued ethical behavior. "It matters what kind of organization you are in," Drumwright said.

She drew several conclusions about how to foster ethics in ad agencies—and by implication, in the general workplace:

Leaders set the tone. Leading both by word and example, people in authority can create a workplace context where moral imagination can flourish.

They also can create systems in the workplace that reward rather than punish workers who "blow the whistle" on unethical conduct.

Communication fosters good ethics. Researchers found a correlation between high levels of communication in the corporate culture and high levels of ethical sensitivity.

Community matters. When good habits are cultivated and nurtured in the workplace, ethical behavior becomes the norm rather than the exception.

"There is a huge role for the church to play," Drumwright observed. "When there is not a supportive community in the workplace, the church can be that nurturing community with respect to teaching and encouraging virtue."

In addition to teaching ethical decision-making skills, churches also offer places where Christians can interact with people who work in a variety of jobs, providing the opportunity for dialogue with people outside their own narrow vocational fields, she said.

"Churches can make a huge difference by helping people translate what they learn on Sunday into what it means being a Christian in the world—in their Monday through Friday work life," she said.

Plagiarized sermons cost pastor job

Keene, N.H. (RNS)—A New Hampshire pastor has resigned after preaching sermons found on the Internet and consequently confessing to plagiarism.

Robert Hamm stepped down in April from his post as senior pastor of Keene United Church of Christ in Keene, N.H.

According to church council President Carl A.H. Allen Jr., another minister on staff had noticed last winter that Hamm was claiming credit for sermons he hadn't written. When confronted by church leaders, Hamm promptly admitted to wrongdoing, Allen said.

"He had taken entire sermons from the Internet and presented them as his own," Allen said. "He was very forthcoming and clear that it was an improper thing to do. He asked for forgiveness."

Hamm was not available for comment.

Sermons published in full on the Internet are readily accessible to pastors who might feel pressed for time. But to avoid charges of plagiarism or copyright violations, pastors must either use the resources for background only or else give credit to the author.

Some in Hamm's congregation felt he had committed no infraction by preaching others' sermons, Allen said. But other members, including educators at the secondary and collegiate levels, were concerned their pastor had violated a tenet of integrity.

"It's been very difficult for the congregation," Allen said, noting that Hamm had been pastor since 1989.



KENTUCKY NOTES

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2003-2004
**Eliza Broadus
Offering**
for Kentucky Missions

At the end of April,
you had given:
\$865,626
a 4 percent increase over
this date last year.

Your gifts until August 31
will help reach the goal.

Basic Goal: \$900,000
Challenge Goal: \$1,000,000

Summer 2004

World Missions Unlimited 2004

A Personal Word



- WHAT?** Training Motivation Inspiration Fellowship
- WHO?** Associational WMU missions leaders
Church WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders
- WHY?** To create an excitement and develop expertise in missions education
To become the leader God wants you to be
- WHEN? & WHERE?**

July 16-17	First Baptist Church, Shelbyville
July 23-24	First Baptist Church, London
July 30-31	First Baptist Church, Madisonville

Friday
6 p.m.-9 p.m.
(For associational WMU leaders)

Saturday
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
(For church and associational WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders)
- COST?** \$15 per person (if registered by June 25)
\$20 per person (if registered after June 25)
Includes: Friday and/or Saturday workshops
Saturday lunch
WMU Year Book (for WMU participants)
Baptist Men on mission participants will receive related resources
- HOW?** Request registration brochure from Kentucky WMU, complete and return with registration fee.
- QUESTIONS?** Call (502) 244-6485 or toll-free (888)254-5726
OR e-mail: Brenda.Price@kybaptist.org



In my personal devotional time each day, I am praying for a missions revival among women and asking God to bless WMU. I pray the Prayer of Jabez for WMU, asking God to pour His blessing on WMU, to expand our territory, to keep His hand on us, and to protect us from evil. Would you join me in praying daily for WMU?



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

There is a stirring of God happening among women. The evidence of God at work is being seen and felt across our state. I see it in many areas. Some evidence is subtle, but taken together we can see a pattern. The attendance at

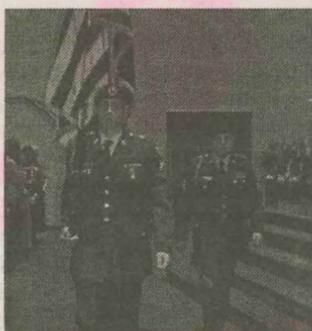
Kentucky WMU events is one evidence. When I look out at strong attendance with women of all ages and feel the sense of excitement that is present, I know God is leading. We are also grateful for the men who attend and help us in so many ways! The evidence of God at work can be seen in Eastern Kentucky as the result of MissionsFEST. Several hundred volunteers came to our state to share Christ because God led national WMU to come here. The evidence of God at work can be seen at Cedar Crest, the WMU camp at Cedarmore. Women have a renewed vision for this facility and people have given money and volunteered to make improvements at this special facility.

The evidence of God's leading in missions education can be seen in the new missions groups that are starting. Every week we process requests for materials to start new WMU organizations of all ages, preschool through adults. The 2003 Annual Church Profile showed a 12.5 percent increase in Kentucky WMU enrollment.

Linking Involvement, Needs, and Knowledge is the goal of Missions LINK, the Kentucky WMU expansion plan. As we help churches know the needs and opportunities and provide ways for them to get involved, WMU will grow. One great way to do this is through Operation Missions LINK, a day of hands-on ministry in your community. Start praying now for a day of missions ministry on Saturday, September 11. Ministry to others is a great way to both start your 2004 state missions emphasis and commemorate 9/11.

The 2004 state missions emphasis is on friendship and how God uses us to introduce people to our best friend, Jesus. Be a friend today! Begin praying for a lost person by name. Invite a new person to participate in a WMU group. Pray for WMU in your church and association. God has great plans for WMU and wants us to seek His direction.

If you will commit to pray daily for the lost and for WMU, I ask that you contact me. Please email (joy.bolton@kybaptist.org), call, or write me a note. I am praying for God to raise up WMU pray-ers in Kentucky.



Using the theme From Generation to Generation, the Kentucky WMU 101st Annual Meeting focused on the many ways we pass on the missions calling. Photos (from top left): LaRaine Dail campaigned during the staff report; an honor guard from the 101st Airborne presented the colors during the Friday evening emphasis on ministry to the military; Sisterhood theatrical dramatic theme interpretations in each session; Cheryl Hatfield shared her "eye can" lead GA; new officers for 2004-2005: Cathy Chinn, president, Susan Stinnett, recording secretary, Pat Key, vice president; a participant in the GA/Children in Action Missions Event shared in singing at the close of the Annual Meeting.



Information for WMU Directors

It's Summer!

Make the most of your summer months. Write notes to your leaders, telling them how thankful you are for their commitment to missions. During these months, have an informal "get-together" with age-level leaders. For example, take sandwiches, chips, drinks and cookies, and meet your Mission Friends' leaders at the park for a late afternoon picnic. Pray for those children who will be leaving Mission Friends, starting to school and moving on to GA and RA. Pray for the children who will join Mission Friends for the first time. Do you need more Mission Friends leaders or a new organization? Consider this question for each age level.



Summer Training

WMU directors and contact persons have received detailed information about our three summer training conferences for church leaders: July 17, Shelbyville; July 24, London and July 31, Madisonville. Leaders of all church WMU organizations should attend one of these training sessions. If you need additional information, call 1-888-254-5726.

God's Plan My Part

We have grown during these past two years as we have focused on this emphasis. People have stepped forward to accept responsibility for "their part." Let's continue to do our part as we recognize what God has for us in His Plan. In seeking to know God's Plan, Kentucky WMU came up with Missions LINK as an expansion plan. Remember that this emphasizes both *quantity* and *quality*. Has your church set goals? How are you doing toward reaching those goals?

