



WESTERN RECORDER

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Study: One-third of U.S. teens have worked on missions project

Washington—Nearly three in 10 U.S. teens have gone on at least one religious mission or participated in a religious service project, a new study says.

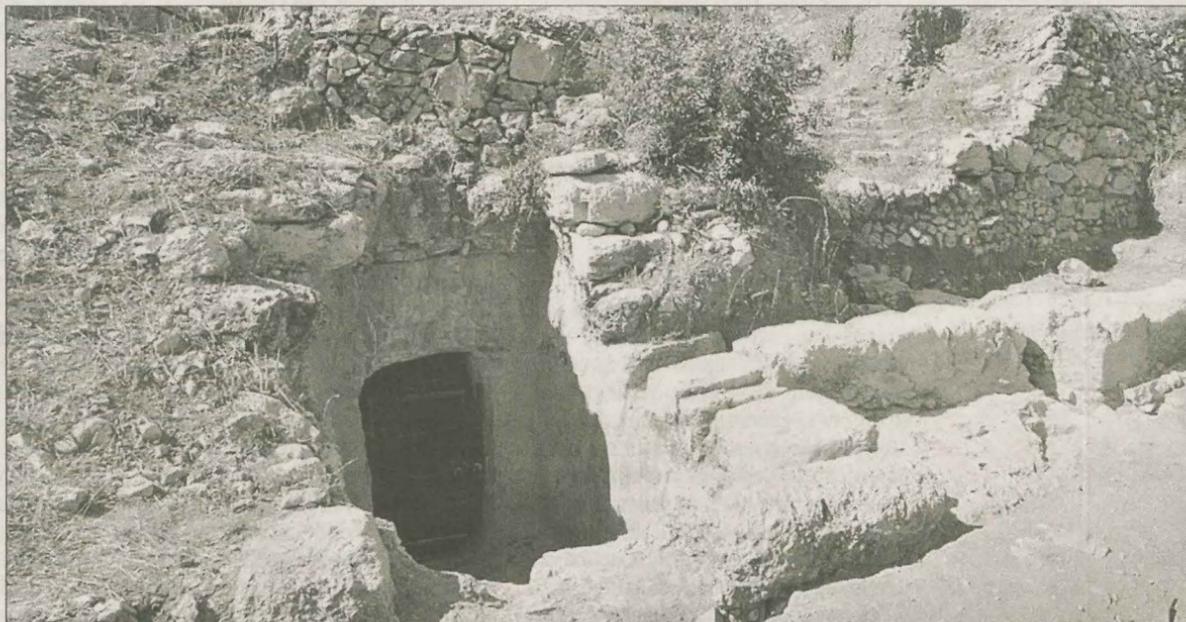
In a random telephone survey of 3,290 teens age 13 to 17 conducted by The National Study of Youth and Religion, 29 percent said they have participated in an organized religious service project or mission.

Seventy percent of Church of the Latter-day Saints teens reported religious service involvement, the most among all denominations. Even though they have not yet embarked on their traditional two-year mission by the age of 17, Mormons are taught the importance of service early on, said Latter-Day Saints spokesman Dale Bills.

Among other denominations, 43 percent of mainline Protestant teens said they participated in service projects and missions, while Catholic and Jewish teens reported the least involvement, 23 percent each.

The study also found that mothers with college degrees are more likely to have teenagers involved in religious service projects. One-fifth of teens whose mothers have less than a high school education said they participated in service projects, compared with 37 percent of the children of women with master's degrees.

Was John here?



CAVE IN QUESTION British archaeologist Shimon Gibson has linked this cave, near the Israeli village of Tzova, west of Jerusalem, to John the Baptist, but other archaeologists aren't so sure. (RNS/Reuters photo by Gil Cohen Magen)

Archaeologists debate cave's biblical significance

Kibbutz Tzuba, Israel (RNS)—Archaeologists have uncovered a cave they believe was used by John the Baptist for ritual immersions, one of the first discoveries linked to the relative of Jesus.

The cave is located on a kibbutz about two miles outside Ein Kerem, the traditional birthplace of John the Baptist that is now part of Jerusalem. The cave contains what researchers believe is an immersion pool and crude drawings of the evangelist's life.

"John the Baptist, who was just a figure from the Gospels, now comes to life," Shimon Gibson, a British archaeologist who first explored the site in 1999, told Associated Press.

Researchers found shards of small jugs used in ritual purifications and uncovered steps leading to the bottom of the cave, where they found niches for holding clothes and what appear to be dispensers for ritual oil.

Byzantine-era images of John the Baptist's life came later and could have been carved by monks who associated the site with John the Baptist's life through local legend.

But critics say it is only speculation that Jesus' cousin used the cave. They note that no direct references to him were found on the site.

"Unfortunately, we didn't find any inscriptions" that were conclusive, James Tabor of the University

of North Carolina at Charlotte said after he worked on the site.

In fact, Steven Ortiz, director of the Center for Archaeological Research at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said he doubts John used the site for baptisms.

"It is extremely improbable that this site is where John baptized many of his followers," Ortiz said. "All the Gospel accounts place his ministry in the Jordan Valley."

"The more likely site is somewhere in the Judean wilderness alongside the Jordan River. The recently discovered site is probably a later Byzantine pilgrimage site commemorating his family birthplace," Ortiz said.

Workshop leader: Churches need plan to assimilate members

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Owensboro—"Assimilation" is a word churches seldom discuss because they don't recognize they have a problem with it, a Kentucky minister told a recent Super Saturday workshop audience.

Most congregations think they are "set for life" when someone joins, said John Tappan, minister of education at First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

"How many people have you seen join the church six months ago and you haven't seen them the past four months?" Tappan asked those attending his workshop at Bellevue Baptist Church.

"Why is that? We don't disciple them, and they don't understand 'church talk.'"

Churches must determine what they expect and educate new members about their responsibilities, he said.

Too many church leaders want

new church member just to attend services, Tappan noted.

But church leaders often forget that the church should help newcomers understand their spiritual gifts and how to use them to serve others, he said.

"We want our church to be a place where people can find a place of service in God," Tappan said. "There will always be people who sit and listen and don't do anything. We want to prevent that."

The lack of understanding of church life affects more than just new Christians, he said.

New members coming from other churches (and other denominations) often don't understand a particular congregation's beliefs or practices, he added.

Tappan addressed these issues at his own church recently by leading new members through a new program from LifeWay Christian Resources called, "Body Life Journey: Guiding Believers into Ministry."

The curriculum links experienced members as "encouragers" for new members.

The program includes a three-hour workshop where newcomers learn how to share their conversion story, identify their spiritual gifts, tour the facilities and develop a plan of action for their Christian lives.

"When we're in church, we know where everything is, and think it's natural," Tappan said. "But it's not. This allows confident members of the church to sit down and say, 'This is what we do and when we do it.'"

The mentoring segment includes a review of possible spiritual gifts, the new member's life experience, relational style, vocational skills and their passion for service.

"It's a process of getting people involved immediately in service," Tappan said after the workshop. "It's helpful to staff to get an idea where people can plug in."

Most people in churches never have discovered their spiritual gifts, he noted. Members should understand that everyone has at least one spiritual gift whose purpose is to serve others and glorify God, he added.

When people recognize their spiritual gift and passion, they might be motivated to start new ministries, Tappan said.

In addition to retaining more newcomers, the study can improve Sunday school attendance, Tappan said.

"If you have people who have joined and aren't in a Sunday school class, it's a great time to say, 'We think Bible study is important and here's a class; I'll have the teacher call you.'"

"It could have a great impact. When a person joins a church, I don't see any reason why you can't say, 'Here's a list of our ... classes. Which one do you want to attend?' It's all a matter of expectations."

Funding 'a common vision'

LifeWay earmarks \$1.6 million for baptism efforts

"We believe this is a God-given vision that He will equip us to achieve."

Ted Warren, executive vice president for LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—LifeWay Christian Resources officials have announced plans to invest more than \$1.6 million in 14 Baptist state conventions to fund evangelism projects aimed at helping Southern Baptists achieve 1 million baptisms in 2005.

The funds represent LifeWay's response to the Southern Baptist Convention's effort to reverse four consecutive years of declines in baptisms. To reach 1 million baptisms, a goal also being promoted by SBC President Bobby Welch, churches must increase baptisms by more than 622,000 over last year's total of 377,357.

Convention cooperation

The LifeWay initiative began last December, when the SBC entity hosted a state executive directors meeting in Nashville. Ted Warren, LifeWay's executive vice president and chief operating officer, communicated President James Draper's vision for Southern Baptists to reach 1 million baptisms in a single year. Warren then invited the state executive directors to request funds from LifeWay if they had plans to double baptisms in their states in 2005.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention, which is seeking to increase baptisms 40 percent over the next five years through "Kentucky Baptists Connect," is not part of the LifeWay initiative to double baptisms.

