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Vol. 178, No. 27

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
BWA congress to feature Apostles' Creed. *Page 2.*

Financial Forum
10 steps to preparing a will. *Page 4.*

Editorial
Will bus tour help put SBC on right road? *Page 5.*



True Love Waits
Miss America 1997 (above) was among those at the abstinence campaign's 10th anniversary party. *Page 6.*

Resources
Church strategy planning shows what's working, what's not. *Page 8.*

Scouting
Alternative Christian scouting group gaining attention. *Page 9.*

Survey: Concern rising for First Amendment rights

Nashville (ABP)—Americans' confidence in the First Amendment, which fell after the attacks of 9/11, is up again, according to a new survey.

The First Amendment Center of Nashville has released its 2004 survey results on the "State of the First Amendment," which suggests Americans' concern for protecting freedoms is at levels not seen since before Sept. 11, 2001.

The survey found that when asked whether the First Amendment goes too far in the protections it guarantees, 65 percent said it did not, up from 49 percent of those polled in 2002.

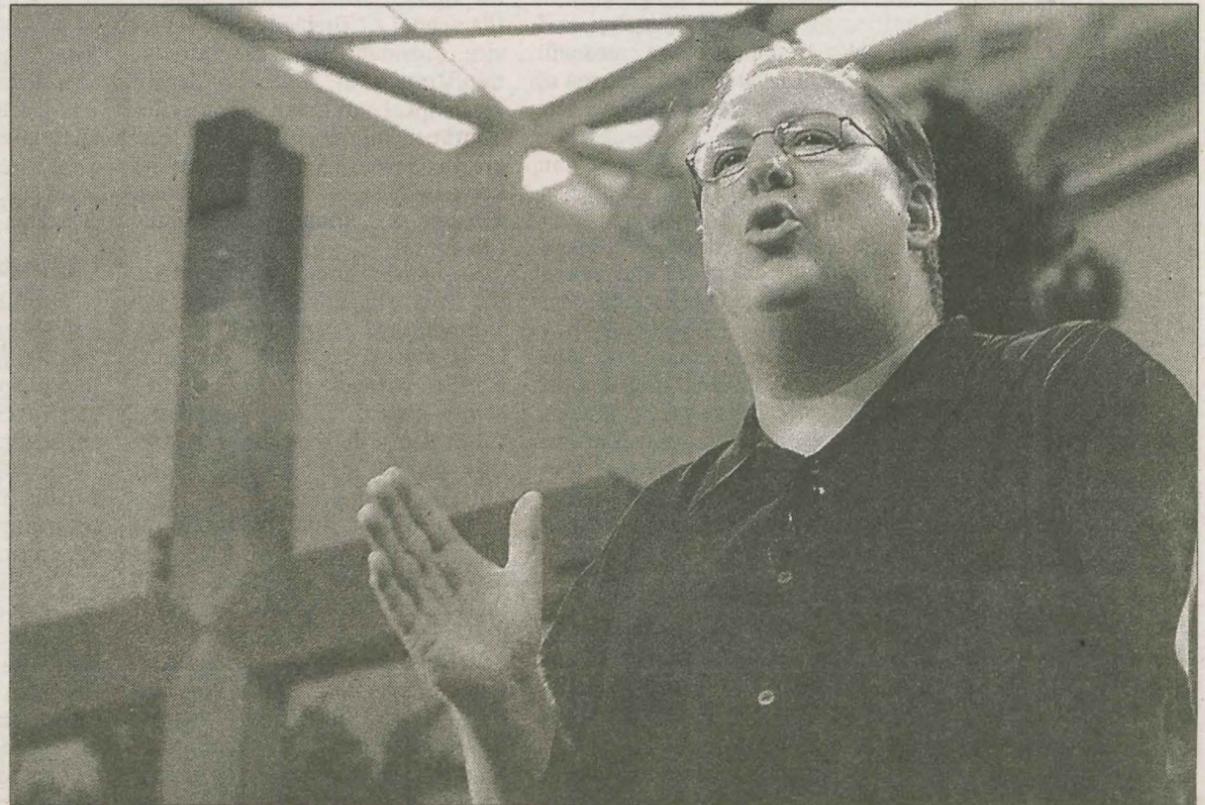
"Despite the ongoing war on terrorism worldwide and regular warnings from authorities about domestic attacks, a significant majority of Americans continue to support a free and open society," said Gene Policinski, acting director of the First Amendment Center.

Most of the 1,000 people polled said religiously offensive speech should be allowed, but racially offensive speech and patently offensive music should not be protected.

Paul McMasters, Freedom Forum First Amendment ombudsman, said it is troubling that "Americans in significant numbers appear willing to regulate the speech of those they don't like, don't agree with or find offensive."

When asked to list specific rights guaranteed under the First Amendment, only 17 percent of those polled named freedom of religion.

40 Days of Purpose



PURPOSE-DRIVEN RICK Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., talks to church leaders at a conference last year. The pastor and bestselling author says he sees himself as a "spiritual entrepreneur." (RNS file photo)

Kentucky church leaders praise focused study

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Owensboro—With average Sunday attendance of 1,000 and plans to move to a larger facility, Bellevue Baptist Church looks like one of the more thriving congregations in Kentucky Baptist life.

Still, Pastor Greg Faulls said he saw a pronounced impact last fall when members took part in "40 Days of Purpose," a program based on Rick Warren's best-selling book, "The Purpose-Driven Life."

Meeting weekly in about 70 small groups, members did daily

readings and reflected on the devotional, whose primary message is that God has a purpose for each person's life.

Faulls said the campaign stimulated spiritual awareness, increased attendance and made more members open to starting home-based Bible study groups.

"So many Christians just woke up from their stupor," Faulls said. "We had a man who grew up in church and had been here for 30 years. He had no idea God wanted him to pray ... continually. It revolutionized his life. He realized his life

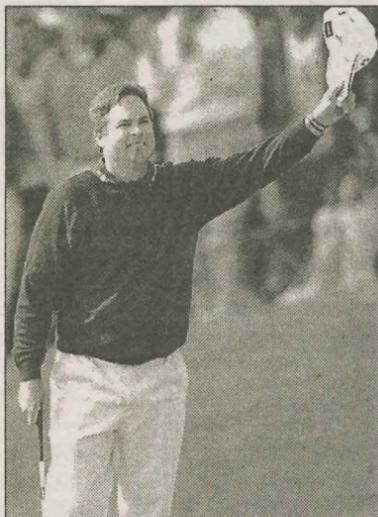
is a ministry and he has a mission."

Elsewhere across the commonwealth, Kentucky Baptist churches report similar revivals and renewals, thanks to Warren's best-selling book and an accompanying program of sermons, posters, Sunday school materials, DVDs, satellite-linked simulcasts and music.

With sales of more than 16 million copies, the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association recently awarded "The Purpose-Driven Life" with its "Book of the Year" honors for the second consecutive time.

□ See Kentucky churches ... *Page 3*

Franklin native Kenny Perry not letting PGA fame go to his head



HATS OFF Pro golfer Kenny Perry's testimony became more well known when he won three tournaments last year. (PGA photo by Stan Badz)

By Art Stricklin
Baptist Press

Franklin (BP)—A year ago, Kenny Perry was a solid, friendly, yet largely unknown PGA Tour golf professional.

Paid to wear colorful Tabasco golf shirts and raised in Franklin, Perry was a former Tour winner but had faded into golf's background.

That was before Perry won three tournaments in the summer of 2003, including back-to-back events at the Bank of America Colonial with a career-low third-round 61, and the Memorial Tournament the following week.

Then the entire golf world learned that Perry was still in his faith, his family and his small-town roots.

"The greatest thing about last year is that (the golf media and fans)

told my story about how important my faith is to me, about growing up in a small town and about wanting to help others," said Perry, 43. "I'm just one simple guy, but God tells us to be ready at all times."

Perry, a graduate of Western Kentucky University, won more than \$4 million in PGA Tour prize money last season, but he's not keeping all that money for himself.

Some of it is helping fund scholarships at David Lipscomb University—a Church of Christ school in Nashville where his wife, Sandy, graduated.

He's also contributed generously to Franklin Church of Christ, where he's a member.

And some of it has gone to help run Country Creek, a public golf course he built in his hometown nine years ago.

This season, he hasn't won yet, but he is still ranked as the 11th best golfer in the world and he's considered a top candidate to make the U.S. team for the Ryder Cup, the prestigious competition that pits the top U.S. and European golfers.

This week, his fans in Franklin and elsewhere will be pulling for him to return to winning form when he plays at the British Open in Troon, Scotland.

But win or lose, Perry seems unflappable by rankings, winning or riches.

"You know what?" Perry said after the first round May 20 at the storied Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, "It's not my money; it's God's money, and He wants me to use it to honor Him. I'm just under pressure to use it the right way."

□ See Franklin native ... *Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 30.

BWA congress to feature Apostles' Creed

By Steve DeVane
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Buies Creek, N.C. (ABP)—A group of 28 theologians and educators has asked the Baptist World Alliance to recite the Apostles' Creed at the group's 100th anniversary meeting next year in Birmingham, England.

John Sundquist of Valley Forge, Pa., chairman of the program committee for the BWA congress, said in a July 1 e-mail that the creed will be recited in the opening session of the July 27-31, 2005, meeting. The action would replicate the first act of the BWA World Congress from 1905 and counter recent charges of liberalism.

The June 23 request was signed by Baptist theologians and educators from 10 countries and sent to Keith Jones, chairman of the BWA resolutions committee and rector of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, the Czech Republic. Jones said his committee, at the request of BWA officers, also is working on "a significant statement on Baptist identity for presentation to the Congress."

Proposal follows SBC action

The BWA proposal comes after Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted last month to withdraw from the international Baptist group it helped found.

SBC leaders accused BWA of tolerating liberalism among member bodies. Reciting the Apostles' Creed—though not binding on the group's 211 member bodies—would place BWA clearly within the mainstream of Christian orthodoxy.

Baptists have long been averse to creeds, emphasizing a commitment to "no creed but the Bible." Reciting the Apostles' Creed at the BWA meeting would not be capitulation, according to a statement from four

of the 28 signers, but only affirmation of Baptists' commonality with other Christians.

In a first-person commentary published July 7 by Baptist Press, Russell Moore offered "two cheers for the BWA."

"Maybe the recitation of the Apostles' Creed will put away all this nonsense about 'no creed but the Bible,'" wrote Moore, dean of the school of theology and senior vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "Maybe it will refocus the BWA leadership on what Baptists have always known—there is no cooperation without a common confessional conviction."

Suggesting that "maybe one day the BWA will move away from the ambiguity of a 'creedless' bureaucracy toward a defined orthodox Baptist witness in the world," Moore added, "If that happens, I think you will see Southern Baptists ready to join back up—though not a minute sooner."