Dimension becomes Missions Leader

With September comes the new magazine *Missions Leader* for WMU directors, pastors and leadership team members. Order at the special discount price of \$12.79. The Leadership Team Resource Kit is available at only \$28.79.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Adults

The first few months here at Kentucky WMU have been busy. Thank you to those who have made me feel welcome and right at home. What a pleasure and privilege it is to work in WMU. I have always loved missions starting as a young girl studying about missionaries in GA. I had the honor of being able to serve one summer as a Kentucky WMU summer worker and two years as a summer missionary. As a young adult I served with Mission Service Corps for two years. God blessed me so much. Little did I know how much work there is to be done to pull it all together! How I appreciate and admire all those who have done so much to present and prepare for us to have the mission's education and experience that we do.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is ready to rock and roll! With two great meetings with officers and just coming off of an exciting national meeting in Callaway Gardens, there is a renewed interest and desire to grow BNF through stron-



ger recruitment and education in our state. There is a strategic planning meeting scheduled in May. If you have any ideas, are in BNF and/or want to be involved, please get in touch with your BNF state president, Dianna Rowe, or myself. Dianna became our new state president at the annual meeting in March. Two new elected officers include Jessica Childers as vice president, president-elect and Dietra King as nominating chairperson. The summer luncheon will be held July 17 in Elizabethtown at Ryan's. Please watch in the next BNF newsletter for more information about this continuing education opportunity.

Make your plans now to be involved in World Missions Unlimited. This will be an excellent opportunity to get information to help your association and leaders prepare for the coming year. As we enter into a new theme for WMU, you will want to be ready to share as we all work together to be **Christ Followers**. You will be receiving the infor-



mation as to dates and location relatively soon.

They will be here before you know it: **FALL RETREATS! Worthy of Honor and Praise...every woman, everywhere, everyday!** is the theme for the retreats this fall. We are fortunate and blessed to have two distinguished ladies to be our keynote speakers: Andrea Mullins will be at Jonathan Creek and the first Cedarmore retreat and Judy Murray will be at our second Cedarmore retreat. Andrea is on staff with National WMU and Judy is the National BNF president. The dates for the retreats are September 24-25 at Jonathan Creek, October 8-9 and October 15-16 at Cedarmore. Don't miss this opportunity to discover how worthy you are everyday.

Plans are in the works for new events in 2005. You'll just have to keep reading this column to learn what they are and how you can be involved.

Until then
Peace, Joy and Blessings!
Wanda Walker

Youth

Wow! Exalt 2004 was one to remember. It will be in our memories for a long time because we could all feel God's presence in a very real way, especially after the wedding dress skit. I know all that were there had a great time. Casey Gibbons did a marvelous job. The praise band from Campbellsville University was great as were all the other BSU students who helped us. It is my hope that we will all remember what the Lord said to us and continue to exalt God throughout the year.

Acteens Splash is coming soon. We will be at Jonathan Creek June 25-26 for an overnight experience. Be sure to bring your bathing suits as we are going to have a lot of fun on the waterfront. Son Praise, the Kentucky BSU praise band, will be with us leading in worship and seminars. This year's theme is "Real World, Right Now" and we'll be thinking of the way you can take an active role in helping the world.

"Real World, Right Now" is also the theme



for Mission Adventure Camp for girls this summer. Young ladies in grades 7-10 can attend the weeks of July 5-9 and July 12-16. Stacy Nall, our new camp director, has selected an amazing staff. Be sure to come and enjoy a week with just the girls. For more information, please see page 4 of this insert.

We now have one year of the *Mag* and the *Mag Leader* under our belt. If you have questions about how to use the new material, how to lead Acteens/Youth on Mission, and want a chance to share ideas with each other, then be sure to attend World Missions Unlimited. Information about it is found on page 1 of this insert.



Preliminary plans are being made for Youth on Mission Night. The missions weekend for all youth will take place October 22-23. This year,



the Baptist Student Union of Western Kentucky University has graciously agreed to host us. They will provide a praise band and small group leaders for us. Put this weekend on your calendar.

—LaRaine Dail

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN

Do you think the boys and girls in Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action are worth it? Are they worth you being the best teacher or leader you can be? The answer to both questions is, of course, "YES!" To be an effective teacher or leader and have a strong missions education program for preschoolers and children, attend **World Missions Unlimited** this summer! There will be something to learn and share whether you are a new teacher or leader or an experienced one. See page 1 for details.

In September, preschoolers and children in your church will want to participate in the **Week of Prayer and Offering for State Missions**. It would be a great way to start the new church year. The study and prayer material will focus on ministries to internationals in Kentucky. Teaching guides are available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office. Launch the state mission emphasis by involving preschoolers and children in **Operation Missions LINK**, a simultaneous missions project day across Kentucky on Saturday, September 11. Choose a ministry in your community or association to give preschoolers and children a hands-on missions experience.

MISSION FRIENDS

Need ideas for involving preschoolers in missions? Check out the summer issue of *Start*. En-

courage preschoolers and their parents to become involved in the social issue of Restorative Justice by showing appreciation to a law enforcement officer in the community. By celebrating **Christmas in August** preschoolers can help North American missionaries minister to people throughout the United States. A list of missionaries and their specific needs can be found in *Start*. Decorate a small Christmas tree, bring gifts for missionaries, play games and serve refreshments as part of the celebration.

GIRLS IN ACTION

GIRLS IN ACTION

Summer is an excellent time to involve GAs in **World Ventures**. Encourage girls to work on activities by having special summer workdays. Plan a World Ventures Recognition Service as a special way to recognize GAs who have completed or participated in World Ventures this year.

Celebrate **Christmas in August** by choosing a missionary from the listing in *Aware* and encourage GAs to collect



supplies needed in their ministry.

Starting in the fall issue of *Aware*, be on the lookout for several changes in GA materials. These changes are designed to make the material more leader-friendly, as well as to better meet the needs of girls in grades 1-6. Some adjustments may need to be made in your subscriptions to *Discovery* and *GA World*.

CHILDREN IN ACTION

Attention boys and girls in Children in Action! Put on your traveling shoes and come to the **Children in Action Missions Day Camp** at Cedar Crest on Saturday, September 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Boys and girls, grades 1-6, will enjoy a day in the great outdoors meeting missionaries, making new friends, learning about God and His creation, doing crafts, playing games and having fun galore. Details will be available from the Kentucky WMU office after July 1.



—Brenda Price



KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

President's Perspective

What are you passionate about? Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, states, "God gives us different passions so that everything he wants done in the world will get done."

I am so thankful that God gave me a passion for missions. Looking back over my life, I see how everything through the years has come together for His purposes. God called me to a ministry in missions through Woman's Missionary Union in 1973, through one of our state WMU staff members who spoke at the first WMU Associational meeting I ever attended. Being involved in Baptist Young Women, Women on Mission, and being an Acteens leader for more than 20 years, has been one of the greatest joys of my life. God has led me, and many Acteens through the years, on eighteen or so mission trips. This year I will be participating in MissionsFEST in Kentucky, Kentucky Changers with the youth from my church, and my husband and I will be traveling together to Greece and Brazil during the summer.



Cathy Chinn
Kentucky WMU
president

Being elected once again to serve you as President of Kentucky WMU is very humbling to me, and I thank all of you for allowing me that privilege. I am extremely honored to represent Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union all across this state and in national functions, as well. Kentucky WMU has a long and rich history of which we should all be proud. I look forward to meeting many more of you this coming year. Please call or write me if I can be of service to you.

Please be much in prayer for our state WMU team of 17 women who will go to Athens, Greece, July 12-22. Also traveling with us is a team from Crestwood Baptist, which is near Louisville. It is my honor to be the team leader for this group of very gifted women who will be going to prayer walk before the Olympics begins as well as take part in some other pre-Olympic ministries.

I hope that attending one of our World Missions Unlimited summer trainings is in your plan as you anticipate our new WMU year coming up. You will want to hear all about the latest ideas for making your organizations more exciting and interesting. Now is the time to get age-level leaders for the new year so they can participate in the training and feel confident as they start their groups in your churches.

Last year, our Operation Missions LINK Project Day was a big hit all across our state. Our state WMU office received many great reports from you sharing what wonderful ministries you did in your communities. Let's all try to do that once again this year, and if your church was not involved last year, begin brainstorming to come up with some ideas you can try in your community. Do not forget to send our WMU office your report on what you did and how the community was impacted.

