



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, August 18.

## Olympic ministry



**SUMMER GAMES** An Olympic flag flies below the Parthenon in Athens, Greece. Baptists are offering a variety of sports clinics and other ministries in Greece to coincide with the Olympics, which run through Aug. 29. (Corbis photo)

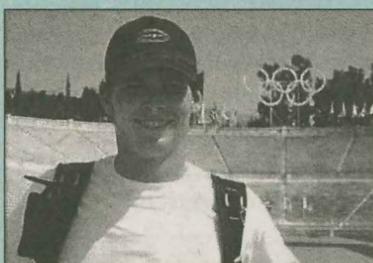
### Kentuckian serving in Athens this summer

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Athens, Greece (BP)—Kentuckian Nathan Scott has been to the Olympics in Sydney, Salt Lake City and now Athens, but he's more than just a globe-trotting sports fan.

Scott is in Greece with the International Sports Federation, an Atlanta-based ministry that organizes sports ministry volunteers to work with Southern Baptist missionaries.

During the games, the Calhoun native is serving as sports information operator at the Hotel Oasis' sports desk. The hotel houses a variety of top officials for the International Olympic Federation.



**IN THE ACTION** Nathan Scott is at his third Olympic ministry.

Scott, a member of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville, said he hopes to build relationships as he helps people.

"My clients are VIPs and they are to be treated as royalty," said Scott, who grew up attending Cal-

houn Baptist Church. "My services will be as an information guide to them and as a personal contact for anything they need."

Along the way, he hopes to distribute "More Than Gold" Olympic pins, brightly-designed pins whose colors relate to the story of Christ; gospel tracts, and pocket guides.

This is the 24-year-old's third Olympics experience. He was part of an International Mission Board summer mission team in 2000 in Sydney. And, Scott worked with the North American Mission Board's "Global Outreach" just prior to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

□ See Kentucky minister ... *Page 3*

## Consultants: Sunday school can help your church grow

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Owensboro—Pastors should recognize that Sunday school is still a viable tool for church expansion, a Kentucky Baptist Convention leader told church leaders attending a Super Saturday training event.

French Harmon, a church strategist for the KBC, told pastors in Owensboro that every church needs a great Sunday school and an awareness of its importance for evangelism.

"The big myth about Sunday school is that it's just to study the Bible, or just for children and youth," Harmon said. "Sunday school is all about reaching people for Jesus."

Harmon was one of dozens of workshop leaders at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro last Saturday. It was one of the first two Super Saturday training events. The other was held the same day at Erlanger Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky.

Other Super Saturday conferences will be held throughout the state: Aug. 21 in Elizabethtown, Aug. 28 in Lexington and Sept. 11 in Somerset and Paducah.

Tying Sunday school to witnessing opportunities is especially critical to future growth, Harmon said. Baptisms of children ages 12 to 17 in Kentucky Baptist churches shrank from 5,500 in 1980 to 3,500 last year, he noted.

Referring to programs like FAITH, an evangelism program tied to Sunday school, Harmon said intentional efforts can make a difference.

Despite the obstacles pastors in the workshop mentioned, such as lack of leadership and enough teachers, Harmon said Sunday school remains the best model for growing a church today.

Not only can it reach people for Christ, Harmon said, but these groups can supply the "high touch" relationships people are seeking in a technological age.

When he underwent chemotherapy treatments in 1997, a class member regularly came to his doctor's office to encourage him and tell Harmon he was praying for him. Others offered care to his wife.

The former pastor said church leaders should remember the importance of prayer as they seek to restore the vitality of Sunday school.

"Intentionality and hard work is the best strategy," Harmon said. □ See Consultants call ... *Page 6*

## Survey: African-Americans practice religion more than others

Ventura, Calif. (RNS)—Black Americans are the most likely to participate in religious activities like prayer, Bible reading and worship attendance, compared to other racial and ethnic groups, a survey shows.

The Barna Group, a Ventura, Calif.-based consulting firm, found that 91 percent of blacks said they prayed to God in the previous week, compared to 86 percent of Hispanics, 81 percent of whites and 46 percent of Asians.

The results of the research, based on surveys of 2,632 adults in January and May, were released last week.

Fifty-nine percent of blacks said they had read the Bible in the previous week, compared to 39 percent of Hispanics, 36 percent of whites and 20 percent of Asians.

As for religious service attendance, 48 percent of blacks said they had attended a worship service in the previous week, compared to 41 percent of whites, 38 percent of Hispanics and 23 percent of Asians.

African-Americans also were the most likely to strongly agree that the Bible is totally accurate (57 percent) and to strongly disagree that Jesus sinned while on Earth (49 percent).

Researcher George Barna said the findings are consistent with a research project he recently completed on the relations between black churches and the lives of African-Americans.

"Upon dissecting the role of faith in the lives of black Americans, we discovered that their faith in Christ has empowered millions of blacks to overcome challenges that might otherwise have been debilitating," he said in a statement. "The local church has been a major source of strength and directive leadership for the black community."



## SBC's Welch launches 50-state bus tour

Daytona Beach, Fla. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch will launch his nationwide bus tour Aug. 29 from First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he is pastor. He will travel through Kentucky Sept. 7, with a 6 p.m. rally at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Welch plans to visit churches in all 50 states to encourage Southern Baptists to evangelize more passionately and reach a goal of 1 million baptisms—an increase of more than 622,000 over last year's total of 377,357 baptisms.

"My invitation, prayer and expectation is to visit all sizes and types of churches in order to string together a mosaic of what the SBC really looks like at its grassroots and heart," he explained.

Welch announced his ambitious travel plans a few hours after his election as SBC president in June. In a letter to state convention leaders, he acknowledged it "has been a laboring and tedious job and has been pulled together in a short time" with the assistance of LifeWay Christian Resources.

### "Everyone can witness"

Welch will travel in a 45-foot-long bus featuring a mural of faces of Southern Baptists superimposed on an American flag with the words "The Southern Baptist Convention Kingdom Challenge" and "Everyone Can Witness, Win and Baptize ... 1 Million!" The design also reads,

"Do all you can ... with all you have ... where you are ... Now!"

In 25 travel days spanning from Aug. 29 to Oct. 7, Welch expects to log approximately 20,000 miles. The format for each stop will be for Welch to make some opening remarks before joining participants in door-to-door visits in the community. In each state, Welch will invite the executive director, evangelism director, Sunday School director, convention president, pastor's conference president and state paper editor to join him on the bus while in their state.



Welch

"(This will be a time) for me to hear from them what they think our convention needs most and how I can help their state work," Welch said.

From Daytona Beach, the bus will travel up the East Coast through Georgia and the Carolinas to Richmond, Va., and then into New England. Then it will travel back through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and down to the South through Tennessee, before making its way into Texas by Sept. 10. The crew will take a brief break and then pick up in the Midwest before traveling north to Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas. Next will be a trip out West through Colorado, Montana and California.

The bus tour will wrap up with a trip to Vancouver, Canada, an SBC Strategic Focus City with the North American Mission Board. Welch's travels will finish with flights to

Alaska and Hawaii.

In addition to visiting churches in each state, Welch will make stops at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, NAMB, LifeWay and GuideStone Financial Resources.

### Five-pronged evangelism plan

The bus tour is part of a five-pronged strategy Welch unveiled in June to boost conversions and baptisms in Southern Baptist churches.

He also recently mailed a video disc to all Southern Baptist pastors, directors of missions and other state and national Baptist leaders, detailing his call for "unity of purpose for evangelism."

Welch said he believes the "Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism will transform the Southern Baptist Convention."

Other facets of Welch's plan include highlighting evangelism in conventions and conferences throughout the year, visiting as many churches as possible within a 100-mile radius of Nashville prior to next year's SBC annual meeting and launching "The Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge" at the 2005 meeting.

Emphasizing in June that "evangelism is something all Southern Baptists can do," Welch said, "This convention has a God-given purpose. We will take the evangelistic challenge of North America right where it needs to be."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

## Worldwide youth meeting unites young people from 70 nations

By Wendy Ryan  
BWA Communications Director

HONG KONG (ABP)—One year after it was postponed because of the SARS outbreak in Asia, the 14th Baptist Youth World Congress opened Aug. 5 in Hong Kong, with 3,500 people from more than 70 countries.

The opening session of the Baptist World Alliance youth meeting featured traditional Chinese costumes and music from around the world—from bagpipes to steel drums.

Meeting once every five years, the Baptist Youth World Congress is sponsored by the youth department of the Baptist World Alliance. Young people travel from all over the world to participate. BWA will mark its centennial next July when the Baptist World Congress meets in England.

Yan Yin Lo, one of the thousands of Hong Kong youth participating, said she loved the music and was delighted to meet a lot of people. "I have never seen so many foreign people before," he said. "They are warm and friendly and speak English."

And after three days and nights of continuous travel, Sangra Gitor from India arrived in Hong Kong exhausted but excited. "All the tiredness was washed away," he said, during the opening session.

Donald Lawrence, BWA youth department president, urged the young people to "choose Jesus Christ, who brings true life."

"As young people you can get involved in things that can land you in trouble," Lawrence told the capacity crowd. "But there is no pretense in Jesus who wants to give you fullness of life. Choose Jesus who will guard your dignity."

Participants, who were welcomed by Sam Luke, president of the Hong Kong Baptist Convention, also heard how the gospel came to Hong Kong through missionaries in the early 1800s. Their legacy has today resulted in the 161 churches of the Hong Kong Baptist Convention, with 62,000 members.

For Judy Bailey, worship leader for the congress, the opening day was "a taste of heaven."

"I did not know what to expect when I came," she said. "I am very happy with how open people are and how many different cultures there are."

Bailey pointed out that, in the first half hour of the opening program, there was music from Jamaica, Norway, Hong Kong and elsewhere. "This encourages people to be pliant and respectful of each other," she said. "It encourages each of us to love each other and it's a good time to pray together."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Focus on the Family joins iVoteValues.** Focus on the Family has joined the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's iVoteValues.com voter registration initiative. Focus on the Family's James Dobson has teamed up with the ERLC's Richard Land to promote the iVoteValues call for Americans to vote their values rather than their political party or pocketbook. The two groups worked together to adapt the iVoteValues Web site and resources to reflect the cooperative effort.

**N.C. mountain missionary Tom Lolley dies.** Tom Lolley, 67, who served as a mountain missionary for North Carolina Baptists for 19 years, died July 22 in Asheville. Lolley, brother of former Baptist seminary president Randall Lolley, was a former western area missionary for the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

**Seminary Extension curriculum endorsed.** Southern Baptist Seminary Extension has passed its on-site course evaluation by the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service, according to Seminary Extension Director Bill

Vinson. It previously was re-accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council. Seminary Extension provides accredited courses in lay ministry and other fields through classroom instruction, Internet and CD courses and self-directed correspondence courses.

**Davis pioneers women's ordination.** Addie Davis, ordained to the gospel ministry in August 1964, is recognized as the first Southern Baptist woman to be ordained for pastoral ministry. Davis preached in an Aug. 8 service at Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., marking the 40th anniversary of her ordination. Urging listeners to hold firm to their spiritual commitments, she noted, "It is hard to wait. We want instant satisfaction."

**IMB correspondent joins N.C. staff.** Mike Creswell, a 24-year veteran of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, will join the staff of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina next month as senior consultant for Cooperative Program missions giving. Creswell served as associate editor of the IMB's Commission maga-

zine from 1980-88 and has worked since then as an IMB overseas correspondent and communications consultant for Europe, Northern African and the Middle East.

**Southern Seminary student dies.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student Joseph Doubles died of acute brain trauma Aug. 3 after falling from his bicycle. The master of divinity in Christian education student was 33. Doubles' accident occurred while he was riding his bike to work, said Brad Waggoner, dean of the seminary's school of leadership and church ministry in Louisville. Doubles' wife, Melanie, is a teacher at Whitefield Academy in Louisville.

**Inmates graduate from seminary program.** Six inmates in an Alabama prison recently graduated from a Baptist seminary program designed to train them for ministry. The six men, all inmates at the Bibb County Correctional Facility in Brent, Ala., received certificates of ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary after completing eight classes in the seminary's Extension Center System.

## Kentucky minister/chaplain ready for possible call up

By Jessica Perkins  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Irvington—A Kentucky Baptist pastor soon might find himself preaching on the desert sands of Iraq.

Jerry Shacklett, pastor of Irvington Baptist Church, also serves as a chaplain in a Kentucky National Guard unit based in Glasgow.

Every serviceman and woman faces challenges if deployed, but Shacklett is working to make plans for his personal family and his church family if he goes overseas.

Shacklett has served as pastor of Irvington Baptist Church since November 1997. He said the church has been supportive. Shacklett's family—wife Ruth Ann and children Julia Rose, 9; Ben, 5; and Rachel, 11 months—will continue to live in the parsonage should Shacklett go overseas, and church leaders have made plans to hire an interim pastor to serve at the church until he returns.