The BWA's first recitation of the Apostles' Creed in 1905 was a surprising act, according to the request to Jones by four American professors—Steve Harmon of Campbell University Divinity School in Buies Creek, N.C.; Curtis Freeman from Duke University's Baptist House of Studies in Durham, N.C.; Elizabeth Newman from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.); and Philip Thompson of the North American Baptist Theological Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D.

"Many Baptists acquired an allergy to creeds because of the illegitimate ways they have been used to bind the individual conscience, to substitute for a personal confession of faith, or to underwrite an established church-state order," the statement said. "Creeds are mis-

used whenever they become instruments of coercion, just as religious liberty is abused when it is invoked to legitimate deviation from the living witness of apostolic faith."

In 1905, BWA president Alexander Maclaren called for members of the BWA's first congress to rise and confess the Apostles' Creed "not as a piece of coercion or discipline, but as a simple acknowledgement of where we stand and what we believe," the statement said. It added that staunch anti-creedalism often has led to "the faulty assumption that modern Christians can leapfrog from the primitive Christianity of the Bible to the contemporary situation with relative ease."

"Teachable moment"

"Ironically, in the wake of the Baptist encounter with modernity those from both ends of the theological spectrum employed the slogan 'No creed but the Bible' in their theological arguments," it said. "Serious Bible readers will find much-needed hermeneutical guidance by returning to the ancient creeds of the church."

The intention is to draw on the SBC's recent withdrawal from BWA as a "teachable moment," Harmon said. The educators hope to move the Baptist theological discourse "away from the worn-out labels of 'conservative' vs. 'liberal' that belong to a dying modernity," he added.

"In other words," Harmon said, "we believe that one of the most pressing issues on the Baptist agenda at the beginning of the second century of the Baptist World Alliance and its witness to the world is recovery of the connection of Baptists to the ancient tradition that they share in common with all other Christians."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

College leaders explore faith; drop Arizona member school

By Tim Fields
Baptist Press

Franklin, Tenn. (BP)—Top administrators of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools explored opportunities for integrating faith and learning during a recent three-day annual meeting in Franklin, Tenn.

The ASBCS board of directors also voted to deny membership renewal to Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, because it no longer meets membership requirements. Grand Canyon has been sold to a for-profit corporation, which changes its former status as a "non-profit Baptist-related institution"—two of the requirements for membership in ASBCS.

ASBCS board chairman Bill Crouch, president of Georgetown College, said Grand Canyon "is free to reapply for membership in the future if its status changes."

The association, founded in 1948, is owned by its 54 member schools in 18 states.

Highlighting the meeting's focus on integrating faith and learning, Duane Litfin, president of Wheaton (Ill.) College, emphasized that Jesus Christ "is the only One who can serve as the centerpiece of an entire curriculum, the One to whom we must relate everything and without whom no fact, no theory, no subject, no practice can be fully appreciated."

David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., told participants that "a theology of Baptist higher education rooted in Scripture and grounded in the best of our Baptist heritage can equip the work of Baptist higher education for times of duress and trial, whether that comes through means of persecution, whether in the face of faithless scholarship or in the midst of the church's internal bickering and divisions."

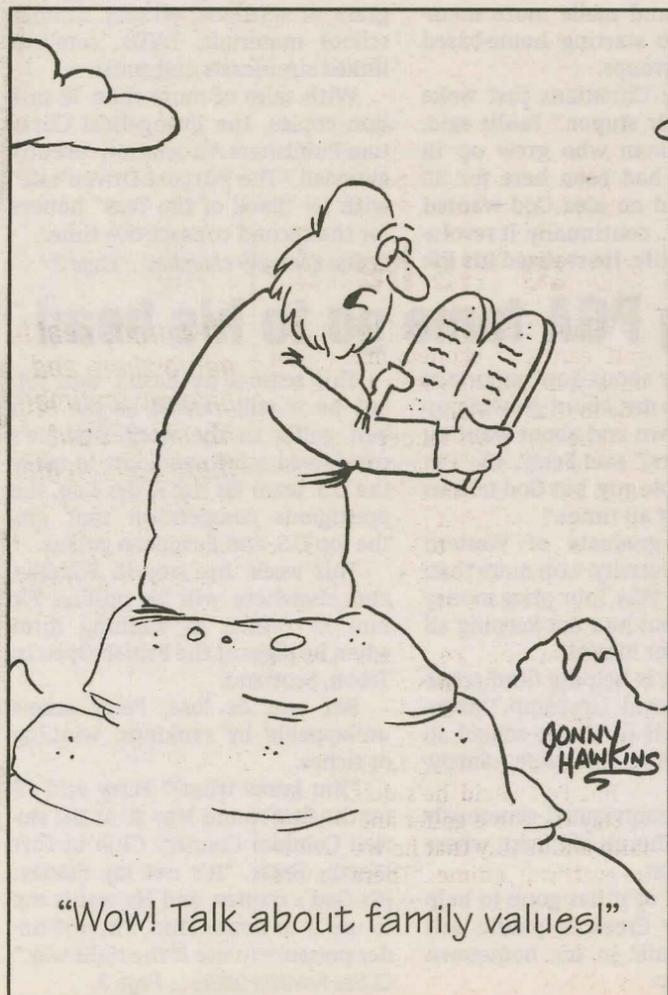
Tom Corts, president of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., challenged school administrators to "make your peace with the reality that your institution is not like all others; it has a higher and holier calling, no matter the bias of the culture."

During business sessions, members approved an annual budget for the association of \$239,292 with expected revenues of \$249,225.

In other action, board members elected Andy Westmoreland, president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., as chairman for the coming year. Don Good, vice president for academic affairs of Cumberland College in Williamsburg, was elected recording secretary.

"Maybe the recitation of the Apostles' Creed will put away all this nonsense about 'no creed but the Bible.'"

Russell Moore, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



"Wow! Talk about family values!"

BAPTIST DIGEST

WMU targets college-age women.

A new missions Web site designed specifically for college-age young women will be launched Aug. 1 by national Woman's Missionary Union. Kym Mitchell, WMU design editor, said the site, www.missionsinterchange.com, will feature articles on current missions topics, missionary profiles, Bible studies, ministry project ideas and mission trip opportunities. The site also will address such topics as dating, roommates and careers and will provide information to help young women explore God's call to ministry.

Prayer garden honors Wilson.

Friends and family members of T.W. Wilson gathered June 5 to dedicate the T.W. Wilson Memorial Prayer Garden at LifeWay Ridgcrest (N.C.) Conference Center. Wilson, who died in 2001, was evangelist Billy Graham's executive assistant for 45 years. Ridgcrest is undergoing major changes through a 10-year capital improvement plan, including construction of the 120-room Mountain Laurel Inn. The inn,

which opened in 2002, displaced a previous prayer garden. The new three-acre prayer garden, developed at a cost of \$100,000, sits near Rutland Chapel, which also was built in 2002.

McCall regrets award choice.

Emmanuel McCall, a member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Coordinating Council, has distanced himself from an award named in his honor presented to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler. Mohler received the Emmanuel McCall Denominational Servant Award last month from the Black Southern Baptist Denominational Network. McCall, who differs with Mohler over the Southern Baptist Convention's current direction, told CBF leaders that being photographed with Mohler during the presentation was a "freak accident" that made McCall look "like a fool." Noting that "I was not pre-warned about who was going to receive it," McCall said he has asked network leaders to inform him in advance about the identity of future recipients.

Kentucky churches have praise for '40 Days of Purpose'

Continued from page 1

Nationwide, 16,000 churches have completed "40 Days" studies.

In Kentucky, approximately 270 churches either have completed campaigns or registered for the fall event with Warren's Purpose Driven Ministries. Of those, 125 have "Baptist" in their name.

Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., said he receives letters daily from people saying the Holy Spirit changed their lives as they read the book.

"My prayer is that, as people embrace the purpose-driven life, they'll move out of the realm of 'This is what I think I can do' and into the faith-view of trusting God to do great things through their lives," he said.

Reports throughout Kentucky

Among the results leaders in Kentucky have seen are people accepting Jesus as their personal Savior and more members volunteering for ministries.

At Vanceburg First Baptist Church, Pastor Howard Wilson said many members have increased their commitment to church.

Forty-two adults—about half the average Sunday attendance—completed Vanceburg's study in early June. Wilson's daughter led a session for six nurses at the hospital where she works.

Afterward, the church's "Purpose" group named a six-member committee to publicize ministry opportunities. Among them: planting a summer garden and donating the crops to a local shelter.

"People who went through it have a sense of purpose, that there is meaning for them to be here and be a Christian, as opposed to the routine," Wilson said.

"I've been here 23 years and it's very easy to get into a rut," the pastor said. "It re-energized my passion for ministry. I'm not just doing it, but enjoying it."

Members of Owingsville Baptist Church have awakened to servant evangelism after their spring study, according to Pastor Ron Beams.

At a May Day parade, members distributed 500 free bottles of water

For more info

Two Kentucky "mentor churches" are hosting workshops to learn more about "40 Days of Purpose":

■ July 31 at First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon. Contact Derrick Singleton via e-mail at pdsingleton@sherwin.com.

■ Aug. 19 at Southern Acres Christian Church in Lexington. Contact Mike Currans at (859) 272-7022.

to participants and spectators.

Planning is under way to distribute light bulbs in the town of 1,500 in August, along with a note that "Jesus is the light of the world."

A member will accompany Beams on a mission trip to Bolivia in August, and 10 men want to help with a statewide construction project next summer.

"It was much like a revival for our church," Beams said. "I think our church is much more aware of opportunities for ministry now. I think we're going to see real growth."

Central Baptist Church in Corbin initially ordered 500 copies of the book for its session last fall, but wound up distributing 750, Pastor Darren Gaddis said.

Participants included the son of a Baptist pastor who long ago drifted away from church but today is an active member, Gaddis said.

"We have definitely seen an increased interest in mission outreach," he said. The church has trips scheduled to Brazil and Poland.

The study also affected Central Baptist's worship. After using more contemporary music during the campaign, leaders discovered an openness to that style.

Pikeville: Clarity of purpose

At First Baptist Church of Pikeville, attendance increased from 450 people to about 600, Pastor Paul Badgett said.

"I feel we had a very successful '40 Days of Purpose,'" said Badgett, whose sermons, music and drama helped reinforce the lessons. "It brought clarity to our people for

their existence."

As a result, the pastor said, many new people have signed up for its next evangelism training class in July. More people are volunteering for the nursery and other ministries, added Badgett, a former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg saw attendance increase 25 percent after its recent "40 Days" campaign in Sunday school.

The classes were augmented by Pastor Floyd Price's sermons and Wednesday night prayer meetings focusing on purpose.

Some enthusiasm dimmed after the death of Price's wife, Reba, in early May, but the campaign is credited for helping recruit 19 people for a mission trip this month to Northern Kentucky.

"I think our church is more missions-oriented now," said Price, who also is a former KBC president.

"Rick Warren doesn't give you anything new, but what he does do is take up things you learned growing up and put them together in a package," Price said. "I learned 'God loves you and wants you to worship Him' is easier to say in a loving context."