Before we know it, it will be time again for fall retreats. Last year, we had such great attendance, be sure to get in your reservations early this year! This will be the first time for our new adult consultant, Wanda Walker, to plan our retreats, so be sure and come meet her and help her know how much we appreciate the work she is doing for Kentucky WMU. Try to bring some women from your church this year that have never been before. Usually, once they have attended a retreat, they become a regular, and we want everyone to have as much fun as we do at retreats! I'll see you there!

—Cathy Chinn

2004-05 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

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Giving for the Future of Kentucky WMU

We are grateful for your financial gifts in support of Kentucky WMU. The **Kentucky/National WMU Endowment Fund** has now exceeded the \$10,000 mark.

Recent donors include:

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Special Gifts:

Barry Allen

Project HELP: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Many lives have been touched during our two-year emphasis on Restorative Justice. Many of us have gained a new sensitivity to the needs of victims, perpetrators, law enforcement and emergency workers, and the families of these folks. We have been challenged in a new way to pray for all these folks.

A green Project HELP: Restorative Justice report sheet was included in the May mailing sent to WMU Directors. We hope that you will use this to share with us meaningful experiences that folks in your church have had. Thank you for your involvement in Restorative Justice.

Begin now to pray about how God will use you in the *Project HELP: Poverty* emphasis that begins September 1, 2004.



Calendar

June

- 13-14 National WMU Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN
- 14-18 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-6, Cedar Crest
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention, Indianapolis, IN
- 18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 21-25 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-6, Cedar Crest
- 25-26 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek
GA Overnight, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 28-7/2 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls grades 4-6, Cedar Crest

July

- 5-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-10, Cedar Crest
- 9-10 Mother Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 12-16 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-10, Cedar Crest
- 16-17 World Missions Unlimited, First BC, Shelbyville
- 23-24 World Missions Unlimited, First BC, London
- 30-31 World Missions Unlimited, First BC, Madisonville

August

- 14 Super Saturday, Erlanger BC, Erlanger
- 21 Super Saturday, Bellevue BC, Owensboro
- 28 Super Saturday, Severns Valley BC, Elizabethtown
- Super Saturday, Immanuel BC, Lexington



Mission Adventure Camp

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is proud to announce the following summer missionary camp staff.

Support Staff

Catherine Partlow-Campbellsville University
Megan Kinkade-Murray State University
Sabrina Parks-Georgetown College
Rebecca Ramsey-Asbury College

Cabin Leaders

Jackie Grace-Hopkinsville Community College
Rachel Montgomery-University of Kentucky
Brigette Sowder-Cumberland College
Debra Lanham-Murray State University
Brittany McCullough-Morehead State University
Nicole Lewis-Morehead State University
Ashley Judd-Eastern Kentucky University

Assistant Cabin Leaders

Emily Holladay-Lyndon Baptist Church
Melissa Anderson-Grand Rivers Baptist Church
Laura Freeman-Campbellsville Baptist Church
Juanita Dwingelo-Grand Rivers Baptist Church
Alicia Riddle-Sand Spring Baptist Church

Shauna Sams-Grand Rivers Baptist Church
Karen Ball-Edgewood Baptist Church
Kristin Perkins-Boyce Bible College

We are excited about Mission Adventure Camp this year! It may not be too late to register for weeklong camp or Mother/Daughter Camp. We hope your church will want to take part in this wonderful opportunity for the physical and spiritual growth of girls.

Camp Dates

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

Mother/Daughter Overnights

June 18-19
June 25-26
July 9-10

Please contact Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union for registration information. We hope to see you there!

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Summer Luncheon Meeting

Continuing Education Session

July 17

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ryan's Steak House
Elizabethtown

Program:

Alternative Medicine

Andy Cable, presenter

*Worthy of Honor
and Praise...
Every Woman,
Everywhere,
Everyday*

2004 Fall Retreats

September 24-25 Jonathan Creek

October 8-9 Cedarmore

Andrea Mullins, guest speaker

October 15-16 Cedarmore

Judy Murray, guest speaker



Linking
Involvement
Needs and
Knowledge for missions.

? Are you involving new people in missions?
★ Involvement is the Year 2 emphasis of Missions LINK.
✓ Come to World Missions Unlimited to learn more!

Plan now to participate in **Operation Missions LINK**, a simultaneous day of ministry on Saturday, September 11.

- ★ Participate by choosing a ministry need in your community and planning a missions project for that day.
- ★ Projects may be planned by all age-level WMU groups.
- ★ You are encouraged to use these ministries as an opportunity to invite new people to get involved through hands-on missions.
- ★ Operation Missions LINK is also a great way to commemorate 9/11 AND start the 2004 Season of State Missions.

Friend to Friend

Friendships with a Missions Twist!

Season of State Missions

and

Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2004

Offering Goal: \$1,000,000

- ◆ A sample packet of state missions teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes and promotional ideas will be mailed to the WMU director or WMU contact person in every church in July.
- ◆ A new state missions DVD will be included with the sample packet.
- ◆ Please return the order card for additional envelopes, prayer guides and posters.
- ◆ All state missions materials are provided free of charge.
- ◆ This year's material is undated and may be used any time during September.
- ◆ Suggested date: September 19-26, 2004.

Youth on Mission Night

October 22-23

Revealed

BSU building at WKU

Cost: \$10

An extraordinary ministry

Oneida makes a difference in the lives of young people

If you believe the Christ-centered message of hope can provide new beginnings to young people, please read on.

If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of young people on a daily basis and in the name of Christ, please read on.

If you became aware of a special place with an extraordinary ministry to young people, wouldn't you be interested in supporting prayerfully and financially such a ministry? I know I would. In fact, my wife and I do.

That special place where that extraordinary ministry is being delivered is Oneida Baptist Institute. As a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades six through 12, young people from all over the world receive the benefits of this extraordinary ministry. Most of the young people who attend Oneida are not Christians when they enroll, but many make professions of faith in Christ while there.

This extraordinary ministry is expressed and delivered to these young people in four disciplines: academics, worship, work and co-

curricular. Oneida President Bud Underwood, his wife, Kay, and those who serve with them are doing an excellent job in fulfilling this fourfold extraordinary ministry. About 60 percent of the students move on to higher education. Every student is involved daily in chapel and other campus ministry activities. Every student works in some job for part of each day. Oneida is known far and wide for its variety and excellence in sports, academics and fine arts activities. It is not just a place, but it's a special place where God is at work in changing and saving the lives of young people.

I strongly urge you to become involved in this extraordinary ministry. A simple way to become involved is by contributing through your church, or directly, to Oneida's Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering. Also, I encourage you to consider a legacy gift. For more information about legacy gifts, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me.

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



Barry Allen

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "In the ___ God created the heaven and earth" (Genesis 1:1)
- 8 "And on the seventh ___ God ended his work" (Genesis 2:2)
- 11 "Generations of Esau, who is ___" (Genesis 36:1)
- 12 "The word of the ___ came unto Abram in a vision" (Genesis 15:1)
- 13 Prefix: again, anew, once more
- 14 Germanium, chem. symbol
- 15 "And Cain talked with ___ his brother" (Genesis 4:8)
- 18 Kiloliter, abbr.
- 19 Inches, abbr.
- 20 Jelly
- 21 Eager
- 23 "And I will put ___ between thee and the woman" (Genesis 3:15)
- 25 "Why make ye this ___, and weep? The damsel is not dead" (Mark 5:39)
- 27 "Cain went ... and dwelt in the land of ___" (Genesis 4:16)
- 29 Address abbreviation
- 30 Declare
- 31 Surrounded by
- 32 Once more
- 34 Contraction for I am
- 35 "I was afraid, because I was ___; and I hid myself" (Genesis 3:10)
- 37 A part of a curved line
- 38 Not bright
- 40 Car manufacturer, abbr.
- 41 6, Romans num.
- 42 Common era, abbr.
- 44 Compass point, abbr.
- 45 "And she (Eve) bare a son ... called ... ___" (Genesis 4:25)
- 47 Not a liquid or a gas
- 49 Sound of a sheep
- 51 Hebrews, abbr.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11						12					13
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			45			46			47		48
49	50			51		52			53		
54			55			56			57		58
			59						60		

