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Oneida Baptist Institute
Father's Day Offering
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FOR THE RECORD

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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 16.

Study: Prayer top 'alternative' medicine in U.S

Washington (RNS)—With all the new alternative medicines that have burst upon the scene under vivid banners of hype and promotion, for most Americans the oldest (and cheapest) "alternative medicine" is still their favorite—prayer.

According to a nationwide survey recently conducted by the National Institutes of Health, 36 percent of Americans over age 18 use some form of "complementary alternative medicine," or CAM.

When praying for health reasons was included in the definition of a CAM, that number jumped to 62 percent.

Of those who have used CAMs, 43 percent said they pray for their own health. Twenty-four percent said they have asked others to pray for them and 10 percent said they have participated in prayer groups where their health was the main topic of supplication.

"Over the years, we've concentrated on traditional medical treatment, but this new collection of CAM data taps into another dimension entirely," said Edward Sondik, director of the National Center for Health Statistics. "What we see is that a sizable percentage of the public puts their personal health into their own hands."

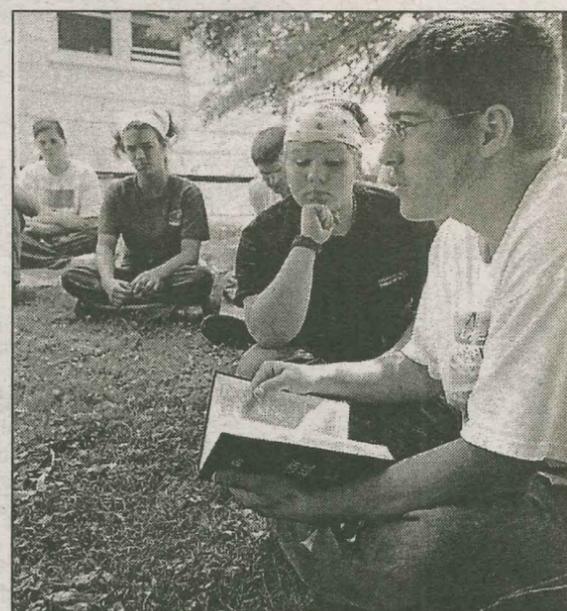
After prayer on the list of popular CAMs were natural products, such as herbs, at 19 percent; deep breathing exercises at 12 percent; and chiropractic care at 8 percent.

The survey, administered to more than 31,000 Americans, was conducted as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health Interview Survey.

Kentucky Changers



More than 300 youth, church leaders and chaperones helped renovate homes in Maysville last week as part of Kentucky Changers, the annual summer missions project coordinated by the men's ministry department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Approximately 900 people will take part in Kentucky Changers before projects are completed this summer. More work is scheduled later in Calloway and Frankfort. In addition to work on homes, the weeklong program includes time for worship, fellowship and church group devotion time. **Above:** Emily Faulkner (left), 14, of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville; Mariah Hetterbrant (center), 13, and Ashley Capps, 12, both from Wilmington, Ohio, scrape paint from a house that later would get a fresh coat. **Right:** Dustin Maynard, of First Baptist Church of West Jefferson, Ohio, leads a lunchtime devotion. Story and more photos on page 3. (Photos by David Winfrey)



Kentucky ministers' salaries slightly below national average

Compensation study

| | Kentucky average | Study average |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Full-time pastors | | |
| Average compensation | \$44,511 | \$46,505 |
| Average pay package | \$54,853 | \$56,236 |
| Bivocational pastors | | |
| Average compensation | \$14,383 | \$14,788 |
| Average pay package | \$16,537 | \$16,340 |
| Full-time staff members | | |
| Average compensation | \$41,023 | \$44,730 |
| Average pay package | \$50,504 | \$54,184 |
| Bivocational staff members | | |
| Average compensation | \$11,297 | \$10,725 |
| Average pay package | \$12,306 | \$11,576 |

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Salaries for full-time Kentucky Baptist pastors remain slightly below average in a national compensation study—but the figures are not cause for alarm, according to study coordinator Don Spencer.

The average salary and housing for full-time Kentucky Baptist pastors is \$44,511 compared to \$46,505 among Southern Baptist pastors throughout the nation. The average total pay package, including insurance and annuity benefits; is \$54,853 in Kentucky and \$56,236 nationally.

On the national level, the aver-

age salary and housing for full-time pastors ranges from \$34,397 in Montana to \$63,818 in the District of Columbia. Full-time pastors in the Baptist General Convention of Texas rank second at \$56,581.

"We have a lot more smaller churches than some of the states," Spencer noted. "When you evaluate the same size range of churches as some of the other states, you start getting into the same ballpark" in salary compensation.

And the church staff compensation study Spencer has been coordinating for several years is designed to provide those comparable ranges.

□ See KBC study of pastors' ... Page 8

25 years later: SBC's 'conservative resurgence'

SBC statistics show little gain since '79 shift

"It is too early to tell all of the effects of the conservative renaissance. Wait 20 more years, and we will have a better view."

Former SBC President Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—This month marks the 25th anniversary of the "conservative resurgence," a term Southern Baptist Convention leaders use to describe the denomination's conservative shift since 1979.

Although the SBC—unlike most other major Protestant denominations in the United States—has continued to grow since then, denominational statistics show the SBC's growth rate has slowed and it hasn't kept pace with the U.S. population.

Statistics also show that the SBC is significantly less evangelistic, per capita, than it was in 1979.

Depending on who's doing the analysis, Southern Baptists' slumping numbers show either the delayed effect of a pre-1979 moderate malaise or signs of the SBC's ultimate decline.

"Forty years of liberal domination left the denomination suffering from spiritual anemia," said Paige Patterson, an architect of the conservative movement and now president of Southern Baptists' largest seminary. "It takes a while to get iron back in the system."

But moderate Baptist historian Bill Leonard sees it differently. "What you have is statistical evidence of a much larger issue, which is that the whole denominational system for Southern Baptists is coming apart—the same way it is for the mainline (Protestant denominations)," he said.

In 1980, Southern Baptist churches baptized 429,742 people. In 2003, that figure was 377,357. The annual number of SBC baptisms has hovered around the 400,000 mark since the 1950s.

However, the ratio of total members to baptisms—a statistic many Southern Baptists say is indicative of the denomination's fervor for evangelism—has continued to worsen. In 1954, Southern Baptists counted one baptism for every 22 church members. In 1979, the ratio was 1:36. In 2003, it had reached 1:43.

That means, according to a denominational news release about the 2003 statistics, that "statistically, it took 43 existing church members to bring in one new member."

Membership growth slows

Additionally, the SBC's rate of growth in total membership is slower than it was in the pre-1979 years. In 1979, denominational figures showed that 13,379,073 people belonged to Southern Baptist churches. In 2003—the most recent year for which statistics are available—the total was 16,315,050. That's a 22 percent increase in 25 years.

But in the previous 25 years, the rate of growth in total membership was 64 percent. The denomination went from 8.2 million members in 1954 to 13.4 million in 1979.

The shift in control of the SBC began with the election of conservative Memphis pastor Adrian Rog-

Current SBC leaders celebrate changes

Dallas—They said it couldn't be done. For that matter, it shouldn't be done.

Former Southern Baptist Convention entity heads doubted the long-term impact of electing a conservative, Adrian Rogers, to the SBC presidency in 1979, writing it off as a political maneuver "loyal Southern Baptists" would reject.

Twenty-five years later many of the conservative challengers are leading SBC ministries. From hiring seminary faculty committed to biblical inerrancy to requiring missionaries to affirm a revised faith statement, the priority of enforcing conservative perspectives was a key to what became known as the "conservative resurgence."

"Prayerful politics was integral"

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, a former SBC president, noted during a recent conference, "When those of us who participated in leadership roles in what has been called the Southern Baptist conservative resurgence gather for the silver anniversary celebration, it is something to celebrate. Our beloved Southern Baptist Convention was saved from theological and numerical decimation known to most mainline American denominations in the last half of the 20th century because of the conservative resurgence.

"Thoughtful, aggressive, prayer-

ful politics was integral to its success," he added, defining politics as the art of working with people. "However, one of the challenges we now face, in my opinion, is how to move beyond aggressive partisan politics to a model of denominational decision-making that is more normative for Southern Baptists and more beneficial.

"Our convention may be doctrinally pure," he added, "but without cooperation, without trusting one another, our convention shall cease to have the dynamic missions enterprise that reaches to the far corners of the earth."

He warned that "politics for politics' sake" will result in "narrower participation in denominational life, a shallower pool of wisdom and giftedness in our enterprises and a shrinking impact upon the world."

International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin said he was "totally immersed in field responsibilities" during his 23 years as a missionary and "so I was not involved in all that was happening in the SBC up to my selection in 1993." But he offered unequivocal support for the changes in SBC direction and leadership.

"Our board was obviously shaped by the conservative resurgence and found me to be doctrinally aligned with the direction of the SBC," Rankin said. "I was committed to lead the IMB in a direction compatible with the

resurgence, not because it was expected or my obligation to do so, but because it represented my personal convictions and was essential to effectively fulfilling our mission work."

Inerrancy view required

Larry Lewis, the first president of the former Home Mission Board elected under a conservative-dominated board, told Baptist Press in 1997, "Since my presidency began, no one has been employed to an elected professional position, nor has anyone been approved as a missionary who did not affirm the inerrancy of the Scriptures, the reality of the miracles, the validity of the biblical narratives, or the divinity of Jesus."

Robert Reccord, who chaired an SBC task force charged with carrying out a 1997 denominational reorganization plan, later was elected president of the reorganized North American Mission Board. Reccord said his work with the task force "made me very aware right from the beginning that I wanted to make very clear to trustees without exception or apology that we would support the Baptist Faith and Message 100 percent.

"The bottom line is opinions aren't driving issues," he added. "The reality of Scripture is. It is our plumb line by which we measure everything."

Based on reporting by Baptist Press

ers as SBC president in 1979. Since then, a succession of conservative presidents has steered the SBC to the right and the convention has taken increasingly conservative positions on theological, political and social issues.

Such drastic reforms, SBC leaders said, were necessary to prevent a slide into the kind of "liberal" theology espoused by other mainline Protestant groups. So has the conservative shift been a success in numerical terms?

"Raw statistics have a story to tell, but they seldom tell the whole," Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said in an e-mail interview. "Many of our churches are plateaued or declining. Yet, this is the age of the greatest churches ever and of the expansion of Southern Baptists into every corner of North America."

Patterson also cited as signs of success large increases in the denomination's professional and volunteer missionary force since 1979, increasing enrollments at SBC seminaries and large growth in baptisms and new churches in nations served by SBC missionaries.

The lack of an SBC-wide increase in evangelistic fervor is his "greatest disappointment," Patterson added. "Conservative theology does not necessarily translate into evangelism, church growth or devotion to Christ."

However, he added, "liberal and quasi-liberal theologies always translate into stagnation and de-

cline. I would rather keep the theology biblical and pray for revival than have liberal theology and a dead denomination."

Two experts on SBC statistics suggested the denomination was bound to struggle, regardless of who was at the helm.

Leonard, a moderate leader and former Southern Baptist seminary professor, said, "The unity of Southern Baptist programs and Southern regional culture is what contributed to the growth and tenacity of the denomination (in the pre-1979 era). As Southern culture changed, the denomination didn't," said Leonard, now dean of the divinity school at Wake Forest University.

Lack of ethnic diversity

Clay Price, a former SBC Home Mission Board statistician who now works for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, agreed Southern Baptists' dramatic growth rates in the 1950s and '60s owed as much to culture as to denominational leadership.

"We benefited greatly from the shape of the (U.S.) population in the '50s, but that was a boon for everybody," he said. "The '60s—we were still growing pretty well. But trying to deal with the social issues at the time was a real struggle for Baptists, I think."

Both Price and the SBC's current top statistician, Cliff Tharp, noted that the overwhelmingly Anglo make-up of most Southern Baptist congregations in an increasingly ethnically diverse culture has

contributed to the slowing rate of growth.

"There has been a dramatic increase in the Hispanic population and black population," said Tharp, who analyzes statistics for LifeWay Christian Resources. "And while Southern Baptists have work in those areas, we have not been keeping pace in those areas at the way the population's been increasing."

According to Leonard, "Because of the cultural and denominational disconnects, whoever was in charge of the SBC would have seen this kind of decline in some form or another. It was hubris for the conservatives to say they saved the denomination numerically. They may have saved it theologically, from their point of view, but they haven't saved it numerically."

But Patterson begged to differ. He drew a parallel between what he considered the lingering results of moderate control of the denomination and those of a 1980s nuclear-plant disaster in the former Soviet Union.

"Some of the effects of radiation sickness in the vicinity of Chernobyl were immediate. Others have manifested themselves only with the passing of the years," he said. "But, the ill effects, short-term or long-term, are not the responsibility of these who did their best to save life and limit danger.

"It is too early to tell all of the effects of the conservative renaissance," Patterson added. "Wait 20 more years, and we will have a better view."

Hammers, paint brushes & love

Kentucky Changers gives teens chance to minister outside their church walls

By David Winfrey
News Director

Maysville—Songs fill the air as teenagers paint over graffiti in the picnic shed at Maysville's January Park.

Despite the heat and hard work, smiles abound, as their selections vary from "With Jesus in Your Boat You Can Smile at the Storm" to the theme song for "SpongeBob SquarePants."

It's summer again, and that means it's time for Kentucky Changers, the annual collection of weeklong ministry projects that combines housing rehabilitation with Bible study, worship and fellowship.

This is the 11th consecutive year for Kentucky Changers, which is organized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men on mission department.

The program has grown considerably since 80 people gathered to work in Hopkinsville in 1994.

By the end of the summer, approximately 900 youth, adult project supervisors and chaperones will have taken part in Kentucky Changers.

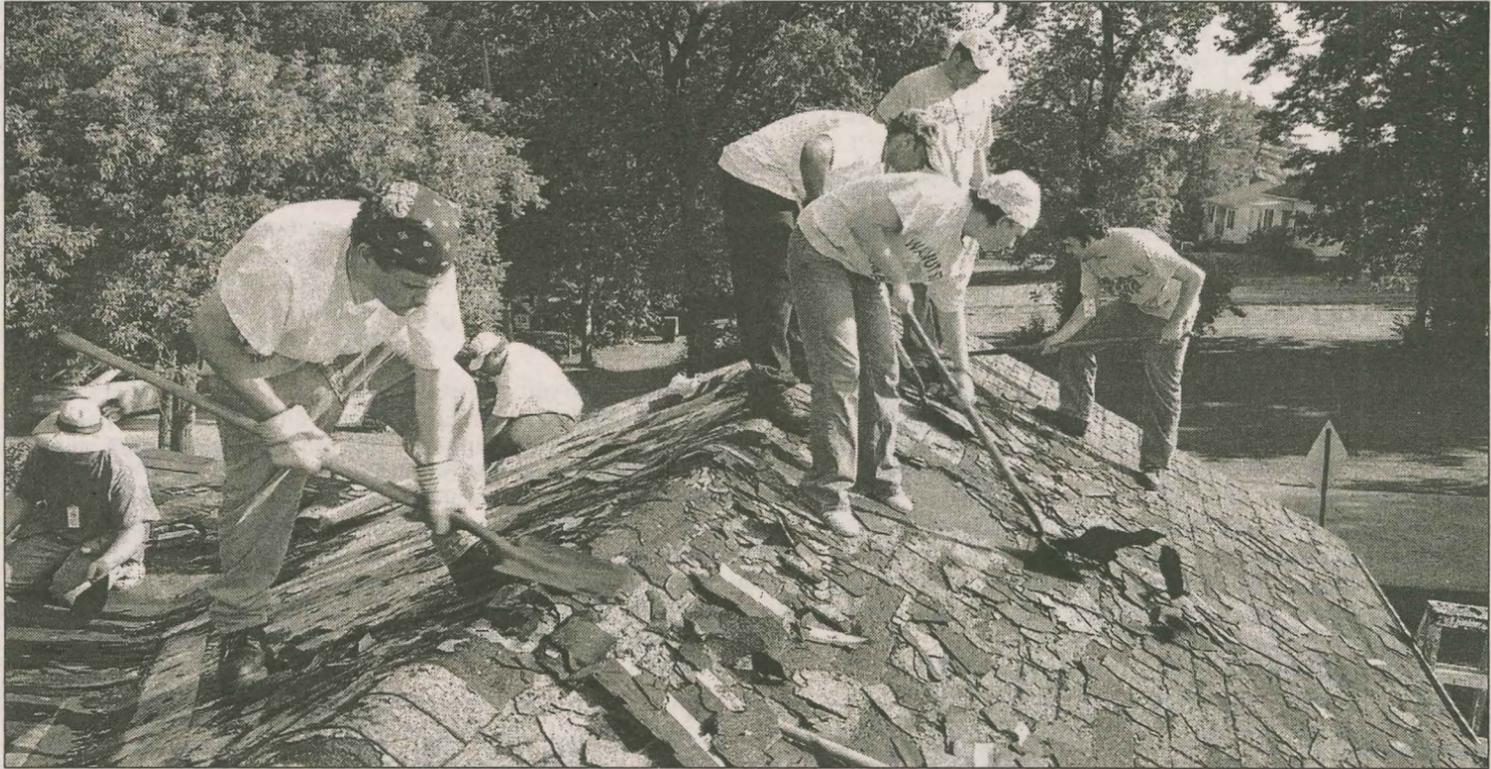
Later this summer, hundreds of youth and adults will invade Calloway County in West Kentucky and Frankfort. Earlier, a college version during spring break built a home in Morehead.