Some critiques

Still, Price said the study has its weaknesses, citing Warren's strong Calvinist views.

Price said that is reflected in the video series, such as a comment that 3,000 years ago God knew which participants would be in the room.

He said he gave a disclaimer whenever he taught the material, warning members to be careful about forming views of predestination based on such statements.

"He's such a strong Calvinist and I think that's a dangerous doctrine," Price said. "He doesn't force you to believe it, but there is a strong undertow."

Gaddis said the study could impact any church, but he found the material a "little light" on theology.

"It wasn't incorrect, but I would have liked a little more strength in the material," he said.

Faulls said he found some of the auxiliary materials weak, but they

What is 40 Days of Purpose?

Lake Forest, Calif.—Pastor Rick Warren is reporting amazing results from the churches that have conducted "40 Days of Purpose" campaigns—starting with his own.

After its initial campaign in the fall of 2002, Saddleback Church baptized 671 converts, added 1,200 new members and saw its average attendance increase by 2,000. The congregation also saw 2,200 new volunteers in various ministries and 3,700 people commit to go on missions trips.

Numerous churches have reported similar results. In the first 12,000 churches to host "40 Days," worship attendance grew 20 percent and attendance in Sunday school or small group Bible studies increased by 102 percent, according to a promotional Web site.

Warren said the study is changing lives and churches because it is built on five transforming principles:

Unified prayer. The Bible says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). Months of prayer preparation precede the event, which Warren called an "indispensable ingredient." Many churches schedule days of fasting to prepare their hearts for awakening.

Concentrated focus. During "40 Days of Purpose," the entire church—every age group, every ministry, small group, Sunday school class and worship service—focus on God's purposes for people's lives.

"Most of the time, church programs point members in 20 different directions," Warren said. "It is amazing what happens when your church concentrates on the same truth at the same time."

Multiple reinforcements. Warren said his church designed the journey around four vital habits that everyone needs to grow spiritually: weekly worship attendance, daily quiet time, weekly group Bible study and a weekly Scripture memory verse.

Behavioral teaching. Each message is designed to cause people to become "doers of the Word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22). Each sermon includes a homework assignment, or event after the service, such as a ministry fair, where members can act on what they've learned.

Exponential thinking. The topics covered in "40 Days of Purpose" stretch people's faith, Warren said. He defined this as thinking so big that one is forced to completely depend on God.

"This 'faith factor' is what takes the '40 Days of Purpose' out of the realm of 'What we've always done' or 'What we think we could do,'" he said, "and instead expects God to do something that's never been done before in your church."

are improving as Warren's organization networks with other churches and renews them.

"It's hard to do something as basic and comprehensive and full-orbed as '40 Days,'" Faulls said. "We will always have an open mind to whatever Rick Warren will do."

Franklin native Kenny Perry not letting PGA fame go to his head

Continued from page 1

While he already had enjoyed a solid career with four PGA Tour victories before last season's breakout year, he said a good friend and former pastor actually foreshadowed the tremendous spotlight he would enjoy last season.

"A former youth minister of mine called me last spring and said, 'I've been praying for you,'" Perry recounted. "I asked him why, and he said, 'The world has not seen your character yet.' After I won two weeks in a row, I called him back and said maybe he should keep praying."

When the world saw Perry's character as one of the leading golfers of 2003, they saw a man who would just as soon spend time with his family, friends or church as on the golf course competing.

"People used to laugh when I would take September and Octo-

ber to help coach my kid's teams or spend time at home, but that is what I am and what I believe," Perry said.

In 1995 he took out a \$2.5 million loan to purchase 142 farmland acres and design the only public course in Franklin.

He named it Country Creek—a name chosen by one of his two daughters. (He also has a son.)

"He's just Kenny"

Gordon Collins, assistant manager of Country Creek's pro shop, describes Perry as simply a down-to-earth person who has been known to help sell soft-drinks when the shop gets busy.

"He's not PGA touring pro Kenny Perry, he's just Kenny," Collins said. "He asks us how things are going in our lives and he knows what our interests are."

And it's not uncommon for

Perry to discuss his faith when in a conversation with a fan at the course, Collins added.

"They'll be talking to Kenny and ask him why does he think he's been so successful. He attributes it to the talent God gave him and the opportunities God has allowed him to have," Collins said.

"He's kept his eyes on the Lord, and it's worked out for him."

Perry also has shared his faith with various groups nationwide.

Recently he spoke at the men's breakfast at Richland Hills Church of Christ in Texas, where Christian golf legend Byron Nelson attends.

"It's pretty neat to get to share and give my testimony. My story is out there and I'm glad to share it," Perry said.

Professional golf is unique in that, every week, U.S. newspapers print the prize money amounts individual golfers win.

While Perry admitted having his golf earnings printed made him uneasy, he said he's seen a spiritual side to that as well.

"The Bible says render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's," he said. "The IRS already knows what I'm making, so it's fine for others to know as well. It was a bit of a sticker shock the first time I saw that, but I'm pretty well used to it."

This season, Perry has posted four top 10 finishes and earned more than \$1.3 million. His top finish so far has been third place at Players Championship in Florida.

But Perry said he's determined to stay the same golfer and man of faith and family that he was before he ever won a dime. "There's more to life than just golf with what we have going on here."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

"It's pretty neat to get to share and give my testimony. My story is out there and I'm glad to share it."

Franklin native and PGA Tour pro Kenny Perry

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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One man, one woman

Being under compulsion from our Lord Jesus Christ to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our fellow man as we love ourselves, we, the churches of Nelson Baptist Association, stand united in love to support the present effort of passing the proposed amendment to the Constitution which reads:

"Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this constitution nor the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

In seeking to pass such an amendment, we do not wish to alter any law or social institution; rather, we hope to affirm both the present laws of the United States and the most sacred and essential of all societal structures—marriage between one man and one woman.

As Christian citizens, we live in subjection to our governing authorities, upholding the laws of the land, understanding that, in all things, we answer ultimately to our Lord Jesus Christ. The present attempt to dismantle monogamous, heterosexual marriage clearly defies both the laws of this great land and the rightful allegiance due our Lord.

Therefore, we urge fellow citizens to join us in demonstrating love for our country and her glorious history by affirming through constitutional amendment what has always been true in America: Marriage is a union of one man with one woman. Furthermore, we ask that our fellow citizens join us in demonstrating love to one another by promoting healthy marriages between one man and one woman in order to produce stable families and healthy children.

Above all, we seek to bring glory to our Lord through obedience to His commands, understanding that His commands are always good, life-giving and never burdensome. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

*Nelson Baptist Association
Bardstown*

John 3:16 and BWA

When Frankfort's First Baptist Church left the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, we believed Southern Baptists were no longer "being true to our historic Baptist principles." That's why we left. Now, Southern Baptists have publicly left an historic 99-year "Baptist" relationship with the Baptist World Alliance.

For us, "Mission Frankfort" means "Reaching our Community and the World with the gospel of Jesus Christ." Since 2000, FBC of Frankfort missions giving has increased significantly to more than \$135,000 in 2003. Our congregation has established a free medical/dental clinic for our community, our Hispanic ministry is growing and 38 college student ministry interns have worked with us. Eight of them, men and women, are preparing for full-time Christian service in Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-supported seminaries or SBC-supported seminaries. In May, we partnered with local Baptist believers in Owsley County, and have purchased a motel in Booneville to house mission groups who will share the gospel with people in the seventh neediest county in the United States.

"Being Baptist" has been healthy for FBC, and while our critics may disparagingly call us "moderate," "liberal" or worse, First Baptist Church of Frankfort will not ignore its Christian responsibility to the world family of Baptists through BWA.

John 3:16 is the same for me as it is for all Southern Baptists: "For

God so loved the world..." I just think somebody forgot to quote that verse before the SBC vote.

I am writing Dr. Bill Mackey and encouraging him to lead Kentucky Baptists "to love" and "to keep" the Baptist World Alliance in the prayers and future budgets of Kentucky Baptists. My message will be this: "Let Kentucky Baptists keep on supporting something truly Baptist like the BWA as we share John 3:16 with the whole world who needs to know about Jesus and His love." Will you write him?

*David Hinson, Pastor
First Baptist Church, Frankfort*

Faith-based peace

Millions of Americans have good reason to be speaking out passionately against the way President George W. Bush took our country to war in Iraq unnecessarily. The Bush doctrine of pre-emptive attacks is not the path to world peace his higher Father would recommend. The hornets' nest Bush stirred up in the volatile Middle East could greatly increase anti-American anger for decades to come.

We, the people, the media, Congress, Christian clergy share the blame for allowing President Bush to falsely lead us to ill-advised war. Peace through military strength is not the way to achieve lasting peace. Peace through justice is the Jesus way of resolving conflict. During just three years of His earthly ministry, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, taught us how to do justice. His only weapon was love.

We are only fooling ourselves if we think making war will bring peace. If you believe in Jesus' virgin birth and resurrection, you can believe that peace is possible via non-violent means. Jesus' faith-based peace plan is God's will for all humankind and is our only hope for these distressing times. If implemented, our enemies would be disarmed by real shock and awe.

*Paul L. Whiteley Sr.
Louisville*

Church growth across Kentucky

On two recent Sundays, my wife, Kay, and I had the privilege of being in three churches. While they are of various sizes and in different locations, they are all strongly committed to evangelism, missions and growth.

New Hope Baptist Church in Versailles celebrated its 25th anniversary the Sunday I attended. Pastor Wesley Noss has led this church to build a new multi-purpose worship facility with education space. It was a challenge for the church members to acquire the additional land needed, meet building codes and do much of the inside work themselves, but their hard work has paid off.

New Hope's history has seen the call of nine men to preach, and last year the church recorded 21 baptisms—including two individuals over age 60. The church conducts a variety of ministries to meet the needs in the community. The church had a successful vacation

Bible school this year and has taken the youth group to "Crossings at the Creek" at Jonathan Creek.

New Hope provides 10 percent of undesignated church gifts for state and world missions through the Cooperative Program.

That Sunday evening, Kay and I participated in the first-ever commissioning service at Fitzpatrick Baptist Church in the Prestonsburg area. Pastor Tommy Reed is taking a group on a mission trip to a church in Poland.

This growing church's building was displaced by Highway 23 more than five years ago. The church decided at that time that the best use of its funds would be to move up to Big Branch at Albert for rebuilding.

The new building is an impressive and functional facility on an elevated site. This area now has become a prime residential location in Floyd County.

On Independence Day, I had the privilege of speaking at First Baptist

Church of Mount Washington, in the absence of Pastor Paul Chitwood. Afterward, Kay and I drove through the community and were amazed at all the housing developments.

This church has unlimited potential and is in the process of developing a strategic plan. The church is blessed that God has brought a strategic leader and biblical preacher like Chitwood at a very significant time.