- 53 The sun, Sp.
- 54 A young seed
- 56 Edge of a roof
- 58 Northeastern U.S., abbr.
- 59 "Shew you a ___ upper room furnished and prepared" (Mark 14:15)
- 60 Snake-like fish

Down

- 1 "In the ___ was the Word, ... and the Word was God" (John 1:1)
- 2 "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in ___" (Genesis 2:8)
- 3 "___ ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19)
- 4 "And God said, Let us make man in our ___, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26)
- 5 Not well
- 6 "___ man hath seen God at any time" (John 1:18)
- 7 A sauce for potatoes
- 9 "And God said unto Noah, ... Make thee an ___ of gopher wood" (Genesis 6:13-14)
- 10 "Her feathers with ___ gold" (Psalm 68:13)
- 16 Nickname for Benjamin
- 17 A tree

- 21 "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her ___?" (Jeremiah 2:32)
- 22 "Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of ___" (Ruth 4:17)
- 24 "And Abraham called ... his son ... whom Sarah bare to him, ___" (Genesis 21:3)
- 26 Kingdom
- 28 One of Shobal's children (Genesis 36:23)
- 32 Confused, nervous
- 33 Virginia's neighbor, abbr.
- 36 "And Adam called his wife's name ___" (Genesis 3:20)
- 39 A group of songs combined to make one song
- 43 "___, everyone that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)
- 45 "Then ___, (who also is called Paul,)" (Acts 13:9)
- 46 "___ leadeth me beside the still waters" (Psalm 23:2)
- 47 "One lawgiver, who is able to ___ and to destroy" (James 4:12)
- 48 Library Science, abbr.
- 49 "And God said, ... I do set my ___ in the cloud, ... a token of a covenant" (Genesis 9:12-13)
- 50 Avenue, abbr.
- 52 A honey maker
- 55 Fa, so, ___, ti
- 57 Electrical Engineer, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
R	A	P	T	H	I	S	E	E	R	
12				13		14				
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15				16		17				
M	A	I	M	W	A	S	R	A	N	G
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B	E	T	T	E	R	R	A	I	S	E
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D	Y	E	D	Y	E	S	S	P	E	W

Is adoption an option?

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children can help you learn more about domestic and international adoptions and provide guidance throughout the adoption process.

Join us for a free adoption orientation meeting. Meetings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern time in Louisville on the following dates:
June 24, July 15, August 5, September 16, October 14, and November 18.

Reservations are required. Please call KBHC at 1-800-928-5342 to make a reservation and receive directions.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
 Life-Changing Ministries for Children & Families
KBHC

WESTERNRECORDER + Your church newsletter

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NATIONAL NOTES

Bill would inform women of unborn's pain. Congressional pro-life advocates announced May 20 the introduction of legislation that would require abortion doctors to inform a woman who is 20 weeks pregnant of the medical evidence her unborn child can feel pain during an abortion. If the woman still chooses to have an abortion, the doctor would be required to offer her anesthesia for the unborn child. "Women have the right to know what their unborn child experiences during an abortion," Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., said.

Christian group puts poverty on political agenda. Evangelical, Catholic and mainline Protestant groups recently hosted a conference designed to place poverty front and center as an election-year issue. Call to Renewal organized "Pentecost 2004: Making Poverty a Religious and Electoral Issue." Leaders of diverse Christian organizations signed a unity statement outlining their commitment to fighting poverty. Call to Renewal is planning a fall bus tour to continue its mission to publicize poverty as a religious and political issue. "We Christians sometimes feel politically homeless," said Jim Wallis, a founder of Call to Renewal.

Religious radio growing. The number of religious radio stations is on the increase, growing by more than 100 from 2002 to 2003, a recent Arbitron report shows. The number of religious stations grew by 122, or more than 6 percent, from 1,843 to 1,965. The 2003 total constitutes 14 percent of the 13,898 radio stations in the country.

Arizona court denies same-sex marriage appeal. Arizona's Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal on the issue of same-sex "marriage" May 25, leaving intact the state's ban on homosexual "marriage." The justices refused without comment to hear an appeal from two homosexual men who had sued the state in an effort to acquire a marriage license and overturn the state's defense of marriage act. In a 3-0 opinion against the men last October, Arizona appeals court Judge Ann Timmer wrote: "Although same-sex relationships are more open and have garnered greater societal acceptance in recent years, same-sex marriages are neither deeply rooted in the legal and social history of our nation or state nor are they implicit in the concept of ordered liberty."

Gay marriage prods 'silent' churches to act

Washington (RNS)—Across the country, grassroots galvanizing among opponents of same-sex marriage is taking shape, with conservative Christian proponents of traditional marriage repeatedly declaring that the church has been too "silent" on the matter.

Many groups are considering next steps focusing on support for a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would declare marriage to be solely between one man and one woman.

A week after facilitating a Washington news conference for prominent African-American clergy to declare that "gay marriage is not a civil right," the Traditional Values Coalition announced that those leaders have launched a nationwide legislative effort to fight gay marriage and civil unions.

At the simulcast event, Focus on the Family Chairman James Dobson prayed about plans to hold an Oct. 22 rally in Washington to affirm traditional marriage.

The "Mayday for Marriage" group that drew 20,000 people to a Seattle stadium on May 1 hopes to draw an even larger crowd to the nation's capital.

"The church has been silent on a lot of issues, and we are saying it's time for the church to stand up," said Ravon Johnson of Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, Wash., and a member of the steering committee for both events.

Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, hosted the "Battle for Marriage" live simulcast at his New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo.

He views the debate over who can be married as a global rather than a national issue.

"We are in a cultural war right now between Western civilization and Islamic countries," he said. "If they simply maintain the family and we disregard the family, they will prevail."

Haggard: All faiths on deck

Haggard said his primary work will be to motivate more evangelicals to inquire about how their senators and representatives feel about the issue, but it will take a much wider swath of Americans to achieve a constitutional amendment.

"It's going to require all people of all faiths that believe in marriage and all secular people who believe in marriage to get this constitutional amendment passed," he said.

The Family Research Council estimated that more than 500 churches and 1,500 radio stations participated in the simulcast. Now, it is distributing related "resource packets."

"The leadership on this, unfortunately, is not going to come from the political leaders," said council president Tony Perkins. "It's going to have to come from the spiritual leaders who motivate and encourage and lead the people in the pews to put pressure on their elected officials to do the right thing."



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Winning combo help Oneida get corn planted in record time this spring

Each spring we face many challenges, none more daunting than getting our corn planted. Our agriculture program has been important to this ministry for many decades. While our farm program has changed, modified and refined through the years, many aspects of our farm operation have remained much the same.

We always have raised a good portion of our pork and beef, but only in the last two decades have we been able to produce all of our pork and beef. Through the years we have had some pigs to sell, but it was not until the mid-1980s that we had a substantial number of feeder pigs to sell. It took many years to build up our beef herd to the point that we could produce all of our beef. That became a reality in the last 15 or so years. Last year, for the first time, we even had some beef to sell. The timing happened to be right, as beef prices soared last winter.

There was a time when we had our own milk cows. During the '50s and '60s we had a dairy herd that supplied nearly all of our milk. Not being able to pasteurize the milk brought an end to that part of our farm program in the late '60s. We even raised chickens for several years to provide us with our eggs and eventually chickens to eat.

One part of our farm program that has changed very little is the need to get our spring planting of corn done in a timely manner. Every farmer knows how important it is to have favorable weather in order to get the spring planting done on time. Plant too early and frost, freeze

or spring flooding can destroy part of the crop. Plant too late and you run into the summer heat and possible drought.