In Maysville, about 80 percent of the youth were first-time participants, but others return year after year, according to Joe Ball, a Kentucky Changers coordinator.

"I've got students who have been six or seven years," said Ball, youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. "Some students, it just gets in their blood."

The youth and young adults agree.

"All this work is not to impress ourselves. All this work is not to impress others," said Tiffany Thompson, 19, a member of Horse Cave Baptist Church. "This is what



ROLLIN' ALONG Josh Hook, 18, of Horse Cave Baptist Church, said Kentucky Changers gives people a chance to love others by serving.

Jesus told us to do, to serve others. ... All this work reflects and glorifies Him."

"You have to get out of your comfort zone," added John Carr, 16, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. "It's really an opportunity to evangelize people."

The 26 projects in Maysville in-



SCRAPING BY Tiffany Thompson, 19, of Horse Cave Baptist Church, lies on the roof of a house while scraping paint from the side. She said Kentucky Changers allows her "the joy of serving others and worshipping God at the same time."

involved \$21,000 worth of paint, roofing tiles, wood and other materials, but Bob Money of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District paused at the idea of putting a value on the volunteer labor.

"How do you put a price on 275 kids?" Money asked. "I just don't know how you would put a value on it."

Happy homeowners

The week has benefited Maysville by beautifying homes and restoring pride in many of the homeowners, he added.

"All the people (homeowners) that we deal with are just tickled to death," he said. "This is good for the whole state and we need to see other communities get involved."

Ball said the weeks are designed to help youth develop a vision for being involved in ministry regardless of their professions.

"We want them to learn that they can serve Christ outside the walls of the church in some unique ways," he said. "Maybe if they'll learn that as a teenager, they'll carry that on through life."

Students often are housed and fed at a local school. They work from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., maximizing



PARK PAINTING Lacy Sisk, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, paints over graffiti on a park picnic shed. Working in the park gives volunteers more opportunities to interact with people in the neighborhood, organizers said. "We've done a lot of work and a lot of witnessing, too," said Brenda Tapp of Oak Grove Baptist Church near Hopkinsville.



UP ON THE ROOF Kevin Keane, a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Benton, said his church held fundraising events to send 22 people to Kentucky Changers this year. "Our church caught fire for it."

ROOF WORK Youth remove roof shingles from a home in Maysville. More than 300 youth, chaperones and project leaders completed 26 projects last week for Kentucky Changers, a project organized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Men's Ministry department. (Photos by David Winfrey)

Marriage partners need to preserve healthy boundaries

Q: I recently discovered that my husband, a leader in our local Baptist church, has been calling two women on our cell phone all hours of the night and day for several months. One is divorced and about 20 years his junior. The other is a widow who is about my age. I feel betrayed and feel that he has put our marriage in jeopardy. He insists they are just friends and that he has done nothing wrong. What should I do?

Healthy boundaries create healthy relationships. The marriage relationship must take priority over any other earthly relationship. It is the foundation of family life.

MARRIAGE

Whenever outside relationships are allowed to replace the intimacy needs of either partner—whether emotional or physical needs—that belong to the sacred commitment of marriage, there is a problem. If one partner is feeling unfulfilled in the marriage, this needs to be openly shared, as painful as it might be, in order for the marriage relationship to be cared for properly.

Additional support likely will need to be sought, whether in the form of pastoral care from church staff or professional marriage counseling. Open and honest conversation about the current status of one's marriage relationship brings the focus back to the marriage and each other rather than attention being directed outside the marriage.

In order to restore and generate new growth in a marriage, both partners must be willing to put forth the time, attention, money and spiritual humility necessary to change the direction of a marriage with poor boundaries.

Boundaries make clear what is to be part of the marriage and what is not. Boundaries provide guidelines for dealing with hurts and problems when they arise rather than letting them hide below the surface and slowly erode the relationship. Boundaries promote open communication and conflict resolution.

Talk with your husband, sharing what you need from him and describe for him the kind of marriage you want to have. Invite him to share with you what he needs from you and what kind of marriage he desires. Find someone to help you and your husband talk openly about this situation.

For additional guidance into making healthy boundaries part of your marriage, read "Boundaries in Marriage" by Christian psychologists Henry Cloud and John Townsend—Valerie Vincent

Q: One of my close friends died recently. Do you have any suggestions on how I can mourn? I'm not in the family, so I'm feeling a little bit left out.

Grief consultant Harold Ivan Smith has said that friends have a right to:

- Mourn publicly and receive public support.

GRIEF

- Maintain continuing bonds of memory. Say the name, tell stories.

- Grieve, regardless of the social connection to the one who has died or the value others assign the friendship.

- Honor your grief; your grief counts.

Every friend is one-of-a-kind, irreplaceable. Find a safe place to lament the death. Remember, as Christians, we believe in reunion. That hope is your greatest resource.

For more suggestions about friend grief, see these books by Harold Ivan Smith: "Grieving the Death of a Friend," "When Your Friend Dies," "When You Don't Know What to Say," "ABCs of Healthy Grieving," "Journaling Your Decempered Grief," "Finding Your Way to Say Goodbye," "Grievers Ask" and the soon-to-be-published, "GriefKeeping."—James Stillwell

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



Dad's letter home: A Father's Day tribute

With the recent dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, the 60th anniversary of D-Day and this Sunday's celebration of Father's Day, many people's thoughts and memories are focused on what Tom Brokaw has labeled "The Greatest Generation."

While my dad wasn't part of the Allies' June 1944 "Operation Overlord" that eventually reclaimed Europe from Nazi Germany, he was a decorated World War II Army veteran, serving in the Pacific theater in the Philippines and Japan.

After Dad's death nearly 25 years ago, I sorted through scores of letters he had written to Mom and my oldest sister while he was overseas. A Christian for only a few years when he went into the Army, Dad was a bold, enthusiastic witness about the life-changing joy he found in Jesus Christ.

As I reflect on Dad's military service and Christian witness, I offer one of his letters written six decades ago as a Father's Day tribute to him and the thousands of other soldiers who have served our nation over the years.

My Darling Wife and Baby,

It is surprisingly quiet in the room here tonight. Almost all of the boys have gone on pass or to the show. There is only one other boy in here and he is busy writing too.

The moon isn't visible tonight but the stars are playing hide-and-seek with a few scattered clouds and the night is still and beautiful. It would be such an ideal night to sit or stand with the ones I love in my arms and dream of our future on earth and the life to come in a world even more beautiful than this one.

Nature doesn't need any improvement nor does this old world. It is just the people who inhabit it who need Christ as ruler over their hearts and lives. Then we could almost have heaven on earth. Life could be so beautiful if all the world would live according to the plan that Christ laid out while He was on earth.

If it were not for the greedy, there would be no hunger nor nakedness. If it were not for greed, there would be no need for the present strikes we are having. If it were not for hate, there would be no need for an occupation for there would have been no war.

We will never see perfection here, but up there everyone will live by the Golden Rule which would make a heaven anywhere.

It seems that people are continually growing bolder and having less and less consideration for God, much less love and respect for Him. It just seems

that this earth can't stand much longer. The fields are now all so white unto harvest. But right at a time when things are looking so dark, it seems that we as Christians are doing the least.

I hope and pray that you are having wonderful success in the revival. I pray that souls will be saved that are willing and eager to work for Him who gave His life for us to have a home on high.

But again I say that the main trouble lies in the churches that are teaching religion to merely fit the modern needs and are not teaching salvation. We have too many church members and not enough Christians. Needless to say, we have too many so-called church members who never hear the Bible read except on Sunday.

There is no doubt that we are trying to smooth things over and not face facts. Too much is being preached from the pulpit concerning our reward for goodness while the punishment for sins is never mentioned.

The congregation takes what they hear too much for granted and never even look up the Scriptures to see if they were read correctly. Too many people seem to think that because there are more Bibles sold each year than any other book that the world is getting better.

If a census were taken here in this camp, I believe that 90 percent of the boys have Bibles or Testaments but only about 5 percent even read them occasionally and about 2 percent read them regular. Just because a family has a Bible lying on a center table, it doesn't mean it is read. Too many of them are picked up only to be dusted.

I know I don't study nearly enough myself so this little sermon is to me too. But unless a nationwide revival is started soon, I am afraid the envy and strife will continually grow worse.

I guess I have preached enough for one night so I will try to write a little more of a love letter to my sweethearts. Somehow I feel that we were all put on this earth for a purpose and I know we were saved for service. But it seems that neither of us knows just what that service should be. We can at least try to live lives of example before our fellow man and smile at the world.

I am afraid that I am all out of gas again so I'll be saying good night once more. May God bless and keep you till we are called home is my prayer. Sweet dreams, sweethearts.

Love Unconquerable,

Bill

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Baptist leaders honor President Reagan

Washington—Baptist leaders joined officials across the nation in honoring former President Ronald Reagan who died June 5 at age 93.

Among their personal reflections about the nation's 40th president are:

Evangelist Billy Graham: "Ronald Reagan was one of my closest personal friends for many years. Ruth and I spent a number of nights at the White House and had hundreds of hours of conversations with the president and first lady. Mr. Reagan had a religious faith deeper than most people knew."

Former President Jimmy Carter: "This is a sad day for the country. I probably know as well as anybody what a formidable communicator and campaigner President Reagan was. It was because of him that I was retired from my last job."

Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham: "Ronald Reagan lived an abundant life, and I believe now he is experiencing an abundant entrance into God's Kingdom."

Moral Majority Founder Jerry Falwell: "I will remember Mr. Reagan primarily for his relationship with the evangelical Christian community in our nation. We had long been shut out of the White House when Mr. Reagan took office. But he realized that this community was largely responsible for his election and held the key to stalling our nation's moral collapse."

James Dunn, former executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs: "The optimistic spirit that pervaded Reagan's public presence did make a contribution to American life and is, at least in some measure, related to Christian hope."

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman: "He had a profound understanding of the difference in right and wrong, justice and injustice, strength and weakness, and civility and incivility. His moral compass kept him on course in leading his beloved country. ... His faith sustained him in tough times."

Former SBC President Adrian Rogers: During an Oval Office meeting with President Reagan, "I told him, 'Mr. President, Southern Baptists love you and will stand behind you if you will stand for the things that mean so much to them. Stand for the home, for the family, for purity. Those are the things that mean so much to them, and I would hope that you would stand for them.' And he said he would."

LifeWay Christian Resources President James Draper: "He was one of the most gracious men I have ever met, and always gave you the sense of honesty and integrity that inspires confidence."

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: "President Reagan was a gracious friend who demonstrated his own reverence for the Word of God by designating 1983 as the Year of the Bible. President Reagan was a colorful, decisive, humble, principle-driven statesman who was as little affected by Beltway politics as any president we have ever had. We will miss him profoundly."

Cullen named national WMU mission specialist

Birmingham, Ala.

(BP)—Jean Cullen has been named mission involvement specialist for national Woman's Missionary Union. She will have supervise four key WMU ministries: Christian Women's Job Corps; International Initiatives; Project HELP; and Pure Water, Pure Love.

Cullen, a native of Missouri, is a graduate of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., and the former Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Cullen participated in international missions primarily in the United Kingdom through the Baptist World Alliance Youth Congress. She also worked with WMU on a part-time basis for 10 months prior to accepting the full-time position. She also has served as a youth minister and has extensive international social work experience.

Warren and Carter to address BWA's 2005 World Congress

Birmingham, England—Rick Warren, pastor of the nation's largest Southern Baptist church, and former President Jimmy Carter will be featured speakers at the Baptist World Alliance's centennial congress.

The global Baptist gathering will be July 27-31, 2005, in Birmingham, England. The Baptist World Congress, held every five years, is expected to draw 15,000 people.

Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is the author of the best-selling book "The Purpose Driven Life." His BWA involvement stands in contrast to Southern Baptist Convention leaders who are recommending that the SBC sever ties with the Baptist World Alliance.

Even before SBC messengers gathered in Indianapolis this week, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the decision is a done deal. "The Baptist World Alliance (vote) is a formality," Land declared. "You can stick a fork in it."

But Warren said he isn't worried about being criticized by SBC leadership. "One reason Saddleback has never stopped growing is because I've never wasted any time worrying about criticism," Warren said. "I just do what I think Jesus would do."

The global aspect of the meeting appealed most to Warren. "We've

been working with many of these conventions and denominations around the world, so I was honored to be asked to speak to them all at once," he said.

"The Purpose Driven Life" currently sells about a million copies a month. It has sold more than 16 million copies since being published in October 2002.

Warren said one lesson he learned from evangelist Billy Graham, whom he regards a mentor, "is to ignore divisions and political infighting and to go wherever you get invited to share the gospel."

He said his church defies stereotyping, "because we're conservative theologically but radical when it comes to methodology. ... My conviction is that if you love Jesus, we're on the same team, whether or not we agree on everything else."

Warren said Saddleback Church does not have the BWA in its budget but likely would add it once the SBC votes to withdraw funding.

Carter, winner of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize and the first recipient of the BWA Human Rights Award, is slated to teach an international Sunday school class on Sunday of the congress. He is expected to challenge Christians everywhere in the work for the poor and for justice.

Based on reporting by Baptist World Alliance and EthicsDaily.com

LifeWay VP to seek pastorate as Draper considers retirement date

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Nashville (ABP)—Gene Mims, a key vice president for 12 years at the Southern Baptist Convention's publishing house, said June 10 he is leaving to return to the pastorate.

Mims, 54, vice president of church resources at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, said he will leave LifeWay Sept. 30 but does not yet have a church position.

Meanwhile, LifeWay President Jimmy Draper said he likely will announce his retirement date early next year.

Mims' sudden departure without another job "is unusual," the vice president noted, but he said he was not pressured to resign. The only thing that "factors into my thinking is the desire to pastor," he added.

The church resources division, which employs 645 people, sells Sunday school literature and other materials to most of the SBC's 43,000 churches, as well as non-Baptist congregations.

LifeWay's 2003 revenues—\$414 million—were down last year 0.7 percent from the previous year and are expected to be below budget in 2004, according to a Febru-

ary report to trustees. Church resources, by far the largest division in LifeWay, has suffered financially as well.

But both Mims and Draper said the division's financial performance did not factor into Mims' departure.

According to several LifeWay sources, Mims had hoped to be considered to succeed Draper, 68, who is expected to retire sometime in the next two years.

"That was in a lot of people's minds, but frankly I have no interest in that," Mims said. Resigning now rather than waiting for Draper to retire "would stop any speculation in that regard," he added.