All of these churches have strong missions organizations, for which I am grateful. This means that there will be a strong focus on learning about missions as well as experiencing and supporting missions.

Giving update

As of the end of June, Cooperative Program giving is up 7 percent over last year. Lottie Moon giving has exceeded last year by 13 percent and the Annie Armstrong Offering is up 9.6 percent over last year.

Pray for all of those who serve in missions as well as for your pastor and church staff.

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the
Kentucky Baptist Convention*

STEWARDSHIP

Have you made a will? Here's how in 10 easy steps

By Laurie Valentine

The percentage of people who have made a will is declining. There are many reasons—procrastination, uncertainty over still-to-come estate tax law changes, reduction in the size of the estate as

a result of the prolonged bear market or just not knowing how to get started.

Making a will is not a difficult process; just follow these 10 simple steps:

Determine the value of your estate. List all of your assets—real estate, investments, bank accounts, business interests, life insurance, retirement plan benefits and IRAs, and your personal property—in one column. List all of your current liabilities—mortgages, credit card and other debts—in a second column. Add each column. Subtract the total liabilities from total asset value; the difference is the value of your estate.

Plan for each family member. Your first responsibility is to take care of your family.

Decide whom you want to name as executor. This should be someone who is both competent and familiar with your family.

Decide whom you want to name as guardian for minor children. This person or couple will be given custody of your children if both parents die before all children reach age 18.

Determine how you want your estate distributed. Make ample provision for your spouse and children.

Consider Christian causes. Consider tithing your estate through the inclusion of a bequest to your church and other Christian causes. The bequests can be outright or can be used to create an endowment fund.

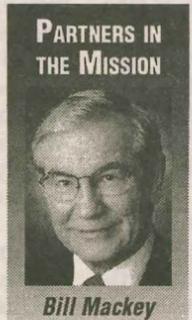
Provide for common disaster. Develop an alternate plan of estate distribution should something happen to your entire family.

Choose an attorney to assist in making your will. Use an attorney whose practice includes estate planning and probate work.

Keep your will in a safe place. The signed original copy should be kept in your safe deposit box, a fireproof lockbox or by your estate planning attorney.

Keep your will updated. Your will and other estate planning documents should be reviewed every three to five years to make sure they continue to reflect God's purposes for your possessions.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the
Kentucky Baptist Foundation*



Bill Mackey

Warning signs can help reduce emotional baggage in marriage

Q: Sometimes I hear my friends referring to "baggage" they brought into their marriage. I'm not sure that I understand that term. How might it relate to my marriage of two years?

According to Dan and Jan Frank in "Unclaimed Baggage: Dealing with the Past on Your Way to a Stronger Marriage,"

MARRIAGE

"We all have both history and baggage. Our history is made up of the events and experiences that shape our lives. Our baggage is the emotional response to our history. Our emotional baggage must be claimed or unclaimed. What we claim is what we recognize as ours and deal with forthrightly. Unclaimed baggage is what we ignore, deny or minimize."

Leaving one's family of origin and cleaving to one's spouse often entails paying careful attention to the early experiences that have significantly shaped us. According to the Franks, warning signs that might indicate baggage in a marriage include:

Overreaction to a situation, such as your spouse forgets to mail the bills and you are enraged.

Repetitive relational patterns that cause conflict with others, such as you walk out of the room whenever there is tension.

Reenacted patterns of behavior without purposeful intent, such as you explode because your dad always did when your parents argued.

Heightened sensitivity, such as you are overly defensive or suspicious about money.

Repeated failure to resolve an issue, such as you and your spouse cannot seem to talk through certain issues with mutual successful resolution.

Predetermined expectations, such as you predict your spouse's negative response in advance.

It is not unusual after a couple years of marriage to begin to discover indicators of baggage. Let me encourage you to talk with your spouse and pray for the Holy Spirit to "guide you unto all truth" (John 16:13).—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: I've recently heard the term "highly healthy child." What does that involve?

Dr. Walt Larimore, vice president of medical outreach for Focus on the Family, has authored several books, including "The Highly Healthy Child." The book is designed to equip parents assess their child's health; recognize areas of strength and areas that need work; understand the essentials that lead to well-balanced health; and implement proven strategies for making needed changes.

Larimore believes parents must pay attention to 10 essential principles in order to have a highly healthy child:

1. Be proactive in preventing physical disease.
2. Build your child's health care team.
3. Ensure proper nutrition.
4. Provide adequate protection.
5. Nurture family relationships.
6. Establish a spiritual foundation.
7. Connect with the larger community.
8. Instill a balanced self-concept.
9. Engage in healthy activities.
10. Cultivate growth and maturity.

The highly healthy child will be balanced in each of these areas. Physically, he or she will have all the chemicals, parts and systems of the body working as closely as possible to the way God designed them to work. Emotionally, the child will enjoy love, security and well-defined boundaries. Relationally, the child will be involved in healthy relationships and protected by parents from dangerous or toxic ones. Spiritually, the highly healthy child will be taught about God, will have a personal relationship with God modeled by parents and others, and ultimately will choose that kind of relationship.—*David Garrard*

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



Will bus tour help put SBC on right road?

Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch is planning to visit Kentucky—and every other state in the nation—to promote evangelism during a 25-day bus tour beginning late next month.

Welch, elected president during last month's SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis, announced his ambitious travel plans at his post-election press conference. The bus tour is part of a multifaceted strategy Welch outlined to encourage Southern Baptist churches to baptize one million people a year—an incredible jump of more than 622,000 over last year's baptism total of 377,357.

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., brings a fresh enthusiasm to his role as SBC president. Known more for his passion for soul-winning and discipleship than for involvement in convention politics, Welch helped create FAITH, a Sunday school-based evangelism strategy used by churches across the nation.

Noting that baptisms in Southern Baptist churches have decreased each of the past four years, Welch told reporters, "To say we're plateaued is a large compliment to where we are. ... We can do better than that. We will do better. And the good news is we've got all the makings for it."

Welch isn't the only SBC leader speaking candidly about areas of concern and need in denominational life.

Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, told convention messengers the recent decline in baptisms "reflects a denomination that has lost its focus." He has since released an editorial column (published in the June 29 issue of the Western Recorder) that declared: "Perhaps the main reason for the decline in baptisms is that our denomination is simply failing to reach people for Christ."

Posing the question, "Is the Southern Baptist Convention the frog in the kettle?" Draper answered,

"Time will tell, but if we cook, we have no one to blame but ourselves."

Even with the urgent need for increased evangelism, some observers have voiced concern over setting a quota for baptisms—as if the Holy Spirit could be directed to supply an arbitrary number of converts each year.

Kentucky baptism leaders, who also established ambitious baptism goals as part of the five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis, addressed that issue by encouraging each church "as led by the Holy Spirit" to increase baptisms by at least one each year through 2009.

Welch's proposal would involve the SBC's 43,000-plus churches increasing baptisms an average of 14 each. It also would reduce the SBC's current baptism-to-membership ratio of 1 to 43 to a ratio of 1 to 16.

Certainly, baptizing one million converts a year is a worthy desire. Such passages as 1 Timothy 2:4 clearly teach that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Peter 3:9 adds that God "does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

Of course, calls for renewed evangelism and discipleship are nothing new in Baptist life. During the closing decades of the 20th century, Southern Baptists were challenged to pursue "Bold Mission Thrust" as a global evangelistic emphasis. Much of that effort was sidetracked, however, by the denomination's political infighting of the past 25 years.

Now with a focus on "Empowering Kingdom Growth" and one million baptisms a year, can such efforts become more than just catchy slogans and lofty goals?

The bottom line, according to Welch, is pursuing "unity-of-purpose for evangelism." If that is accomplished—regardless of the total baptism statistics—Welch's bus tour and related efforts can help put the SBC back on the road to effective evangelism.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trewnis Henderson

Yes, the AIDS crisis really is that bad

By Dale Hanson Bourke

Washington (RNS)—As thousands of AIDS experts gather in Bangkok, Thailand, this week for the XV International AIDS Conference, they will share new discoveries, revise predictions and continue debates about various courses of action. They will consider economic impacts and political pressures, as well as social issues and cultural barriers.

And no matter what their expertise, they will share the same concern: Despite the fact that the world is in the throes of the worst health disaster ever known, the average person knows little about it and cares even less.

According to statistics released last week by UNAIDS, the disease has taken a devastating worldwide toll since it was first identified in 1981. There have been 20 million deaths, as many as 38 million additional people infected with HIV, and an estimated 14 million orphaned children—yet we remain a country largely in denial.

The reasons for this are both obvious and painfully subconscious.

Most obvious is the enormity of the problem. Unless you have visited a country where the sale of coffins is the fastest-growing industry, it is hard to understand how devastating such numbers can be. With more than 3 million people dying every year from AIDS, the impact has been compared to 20 fully loaded 747s crashing every day.

But after the obvious, we must look at what many are calling us to consider as a matter of conscience. AIDS is now present in every country in the world, but 70 percent of those infected live in sub-Saharan Africa. Whether because of overt racism or simply unwillingness to consider the largely poor population of the region as important to the interests of the United States, we have regularly ignored wars, famines and health crises in that region.

And then there is the morality issue. Scratch beneath the surface and many people will admit they believe AIDS is largely due to a person's poor choices regarding sexual practices, partners or drug usage.

The facts that many monogamous, married women are infected by their husbands and many children are HIV-positive because they were born to a mother who carried the virus are viewed as exceptions. Yet these "exceptions" now number millions of people each year.

And then there are the thousands (or millions—no one knows for sure) of poor Chinese who gave blood in order to have enough money to feed their families and are now infected, along with the children who play in the city dumps where hospitals discarded tainted syringes.

The world of those infected with HIV/AIDS does not line up as innocents and guilty no matter how punitively a measure is used. Yet most charities—even those with a largely

churchgoing base—admit that raising money to fight AIDS is one of their toughest challenges.

And perhaps that's where we should be talking about morality. Many of us have wondered how our parents or grandparents were able to stand by while the Holocaust occurred. Some of us have wondered why we did so little for the Bosnians or Rwandans when they were being systematically slaughtered. Perhaps ignorance could still be cited in these circumstances.

But the AIDS pandemic has occurred during a time when almost every American has access to the Internet. Yet dozens of Web sites about AIDS receive relatively few hits.

In a time when religious and political leaders seem polarized on many fronts, it is time for them to unite in calling every one of us to join the war on AIDS. It starts with educating ourselves about the facts and ridding ourselves of prejudices and myths. It includes moving out of our comfortable denial and confronting the hard truth.

And if nothing else, it means that we must understand that unless we act decisively, we are leaving our children with a moral deficit so vast that they will spend much of their lifetime dealing with not only the political, economic and cultural consequences, but also the shame of what the previous generation so blatantly chose to ignore.

Dale Hanson Bourke is a consultant to humanitarian organizations and the author of the forthcoming book "The Skeptics Guide to Dealing with the AIDS Pandemic."