Fourteen state conventions responded with a wide range of proposals that met the LifeWay goal, including state fair evangelism, youth encounters, evangelism training, university evangelism, statewide "wave" evangelism, outreach Bible studies, revival training and community evangelism events.

LifeWay has notified the 14 state conventions of their awards. They are: Alabama, the Dakotas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New England, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania/New Jersey and Southern Baptists of Texas.

"These projects demonstrate LifeWay's desire to partner with state conventions when we share a common vision," Draper said. "These are very creative partnerships. God has given us the vision to baptize 1 million people next year, and He has blessed LifeWay with the resources to help state conventions

see a doubling of baptisms in their states using evangelism tools that work best for them. We asked the states to dream big, and these 14 states most certainly did, and we are excited about what God will do through us in the coming year."

"We understand that doubling the number of baptisms in any state convention is impossible apart from God," Warren said. "We believe this is a God-given vision that He will equip us to achieve."

A call to evangelism

At the SBC annual meeting in June, Draper told messengers he attributed the four-year decline in baptisms to a lack of denominational focus. "It's hard for someone to argue to the contrary when more than 10,000 Southern Baptist churches did not baptize a single person last year," he said. "Perhaps the main reason for the decline in baptisms is that our denomination is simply failing to reach people for Christ."

Last year LifeWay invested \$6.7 million in state conventions through its ministry investment plan, student ministry and other evangelism and discipleship initiatives.

NAMB and IMB promote 'Acts 1:8 Challenge'

Orlando, Fla. (BP)—Southern Baptists' two mission boards are seeking to partner with Baptist state conventions and local associations to help transform churches into worldwide mission centers.

Leaders with the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board presented the "Acts 1:8 Challenge" to state convention and associational partners during NAMB's recent Summer State Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla.

The conference was held in conjunction with NAMB's Connection 2004 "Preparing for Kingdom Growth" conference for Southern Baptist pastors, missionaries and associational directors of missions.

The Acts 1:8 Challenge is a strat-

egy based on Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit to empower His disciples to share the gospel in "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

NAMB and IMB trustees met together in May—a first in the history of the boards—to adopt a resolution affirming the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

NAMB and IMB leaders are encouraging churches to apply Acts 1:8 in their ministry contexts each year by participating concurrently in missions on the local, state, national and international levels.

By adopting the strategy, churches would commit to mobilize volunteers for missions in their "Jerusalem" through opportunities in their local Baptist associations, "Judea"

through their state conventions, "Samaria" through NAMB and "the ends of the earth" through IMB.

"You have a primary partner in your local association, your state convention, NAMB and IMB to help you, the local church, as the center of the recipient of Jesus' Great Commission," Nate Adams, NAMB's vice president of mobilization and media, told conference participants.

As part of the Acts 1:8 Challenge, pastors and mission leaders are encouraged to make a formal commitment to implement the missions strategy church-wide by registering as an Acts 1:8 Challenge church at www.ActsOne8.com or by calling the Acts 1:8 Response Center at 1-800-4-ACTS18 (1-800-422-8718).

More than 2,000 students gather for simultaneous collegiate events

Glorieta, N.M.—For the first time in nearly a decade, college students gathered in both New Mexico and North Carolina for LifeWay Christian Resources' annual Collegiate Week.

More than 2,000 participants—1,204 at LifeWay's Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico and 825 at Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.—took part in the collegiate ministry conference.

Collegiate Week, held annually at Glorieta for more than 50 years, was expanded this year to include Ridgecrest.

"There was a good spirit at both campuses," said Bill Wade, LifeWay's director of collegiate ministries. He said LifeWay officials decided to reintroduce Collegiate Week at Ridgecrest in an effort to make the event accessible to more students.

This year's Collegiate Week focused on the theme "Journey Worth the Walk." Wade said the theme was designed to encourage students to make personal sacrifices for their faith. Missionaries from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board shared testimonies of their own sacrifices.

"My prayer for you this week is that your spiritual journey will be one of personal sacrifice," Wade wrote in the Collegiate Week program booklet. "That God will move you out of your comfort zone to begin an incredible journey of faith."

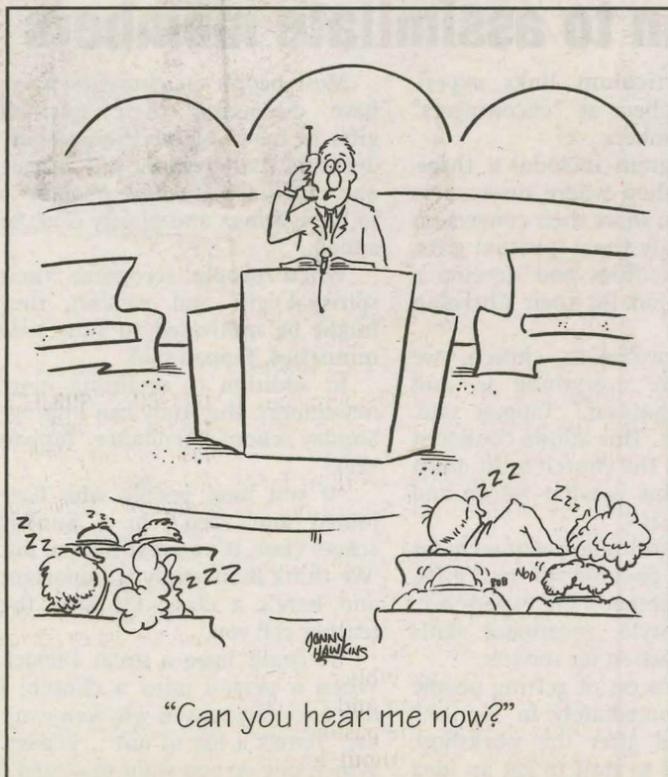
Russ Cornelius, a student at Oklahoma State University, said his journey during Glorieta's conference required him to sit quietly while God took the reins. "I had the best prayer time I've ever had," he said. "I felt like God was more in control than me. It was sort of a climax to the way my life has been going."

"For the first time ever in evening worship, I felt like no one else was in the room singing," Cornelius added. "It didn't even matter that I was singing really loud. It was the best praise and worship experience I've ever had."

In addition to worship services and seminars, participants interacted with fellow students from throughout the nation.

"There's not a lot of stuff like this for college students," Cornelius said. "The college atmosphere can be discouraging, so it's encouraging to come here and be with college students who are in the same situation you are."

Collegiate Week 2005 will be at Glorieta Aug. 3-9 and at Ridgecrest Aug. 5-10. For more information, call Bill Wade at (615) 277-8446 or Tommy Keown at (615) 251-2290.



BAPTIST DIGEST

'Battle for Marriage' rally set. A "Battle for Marriage" rally originally scheduled for Aug. 29 has been moved to Sept. 19 to coincide with a likely debate in the U.S. House of Representatives on the constitutional marriage amendment. The "Battle for Marriage III" rally will be held at three locations, with First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., operating as the base site. Focus on the Family's James Dobson is scheduled to speak there. Two other sites, Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego and an undetermined location in Washington, D.C., will serve as satellite locations.

N.C. leaders: Keep giving plans. Leaders of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will recommend next month that the convention retain its four con-

tribution options for churches. The plans accommodate various mission-giving preferences of conservative and moderate churches. The proposal to leave the options unchanged will be recommended to the convention's General Board Sept. 28-29.

BP hosts student conference. David Limbaugh, author of "Persecution: How Liberals Are Waging War Against Christianity," will be the featured speaker at the fourth annual Baptist Press National Journalism Student Conference Oct. 7-9 in Nashville. He is the brother of conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh. The conference, highlighting the theme "Pursue the Passion," is designed for college journalism students. For more information, visit www.bpnews.net or call (616) 782-8664.

Pastors enjoy cooperating on Washington mission trip

By David Winfrey
News Director

Middletown—Leaders of three Kentucky Baptist churches in the same town say they hope a recent joint mission trip is a signal of more work together in the future.

Members of First Baptist Church, Woodland Baptist Church and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Middletown recently traveled to Ocean Shores, Wash., to work on a church building for Faith Community Church.

"The team did a lot of work for Faith Community Church, but we were the ones who were most changed," said Jim Cobban, pastor of First Baptist.

"The partnership of our three churches and three pastors, all within a two-mile radius of each other, was our own little 'Cooperative Program,'" he added.

Twenty-four volunteers helped install siding and windows in the new building. The 10-year-old congregation currently meets in a school building.

The Ocean Shores community consists of a peninsula, two miles wide and six miles long, with the Pacific Ocean to its west side and Gray's Harbor on its east side.