"(The church) has been very supportive," he said. "This is not a political thing to them, they see this as missionary work."

Shacklett has modeled the focus on this mission field through his work in the Kentucky National Guard. Previously, he served in the Air Force and Air National Guard. He worked as an electronic technician at Fort Knox for 11 years before following a call to ministry.

### Understanding God's call

Shacklett left the military briefly to pursue a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist



**ON-FIELD DEVOTIONAL** Jerry Shacklett, pastor of Irvington Baptist Church, is facing the possibility of being called into active duty as a chaplain for the Kentucky National Guard. "I would hate for them to go to war without a pastor."

Theological Seminary in Louisville. During that time, he said, he began to see how his ministry was useful to the military.

Shacklett said he felt called to be a chaplain after talking with a Southern Baptist military chaplain.

"He told me about a chaplain assistant position that was open," he recalled. "I already knew what the military was like, and I liked the military setting and people."

So he began his career as a military chaplain assistant, serving alongside the head chaplain until completing a degree at Southern and finishing the chaplain candi-

date program at Fort Jackson, S.C., in 2002.

He said his role involves leading religious services and providing support just like any other minister, although the setting can be more stressful for the congregation.

"I am the unit's pastor and I would hate for them to go to war without a pastor. When you are part of a unit you have camaraderie. There's a sort of brotherhood that makes you want to help with the mission," Shacklett said. "We want to do our job and get the mission done."

Younger soldiers often approach him with spiritual questions and

issues, he noted.

"There are so many young men and women, right out of high school making a lot of life decisions. I have seen soldiers led to Christ," he said. "If they're willing to listen, I'll talk to them about it."

### Leaving a void behind

Shacklett's possible absence could leave big shoes to fill in his community, as well. In addition to his duties as pastor and National Guard chaplain, Shacklett also volunteers as a first responder EMS worker and a chaplain for the local fire station.

Going overseas would mean more work for Mrs. Shacklett, a music teacher at Meade County Public Schools. She said her reliance upon God and her church would get her through the responsibilities of a full-time job and caring for three children.

"It's a little nerve-wracking to have him in a dangerous spot," she admitted. "But if he goes, the Lord will be with him."

The Shackletts have faced the possibility of deployment before.

"Ruth Ann has been very supportive and understands that God has called me," Shacklett said. "The children have a hard time understanding."

Mrs. Shacklett added: "The children don't understand the significance, but they know that Dad's doing something important. I have a little fear, but a peace about it. I feel for the soldiers there and know that they have spiritual needs too."

*"(The church) has been very supportive. ... They see this as missionary work."*

Jerry Shacklett, pastor of Irvington Baptist Church

## Kentuckian serving in Greece for Summer Olympics mission team

Continued from page 1

Scott has been in Greece for a couple months. He was part of an ISF team that led soccer, volleyball and basketball clinics June 12-22 for more than 75 teenagers.

After that event, Scott remained in Athens as a logistical organizer for ISF. That means developing project schedules for sports mission teams, organizing transportation and coordinating plans with team leaders.

His assignments have included working with an Athletes in Action team from Holland, another ISF team from Southwest Missouri State University, and the Olympics team.

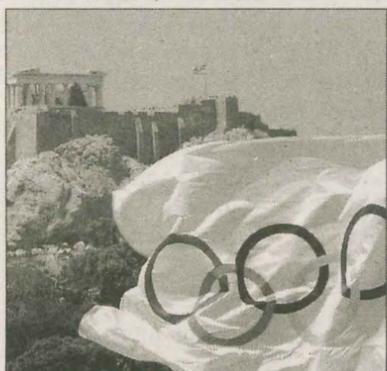
The International Sports Federation has dispatched more than 1,500 volunteers on over 200 projects, touching an estimated 20,000 people, according to its leaders.

During the Summer Games, Aug. 13-29, 31 ISF volunteers in Athens will conduct clinics in volleyball, basketball and baseball.

Scott, who is staying at First Church of Piraeus—an evangelical church in the port of Athens—said he's already seen three conversions to Christianity.

He befriended three teenage boys during the June sports clinic. In mid-July, the boys attended a Christian concert and made professions of faith in Christ as their Savior. Since then, they have been attending services at the evangelical church, Scott said.

Scott's summer work in Greece



has served a dual purpose. He's also earning credit hours toward his graduate degree in sports administration at the University of Louisville. That aligns with his career goal of one day working fulltime with the Olympic movement.

Sports are a natural entrée to meeting people, said Scott, a former pole vaulter.

"Sometimes it's hard to get into the 'in' group of Greek culture," Scott said. "But if you're willing to go out and play ball with them, they're willing to look past the fact you're an American. They appreciate you wanting to reach out and getting to know their culture."

### Walking where Paul walked

Learning about Greek culture included touring the ancient city of Corinth, where the apostle Paul spent two years of ministry and wrote five books of the New Testament.

Seeing tangible objects of where

### Cumberland athlete in Athens

Williamsburg—With more than 10,000 athletes from 200 nations competing in the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, at least one competitor has Kentucky Baptist ties.

Toccarra Montgomery, an elementary education major at Cumberland College, will represent the United States in the Olympics' first-ever women's wrestling event Aug. 22-23.

Montgomery, a four-time U.S. wrestling champion, currently is ranked second in the world in her weight class. After finishing second to Japan's Kyoko Hamaguchi in last year's World Championships, Montgomery defeated her top rival two weeks later at the World Cup.

While competing on the international level in wrestling involves extensive training and practice, Montgomery said, "It will teach you discipline and responsibility but it will also teach you a lot about yourself."

Montgomery "is not only an outstanding female athlete but a wonderful student at

well," said Cumberland College President Jim Taylor. "She reflects immense credit upon Cumberland College and will represent the USA exceedingly well in the Olympics. We are proud of her accomplishments."

Cumberland Athletic Director Randy Vernon noted that Montgomery's Olympic involvement "will be a great experience for her and it will be a lifetime dream to not only represent the United States but Cumberland College as well."

Montgomery's Olympic matches may be her final moments in the international spotlight. With one more season of wrestling at Cumberland before she graduates, Montgomery plans to pursue a career in teaching and coaching.

Hoping to teach first or second grade, she explained, "I love little kids. You can see them learning. It's just something amazing—and you are responsible for that."

Based on reporting by Jacob Sumner, Cumberland College sports information assistant

Paul stood made the Bible much clearer, Scott said.

As part of spiritual preparation for the Olympics, Scott and other ISF personnel have prayerwalked in areas where volunteers are now serving. They held daily devotions as a team and on Aug. 1 met with IMB missionaries in Greece, and journeymen from Russia and Europe.

Scott said Southern Baptists in the States can support ISF volunteers by praying for them during the Olympics, something the people in his hometown have done

on each of his mission trips.

They also can pray for the Greeks, who are concerned about the threat of terrorist attacks, Scott said.

"If something does happen as far as terrorist activity, I hope the church's message of hope will be shared with people who are in fear," Scott said. "Pray for the safety of the games and for the hearts of the people here. Pray the gospel will be presented to the people here (and that) God opens their hearts to the message of freedom found in Jesus Christ."

## 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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## Shaping a nation's future through prayer

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—All of us seem to be staggering under a load of fast-changing events and values in the nation.

Many people are asking, "But, what can we do?" First, we must never say, "There is nothing I can do!" This is just not true, especially of every Christian. Read carefully the following scriptures the Apostle Paul gave to young Timothy in a personal letter to him as he worked among the churches:

"I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence (dignity). For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

So we can do something—we can pray. We can do this personally, as families and together with other

Christians, on all levels of our relationships. To pray is to approach God Himself, Who can make a significant difference. He does answer the prayers of His people. Paul knew this firsthand in his own life and the distressing life of the people of God in the early churches. God heard His people as they prayed in the very hostile world of the Roman Empire, and "turned that Roman Empire upside down," saving multitudes and changing the world.

Now it is our turn. Paul exhorted Timothy and all believers. Paul did not see prayer as an option but as a divine command. God would change their world when they prayed, with supplications and intercessions. And this was to be done for "those who have the rule over us" (local, state and national leaders). We are facing a nation-determining election time. The leaders we earnestly pray for God may bring into leadership responsibilities, to guide us to be able to live "quiet and peaceable lives," and to live "in all godliness

## COMMENTARY

## Soul winning needed

The Western Recorder recently published a column to the effect that our entire convention was suffering from a decrease in baptisms, thus less evangelism results.

As a retired pastor but still active as a chaplain at one of Kentucky's juvenile justice facilities, I have some observations that might shed some light on the problem.

In the first place, our convention leadership has become sort of disinterested in souls being saved. A few years back a special Sunday, "Soul-Winning Commitment Day," was set aside especially for pastors to preach sermons making our laypeople aware of their need to seek to win at least one soul to Christ during that particular year.

This emphasis has been dropped from the Southern Baptist Convention calendar, and very little emphasis is being placed on soul-winning in the marketplace and house-to-house visitation. Wouldn't it be great if our pastors would challenge their people to get involved? The world cannot be won to Christ unless our laymen and laywomen realize the need of personal witnessing.

Secondly, our pastors need to take some time each week to knock on some doors, finding people who are unsaved and perhaps waiting for someone to share with them their need of Christ as Savior. James, the brother of Jesus, wrote, "Ye have not because ye ask not." Wouldn't this be true about churches who don't make many converts, mainly because so few are asking people to



## Welch's bus tour comes to Kentucky

Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is making a bus tour of 50 states in 25 days. His purpose is to listen, demonstrate his concern and challenge Baptists to renew their passion for sharing their faith.

The tour will arrive in Kentucky on Sept. 7. Welch will stop at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville for a rally and on-site witnessing experiences.

The rally will begin at 6 p.m. with inspirational music and a message by Welch. The rally will conclude with outreach witness to the community led by the local pastor, Kevin Ezell, and church members. Every Kentucky Baptist is encouraged to attend the rally and show your support for outreach.

Welch is known nationally for developing FAITH evangelism outreach through the Sunday school at First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla. Many Kentucky Baptist churches have used this training

for effective evangelism and outreach.

Highview Baptist Church has conducted numerous training clinics for FAITH leaders. Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville will celebrate its 10th anniversary of using FAITH on Aug. 20, having trained more than 100 people.

Welch obviously has a strong personal commitment to the Great Commission. He has demonstrated that he is willing to go everywhere possible and do everything he can to encourage Christians to share their faith.

This is not his first time to travel and speak on behalf of the mission of our Lord. He has traveled all over the country to promote FAITH. About three years ago, I attended the FAITH banquet at Crestwood Baptist Church of Frankfort to hear Welch speak. He had been on the road for days at that time.

I also witnessed Welch's own church members' commitment to

and reverence." We know that God would hear such prayer, for Paul adds that "this is good and acceptable in the sight of God."

But be careful to use Scriptures to guide you as you pray. And be careful to prepare your own life, so God can answer your praying. This scripture is just one of many you could use to guide you as you pray in this time of a national spiritual emergency.

Pray personally. Pray with your family, and guide them with spiritual leadership and example. Pray with them out loud, so they can hear your heart before God, and so they can watch God answer your praying. Lead and gather others to pray with you in small groups. Participate in your church's prayer meetings. Respond when the larger Christian community calls for corporate or regional praying.

The greatest contribution you can personally make during these days of "national decision" is to pray—as God has both urged, and commanded you to do.

Henry Blackaby is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

receive Christ as personal Savior?

Finally, we need to motivate the men in our churches to realize that they are the spiritual leaders in their homes and in our churches. There is no more vitally needed ministry than Christian men realizing that with a burden for the lost and a small amount of training, each could become a soul-winner. I pray that God will awaken the church to this greatly neglected ministry of personal soul-winning.

William L. Cook  
Morgantown

## What are you thinking?

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

sharing their faith. First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach hosted Crossover just ahead of the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando. As a participant, it was my privilege to observe the best-organized effort I have ever seen.

At a time when Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists are trying to rediscover a passion for evangelism, Bobby Welch is a leader "for such a time as this." Recently, I read that trained witnesses are twice as likely to share their faith as other Christians and are four times as likely to assist someone in coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

Several convention leaders will join the tour in Florence to share plans for evangelistic outreach in Kentucky.

I want to make a special appeal to pastors and Sunday school workers to attend the rally. If you can't attend, please pray for Bobby Welch and the rally and that you will renew your passion for sharing how God's grace has been demonstrated in your life.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

## Discover benefits of compiling a blessing list

By Jeremy White

I have written previously about a simple tool to counteract envy and coveting. This tool is called a blessing list.

I had misplaced my blessing list a few years ago and recently set about to

make a new one. Just like the hymnist says, "Count your many blessings ... and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

What is a blessing list? It is a rather simple, but powerful exercise:

■ Write at least 40 blessings that God has given you.

■ List very specific blessings (not the usual ones recited: health, family and country). Mention your child's unique laugh, your spouse's meaningful hugs, the health to enjoy your favorite sport, eating a fresh berry pie, and so on.