NATIONAL NOTES

Dobson: Call senators 'until the switchboard smokes.' Focus on the Family's James Dobson broke new ground on his radio broadcast July 7, telling where all 100 U.S. senators stand on the Federal Marriage Amendment and encouraging listeners to flood the nation's capital with phone calls. "Get all your friends to call," he urged. "Call until the switchboard smokes." Senate debate began last week on the amendment. Dobson said 33 senators have stated they will back the amendment. The other 67 senators either have stated their opposition or remain undecided, he said.

Presbyterians retain ban on gay ordination. The Presbyterian Church (USA) rejected a recommendation July 2 that would have made it easier for non-celibate homosexuals to be ordained in the church. Delegates to the denomination's meeting also agreed to enter into a period of "discernment" on the issue of the proper role of gays and lesbians in the church's life. The period would last until the group's national assembly in 2006.

T.D. Jakes shoots movie for 'Thou Art Loosed' theme. Bishop T.D. Jakes is taking his "Woman, Thou Art Loosed" theme to the big screen in a movie by that name that is scheduled to be released this fall. The Dallas megachurch leader held counseling sessions on the theme before developing it into seminars, stadium events, a play and a CD. The movie tells the story of a female sexual abuse victim. Jakes said he hopes churches will use the movie to address the issue of child sexual abuse.

Judge: AmeriCorps religious lessons unconstitutional. A U.S. district judge ruled July 2 that an AmeriCorps program that permitted teachers to lead religious lessons at sectarian schools is unconstitutional. AmeriCorps leaders defended the work in religious schools, saying the religious instruction was separate from the work AmeriCorps funded. But U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler said it was impossible to distinguish between the time AmeriCorps workers spent on religious versus non-religious activities.

True Love Waits celebrates 10th year

By Sharon Harper
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—About 800 people gathered on the grounds of Nashville's replica of the Greek Parthenon June 26 to hear national speakers and Christian musicians champion sexual abstinence until marriage.

True Love Waits, a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources, is observing its 10th anniversary this year. The celebration in Nashville recalled a movement that started in 1994 with 200,000 commitment cards for abstinence staked on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

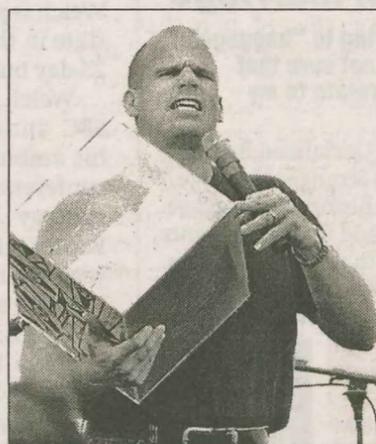
In August this year, sponsors of the campaign from LifeWay expect about 400,000 pledge cards to be displayed in Athens, Greece, for the summer Olympic Games.

TLW leaders estimate that 2 million teens and young adults have signed pledge cards since the program's inception.

The celebration, included music by Jacy Maria, BarlowGirl, and Shaun Groves, a six-time Dove Award nominee. Miss America 1997, Tara Dawn Christensen, shared purity messages from the year of her reign.

Alyssa Barlow, 22, of the Christian rock group BarlowGirl challenged young women to honor and respect themselves and let God be their fulfillment.

"Our generation is done looking at billboards and magazines," Barlow said. "Fall in love with God



COMMITMENT CARDS Speaker and comedian Keith Deltano holds up a box containing True Love Waits commitment cards signed by youth attending the 10th anniversary celebration in Nashville June 26. (BP photo by Sara Sanders)

first. Don't miss the calling He has on your life."

She encouraged youth to stand against peer pressure. "We need to live our own lives," she said. "People will see something different—a people who look fulfilled and satisfied."

"A 26-year-old virgin"

Christensen said staying pure was a priority for her as was finding a man who shared her values. On Feb. 14, the year of her reign, she met former Nebraska congressman John Christensen in Omaha, Neb. They later married.

"The most important part of our story is this: I walked down the aisle of my little church in Mobile, Ala., as a 26-year-old virgin," Christensen said. "It was not an easy choice to make." She had plenty of opportunities to stray, she said.

"But I made a commitment, so I chose to date people who proclaimed to have the same convictions that I did," Christensen said. "God gave me a mind and a will to be able to make choices. I stood by those choices."

Jimmy Hester, coordinator for LifeWay's True Love Waits team, said the next phase for the campaign is a project called "True Love Waits Takes the Town."

"The message of sexual abstinence until marriage is strongest when the whole community speaks that language," he said.

The new emphasis will encourage church leaders to form a coalition with local healthcare, media, education and civic leaders to send a unified message encouraging youth to postpone sex until marriage.

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey



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A God-sized task in Moldova

Campers here contributing to ministry at camps there

I am not sure about you, but sometimes I feel a little foolish for being surprised when God does something God-sized. You might recall an article several weeks ago that explained a new partnership with which our ministry is involved. This summer we are sponsoring youth to attend camp in Moldova. These youth are elementary through high school age, and they come from orphanages and villages throughout that country.

The remarkable situation of the partnership is that it costs only \$15 to sponsor a kid for an entire week of camp. This is a small amount and every youth who attends Crossings at the Creek can participate in this amazing opportunity. You might remember that organizers there projected they would need \$52,000 to sponsor all the kids coming this summer. That's twice our normal summer missions offering.

We committed to these kids, and at the time we were unsure how we would pay the large sum. After five weeks of camp, basically halfway through the summer, we

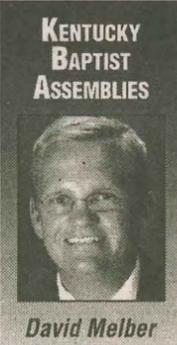
have collected more than \$31,000. Absolutely amazing! Not only have our campers given generously, others have heard about the partnership and have given, even from places as far away as Georgia.

To give you an idea of what is happening, the camp reports from Moldova recorded 243 salvation decisions from one week of camp. Without question, this partnership already has exceeded our expectations. Rather, God has exceeded them.

The future for our partnership is developing, and we are planning to offer mission trips next summer to serve with our brothers and sisters in Moldova. How exciting to think of students giving

money this summer and then next summer having the opportunity to work at the Moldovan camps. Imagine our students next summer, meeting youth who accepted Christ this summer, in part due to the offerings they are giving now. Our God is amazing in that He allows us the blessing of being involved in His work redeeming a lost world.

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



David Melber

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan

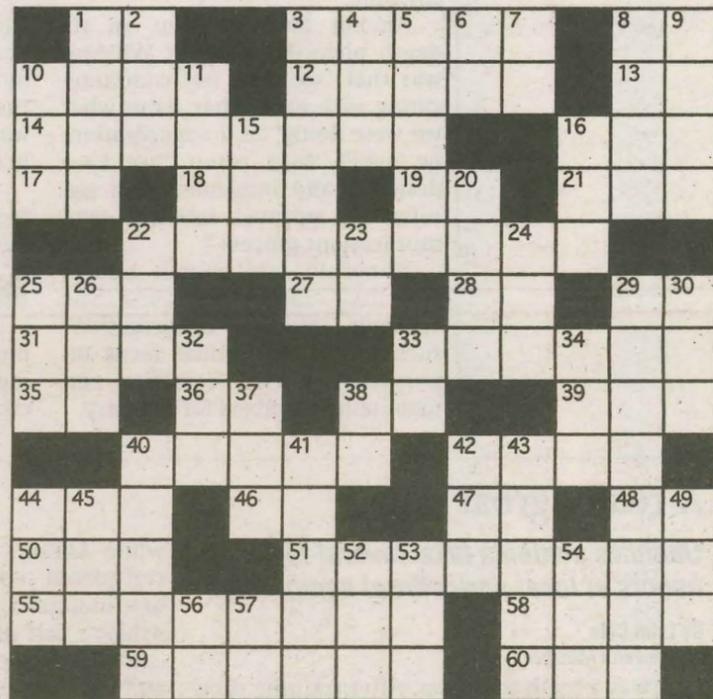


Bible Crosswords

Terri Grottke

Across

- 1 The great I _____
- 3 Stay and chat
- 8 Article
- 10 Son of Dishan (Genesis 36:28)
- 12 Son of Shemaiah (1 Chronicles 26:7)
- 13 Santa's sound
- 14 "Today shalt thou be with me in _____" (Luke 23:43)
- 16 "_____ paint"
- 17 "I see"
- 18 Minor prophet (abbr.)
- 19 Electrical abbr.
- 21 Linking verb
- 22 "_____ hath good report of all men" (3 John 12)
- 25 Single bill
- 27 Hence
- 28 Hospital inits.
- 29 Continent (abbr.)
- 31 Brother of Shoham (1 Chronicles 24:27)
- 33 Middle Eastern crop
- 35 Capital of Moab
- 36 Exists
- 38 Chemical symbol for tin (abbr.)
- 39 Acorn tree
- 40 Ooze
- 42 Handles clumsily
- 44 Grain named in Isaiah 28
- 46 City near Bethel
- 47 Commercial spelling of a word that means facile
- 48 Preposition
- 50 Retirement acct.
- 51 Returning Jew from exile (Nehemiah 7:7)

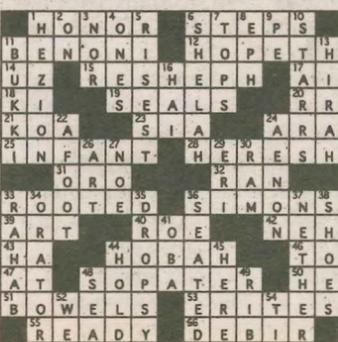


- 55 The Holy Spirit wouldn't let Paul and Silas go here
- 58 Manna measure
- 59 Understanding
- 60 Masculine nickname
- 26 Abner's father (1 Samuel 14)
- 29 What a veteran is
- 30 Question
- 32 Slick or skin
- 33 Atop
- 34 Promise
- 37 "Of Keros, the children of _____" (Nehemiah 7:47)
- 38 Dir.
- 40 Box _____
- 41 Nation God called against Babylon (Jeremiah 51:27)
- 42 "The Princess and the _____" (classic fairytale)
- 43 "The border shall fetch a compass from _____" (Numbers 34:5)
- 44 It may stick out on Olive Oyl
- 45 Son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7:7)
- 49 Christmas tree
- 52 A city of Judah (Joshua 15:32)
- 53 Minor prophet (abbr.)
- 54 Church denomination (abbr.)
- 56 Masculine pronoun
- 57 "_____ cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24)

Down

- 1 Son of Ulla (1 Chronicles 7:39)
- 2 Disfigure
- 3 Expresses
- 4 Possessive pronoun
- 5 Cut off
- 6 Preposition
- 7 Electronics giant (abbr.)
- 8 "Ir, and Hushim, the sons of _____" (1 Chronicles 7:12)
- 9 Memo
- 10 Away from (prefix)
- 11 "That at the _____ of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10)
- 15 Unclear
- 16 Used to be
- 20 Sky, to Simone
- 22 Family room
- 23 Dressed _____ the nines
- 24 Eastern U.S. uNiversity (abbr.)
- 25 Minor prophet (var., abbr.)