The town is a combination resort and retirement community, accord-



RAFTER WORK Ryan Alumbaugh, a member of Woodland Baptist Church in Middletown, was among the 24 members from three churches to travel to Washington state for a mission trip.

ing to Don Camp, associate pastor at Faith Community.

The church averages 170 people on Sunday mornings, Cobban said. Its pastor, Kerry Haynes, is a former staff member of First Baptist Church of Ashland. The new 17,000-square-foot building will have a sanctuary, education space and other multi-purpose space.

The Middletown team was the third group of volunteers to work on the building this summer. They learned that a team from First Baptist Church of Somerset had framed the building earlier in the summer.

Faith Community Church hopes to move into the new building by Easter, Camp said. Subcontractors still must install insulation, plumbing and electrical wiring, he said.

Camp said that the congregation is thankful for the work done, but more thankful for the fellowship. "Conceivably, you could put the money together and hire that kind of work, but you could never hire that kind of partnership."

Mike Sharp, pastor of Woodland Baptist, agreed.

He said he found the new friendship to be an encouragement to local Christians "in a part of the country where there aren't as many churches as there are in the South."

Louis Humes, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist, said he, his wife and youth minister went on the trip this year and he hopes more members can go on next year's trip.

"Next year we hope to bring several more of our folks," he said. Humes said he appreciated working in cooperation instead of competing with other local churches. "There's no competition and there's no conflict."

Cobban and Sharp and Humes said the mission trip was an outgrowth of the friendship among



WORKING TOGETHER Carolyn McHolan (left) and Mary Potter, members of First Baptist Church in Middletown, cut a piece of siding for the church construction project at Faith Community Church in Ocean Shores, Wash. The church hopes to move into its new building by Easter.

the three churches' pastors.

The churches hold joint Thanksgiving and Easter sunrise services. "We're trying to find more creative ways to do things together as churches," Sharp added.

In doing so, he said, they're trying to make the words "Cooperative Program" mean more than just a means to send money to state and local missions. "Not just something we send money to, but something we act out in our church lives."

Cobban said he's already gotten preliminary information about a possible mission trip next summer to Vancouver, Wash.

"We are now praying about our involvement in this project," Cobban said. "But we know we will go somewhere together."

Super Saturday leader offers tips to deal with difficult people

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Erlanger—The Super Saturday session was titled "Working with Difficult People," but it just as easily could have been subtitled, "Reality Check Time."

"Difficult people are in all aspects of church life and personal life," said Matt Fields, Super Saturday facilitator and minister of music and education for First Baptist Church of Barbourville.

Fields noted that the workshop wasn't titled "How to Avoid Difficult People," adding jokingly, "Some people like being difficult. It's their call."

Fields was speaking at the Super Saturday workshop at Erlanger Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky. The day-long church leadership conference is one of six, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, being held throughout the commonwealth.

Workshop participants were encouraged to talk about their personal experiences with difficult people, without identifying those involved.

Personal stories dealt with family, church members and even workers within the same church ministry.

Participants described encounters ranging from "dirty looks" to verbal confrontations to people who refused to respond to efforts to communicate.

Start with looking within

Sharing highlights from the book "From Postlude to Prelude," by Randall Bradley, Fields offered several tips for dealing with challenging people:

- Taking time for objective evaluation.

Super Saturdays

Three more Super Saturday training conferences are scheduled for the coming weeks:

- 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.

- Asking, "Is there something about me I can fix?"

- Prayer.

- Being gracious.

During a tense confrontation, often it is best to refrain from commenting very much until one has a chance to "get some distance" from the person and the conversation.

Fields said that when evaluating a confrontational situation, one must ask the hard questions about whether the points made by the other person were "true, valid and important."

In some cases, when the confronter seems to be over-reacting, Fields said, "they don't have a problem with you. (The confrontation) is about taking the focus off what their problem really is." At those times, Fields urged people to "understand it's not personal."

Looking within to discern if there was something that could have been done differently to diffuse, or avoid, the problem is sometimes painful, Fields said. "But if you are having a lot of these conversations, maybe it's time for a little bit of introspection."

During times of self-study, prayer is especially important, he said, noting that a mature prayer involves asking God "to help me work on what I may be bringing to

this situation."

Fields encouraged participants to try to see a situation from the other person's point of view. "If you think they're difficult, they're thinking the same thing about you."

Discovering aspects of one's personality that need correcting is painful, Fields said, but it is also rewarding. He said it is sometimes easier to admit that we need to work on ourselves rather than accept the fact that we have been wronged by someone else.

"You can't change the other person," he said. "But you can fix you."

Maintaining control

Fields offered several tips for responding during a confrontation:

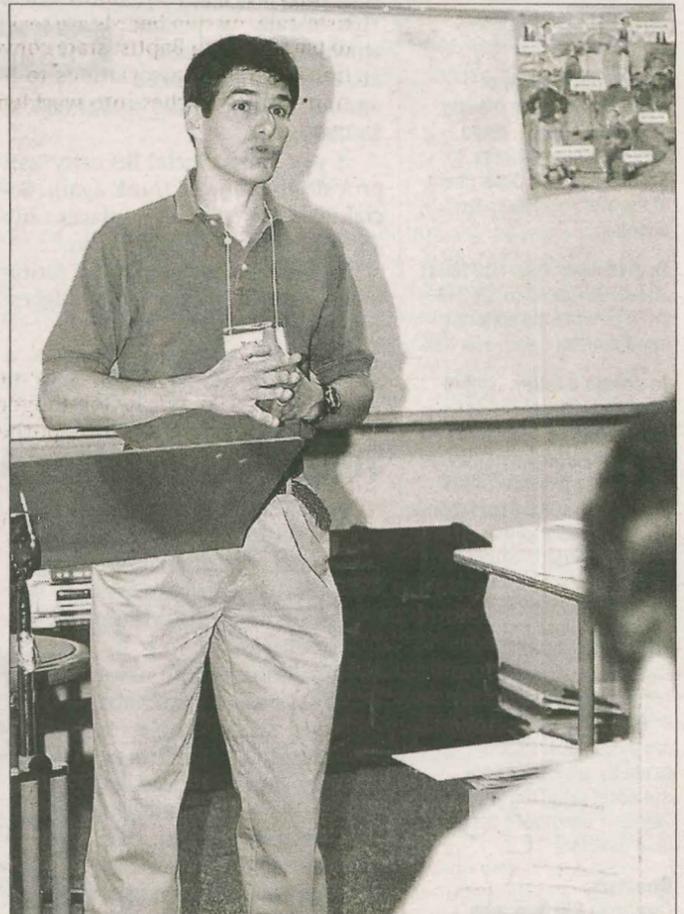
- Let the other person speak.
- Listen and maintain eye contact.
- Restate what you have heard.
- Show love.

"Picture yourself with incredible power to control the situation," Fields suggested. "Controlling the situation means controlling yourself," he said, reiterating that at this point it is best to limit responses.

Restating what has been said is often very useful, Fields said, noting that people sometimes do not realize how harsh they may sound until they hear their words repeated.

When it comes to interpersonal "pet peeves," Fields advised: "The things that really upset you, make sure you don't do those things (to someone else)."

Demonstrating love and graciousness is paramount, "and will go a long way" toward diffusing tension and hopefully mending a relationship, Fields said.



"You might not like them, but tell them that you love them," he said.

If treated unfairly, "work at forgiveness," Fields said. "That's not a choice."

One pastor attending the session noted that in some extreme cases, a pastor or other church leader might need to become involved in a dispute, following biblical principles of confrontation and correction. In such cases, the pastor said, "Remember, truth without love is brutality."

"DIFFICULT" SUBJECT Matt Fields, minister of music and education at First Baptist Church of Barbourville, facilitated a discussion on the difficult topic of "Working with Difficult People" at the Erlanger Super Saturday event. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

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

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End 'rubber stamps'

I want to express my appreciation for the letter by Bill Moore ("BWA offers hope") in the July 20 edition of the Western Recorder. I agree with him completely. I believe he speaks for thousands of Kentucky Baptists.

According to a critique by some of the editors of state papers in the Southern Baptist Convention, there are some who "do not get it" or who "refuse to admit" the real reason for the serious decline of messengers attending the SBC annual meeting. The attendance the past few years has been about one-third of the attendance prior to 1990!

Many of us do not want to waste the convention expense money that is provided by our churches to attend a meeting that has an agenda that is predetermined by eight to 10 pastors of mega-churches. We refuse to "rubber stamp" a slate of officers that are presented by an "elite" group of pastors or denominational leaders who have little, if any, tolerance for anyone who refuses to follow their agenda.

The decline in attendance should be no surprise to anyone who has

kept abreast of what has taken place in the last 15 years.