Mims' announcement is "a little unusual," Draper acknowledged, "but we decided to do that so there would not be any question."

Draper told ABP he will announce his retirement date "probably early next year." He expects to give LifeWay trustees 12 to 18 months to find his replacement.

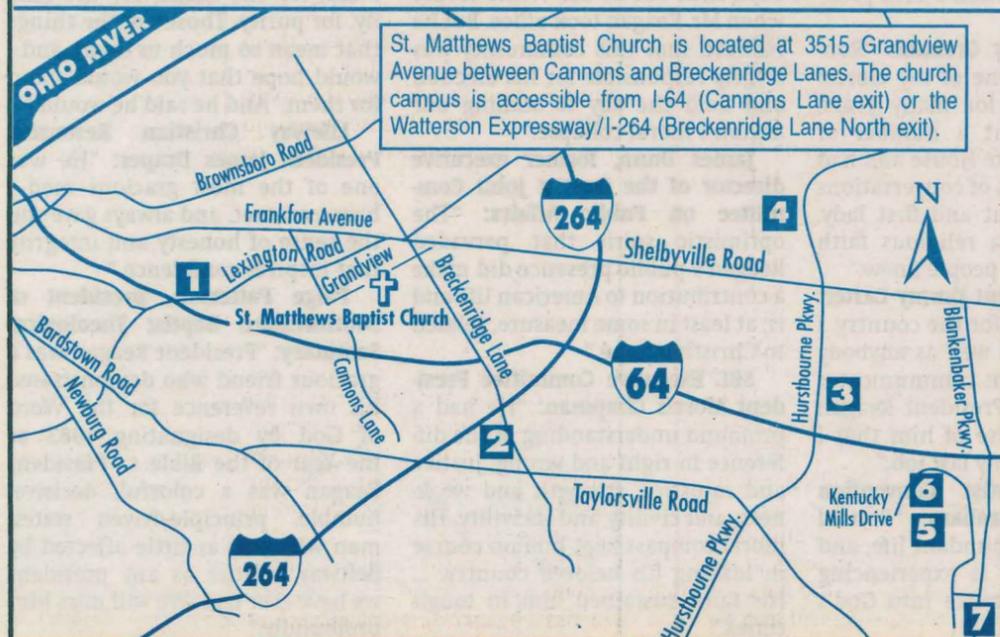
Mims became LifeWay vice president in December 1991. At that time he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn., and had served as a LifeWay trustee since 1984.

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How should SBC address debate over public schools?

Shortt: Public schools promote humanist agenda

By Bruce Shortt

Few subjects touch our hearts as parents so deeply as the education of our children.

Gen. T.C. Pinckney and I knew from the outset that encouraging Baptists to rescue their children from government schools would be controversial. We haven't been disappointed. Not surprisingly, some objections and misconceptions regarding the Christian education resolution have arisen in media coverage that I would like to address.

Misconception: "The resolution condemns Christians who work in public schools."

Reality: No! The resolution expressly encourages and commends Christian adults who work in government schools for being salt and light in a dark and decaying system. Anyone familiar with the anti-Christian climate within government schools knows that Christian educators bear a special burden because of their faith.

Objection: "We should not remove our children from public schools because they serve there as salt and light."

Reality: One critic has suggested that our resolution makes about as much sense as withdrawing our missionaries from China because they are surrounded by darkness. I would reply, tongue-in-cheek, that I was unaware that our International Mission Board standards allow "missionaries" into the field who still need help cutting their meat and dressing themselves in the morning.

Although the resolution supports "salt and light" theology properly applied to adult Christians working within the public education system, Christ was not speaking to 5-year-olds, 10-year-olds or 15-year-olds when he gave the Great Commission. Christian adults bear this responsibility, not their children. Nowhere in the Old or New Testament is it remotely suggested that Jews or Christians are permitted to have their children educated in a pagan institution. In fact, the Bible is quite clear that children require nurturing, training, and, yes, even being "set apart for a season." In other words, childhood is a time of discipling.

This is not to say that Christian children cannot be "salt and light" in the sense of setting a Christian example in a manner consistent with their still-developing level of maturity. They can visit the elderly in nursing homes; they can involve themselves in community projects; and they can participate in a host of other constructive activities in which they display the Christian character that they are developing. But our children must be given a chance to develop. Otherwise, they are likely to fall away.

For anyone who cares to look, there is a great deal of evidence that government schools are converting our children to alien creeds and infusing them with false and

destructive values. It should come as no surprise that some humanists regard the destruction of a child's Christian beliefs as what government schools do best. As Paul Blanchard, a well-known secular humanist, once observed: "Our schools may not teach Johnny to read properly, but the fact that Johnny is in school until he is 16 tends to lean toward the elimination of religious superstition."

Misconception: "This resolution advocates withdrawal from the culture!"

Reality: Wrong! On the contrary, sending our children to government schools is a pre-emptive surrender in the culture wars. The evidence clearly indicates that children educated in government schools overwhelmingly end up being both "in the world" and "of the world." By rescuing our children and providing them with a solid Christian education, we would instead join the battle by declaring that the world's values and beliefs are not ours. Moreover, we can provide no better witness to others than by showing those outside the church our commitment to our faith and children.

Objection: "These people expect instant change!"

Reality: Not at all. We fully recognize that no major change in education can take place overnight. Nevertheless, it is important to declare a biblical standard in education and set a goal. The resolution does just that. If we fail to do this, the needed changes will almost certainly not occur.

At the SBC's 2002 annual meeting, the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life reported, among other disturbing things, that 88 percent of the children raised in evangelical homes leave church by the time they are 18. Barna Research reports that only 9 percent of born-again teens believe that there are any moral absolutes, and more than half believe that Jesus sinned while He was on earth. This is the fruit of giving our children over to government schools.

Besides the spiritual and moral peril in which we place our children when we send them to government schools, we place them in academic peril. The Department of Education has found, for example, that 68 percent of fourth graders cannot read proficiently, and over half of minority fourth graders can't read at a basic level. The Third International Mathematics and Science Survey found that American students scored at or near the bottom in math and science in comparison with students from other industrialized countries.

As the SBC considers the resolution, one thing is clear: The discussion cannot be conducted in a fact-free atmosphere of sloganeering born of nostalgia, wishful thinking and antipathy, because the decision regarding how we educate our children is not consequence-free.

Bruce Shortt, a Houston attorney, is Texas coordinator of Exodus Mandate, a group calling for a network of private Christian schools to replace public education

West: Christian adults & students must be salt, light

By Jim West

Not long ago a resolution made its way to the public forum from a couple of conservative Southern Baptist churches to withdraw their children from public schools.

As I kept watch on the news headlines, I expected that someone, somewhere, would propose a resolution to the contrary, reminding believers of their commission by Christ to be both salt and light in the world.

None was forthcoming, to my amazement. Surely, I reasoned, this proposal is not the view of so many Baptists that I am the only one who disagrees with its presuppositions. Still no counterproposal was forthcoming.

So, I fired up my computer, turned on my word processor and submitted the following resolution to the appropriate committee of the Southern Baptist Convention:

Resolution on Southern Baptists and the Public Schools

WHEREAS: Southern Baptists are devoted to missions and the call of Christ to be Salt and Light in a world desperately in need of both, and

WHEREAS: Southern Baptists are committed to sharing the gospel in the world, and

WHEREAS: Southern Baptists take seriously the Great

Commission and its requirement that we go into all the world,

BE IT RESOLVED: that Southern Baptists affirm the American public education system and encourage its members to participate actively in the life of society so that they may indeed perform the dual functions of Salt and Light. We also affirm the hundreds of thousands of Christian men and women who teach in our public schools and we encourage our youngsters to seriously consider the teaching profession as a possibility that in it they may well be answering the call of God.

WE UNDERSTAND: that if Christians are to share the gospel they are required to live in the world while not being of the world.

WE UNDERSTAND: that the Great Commission teaches us that we are to go, not to wait for the world to come to us.

WE UNDERSTAND: that only in sharing the gospel in daily life, as citizens who pray, worship and minister, can we be effective agents of change in a lost and dying world; which means we are not allowed to retreat behind the four walls of the Church and ignore human society.

My purpose in this resolution proposal is self evident, I think.

Southern Baptists have, historically, been a mission-minded people. Our greatest moments have been those times when we have set aside our minor theological and political differences and pooled our resources

and prayers in order to share the gospel with all the world.

It seems apparent to me that the public schools are part of the world to which we are sent—both as teachers, administrators and staff personnel as well as Christian young people and teens. If we adopt a resolution and follow through with withdrawing our young Christian witnesses from public schools, what witness will fill the void?

Instead of fearing the influence that the world may have on our young people, we should be more concerned about the positive influence they can have on their peers. Christians are called on to go into the world, not withdraw from it.

There is, simply put, no theological or biblical warrant for withdrawing from society in the way the T.C. Pinckney/Bruce Shortt resolution recommends.

Not wishing to be uncharitable, but perhaps if the framers of the "anti-public school" resolution were trained theologians or scholars of the Bible, they would realize their resolution rests on no sound biblical or theological foundation.

Further, the Shortt/Pinckney resolution seems to be based on the false notion that somehow or other Christian schools are insulated from the problems children and teens face in public schools. This is, of course, an ill-founded and untrue supposition. Christian schools have the same problems that public schools do with illicit sexual behavior, drugs and alcohol.

Children need Christian parents first of all and foremost. We cannot surrender, even to Christian schools, our primary task as parents to "raise up our children in the way they should go." If our children do not learn faith first at home, no school can fill the gap.

One of the most brilliant of the Reformers was Huldrych Zwingli, who himself had occasion to address a situation similar to the one which is presented to us.

Some in Zwingli's day wished to withdraw from society, to remain segregated from the world and to imagine that such segregation granted them greater spirituality and security.

Of them Zwingli remarked, "Those who are endowed with the Spirit do not despise sinners or separate from them, but they call them from their evil and join them to themselves." Further, "Christ taught publicly, whereas the schismatics separate themselves from the churches and teach in corners or in the woods."

Zwingli made it clear, as I have also attempted to do in my proposal, that Christians are called to serve, not to be served. One cannot serve if one does not associate with those who need to be served.

Christians who hide from the world cannot minister and hence cannot fulfill their Christian responsibility. It is my hope that Southern Baptists will take with utter seriousness the call of Christ to go into all the world.

That, of course, includes public schools.

Jim West is pastor of First Baptist Church of Petros, Tenn.

Editor's note: The Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee has been asked to consider a pair of competing resolutions this week about public school education. The first proposal, presented by former SBC officer T.C. Pinckney and attorney Bruce Shortt, calls for Southern Baptists to remove their children from public schools. The second proposal, submitted by Tennessee Baptist pastor Jim West, affirms the public school system and urges Southern Baptists to be active participants. The accompanying Point/Counterpoint articles by Shortt and West are reprinted from *EthicsDaily.com*.

"Government schools are converting our children to alien creeds and infusing them with false and destructive values."

Bruce Shortt

"If we adopt a resolution and follow through with withdrawing our young Christian witnesses from public schools, what witness will fill the void?"

Jim West



Kentucky churches search for ways to honor dads

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Paducah—Father's Day, the annual nod to Dear Old Dad, presents both challenges and opportunities to churches as they seek to remember, encourage and inspire men of faith.

"We recognize the men who are at church that day because they are among the people who are doing it well," said Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah. "If a man comes to church, then his family is coming. They are putting their priorities where they should be."

The next step is "to challenge them to set the bar a little higher," McCallon added. This year First Baptist is using Father's Day to promote Men's Fraternity, a men's ministry focused on education, support and accountability.

"Men are really hungry for the relationships they had in junior high and high school where they were part of a team," McCallon said. "Beyond college, the opportunity to be involved in something like that is very rare." Men's Fraternity will include topical Bible studies, retreats and other activities focusing on marriage, family, the workplace and other issues.

Going beyond the traditional recognition of fathers during a morning worship service is sometimes challenging, according to Donna Foley who has been secretary at Grace Baptist Church in Lexington for 30 years.

"We were always drawing blanks," Foley said, recalling discussions among staff on how to pay tribute to fathers. Like many churches, Grace Baptist presents flowers to women on Mother's Day.

"We tried to come up with some catchy little things like fishing lures or golf balls," Foley said. "It got to be kind of comical."

Photos of remembrance

This year Grace Baptist is trying something new. Members are bringing photographs of their fathers to display in the sanctuary.

Foley said a member of the church made the suggestion. In addition to a photo, members are asked to bring a small object that reminds them of their father.

"My father was a Greyhound bus driver," Foley said. "So I'm going to bring a little toy bus."

Whether it is a golf ball, fishing lure or a photograph, Foley said she appreciates the opportunity to pay tribute to her father, deceased for 10 years.

"I'm very fortunate," she said. "He was a wonderful father. I like to call attention to him."

At Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, Pastor Tom Curry sets aside the day for parent/child dedications.

"It's an emotional time," said Carol Willoughby, Parkland's preschool director. "Fathers beam with pride."

Willoughby said she suggested to Curry that dedication day be moved to Mother's Day. She thought that more families would participate in May before the rush of summer vacations.

Willoughby said Curry told her he felt very strongly about keeping to the Father's Day schedule. "He said it was the father's responsibility to get the family to church," she said, noting that she appreciated the spirit behind the pastor's decision.

Curry, a chaplain with the Kentucky Air National Guard, was serving at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and was unavailable for comment.

As preschool director, Willoughby said she knows that emphasizing the participation of fathers on dedication day does not change the fact that there are children in her congregation who are growing up without a dad.

"During extended session we make sure there is a man in every class," Willoughby said.

"You can tell the children who do not have an active father in their lives," she added. "We make sure that they have a positive male role model in their life, even if it's just once a week."

Father-son drama

This Father's Day, members of First Baptist Church of Morehead will see a drama played out between a father and his son who has just "rear-ended" a police car with the family vehicle.

"It's a story of forgiveness with judgment," Pastor Don Mantooth explained.

"I usually take the time between Mother's Day and Father's Day to preach sermons about family," he said. "It's a great time to reflect on what a Christian family is about."

As a father and grandfather, Mantooth said his greatest encouragement has been watching his children grow in their relationships with God.

"(We have) seen our children reach a point of maturity where they make good and even bold decisions about their faith," he said.

On Father's Day some churches will be participating in the annual

Barkley Moore offering supporting Oneida Baptist Institute.

Father's Day every day

"Every day is Father's Day here," said W.F. Underwood, president of the Christian boarding school in Eastern Kentucky.

Underwood said he tells his male staff members, "You can be the dad that some of these kids never had." He makes the statement from profound personal experience.

For years Underwood lacked the presence of a father in his life. "My biological father just wasn't interested in having a child," he said. Adding to the pain was a physically abusive stepfather.

Underwood came to Oneida as a teenager. Harold Combs, his house parent, helped fill the void left by an absent father. "He was someone who listened to my burdens and frustrations," Underwood said.

When Underwood's son was born, he named him Harold in honor of his beloved house parent.

"Forty percent of our students come from single-parent families," Underwood said. The "vast majority" of those single-parent families are led by mothers, he added.

Underwood said he is uncertain how many of the gifts Oneida receives in June are attributed to the Father's Day Offering, but approximately 150 Kentucky Baptist churches support Oneida each month.

"The Father's Day Offering may become a significant monetary benefit," Underwood said. "But the most important thing is that it is a tremendous opportunity to make people aware of Oneida, to remind them, 'We're here and we can help a child in your community.'"

KBC study of pastors' compensation expands to national scope

Continued from page 1

Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department, has been compiling a biennial compensation study for KBC churches since 1986.

In 1996, he spearheaded an effort to expand the study to include several other state Baptist conventions. The number of participating conventions grew from 12 in 1996 to 35 in 2002. This year's study includes more than 20,000 participants from 8,600 Southern Baptist churches in all 50 states.

"It started with several state annuity representatives trying to pull together to do it," Spencer said. "It kind of mushroomed from there."

"The joint study provides a much larger database so churches can compare compensation to churches more like their own," he added. "It's just a matter of a church being able to operate with as much information as it can have."