Last week's solution



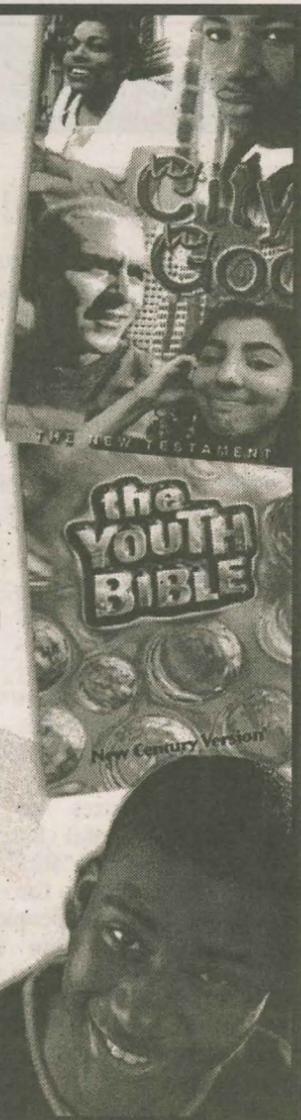
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Church strategy plans reveal what's working, what's not

"If you don't intentionally set out to plan, you won't plan because you won't find the time."

Mark Wingfield, associate pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Birmingham, Ala.—Warning that "inertia is against planning," Mark Wingfield said churches must make an intentional effort to achieve effective long-range planning.

Wingfield, former editor of the Western Recorder, was among more than 140 workshop leaders who led scores of breakout conferences during the recent Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly in Birmingham, Ala.

Wingfield, managing editor of the Texas Baptist Standard since 1998, left that position in January to become associate pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas. He and Jerry Bryant, retired executive vice president of Baylor Health Care Systems in Dallas, led a workshop on "Grassroots Congregational Planning."

Adopt intentional strategy

"If you don't intentionally set out to plan," Wingfield said, "you won't plan because you won't find the time."

Among findings from an in-depth planning effort at Wilshire was that "we were not communicating with each other about what we were doing" as a congregation, he noted. As a result, "we have designed and implemented a significantly updated internal communications process."

Wingfield said church leaders also have "introduced some new concepts into the congregation" such as an intentional focus on pursuing spiritual formation and mobilizing members for ministry.

Bryant, who has served as a consultant throughout the church's planning process, said grassroots congregational planning includes a succinct mission statement that leads to key priorities, strategies and tactics.

"The mission defines what the calling or the purpose of the organization is," Bryant explained. "It needs to be simple enough that people can remember it. If the folks understand what we are here to do, there are some amazing things that can be accomplished."

"The mission statement should not define how it is going to be achieved," he noted. "If you do that, you're actually putting yourself in a box." The methods the church uses to accomplish its mission "will change as the world changes and as our congregation and resources change."

Once a church has produced a clear, concise mission statement, Bryant said, the next step is to establish a few key priorities that call for specific action.

The priorities should lead to strategies that "define the direction or course of action into the future," he said. "A strategy is nothing in the world except a definition of work that needs to be accomplished in order for something to be done."

Bryant described the next step—tactics—as "the to-do list" in accomplishing the church's priorities.

Why bother planning?

"Why would we want to do planning?" he asked. "If we're not watching changes and addressing those changes with a good plan, we may

find ourselves unable to keep up.

"This process starts with a rich review of data," he added. "If we don't look at the data, we have absolutely no idea where we are and it's hard to tell where we want to go." He said such data should include an accurate evaluation of key church statistics such as baptisms and attendance trends as well as community demographics.

"The planning part is the easy part," Bryant told workshop participants. "The tough part is the implementation process. Enlisting the right person to take responsibility for a strategy has everything to do with whether that strategy goes anywhere."

Bryant encouraged church leaders to review and revise ministry strategies every three months.

"I don't believe a plan ought to go in a book and stay on a shelf," he

said. "Review: What did we achieve in the last quarter? What are we going to try to achieve in the next three months? What's working and what's not?"

Both the planning and implementation process should involve evaluating "what are some of the things we do really well and some of the things we don't do really well?" Bryant said.

He encouraged church leaders to "make a note of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats" the congregation faces and use that information to help determine ongoing strategies.

Describing effective strategy planning as "a living tool," Bryant said such efforts can help "create a shared consensus of what we believe God wants the congregation to become during the approaching five years."

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A really great day

Oneida's students take several top honors at local agricultural competition

By Lynn Cole
Oneida Farm Manager

It was a really great day. After training show steers nearly every day since early last September, we took nine students to the Laurel County Fairgrounds on June 25 to participate in a six-county Future Farmers of America/4-H show.

Oneida Baptist Institute nearly stole the show. Ashley won the Junior Showmanship trophy, followed by Sara's winning the Senior Showmanship trophy. Kayla was Reserve Senior Showmanship winner and also had the fastest growing calf in the show, gaining 4.38 pounds per day since Feb. 9, when the contest started.

Miriam had the second best project book among all contestants. Students calculated the pounds of gain, feed eaten, average daily gain, feed efficiency, cost per pound of gain, miscellaneous expenses, total cost and net return on their calves in each of four periods of time since Sept. 4. In doing so, they came to realize the differences in these performance measurements as the calves grew. In recognition of the importance of keeping good records, the first place winner received \$100 and Miriam got \$75 for her second place.

Ashley not only won Junior Showmanship, but her calf also won the title of Supreme Grand Champion after winning first in the heavyweight class. This earned another \$500. Heather's calf won Reserve Grand Champion and earned \$200.

Alex's calf won first in the lightweight class,

while Ashlee's calf came in second. Miriam's calf placed second in Class 2. Caleb's calf was first in Class 3, while Sara's calf placed second. Ashley's calf placed first in Class 4, Heather's calf placed second, Kayla's calf placed third, and Jeff's calf placed fourth.

By the end of the afternoon, total prize money earned by the students was \$1,525! But this is only part of the story.

Since last September when we began working this set of 16 calves, many students have had an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in safely feeding, bedding, grooming and training these calves. Many of these students probably never will have another opportunity to bond with an animal of this size again. The demanding work requiring such perseverance and persistence has helped many young boys and girls appreciate the importance of good work ethics.

After the show, an auction was held in which buyers had been recruited to pay prices well above the normal price for choice calves. We can document that Oneida received more than \$3,000 for the nine animals above what they would have brought through conventional marketing channels. Thank you very much, buyers.

Finally, there was a huge barbecue of alligator, beef, pork and chicken with all the trimmings for hundreds of people, after which the parents took their proud children home for the summer break. OBI earned many compliments on the institute's successful agricultural program as it sets the example in this region.

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



W.F. Underwood

Loving the Lord and doing what He says

Bill & Glenda Tichenor serve six years at Clear Creek

The week after Bill Tichenor taught a summer course on spiritual disciplines, he had knee surgery. Following recuperation in Princeton, he and Glenda will head to Florida, missing our new academic year for the first time since 1998.

The 1995-96 Kentucky Baptist Convention President has taught introduction to ministry and Bible classes. Glenda, a retired English teacher with more than 27 years in education, taught fine arts and English composition.

Bill emphasizes relationships as vital for success in ministry. "Ministers need to develop the ability to relate to people. Many problems derive from lack of people skills, people loving each other," he said. "I think this comes out of our own relationship with God. We can't share what we don't have ourselves."

Bill described his leadership style: "I've had good relationships with deacons, and never approached them as their boss. I can learn from them; they have much to offer. If pastors would work from that angle they would find people to be helpful." Forty years as a pastor,

including 20 years at First Baptist Church of Princeton, demonstrate the truth of his approach. Bill expressed appreciation that he has gone back to preach and minister at each place they have served.

Students like Bill's sense of humor, and the wisdom of his experience. He and Glenda have enjoyed the Kelly Hall front porch fellowship with campus residents. They exemplify authentic relationships, Christian marriage and servant leadership.

The summer class on spiritual disciplines and Christian devotional life was a first for Bill to teach. "The course considered prayer, meditation, solitude, fasting, inner development," he said. "If we don't develop

some warmth in our own hearts we can't be used much in this cold world. You can't fill an empty jug out of an empty jug.

"After being at Clear Creek a short while, Glenda and I felt we had never been any place with a higher percentage of people who love the Lord and want to do what He says," Bill stated. The two of them have modeled that commitment among us.

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



Bill Whittaker

Faith groups offer 'blueprint' they claim can end U.S. hunger

Washington (RNS)—A coalition of organizations recently released a detailed plan to fight hunger and poverty in the United States.

The "Blueprint to End Hunger in America" was proposed by the National Anti-Hunger Organizations, a coalition of 13 faith-based and other hunger activist groups, at a news conference last month.

"We tried to lay out a set of eminently doable and affordable programs," said James Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Center. "This blueprint lays out a path, and we plan to lead and to push policy-makers and the nation as a whole to go down that path."

The group called on the federal government to cut hunger in half by 2010 and eliminate it by 2015, the goals the United States set for itself at the World Food Summit in 1996. It also said the Senate must pass the Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation, which would continue funding existing programs and also expand summer food programs and fresh fruit and vegetable pilot programs for low-income children.

"This blueprint is not just about more federal money," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, a Christian hunger-relief organization based in Washington. "It is about making federal programs more effective."

Nearly 35 million Americans are either hungry or threatened by hunger, according to government figures. About 13 million of them are children.

The blueprint called on state and local governments to expand nutrition programs and make applying for food stamps easier. It said schools and community organizations should help increase awareness of programs that already exist for easing hunger.

NAHO also urged individuals to demand that elected officials support anti-hunger programs. They released a questionnaire for people to use as a guide for asking officials about hunger-related issues. The group emphasized that while hunger is not a partisan issue, it should be a pressing issue in an election year.

"Hunger is something the politicians should be able to join together to deal with," Beckmann said.

In a reference to political strategists who divide the country into Republican red and Democratic blue states, Beckmann said, "In this election year, hunger is not a red issue or a blue issue. It is a red, white and blue issue."

A new way to scout

Christian program gaining converts from traditional Girl Scouts group

By Sandi Villarreal
Associated Baptist Press

Cincinnati (ABP)—American Heritage Girls, a relatively new Christian scouting program, has seen enrollment increase dramatically after recent media attention portraying the Girl Scouts of the USA as less committed to its Christian tradition.

American Heritage Girls was started by former Girl Scouts in 1995 after changes were made in the Girl Scout program they say conflicted with their Christian beliefs. Recent news reports about a controversial Girl Scout sex-education program brought the conflict to the fore again.

Since American Heritage Girls formed in 1995 in West Chester, Ohio, with 10 troops and about 100 members, the group has grown to include 2,800 girls.