While we have added some tillable acreage to our farm program through the years, the amount of corn planted each year has not changed very much. Like any other farming operation, we always are fighting weather conditions and the calendar when it comes to getting the corn planted. Some years we are still planting the first week of July, which is definitely late! If we can get our planting done by the middle of June we are pleased. This year was a little different. With the help of some wonderful volunteers from California, Ohio and Kentucky and some good weather we got our corn planted by May 10. This is the first time I can remember during the past 20 years that we got our corn planted before graduation.

With all the time required to take care of the day-to-day operation of the farm, including our most important crop—kids, we always struggle to get the planting completed. Over the years Oneida has been blessed with a host of dedicated friends and volunteers. It was our volunteers who made this early spring planting possible. A retired farmer and his wife from California came to help with the planting and they will return in the fall to help with the harvest. Our friends from Ohio come several times each year to help with a variety of projects. They spend about a month each time they come. This spring they were with us for six weeks. Thank God for good weather and good friends!

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

Preparing a third-generation pastor

David Butler benefiting from classes, church, intramurals

With his father and grandfather both pastors, David Butler can't remember a time he wasn't in church. "I learned a lot from them on how to live a Christian life and to be a man of integrity," David said. His father, David A. Butler, has been pastor of Springdale Community Church in Louisville for 17 years. Grandfather Laverne Butler was pastor of Ninth and O Baptist and former president of Mid-Continent College; he continues an active preaching ministry.

Has David's heritage brought unreal expectations? "Not as much as I expected," he said. "Many people expected me to be a pastor and preach like them. I try to be what Christ wants." After serving in youth ministry, David struggled with the direction of his call. On Oct. 5, 2003, he surrendered to be a pastor. "I heard a sermon on John 6 and Jesus' question, 'Will you leave me?' I didn't want that to happen to me," David said. "My wife tells me I now do a better job preaching."

David, Jennifer and 8-year-old Ashley are part of West Corbin Baptist Church. Pastor Randy

McPherson (1995 alumnus) encourages David to obey the Lord, complete his education and grow in Christ. "Bro. Randy asks me to preach some," David said. "We also want to be used in the GROW outreach program. The church is a good learning experience for future leadership."

The Butlers, in their third year at Clear Creek, like the campus family atmosphere; there are many children the age of Ashley. David enjoys intramural sports. Which sport? "All of them," he said. "It brings good fellowship and relief from study. The 2001 softball team won the first Frito-Lay Industrial League, beating the 12th ranked team in the state. The guys on the other team said, 'We need to start attending church.' Playing them was a good witness opportunity. This year the student basketball team finally beat the faculty/staff team."

We pray the classroom, intramurals, family interaction and local church experience will continue to help David become the pastor God desires.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Kathie Lee Gifford puts faith in public eye with book, CD

By Charles Honey
Religion News Service

Greenwich, Conn. (RNS)—When Kathie Lee Gifford co-hosted her talk show with Regis Philbin, guests occasionally leaned forward during commercial breaks and told her, "I'm praying for you."

Gifford appreciated their words of comfort during her very public difficulties of recent years. But she said she wishes even one of them had shared his or her faith on the air.

"As grateful to them as I was for their prayers, I felt a sadness that they didn't feel it was OK to publicly acknowledge the Lord," Gifford said in a telephone interview.

"It's like you've got to come out of the closet as a Christian these days. It's hysterical. Any person of faith is treated with ridicule or disdain in our culture."

Gifford always has been up front about her faith, at some cost to herself, she believes. But she is proclaiming it again with the release this month of an inspirational CD and companion devotional book.

"Gentle Grace," the title of both, reflects the turmoil of Gifford's recent life and how her faith held her up. The book contains lyrics, meditations and Scripture quotes.

Since giving her life to Jesus at a Billy Graham movie at age 12, Gifford said God has stuck with her through tough times. She said she hopes the book and her nine new songs comfort others.

"I have nothing else to depend on except the life preserver of God's Word," Gifford said from her Greenwich, Conn., home.

Gifford has been largely out of the public eye since leaving "Live With Regis and Kathie Lee," her morning talk show of 15 years, in 2000. But she was often in

the headlines in the mid- to late 1990s. She came under criticism from labor activists for the brutal conditions of sweatshop workers who made garments for her Wal-Mart clothing line. Talk show hosts had a field day with tabloid reports of her husband, Frank's, affair with a stewardess.

Calling it "tabloid hell," Gifford said the media feasted on these episodes while ignoring the millions of dollars she has poured into two New York City homes for AIDS and crack babies.

She says it is part of the price of being open about her faith.

"You become a target," said Gifford, mother of two children. "People want to call you a hypocrite."

"It's not really about me, it's about commerce. If they set my husband up to be unfaithful to me, they can make millions. If a man stands up and lies about me (alleging sweatshop abuses) in the halls of Congress, he can get attention on whatever issue he has."

Admitting she has "not lived a perfect life," she insists God has used her difficulties for good. Her new songs and writings grew from that pain, as well as from the death, in 2002, of her father.

"The songs came out of my own hurt and struggles, which were very public but no different than other people's struggles," she said.

Her family attends Congregational churches, but she said she is more concerned with living her faith in the mostly secular entertainment industry.

"You're usually the only one in the room that believes the way you do," Gifford said. "You have incredible opportunities to share the Lord with people who don't go to church or would never read the Bible."



WMU unveils children's book on poverty

Birmingham, Ala.—Woman's Missionary Union recently released a children's book on poverty to accompany the organization's Project HELP initiative on the same subject.

"What Does It Mean to Be Poor?" was written to teach children and preschoolers how to help those who are less fortunate.

In the 30-page book, a mother explains poverty to her son, and together they work to prepare a box of food and various supplies for the underprivileged in their community.

The book directly ties in with WMU's social cause intervention program, Project HELP, which launches its focus on poverty this year.

"My experiences of working as a childcare director and at a childcare referral agency made me sensitive to the needs that are present in the lives of low-income families," said author Joye Smith, a WMU ministry

consultant.

"Since the world of a preschooler is very small, the story needed to focus on aspects of poverty to which preschoolers could relate," she said.

The book's illustrator, WMU art director Cathy Lollar, said she sought to avoid stereotypes when it came to depicting poverty.

"It was important to me to not only depict minorities, because poverty is not about race—it's about circumstance," Lollar said. "I wanted the illustrations to be sensitive and emotionally expressive."

"What Does It Mean to Be Poor?" also includes discussion topics for preschoolers and their families, Bible thoughts and ministry activity suggestions. "It could be used in preschool classes at church or in childcare centers," Smith said.

For more information about the book, visit www.missionfriends.com or call WMU customer service at (800) 968-7301.

Reimagining Spiritual Formation: A Week in the Life of an Experimental Church. Doug Pagitt. emergentYS Books, 2003. 163 pages. \$16.99.

◆◆◆ (out of five)

Doug Pagitt serves as pastor of Solomon's Porch, "a holistic, missional, Christian community in Minneapolis, Minn." His book is a tour of the various ways this congregation works at the task of spiritual formation.

Pagitt begins the tour on Sunday by walking us through the community's worship and ends on Saturday by reviewing the various avenues for spiritual formation through service to the community.

Between Sunday and Saturday, he examines the way spiritual formation occurs by paying attention to: physicality, dialogue, hospitality, belief and creativity.

The Solomon's Porch community is built around the conviction that spiritual formation is best done in community. Pagitt points out that "becoming Christian is much like learning our native language: we pick it up when we are immersed in it." Therefore, "community as a means of spiritual formation serves to immerse people in the Christian way of living so that they learn how to be Christian in a life-long process of discovery and change."

"Reimagining Spiritual Formation" is an interesting blend of theology, theory, storytelling and practical suggestions. I rarely made it through a chapter without picking up some idea for enhancing the life of our congregation.

Pagitt is clear that he is writing to give us a glimpse into the life and effort of one congregation to address the issue of forming Christian believers in the postmodern context. He does not claim the Solomon's Porch model will work everywhere. At the same time, the theological insights that form the foundation for their work should be taken seriously.

Pastors, Christian educators and other leaders who are responsible for planning and enacting the mission of a local church will find many gems in this story.