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board also has helped facilitate the study in recent years. "Our hope is that churches will use this information to evaluate their compensation arrangements for current and future staff," explained Bob Henry, head of the Annuity Board's church retirement marketing department.

In addition to compensation for full-time pastors, the study provides

compensation information about bivocational pastors and full-time and bivocational church staff ministers as well as office personnel and custodians.

"One of the values of this is it allows a church to not make compensation decisions in a vacuum," Henry said. "It helps churches get a more global view of what is happening in the area of compensation for pastors and church staff members."

Bivocational pastors

In Kentucky, bivocational pastors' salary and housing are slightly below the national average (\$14,383 in Kentucky compared to \$14,788 nationally), but their total pay package is slightly above average (\$16,537 in Kentucky compared to \$16,340 nationally).

The average salary and housing among bivocational pastors in the SBC ranges from \$9,611 in Maryland/Delaware to \$18,459 in the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia convention. Hawaii ranks second at \$17,830.

Among full-time church staff ministers, the average salary and housing is \$41,023 in Kentucky compared to \$44,730 nationally and the total pay package is \$50,504 in Kentucky compared to \$54,184 nationally.

"I usually take the time between Mother's Day and Father's Day to preach sermons about family."

Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead

"It allows a church to not make compensation decisions in a vacuum."

Bob Henry of the SBC Annuity Board

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Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

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At Oneida, we teach respect for authority, honesty, high moral standards and responsible behavior.

A PORTRAIT OF ONEIDA

To help students academically, Oneida offers smaller classes, nightly study hall, a tutoring lab and English as a second language.

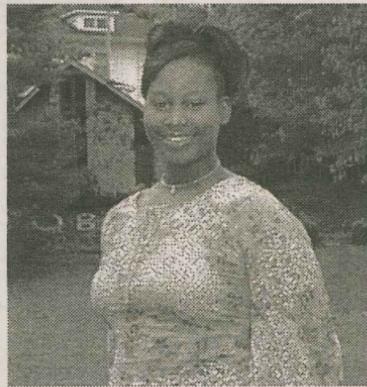
Through daily chapel, Sunday worship and campus ministry, the school provides evangelism to lost students and discipleship opportunities for young Christians.

A wide array of co-curriculars and a unique student work program round out the Oneida ministry.

Now that you've glimpsed a "snapshot" of our program, read the following stories to see a "portrait" of our ministry in the lives of some of the young people we serve.

Meet some of the class of 2004

America felt like part of the team at Oneida Baptist Institute



"The Lord turned everything bad around and made it for my good."

America needed a place to call home and found Oneida. Her father left when she was born, and her mother is deceased. She spent her childhood being moved from one family member to another. She was living with an aunt in western Kentucky when she met a neighbor who was a student at OBI. America heard all about the school and knew this was the place for her. "I wanted to get in a more positive environment," she said. She enrolled in the eighth grade.

America enjoys sports, especially basketball and softball. She had always worried about whether her family would have the money to allow her to play. Then there was the problem of getting back and forth to

practices. She often had to make arrangements to ride with teammates. She was so relieved and excited when she got to Oneida and saw how the athletic program worked. First, getting to practices was just a walk across campus. Second, players do not pay for their uniforms. "You pay for your shoes, but [at OBI] it's easier," America said. "Back home, you didn't get your shoes until they were paid for. Here, you're still a part of the team even if it takes you longer to pay for your shoes. You feel accepted," she said.

America also discovered that at Oneida there are no try-outs. Once on the team, America added, "Even if you're not the best, you get a chance. The coaches play their good players, but they also consider attitude more than skill." America earned sports letters each year at OBI. She was named Most Valuable Player and received All Conference and All Tournament team awards in basketball. She earned the Rookie of the Year award and was named to the All Conference team in softball. Softball coach Angie Gritton (OBI class of '91) is confident America has the skill to play sports in college. "She is a very talented athlete...and a wonderful person who is always kind to others," she said.

Each year, OBI offers an award

that is voted on by the student body. Named in memory of a former Oneida student, the Brad Dorrough Friendship Award provides a full scholarship to the recipient for the following school year. Our young people are instructed to vote for someone who was the most friendly and helpful to them when they first came to OBI. Last year, America won by a record "landslide" of votes from her peers. America was surprised but said, "We have a lot of young kids here, and they look up to the older kids. I tried to be a positive influence to them."

America believes her positive attitude toward others is rooted in her faith in God. "Christ has always been a part of my life. I treat other people the way I want to be treated," she said. She is thankful for all the ways her life has been blessed. "The Lord has turned everything bad around and made it for my good...No matter what happens, I know I have God to depend on," she said.

America is ready to graduate but said, "I'm going to miss Oneida a lot...I know it's helped me. I was never a bad kid, but the environment of rules - I think everyone needs them. I feel like they are actually here to help us and guide us." America plans to study pharmacy in college.

"I owe everything to this school"

Michael came to OBI as an eighth grader from central Kentucky. Three of his cousins had been students at Oneida. When he began getting into some trouble with his friends, his parents told him they were sending him to boarding school. What Michael considered "punishment," he quickly found was the "best thing" that could have happened to him. Right away, Michael noticed a difference between Oneida and his old school. The teachers were approachable and willing to help students after school and during evening study hall. Michael also benefited from the structure of Oneida's daily schedule. He had failed eighth grade for nearly two years at home. He made better grades from the start at OBI. He was able to graduate on time by taking classes during summer school. "I'm a senior now. I would have never made it at home. If I had not come here, I would have been in a jail or something, because I would not have listened to my parents. I owe everything to this school," he said.

Michael thrived in the work program at OBI. He worked each day on the farm his first two years. As he demonstrated his dependability, he

Michael learned commitment and responsibility at Oneida.



was entrusted with greater levels of responsibility, like tractor driving and supervising other students. He joined the FFA and was the chapter president his senior year. He earned numerous awards in the areas of tractor driving, welding, sales and parliamentary procedure. He said FFA helped him develop self confidence, especially in the area of public speaking.

During the summers, Michael worked on the farm crew and mowing crew. "I just worked wherever they needed me," he said. By his senior year, he was a peer leader on his floor in the dorm and a right-hand-man to the OBI Dean of Boys John Saldaris (OBI class of '89). "I

think Michael matured a whole lot...He was a very outstanding worker and had a good eye to do things that needed to be done without having to be told. He was just an outstanding guy all the way around," Saldaris said.

Michael said his Oneida experiences taught him commitment. Instead of quitting when things got difficult, he said he learned to stick things out and "try all the harder to do it." He plans to attend college to become a state trooper.

Michael was baptized at the Oneida Baptist Church in 2001. "I gave my life to Him knowing He would pull me through, and He has...a lot."

OBI's smaller classes helped Veronica achieve her academic best



Local student blessed to receive a private, Christian school education due to Oneida's time-honored tradition that local students attend free.

Veronica is a day student who has attended OBI for the last 12 years. Her older brother graduated in 2001. Veronica and her brother attended grades K-5 in addition to grades 6-12 at OBI. Normally only children of OBI faculty and staff enroll in our elementary classes. "The president at the time, he was my uncle (Dr. Barkley Moore), so they sort of made my brother and me an exception," Veronica explained.

OBI has had a long-standing tradition that if students from the local area want to attend school here and not live in the dorm, they can do so for free. This has been a wonderful opportunity for many children in our community to get a private school education.

Veronica has always been an honor roll student. She believes OBI helped to challenge her to achieve her academic best. "We have smaller classes, so the teachers can interact with us more. I think that's a big part of it. OBI has stricter rules, so you stay more focused than I believe kids at public school do," she said.

Veronica is going to college and may study agriculture. "I would rather do my work outside than be in a business office," she said. Veronica gained some agricultural experience at OBI during her years in FFA. She was the chapter president her junior year. She completed the requirements to earn her FFA proficiency award in the area of agri-business. She also won the Star Chapter Farmer degree.

Myrtle Cooke (OBI class of '60) appreciated having Veronica as an office aid this year. She said, "Veronica has been a bright spot in my day that I will greatly miss next year. It's been my privilege as Guidance Counselor to watch Veronica grow from a shy kindergarten student into a highly motivated senior with plans to pursue college."

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Oneida Baptist Institute

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- ◆ Our average enrollment is 350.
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- ◆ Our classrooms have an average 1:11 teacher/student ratio.
- ◆ Oneida has a 700-acre campus which includes a 200-acre farm. We have a full agriculture program.
- ◆ Our student body consists of young people from the local community, across the state of Kentucky, the United States and around the world.
- ◆ We accept students throughout the year.
- ◆ OBI provides Christian education at an affordable rate.

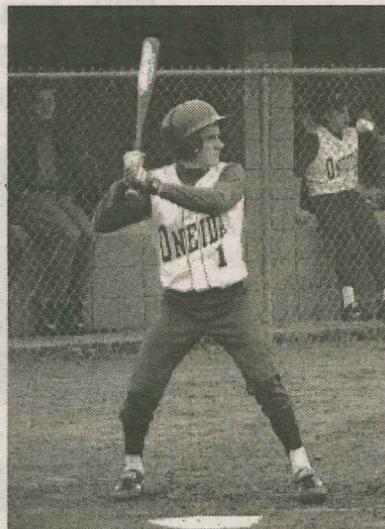
EDUCATION FOR TIME AND ETERNITY

Every school deals with the mind of man, but few, like Oneida, minister to the soul as well. Day after day, our students hear the gospel message. Each year, many boys and girls make positive decisions of eternal significance.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE OFFERING

- ◆ Make sure your church has received our box of offering materials.
- ◆ Offer to take charge of displaying posters and distributing brochures in your church.
- ◆ Tell others about the Oneida ministry.
- ◆ Pray for a successful offering.

Academically gifted students get the preparation they need from the OBI curriculum



Cliff and Megan (see photo, right) excelled in a variety of sports and cocurriculars at OBI.

Cliff and Megan both arrived in Oneida before age two. Cliff's parents joined OBI in 1987. His father is a member of the farm staff. His mother is a middle school science teacher, the accompanist for the high school choir, and a volunteer EMT. Megan was just six months old when her family moved to Oneida. Her father is the assistant to both the principal and athletic director. Her mother teaches chemistry. Like most of OBI's faculty and staff, these two families left relatives, jobs, and homes to move to Oneida and minister to young people. Cliff commented, "I sort of feel like

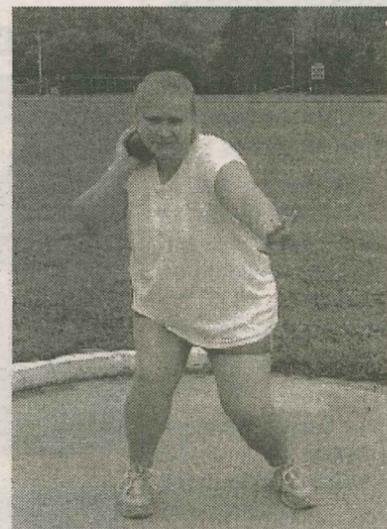
Oneida is home, but South Carolina is also home, because that's where all my relatives are and we go there every break. That sort of feels like where our family home is." Megan agreed, saying home for her is "between here and Ohio."

At OBI, children of faculty and staff attend elementary school on the Oneida campus. When Cliff and Megan were younger, grades K-2 met together with one teacher, and then they moved to the "one-room schoolhouse" for grades 3-5. In both classrooms, there were not more than ten children. Cliff said, "I think I received a good primary education." If the proof is in the pudding, Cliff and Megan's primary teachers have reason to be proud. The pair graduated second and fourth of their class and were both 2003 Kentucky Governor's Scholars. "It was an honor and a surprise to get accepted into a competitive program like that," Megan said. As Governor's Scholars, she and Cliff attended a five-week summer program focused on academics. Megan attributed her good standing among Kentucky's best and brightest students to the advanced placement classes and smaller class sizes she had at OBI. "If you don't understand something, the teacher can spend extra time with you," she said. Megan plans to complete a nursing degree and later enter a pre-medicine program. Cliff's goals are taking him to Hawaii to study marine sciences. "I'm ready for a change, and that seems like as good a place as any," he said.

The young people said their home environments most influenced their educational goals and success. Cliff said, "My parents always said 'just do your best, and it doesn't matter what grades you get.' I've always been encouraged to do well." Megan commented, "My parents have always expected me to be a good student. Now I push myself. I want to go to college and go on to have a career."

One would think that growing up in such an out-of-the-way place like Oneida, young people would complain about boredom, but not Cliff and Megan. Both were active in athletics and other cocurriculars. "Even some big schools don't have as many sports as we do," Cliff said. He has been involved in cross country, soccer, and baseball. His senior year, he was the soccer captain and the baseball co-captain. He placed 15th in the state in cross country. He was also the Beta Club president and co-editor of the yearbook. The faculty voted Cliff the Most Outstanding boy of his class in grades eight through eleven.

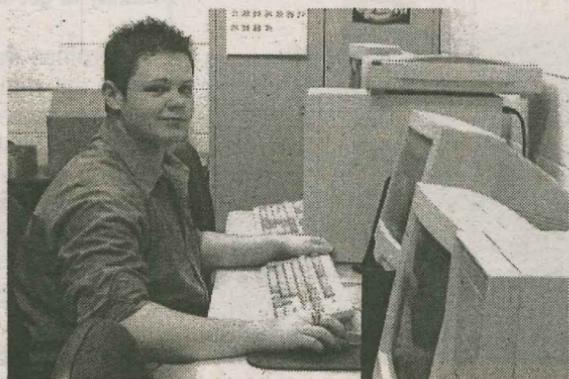
Megan was named Most Outstanding girl her sophomore and junior years. She appreciates the opportunities she had at Oneida. "It's definitely been a unique experience. How many 17-year-olds have met people from all over the world and actually become friends with them? I've gotten to do a lot athletically that I would not have gotten to do at a bigger school," she said. Megan started running with the cross country team in the first grade. She also joined track,



swimming, basketball, and volleyball. She made the All-District team in basketball three years and went to state in shot put her junior year. She was pleased and thankful to receive the WYMT Mountain Classic scholarship for her academic and athletic record.

OBI Principal Dan Stockton has watched both Cliff and Megan grow up at Oneida. He got to know them as their senior English teacher, Beta Club sponsor, and yearbook instructor. He noted that Megan is "well-rounded and completely involved in helping others." He said Cliff's attitude and kindness made him "valued by friends, peers, and instructors...Both Cliff and Megan have been an outstanding asset to our complete school setting."

He accepted Christ at Oneida Baptist Institute



Robert was the co-editor and five-year member of the Oneidian yearbook staff.

Robert lives only about half an hour's drive from the OBI campus, yet he has lived in the dormitory and attended school at Oneida since the sixth grade—the longest of any dormitory students graduating this year. Being so close to home, Robert has had the advantage of getting to visit home one weekend every month in addition to the regular breaks. His older brother, Jason, graduated from OBI in 2000. Robert grew up hearing about the different things his brother was involved in at OBI and liked the idea of coming to school here when he got old enough.

In middle school, Robert learned responsibility and basic chores like washing his own clothes. He worked after school on a cleaning crew and was involved in drama and middle school Academic Team. He was voted Most Outstanding and Most Studious sixth grade boy.

By high school, Robert had earned Good and Outstanding Worker awards and was supervising other boys on a dorm cleaning crew. He was a hall monitor in the dorm, making sure the boys on his floor were accounted for at "bed check." On Friday nights, he helped to wax floors.

"Dorm life is my favorite part of OBI, because you get to interact with your friends all the time," he said.

In addition to his responsibilities in the dorm, Robert has been a classroom cleaner each day after school for three years. He also explored cocurricular interests. He was a member of the Beta Club and Student Government Association for two years. He was enrolled in yearbook class for five years and became co-editor his senior year.

Robert believes the quality of education he has received at OBI is better than he might have received elsewhere because of the positive, Christian environment. An honor roll student, he challenged himself academically by enrolling in advanced placement courses whenever he could. He said, "You're at school. You should at least try to learn something. If I'm going to be prepared for college, I [believed] I should take these classes. I expect better of myself than to [just] get by."