"In the last three weeks, 21 new troops have been chartered," said Patti Garibay, executive director of American Heritage Girls. "We are anticipating 6,000 members by the fall."

Substituting God in pledge

The break first surfaced in 1993, when Girl Scouts of the USA adopted a new policy allowing girls to substitute for the word "God" in the Girl Scout promise that all members recite. The change, intended to provide flexibility for non-Christian Girl Scouts, upset some Christian parents.

Girl Scout officials said while they "believe the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one, we do not attempt to dictate the form or style of a member's worship."

But Garibay said the change was one of the catalysts for the split.

"We spent over a year trying to make changes at the local and national levels," Garibay said, "but we felt the Lord was leading us to start something new."

"All of the founding members were Girl Scout leaders," Garibay said. When the women began to look into the Girl Scout program, she said, they found other elements they said conflicted with their



Christian beliefs.

Among them, Garibay said, was the Girl Scouts' sexuality education, which she said promotes the homosexual lifestyle. Such information is not appropriate for girls at the scouting age, she said.

Girl Scout officials say sexual orientation is a private matter for girls and their families to address. "The Girl Scouts value diversity and inclusiveness and, therefore, do not discriminate on any basis," GSUSA officials said in a statement.

American Heritage Girls is non-denominational but requires charter members and troop leaders to adhere to a statement of faith, which professes the belief in the Trinity and belief that the Bible is the Word of God. Garibay said AHG is strongly pro-life, and the organization encourages prayer in the individual troops.

The group's membership has benefited from recent media attention directed at the Girl Scouts, Garibay said.

In March, USA Today printed an article about a conflict in Waco, Texas, concerning the Bluebonnet Council of Girl Scouts sponsoring a Planned Parenthood sex education seminar. Anti-abortion group Pro-life Waco criticized the council's

affiliation with the program and began a campaign to boycott Girl Scout cookies.

The Bluebonnet Council eventually pulled its sponsorship, but many parents removed their daughters from Girl Scouts anyway, according to the USA Today article.

Girl Scout officials said local councils that choose to sponsor sexual education "have the discretion to make such information available only with the express written consent of a parent or guardian."

A fit with church outreach

Teressa Boling, chairperson of an American Heritage chapter in Louisville, said they have attracted increased interest since news surfaced about the Girl Scout connection with Planned Parenthood. Many church members chose not to support Girl Scouts because of the organization's partnerships, she said.

Boling said her church identifies more with AHG than with Girl Scouts. "The group fit with our mission statement at the church telling us to evangelize," she said. "It was a way for us to reach out to people who may not go to church and show them that we are here and that we care."

VETERANS' DAY Since starting in 1995, American Heritage Girls, based in Cincinnati, has grown to 2,800 members. (AHG photo)

Kuwaiti pastor: Western missionaries stir up trouble

Washington (RNS)—The senior pastor of Kuwait's National Evangelical Church told American journalists July 6 that Christian missionaries from the West are making life more difficult for Kuwaiti Christians.

"Sometimes they are detrimental to us," Amanuel Ghareeb said. "Unfortunately, these Western missionaries, they don't consider the consequences of their activities."

Proselytizing by non-Muslim missionaries is illegal in Kuwait, though like many of its neighbors, the small Persian Gulf nation has laws protecting religious freedom. Ghareeb said when foreign missionaries prosely-

tize in Kuwait, the government puts pressure on local churches.

"We tell our friends, 'You are responsible about your activities, but please don't hurt, jeopardize, the ministry of the local churches who are trying to nurture the faith of the Christians who are living and working in the Gulf states,'" Ghareeb said.

Ghareeb was in the United States to attend the recent General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Richmond, Va. His church has 70 parishioners, he said, and there are 300,000 Christians—mostly from other countries—among Kuwait's

2.3 million residents.

He said he believes Arab Christians could serve as a bridge between Muslims and Western nations, but disagreed with what he called the "Christian Zionism" of Western evangelical groups that see the Jewish state of Israel as a biblical prophecy come true.

"Our understanding of the Bible is that the state of Israel is not the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. It's just a political entity," Ghareeb said. He said that for the most part, Christian churches in the Middle East support a separate, independent Palestinian state.

How to Become a Christian

By Lonnie Riley

Sharing Jesus is as natural as what you do every day. Our dilemma is that we often are unaware of God-initiated encounters. Let me share a simple story that happened some time ago:

A young woman in our community with two small children was left helpless and homeless by a husband who sold everything and skipped town. She moved into an apartment with no furniture. She called our ministry center, asking for some beds for her children.

God had provided us some beds which we took and installed in her apartment. On the way out, I simply asked, "May I share something with you before we go?"

How could she say no since we had met a need? "Sure," she replied.

I said, "I just wanted you to know that when your head hits the soft pillow tonight, you will know that God has given you something He didn't give His only Son."

"What's that?" she inquired.

I replied, "The Bible says that Jesus had not a place to lay His head." She began to weep.

I then said, "Tonight you can know this Jesus, who provides for your needs, personally."

"More than anything else, that is what I want," she responded. She gave her heart to the Lord Jesus that evening.

How can you share—or receive—Christ?

■ First, one must admit that he or she needs Jesus (Romans 8:28).

■ Second, one must believe that Jesus can actually change one's life (John 3:16).

■ Third, one must confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

You can come to know Jesus Christ today by faith. You also can share what He has done for you. Why not today?

Lonnie Riley and his wife, Belinda, are Mission Service Corps workers who direct Meridzo Center Ministries in Harlan County

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Pleasant Ridge Church will dedicate its new front entrance July 25, 11 am. The church will hold its annual Music-Fest that evening at 7 p.m. **Paul Coleman** is pastor and **Judy Ihrig** is minister of music.

■ **CADIZ**—Trigg County Church will celebrate homecoming July 25. Activities include morning worship, a noon meal and a 2 p.m. open house and dedication service.

■ **CLAY CITY**—Clay City Church recently ordained **Danny Combs** and **Jim Pott** as deacons. **Grider Denney** is pastor.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Adriel Church ordained **Steve Wallace** as a deacon June 27. **David Frisby** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Bruners Chapel Church recently called **Amy Riley** as full-time minister of music and students. **Greg Humpert** is pastor.

Harrodsburg Church will celebrate its 165th anniversary July 25. **Robert DeFoor** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Community Church recently called **Tim Hobbs** as pastor.

■ **JUNCTION CITY**—Ernest Martin has announced his retirement as pastor of First Church effective July 25. Martin, pastor of First Church since 1998, previously served 31 years as pastor of Calvary Church, Danville.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Chevy Chase Church recently honored **Robert and Lena**

Cornett on their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church will host a noon reception July 25 to honor Pastor **Dan Powell** and his wife, **Beth**, for 25 years of ministry to the congregation.

Walnut Street Church recently honored **Hank and Ruth Nally** on their 60th wedding anniversary.

■ **ROCKHOLDS**—First Church will hold a community tent revival July 18, 7 p.m. Leading the event are **Gerald Parks**, owner of Gospel Radio 710, and **Janus Jones**, director of missions for South Union-Mount Zion Association.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Clayvillage Church will host a youth and adult contemporary worship service with music, drama and a message July 18, 6:30 p.m.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Pansy Zukor died June 4 at age 81 in West Melbourne, Fla. A retired kindergarten teacher, she was the widow of **Stephen Zukor** who was pastor of Williamstown Church from 1945-1952.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 13-18 Women's Chorale Kentucky Tour.
- 16-17 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.
- 19-23 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore Camp.
- 19-21 Mission Adventure Express Camp for Boys, grades 3-6, Campbellsville University.
- 22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest Family Ministries, Inez.
- 23-24 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, London.
- 26-30 Discovery Youth Camp, grades 7-12, Cedarmore Camp.
- 26-28 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.
- 30-31 World Missions Unlimited, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

August

- 2-6 Discover Kids Week, Cedarmore.
- 14 Super Saturday, Erlanger Baptist Church.
- 14 Super Saturday, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 16 Understanding Other Beliefs Conference, Warren Association Office, Bowling Green.
- 17 Understanding Other Beliefs Conference, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

- 21 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 28 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

September

- 3-6 Baptist Men on Mission wrangler trail ride, Land Between the Lakes.
- 4-6 Soak A City Youth Evangelism Conference, Ashland.
- 11 Super Saturday, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 11 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 13-14 Daycare Orientation, KBC building, Middletown.
- 17-18 Collegiate Creative Ministries Workshop, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 18 Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Cedar Crest.
- 18 Keyboard Clinic-East, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 18 Keyboard Clinic-West, Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Beaver Dam.
- 18 Ministers' Wives Retreat, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 20-21 State Ministers' Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf Course, Georgetown.
- 23-24 Men's Chorale Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 23-23 Wind Orchestra Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

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

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

FOR SALE: Buy & sell good-quality Christian books. Narrow Path Christian Bookstore, 1829 Bardstown Road in Louisville. (502) 459-4001.

FOR SALE: Two burial plots in Evergreen Cemetery (Louisville) for combined \$1,200. Market value more than \$2,200. Call Jeff Erb, (270) 733-1306.

FOR SALE: Large, 3-manual Conn organ. Make offer. (859) 277-7806.

SEEKING: Manager of personnel services. Southern Seminary, a Christian working environment, is seeking a manager of personnel services. The successful candidate will have a high level of people and process management skills in the areas of employment, benefits administration, compensation, training and employee services. Also required are proven interpersonal and critical thinking skills, along with the ability to manage an employee information system and to interpret and implement U.S. employment and benefit practices. Five years of appropriate experience and a bachelor's degree are preferred. Send resumé with salary history and requirement to Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280; or personnel@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to Palestine Baptist Church, 80 Church Lane, Campbellsville, KY 42718, Attn: Youth Search Committee.

SEEKING: The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is seeking resumé 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 resumé 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 resúmes: Aug. 6, 2004.

SEEKING: Christian Social Services, Inc., a private non-profit social service agency in Morehead, Ky., is seeking candidates for full-time director. Responsibilities include: oversight of daily operations of main facility and branch office, fundraising, community collaboration, staff and board development, and program development and supervision. Prefer candidate with master's degree in social work, education or related field, proven administrative experience, fundraising ability and case management experience. Submit letter of interest and copy of resumé to: Director Search, PO Box 147, Morehead, KY 40351. Application deadline is Aug. 15, 2004. For more information, call (606) 784-5329.

SEEKING: Youth pastor. Smiths Grove Baptist Church in Smiths Grove, Ky., is currently receiving resúmes for a bivocational (part-time) youth pastor. SGBC is a God-centered church that God is blessing and growing in many ways. Interested applicants should contact us at (270) 563-2010 or www.smithsgrovebaptist.org.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and youth for Calvary Baptist, located at 111 N McWhorter St., London, KY 40741. Calvary is a conservative SBC church with blended worship services. Interested applicants may visit our Web site at www.calvarybaptistlondonky.com. Resúmes should be addressed to: Search Committee, Attn: Pastor Harlan Avera, at the address above. No phone calls, please.