One thing I felt the book could have done without were the string journal entries from members of the Solomon's Porch Community. Pagitt intended them both to amplify his story and to provide a counterpoint. Most of the time, they were distracting. *Jim Holladay*

Nothing Never Happens: Experiential Learning and the Church. John Hendrix. Smyth and Helwys, 2004. 199 pages. \$18. ◆◆◆◆

In "Nothing Never Happens," John Hendrix displays his passion for teaching and his respect for the learner.

Teaching is not a simple transfer of ideas from one brain to another, but rather a dynamic process in which the whole of the student becomes a part of the teaching/learning event.

This book is particularly about one form of learning theory, experiential learning, and interpretation of the Bible. Hendrix takes seriously the role of the learner's previous experience. He encourages the teacher

to invite the student to bring his or her life into the cycle of learning. The teaching task then must become more creative and dynamic than most of us are naturally prepared to do. Hendrix also incorporates the presence of the Holy Spirit in his cycle of learning.

Hendrix's experiential Bible learning is centered in the Bible and includes four movements he calls experience (hook), exegesis (book), reflection (look) and application (took). Hendrix is conversant with the latest literature in learning theory and adds his own significant contribution for those wishing to serve as a church educator.

Hendrix is not only an educator; he also has served as a pastor. Particularly interesting is his chapter on the preaching task and how preaching must use the senses and the imagination in order to reach the longed-for goal of moving people to action. *Wayne Hager*

Who Rules the Church? Examining Congregational Leadership and Church Government. Gerald Cowen. Broadman & Holman, 2003. 152 pages. \$19.99. ◆◆◆

I came to this book with one impression. I left it with a quite different one. In some ways I was pleasantly surprised, and yet I was also frustrated.

In some ways the question in the title is a bit of a come on. The latter phrase of the title comes closer to the true focus of the book, but still does not capture it.

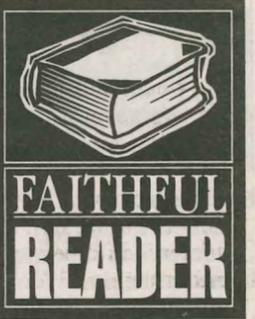
Gerald Cowen, professor of New Testament Greek at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, sets out to examine the New Testament model of church governance and leadership. Not surprisingly (he is a Baptist after all), he concludes that the prevalent pattern of church governance in the New Testament is congregationally based.

However, he also recognizes that the New Testament presents a bit stronger picture of pastoral leadership than one might find in many Baptist churches today and a less authoritarian view than one might find in others.

The core of the book looks at the office of pastor-elder. Cowen wades right into the middle of the current movement in many Baptist churches to create an office of governing elder, which is different from the office of pastor or deacon. He finds no biblical warrant for this practice. In his view, an elder was always one functioning as pastor of a church. After reviewing the pastoral office, Cowen turns his attention to the office of deacon.

The two appendices dealing with Anabaptist and Baptist ecclesiologies provided interesting and insightful information, but I could not figure how it fit with the rest of the material.

Cowen provides an interesting look at the offices of pastor-elder and deacon, how they relate to one another and to the church as a whole. It would be interesting to get a group together to discuss pastoral and deacon expectations in light of Cowen's book. *Jim Holladay*



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



HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By LaRaine Dail

School's out! The countdown to summer camp has begun.

At Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, we are busy preparing for Mission Adventure Camp for Girls. Young ladies from across Kentucky will spend a week at Cedar Crest learning about God, missions and how to become Christ followers. They also will play games, stay up way too late and swim (something my niece is very excited about).

Each year, campers make personal professions of faith in Christ as their leaders share the good news with them. In fact, you can use "CAMP" as an easy way to remember how to become a Christian:

Call on God. "There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them" (Acts 4:12).

Admit your need for God. "But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8).

Move away from your sin. "If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong" (1 John 1:9).

Pray to receive Christ. "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

This summer, pray for the opportunity to share the good news about Christ with others. Pray that campers will make decisions for Christ at Christian camps throughout our state, nation and world.

LaRaine Dail is Kentucky WMU youth/college consultant

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARBOURVILLE**—Tony Merida of Barbourville received the master of theology degree May 15 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Matthew Spandler-Davison recently resigned as associate pastor for family discipleship at Bardstown Church.

■ **CADIZ**—Donny Garner recently resigned as pastor of Rock Front Church.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Ralph Tesseneer, a deacon at Campbellsville Church, recently was named Citizen of the Year by the Campbellsville/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce.

■ **COVINGTON**—Randy Umstead has resigned as minister of music at Latonia Church.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church recently honored Mike Adams for 10 years of service as custodian. Billy Compton is pastor.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church will hold a parent-child dedication ceremony June 20.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church recently called Rebecca Adams as director of worship and music and Janie Shackelford as preschool coordinator. Wallace Kent is pastor.

Immanuel Church will host "Jubilate! Festival Singers," a 100-voice touring youth choir, in concert June 5, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 223-7601.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill Church recently honored Daniel Light for his ministry as organist. Winford Hendrix is transition pastor.

Gethsemane Church will host the Southern Gospel group, The Hoppers, June 27 during morning worship. For information, call (502) 979-3191.

Highland Church recently honored Betsy Neill for her service as financial secretary and pastor's secretary. Joe Phelps is pastor.

Rockford Lane Church will host "No Joe" in concert June 6, 6:30 p.m. Randal Pollock is pastor.

■ **MACKVILLE**—Unity Church ordained Brandon Carrier to the gospel ministry May 30. He is minister of music at Pioneer Church in Harrodsburg.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Lucy Cain resigned as music director of New Hope Baptist Church effective June 1. The church has called Rick Ralston as interim minister of music. Wesley Noss is the pastor.

Retired pastor T.A. Thacker dies

Louisville—Former Kentucky pastor Thomas Andrew Thacker, 81, died May 19.

Thacker was pastor emeritus of Memorial Baptist Church in Murray, where, he served as pastor from 1957 to 1968. He also was pastor of Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville from 1968 to 1982.

His leadership roles included being chairman of the board of trustees for Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, moderator of Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville and a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board.

A graduate of Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Louisville and Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Thacker also served as adjunct professor at Southern's Boyce Bible School from 1977 to 1982.

He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 50 years, Caroline Jones of Princeton. Survivors include his wife of 10 years, Evelyn; daughter, Sherry Bouchillon; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held May 22 at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville and May 24 at Memorial Baptist Church in Murray. Memorial gifts can be made to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.
- 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.
- 25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek, grades 1-6.
- 25-26 Mission Adventure Camp, father/son overnight for boys, grades 1-3, Campbellsville University.

28-7/2 Discovery Youth Week, Cedarmore.

28-7/2 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest, grades 4-6.

July

- 2-5 Baptist Men on Mission wrangler trail ride, Land Between the Lakes State Park.
- 3-10 Kentucky Changers, Frankfort.
- 5-9 Discovery Youth Week, grades 7-9, Cedarmore Camp.
- 5-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, grades 4-10, Campbellsville University.
- 5-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-10, Cedar Crest Camp.
- 9-10 Mission Adventure Camp Father/Son Overnight for Boys, grades 1-3, Campbellsville University.
- 9-10 Mother/Daughter Overnight for Girls, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest Camp.
- 12-16 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore.
- 12-16 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 4-10, Cedar Crest Camp.
- 13-18 Women's Chorale Kentucky Tour.
- 16-17 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.
- 19-23 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore Camp.
- 19-21 Mission Adventure Express Camp for Boys, grades 3-6, Campbellsville University.
- 22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest Family Ministries, Inez.
- 23-24 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, London.
- 26-30 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore Camp.
- 26-28 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.
- 30-31 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 1992 Ford Econoline 350 24-passenger church bus w/ wheelchair lift. Good condition. 90,000 miles. \$15,000. Contact Ken at Fee Fee Baptist Church, (314) 739-1525 or (314) 291-1648.