Laura Stockton (OBI class of '86) worked with Robert in Beta Club, yearbook, and as his junior English

teacher. She said, "Robert has been here so long it is hard to believe he is graduating. He has taken advantage of the many academic and extracurricular activities Oneida has to offer." Robert is excited about going on to college. He would someday like to be a commercial airline pilot. He is also amazed that his time to leave Oneida has arrived. "It's different to have the realization that I've been here so long, but I'm finally ready to get out of here...I think this place has better prepared me to be on my own, especially living in the dorm," Robert said. He added that he will miss the people at Oneida.

Robert grew up attending church. He said, "I always believed everything in the Bible and then I realized I needed to accept Jesus in my heart so I did." He liked Campus Minister Michael Spencer's chapel sermons and believes being at a Christian school helped establish his faith in God. "I probably wouldn't have thought about it as much if I hadn't been here...I probably would not have accepted Jesus."

Oneida Baptist Institute

OBI provided a positive environment for an American education

Sooyoung came to the United States as a junior in high school to attend OBI. She is originally from Seoul, Korea, but she lived in the Philippines for three years prior to enrolling here. Her father is an engineer and had a project in the Philippines. While they were living there, Sooyoung and her sister attended an international school, where they became fluent in English. She said her sophomore English teacher advised her to pursue an education in the U.S. "He thought it would be good for me," she said. A former co-worker of her father's lived in the U.S. and could act as guardian for Sooyoung, but her family was uncomfortable with the idea at first. "I was too young," Soo said. "I wanted to come, because the experience I had in the Philippines made me like diversity, and America is a diverse country. I persuaded them."

Sooyoung said her guardian had a

difficult time finding the right school for her to attend starting that fall semester. He mentioned his concerns to his pastor who knew about Oneida Baptist Institute. Driving from Ohio into the rural mountains of southeastern Kentucky, Sooyoung began to get nervous. "For the first few months, it was really hard, but I think it prepared me to go to college and survive on my own there," she said.

Sooyoung loves music and plays the clarinet. She enrolled in OBI's choir and band classes. The band was not nearly as large as her previous school, which was disappointing at first, but Sooyoung later said she felt like she gained a lot from the music program at OBI. "Band class here was more like music appreciation class. I listened to a lot of classical music and learned how to compose," she explained. Music teacher Tim Cochran recognized Sooyoung's musical talent. He said, "I

am glad to have had the opportunity to work with her."

Besides music, Sooyoung got involved in Student Government Association and Beta Club. She was voted Most Outstanding junior girl, and she earned the Director's Award in both band and choir. She won the Most Outstanding scholar award in chemistry last year for having the top grade of her class. As a senior, she played a clarinet solo in the annual Yearbook Queen pageant and won First Runner Up.

Sooyoung had accepted Christ before coming to OBI, but she said, "Oneida helped me a lot. I got answers to so many questions that I had before that nobody could answer. I think my faith has grown a lot." She found daily Bible class especially helpful. She chose to be baptized at OBI her senior year. "I wanted everybody to know that I was a Christian," she said.



Sooyoung continued her growth as a musician in OBI's music classes.

ANNUAL OFFERING

This is the tenth year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

FUNDING

Approximately 9 percent of Oneida's funding comes from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

35 percent comes from student fees.

The remaining 56 percent comes from income from our modest investments, churches, and individuals who choose to invest in the lives of young people. These gifts are the financial backbone of our ministry.

OBI helped Senaye stay focused on studying



Senaye tried sports for the first time at OBI.

Senaye is an international student from Ethiopia. He came to live with relatives in New York four years ago

because of the educational opportunities available to young people in the U.S. Senaye and his younger sister attended public school in New York for a year before hearing about OBI from a family friend whose child was a student here.

Senaye came to Oneida as a sophomore. OBI provided an opportunity for him to do his academic best for his last three years of high school in preparation for college. He is considering a career as a chiropractor. He said it was easier to stay focused on his studies here. "In New York, there were a lot of distractions. After school, all we thought about was playing around," he said. Senaye appreciated the extra help he could receive from his OBI teachers both in

and out of the classroom. He also liked the fact that OBI has a required evening study hall built into the daily schedule for students not on honor roll.

Even with most of his day planned, Senaye still had a sense of independence at OBI. He enjoyed meeting his obligations each day without being told by someone else. He found life at Oneida to be simple: "As long as you study and make good grades, you don't have a problem," he said. Houseparents Gary and Suzy Garrett enjoyed having Senaye in the dorm. "He was one of the nicest young men in our school," Mr. Garrett said. "He was gentle and soft spoken ... a real gentlemen. ... It would be wonderful to have a whole dorm full (of stu-

dents) like Senaye. He is just an outstanding young man who set a good example for the younger boys," Mrs. Garrett added.

Senaye started out working on a cleaning crew. He had never participated in sports before coming to Oneida. "I never had an interest," he said. Basketball looked like it might be fun, so Senaye decided to give it a try his first year. When he lost a lot of weight, this fostered an interest in Senaye to stay involved in athletics. He went on to participate in track, tennis, and soccer. Basketball is his favorite, and this year he was named to the All-Conference team. Senaye said what he will miss most after graduation are the friends he made at Oneida.

Eleleta learned how to live independently

Born in Ethiopia, Eleleta came to live in the United States in 1998 at age 12. Her mother was already in America and wanted her children to come to the U.S. to get a better education. Soon after Eleleta and her older brother arrived, the family received news by telephone that Eleleta's father had suffered a heart attack and died. They were unable to return to Ethiopia for the funeral. Eleleta said it was a difficult time.

The children attended public school in Virginia for a year and a half. When a relative told them about OBI, it sounded like a good experience. "Mom wanted us to be more responsible for ourselves," Eleleta said. Plus, the school environment was better, and there would be more international students. Eleleta was in the eighth grade when she and her brother enrolled. They came for summer school to get a jump start on adapting to a new school and new environment. Eleleta said she was homesick most of the summer. Later, she said, "I like the people and the

teachers, too. They helped me a lot. They told me where to go and what to do." The other Ethiopian students made it easier to be away from home.

At the end of their first regular school year at OBI, Eleleta had earned Outstanding Scholar awards for having top grades in nearly every class. Her brother also did well academically. Eleleta recalled, "After our mother found out we were getting good grades [at OBI], she wanted us to graduate here." Eleleta's academic honors continued into high school, where she earned more academic awards and a fine arts letter. She was listed on the honor roll every quarter and voted by the faculty Most Studious sophomore girl. She plans to attend college to become a pharmacist.

Eleleta found her after school niche in sports. She has been active in cross country, basketball, tennis, and volleyball; earning numerous awards including her letter jacket. "I like sports," she stated. Her volleyball coach, Pam Contreras, enjoyed working with this positive young lady.



She found her outlet in OBI's numerous sports opportunities

"She was always a joy...she never complained and was a very hard worker," Contreras said. Eleleta chose to work in the campus grill instead of playing basketball her senior year, but she was back outside with the tennis team in the spring.

Why do young people choose Oneida Baptist Institute?

- ◆ Some are struggling with academic setbacks.
- ◆ Others have been hurt by family conflicts and situations.
- ◆ Many need a change in peer group.
- ◆ Still others are seeking a distinctly Christian education.
- ◆ Often parents and grandparents are looking for a loving and structured environment for their teens.
- ◆ Young people enjoy the independence boarding school gives in preparation for college.

Oneida Baptist Institute

A Portrait of Oneida

A family portrait is a wonderful treasure. Who is the first person you look for in the picture? Normally, the first person you look for is yourself. You want to see how you look. Were you smiling? Was your hair combed? Were your eyes open?

Our Father's Day Offering theme this year is "A Portrait of Oneida." We've already checked to see how we look and we now invite you to see us. Many of our friends already have a good idea of what to expect. However, there are others who don't know much about us. I encourage you to take the time to read this insert. Take a good, close look at us. We believe we are providing many young people a new opportunity in life. Sadly, when we first meet some of our students, they do not see themselves in a very positive light. They frequently arrive discouraged and confused. If they were to take a good look at themselves they would not be happy with who they are and what they have been, and they would see little hope for things to get better.

Hopefully you will help us provide them with brighter colors to paint a happier future. Can you see yourself in the "portrait?" You are there, you know. Kentucky Baptists are in every "portrait" of Oneida. Every boy and girl you see in the portrait is living proof that your support has helped to make them proud of who they have become.

We want to thank you for being part of the Oneida portrait.

—Dr. W. F. Underwood, class of 1963
President of Oneida Baptist Institute



W.F. Underwood

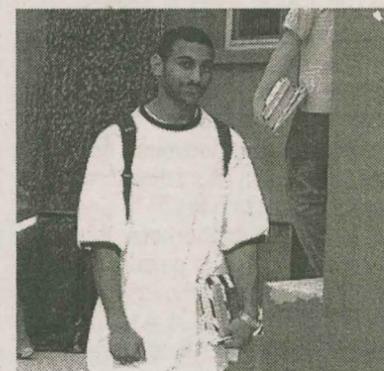
Future airline pilot demonstrated responsibility in work program

Edsel, a young man from South Carolina, came to Oneida after having failed the ninth grade at home. "I was getting in trouble at home and hanging out with the wrong people...I thought school was boring. I just wanted to hang out with my friends all the time." His grades had always been "borderline," but after failing his freshman year his parents thought he needed a change. They found OBI on the internet.

Edsel was not happy to be here in the beginning, but he recognized the benefit of being away from negative influences at home. After he had "straightened up" and improved his grades, he thought he could handle being at home. He left OBI his junior year. "It started all over again. I never went to school," he recalled. "I made myself come back [to OBI], so I could pass my classes, graduate on time, and go to college. I appreciated it a whole lot more."

At OBI, Edsel was able to make up the classes he needed to graduate. He attended two years of summer school and worked in other classes in his regular schedule. As time passed, Edsel noticed a change in his attitude toward school. When he first arrived at OBI, "I didn't care about my grades. All I wanted to do was get out of here. This year, this is the best my grades have been in my whole life. I made the honor roll. It was great," he said.

As the oldest of four kids who grew up on a farm, Edsel said, "I was used to working." His first after school job at OBI was cleaning school buildings. He was ineligible to play sports because of his grades, but he became a manager for the baseball team in the spring. During summer school, he enjoyed working outdoors on the mowing crew. This year, Edsel has been the supervisor of the chapel cleaning crew. He liked having his entire day scheduled with school and job requirements. "It's



At OBI, Edsel started caring about his grades and made honor roll.

pretty cool, because you're not in the dorm bored. You have something to do. For me, it made the days go by quicker, and I could graduate sooner. My day was planned, so I was not so stressed," Edsel said. He believes the work program is good for young people who are not used to working. As a supervisor, he said the hardest part of his job was keeping track of the younger boys who needed to be taught responsibility on the job. "They have a lot of energy. Sometimes they were hard to deal with," he said.

As a cleaning crew supervisor, Edsel worked for David Jaspersen, the boys' work program coordinator. Jaspersen commented, "Edsel was very responsible. He needed very little direction and was able to work on his own to get a job done. He was a good motivator for his workers and always had a positive attitude."

Edsel is glad he was able to graduate on time. His college plans are made, and he is looking forward to a career as a commercial airline pilot. "I'm appreciative of [OBI] and what it's done for me. I know I would not have made it if I were back at home," he said.

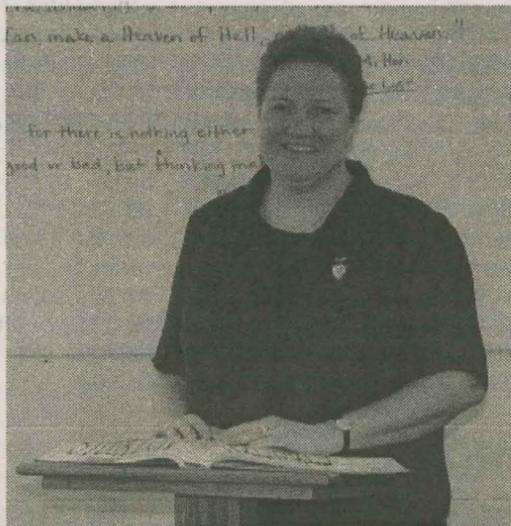
One of the most frustrating toys that nearly every toddler has is the yellow plastic ball with different shapes cut out of it. The object is to put all of the pieces into the ball by matching them with the shapes. I remember my son struggling to get just one piece to fit. Eventually, he tried beating a block through the wrong hole. How exhilarating it was when he finally fit the right piece in the right place!

Much like my son's attempts to master this simple toy, as a teenager I couldn't find where I fit in the world. I came from a loving, Christian family. We were active in church events, but being involved in extra-curricular activities at a large public school was another story. We lived several miles from town, and my parents owned and operated their own business, which required a lot of time. Because I was quite shy and wasn't able to take part in many school activities, I didn't have many friends. My isolation was evident in my mediocre grades. In spite of the love and support I received at home, there just wasn't a place for me at school.

Coming to Oneida meant having lots of opportunities to participate. I love sports, but because of the number of students at my old school, the competition was too great. At OBI anyone can join any team or club. I didn't have to "make" the team or pay costly dues. As long as I committed to do my part, I could be a part. Before I knew it, I found myself playing volleyball, basketball and softball. I also joined the school choir, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and drama. I would not have had these opportunities at my old school. I didn't even know I could do most of these things until I found my place at Oneida.

My efforts paid off and the struggle to find my place was over. It would be hard to imagine how horribly ordinary my life would have been otherwise. I had been a "nobody" in my former school, but because of the support of the extended Oneida family, I had the opportunity to become the "somebody" God intended. Oneida was the "perfect fit" for me as a student and it continues to be as my husband and I serve here.

— Laura Stockton, class of 1986
OBI English teacher



The Perfect Fit

A day at Oneida

Morning: Students get up, clean their rooms, and must be in class on time.

Afternoon: As the school day ends, an afternoon of jobs, sports and other activities begins.

At school: Young people may take a variety of classes. High school students can choose a college or vocational track of study.

Evening: "Free time" is a chance to visit with friends in our recreational facilities.

Chapel time: Each school day, our entire student body and faculty join for a time of worship.

Study hall: All students not on the honor roll attend nightly study hall.

Night-time: Students do evening chores and get ready for another day.

Moore: Leave bondage, wilderness for freedom in Christ

By Polly House
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Colorado Springs, Colo. (BP)—Christians must leave their bondage "in Egypt"—whatever bondage that might be—and head toward freedom "in Canaan," Beth Moore told more than 8,000 women in Colorado recently.

"We all have our addictions," she told those attending the "Living Proof ... Live" event in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 14-15.

"We just don't all have the same addictions," she said. "Sin is like a drug. We keep upping our doses, craving more to get the same feeling."

At the second day of the event, sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, participants were joined by satellite by 35,000 women in 165 locations around the country.

Moore told the group that no one was there by accident.

"I want you to know that the person sitting next to you doesn't have it together any more than you do," she said. "Don't think that you don't belong here. You do. God has wooed you here. You are not just attending a conference. You are in a holy sanctuary."

Throughout three sessions, Moore led a study of Deuteronomy 4. The passages relate to the children of Israel as slaves in Egypt, as wanderers in the wilderness and as



POINTING TOWARD CANAAN Beth Moore, a Bible teacher and author from Houston, speaks to 8,000 women in Colorado Springs and 35,000 more in 165 satellite locations during a "Living Proof ... Live" event in May. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

free people in Canaan.

Moore compared the Egypt period to the time a Christian spends enslaved by sin. Sins are addictions, she said, and these addictions can take any form—rage, sex, unforgiveness, bitterness and mind-altering substances.

Moore said that when God repeats Himself, He means business.

"He says over and over, 'Remember, you were slaves in Egypt.' He wants us to remember that we were slaves in our addictions and sins. That was the place of our oppres-

sion," she said.

Some Christians choose to live in the place of oppression because it's not all bad, she said. In fact, it can be comfortable.