■ Complete it during several of your quiet meditation times with God.

■ Review it when you feel as if someone else has more than you or when you are tempted to give up family time to earn more money.

So many of our financial problems are rooted in poor financial attitudes. We are impatient, indulgent, envious and greedy. Our strong needs for approval and instant gratification lead us astray to buy cars, houses or clothes we can't afford.

To guard against these poor attitudes, make a blessing list. I am confident you would not want to trade your blessing list for anyone else's. I am certain you will see that you already are rich in blessings and don't have to buy the latest fashion, electronic item or the newest car.

God is surely disappointed when we Americans are not appreciative of what we have. Despite your financial challenges, I could think of one or two—or three billion people who would do just about anything to trade economic positions with you.

I thought I would have a hard time listing 40 blessings after losing my first list. But it wasn't very hard.

Your blessing list will help you have a more thankful heart, honor God by recognizing the source of the blessings in your life, guard against envy and help keep you from making unwise financial decisions.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Web site at [www.consultcpa.com](http://www.consultcpa.com).



## Forget your wife's birthday? Plan a belated celebration

**Q: My wife's birthday was a few weeks ago. I have never been good at expressing my feelings or planning ahead, so I did not do a good job of celebrating her birthday. She is upset, but birthdays were never a big deal in my family. How should I respond?**

For some people, a birthday is a big deal and the expectation is a celebration. In a marriage relationship you have the privilege of knowing your wife intimately. That means you have the opportunity to discover what is special and meaningful in her life. If her birthday is an event she considers special, it is likely she wants you to view that day as special and meaningful also. Love involves bringing joy to the lives of others, especially your spouse with whom you have made a lifelong commitment.

God made it clear in Scripture that important events are to be remembered and celebrated. The feasts and festivals referred to bear witness to this point. Jesus not only participated in commemorative events but also established them—the Lord's Supper.

Consider your wife's personality. If she is social, then choose a party or dinner with friends and family. If she is romantic, then plan a nice dinner for the two of you or an evening picnic. If she likes to travel, then a weekend getaway would be a gift well received. Take some time to talk to some of your wife's friends and family members who know her well. Write down their ideas and then use them to plan future celebrations.

For now, talk to your wife. Listen to her without being defensive. Try to understand her hurt and disappointment. Tell her what she means to you. Seek her forgiveness for any pain you may have caused her. And perhaps, invite her to a belated birthday celebration of her choosing.—*Valerie Vincent*

**Q: As a new church year begins, how can churches best make a difference in the lives of children?**

Most churches are trying hard to connect with children, experimenting with all kinds of gizmos, gadgets, programs and approaches, many of which are simply developmentally inappropriate. Too often, well-meaning leaders lose sight of that which is ultimately significant in the pursuit of that which is temporary, cute and colorful.

Family ministry leader Eugene Roehlkepartain says relationships are the key for churches helping kids. "We've got to shift away from over-reliance on programs and curriculum to a primary reliance on relationships. Our greatest gift (to children) ought to be our authentic presence with them."

Children's leaders in churches will do well to remember that they can give a child the one thing even the latest computer program or hottest video cannot offer: a caring, personal relationship. Ironically, in a world dominated and run by technology, attention and time probably are the things many children need most.

We should embrace the best technology and use the best resources available as we minister to children. However, we should remember that the most important component of any curriculum or learning experience always will be the teacher. When we think back on teachers who impacted our lives, most of us remember very little of what they said, but we do remember that they were there for us.

Instead of trying to compete with technology, teachers should work to get to know children and their families, and to build relationships with them. Is it easy? No. Is it messy? Yes. Is it worth it? Undoubtedly.—*David Garrard*

Family Forum writers are:

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



## Olympic fans can make world of difference

Millions of people in the United States and around the world will spend hours focusing their attention on Athens this week and next.

Of course, the appeal of the Olympics isn't limited to diehard sports fans. Countless viewers who won't watch another swim team relay, gymnastics routine or track event for the next four years are transformed into enthusiastic fans during the 17-day Olympic competition.

Why? In addition to the high-level sports competition, the Olympic Games feature international pageantry and human drama. Thousands of athletes from more than 200 nations have spent years training to compete this month as Olympians.

Despite heightened security concerns, doping scandals and rampant commercialism, the Olympics still primarily revolves around talented, dedicated athletes seeking to do their very best against fellow participants from around the globe. It is a modern testimony to sportsmanship in a spirit of peace and brotherhood.

Many Christian ministries also see the Olympics as an opportunity to serve and witness to the gathered international community. Even here in Kentucky, individual believers and local congregations can take an active role in ministering to Olympic athletes, organizers and spectators.

How? Through focused prayer on behalf of Olympic participants throughout the Summer Games.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union helped take the lead in that effort during the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City and is doing so again this year by producing a daily Olympic prayer guide. This year's 36-page prayer booklet was published in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions office.

The prayer guides include a daily Olympic schedule, devotionals and prayer requests. I had the privilege of writing one of the 17 devotionals for this year's prayer guide. Highlighting Christ's call for childlike faith in Mark 10:13-16, I wrote:

"Strolling through Centennial Olympic Park

during the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, our two pre-teen daughters met a couple of Canadian weightlifters. Emily and Audrey giggled and chatted with the two young men for a few minutes and shyly asked for their autographs.

"Although our family never had heard of the two young athletes before, the immediate attraction was that they were Olympians. They had dreamed big dreams, trained hard to make them come true and were now living those dreams in the international Olympic spotlight.

"Most people love to be in the presence of noted athletes, actors or other celebrities. The same was true in Bible times. Mark 10:13 notes that people were 'bringing children to Jesus so that He might touch them.'

"But the eager parents and their children gained far more than they anticipated. Jesus instructed His followers, 'Permit the children to come to Me ... for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'

"Jesus also warned the crowd, 'Whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.' He then began taking the youngsters in His arms and blessing them.

"Thousands of Olympic fans in Athens will clamor to see, touch or talk to Olympians. As exciting as those moments will be, they won't compare to meeting Jesus Christ, trusting Him as your spiritual Savior and receiving His eternal blessing in your life."

The devotional concludes with the prayer request that athletes and spectators "will discover the life-changing blessing of trusting Jesus Christ with simple, childlike faith."

While this year's prayer guides were distributed prior to the Olympics, you still can participate in prayer efforts throughout the Summer Games. In addition to cheering for your favorite athletes, take time to pray each day for the thousands of athletes and spectators gathered in Athens. Your prayers could help make an eternal difference in someone's life.

STRAIGHT  
FROM THE  
EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Empowering Kingdom Growth in Kentucky

By Bill Mackey

Louisville (BP)—With the closing of the 25-year-long Bold Mission Thrust emphasis, the Southern Baptist Convention was in desperate need of a captivating, compelling and clearly biblical vision. Empowering Kingdom Growth has filled that void.

The focus on becoming Kingdom individuals, families and churches has been inspiring. Each denominational entity must discover Kingdom vision, passion and commitment based on the teachings of Jesus.

Empowering comes from being intimately connected to Jesus Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit. We are empowered by experiencing the presence of God in personal and public worship. We recognize that we are completely dependent upon Holy God.

Empowering comes as we work together in the mission of our Lord at all levels and by all means. In Kentucky, we are asking every entity, association, church and Kentucky Baptist Convention staff member to focus on connecting all people to Jesus Christ. We have discovered that it is important for

some staff to pray while others plan and for groups to pray for the work of other groups.

In order to assist churches in connecting all people to Jesus Christ, nine KBC staff members participated in "Thy Kingdom Come" training conducted by the South Carolina Baptist Convention. It provides a spiritually focused planning process for local associations and churches. The South Carolina Baptist Convention has graciously permitted the process to be customized to each state convention.

The KBC staff has enlisted a variety of 15 churches and associations to pilot the "Thy Kingdom Come" planning process. If the pilot is successful this fall and winter, it could be used to provide a track for Kingdom growth. We are especially excited about how the process might be used by God to assist churches in turnaround growth. With a strong emphasis on three months of guided prayer, the prayer group will experience the power of God and begin to hear from God through the Holy Spirit, and the congregation will be empowered as they learn to manage conflict and

learn how to prevail in spiritual warfare.

If God wants to empower His church, why is it not happening? Jesus said that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled. We must ask God to give us a hunger for righteousness and passion for souls that cannot be filled with anything else.

Kentucky Baptists have set some big goals for reaching (in baptisms, a 46 percent increase) and developing people for Jesus Christ. Pray that individual Kentucky Baptists will be discontent until they are empowered for Kingdom growth and refuse to be distracted by any inside or outside influence.

As a former member of the South Carolina Baptist Convention staff, it has been gratifying to observe the growth of Empowering Kingdom Growth from a vision in the heart of Carlisle Driggers for the South Carolina Baptist Convention into a vision and process that has national and international appeal.

Pray fervently for Christians to see the vision and experience the passion for Empowering Kingdom Growth.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FIRST PERSON

## Workshop leaders stress need for coaches & mentors

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor



**"God is in the business of calling people."**

Ray Van Camp, director of church planting and development for Elkhorn Baptist Association

**Erlanger**—Some call it "coaching," and others call it "mentoring," but whatever the tag, more Kentucky Baptist churches need to find out how to do it, according to two speakers at last weekend's Super Saturday training event.

"I have a soapbox about this issue," said Brian Combs, collegiate minister at Northern Kentucky University.

"If we (Baptists) stay on the current course, we're dying," Combs said. "We have lost our passion for getting to know people and for pouring ourselves into people."

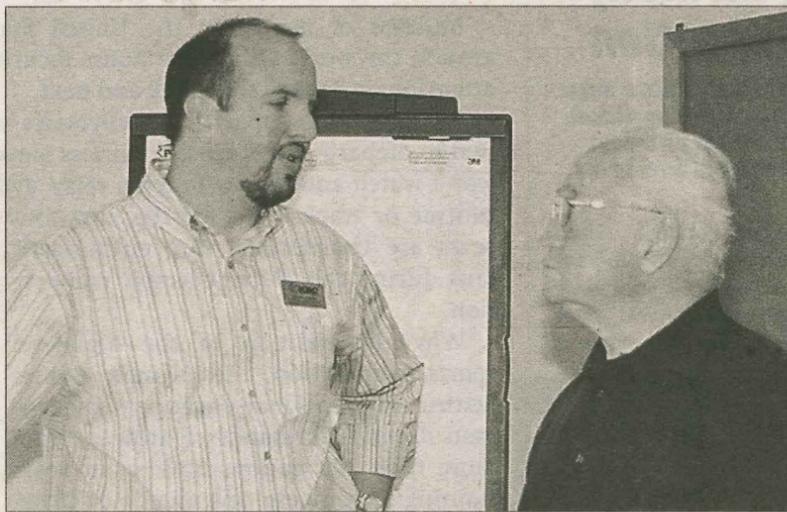
In a separate workshop, Ray Van Camp made a distinction between workers and leaders.

"Workers get the job done, but leaders have a deeper commitment," said Van Camp, director of church planting and development for Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington.

Combs and Van Camp said church leadership should be less concerned with filling positions and more concerned with helping believers find where God wants them to serve and then helping them become leaders themselves.

### God's vision or filling slots?

A coach "helps someone figure out how God's wired them and to discover their God-given vision," Combs said. The coaching process goes against the "microwave" tendency to take a volunteer and pop



**WORKSHOP CONVERSATION** Brian Combs (left), campus minister for Northern Kentucky University and Super Saturday leader, talks with one of the participants following a session. Combs led the training, "The Coaching Leader," at the event hosted by First Baptist Church of Erlanger. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

them into a slot with little attention to the person's gifts or sense of calling, he added.

"We're almost so busy we've taken God out of the equation," Combs said.

Van Camp added: "God is in the business of calling people." He noted that spiritual gift surveys and personality assessments are good tools, but should not be the only tools used to help a person find his or her niche of service.

"Can God call someone to ministry if they don't test well?" he asked. "That is a business model, not a spiritual model."

Coaching might take more time,

but Combs said he believes it takes less energy. "Coaching empowers others," he said, because it helps the "coachee" find his or her "passion zone," or "the thing you can do 24-7."

Supervising workers, which is often what many Sunday school directors, team leaders or pastors do, is more exhausting, Combs said. "Supervisors are always supervising," he said, noting that leaders who are supervisors experience "burn out" quicker.

### Insights from Jesus' ministry

One of the resources Van Camp used was adapted by LifeWay Chris-

tian Resources from Ken Hemphill's book, "The Antioch Effect: Eight Characteristics of Highly Effective Churches." It holds up Jesus as the ultimate coaching leader who developed other leaders, not workers.

Using Matthew 9:35-10:42, the text notes that Jesus:

- Modeled ministry, commissioning followers to do as He had done.
- Shared His passion and vision.
- Taught them to pray.
- Instructed, observed, affirmed and corrected.
- Provided resources.