Ernest L. Martin
Danville

SBC charges accurate

As a Southern Baptist pastor from Kentucky serving a rural American Baptist church in Indiana with whom Southern Baptists would be in substantial theological agreement, I find that I must set the record straight regarding the feigned outrage of American Baptist Churches USA personnel over the characterization of American Baptists at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

While I believe it is true that the majority of American Baptists are conservative evangelicals (admittedly based on anecdotal evidence and limited personal experience), ABC/USA's national leadership is, in fact, moving further left at every opportunity and the SBC charges have been borne out this summer.

In May, the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, a regional body, voted overwhelmingly to elect an active lesbian pastor of an American Baptist church, with

full knowledge of her orientation, as president of their Conference of Baptist Ministers—a body with major responsibilities in the American Baptist credentialing process. In July, this same pastor "made it legal" with her partner and her church celebrated with the couple.

In August, all of the presidents of the regional Ministers' Councils and Conferences attend the ABC/USA Ministers' Council meeting and are seated as "senators" from their regions. After due consideration and discussion, the national Ministers' Council decided to seat this "married" ordained homosexual pastor. There has been absolutely no reaction by the ABC/USA general secretary or general board.

In addition, a lesbian associate pastor from an American Baptist congregation in Texas—well beloved as a national American Baptist youth coordinator and girls speaker—who helps coordinate and lead the church's annual Gay and Lesbian Baptists' Retreat, has been elected to serve on the General Board. There can be no legitimate denial now of the truth spoken by SBC leaders in Indianapolis this summer.

Scott Erwin
Brownstown, Ind.



Investing for retirement

By Bob Henry

Dallas (BP)—Started investing for retirement yet?

Financial experts suggest you will need to replace 70 to 100 percent of your final year's pay when you retire. This means a person with a \$30,000 salary at retirement will need annual income equal to \$21,000 to \$30,000.

If you think Social Security will provide this much, think again. Social Security typically replaces only 25 to 40 percent of your income.

Everyone needs to plan for retirement. Consider these four suggestions as you invest:

■ If your employer sponsors a retirement plan, participate in it. If

your plan is a 401(k) or 403(b) tax-deferred plan, you will be able to invest for your future while also lowering the taxes you pay today.

■ Check to see if your plan includes employer-matching contributions. If so, contribute enough to receive them. You wouldn't turn down a raise, don't turn down "free" retirement money if your employer offers it.

■ If you already participate in an employer-sponsored plan, make sure you contribute adequately. Financial planners suggest your contributions should equal at least 10 percent of your pay if you start investing early. If you wait until later in your career, you'll need to invest considerably

COMMENTARY

Supporting marriage and family

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Public Affairs and other organizations have requested that churches place a special emphasis on marriage and the family on Sunday, Aug. 29. With so much in the news these days about marriage laws and a Kentucky state constitutional amendment defining marriage set to appear on our ballots in November, it is vital that we teach what God's Word has to say about marriage.

It has been my conviction for years that we have missed a grand opportunity to encourage marriage partners and reinforce their commitment to each other. We recognize the 25th and 50th anniversaries, but why not recognize the first and fifth and 10th? We could find creative ways to help couples make the journey together by establishing significant benchmarks along the way.

The Bible is very clear about the nature of the relationship between a man and woman in marriage (Eph-

sians 4:31). The Apostle Paul selected the most awesome relationship that he knew to describe the relationship of love in marriage. He moves in a seamless manner from the incredible love demonstrated by Jesus Christ for the church to describe the kind of love that a husband should have for his wife. It is a self-denying, sacrificial and sanctifying love that involves forgiveness, responsibility and unconditional love. The marriage is made holy by the devotion of love.

Kay and I have just celebrated our 41st wedding anniversary. I consider it a privilege to renew my commitment to her.

In Ephesians 6, Paul addresses the relationship between children and parents. Children are to obey and honor their parents that it may be well with them. And parents are to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The Bible has instructions for grandparents in Psalm 78:1-11. It is

more.

■ If you work for yourself or a company that doesn't have a retirement plan, consider an Individual Retirement Account. With IRA accounts you can make contributions from your own funds—either as a lump sum or as regular monthly amounts. Some IRA contributions are tax-deductible, others are not.

In Luke 14, Jesus teaches His followers the importance of good preparation by estimating the cost of future plans. Realize that with today's life expectancy, you could live one-fourth or more of your life in retirement. Be a good steward of the income God has provided by making adequate preparation.

Bob Henry is director of GuideStone Financial Resources church retirement marketing department

our responsibility, as well as that of parents, to teach the mighty acts of God so that future generations including those yet unborn, might "set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments."

Reality is that you begin that process by changing diapers, feeding babies and making trips to the doctor. In the midst of the reality, it is a great opportunity to pray for the children and grandchildren and their future relationships, especially to God.

On a recent Sunday I was impressed with the back-to-school family emphasis at High Street Baptist Church in Somerset. For several years the church has conducted a block party and special program focused on children and parents.

Their volunteer children's minister has provided excellent leadership. Pastor Jammie Vance and Steve Hall, minister of music, are to be commended for their encouragement and support of children and their parents and prayer support for teachers.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Is your church's budget based on mission, vision?

By Doug Strader

The time to begin thinking about the new church budget year is upon us. Before you realize it, your church will be involved in planning the new budget. What needs to be done to make this planning cycle more efficient and effective?

Your budget planning committee should take a look at the church mission and the church vision. Your budget should be constructed in accordance with these two documents, because the budget is the vehicle that enables the church to fulfill its goals and dreams. Some churches have a dreaming session with the entire church invited, or if your church is larger, with the church council and other invited groups. The more people involved in this process, the more successful the process can be.

During the dreaming session, have a thorough discussion about the ministries the church needs to be involved in during the new budget year. Write down every suggestion that is proposed, because you are not writing the budget at this time, you are gathering valuable information.

After the suggestions have been recorded, discuss why these ministries should be done. Does each suggestion relate to the church's mission and vision? If not, perhaps it should not be part of the budget. Even if all the suggestions relate to the church's mission and vision, it probably will not be possible to include all of them in the budget. Some hard decisions will need to be made by the committee and/or the dreaming group about which ones to include in the new budget.

The next step is to discuss how these ministries are to be accomplished. Each new ministry should be one that is achievable; if not, it should be eliminated for this year. Of course this whole process must be bathed in prayer. The committee needs to ask for the prayers of the group as they continue to do their work.

Finally, the group and the entire church body must determine whether or not they are willing to support these ministries with their tithes and offerings. The entire church must be challenged to give regularly to support the ministry of the Lord's work.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Fairdale Baptist Church in Louisville



'Blessing giving' can enhance teen's transition to college

Q: Our son will leave for college this fall and will be away from home for the first time. What can we do to make the transition easier?

Managing developmental transitions for both parents and teenagers is important at critical junctions such as this. While anxiety in the family typically increases, this is normal and even healthy, provided that the family members carefully reflect and communicate about the changes occurring.

Before your son leaves, have some family conversation about what his leaving will mean. Give everyone in the family a chance to talk about their thoughts and feelings and to express their hopes and dreams for him. Encourage him to talk about both his excitement and his fears. Remind him that it will take some time to adjust and that you don't expect him to come home every weekend. He will need to stay at school on the weekends in order to develop meaningful friendships and find a church.

Negotiate a regular method of communication with him. You might decide to use brief e-mails throughout the week with a weekly phone call late on Saturday afternoon. A cell phone could make communication easier and more frequent.

Leaving home offers a great opportunity for "blessing giving" as some parents take this occasion to compose a letter expressing their love, appreciation, reflections and hopes for their son or daughter. Rest assured that this letter will be read and re-read many times.

Make your son a focus of daily prayer. Perhaps putting a framed picture at his place at the kitchen table will help you remember to pray for him at each meal. Send him off to school with a framed picture of the family as a reminder to him of your love and support.—Scott Wigginton

Q: With the high rate of divorce among conservative evangelicals today, perhaps one problem might be that we are less likely to live together before marriage. Is that the case?

In a word, no. The divorce statistics have to do with such things as conservative evangelicals marrying younger than the general public, marrying poorer than the general public, and lacking networks of people in place to hold couples accountable.

Another concern is the "magical thinking" that says, "If we are both Christians, then everything will be alright." Having a common faith foundation is important, but it does not overcome emotional immaturity or irresponsibility in other areas of life.

Statistics show that cohabitation before marriage actually increases the likelihood of divorce. It also increases the likelihood of breaking up before the marriage. This is because when you live with someone before marriage, you are practicing lack of commitment. In a "one foot in and one foot out" world, it becomes easier to take the other foot out and leave.

Do all you can to prevent divorce before marriage by taking your time to know what you want (values clarification), and taking time to get to know the person you are about to marry. Don't get married without entering honestly into a premarital counseling process. Premarital counseling is not about the wedding, it is about the marriage. Find a qualified counselor who can take you through the important process of helping you merge your two lives into one commitment.