Comfort vs. change

"We don't like to have to change our behavior," Moore said. "But the purpose of God's discipline is changed behavior. He's never out to just make us feel bad. God only causes or allows the consequence of sin, and His discipline when it can change us."

Moore said people start to die when they stop changing. "If you're still drawing breath, there are still areas where God wants to change you and draw you nearer."

Between enslavement in Egypt and freedom in Canaan, the children of Israel spent time in the void of wilderness, Moore noted.

"God loves us too much to let us stay where we are," Moore said. "God will 'pester' us to death to move on."

Moore told the women that staying connected to God through the Bible is crucial as they leave their wilderness.

"The reason these conferences end on Saturday is because all of us go back and serve our churches on Sunday. But let me tell you—and make no mistake—we cannot live on just the Word of God we get from our worship services. We need more of the Word than that."

As a relationship with Christ grows, Christians move from the wilderness to freedom, "becoming extremely effective in what God has asked you to do," Moore said.

Joining Moore's Bible study by satellite were women from several denominations and affiliations, including Baptists, Bible and Fellowship churches, Methodists, Presbyterians, Assemblies of God and a group from the International Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center.

Moore will speak at six more "Living Proof ... Live" events in 2004. For more information, visit www.lifeway.com/women.

2004
SUPER SATURDAY

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Connecting People to People!

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

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Please visit our Web site at:
www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday

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

Ministry amid tragedy & trauma

Missionaries take supplies, counseling to flood-ravaged Dominican Republic

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic (BP)—Missionaries say God is at work in the aftermath of the worst flooding ever to strike the Caribbean island nations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Missionaries are responding with food, clean water and crisis counseling, ministering in God's name to communities that lost thousands of residents in late May.

Storms dropped as much as 30 inches of rain in one hour, sweeping away crops and livestock, even entire families and villages, said Southern Baptist missionary Donny Barger, leader of a team that took relief supplies into flood-ravaged towns in the Dominican Republic.

"In the southern border city of Jimani, about half the town was washed away. Where there once were neighborhoods, now there are just mounds of sand," Barger said. "The latest estimate is that more than 1,000 people were killed. I have yet to speak to anyone here who has not lost family members."

At least 3,300 people were dead or missing and thousands more homeless in the Dominican Republic and Haiti after what one official described as the worst natural disaster in Caribbean history.

Barger and missionary colleagues Adam Hammond and Fernando Abella were able to respond quickly to the disaster with food, clothing and supplies provided by \$5,000 in Southern Baptist hunger and relief funds.

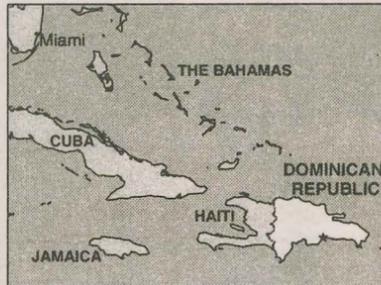
Seeing God at work

They said God was at work right away in Jimani.

The governor's office sent Barger to a branch of the reserve bank, where Barger was allowed to connect a water purification system to the bank's well. When a bank official arrived and learned Barger needed plastic pipe and a 250-gallon water tank, he ordered up the pipe and two 500-gallon tanks. The governor brought in a truck to transport the purified water throughout the town.

Those timely provisions got the purifier online quickly to meet a critical need in the community, Barger said.

"Here we are in an unknown community with no contacts, and



God provided everything we needed and more," Barger said.

Two Dominican Baptist believers said they saw God's power as they distributed sacks of food to villages throughout the area.

Each bag contained enough food to supply an entire family for at least a week. But with so many people in need, one of the Dominicans was concerned that they didn't have enough sacks to help everyone they would meet, missionary John Randolph recounted.

"When we left Los Peñados, we had 50 sacks," Randolph said. "And even though we kept giving out sacks along the way back, every time we stopped and counted we still had 50 sacks."

The Dominican worker "said he started to become afraid because he didn't know what to do with so many sacks that just wouldn't go away," Randolph added.

He said working as a missionary in a hands-on relief effort gave him a different perspective on the offerings he promoted when he was a pastor in Nevada and Washington.

"For years, I led the churches I pastored to give to the World Hunger Fund," he said. "While meaningful, it was remote.

"When I saw the first sack come off the truck into the hands of a hungry family, a jolt of joy and praise surged through my heart.

"I was overwhelmed that God had allowed me the privilege of being part of what He was doing."

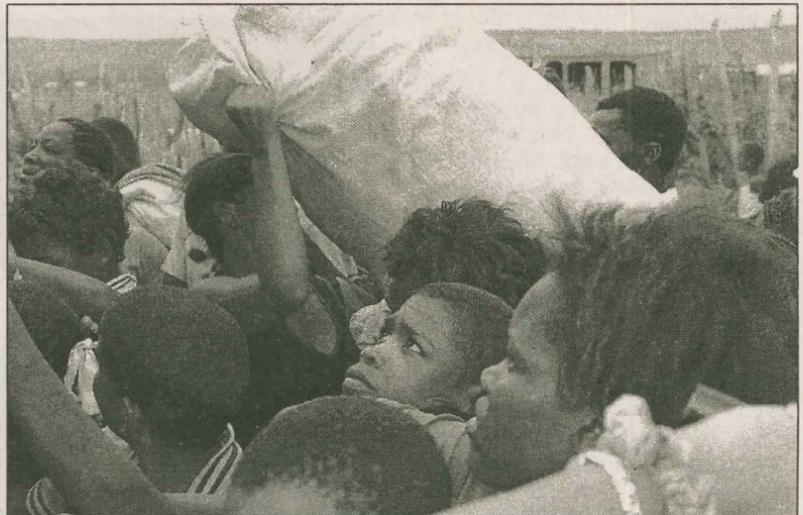
Facing the grief

As major relief operations by the government and humanitarian agencies were being organized, the missionaries turned their attention to the grief survivors were suffering. Steve Lyon, a missionary who is a professional counselor, arrived to train pastors, public school teachers and other missionaries in techniques to help people work through trauma.

The crisis counseling ministry began immediately—in the training sessions.

A pastor from Jimani described the terror his family experienced when they awoke to find water filling their house. When he went to get his daughter, the force of the rushing water prevented him from opening her bedroom door. He called out to neighbors for help, but they also were unable to reach her.

"He cried out to God in the night and tried again to open the door," Barger said. "He got his foot in, and the force of the water tore the door from its hinges. He was able to res-



DESPERATE FOR HELP Southern Baptist missionaries and their Dominican partners distributed food, water, clothing and other relief supplies to homes in Jimani, Nagua and other communities. (BP photos by Donny Barger)

cue his sleeping daughter and lead his family to safety.

"Since then, he had been unable to sleep, and when he did close his eyes he saw horrible scenes of the corpses he had seen while a part of the rescue effort." The pastor benefited from the debriefing, and is looking forward to the arrival of the video, "Trauma y Familia," by missionary Hebert Palomino, to help him and others minister to other victims.

"I am praying that the Lord can use this effort to minister to victims

and to start future home Bible studies," Barger added.

Southern Baptist workers and their Dominican partners have other prayer concerns on their hearts as well, said Barger's wife, Jennifer.

"Prayer is fundamental to anything we do here," she said. "Please remember the children who have lost their parents in this flood. Pray that doors will be opened for the gospel through our efforts with the people of the southwest Dominican Republic. Pray that God will be glorified."

"Where there once were neighborhoods, now there are just mounds of sand."

Southern Baptist missionary Donny Barger

CLEAN UP

Residents of Jimani clean up the part of their town not washed away in the flash flooding. Workers had to remove between two and three feet of mud from homes, businesses and streets in the Dominican Republic town.



For the Glory of God

STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED

2 TIM 2:15



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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Minister's aid

Foundation has options to help ministers and widows

When you think about the ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation you will likely not think it includes minister's aid. And yet, through the years a number of Kentucky Baptists have demonstrated their affection and appreciation for ministers by establishing, through bequests in wills and outright gifts, permanent endowments that provide financial resources in a variety of forms.

Here are some examples of the kinds of minister's aid for which the foundation has received endowment gifts. The largest minister's aid endowment provides benefits to needy Kentucky Baptist ministers and their widows through the Adopt an Annuitant program of the SBC Annuity Board. Another endowment makes distributions into a retirement account for a specified period of time for the church staff ministers in an association whose churches could not afford those contributions. Scholarship endowments have been established to assist ministers in completing their education. Other scholarship endowments

benefit specifically the children of missionaries. Another endowment a couple established eventually will provide resources for mission pastors and associational missionaries through the KBC's state missionary assistance program. Finally, we have endowments established that benefit the Cooperative Program and state missions through the KBC. Since the KBC provides a supplement to the retirement accounts of church staff personnel through the Church Annuity Program of the SBC Annuity Board, these endowments provide funding of those benefits.

Although the foundation is not involved directly in minister's aid, our ministry has facilitated the gifts of a number of Kentucky Baptists concerned for the well-being of ministers and their families.

If you are interested in providing some form of minister's aid through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, please call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free to discover how.

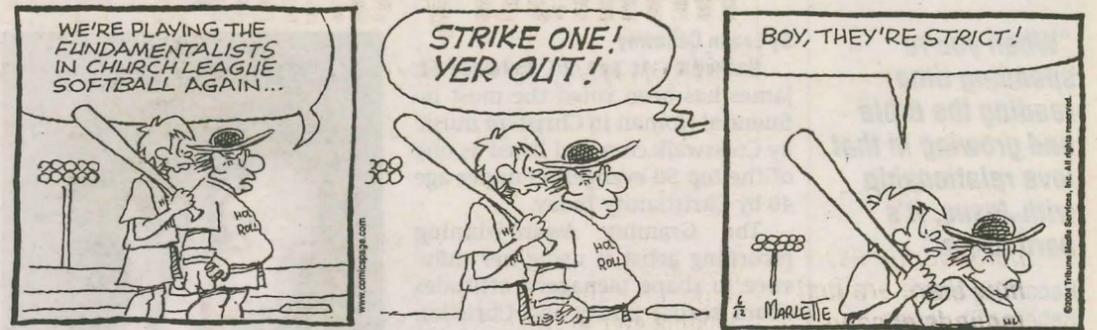
Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; (888) 254-5701; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Terri Grottke

Across

- 1 Cake mix maker (last name)
- 6 Amasses
- 11 Store under pressure
- 12 Has (arch.)
- 14 Conjunction
- 15 Touched
- 17 City near Bethel
- 18 Military abbr.
- 19 Marian, et al.
- 20 Chemical element (abbr.)
- 21 N.T. book (abbr.)
- 23 Gilded or Jazz
- 24 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 25 Wipe away (arch.)
- 28 Ammonite who invaded Jabesh-gilead (1 Samuel 11)
- 31 More than one orthopedist (abbr.)
- 32 Normal, but maybe not for Nicklaus
- 33 "For the ___ shall be prosperous" (Zechariah 8:12)
- 35 "Smote all their enemies with the ___ of the sword" (Esther 9:5)
- 38 Familiar cavern sight
- 40 Exclamation
- 42 Son of Elishama (1 Chronicles 7:27)
- 43 I ___ (Jehovah)
- 44 Struck (arch.)
- 46 Laughing sound

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| 38 | 39 | | | 40 | 41 | | | | 42 | | |
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| 47 | | | 48 | | | | | 49 | | 50 | |
| | 51 | 52 | | | | | 53 | | | 54 | |
| | 55 | | | | | | 56 | | | | |

- 47 Eastern seaboard state (abbr.)
- 48 Worn by the disciples, among others
- 50 Simile word
- 51 Hackneyed
- 53 Son of Reuel (Genesis 36:13)
- 55 ___ days
- 56 "A sceptre ... shall ... destroy all the children of ___" (Numbers 24:17)

- 11 Room or walk
- 13 Judah stayed with him in Adullam (Genesis 38)
- 16 Archaeological site
- 22 In the course of
- 24 Brother of Moses
- 26 Before (poet.)
- 27 Double this for a deadly fly
- 29 Likely
- 30 Laughing sound
- 34 Condemned
- 35 Belonging to the evil one
- 36 Son of Levi (Genesis 46)
- 37 Son of Seth (1 Chronicles 1:1)
- 38 Prohibit
- 39 Wrong
- 41 Son of Zophar (1 Chronicles 7)
- 44 Father of Heber (Luke 3:35)
- 45 King of Israel, son of Baasha (1 Kings 16:8)
- 48 "Gal" of songdom
- 49 Pronoun
- 52 'Bye, to Brits
- 54 Preposition

Down

- 1 Dread
- 2 Pronoun
- 3 ___ degree
- 4 Son of Shem (Genesis 10:22)
- 5 Family of returning exiles (Ezra 2:35)
- 6 Grasp (arch.)
- 7 Some of Bo-Peep's brood?
- 8 Conjunction
- 9 Required subject in school (abbr.)
- 10 Escalator option

Last week's solution

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| 20 | P | E | S | T | 21 | L | A | T | E | 23 | A | L | O | N | G | |
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| 43 | A | S | H | 44 | E | M | U | L | A | 46 | I | D | N | | | |
| 48 | T | A | R | 50 | R | A | T | E | 51 | H | O | N | E | | | |
| 52 | E | S | E | 53 | T | O | E | S | 54 | S | N | O | 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 1-800-928-5242 to make a reservation and receive directions.

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

WESTERNRECORDER + Your church newsletter

Two great publications, one less post office headache

Rebecca St. James preaches purity with her concerts

By Leann Callaway

Nashville—At age 26, Rebecca St. James has been voted the most influential woman in Christian music by Crosswalk.com and listed as one of the top 50 evangelists under age 40 by Christianity Today.

The Grammy Award-winning recording artist is using her influence to shape teenagers' attitudes about sexual purity and Christian commitment.

Later this month, she will take her music and message to Dallas for a massive True Love Waits rally.

"Probably a few of my main words of advice will be to guard your heart and your mind," said St. James, author of the best-selling book "Wait for Me," a personal plea for sexual abstinence until marriage.

"If you're listening to trashy music or watching movies that are promoting immorality, that's going to affect your life. These young people need to only allow things in their lives that are going to encourage purity. They also need to learn how to set major boundaries in their dating life and relationships. It's so important for them to talk about their commitment to purity, and only date people that are committed to purity, as they are."

Staying close to Jesus

The key to remaining sexually pure is having a strong, loving relationship with Jesus Christ, she emphasized.

"Most importantly, (young people) need to spend time with Jesus every day. When you're spending time reading the Bible and growing



GRAMMY WINNER From books to concerts, Rebecca St. James stresses a message of sexual purity to combat what she says are opposing messages in the media

in that love relationship with Jesus, it's hard to sin. They say that sin keeps you from the Bible, and the Bible keeps you from sin. Spending time with God each day and in prayer really helps you to live a holy life," she said.

St. James, a native of Australia who now lives in Nashville, grew up in "a real solid Christian family, so it has been an amazing heritage of faith," she said. Her family attended a Baptist church in Australia, and she made a profession of faith in Christ at age 8.

Because her father was a Christian concert promoter, she became familiar with the Christian music industry at an early age.

"Music has always been a natural

part of my life," she noted. "When I was about 12, I committed my music and my gifts to God. I moved to America with my family when I was 14, and I sang at different youth groups and churches. Some guys from a record label saw me sing when I was about 15 and signed me to that label soon after that. So, it was one of those things that God definitely led me to do. I had a little bit of vocal training when I did my first album, but my training came more from things I learned growing up around music."

Today, a busy touring schedule keeps her on the road most of the year. "There's a lot of sacrifice involved," she said.

"It's hard being away from home and missing my family and friends. Some of my immediate family travel with me, but the rest of my family is pretty much in Australia. I also miss the formality of church. But knowing I'm being used to make a difference and that God has me where He wants me to be is absolutely wonderful.

"My favorite part is knowing that the music is reaching people and that God is using it to change lives."

Concerts with an altar call

Before each concert, St. James has a devotional and prayer time with her band members. Then, she spends time alone in prayer before she goes on stage.