Van Camp emphasized another observation, that Christ "was willing to give others authority and permission to do ministry."

"Workers are dependent on us and it feeds our ego," Van Camp said. "You have to give some things away if you train leaders. Sooner or later every one of us will not be able to be a leader anymore. It's about serving God, not being in charge."

Both presenters encouraged participants to use resources available through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and LifeWay to help make the transition to a coaching/mentoring style of leadership development.

"It's not a big-church or small-church issue, it's a people issue," Combs said. He added that anyone can be a coach, not just pastors, Sunday school directors or other formal church leaders. A good place to start, he said, is to ask yourself: "Do you have any goals in investing in others?"

## Consultants call Sunday school vital tool for growing church

Continued from page 1

"How do you grow a great Sunday school? It's going to take you being committed to it."

### Concerns about the future

In Erlanger, Wayne Jones told more than 200 people at the Super Saturday there that Sunday school continues to be "the best organization through which to reach people for Jesus Christ. ... You have the keys to the Kingdom of God. What are you going to do with them?"

Jones, associate leader of KBC's church development and evangelism team, said he had concerns about the future of many churches.

"If we don't change what's happening, the church is going to die," Jones said, noting that more than 500 Kentucky Baptist churches did not baptize a single person last year. Throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, approximately 10,000 churches failed to record a baptism, according to LifeWay Christian Resources' Annual Church Profile.

Referring to Matthew 16, Jones asked the Super Saturday participants, "What are you 'binding' here on earth? If we don't get our act together, we will be 'loosing' people for eternity."

Harmon encouraged pastors to consider teaching a class for new attendees, calling it a "great front door" that might increase the likelihood of visitors getting involved in Sunday school.

Harmon also advised pastors to call constant attention to Sunday school, adding that one of his

### Super Saturdays

Four more training conferences are scheduled throughout the commonwealth:

- Aug. 21 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.
- Aug. 28 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Sept. 11 at First Baptist Church of Somerset.
- Sept. 11 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

mistakes as a pastor was failing to communicate the importance of Sunday school from the pulpit.

"I should have asked for one or two minutes every week (for promotion)," he said. "People would say, 'If it's that important to the pastor, maybe we should think it's important, too.'"

"You can't give up on growing the church," Harmon added. "If your church needs help, the Kentucky Baptist Convention will come to you."

Referring to a chart by noted management consultant Arthur Flake, he outlined several "rules of engagement" for growing Sunday school. Among them:

■ **Know your possibilities.** Those in a transitional area might want to offer transportation, or evening classes for migrant workers, Harmon said.

Meeting needs is another way of making an impact, he said, such as buying clothes and baby formula

for a single mother.

■ **Enlarge the organization.** If each class appoints a teacher, secretary, outreach leader and three care group leaders, increasing the personal touch will attract more people, Harmon said.

"The teacher sets the tone," he said. "If it's only content driven and there's no personal tone, are we reaching people?"

■ **Enlist and train workers.** Pastors who stay connected to their teachers—inviting them to one-on-one sessions, calling them and seeing them as their key outreach leaders—will think differently about Sunday school, Harmon said.

"This is going to test your leadership abilities," he warned. "But many churches in our convention have made the transition. It's not easy, but if God has called you to that church, it's possible."

"It will take a lot of hard work and pain," Harmon said. "There will be resistance and you will face obstacles. But you have to have determination and know what God has called you to do."

About 385 people attended the Owensboro conference. That was part of a turnout of 3,000 forecasted statewide by Dan Garland, team leader for church development and evangelism.

### Super Saturday's emphasis

The first Super Saturday since founder Vernon Cole retired, Garland said this year's is taking a slightly different approach.

Garland said more emphasis is

being placed on pastoral training, such as conferences for bivocational pastors that will be held in Paducah and Somerset.

"We're focusing on helping our pastors strengthen Sunday school and be the leader in our small churches," Garland said. "We hope more pastors will come with their churches. We'd love to see an increase in the number of Sunday school units."

The training conferences are also attuned to goals set by the KBC missions study committee, he said. Those include 25,000 baptisms per year over the next five years, 80 percent retention rate for new members, and 5,000 new Bible studies.

Garland said the statewide settings for the six sessions are valuable to state convention personnel.

"It helps us stay in touch with what's going on in the churches," Garland said. "It's as important as us giving them information."

The Super Saturday events began with a video message from KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey who encouraged the participants to plan to attend a special time of training for Kentucky Baptists Connect on Nov. 17. One item on the agenda is the results from a George Barna survey on unchurched people in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Baptists Connect training will be held in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting Nov. 16-17 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

With additional reporting by Partnerships Editor Dannah Prather

**"If your church needs help, the Kentucky Baptist Convention will come to you."**

French Harmon, a church strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## 'Prepare the Way'



**PRaise & WORSHIP** Approximately 1,400 people attended the opening service of the crusade at Livingston Central High School in Smithland. The event was organized by the 40 churches of Ohio River Baptist Association.

### Organizers say they hope excitement from Western Kentucky revival grows

By Keith Todd  
State Correspondent

**Smithland**—With 71 professions of faith and 33 other conversions, sponsors say they are pleased with the results of the "Prepare the Way 2004" evangelistic crusade for Livingston and Crittenden counties.

The six-night event, sponsored by 40 churches in Ohio River Baptist Association, featured Alabama evangelist Randy Hogue.

About 500 people attended the first meeting, a joint Sunday morning worship service for eight churches, held at Rocket Arena in Marion, according to Ken Cummins, director of missions for Ohio River Baptist Association.

About 1,400 people attended the opening evening service at Livingston Central High School in Smithland. Evening services were held there Sunday through Friday.

The school was an ideal location to attract people who normally don't attend church, Cummins said.

"A lot of folks will not walk into a church building," Cummins said. "We wanted a setting where everyone would feel comfortable. ... This is an opportunity to bring lost people in and share the gospel in a powerful way. That was our No. 1 goal."

A second goal was to inspire Christians who had lost enthusiasm for their faith, he added.

"This crusade is a way to bring them back, because in this day and time, especially with the spiritual battle and cultural war we face as Christians, we need to be awakened and allow the power of a sovereign God to bring a revival," Cummins said.

Ohio Valley Association churches organized prayer support for the crusade in the weeks before the crusade, concluding with a prayer walk just before the first evening service began.

Hogue emphasized that what happens in the weeks after a crusade can be more important than the attendance and decisions recorded during the event.

"If it has been successful, God has used it to ignite a fire in those Christians to see a revival fire burn, and



#### WORSHIP LEADER

Michael Smith, music minister at The Potters House, leads praise and worship for the "Prepare the Way" crusade. (Photos by Keith Todd)

then in turn they'll share Jesus with their friends," Hogue said. "Churches in the community will grow as a result. The spirit will be much more powerful. They'll have more visitors because people hear about what God is doing."

Jerry Thurman, pastor of Marion Second Baptist Church, agrees that getting God's people excited about the gospel is an important element of the crusade.

#### Preaching to the choir

"A part of revival is to preach to the choir and encourage the choir to get on fire," Thurman said. "It's been 120 years since we've had a great awakening and that's what we're praying for."

Organizers are working now to connect people who made spiritual decisions at the crusade with a local church.

"Those who are successfully doing crusade ministries, like the Billy Graham people, put a lot of effort into connecting people with a local church," Cummins noted. "We had enough counselors to work with people one-on-one. ... If they put a denomination other than Baptist as their church preference, then we'll get that card to someone who will follow up."

Cummins says there's no better way to achieve spiritual growth than by being involved in a local group of believers.

"There's nothing like getting back into a local church and having a church family," he said. "I hear folks say, 'If I go back to that church the roof is gonna fall in.' I always tell them, 'You go on back, it's well supported by great trusses. You get on in there.'"



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## In Charley's path



**DESTRUCTIVE WINDS**  
Hurricane Charley struck the campus of Orlando's First Baptist Church on Aug. 13. Gusts reaching 145 mph caused extensive damage to a building that houses meeting rooms and a kitchen. (Florida Baptist Witness photo by James Smith)

### Baptist volunteers mobilize to minister to hurricane victims

**North Point, Fla. (BP)**—Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers from throughout the southeastern United States have mobilized to aid victims and join other workers in recovery efforts in Florida.

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers were on standby early this week, with the possibility that they might be activated to help with clean up, according to Larry Koch, director of disaster relief for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men's ministries department.

On Aug. 13, Hurricane Charley cut a swath of destruction from the Gulf of Mexico near Punta Gorda, Fla., crossing northeast to reach the Atlantic Ocean near Daytona Beach before heading north to lash the Carolinas as a weaker storm.

Fritz Wilson, Florida Baptist Disaster Relief director, described the destruction as extensive, saying, "The state was pounded by Hurricane Charley yesterday.

"There is severe damage and multiple power outages across the state along the entire path of the storm."

#### 1 million people without power

The Florida Division of Emergency Management confirmed that 13 people were killed and the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated that 50,000 people were in shelters and another million were without electricity. Florida officials have requested that FEMA provide catastrophic housing assistance for 10,000 households.

Florida Baptist Disaster Relief and SBC Disaster Relief are "mobilizing units from across the country to come to provide assistance," Wilson said.

The following units have been activated:

**Florida.** Two feeding units are assigned to North Point, Fla., working from South Biscayne Baptist Church, which will serve as the Florida command post.

**Tennessee.** A feeding and a clean-up unit are assigned to McGregor Baptist Church, Fort Myers, Fla.

**Georgia.** Feeding, communica-

tion and recovery units are assigned to Wauchula, Fla.

**Mississippi/Alabama.** A combined feeding team from both states is assigned to Arcadia, Fla.

**Louisiana.** A feeding unit was staged in Mobile, Ala., this weekend, awaiting assignment.

**Alabama.** Feeding, shower and communication units were assigned to Arcadia, Fla.

Additionally the SBC's North American Mission Board is sending two shower units, one of which will be set up in North Port.

Financial donations can be sent to: Hurricane Charley Relief, Florida Baptist Convention, 1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207. Currently, the disaster relief operations are not prepared to receive collected items of any type.

Advertisement

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

# Alaska Cruise

## And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On June 10, 2005, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. Billy Williams on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Williams, now retired, served as a Baptist Minister for 45 years. For 23 years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gautier, MS. He and his wife Rebecca have cruised Alaska's inside passage before. They look forward to returning as hosts for our Baptist group visiting the land of the midnight sun during the year's longest daylight hours.

Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Zaandam. **Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.**

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### RECOGNITION OF DECEASED KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The 2004 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Date of death
4. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
5. Name of church where member, association, state where located
6. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before August 31 to:

Executive Office  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
PO Box 43433  
Louisville KY 40253-0433  
ATTN: Wanda Karolyi  
e-mail address: Wanda\_Karolyi@KYBaptist.org

These obituary entries will be reported to the 2004 KBC annual meeting in Lexington. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

## Supreme court in California voids 4,000 same-sex marriage licenses

Sacramento, Calif. (RNS)—California's Supreme Court last week voided the marriages of nearly 4,000 gay couples who wed in San Francisco last spring, ruling that Mayor Gavin Newsom did not have the authority to flout state marriage laws.

The court said local officials are not permitted to ignore laws they disagree with, and sidestepped the larger question of whether it is unconstitutional to deny civil marriage rights to gay couples. That decision would have to come in a separate case, the court said.

"In actuality, the legal issue before us implicates the interest of all individuals in ensuring that public officials execute their official duties in a manner that respects the limits of the authorities granted to them as officeholders," Chief Justice Ronald George wrote for the court.

State law and a voter-approved ballot initiative both define marriage in California as a union between a man and a woman.

Newsom argued both laws violate constitutional provisions that guarantee equal protection and non-discrimination.

Newsom's challenge, along with a court ruling in Massachusetts that allowed gay marriages starting in May, prompted President Bush to publicly support a federal constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

In a separate 5-2 vote, the court declared that the 4,000 marriage licenses issued between Feb. 12, when Newsom issued the first certificate, and March 11, when the court ordered a halt, are "void and of no legal effect."

Several gay and lesbian couples had already filed suit in San Francisco County Superior Court challenging state laws that prohibit gay marriage.

That case eventually could make its way to the state Supreme Court for a final ruling on gay marriage, Associated Press reported.

Conservatives who filed suit to stop the marriage licenses hailed the court ruling and said it proved that Newsom's open challenge to the law had backfired.

"Instead of helping his cause, Mayor Newsom has set back the same-sex marriage agenda and laid the foundation for the pro-marriage movement to once and for all win this battle to preserve traditional marriage," said Mathew Staver, president of Liberty Counsel, which filed suit on behalf of the Campaign for California Families.

## Making values matter

Business leaders recognizing value of 'spiritual quotient'

By Todd Svano  
Associated Baptist Press

Chaska, Minn. (ABP)—As a parade of former Enron executives defend themselves before a federal grand jury during August, a new era is emerging in American business, according to business leaders and consultants.