Take advantage of either the PREPARE-ENRICH or FOCUS-REFOCUS premarital counseling programs. Their value is multiplied if you can go through this process with a trained marriage mentor who will work with you on a monthly basis for at least a year after the wedding.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: vvhvdm@msn.com.

Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

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



Baptism growth demands 'fresh vision'

A recent survey by the National Opinion Research Center is attracting attention among evangelical leaders.

According to the survey, the United States may cease having a Protestant majority as soon as next year—for the first time in the nation's history.

NORC, based at the University of Chicago, has been tracking respondents' religious affiliations and other issues since 1972.

For the first 20 years of the study, the Protestant population remained a steady 63 percent. Beginning in 1993, however, that percentage began a gradual decline. As of 2002, the number of Protestants had dropped to 52 percent. NORC researchers project that the percentage likely will drop below 50 percent within the next year.

A NORC report notes that "the increasing secularization of American society has taken a particular toll on Protestant identity."

Tom Smith, director of NORC's General Social Survey, said the change reflects the country's shift toward becoming a nation of minorities. As the Protestant majority has declined, affiliation with other religious groups such as Eastern faiths, Islam and non-denominational Christianity has more than doubled from 3 percent in 1993 to 7 percent in 2002.

Other factors, Smith said, include "the loss of younger adherents and a related drop in the retention rate" among Protestants. As recently as 1993, about 90 percent of people who were raised Protestants remained Protestants as adults. By 2002, that number had fallen to 83 percent.

In Baptist life, those findings come at a time when denominational leaders on the state and national levels are urging churches to increase baptisms.

On the national level, Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch and LifeWay Christian Resources President Jimmy Draper are among leaders calling for Southern Baptists to baptize 1 million peo-

ple a year. Welch will embark on a 50-state bus tour next week to promote evangelism and LifeWay has set aside \$1.6 million to help 14 state Baptist conventions fund evangelism projects next year. (See related article on page 2.)

How realistic is the goal of 1 million baptisms in one year? The effort comes amid four consecutive years of baptism declines in the SBC. Last year's total of 377,357 baptisms is more than 622,000 below the 1 million mark.

Of course, Southern Baptists are well aware that the spiritual conversions leading to increased baptisms are solely the work of the Holy Spirit. But all Christians are called to be used of the Holy Spirit as faithful witnesses of the gospel of Christ.

Here in Kentucky, the baptism goals are not quite as dramatic—but still ambitious. Kentucky Baptists Connect, the implementation phase of the KBC's recent mission study report, challenges every Kentucky Baptist

church to increase its annual baptisms by one each of the next five years. The statewide goal is to record a total of 125,000 baptisms by the end of 2009—an increase of more than 40 percent over the current annual average of 17,500.

Dan Garland, leader of the KBC church development/evangelism team, said the baptism goals will require a major shift in priorities on the local church, associational and state convention levels. "Overall," he added, "the report is about changing the climate of Kentucky Baptist churches and getting a fresh vision of what the church is to be about."

Will Protestants become a minority of the U.S. population? Will Southern Baptists reverse our recent baptism decline and baptize 1 million people a year? Will your church baptize one more person this year than last year? The ultimate answers involve "getting a fresh vision" and fulfilling that vision through the power of God's Spirit.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Bill Cosby's harsh but wise words

By Terriel Byrd

West Palm Beach, Fla. (BP)—The world's most famous father, Bill Cosby, has directed his voice and wisdom toward one of the most troubling aspects of contemporary black life in American society.

According to Cosby, there is a great rift between the advantages available to African Americans through traditional educational paths and the paths that many ultimately choose to take. Cosby notes that many young people are "failing to honor the sacrifices made by those who struggled and died during the civil rights movement."

With the significance of the civil rights movement being lost on so many young blacks today, their titular leaders have become the few fortunate individuals who choose or are chosen to travel the flashy paths provided by sports—larger-than-life figures of influence who enjoy the fame and privilege that comes with their profession.

A few more have become titular figures of leadership by their spotlight in the flashy glamour of the entertainment industry.

Young people today seem to be captivated by the lives and accomplishments of sports and entertainment figures who have benefited from the access provided them by the civil rights movement. Yet these same young people generally hold no moral appreciation of the movement.

African American children seem to translate this personality worship into lifestyles barren of focus and positive direction for their own lives.

"They think they're hip," Cosby said of African Americans who fail to pursue education and whose lives are dominated by a current popular culture that drains it of real day-to-day truth and substance.

"They can't read; they can't write," Cosby said. "They're laughing and giggling, and they're going nowhere."

Cosby's comments continue to reverberate since he first voiced them at the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Brown v. Board of Education desegregation decision at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., in May.

There, Cosby held African American parents responsible for the current and impending social endangerment of their children's lives and education.

Cosby told the crowd that "the lower economic people are not holding up their end of this deal." He lamented, for example, that "the racial slurs used by those who used to lynch blacks are now a favorite expression of black children."

Cosby's strong stand and disapproving tone marshaled criticism from leaders in education and from the nation's oldest civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People.

One such rebuttal accuses Cosby of relying on age-old stereotypes to define the lives of the African Americans he targeted in his reprimands, that his vast wealth has placed him out of touch with the lives of ordinary African American people. Yet one of Cosby's complaints is that parents who lavish expensive outfits on their children will not invest in educational items for them.

"They are buying things for kids—\$500 sneakers—and for what?" Cosby said. "But they won't spend \$200 for Hooked on Phonics."

The focus and work of the civil rights movement was disciplined—soaked in the blood, determination and tears of many martyrs. People of every color and social status in America demanded and cut out of the cloth of segregation and dehumanization a more just and humane existence for all who live in the country. Perhaps because Cosby knows that the possibilities open to every African American are supported by the sacrifice of at least one civil rights martyr, Cosby's anger is understandable and justifiable.

Cosby's rallying cry to African Americans is tight, but it is right. Because, unless, when the time comes—and that time comes quickly in every life—young African Americans can talk the talk, \$500 sneakers will not help them walk the walk when it is time for them to enter the real world of real life.

Terriel Byrd is associate professor of religion at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Cynthia Insko named new Georgetown campus minister

Louisville—Cynthia Insko has been named campus minister at Georgetown College. She succeeds Sharon Felton whose husband has accepted a pastorate in Texas.

Insko's election was confirmed Aug. 19 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board's administrative committee. The position is jointly funded by the KBC and Georgetown. Insko said her ministry goals include "seeing students come to Christ and grow spiritually and learn to connect their Christian lives with their vocation."

Keith Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate ministry group, affirmed Insko's commitment to discipleship.

"Her main desire is to minister to college students, nurturing them into mature disciples," he said, adding that she will help students develop leadership skills that can be used "through the ministry of the local church and their individual vocational calling."

Dwight Moody, dean of the chapel at Georgetown, described Insko as "a woman of intelligence, compassion, conviction and ability."

Noting that Insko's parents, Wallace and Judith Williams, are Georgetown alumni, Moody added, "She has deep family roots at Georgetown College. ... We are sure our student ministry will thrive under her leadership."

Insko is a graduate of Samford University and Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala. She has served as a campus minister at the University of Alabama, Birmingham; Birmingham-Southern College; and Jefferson State Community College.

In other business, KBC administrative committee members authorized chairman Charles Barnes to appoint a subcommittee to study the size and involvement level of the KBC Mission Board and recommend any needed changes.

The board currently has more than 170 members representing each Kentucky Baptist association. The study will evaluate the optimal number of board members but will not change the current nomination and election process.



SBC President's Bus Tour Comes To Kentucky

September 7, 2004 at Highview Baptist Church.



Bobby Welch, President
Southern Baptist Convention

New SBC President Bobby Welch's 25-day, 50-state bus tour hits Kentucky Sept. 7! The "Kingdom Challenge" bus will be at Highview Baptist Church, 7711 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville, at 6 p.m. All Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to come out for a rally at which Welch will preach and then lead attendees in making door-to-door visits in the community.

Welch is visiting churches in all 50 states to encourage Southern Baptists to evangelize more passionately and reach a goal of **1 million 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."