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

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

SEEKING: Ministry assistant for KBC communications department. Position requires 3-5 years related experience. Responsibilities include clerical, technical and writing assistance in the areas of video/audio production, Web site maintenance and general media services. This full-time position offers competitive salary and benefits package. Contact the administrative services department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, KY; (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Full-time director of missions for Severns Valley Association of Baptists in central Kentucky. Resumes should be postmarked by June 30, 2004, and addressed to: DOM Search Committee, Severns Valley Association, PO Box 541, Elizabethtown, KY 42702-0541.

SEEKING: DOM. Mineral Area Baptist Association's Director of Missions Search Committee is accepting resumes until July 1, 2004. Must support the Missouri Baptist Convention, the SBC and the 2000 BF&M. MABA DOM Search Committee, 5169 Flat River Road, Farmington, MO 63640-7404.

SEEKING: Forest Park Baptist Church, located three blocks from Western Kentucky University, is in search of a full-time Minister of Music & Youth. Seminary education and/or prior experience is preferred. Loving congregation and excellent benefit package awaits interested candidates. Interested applicants may send resume to: Minister of Music/Youth Search, Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: David Morrow; or e-mail: ForPrkBapt@aol.com.

SEEKING: Post Oak Baptist Church is currently accepting resumes for the position of minister of music. Interested individuals should send resumes to: Search Committee, Post Oak Baptist Church, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276. (270) 726-2157; pobc@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Minister of youth/recreation for a dynamic, growing 814-member congregation in central Kentucky. Responsibilities will include middle, high school and college students as well as some recreation and education. Send resume to: Eddie Benton, Youth Search Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 2580 Springfield Road, Bardstown, KY 40004.

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. Resumes 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: Church pianist. Hurstbourne area of Louisville. Above-average compensation. Inquiries: (502) 491-1920.

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

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

SEEKING: Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time associate pastor of children. ZBC is a rapidly growing church which currently averages 650 in Sunday school, with an established, dynamic children's ministry, ministering to over 200 children weekly. A seminary degree and prior experience is preferred. Send resume to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail mkgallow@yahoo.com.

Meet the Millennials

Author: Churches can reach them by helping them crack code of life's issues

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standards

Houston (ABP)—Churches can reach "Millennials"—the generation of Americans born since 1982—by helping them crack the code to life's profound questions, according to futurist Neil Howe.

Howe is a demographer, economist, historian and author of several books on U.S. generations, including "Millennials Rising: The Next American Generation."

"We are constantly trying to predict what the next generation is going to be like," he noted during a daylong lecture at Houston Baptist University, conceding, "Extrapolation—predicting that the rising generation will be like the current generation, only more so—always proves to be wildly inaccurate."

For example, historians guessed the Baby Boomers, born between 1943 and 1960, would be more conformist than their parents, the Silent Generation, he said. But Boomers proved to be the opposite, questioning virtually all authority.

Based on how the Boomers lived, Generation X, born between 1961 and 1981, was expected to be even more passionate and ideological than their parents. "But they proved the present is not an extension of the past," Howe observed.

Now that Millennials are coming of age, they are turning out to be quite different than anticipated, he said.

Extrapolating from Generation X, experts expected Millennials to be "more culturally cynical, collectively pessimistic about the future and prone to risk-taking activities like sex, drugs and crime," he reported. "But once again, truth conflicts straight-line extrapolation."

Taking a conservative turn

Howe cited an array of developments that document the Millennials' conservative turn.

In the past decade, teen violent crime has declined by 65 percent, "the greatest reduction in history ... down beyond imagining," he said.

Sexual activity by high school students has dropped 20 percent in 10 years, and the rates of teen pregnancy, abortion and births have declined 30 percent to 40 percent.

Teens also are less likely to be loner "free agents," he said. High schoolers involved in community service climbed from 27 percent in 1984 to 83 percent in 1999-2000.

Fifty-six percent of Millennials say they find explicit depictions of sexual activity and nudity offensive, a trend Howe called "the new modesty."

Millennials also are the most ethnically diverse U.S. generation, he said. Non-Anglos account for 37.6 percent of Millennials, compared to 32.8 percent of Gen-Xers and 24.2 percent of Boomers.

Geographical or regional factors



SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE Churches can connect with Millennials, the generation of Americans born since 1982, by helping them plan, act and build communities, according to author and futurist Neil Howe. "Millennials want to know how to build a better community, organize, socialize and have fun." (Adobe photo)

could impact how quickly people see these trends, he said, explaining, "If any group is behind the trends, it is rural kids."

For churches that want to reach Millennials, the first step involves understanding that, like everything else about them, Millennials see faith and religion differently than their Boomer parents, Howe said.

All their lives, Boomers have keyed on religious insight, on "focusing on the heart ... changing you from the inside out," he asserted.

Understanding religion

"Millennials are much more interested in figuring out the code: What makes sense? How do religions work?" he explained. "Millennials are incredibly system-minded."

They also want to know the "how" and "what" of religion.

"If you're going to worship God, what do you do? Do you do some things every week? Practically speaking, what does that mean for changing your relationship to your parents, to society?" he said.

"Millennials also have a real interest in using the church as a focus of community involvement. They place a large focus on community service. But they also use the church as an extension of their social life—sort of a group."

With Millennials' emphasis on behavior and rules, the Christian faith can become an attractive foun-

ation for their lives, Howe said.

"I've heard teens talk about churches being an answer to the relativism of the postmodern time," he said. "This allows the church to create anchors of trust and faith to build a basis for acting in this world."

"This is a generation that wants to do things—to plan, act, build communities. So, it helps to have certain cornerstones."

For example, ministry to Millennials needs to be "straightforward about doctrine," he explained.

"Millennials are not as indirect as Boomers often are in getting at what religion means. Boomers often get off on what the experience is like, what it feels like. They get fixated on attitude."

Be direct

"The Millennial doesn't care about attitude. The Millennial cares about what I have to do; what behaviors are required. So, be direct. Tell Millennials what is required. Explain what it means. Then move on, telling them how they can be effective in this world."

"Millennials want to know how to build a better community, organize, socialize and have fun."

And even how Millennials have fun is significant for churches that try to minister to them, he observed, describing a new trend—congregations renting skating rinks, movie

7 characteristics of millennials

Churches that understand the characteristics of Millennials can use that information to create effective ministries to reach them with the gospel, according to futurist Neil Howe.

Responding to all the forces upon them, Millennials have developed seven generational characteristics, Howe said. Millennials are:

■ **Special.** Millennials value stability over rapid change, he said. More of them want to have children than their counterparts in previous generations.

They also expect society to be better when they take over, with significant numbers of them saying they intend to make improvements in technology, ecology, foreign relationships, government, arts and culture, and religion.

■ **Sheltered.** Noting that steps to care for children—such as child protection policies—have been in place all their lives, Howe said, "Millennials see protection as a sign that older people care about them and want to protect them to go out and do great things."

While 58 percent of their parents acknowledge they're sometimes overprotective, 90 percent of Millennials agree on parental rules that are "strict and fair." In 2002, 56 percent of high school students said they prefer to attend a college that is nearby, compared to 41 percent who said they want to go far away.

■ **Confident.** Among Millennials, 90 percent said they are happy, and 82 percent predicted they will be better off than their parents, he reported. Not coincidentally, the suicide rate has declined for Millennials.

■ **Team-oriented.** Sixty-four percent of Millennials agreed they will be seen as the "us generation," Howe said, pointing out their emphasis shifted from the Boomers' "I" to "we." Also, 50 percent of Millennials said they trust institutions, compared to just 26 percent of adults.

School innovations that "harness peer pressure"—such as uniforms and student juries that levy penalties for misbehavior—have been well-received by Millennials, he said.

Millennials also are quick to point a finger at indulgent individualism, he noted. Students in kindergarten through grade 12 said the primary causes of social problems are selfishness, failure to respond to authority, wrongdoing by politicians, and lack of parental discipline and leadership.

■ **Conventional.** Millennials typically expect higher standards of themselves and others than do adults, Howe said.

Also, 94 percent of children age 9 to 17 told researchers they trust their parents, and 82 percent of teens said they have "no problems" with any family member—the highest percentage since World War II, he said. Sixty-seven percent said they would raise their own children the way they have been raised.