The Enron scandal represents a pendulum swing toward an era of business reform, said consultant Ken Jennings, who has worked with more than 25 Fortune 500 companies in the last six years.

Now values that Christians hold dear are being road-tested in some office suites around the country.

But deep-rooted reform won't occur overnight, said Jennings, a Christian who helps companies build businesses that are above reproach.

"Quick-fix solutions to ethical problems won't work for businesses that have an anything-for-the-bottom-line approach," he said.

### No simple anti-Enron pill

Criminal charges have been brought against more than 30 Enron employees thus far, many of whom investigators claim faked telephone calls and made imaginary stock trades.

So how can someone reform a business culture that rewards deception?

"You can't just take the anti-Enron pill," said business consultant Susan Van Vleet, who agrees with Jennings that business foundations need rebuilding. "A thousand things prop up a culture of immorality and greed, so no single change will turn it around."

Warped priorities become deeply entrenched, she said. "Business schools teach that only profits count. There is a belief that obscene stock options for CEOs and executives are the best way to attract talent. Current incentives support people cutting corners and cheating."

Even new and improved business ethics courses are failing, said Van Vleet. "Students' ethics scores actually decline while in many MBA programs."

"All of a sudden, we're in a moment of time in which the

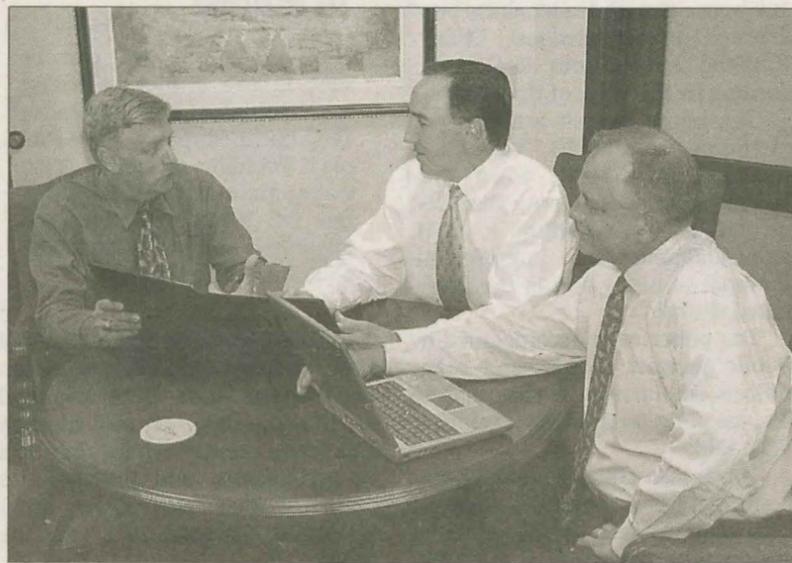
## President Bush to Larry King: You can't separate faith & life

Washington (BP)—Answering objections that he is too open about his Christian faith, President Bush said last week that his faith is inseparable from the rest of his life.

In an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," Bush also defended his position on embryonic stem cell research and same-sex "marriage."

King asked Bush about his faith and noted that Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry received applause at his party's convention when he said, "I don't wear my own faith on my sleeve."

King asked Bush, "Does (your) faith come to the office?"



**HIRING LEADERS** Ken Jennings (left), business consultant and co-author of "The Serving Leader," talks with Entegris board chair Stan Geyer (center) and CEO Jim Dauwalter. Entegris is adapting its hiring process to screen for employees with values. (ABP photo by Todd Svano)

business world is throwing up its hands and listening for another model of leadership," Jennings said.

### Self-serving or servant leaders?

Jennings tried to answer that call last year with a book, "The Serving Leader," that steers businesses away from self-serving models. The first principle in creating a growing and sustainable work culture is simple, Jennings said. "Good people make good companies."

"Self-serving leaders create self-serving followers, and self-serving followers do only what they're told. They lack ingenuity and overall responsibility," said Jennings, whose consulting business is based near Detroit.

"Self-sacrificing leaders, on the other hand, serve their workers and see them as a precious resource. They are willing to divest themselves of power when necessary to remove barriers to their workers' success, unleashing workers' gifts or strengths. They're not threatened by their workers' promotions."

"Putting yourself first and pursuing profit at any cost produces a culture that takes short cuts," said Brad McMahon, director of human resources at Entegris Corp., headquartered in Chaska, Minn., where 50 upper-level managers are adopting Jennings' serving leader model. Personal integrity is good for the bottom line of any business, McMahon said.

Entegris is an international

semi-conductor packaging company that grosses over \$300 million annually. Already employing 1,800 people, the company wants to hire another 1,000 in the coming decade. In doing so, Entegris leaders are committing to hiring people as much for who they are as for what they can do, said McMahon.

### Valuing virtues

Placing human virtues such as goodness, faithfulness and honesty alongside technical skills and competence makes sense for Entegris and other employers, Jennings said. "If you hire people just for their functional skills, like accounting or strategic planning, and not for their underlying integrity, you're inviting problems," he said.

McMahon, who has been hiring for 28 years, agreed. "Research supports this trend," he said, citing figures from Harvard, Gallup and the Hay Group. "It is easier to find people with business acumen and leadership gifts. But now we're looking for a third dimension, people who have values and character."

Entegris board chairman Stan Geyer goes even further. "It used to be that businesses measured IQ. Then human resources were supposed to measure prospective employees' EQ or emotional quotient," he said. "Now we're seeing the importance of a person's SQ or spiritual quotient. You have to bring all three of those parts of who you are to the workplace or you're really missing something."

cell research.

But the president and first lady noted that current laws do not ban embryonic stem research.

"To say that we have banned embryonic stem cell research is simply not the truth," the president said. "But to say that I do care about human life is the truth."

Supporters of embryonic stem cell research argue that embryonic stem cells may hold the key for curing a range of diseases.

Others oppose stem cell research because it involves the destruction of the embryo—a process that they consider immoral.

"We're in a moment of time in which the business world is throwing up its hands and listening for another model of leadership."

Business consultant  
Ken Jennings

## Dead Sea Scrolls on display again

Jerusalem (RNS)—Visitors to Jerusalem may once again view the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The scrolls, the oldest surviving biblical texts, had been stored while a wing of the Israel Museum designed to house the ancient texts underwent extensive renovations.

The scrolls were discovered at Qumran, in the Judean Desert, decades ago. Some were found nearly intact while others were reduced to tiny fragments that scholars around the world have painstakingly pieced together. The scrolls survived because they were stored in jars in an extremely dry climate.

In addition to the scrolls, museum visitors can view the Aleppo Codex, the famed hand-written Bible from the 10th century, as well as never-before-seen scroll fragments excavated from Qumran.

The renovation of the Shrine of the Book includes the installation of state-of-the-art technology that controls climate as well as a "face lift" of the wing's signature round white roof, which was modeled to resemble the lids of the jars in which the scrolls were discovered.

# 100 Chinese church leaders arrested

Bartlesville, Okla. (BP)—More than 100 house church leaders have been arrested in westernmost China's Xinjiang Autonomous Region, according to The Voice of the Martyrs.

The house church leaders were attending a July 12 "co-workers meeting," or retreat, when they were surrounded by more than 200 military police, according to VOM, an Oklahoma-based interdenominational ministry aiding the persecuted church.

The police were accompanied by Public Security Bureau and other officers who arrived at the scene in 40-plus police and military vehicles, VOM said.

The house church meeting was being held to train and encourage Christian workers in the Xinjiang region, with a population of 17 million, 60 percent of whom are the mostly Muslim Uyghur people.

All of the house church leaders remained in custody as of July 27, Todd Nettleton, VOM director of news services, told Baptist Press. "It appears they're not going to be released anytime soon," he said.

The order for the raid "had to come from fairly high up ... from someone with a lot of pull" in order to orchestrate such a show of force, Nettleton added.

The Ying Shang Church, a large house church network headquartered in China's Anhui Province, sponsored the meeting.

## To protest

Letters of protest can be sent to the Chinese Embassy in Washington at: Ambassador Yang Jiechi, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 2300 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008. The embassy's telephone number is (202) 328-2500; fax, (202) 588-0032.

Authorities shaved the heads of about a dozen detainees, Nettleton said. Several have been confined in the so-called "Transformation and Study Center" where they will be interrogated and pressured to renounce their faith under threat of formal charges and a trial, he added.

Thirty of the leaders were being held by the Public Security Bureau near the retreat center. The rest have been transported back to their home areas and are being held by the PSB in their respective areas.

VOM sources said those who were from other provinces were treated differently after the arrest. In China it is illegal to cross a provincial border to hold religious meetings without approval from the Religious Affairs Bureau and the state-sponsored Three Self Patriotic Movement church. Sources told VOM that police already have contacted the home villages of those from outside Xinjiang,

seeking additional information about their religious activities.

Among those confirmed to have been arrested are Wang Yu Lian, a leader in the Ying Shang Church for more than 20 years, and Jin Da, the 34-year-old general secretary of the Three Self Patriotic Movement of Ningbo City in China's Zhejiang Province. Jin has 46 TSPM churches under his leadership but reportedly is supportive of unregistered house churches as well.

"This is yet another example of the Chinese government's harassment and persecution of unregistered church groups," Nettleton said. "We encourage Christians around the world to pray for these brothers and sisters, and to call the Chinese embassy on their behalf."

In China's Sichuan Province, 40 house church leaders also were arrested while attending a training seminar July 17 in the city of Cheng Du—along with a Taiwanese couple who were leading the seminar.

All 40 have been released, but the whereabouts of the Taiwanese couple is unknown. VOM sources said it is likely they will be deported and blacklisted by the Chinese government.

Nettleton contrasted the arrests with Chinese official's claims of religious freedom.

"These cases and the hundreds like them show that to be a complete farce," he said.

## Observers fear Kazakhstan law targets Baptists

Astana, Kazakhstan (BP)—As increased fines and pressure on unregistered Baptists continue in Kazakhstan, some religious observers are wary of a new law designed to "combat extremist activity."

Observers say the frequency of government officials pressuring religious groups—especially Baptists—has increased.

Asan Abylkhanov, the leader of a church in Karatau, was found guilty of "refusal to register" and was fined seven times the minimum monthly wage in his region.

In April, police raided a Baptist service in northern Kazakhstan, filming those present.

The latest law, currently being processed in the lower chamber of Kazakhstan's parliament, authorizes a state agency to study and make recommendations to ban the work of religious associations viewed as counter to the laws against religious extremism.

Observers fear the new law could be used against any faith group that authorities dislike, as it gives no definition of religious extremism.

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### Advancing God's Kingdom in the future

#### Legacy gifts make eternal impact on church, ministries

The title of this column could be the theme of any church, association or church-related ministry such as an educational institution, children's home, hospital, newsjournal, foundation, camp, mission board or mission support organization. It could be the theme of every generation of Christians.

Through the ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, it is my joy to assist individuals and families who have been grasped by God's call in their lives to use some of the financial resources He has entrusted to them "to advance His Kingdom in the future" through the mission of one or more of the church-related ministries with which they are affiliated, including their church. They are men and women of a variety of stations in life—affluent and not so affluent. They are dedicated to Christ and His mission in the world.

Regardless of your station in life, you, too, should consider some kind of legacy gift "to advance God's Kingdom in the future." Give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you to deter-

mine the legacy giving method or methods most appropriate for your circumstances and to accomplish your wishes.

Perhaps the simplest and most appropriate method for you is a bequest provision in your will or revocable living trust. You might own a cash-value life insurance policy, and the purpose for which you purchased it years ago no longer exists. There are several ways such a policy could be used to make a legacy gift. The giving of retirement assets, appreciated real estate, stocks, bonds or mutual funds constitutes a possible tax-advantaged method of making a legacy gift. Charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities offer you both tax advantages and life income opportunities. Finally, a charitable lead trust offers you a way "to advance the Kingdom" now and provide for your family later.

These "advancing the Kingdom" ideas deserve your prayerful consideration. Call us toll-free.