"I hope that people connect with God and are able to express their love for Him at these concerts," she said. "I hope that people walk away filled with Christ's love and

His hope. I think a lot of people today are searching for hope and a reason to live. My prayer is they find that. At my concerts, we also have an altar call and commitment time each night. I hope that those who don't know God will come to know Him that night, and those who do know Him will be refreshed in their commitment.

"I think music in itself is very powerful and engaging, but when you put the Bible with that, it becomes a powerhouse ... because the Bible is the most powerful tool in the world for life change. I've always had an emphasis on worship at my concerts, and I've really seen people respond during that time."

A key message she seeks to communicate to young people is the importance of "being on guard against spiritual attack," she said.

"I feel that Satan is out to steal, kill and destroy. Satan wants to draw us into compromise and wants to discourage us and distract us from living for God," she said.

"We need to be on guard, realizing it's not just the flesh and bones world we live in, it's a spiritual warfare going on. We need to be in prayer and have people praying for us, and daily spending time with God, so our eyes are set on Him and not things of this world. That's kind of my theme lately."



Please take a good look

Stories in Western Recorder insert just a sample of the lives being changed here

If you have not already noticed the four-page insert in this edition of the Western Recorder, please take a moment for a good look and read the stories of these 10 Oneida seniors. Each of their stories is different, and yet they are remarkably alike. Except for Cliff and Megan, who are staff children, each of these students attended Oneida for a variety of reasons. Some had been here for only two or three years, while others had been here seven years or longer. Not being an accomplished writer, I always have struggled to find the words to illustrate the impact Oneida has had in the lives of our young people.

You are no doubt aware of the economic situation facing our nation and the world. People of modest means and those with more than modest resources are struggling to make investments that will provide some reasonable return. An investment in the lives of young people solves that problem! There is no way to calculate the value of a life rescued from the cliff of destruction.

Watching a drifting, defeated teenager regain his or her identity and purpose in life is one of the most rewarding experiences there is. I know it is asking a lot from our friends to make this investment, knowing that you will rarely see the return on the gift you have provided. There will be no monthly or quarterly statement mailed to you showing how your investment has grown.

The stories of these 10 young people are just samples of the lives that have been touched and impacted by the Oneida ministry. Their stories will have to substitute for the monthly or quarter-

ly statement showing that your investment was the right choice. One Oneida graduate recently said it this way: "I honestly can't remember when things actually started changing. A smile here and a hug there, my attitude was changing. While at Oneida, God came into my life and changed my heart. He gave me a love for other people I cannot hide. ... He gave me the ability to love."

Some of the students highlighted in the Western Recorder needed considerable financial assistance. Our students are not eligible for loans and grants like college students. If they need help financially, it must be provided by our faithful friends. Virtually every Oneida student receives financial assistance. A full-paying student pays only about half the actual cost to attend.

The latest information I have indicates Oneida is the third-lowest-priced boarding school in America. The two schools with lower room and board are smaller and are heavily subsidized by the Catholic church. One of those schools charges only \$100 less per year than Oneida. So in reality, we are almost tied for being the second-lowest-priced boarding school in the U.S.

Oneida always has had a disproportionate number of low-income students. While it is a tremendous challenge to meet the financial needs of these students, we always have done our best to save a bed for them. Remember, I was one of those students 40-plus years ago. The Father's Day Offering is your opportunity to help those who cannot assist themselves. Thanks in advance for your help and prayers.

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



THIS IS ONEIDA

W.F. Underwood

Not the typical office

Pineville resident enjoys Christian work environment

Two weeks after Charlotte Simpson started work as Clear Creek's physical plant secretary, she called her former boss asking to return.

"I was overwhelmed with this new job. My former boss told me my replacement was hired the day before. He suggested I try the new job for six months," Charlotte said. "I'm still learning, but I know this is where God wants me to be. It's quite different working here than most places. You can talk to the Lord and have people pray with you and encourage you in the Lord."

The Bell County native completed three years on the job last February. She's grateful for the training received from predecessor Vickie Hurst. The job includes ordering supplies, handling maintenance requests, placing vending orders, assigning housing, being the liaison with volunteer teams and the grounds crew, and handling the payroll for student maintenance workers.

Charlotte appreciates the good relationships with three other physical plant employees. "Ronnie Washam is my supervisor. I can go to him with any question; he's a wonderful boss and a big help,"

Charlotte said. "Duke Fuson, our plumber, might fuss a little bit at times. Marcellus Woods, the electrician, is also responsible for heating and air. They are both good guys to work with and committed to Clear Creek."

Charlotte became a Christian at age 16, a year after a neighbor started taking her to church. Her husband, Morrison, was saved since they married. At Wasioto Baptist Church near Pineville, she works with the children. "I love the children," she said. "We have one unmarried son, age 24 years old. I'm a grandmother to other children."

Charlotte gains special inspiration from Renee Hanking, wife of her previous supervisor, Charles Hanking. "With a degenerative bone disease, she was facing very risky surgery and might not walk again. She told the doctor she would be fine and to proceed with the surgery. He asked her, 'Are you Southern Baptist?' Whenever Renee called me on the phone she was praising and thanking the Lord for what He was doing. A year later she walked into the office, praising the Lord."

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



CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE

Bill Whittaker

Chapman finds God makes 'All Things New' in latest project

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—For someone who has written 41 No. 1 songs and won more Dove Awards than any other artist, creating something new and better than before could present quite a challenge.

That is, according to Steven Curtis Chapman, unless God is in charge of the project.

About a year ago, Chapman began praying intentionally for God to discern whether He had something to say through him that would lead to another album.

After adopting two daughters from China to add to his three children, Chapman said his life was hectic and full enough without the work of a 14th album.

"I just said, 'God, unless You're really in this, I'm not going to go off and just make a record because it's time to make a record,'" Chapman said this spring during Gospel Music Week in Nashville.

"So I began to really pray, and it seems like I invested a tremendous amount of energy in trying to just get a clean slate ... and just get into a place where I really believed God was saying something He wanted me to communicate," Chapman recounted.

Someone told Chapman about a book called "Don't Waste Your Life" by John Piper, and he read it on a flight during that season of intense prayer. By the time the plane landed, Chapman said, he had started writing about eight songs.

"I've always said and known I'm not the point, but God gave me through John Piper a way of kind of throwing a large, cold bucket of redemptive water in my face and saying, 'Wake up. Here's what it really is about,'" Chapman said. "God does love you and have a wonderful plan for you, but it's because it makes His name great, because it glorifies Him and reveals His glory and His greatness."

Along with Philip Yancey's book "Rumors of Another World" and the preaching of Chapman's pastor, Scotty Smith at Christ Community Church in Franklin, Tenn., Chapman found himself more compelled and more inspired than he had ever been in his life, he said.

"I was more sure that God had in fact called me again ... out of the off-season and called me back to spring training and said, 'Alright, we've got a big season ahead and I'm counting on you, and I'm counting on a lot of things from this,'" Chapman said. "I had a real sense of that, but while I found myself never more inspired and never more compelled, I felt never more exhausted."

Making the album

With an intentional decision that if he was going to make an album called All Things New and write songs that felt new, Chapman knew he must make some changes—everything from untun-



SEEKING GOD'S MESSAGE After 13 albums, 47 Dove Awards and four Grammys, Steven Curtis Chapman said he wanted to be sure his next album had God's message conveyed in a clear way for this point in his ministry. (Photo courtesy of Sparrow Records)

ing his guitar so chords would sound different to writing some songs with the piano because that was different for him.

He considered using a new producer and shared his heart with Brown Bannister, a Dove Award-winning producer who had worked on Chapman's last few albums. Bannister told Chapman he wanted to support him, even if it meant helping him find a new producer. But that was not to be the case.

"He began to tell me what God was doing in his heart, and I saw this new light in his eyes," Chapman said.

The duo chose a new place to record, a studio in Los Angeles called Sunset Sound on the famous boulevard.

Chapman and Bannister also chose all new musicians to play on the album, those who had worked with such mainstream stars as Sheryl Crow, Alanis Morissette, Beck and John Mayer but had never touched the music of Steven Curtis Chapman.

From day one, Chapman decided to explain his Christian perspective for the album, giving those who were not on board a chance to leave early.

He gently shared with them the reason the album was being made and told how as a Christian who has had faith in God for almost 30 years it feels like in so many ways he is just getting started to really know who God is, and that's why he can keep making Christian music and never run out of ideas.

Chapman also told them he would like to pray for God to bless the musicians and the recording of the album.

The musicians were supportive of the project, but the studio engineer was the most touched by his words, Chapman said.

When he closed that first meeting with prayer, he said, he looked up and saw the engineer crying.

"She looked up and said, 'Just the idea that there's an artist in here whose ego isn't so large there's not room for any oxygen in the room—there's actually room for God—I have never even experienced that before.'"

Performing The Faith: Bonhoeffer and the Practice of Nonviolence. Stanley Hauerwas. Brazos Press, 2004. 252 pages. \$19.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

I picked this book up because Stanley Hauerwas seemed to be writing a book on a pastor/theologian who has had a significant impact on my life. I bought the book because of two sermons included related to Sept. 11, 2001.

The sermons are fitting summaries to the argument presented in "Performing the Faith," but Bonhoeffer effectively disappears after the second chapter. For the next six chapters I found myself encountering John Howard Yoder, John Milbank, Thomas Aquinas, Ludwig Wittgenstein, et al.

"Performing the Faith" is not a quick read. In its pages, Hauerwas seems to be pursuing several ends: demonstrating that theology and discipleship are meant to be performed not observed or studied; confronting readers with the necessity of nonviolence in a violent world, while showing that being non-violent does not mean being non-confrontational; outlining a schema for Christian interaction with and influence on the structures and values of culture; and beginning the process of putting a period on a lifetime of theological and ethical reflection, writing and advocacy.

While this book was not what I thought it would be when I picked it up, it was a rewarding and challenging read. Hauerwas continues his forensic style of writing, challenging not only his readers, but arguing with his detractors. All the while he challenges the reader to re-examine what it means to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God. The only thing that keeps me from giving the book five stars is the disappointing come-on in the book's subtitle. *Jim Holladay*

Fields of Gold. Andy Stanley. Tyndale House Publishers, 2004. 157 pages. \$13.99. ♦♦♦♦

The paltry amount most Christians give to their churches and to ministries has been documented elsewhere in this paper. Rather than recounting the statistics or their impact, Andy Stanley tries to explain why in "Fields of Gold."

Fear, not greed, keeps many Christians from funding churches and ministries at more healthy levels, Stanley contends.

"Cheerful giving has become fearful giving," he writes. "We're concerned that if we don't look after our own needs first, they might not get looked after at all."

This slim, sometimes interactive book challenges Christians to gauge and confront their own fears. Stanley reminds readers that faith and fear go hand in hand. Stanley tackles "irrational" fear, reminding Christians that God deserves their confidence both spiritually and financially.

Rather than proposing a giving plan based on mathematic formulas, Stanley offers four ways for Christians to begin and expand their giving: priority giving, percent-

age giving, progressive giving and prompted giving.

Pastors can incorporate many of this book's ideas into their sermons and comments about stewardship,

but "Fields of Gold" really isn't written for them. It's aimed at people in the pews, though I'm not sure many of them are itching to buy a book that encourages them to give away more of their money.

The book would be a good resource for pastors and church leaders to have on hand to give to new Christians or other people willing to explore their attitudes about giving. Generous Giving, a ministry designed to encourage stewardship, helped produce the book and offers it at a discounted price through its Web site, www.generousgiving.org. *David Winfrey*

The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church. Robb Redman. Jossey Bass, 2002. 256 pages. \$19.95. ♦♦♦

Robb Redman writes this book to "encourage renewal of worship in an established church." He believes that the churches that will survive, and move beyond survival to reaching out to new generations must change their approach to worship. So far, his working thesis is no different than a host of other books written on worship in the past decade.

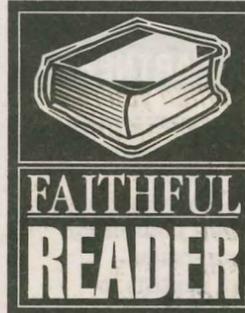
Despite its similarity to other works, "The Great Worship Awakening" contributes a helpful overview of the various efforts at worship reform. Part One examines the seeker service, praise and worship, contemporary worship music and liturgical renewal movements. Redman examines each topic's historical background, overall philosophy and strengths and weaknesses. I was taken aback by the harshness of his criticism of the liturgical renewal movement (which has not been altogether friendly to the praise and worship of contemporary worship music movements). Then I went to the jacket cover and discovered Redman had served as a vice president for Maranatha! Music.

Part Two is a review of the effect of generational worldviews on patterns of worship.

Through the first two parts of the book, I had almost forgotten the subtitle of the book. In Part Three, where he discusses practical issues in leading a worship awakening in your church, was disappointing. Rather than talking about the whole act of worship, he focuses almost entirely on music styles. The promise of the bulk of the book collapsed

into an argument for contemporary worship music as the key to renewing worship, with a nod of the head to drama and technology. No mention of ways to renew prayer, scripture reading, communion, etc.

Martin Luther once remarked, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." Listening to the discussion of worship these days, one might conclude, "Next to music, the Word of God deserves the highest praise." *Jim Holladay*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and David Winfrey, news director of the Western Recorder. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: whager@trifoliant.net; lyndonpastor@aol.com; or david.winfrey@kybaptist.org

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries and projects related to Kentucky Baptist Convention partnerships with Baptists in New England, the International Baptist Convention in Europe, Poland and Brazil.

■ **The partnership** between the International Baptist Convention and the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which was extended through October 2005.

■ **Martin Levey**, pastor of Oberusel (Germany) Christian Fellowship Church, who is recovering from a brain hemorrhage.

■ **James Duke**, pastor of Sofia (Bulgaria) International Baptist Church, and his wife, Audrey, as they deal with travel and health issues.

■ **Three teams** from Kentucky that will be sending a total of 56 volunteers this month to Poland, Switzerland and Brazil.

■ **Missionaries** Scott and Joyce Pittman, who are returning to Brazil after stateside assignment. Scott Pittman was a pastor in Simpsonville when he and his wife made a commitment to career missions during a previous KBC partnership with Brazil Baptists.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BRODHEAD**—Brodhead Church recently called **Luther Allen** as pastor.

■ **CALIFORNIA**—Mentor Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary June 27. **Fred Workman** will speak at the 11 a.m. service.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—**Chris Odle** has resigned as pastor of Mercer Church effective June 27.

■ **CLINTON**—Second Church recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and homecoming. **Roger James** is pastor.

■ **FLORENCE**—Kento-Boo Church recently called **Daniel Crowther** as youth minister. **Stan Cole** is pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—Walnut Grove Church recently called **Gary Frizzell** as interim pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Bethel Church recently called **Russell Wood** as pastor.

Eddie Parker will serve as summer student minister at Immanuel Church.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—First Church recently called **Phil Ellis** as senior pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—**Brad Tucker** recently resigned as youth minister at Park Avenue Church and is available for supply ministry. He may be contacted at (270) 825-8362.

■ **MONTICELLO**—Concord Church recorded three professions of faith and one rededication during recent revival services. **Delbert Jones** is pastor.

Kenneth Dick recently resigned as pastor of Spann Hill Church.

Kyle Waddle recently resigned as youth pastor of Steubenville Church.

■ **PADUCAH**—Friendship Church recently called **Tim Bertram** as minister of youth. **Jason Browning** is pastor.

Highview Church recently called **Danny Cox** as interim pastor.

Trinity Church will celebrate its 70th anniversary June 27. **Kenneth Brown** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Liberty Church recently called **Jerrell White** as interim pastor.

■ **SUMMERSVILLE**—Summersville Church will host its second annual "Thunder over Summersville" celebration July 3. Activities will include a 5 p.m. fish fry, 7 p.m. concert with the **Hoskins Family** and 9:30 p.m. fireworks display.

■ **WHITE PLAINS**—Concord Missionary Church recently ordained **Keith Williams** to the gospel ministry.