SEEKING: Minister of music, Culpeper Baptist Church, Culpeper, Va., 1,000 members; two worship services (contemporary and traditional); moderate conservative church founded in 1774. Resúmes received at: Personnel Committee, 318 South West St., Culpeper, VA 22701; tfusion@culpeperbaptist.org; (540) 825-8192. Affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Association and Baptist General Association of Virginia.

SEEKING: Part-time (1/2 to 3/4 time) youth minister for Immanuel Baptist, Henderson, Ky. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 540 2nd St., Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Oakland Baptist Church. The ideal candidate should have a college degree and some experience with youth. Please send a resumé to: Youth Search Committee, Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159.

SEEKING: Small, rural, conservative Baptist church is seeking a full-time or interim ordained Southern Baptist minister. If interested, please contact Jennifer Marsh at (859) 235-0184 or send resumé to Jennifer Marsh, 202 Oddville Ave., Cynthiana, KY 41031.

SEEKING: Outstanding opportunity to join a vibrant ministry team as a full-time minister of activities at Walnut Street Baptist Church, a large, growing and multicultural church located in the heart of Louisville, Ky. Ministry includes outreach and evangelism to the surrounding community as well as supporting activities in a three-story facility with skating rink, bowling lanes and more. Send resumé to: Activities Search Committee, Walnut Street Baptist Church, 1143 S Third St., Suite A, Louisville, KY 40203; or www.walnutstreet.org.

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'Purpose-Driven Life' gets top publishing award for second year

Atlanta (RNS)—Rick Warren's "The Purpose-Driven Life" was named June 26 as the Christian Book of the Year for the second year in a row by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

The book, which has sold more than 16 million copies, is the second book in the organization's history to be twice named for the honor. "The Prayer of Jabez," by Bruce Wilkinson, won in 2001 and 2002.

"The fact that books like these have won in consecutive years is a true testimony of the lasting impact a Christian book can have on one's life," ECPA president Doug Ross said.

The Gold Medallion Book Winners included:

Bibles: "Revolve: The Complete New Testament," edited by Laurie Whaley and Kate Etue.

Bible Study: "Experiencing the Heart of Jesus" by Max Lucado.

Biography/Autobiography: "In the Presence of My Enemies" by Gracia Burnham and Dean Merrill.

Christian Education: "Foundations" by Kay Warren and Tom Holladay.

Christian Living: "The Trouble With Jesus" by Joseph Stowell.

Christian Ministry: "The Emotionally Healthy Church" by Peter Scazzero.

Christianity and Society: "Being the Body" by Charles Colson and Ellen Vaughn.

Devotional: "Pierced by the Word" by John Piper.

Elementary Children: "Hymns for a Kid's Heart" by Joni Eareckson Tada and Bobbie Wolgemuth.

Family and Parenting: "Preparing Your Son for Every Man's Battle" by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker.

Fiction: "Thr3e" by Ted Dekker.

Gift Book/Poetry: "Think About These Things" by Ric Ergenbright.

Inspirational: "Next Door Savior" by Max Lucado.

Marriage: "Covenant Marriage" by Gary Chapman.

Missions/Evangelism: "Permission Evangelism" by Michael L. Simpson.

Preschool Children: "The Mess Detectives: The Slobfather" by Big Idea Books.

Reference Works/Commentaries: "Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview" by J.P. Moreland and William Lane Craig.

Theology/Doctrine: "Old Testament Theology" by John Goldingay.

Youth: "Boom: A Guy's Guide to Growing Up" by Michael Ross.

Missionaries get help getting around

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

Houston (BP)—For 25 years, the Macedonian Call Foundation has been providing donated automobiles to international missionary families on stateside assignment, recently helping the 1,000th missionary family with their transportation needs.

"I'm a former Southern Baptist missionary, and I recognized the need having to come home several times and try to find a vehicle," said Harvey Kneisel, president and co-founder of Macedonian Call. "It cost me a lot of money to provide a car for three six-month furloughs."

Kneisel and his wife were missionaries to India and to Guyana during their tenure with the International Mission Board.

Twenty-five years ago, while the Kneisels were still on the mission field, an evangelist friend named Jack Edmonds urged them to start a nonprofit foundation to facilitate personal transportation for missionaries who return to the States.

"He gave me the idea and helped me get it chartered," Kneisel recalled.

A fleet of vehicles

The average missionary is on stateside assignment for anywhere from three months to a year, he explained. It's often impractical to purchase a car, but they also need a way to get around and don't always have family to help. That's where

the Macedonian Call Foundation comes in.

The ministry has approximately 30 vehicles it keeps on the road. Missionaries pay only for the insurance and gas during the time they use the vehicle.

"In 25 years, we've provided more than 1,000 missionaries with a free car for the time of their furlough," Kneisel said, noting he has never appealed for funds.

He just asks that people donate automobiles and receive a tax credit. "That way they enter into the ministry to our missionaries," he said.

Kneisel has received cars from as far away as Indianapolis and Richmond, Va.

A milestone came in June when Pinki Pampell, a member of First Baptist Houston, donated a Mazda minivan—coinciding with an urgent need from Mark and Jan Moses, missionaries in the city of Iloilo on the island of Panay in the Philippines.

The foundation now has two sister organizations, Kneisel said. A group in Atlanta and one in Tupelo, Miss., gained permission to use the Macedonian Call name for similar ministries.

The Macedonian Call is closely tied to the Great Commission, Kneisel said, noting, "We try to hold the rope in the U.S. for our missionaries without appealing for Southern Baptist money."

Vehicles donated to Macedonian Call need to be "drivable transporta-



tion," Kneisel said. "We don't go by color. We don't deal in cosmetics, nor in prestige," he said, laughing.

1 donated car makes 3

However, he said they've had a couple of rare cars donated.

"A member of First Baptist Church donated a 1950 Buick with 18,000 original miles," Kneisel said. "I sold it and bought three cars. So we got about 200,000 miles out of those three cars."

A husband and wife in Arkansas who are both doctors donated 10 cars, Kneisel said. One was a BMW with under 20,000 miles, and Kneisel sold it and bought three cars with the money.

For more information, contact Harvey Kneisel at the Macedonian Call Foundation, (713) 686-2633 or (713) 957-5861.

MACEDONIAN CALL Pinki Pampell, a member of First Baptist Church in Houston, hands over the keys to her Mazda van to Mark and Jan Moses, missionaries to the Philippines who are on stateside assignment. The transaction marked the 1,000th family to get transportation through the Macedonian Call Foundation.

'Angels' trying to decrease van rollover risk

By Yvonne Betowt
Religion News Service

Denver (RNS)—Mark Smith often contemplates what his daughter, Malori, would be doing now if she hadn't been killed on a church mission trip to Mexico two years ago, six weeks after her high school graduation.

"You can't help wondering," Smith said by phone from his Denver home. "All of her friends are coming home from college now, and I often think about what she would be doing, too."

Smith hopes that through a new nonprofit project, Van Angels, no other parents ever have a child killed while riding in a 15-passenger vehicle.

The vehicles often are called "church vans" because of their popularity with church groups.

Malori was one of three people killed when the church van they were in crashed near Monterrey, Mexico, following the separation of a virtually new left rear tire. Two others were killed, and several were seriously injured.

While he was devastated at the loss of his only daughter and oldest child, Smith and his wife, Cindy, decided not to sit by while others needlessly died.

Making a difference

After settling a class-action lawsuit against Ford and Michelin in 2002, Smith and the other families involved in the Mexico accident decided to set aside part of their undisclosed settlement to help churches and schools retrofit their

15-passenger vans by adding two rear tires.

"Each family decided what it wanted to contribute," said Smith, director of Van Angels. "After a few days of news, we asked ourselves, 'What can we do to prevent more accidents?' We came up with the idea of Van Angels to create educational awareness about issues relating to 15-passenger vans."

Adding two rear tires will prevent most vans from rolling over during an accident, he said.

After the settlement, Ford spokeswoman Kathleen Vokes blamed the accident that killed Smith's daughter and two others on a faulty tire on the E350 Econoline van, according to Associated Press.

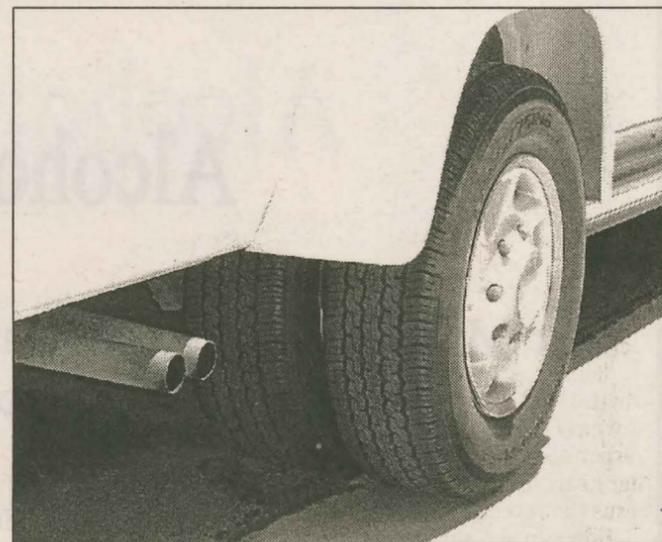
"Our condolences go out to those involved, but this accident was caused by tread separation," Vokes said at the time. "Under the circumstances of this accident, any van, pickup or sport utility vehicle would have rolled over."

Smith said the weight being carried by the van caused the new tire to separate.

Van Angels even hired an expert to test a van using dual tires, who proved it would not roll, Smith said. He said Ford vans sold in Europe are required to have dual-rear-wheel systems, so the technology to make the vehicles safer is already in place.

National warning

In May, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a third cautionary warning



of rollover risk under certain conditions to users of 15-passenger vans. The first two warnings were issued in 2001 and 2002. NHTSA said 763 people were killed and 1,469 "incapacitatingly injured" in rollovers between 1982 and 2001.

The federal government prohibits public elementary and secondary schools from transporting students in 15-passenger vans.

Jeff Wigington, a Texas lawyer who represented the church plaintiffs and who specializes in product defects, called the third government advisory "unprecedented."

"I am not aware of the federal government ever taking this type of action on any other vehicle, including the Ford Pinto," he said by phone from his Corpus Christi office. "It just shows the seriousness of the problem, and it's not getting any better."

VAN ANGELS The nonprofit organization retrofitted this 15-passenger van by adding two new rear tires. The group, which seeks to prevent deaths from crashes of these types of vans, was created by the parents of Malori Smith, who was killed in a crash of a 15-passenger van while on a mission trip. (RNS photo)

Kentucky Constitutional Amendment On Marriage

“only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Kentucky. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized.”

It will take a two thirds majority of the votes cast to add this definition to our state constitution.



Please pray and go to the polls on November 2nd

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