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

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

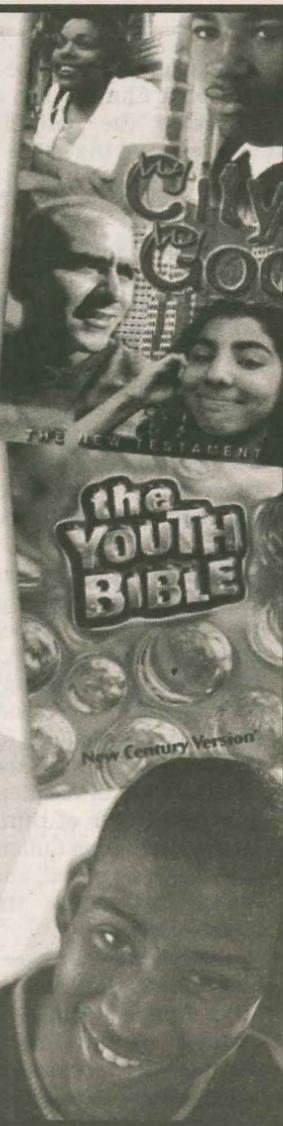
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### Kudzu



Doug Marlette

### For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

### Bible Crosswords

Teri Grottko

#### Across

- 1 "For they considered not the \_\_\_ of the loaves" (Mark 6:52)
- 7 "In the days of Noah, while the \_\_\_ was a preparing" (1 Peter 3:20)
- 10 "The sons of Carmi; \_\_\_" (1 Chronicles 2:7)
- 11 Word in a command
- 12 U.S. state named after Elizabeth I (abbr.)
- 13 Where the action is
- 14 "Those that walk in pride he is able to \_\_\_" (Daniel 4:37)
- 16 What the wife of Phinehas named their son (1 Samuel 4)
- 18 Father of Eliud (Matthew 1:14)
- 20 City near Bethel
- 22 "Thy right \_\_\_ shall save me" (Psalm 138:7)
- 23 Used to make powder
- 24 "Let tears run down like a river ... give thyself no \_\_\_" (Lamentations 2:18)
- 26 Former name of Bethel (Genesis 28:19)
- 28 "The rock poured me out \_\_\_ of oil" (Job 29:6)
- 32 "As he saith also in \_\_\_" (Romans 9:25)
- 34 Wait, often
- 35 Compass dir.
- 36 Related to the camel
- 38 Forty-niner's destination (abbr.)
- 39 Father of Ahihud (Numbers 34:27)
- 41 \_\_\_ what?
- 42 State on the Pacific (abbr.)
- 43 Redact
- 44 Roger Williams' state (abbr.)

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- 46 Reach out and touch someone (abbr.)
- 47 "I \_\_\_ hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14)
- 48 Frustrate
- 50 "And on the wall of \_\_\_ he [Jotham] built much" (2 Chronicles 27:3)
- 52 "Yet had he the \_\_\_ of the spirit" (Malachi 2:15)
- 17 "\_\_\_ be thy name" (Luke 11:2)
- 19 Atlantic seaboard state (abbr.)
- 21 "And Phares begat \_\_\_" (Matthew 1:3)
- 25 Son of Japheth (1 Chronicles 1:5)
- 27 Simon \_\_\_ (Acts 1)
- 29 Exec.
- 30 "The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like \_\_\_" (Ruth 4:11)
- 31 Slow goer
- 33 Shade tree
- 35 Son of Noah
- 37 "To meet the Lord in the \_\_\_" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 40 "He that eateth of this bread shall \_\_\_ for ever" (John 6:58)
- 45 Borrower's woe
- 46 "In all matters of wisdom ... the king ... found them \_\_\_ times better" (Daniel 1:20)
- 47 Simile syntax
- 49 Greek letter
- 51 Part of middle-school curriculum (abbr.)
- 1 "Is therefore Christ the \_\_\_ of sin? God forbid" (Galatians 2:17)
- 2 Chemical symbol
- 3 "I am glad of the coming of ... Fortunatus and \_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 16:17)
- 4 Small fish used as bait
- 5 Political party in Great Britain
- 6 Where life and death decisions are made (abbr.)
- 7 As sons of God, what we can call Him (Galatians 4)
- 8 Stretch
- 9 Parent
- 12 "Surely there is a \_\_\_ for the silver" (Job 28:1)
- 15 Where the Emims were smote, in \_\_\_ Kiriathaim (Genesis 14)

#### Last week's solution

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## Logos help churches convey ministry vision, priorities

**"Branding, slogans and logos are all about reaching people."**

Woody Murray, LifeWay Christian Resources' brand manager

By Brooklyn Noel  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—McDonald's has a golden arch, Nike has a swoosh and the American Red Cross has, well, a big red cross.

Such symbols help set companies and organizations apart and convey a clear brand image to the public. But can the same concept apply to churches?

When Dixie Lee Baptist Church outreach director Brian McKinley told church leaders he felt it was "time to refresh our image," they agreed. The first step: updating the 1970s-era church logo.

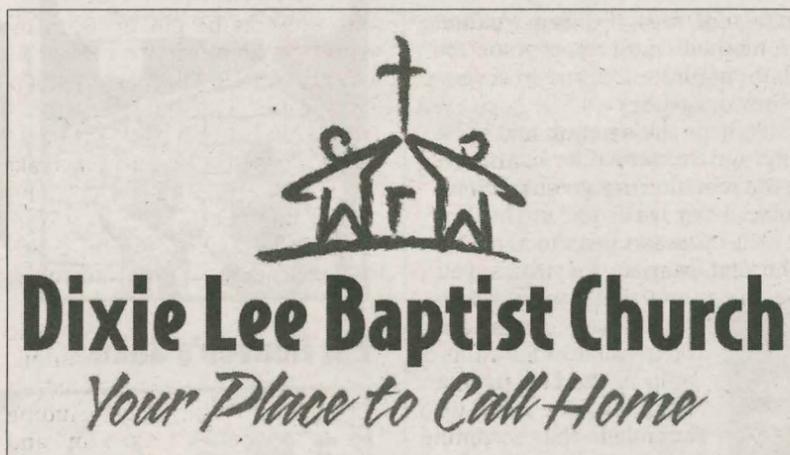
So, the Loudon County, Tenn., church turned to LifeWay Christian Resources for a custom logo design. Dixie Lee Baptist's new logo now graces the cover of new ministry brochures, updated in-house information and "just about everything we're printing now," McKinley said.

Church leaders are beginning to recognize the power of logos and the impact a logo can have on a brand, McKinley said. "We're growing up in a sight and sound generation, and you have to get their attention somehow."

LifeWay's brand manager Woody Murray said a logo is one of the best ways to set a church apart, especially in an area with many congregations. "You want people to remember your church."

Murray said he often uses Matthew 5:16 (which begins "Let your light shine before men") to help explain the purpose of a logo.

"You have to let people know you're there," he said. "Your



**LOGO POWER** The new church logo for Dixie Lee Baptist Church in Loudon County, Tenn., communicates the congregation's commitment to being "Your Place to Call Home" for area residents. "This logo has meaning and purpose," said outreach director Brian McKinley, "whereas the last logo just kind of displayed the church name."

church may have exactly what they (local residents) need, but they may not know you're there."

### Shaping public perception

Murray explained that a church's logo helps mold public perception, which ultimately helps establish the brand of the church. "People determine what you are, but you can shape what they think," he said.

Dixie Lee is one of four churches to use LifeWay's custom logo package since the service was launched about six months ago, said Cathy Brown, a marketing coordinator for LifeWay's Christian Stores.

"We've had calls for years asking if LifeWay did designer logos," Brown said. "Now we do."

LifeWay offers the options of

choosing a pre-designed logo or having one specially designed. Church leaders who want custom logos fill out a profile survey so designers can become familiar with the church's vision and personality.

For less than \$1,500, churches can purchase a custom logo package that includes five preliminary designs, a CD-ROM with the final design in various file formats and a business card design with up to eight names and titles. The package also includes a printer-ready stationery package with designs for letterhead and envelopes. Ready-made logos also are available.

Often, as in the case of Dixie Lee Baptist Church, the aim is to incorporate the church's vision into the logo. Dixie Lee Baptist's

slogan—"Your place to call home"—along with its logo was designed to convey the message that everyone is welcome at the church, including families, single parents and unmarried adults.

"This logo has meaning and purpose, whereas the last logo just kind of displayed the church name," McKinley said.

### Logo pointers

Murray encouraged church leaders to look for unique ways to influence their communities through branding, slogans and logos. "Everybody has a cross," he said. "You need something to help you stand out."

The biggest mistake people make when considering a slogan is choosing one that focuses on the church rather than on what the church has to offer its members, he said.

"Churches tend to brag on how they are rather than communicate how they meet needs in the community," Murray said. "Come up with a slogan and put it in terms of what it means to people. Branding, slogans and logos are all about reaching people."

For more information about LifeWay's logo services, call (800) 443-8032 or visit [www.lifewaystores.com/specialtyimprints](http://www.lifewaystores.com/specialtyimprints).



## 'No lack of work to be done'

### Oneida students experience pride & challenges of summer work program

By Judy Lawson  
Oneida Baptist Institute Dean of Students

One of the wonderful ministries at Oneida Baptist Institute is our summer work program, which begins at the end of the school year in May.

Several of our students either stay three weeks after school is out in May, or opt for the three weeks prior to the new school year. They work to supplement the reduced tuition paid by their parents.

There is no lack of work to be done in the summer. Some students choose the farm, while others work with houseparents in the dormitories. Some of the boys work with Mr. Jaspersen, our boys' work program supervisor.

Oneida's work program is a wonderful teaching tool. It is surprising how many students come to us having little or no work experience. During the regular school year and summer school, the students have a daily job that lasts one to one and a half hours per day. They clean classrooms and bathrooms, sweep, mop, wash pots and pans, and do other duties that are required in adulthood. The summer work program takes cleaning a step further. In the dormitories we begin with sweeping and general cleaning. Next, furniture is cleaned and relocated so we can wash walls and paint the rooms. Then a crew will machine scrub the floors to remove built-up dirt. After the floors are waxed and shined with a burnishing machine the furniture is brought back in, clean curtains are hung and we are ready for the next inhabitants. The students are very proud of their accomplishments and eager for compliments.



W.F. Underwood

In the girls' dormitory, girls typically are assigned to jobs in pairs, and have a detailed list telling them exactly what to do and how to do it. The girls each sign the sheet so the houseparents know who did the work. The houseparents coordinate the work and maintain necessary supplies and equipment. When the jobs are checked and approved, the girls are assigned to a new job. If the work was not OK, the girls who did the work must return to satisfactorily complete the job. Holding them accountable gives them a real sense of accomplishment.

Floor care is hard work and it is amusing to watch the girls who did the work protect their investment of time and effort. They keep a watchful eye for that girl who starts to scuff the floor by dragging her laundry basket down the hall and are quick to reprimand her, telling her how long it took them to get the floor to look so nice.

During every work program we have two or three students who really do not want to work and need a little prodding to keep them on task. Most, however, are eager to do whatever is asked of them. Last Saturday we took our kids to Unity Baptist Church in Ashland to see the drama, "Judgment House." We arrived home at 1 a.m. to discover that one of the freezers had quit. Three staff members were moving a huge amount of frozen food to another freezer. Our boys got off the bus and 13 of them went straight to the freezer. It is wonderful to see the students develop a sense of "family responsibility" at Oneida. We all help each other when and where we can—even if we lose a few hours' sleep.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

## Work as unto the Lord

### Student wife and mother of three receives workshop

The Clear Creek student workshop program employs 74 students or dependents and involves nearly \$450,000 of our budget. Each year supervisors honor two employees with the Excellence in Work Award.

The award recognizes "dependability, pride in work, helpfulness, cooperation and good attitude." Presented at a campus-wide employee luncheon, the award includes a plaque, monetary gift and an extra week of vacation. Joli Cullen, wife of third-year student Doug Cullen, was "very surprised and excited" to receive the 2003-04 award.

Joli has worked three years as a lifeguard at the Dudley and Jean Asher Pomeroy Family Life Center. Certified by the Red Cross, Joli works with a community ladies water aerobics class on Thursday mornings. "Many of them have come for three years," she said. "We have a close relationship and sometimes get together for lunch. The water really helps them with health problems."

She also helps with other groups who use the pool and sometimes assists with cleaning the center. "For

me, the key is to work as unto the Lord," Joli said. "It doesn't matter whether I'm helping as a lifeguard or mopping the floor."

There is plenty of work away from the FLC. Jolie home schools her three children, ages 15, 14 and 12. Her family works with 38 homeschoolers in a Friday activity day, sports events and travel to nursing

homes with puppet ministry and skits. At Mill Creek Baptist Church, Doug teaches on Wednesday night and Sunday; Joli helps with the prayer ministry. Doug is also a workshop employee, assigned to maintain the school landscaping.

"My husband was not a preacher when we married," Joli said. "He was called at age 16 but

didn't respond. After we married, the call came again. The Lord had been preparing me, and I was ready. We minister as a family. My daughters do signing, interpretative movement and use available opportunities for ministry. Clear Creek is very meaningful for families. We have built friendships that will last, and the Lord has taught us so much."

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



Bill Whittaker

## Jakes' 'gritty' film tackles issues head-on

By David Briggs  
Religion News Service

**Cleveland (RNS)**—Is America ready for another R-rated Jesus movie?

Bishop T.D. Jakes, an evangelist who is frequently mentioned as a leading contender to succeed Billy Graham as America's preacher, is counting on it in a new film that includes intense scenes of child rape, drug use, domestic violence and murder.

Seeking to take a page from the phenomenal success of Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ," Jakes traveled to Cleveland recently for a private showing for pastors of "Woman, Thou Art Loosed: The Movie" in advance of its planned nationwide release in October. The movie, starring Kimberly Elise from 2004's "The Manchurian Candidate," tells the story of a young woman searching for hope in prison after a lifetime of sexual abuse, poverty and addiction.