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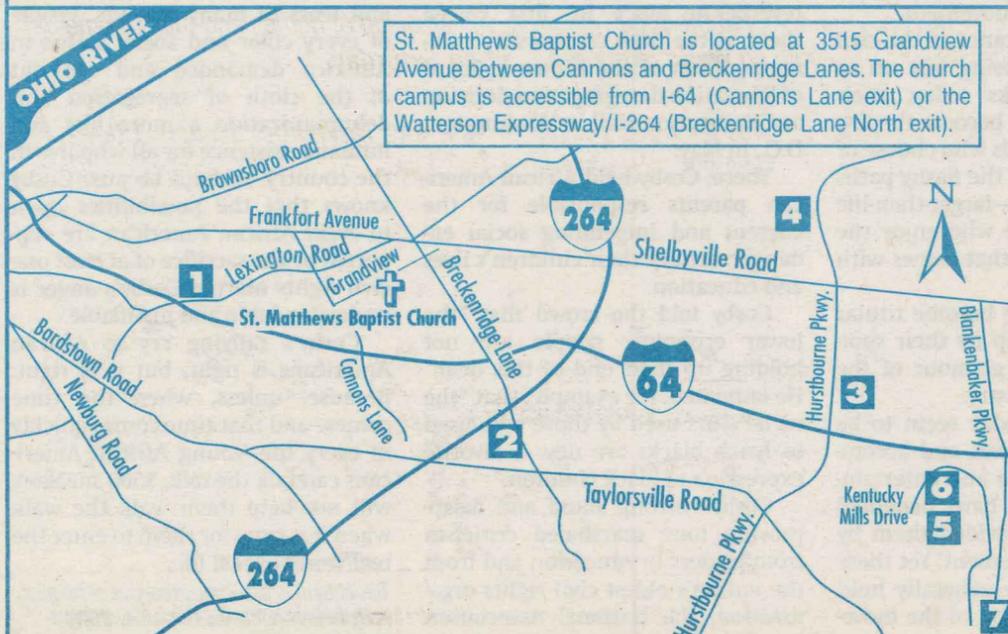
Two great publications, one less post office headache

2004 KBC Annual Meeting November 16-17

St. Matthews Baptist Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Make plans now to attend!

KENTUCKY BAPTISTS
Connect
Connecting All People To Jesus Christ



St. Matthews Baptist Church is located at 3515 Grandview Avenue between Cannons and Breckenridge Lanes. The church campus is accessible from I-64 (Cannons Lane exit) or the Watterson Expressway/I-264 (Breckenridge Lane North exit).

Accommodations

Rates do not include the current 13.95% hotel tax. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Most blocked rooms are non-smoking.

Southern Seminary Campus

1.9 miles from St. Matthews

1 Legacy Center

2825 Lexington Road
Toll free 1.877.444.SBTS or 502.736.0600
\$65 (mini suite); \$75 (double suite)
Free breakfast
Free guest transportation
Access to campus health facilities
Reservation deadline: October 18

Watterson Expressway (I-264): Breckenridge Lane exit

2.3 miles from St. Matthews

2 Breckenridge Inn

2800 Breckenridge Lane
502.456.5050
\$62 (singles, doubles)
Free continental breakfast buffet
Indoor pool/whirlpool/fitness room
Close to other restaurants
Reservation deadline: October 15

I-64: Hurstbourne Parkway/Middletown exit

5.4 miles from St. Matthews; follow Hurstbourne Parkway north to hotels

3 AmeriSuites Louisville / East

6.4 miles from church
701 South Hurstbourne Parkway
502.426.0119
\$85 (kings, doubles)
Free breakfast buffet
Fitness center/heated outdoor pool
Next to Barnes & Noble
Close to other restaurants
Reservation deadline: November 1

4 Embassy Suites Hotel Louisville East

6 miles from church, using North Hurstbourne Parkway and Shelbyville Road
9940 Corporate Campus Drive
502.426.9191
\$109 (kings, doubles)
Free cooked-to-order breakfast, buffet options
Close to other restaurants
Indoor pool/whirlpool/fitness center
Reservation deadline: October 15

I-64: Blankenbaker Parkway South Exit

6.5 miles from St. Matthews to exit; all hotels are adjacent to I-64

5 Best Western Signature Inn

1301 Kentucky Mills Drive
502.267.8100
\$63 (kings, 2 queens)
Free deluxe breakfast
Walking distance to Cracker Barrel
Pool/fitness center
Reservation deadline: November 1

6 Country Inn & Suites

1241 Kentucky Mills Drive
502.261.9434
\$84 (singles, doubles); \$94 (suites, office suites)
Free deluxe breakfast
Walking distance to Cracker Barrel
Indoor pool/fitness center
Reservation deadline: October 15

7 Comfort Suites Louisville East

1850 Resource Way
502.266.6509
\$59 (singles, doubles)
Free continental breakfast
Close to restaurants
Indoor pool/spa/fitness center
Reservation deadline: November 1



For more information, contact Denise H. Withers by phone: 502.254.4731 or 888.254.5713 or e-mail: Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org

CROSS OVER

Metro Louisville

November 10-15, 2004

Lifting Christ In The City

A Special Invitation from the Long Run Baptist Association

TARGETED AREAS:

- Americana Apartments Community
- Portland Community
- West Louisville
- Shelby Park in Downtown
- Churchill Downs
- University of Louisville Campus

This year's Cross Over provides an opportunity for Baptists from around the state to serve in some of Kentucky's most unique urban locations. Our focus is on the great needs that exist in the urban center of Kentucky's largest city. We understand that many of these projects could be done right where you live, but hope that you will consider being "on mission" with us in heart of the city that thousands of lost folks in Kentucky call home.

Cross Over Louisville is an effort to reach Kentucky for Christ.

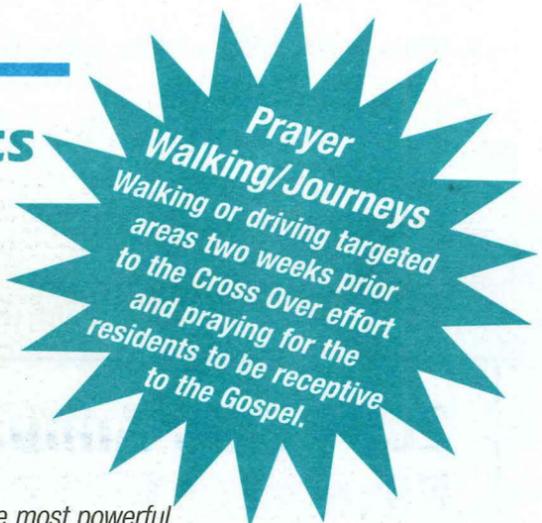
This will be accomplished by mobilizing Kentucky Baptists from all over the state to be involved in evangelism and mission projects in targeted areas the weekend prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, **November 10-15, 2004.**

Community Outreach Projects

TARGETED AREAS: Community/Prayer Needs Surveys

Americana Apartments Community and Portland Community

Kentucky Baptists will fan out across the targeted areas on Saturday morning, November 13, and knock on doors. They will use a community/prayer needs survey (see page 2) and a witnessing booklet to share Christ with unchurched and lost individuals.



The Hope Video Distribution

The Hope video proclaims God's love for humanity in the most powerful of ways: through a high-quality presentation of the stories and messages of the Bible. The Hope video shows how God's redemptive plan reaches out to all people. It shows how God's plan gives meaning to our lives here on earth and hope for an eternal future. Hundreds of these videos will be distributed in homes across the targeted areas on Saturday, November 13. No evangelism training is required, only a willingness to knock on doors and offer the video as a gift.

TARGETED AREAS: Sports Evangelism

West Louisville

Three on Three basketball tournament will be held in conjunction with the Baptist Fellowship Center for ages 9-11 and 12-14. Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, November 13** at 7:00 a.m. to help prepare for the tournament, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are also needed to help keep score, serve refreshments and lunch, and share Christ with those who attend.

TARGETED AREAS: Servant Evangelism Projects

Shelby Park in Downtown Louisville and Churchill Downs

In the Shelby Park area, the focus of the projects will be winterization of homes and minor home repairs. The projects will begin on **Wednesday** and end on **Saturday**.

On the backside of Churchill Downs the project will be on **Monday, November 15** from **1:00-4:00 PM**. The focus will be handing out "give away" bags and giving an invitation to come to the Monday night worship services at the backside.

Prayer Walk/Campus Outreach

Volunteers are needed to prayer walk the University of Louisville campus on **Sunday, November 14** from 2 to 4:00 p.m.



A sample of the Community/Prayer Needs Survey is given below. The basic format is that teams of three people will be assigned specific areas to survey and be given packets of materials to use. As each team goes through the survey with residents, an opportunity is extended to share a witnessing booklet with interested individuals. Each team will be assigned approximately 30 homes to survey. **This will also be available in Spanish.**

COMMUNITY/PRAYER NEEDS SURVEY

Not at home Busy Refused Survey Refused Materials

Names of Surveyors _____

Address of Home Surveyed (First print the address and then knock on the door or ring the doorbell) _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

At The Door Say:

Hello, I'm _____ and this is _____ and _____ (use first names only).

We are with _____ Baptist Church and we are trying to help our church effectively meet the needs of our community by conducting a brief community needs survey.

May we ask you a few questions?

1. What do you believe is the biggest need in our community?

2. How could our church best help our community and your family?

3. When you attend church, where do you attend?

4. Our church would like to pray for you and your family. Are there prayer concerns our church family can pray for at this time?