White Plains Missionary Church will hold revival services June 20, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and June 21-25, 7 p.m., with **Kerry Smith** as evangelist.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Participants in Mississippi River Ministries and Mississippi-Ohio Valley Evangelism will host a one-hour prayer service June 19, 10 a.m., at the cross on U.S. Highway 51 near Wickliffe.

Kentuckians among Southern grads

Louisville—Several people with Kentucky ties were among more than 170 graduates at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's recent spring commencement.

Graduates, their hometowns and degrees are:

David Ball, Louisville, master of divinity.

David Todd Cravens, Shepherdsville, master of divinity.

Jason Keith Drenon, Central City, master of arts in Christian education.

David Fee, Versailles, master of divinity.

Gayle Fee, Versailles, master of divinity.

Chris Harris, Russell, master of divinity.

Joe Kays, Richmond, master of divinity.

John Lay, Harrodsburg, master

of divinity.

Todd Linn, Henderson, doctor of philosophy.

Mark James Peterson, Crestwood, master of divinity.

Andy Weaver, Upton, master of divinity.

Terry Wilder Jr., Versailles, master of divinity.

Catherine Williams, Louisville, master of divinity in Christian education.

International students with ties to Kentucky Baptist churches include:

Hyung Sek Chae, Seoul, Korea, master of church music.

Kam See Fung, Hong Kong, doctor of education.

William Chi Chau Fung, Hong Kong, doctor of philosophy.

Joong Shik Kim, Na-Joo, Korea, doctor of missiology.

Youth choir, orchestra plan June tour

Louisville—Youth from across Kentucky will share their musical talent this month as the 80-voice Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and 40-member All-State Youth Orchestra embark on their annual state tour. The tour is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's worship and music department.

The All-State Youth Choir tour dates and sites include:

■ **First Baptist Church**, Sturgis, June 24, 7 p.m.

■ **Parkland Baptist Church**, Louisville, June 26, 7 p.m.

■ **St. Matthews Baptist Church**, Louisville, June 27, 10:45 a.m.

The All-State Youth Orchestra tour dates and sites include:

■ **Immanuel Baptist Church**, Paducah, June 24, 7 p.m.

■ **The Carmel Home**, Owensboro, June 26, 10 a.m.

■ **Lewis Lane Baptist Church**, Owensboro, June 26, 6:30 p.m.

■ **Elizabethtown Baptist Church**, Elizabethtown, June 27, 10:45 a.m.

The two groups will present a combined concert at Little Flock Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, June 27, 3 p.m.

Choir and orchestra members are selected through a series of auditions each February. High school youth who have completed grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 and who are active members of a Kentucky Baptist Convention church are eligible to audition.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

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 County.

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.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Ordained Southern Baptist minister for revivals and/or special youth evangelistic services in your church—also would be open possibly to full-time pastorate with a mission-minded, conservative but relevant SBC church. If interested, e-mail georgembryant@hotmail.com, or call (859) 272-7156.

FOR SALE: Gospel piano CDs. Instrumental favorites from yesterday, Southern Gospel-style. Free brochure. Jacky Campbell, 11 Clifford, Natchez, MS 39120. Visit www.JackyCampbell.com.

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SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor of administration—will serve on staff in charge of finances, day-to-day church activities. Submit resumé, three references, to: Piner Baptist Church, 15044 Madison Pike, Morning View, KY 41063, Attn: Personnel Committee. Phone: (859) 356-3222.

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

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for White Sulphur Baptist Church. Send resumé to church: 5300 Ironworks Road, Georgetown, KY 40324, Attn: Roger Davis.

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 resumé to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Highway 351, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail mkgallow@yahoo.com.

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

SEEKING: Full-time youth/music minister. Send resumé to: First Missionary Baptist Church, PO Box 368, Benton, KY 42025.

SEEKING: Operations manager for cleftRock Retreat Center. Benefits include on-site housing. Details: contact Bob Fields, (800) 719-0600, or bfields@2geton.net.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, Ky., is in process of searching for an activities director for its new Christian life center. Qualifications include either a degree or experience in directing a recreation program; a personal commitment to the Christian faith is necessary as well. Salary and benefits are negotiable and will depend on qualifications and experience. If interested, please send resumé along with a cover letter to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 621 E 12th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101.

SEEKING: The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is seeking resumés for the position of associate coordinator for missions. The person who fills this full-time position will: provide leadership for missions participation and education in Kentucky; engage individuals and churches in hands-on mission work; and network with individuals, groups and churches to develop and expand ministry possibilities. Please submit resumés to: John Lepper, coordinator, Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, 225 South Hurstbourne Parkway, Louisville, KY 40222. Contact same for a position description (jlepper@kybf.org or (502) 426-1931). Deadline for receiving resumés: Aug. 6, 2004.

Ambassador of hate?

Fred Phelps no respecter of persons when spreading his controversial message

Editor's note: Though his church is not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Kansas pastor Fred Phelps is no stranger, having picketed outside the SBC annual meeting for several years. This year will be no exception. An offense to some, a curiosity to others, Phelps has made the news for his pickets at a variety of settings. Though this story contains language that might offend some readers, we felt this week, when Phelps and his followers are protesting in Indianapolis, would be an appropriate time to publish this story, which explores their message.

By Jim Lewis
Religion News Service

Topeka, Kan. (RNS)—Pastor Fred Phelps is preaching about God's hate, bent over a Bible printed in large letters for failing eyes.

Hate for sinners—adulterers, divorcees, Bob Dole, Mister Rogers, Billy Graham and, especially, gays and lesbians.

The 74-year-old preacher sits at a table in his church office, a utilitarian, paneled room bathed in harsh fluorescent light, poring over pages marked with yellow highlighter. Intense blue eyes search the Old Testament for verses that prove God hates, not loves.

Love? That's a story that "kissy-poo ministers" tell misguided parishioners so they'll stuff the collection box on Sunday, Phelps insists.

"You're not going to get nowhere with that slop that 'God loves you,'" he scoffs in a deep Southern drawl. "That's a diabolical lie from hell without biblical warrant."

His God is wrathful, punishing, willing to pitch humanity into fiery damnation for its sins, particularly for homosexuality, he says. To Phelps, homosexuality is the greatest threat to society: The "militant fag agenda" is being forced onto society by "fags" and "dykes" and all those who believe in tolerance, he says.

For years, Phelps has waged war against homosexuality from his independent Kansas church. He has faxed vitriolic news releases to churches, ambassadors, the media, private citizens—anyone who he thinks is in need of his preaching—declaring God's hate for wayward celebrities, politicians, religions, states and countries, everyone from Cher to Canada.

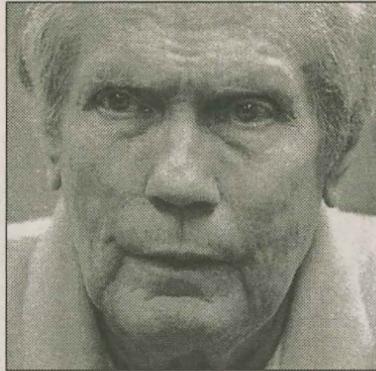
National attention

Phelps and the small congregation of his Westboro Baptist Church—mostly his children, grandchildren and in-laws—took his preaching to the streets about 13 years ago, condemning homosexuality from the sidewalks around Gage Park, a partly wooded park in Topeka where Phelps claimed gay men were having sex at night.

Phelps drew national attention in 1998 when he picketed the funeral of Matthew Shepard, a college student who was slain for being gay.

Phelps became the country's best-known gay-basher, appearing in Rolling Stone and The Washington Post, and on television's "20/20" and "The Ricki Lake Show." George magazine named him one of its "20 Most Fascinating Men in Politics" in 1999.

Phelps' fire-and-brimstone take on the Bible is "a very myopic view," says Jeffrey Siker chairman of the



Fred Phelps

theology department at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. "There's a segment of the Christian tradition that has emphasized the wrath of God, but the majority of the Christian tradition sees that as a dangerous tactic and basically bad theology."

Not Phelps. He insists that hate "is not an evil passion," and his pickets are an act of love. He compares himself to a doctor who has the courage to tell his patient that he's dying of cancer instead of hiding it from him.

"The way to prove you love thy neighbor is to warn them they're committing sin," Phelps says. "I'm the only one who loves the fags."

The symbols that dominate the sanctuary of Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church are not crosses, but picket signs condemning gays.

They sit on the altar, leaning on easels that stand alongside a grand piano and a podium. Red, green and yellow, one depicting two cartoon dogs, each wearing earrings, vomiting into each other's mouths. "Fags Wed," it reads.

A family church

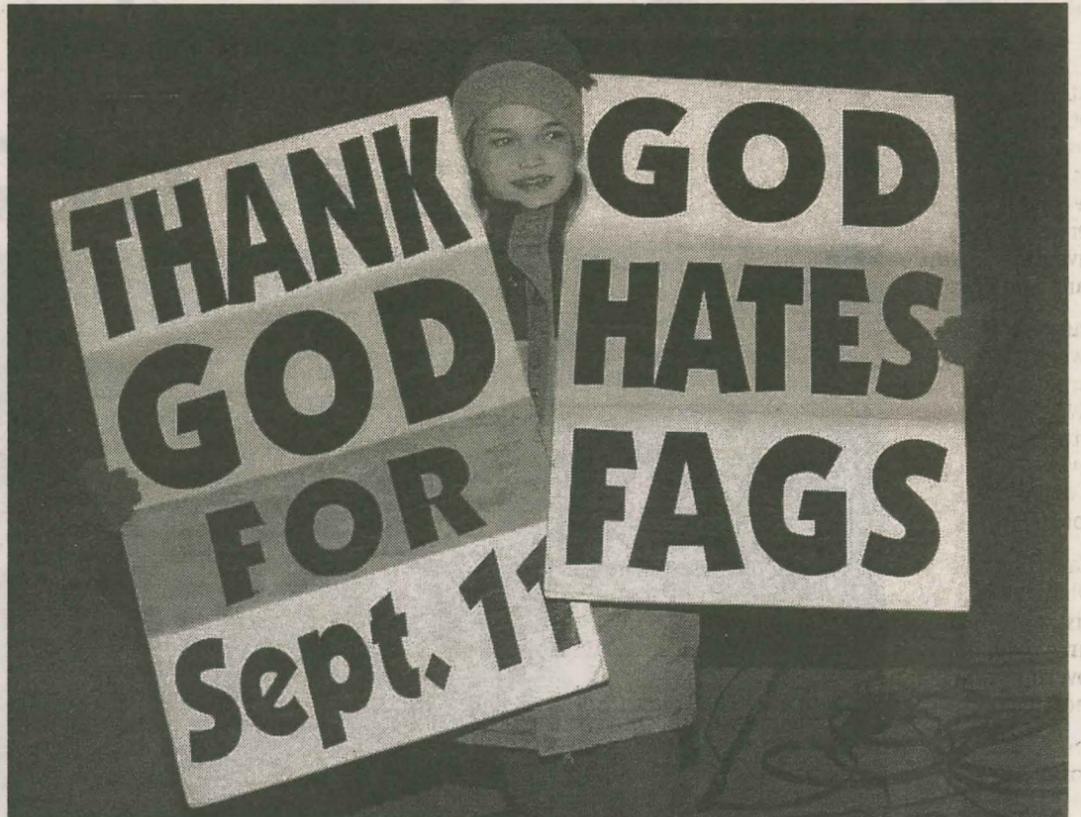
About 25 pews line the narrow sanctuary, sitting on a rose-colored carpet. Phelps opened the church on a Sunday in 1955, and has preached in it ever since.

Phelps and his wife, Margie, live upstairs. Outside, the English Tudor architecture is partially hidden by a banner, stretched across the front, that advertises one of Phelps' Web sites: Godhatesamerica.com. On a pole in the yard, the American and Canadian flags fly upside down—the international sign of distress, Phelps says.

"I no longer have any love for the country," he says. "Too far gone."

The church sits in a middle-class neighborhood of frame houses. Phelps' family—nine of his 13 children are church members—lives in all but one of the homes in the church's block, and wooden fences that run between the buildings form a kind of compound. Inside, there's a swimming pool and a running track.

The church probably survives on



tithe from the family, says Mark Potok, a spokesman for the Southern Poverty Law Center, a hate-group watchdog in Alabama.

"Everybody in this church works," Phelps says, "so everybody has money. I don't want anybody to mistake us for those money-grabbers like Jerry Falwell and Graham, giving the notion that you can buy salvation."

Teenage calling

Phelps was accepted to West Point when he was 16, but he never made it there. The summer after his high school graduation, he attended a revival in his hometown of Meridian, Miss. As the minister delivered a fire-and-brimstone sermon, Phelps experienced an epiphany: He had to preach. "Old-time preachers call it an impulse on the heart," Phelps says.

"It sobers you up and focuses your thoughts 24/7, as they say nowadays, and makes everything else relatively insignificant," he says. "There wasn't any question, hasn't been any question. That's what I was supposed to do—preach."

Phelps left home to study the Bible, and was ordained at the age of 17.

He met Margie in Phoenix while working as an evangelist at her church. One day, after a church meeting, he drove to her home in his Ford, and told her to open the glove compartment. She found a diamond ring. He proposed to her in the car.

The Phelpses moved to Topeka in 1954, and nine years after opening his church, Fred Phelps earned a law degree from Topeka's Washburn University.

He worked as a civil rights lawyer, and received an award from the NAACP after defending two black men who were searched by police at a party.

But he was disbarred in 1989 after nine federal judges signed a complaint against him that charged he made false accusations against them, according to the

Southern Poverty Law Center. By then, Phelps had filed about 400 lawsuits, mostly in federal court, including a suit against President Reagan for sending an ambassador to the Vatican.

Taking on everyone

Fred Phelps takes on everyone, conservative or liberal.

He calls Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican, a "whoremonger" because Dole divorced his previous wife to marry Elizabeth Dole.

He criticizes the late Fred Rogers, host of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," for failing to warn children that sodomy is a sin. "He needs to be preached to, but he's dead now," Phelps says.

He condemns Billy Graham, once a friend of Phelps while the two attended Bob Jones University, a conservative school of theology, for forsaking his fiery preaching about hell for more moderate "psycho-babble."

"I wrote him the other day saying we're going to picket his funeral," Phelps says.

His pickets are so common that they've become part of the daily cityscape—rain, snow or shine.

On a cold March morning, Margie Phelps is standing in a relentless rain at a Lutheran church, wrapped in a Dallas Cowboys jacket and clutching an oversized umbrella. A band of pickets, covered in wet ponchos, stands on the sidewalk.

Rotten weather, but the protest at the modern stone and glass church must go on, Margie Phelps says. "They bury fags here," she says.

Phelps spends most of his time reading religious texts, especially a 350-year-old, two-volume treatise on the book of Job that he bought from a Chicago preacher for \$800. His life is consumed with preaching and the Bible, he says. He can recite verses by heart.

"There's something wonderfully liberating, especially when you're 74, in the notion that you're 100 percent right," he says.

HATEFUL SIGNS A young member of Westboro Baptist Church—a non-SBC congregation in Topeka, Kan.—pickets outside a Nashville city council meeting earlier this year. Westboro pastor Fred Phelps and church members are expected to picket the SBC annual meeting again this year. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

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Class of 2004



The graduating class, left to right, starting at the bottom row, consists of: Paul Storm, Greg Webb, David Trent, Dustin Vorhis, Janie Miller, Mary Benefiel, Cindy Scott, Scott Neal, Dr. Bill Whittaker. Row 2: Rusty Fitzpatrick, Anthony Lovett, Jamey Bolding, Bill Meece, Do Khan Khup, Bob Whitter, Robert Johnson, Matthew Jones, Amy Lewis, Samantha Campbell, Row 3: Jeremy Green, David Fralix, Jeff Sargent, Mike Helton, Matthew Johnson, David Brainard, Joe Duckett, Daniel Flatford, Trent Moody. Missing from picture: Bobby Daniels, Neil Hart, Michael Medlock, Jason Poe, Patrick Smith

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