Beginning and ending on death row, the film follows the life story of a woman who was abused by her mother's boyfriend as a child and her attempt as an adult to reclaim her life after falling into an abyss of prison, prostitution and drug addiction.

### Graphic language, violence

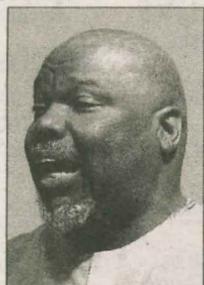
In an attempt to depict the suffering of abuse victims and the moral compromises made by people inside and outside the church, the movie includes graphic and powerful adult content, language and violence.

Like Gibson, Jakes is hoping pastors will rent out theaters for a gritty, modern screen adaptation of Jesus overcoming suffering. Jakes' pitch: "The Passion" told how Jesus was crucified. "Woman, Thou Art Loosed" tells why Jesus was crucified: to offer hope to people suffering today.

Also like Gibson, he is counting on church folk to see the film's likely R rating as a way to reach contempo-

rary audiences. If Gibson expanded Hollywood's concept of Jesus films with scenes of intense violence, Jakes is pushing the envelope even further by asking church members not to turn away from confronting child sexual abuse, prostitution and a violent drug culture.

"Mel Gibson proves to us perhaps the next frontier of evangelism may be the movie theater. We have to start thinking outside the box," Jakes said in promoting the film to about 60 church leaders who attended the screening at the Cleveland Museum of Art.



Jakes

"I want you to own it," Jakes said. "I want you to embrace it as people of faith."

Millions of people have embraced Jakes, whose Dallas-based Potter's House church has a congregation of more than 25,000. He has national shows on Trinity Broadcasting Network and Black Entertainment Television. And he has written 27 books, including the best-selling "Woman, Thou Art Loosed."

Hollywood was stunned by the success of Gibson's film, which has taken in more than \$600 million in theaters worldwide since its release this spring. That is nearly \$600 million more than many experts thought the director would make with a subtitled film on the Crucifixion.

But Gibson did not wait for churchgoers to flock in. In an intense marketing campaign, he showed the film to groups of pastors ahead of time to build interest.

Jakes' stop in Cleveland was the fourth of about a dozen planned showings around the country, a spokeswoman said. Jakes said he hopes to open the film in 500 theaters in October. Jakes and other investors financed the film, but he did not disclose the cost.

Several local pastors praised the film.

"Powerful. One word: powerful," Bishop Delano Ellis II of the Pentecostal Church of Christ in Cleveland

said aloud as he got up from his seat after the movie. "If he'd bring it to my church, I'd show it on Sunday morning," he said later.

R.A. Vernon of The Word Church in Maple Heights said he may make seeing the film mandatory for his congregation.

"The church has to find a way to make the gospel relevant to the common man," he said.

In addition to Elise, who also starred opposite Denzel Washington in "John Q," several noted actors appear in the film, including Loretta Devine of "I Am Sam" and "Waiting to Exhale" and Clifton Powell of "Friday After Next," "Rush Hour" and an upcoming movie about Ray Charles, in addition to Jakes as himself.

In an interview, Jakes said Gibson's attempt to portray the suffering of Christ on the cross helped people in the pews realize that the Christian message needs to go beyond the sugar-coated version Hollywood and the church have given them for decades.

"The Passion" "helps to broaden the church's scope and mentality that much of life cannot be censored," he said. "The things that drive us to Christ and the Christ who died for us cannot be censored."

### Film earns recognition

Jakes' film is starting to win some notice. It won prizes at both the Santa Barbara Film Festival in California and the American Black Film Festival in Miami.

But observers say Jakes may have a much harder road than Gibson. While Jakes may be a megastar on the evangelical circuit—he drew 130,000 people to a four-day rally in Atlanta in June—he does not create the same secular buzz as Mel Gibson.

"Billy Graham is one of them. Jakes is one of them," said William Blizek, editor of the Journal of Religion and Film at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. "The thing that made Mel Gibson so attractive is that it was an outsider standing up for them."

## Dobson: Marriage debate is 'passion of my heart'

By Michael Foust  
Baptist Press

**Nashville (BP)**—James Dobson calls the battle over the definition of marriage the "passion" of his heart at this stage of his life.

But the Christian author, radio host and family advocate said he's not optimistic about the outcome, unless Christians get involved.

Dobson's latest book, "Marriage Under Fire: Why We Must Win This Battle," addresses the issue of same-sex "marriage" and explains why he believes a Federal Marriage Amendment is the only solution.

"Barring a miracle, the family as it has been known from time immemorial will crumble," he writes. "This is a moment for greater courage and wisdom than we have ever been called upon to exercise."

The battle for the definition of marriage, the Focus on the Family founder argues, is more "significant to our culture" than the war on terror.

"We must step up to the plate," he writes.

Dobson writes that he fears too many Christians are unaware of the dangers posed by same-sex marriage and too many leaders are "surprisingly silent." Believers, he says, must speak up and demand that legislators send the Federal Marriage Amendment to the states.

"This apocalyptic and pessimistic view of the institution of the family and its future will sound alarmist to many, but I think it will prove accurate unless—unless—God's people awaken and begin an even greater vigil of prayer for our nation," he writes.

Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage in May, joining Belgium, the Netherlands and three Canadian provinces as the only places in the world where it is legal.

### Concern for children

Dobson lists 11 concerns about legalized same-sex marriage. Among them: the "universal acceptance" of homosexuality, the loss of religious freedom and the teaching in public schools that homosexuality and heterosexuality are equal.

"For nearly 60 years, the homosexual activist movement and related entities have been working to implement a master plan that has had as its centerpiece the utter destruction of the family," he writes. "Now the final battle is at hand: The institution of marriage and the Christian church are all that stand in the way of the movement's achievement of every coveted aspiration."

Children will suffer most, he writes, because society will have abandoned the ideal family structure of a mother and a father.

"And have you considered what will happen when homosexuals with children become divorced?" he asks. "Instead of two moms and two dads, they will have to contend with four moms or four dads."

In Canada, Focus on the Family's radio programs cannot address the issue of homosexuality, he writes.

"Is that kind of censorship coming to the United States?" he asks. "Yes, I believe it is."

Politicians are running from the issue, Dobson asserts. He recounts that he and several pro-family leaders tried to meet with 11 senators recently, but were turned down.

"There is only one way to get the attention of our leaders in Washington," Dobson writes. "We must overwhelm them with calls, e-mails, visits, letters and publications, and most importantly, we need to support their opponents. ... When their coveted positions are threatened, they tend to do what is right."

Dobson contends that a federal constitutional amendment is the only way to keep marriage defined as the union of one man and one woman. The amendment requires the support of two-thirds of both the House and Senate and three-quarters of the states.

"Congress and the state legislatures must pass a Federal Marriage Amendment to define this historic institution exclusively as being between one man and one woman," he asserts. "That is the passion of my heart at this stage of my life."

The book includes a "Q&A" section on frequently asked questions about same-sex marriage. It also has a resource guide and sample newspaper letters to the editor.

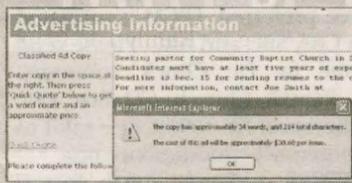


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## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

**Thank God for a new church plant** in central Brazil that continues to see conversions, especially during times when they have volunteer teams there.

**Two new Christians in Hungary** who are now sharing their faith and could be the foundation for a church planting movement.

**A growing home-based congregation** in Czestochowa, Poland.

**Efforts to start a community outreach and church planting center** in Prague, Czech Republic, that will use English as a second language lessons, and an evangelistic café to share the gospel.

**The follow up that continues** in areas where Kentucky Baptist volunteer teams served this summer.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **ASHLAND**—First Church will host **Timothy Askew** in concert Aug. 22, 6 p.m.
- **BEREA**—Red Lick Church recently called **Johnny Baker** as pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a Labor Day Weekend Song Celebration Sept. 5, 6 p.m.
- **CENTRAL CITY**—Calvary Church recently called **Roger Skipworth** as pastor.
- **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church will host a Family Cookout Celebration Aug. 25, 5 p.m.
- **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge Church will hold fall revival services Sept. 20-26 with **Greg Jackson** as evangelist.
- **FARMINGTON**—Bell City Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Aug. 22.
- **GREENVILLE**—Carter Creek Church will hold revival services Sept. 19-22 with **Ron Sivals** as evangelist.
- **HOPKINSVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church recently ordained **Glenn Farmer** to the gospel ministry.
- **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church recently honored Pastor **Terry Freeman** for

- 20 years of ministry.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Morningside Church recently called **Travis Kerns** as interim pastor.
- **MAYFIELD**—Cuba Church recently held revival services with **Ronnie Stinson Jr.** as evangelist.
- **MONTICELLO**—Steubenville Church recently called **Randy Anderson** as youth pastor.
- **MOREHEAD**—**John Lepper**, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, will be the guest speaker at First Church Aug. 18, 7 p.m. **Don Mantoath** is pastor.
- **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Clearfork Church will celebrate Homecoming Sept. 19 with **Donald Withers** as guest speaker and special music by **Southern Harmony**.

### 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.

## LifeWay offers two VBS curriculum options for congregations in 2005

By Polly House  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

**Nashville**—LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has unveiled two curriculum options for vacation Bible school 2005.

The primary curriculum, "Rambler's Road Trip: Which Way Do I Go?", will focus on sites from Washington, D.C., to California. Lessons will highlight Destination Worship in Washington; Destination Thankfulness in Chicago; Destination Salvation in Lebanon, Kan., (the geographic center of the U.S.); Destination Belief in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming; and Destination Obedience at Knott's Berry Farm in Southern California.

"Show Me! Teach Me! Guide Me!" will be the VBS motto. Participants will discover that the daily choices they make affect all their other journeys through life. By choosing God as their Guide, children are invited to arrive at their ultimate destination—a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Each day and at each destination, the children will be presented with biblical truths," said Mary

Katharine Hunt, LifeWay's VBS division project manager. "Everything, all the fun stuff, always relates back to the Bible story."

LifeWay's alternate curriculum, "Club VBS: Beach Blast," is designed help children celebrate God's faithfulness. The Beach Blast curriculum is available in an "All in One Pack" that provides VBS for up to 50 children.

"We had a number of churches that asked us to give them another choice for VBS," Hunt said.

The VBS Beach Blast offers lots of flexibility, she added. Churches can choose to use it for special weekday or Wednesday night activities during the summer or during fall or spring break.

The Beach Blast motto, "God is faithful. I can dig it!" will highlight digging into God's promises, provision, power, plan and presence.

Promotional materials for both VBS lines will be mailed to churches in October and November. All VBS materials will be available Dec. 1.

For more information, visit the VBS Web site, [www.lifeway.com/yourvbs](http://www.lifeway.com/yourvbs).

## LifeWay appoints Kramp interim VP

**Nashville (BP)**—John Kramp has been named interim vice president of LifeWay Christian Resources' church resources division. Kramp, a 12-year veteran with LifeWay, has served as director of church ministry solutions since 2001.

LifeWay is seeking a permanent replacement for its former vice president, Gene Mims, who announced in June he was leaving LifeWay to return to the pastorate.

Kramp will oversee operations of the LifeWay division that produces a broad spectrum of church resources including Sunday School curriculum, discipleship literature, church

training events, music and two lines of vacation Bible school curriculum. The division employs more than 600 people.

Kramp is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He has served as associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Garland, Texas, and as a church planter in the Northwest Baptist Convention, serving as senior pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Lake Oswego, Ore.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

- 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, Baptist 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.

24-25 Women's Chorale Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

24-25 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.

### October

- 1-2 Celebrate the Mission, Executive Inn West, Louisville.
- 1-3 Focus-2004, Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 8-11 Soak A City Youth Evangelism Conference, Franklin.
- 8-9 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.
- 15-16 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.
- 16 Creative Ministries Workshop 101, First Baptist Church, Pikeville.
- 18 Senior Adult Choir Festival-West, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 19-21 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Middletown.
- 22-23 Youth on Mission Night, BSU Building, Western Kentucky University.