5. Can we call and make an appointment to share with you the ministries of our church? If yes, may we have your name and phone number?

Name _____ Phone _____

6. Would you be interested in participating in a home Bible study? ___ Yes ___ No

7. Comments: _____

Conclusion - After each survey please complete the information below:

Shared witnessing booklet Profession of Faith Assurance of Salvation

This person is a prospect:

Name _____

Phone (optional) _____

Comments _____

The Community/Prayer Needs Survey of Cross Over Louisville offers excellent opportunities to discover needs and share Christ. Many professions of faith are expected as a result. Please check in at Long Run Baptist Association office at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 13 for all the Saturday projects.

General Instructions for Community/Prayer Needs Survey

All those participating in the **Community/Prayer Needs Survey**, please report on **Saturday, November 13th** to the Long Run Baptist Association at 8:30 a.m. for general instructions.

▶ You will be assigned to a team of three people with at least one person of the opposite sex on each team and one person from the church you are representing.

▶ You will be given a packet of material that contains a map that locates the area to be surveyed, the Community/Prayer Needs Survey cards and information about the church you are representing. Take time to pray together as a team for those homes you will visit and the people you will talk with.

▶ As you approach the residence to be surveyed, fill out the top portion of the survey including the address.

▶ A designated person in the group should introduce the team and share the purpose of the survey. One person on the team should record the responses while another person asks the questions. Go through the survey and if appropriate seek to share the gospel using the "Steps to Peace with God" witnessing booklet.

▶ If possible, obtain the name or names of the persons in the household and fill out the survey card before going to the next residence.

▶ Leave materials about the church and the witnessing booklet. If no one is home, mark this on the top portion of the survey card indicating the address and leave materials about the church.

▶ Do not enter the residence or go to the back door. If residents ask you to come in say that you have been requested not to enter homes so as not to inconvenience anyone.

▶ After completing the surveys of assigned areas, return to the church to turn in your report forms.

▶ **HOST CHURCHES ARE TO PROVIDE LUNCH FOR THE PARTICIPANTS.**

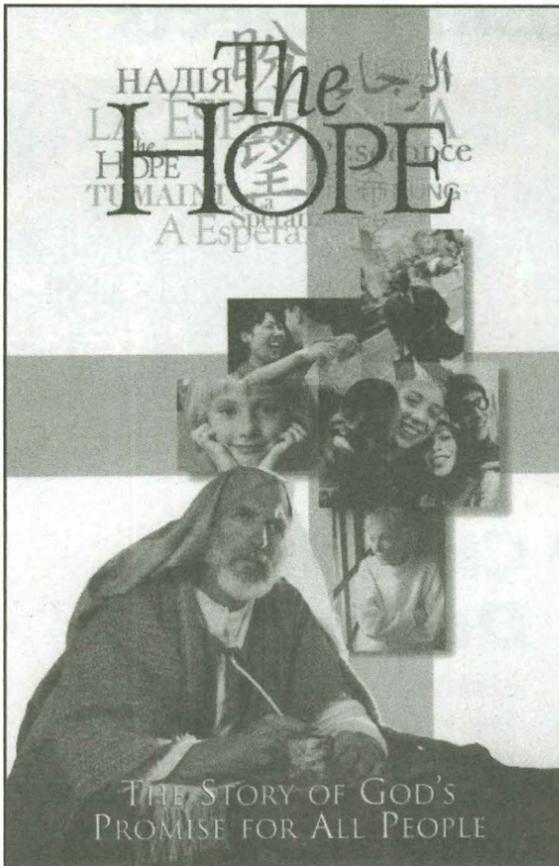
If you have not yet volunteered for **Cross Over Metro Louisville**, NOW is the time! For more information or to volunteer to participate in one of many events planned, call **888-254-5722 or 502-254-4737**

You can also register online at:

www.kybaptist.org/crossover

The Hope Video Distribution

Cross Over
Metro Louisville



The Hope video proclaims God's love for humanity in the most powerful of ways: through a high-quality presentation of the stories and messages of the Bible. The Hope video shows how God's redemptive plan reaches out to all people. It shows how God's plan gives meaning to our lives here on earth and hope for an eternal future. Hundreds of these videos will be distributed in homes across the targeted areas on **Saturday, November 13**. No evangelism training is required, only a willingness to knock on doors and offer the video as a gift.

TRAINING GUIDE FOR THE CROSS OVER VIDEO DISTRIBUTION

- Show the Hope video** in your church on a Sunday night during the discipleship time or during the evening worship service. (These are available through the Evangelism office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.)
- Promote the need** to distribute the Hope videos in your area.
- Enlist volunteers** from within your church who will help with the Hope video distribution and encourage them to work with the other Kentucky Baptists who will be coming to participate in Cross Over events. (See sample below.)
- Select the areas** you can reasonably expect to cover in about four hours. One team of three people can cover about 50 homes.
- Order the Hope videos** from the Evangelism Office. The cost is \$3.00 each. Order 25 videos per team.
- Follow-up.** The ideal follow-up is to make a second visit to the homes about one month after the videos have been distributed. Ask if there are any questions about the video, ask for prayer concerns that can be shared with the church and give an invitation to Bible study and worship.

Prayer Walks/Journeys

The Prayer Walking/Journeys will consist of walking or driving targeted areas beginning two weeks prior to the Cross Over effort and praying for the residents to be receptive to the Gospel.

INSTRUCTIONS

For The Churches Participating In The Prayer Walks/Journeys:

- Prepare maps of the areas to be prayer walked or driven.**
- Designate a timeframe at least two weeks prior to Cross Over to do the Prayer Walks/Journeys.**

The key to both calling out laborers for Cross Over and touching the unchurched with the Good News is prayer. It is our desire that every targeted area of Cross Over be prayed for through prayer walking or driving strategic areas. Those who want to participate in Cross Over prayer efforts are encouraged to:

- Put Cross Over on their prayer list.**
- Sign up to be part of the prayer effort for Cross Over and choose a targeted area.**

Those who wish to participate in Cross Over Metro Louisville need to gather at the Long Run Baptist Association Office on Saturday, November 13 at 8:30 a.m. Instructions will be given and assignments made.

Sample Response Card

- Please call or visit with me. I have questions about how to become a Christian.
- Please send me more information about a personal relationship with Jesus.
- Prayer requests or comments

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Sample Bulletin Insert

Cross Over Hope Video Distribution

You can help offer the gift of **Hope** to homes in our area. Our church will be giving the gift of a Hope video to local families as part of **CROSS OVER METRO LOUISVILLE**. No evangelism training is required. If you are willing to be a part of our group distributing these videos on Saturday, November 13, please complete the information below.

Yes, I will help!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Cross Over Metro Louisville 2004 Leadership Team

Cross Over Coordinator

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Cross Over Coordinator/Missions Strategist
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Churchill Downs

Suzette Gilpin, Church Coordinator
Churchill Downs Backside Ministry
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Churchill Downs

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Jeffersontown Baptist Church
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Downtown/Shelby Park

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Portland

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Americana Apartments Coordinator

**Jesus Pacheco, Catalytic Missionary for
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Sports Evangelism Coordinator

Mr. Don Grey, Director of Sports & Recreation
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Sports Evangelism Coordinator

Mr. Dennis White
Beargrass Missionary Baptist Church
(502) 327-7885 • shark2rain@aol.com

University of Louisville Campus

Mrs. Angela Girdley, BSU Campus Minister
(502) 852-6595 • apgird01@louisville.edu

Cross Over
Metro Louisville

Servant Evangelism Projects

Meeting needs and sharing Christ will be the focus of these projects. The Shelby Park area will be targeted area. Louisville Gas and Electric will provide the materials needed to winterize homes. Other small home repairs will also be done.

Volunteers are needed Wednesday through Saturday for these projects. Housing and meals will be provided. Please contact **Jason Lee, Immanuel Baptist Church** at (502) 267-1123.



Churchill Downs

Volunteers are needed to support the ongoing Monday night ministry to the backside of Churchill Downs. Help is needed to prepare and distribute personal "give away" bags on **Monday, November 15 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Please contact **Suzette Gilpin, Churchill Downs Backside Ministry** at (502) 933-1583.

Sports Evangelism

In conjunction with the Baptist Fellowship Center the 3 on 3 basketball tournament will be held on **Saturday, November 13.** **Volunteers are needed** at 7:00 a.m. to help prepare for the tournament, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are also needed to help keep score, serve refreshments and lunch, and share Christ with those who attend. Please contact **Don Grey, Director of Sports and Recreation for the Long Run Baptist Association** at (502) 635-2601.



Church Development and Evangelism Team

P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253-0433

**502-254-4737 or
Toll Free 888-254-5722**



Please visit our website at:
www.kybaptist.org/crossover
for "Up to the Minute" information about Cross Over Metro Louisville and ways you can help by donating items of need.