■ **Pressured.** Despite all the attempts to protect them, Millennials feel pressure more intensely than did their predecessors, Howe noted. An unprecedented number—84 percent—intend to attend college, he said. The same percentage see security as "very important" in their lives.

As markers of how driven they are, two-thirds of Millennials don't get enough sleep, and 88 percent reported they have specific five-year goals.

■ **Achieving.** "It's cool to be smart," Howe said of the young generation. Early Millennials posted the highest SAT college-entrance scores since 1974, and Millennials have chalked up increasingly high scores on standardized tests, particularly for math and science.

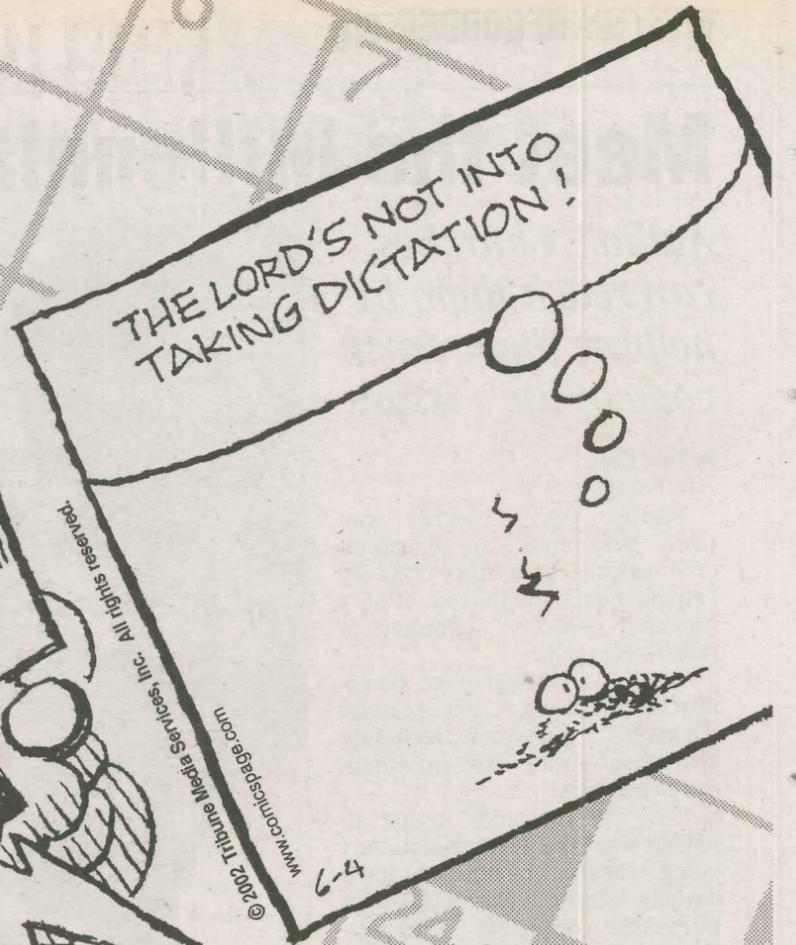
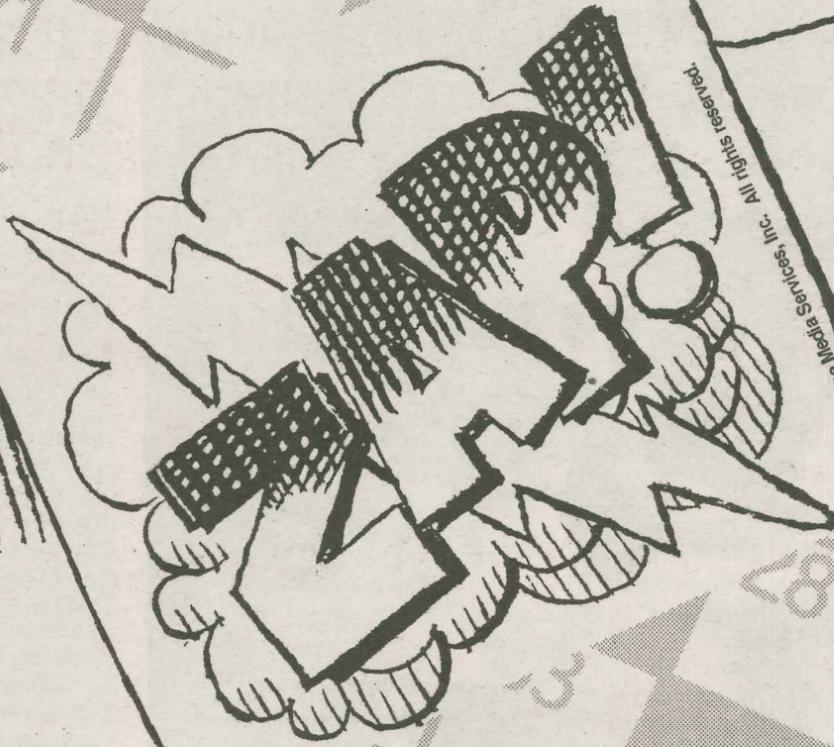
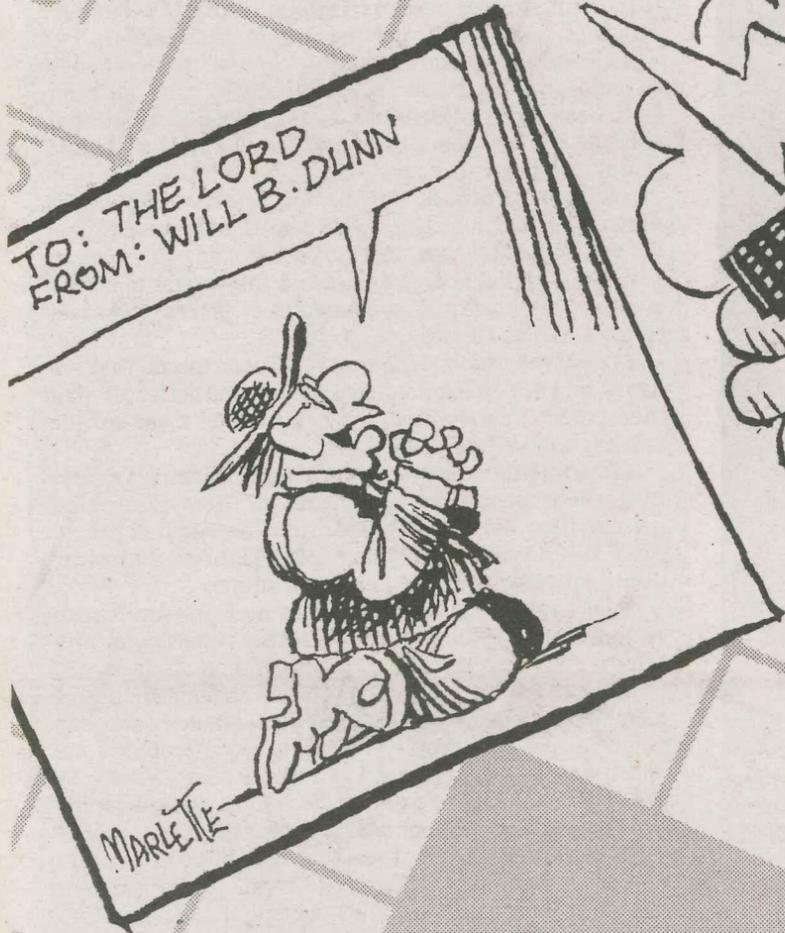
Perhaps their desire is linked to their view of the future, he said, noting 75 percent of college students expect increased terror threats, but 93 percent said they believe science and technology will play an important role in responding to those threats.

theaters or laser tag facilities. "Obviously, it's fun. But it's also in tune with the whole Millennial approach to protection."

Millennials also appreciate planning, he said.

"Millennials, much more than Boomers, want to plan their lives over time. What does that mean with regard to marriage, careers and education? I'm not sure how a church would do this, but in ways that are fun and interesting, it can help them focus on how to build a life that is significant."

SMILE!



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