For more information, call (888) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education for Kings Baptist Church. Send resumé to PO Box 380, Mt. Washington, KY 40047, Attn: Personnel Committee, or e-mail to [kingschoffice@alltel.net](mailto:kingschoffice@alltel.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director, East Barbourville Baptist Church. Some of the specific responsibilities include: providing special emphasis to activities and programs that will encourage the reaching and discipling of youth; ministering to youth in areas of salvation, counseling and encouragement; giving direction to special events designed to strengthen church family ties and heighten church and community involvement. Send resumé to: Youth Director Search Committee, East Barbourville Baptist Church, PO Box 66, Barbourville, KY 40906.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor with emphasis on ministry to children and youth for First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, Ky. Seminary degree preferred. FBCM is affiliated with CBF, SBC and ABC. Please send resumé to: Dr. Chuck Summers, First Baptist Church, PO Box 839, Middlesboro, KY 40965, or e-mail to [csummers@fbciddlesboro.org](mailto:csummers@fbciddlesboro.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth pastor/children's educational coordinator for an independent Baptist church. Prefer some experience and/or formal training. Submit resumé to: Elliottville Baptist Church, PO Box 160, Elliottville, KY 40317. E-mail: [pastortim@adelphia.com](mailto:pastortim@adelphia.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Junction City (Ky.) First Baptist Church. We are looking for the man God would have lead our congregation as we seek to do His will in this community. We are currently accepting resúmes, tapes, etc. Please call (859) 854-3253, (859) 236-0449, or Fax: (859) 854-0507.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association (Ashland, Ky.) Resúmes received through Sept. 15, 2004. Mail to: Clyda Hester, 1173 Bethel Lane, Catlettsburg, KY 41129, Attn: DOM Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time church secretary. Send resumé to: Farmdale Baptist Church, 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, KY 40213.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister for growing church in Oldham County. Please send resumé by Aug. 20 to: Personnel Committee, Ballardville Baptist Church, 4300 S Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth. Seeking a dynamic, spiritually mature individual to lead active 80-member youth program, assisting Calhoun Baptist Church in fulfilling its mission of leading people to faith in Christ and on to spiritual maturity. Ministering to the heart of McLean County. Generous compensation package includes benefits and housing. For more information, contact: Youth Search Committee, Calhoun Baptist Church, PO Box 283, Calhoun, KY 42327.

# 'God is right here'

*Sitting beside NYC terrorism target, church refuses to be paralyzed by fear*

By Chris Herlinger  
Religion News Service

**New York (RNS)**—Long a landmark and destination because of its famous "jazz ministry" and its sleek, elegant modern architecture, Saint Peter's Church in midtown Manhattan is now gaining unwanted attention because of its location.

The church is surrounded by the Citigroup Center, one of a number of New York financial institutions reported to be threatened by al Qaeda terrorists.

But while the reports of potential threats have put New Yorkers on edge since they were announced by officials earlier this month, Saint Peter's staff and members are determined to carry on their work as a worshipping community.

And indeed at a Wednesday evening "Mass for Peace" at the church's Erol Beker Chapel, Assistant Pastor Carol Fryer spoke of uncertainty, tension and injustice in the world—not to mention the presence of police armed with riot gear outside.

But she also was adamant that the church's work continue. Evoking the spirit of Jeremiah and the Gospel of Matthew, Fryer told worshippers it was necessary to "express a strong sense of hope in the face of very discouraging circumstances."

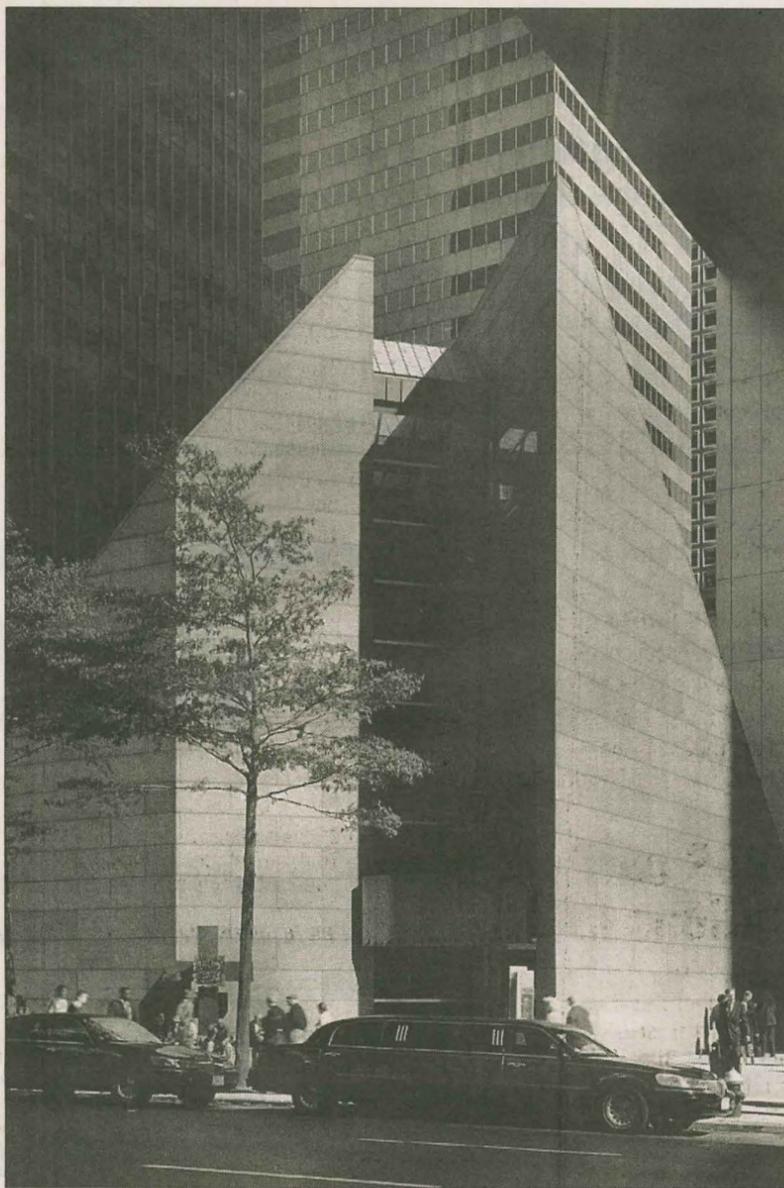
"Let your faith shine. Boldly," she said. "We're still here."

## 'A very strange place to be'

In an e-mail sent earlier in the week, Fryer asked "parishioners to show their faith in the midst of this nuttiness"—which included "a media circus," questions about



**SECURITY** Members of the New York Police Department's Emergency Service Unit were posted outside the Citigroup building in New York Aug. 4 after a government warning of possible al Qaeda bomb attacks on financial targets in the city. (Reuters/RNS photo by Peter Morgan)



**MINISTRY SITE** Saint Peter's Church, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in midtown Manhattan, is seeking to maintain its ministry efforts in the midst of heightened security measures. The church sits in the shadow of Citigroup Center, one of the major New York financial institutions reportedly targeted by al Qaeda terrorists. (Reuters/RNS photo)

whether political leaders were doing the right thing and an unseen threat. "How do you stop suicide bombers?" she asked.

"It's hard to know what to think—we're surrounded by police in riot gear, anxiety is in the air," she said. "It's a very strange place to be right now—the thought of the threat looming over us. It's discouraging."

Asked what she felt worshippers were eager to hear at such a disorienting moment, Fryer said, "Something of hope."

"It does feel like people are listening more intently," she said. "And I'm trying to make sense of it myself."

"Where is God?" she asked. "God is right here."

Still, even with such professed signs of hope, it has not been an easy time for Saint Peter's, a congregation that prides itself on its work with "life at the intersection," whether that means ministering to the poor and homeless who wander the streets of midtown Manhattan or hosting the church's famed "Jazz Vespers," a ministry for the city's jazz community.

It did not feel particularly welcoming that on Wednesday evening the church was surrounded by police vehicles, or that access to the church was restricted to one door.

And it was still not clear how the church, an Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America congregation, would cope with the attendant parking problems at its Sunday services.

## Attracting tourists & members

"We're going on," said Dorothy Goldman, the congregation's president, who was among those attending the Wednesday evening service.

Saint Peter's is unusual because it attracts its share of tourists, so it is difficult to say how events will affect Sunday services, Goldman said.

She also wondered why the intense police activity around the Citigroup building and other threatened sites was not matched by an "overall sense of urgency" in other parts of the city.

Neither Grand Central Station nor the United Nations General Assembly building, both just blocks from the church, appeared to be experiencing the same level of high security, she said, "raising questions for me about what it's all about."

But in some respects the current level of tension was really nothing new: Police have used the neighborhood for training exercises. And immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks, she said, Saint Peter's installed security cameras in a number of locales throughout the building, including the chapel.

"We really don't know what to think about this," Goldman said, eyeing one of the cameras.

## Ekklesia Project scholars explore 'what God is not'

By Bob Smietana  
Religion News Service

**Chicago (RNS)**—Contrary to popular belief, God is not an American, one of us, religious or a capitalist.

He's not very nice either, claims Stephen Long. Unfortunately, Long adds, too many Christians prefer "the nice god" to the God of the Bible.

Long, who teaches systematic theology at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, is one of six scholars whose essays appear in "God Is Not," a new book from Brazos Press that takes on "culturally misinformed views about who God is." The title of the book comes from Thomas Aquinas, who argued that "we cannot know what God is, but only what God is not," says editor Brent Laytham.

In his essay, "God is not nice," Long reworks a famous section from Isaiah, where the Old Testament prophet is terrified when he sees God "sitting on His throne, high and lifted," surrounded by angels crying "Holy, Holy, Holy." The nice god, by contrast, is seated on a lawn chair, wearing a Chicago Cubs hat, Long writes. And the angels call out "Nice, nice, nice is the Lord of Hosts; the whole world is full of His niceness."

Long, Laytham and the other essayists are all members of the Ekklesia Project, a group of scholars, pastors and laypeople who believe the modern church has forgotten its true calling. (Ekklesia is the New Testament Greek word for church). Ekklesia members believe that Christians owe their ultimate allegiance to the church, not to their country, class or ideology. When churches forget that, the group's Web site ([www.Ekklesia.org](http://www.Ekklesia.org)) argues, "they turn the clear and unambiguous call of Jesus and the Holy Spirit into a confused and contradictory mix of caution and self-interest."

## Reminding church of "true calling"

The purpose of the Ekklesia Project is to "remind the church of its true calling as the real-world community whose primary loyalty is to the Body of Christ, the priorities and practices of Jesus, and the inbreaking Kingdom of God."

About 120 people attended Ekklesia's annual conference in July at DePaul University in Chicago. DePaul University philosophy professor Michael Budde calls the group "friends we didn't know we had," who are drawn together by a sense that something was missing from their faith.

"Most people share this deep sense that there has to be more to being the church, to being disciples, than what I have lived out so far," he said.

Budde and Stanley Hauerwas of Duke Divinity School co-wrote a pamphlet, posted on the Ekklesia Web site, called "Subversive Friendships," which outlines some of the group's goals. One of them is to "make the church feistier and more self aware."

"We have no use for happy and/or 'friendly' churches," they wrote. "We do not desire to see the church grow using the manipulative strategies of the church growth movement. We do not want our churches to 'entertain' us by trying to be an alternative to the American entertainment industry. If the church tries to compete with TV then the church is already lost."

The conference theme came from the song of Mary in Luke 1, which describes the "upside-down Kingdom of God"—where the mighty are knocked down and the lowly are exalted.

But conference presenter Jonathan Wilson, professor of theology and ethics at Acadia Divinity School in Nova Scotia, said that the "upside-down Kingdom of God" is a misnomer. Instead, he said, it should be called "the right-side-up Kingdom of God."

"In God's creation, the current state of affairs is upside down," Wilson said. "The Kingdom of God comes not to turn things upside down, but to turn things right side up."

At a time when politicians are debating how much influence the church has on the state, Ekklesia members worry about the influence of the state on the church.

That's a theme taken up by Ekklesia member Michael Baxter, in an essay titled "God is not an American."

"In a time of war," Baxter says, "the challenge of Christians, scattered among the nations of the world, is to live as one body of Christ, and to pledge their allegiance not to one nation under God, but to one church under God."

# Important Dates to Remember

These complimentary Bulletin Inserts can be downloaded from our website at [www.kentuckyleague.org](http://www.kentuckyleague.org)

**The Kentucky League**  
on Alcohol & Gambling Problems  
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Louisville, KY 40209  
Executive Director: Dr. Howard Beauman  
Phone: 502.635.0002 Fax: 502.635.1008  
Email: [hbeau@kentuckyleague.org](mailto:hbeau@kentuckyleague.org)

## ANTI-GAMBLING SUNDAY

September 19, 2004

### WHY IS GAMBLING A BAD BET?

**1. Morally** – *God wants you to rely upon Him, not chance!*

*“But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*  
(Philippians 4:29, KJV)

**2. Socially** – *Gambling harms our Society*

- Abuse
- Suicides Increase
- Families Suffer
- Crime Increases

**3. Economically** – *Gambling hurts the Local Economy*

- Embezzlement cases increase.
- More money (50 billion dollars) is spent on gambling in America than on all music recordings, movies, theme parks, and spectator sports combined (40 billion dollars).
- 10% of all gamblers (pathological & problem gamblers) lose 80% of all money lost in casinos.

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## *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.”*



**Please pray and go to the polls on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Compliments of:**  
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On Alcohol and Gambling Problems  
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