This publication is made possible by
the Cooperative Program.

Summer camp is over

But spiritual decisions will have life-long significance

Camp is already over, and it seemed as though it just began. Each year seems to pass more quickly than the previous year, and this year was no exception. While camp is camp and many similarities exist each year, this year certainly was unique.

We still are compiling numbers from Cedar-moore, Jonathan Creek and Moldova, but without question this is our largest year ever in campers and decisions. Among the three locations, we were involved with approximately 10,000 students. Our estimate is that more than 3,000 of these students made some type of spiritual decision. I wish words could describe adequately the spiritual impact that takes place at camp so each of you personally could experience in some way what God does through our ministry.

If you can, imagine what happens when the distractions of the world are somewhat removed and you spend hours each day in prayer, Bible study, worship and fellowship among hundreds of like-minded brothers and sisters.

Many people are in prayer for you as you deal with issues in your life as God reveals them. You continually are being encouraged by those around you, and they hold you accountable to God's Word. This is a typical day in the life of someone attending camp.

I believe the future will prove that camping, retreats and conferences will become more and more necessary in our hectic world. I always have said that our ministry cannot replace the church, but we can and do support the church by providing a unique setting in which some miraculous events can take place.

After all, think about the summary from the past 10 weeks: 10,000 campers, more than 3,000 spiritual decisions, over 1,500 of these being salvation decisions, and Jonathan Creek campers giving more than \$60,000 to missions, just to name a few. God has done the miraculous this summer, and we are thankful to have been along for the ride.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

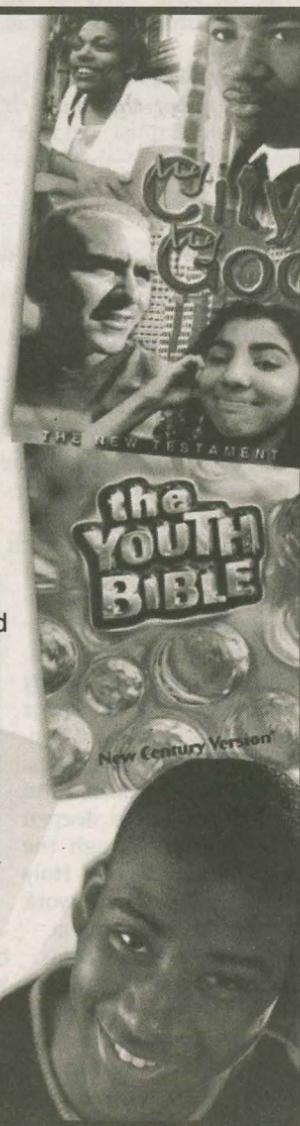
Share the Good News.

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

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



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Kudzu

Doug Marlette



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

Teri Grottko

Across

- 1 "We have seen his _____ in the east" (Matthew 2:2)
- 5 Accepts, in a way
- 9 Atlantic seaboard state (abbr.)
- 11 "My _____ is in thee" (Psalm 39:7)
- 12 Warehouse
- 13 "Keep me as the _____ of the eye" (Psalm 17:8)
- 15 _____ de France
- 17 "My _____ shall praise thee" (Psalm 63:3)
- 19 Addiction to (suffix)
- 22 Affirmative (colloq)
- 23 "Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a _____" (Numbers 21:8)
- 24 Printer's measure
- 26 Secondborn of Adam
- 30 Cambridge college (abbr.)
- 31 "At thy word I will let down the _____" (Luke 5:5)
- 33 One source of evil
- 35 "The Lord is thy _____ upon thy right hand" (Psalm 121:5)
- 38 Soloist
- 39 Peter or Paul (abbr.)
- 41 Book or teller
- 42 "The sceptre shall not depart from _____" (Genesis 49:10)
- 44 "As light of foot as a wild _____" (2 Samuel 2:18)
- 45 Off-used abbr.
- 46 "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is _____" (Joel 3:13)
- 48 Stay _____
- 50 "Thou hast been a _____ for me, and a strong tower" (Psalm 61:3)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	
11					12							
13				14		15					16	
		17			18				19	20	21	
		22						23				
24	25				26	27	28	29		30		
31		32			33				34			
	35		36	37			38				39	40
41						42				43		
		44				45			46		47	
48	49					50		51				
52					53			54				
55					56					57		

- 52 _____ is condition
- 53 Unit of dry measure (abbr.)
- 54 Complete set of events
- 55 "Our word was not yea and _____" (2 Corinthians 1:18)
- 56 Sauce made with fresh basil
- 57 Duly noted at a yearly physical (abbr.)

- 20 _____ cat
- 21 "A city that is _____ on a hill" (Matthew 5:14)
- 25 "As an eagle stirreth up her _____" (Deuteronomy 32:11)
- 27 One who takes to the rails (colloq)
- 28 "Bread _____ and to spare" (Luke 15:17)
- 29 What a bank may do
- 32 Paul's _____ in the flesh
- 34 "For there is a _____ sacrifice there for all the family" (1 Samuel 20:6)
- 36 City on the banks of the Arnon River (Joshua 13:16)
- 37 Changed hues
- 40 "Over _____" (wartime favorite)
- 41 "Get thee behind me, _____" (Luke 4:8)
- 42 Prince of Peace
- 43 Wed, in Dogpatch
- 47 Throw things at
- 49 "Land of the free" (abbr.)
- 51 System or sphere
- 53 "_____ of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)

Down

- 1 Hone
- 2 Hat or heavy
- 3 "_____ thine heart to understanding" (Proverbs 2:2)
- 4 Depended upon
- 5 Second letter of the Hebrew alphabet (var)
- 6 "They that wait _____ the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31)
- 7 Thou, to a non-Quaker
- 8 Dismantle
- 10 Masculine nickname
- 14 Gov't agency
- 16 "Consider the _____ of the field" (Matthew 6:28)
- 18 "Endured the cross, despising the _____" (Hebrews 12:2)

Last week's solution

M	I	R	A	C	L	E	A	R	K		
I	A	C	H	A	R	B	E	V	A		
N	H	U	B	A	B	A	S	E			
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T	A	L	C	R	E	S	T	V			
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Kentucky volunteers providing post-Charley relief

Kentucky volunteers have been told by the American Red Cross that they are needed "for the long term."

Fort Meyers, Fla. (BP)—More than 50 Kentucky Baptists have driven to Florida to cook meals and help residents clean up after Hurricane Charley.

Kentucky volunteers arrived Aug. 19 at First Baptist Church of Fort Meyers and immediately began cleaning up around the church and neighboring properties.

Volunteers are doing more "mud-out" work than chainsaw clearing, said Larry Koch, director of disaster relief for the Baptist men's ministries department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"There was three feet of water in most houses in the area from the storm surge," Koch said. "Most of what we are cleaning up in the yards is what the ocean brought in instead of what the storm blew down."

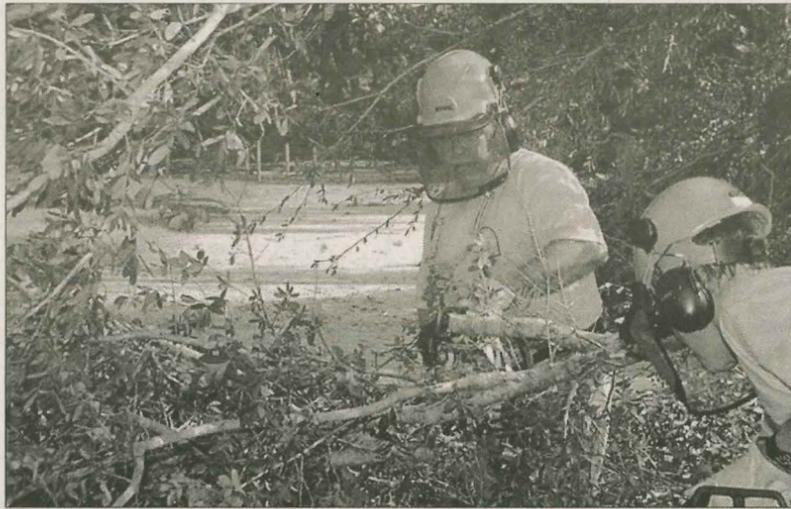
Kentucky volunteers have been told by the American Red Cross that they are needed "for the long term," Koch said. "By 'long term' we have no idea what they mean."

By comparison, volunteers prepared meals for two months after Hurricane Andrew in South Florida and six weeks near the coast of North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd.

Koch urged volunteers to contact the KBC men's ministry department at (888) 254-5720 before traveling to Florida. "We need to know who's coming and when."

Volunteers need to be in good shape to work on this project, he added. "It's hot, humid and miserable," he said. "Just standing around, you break out into a sweat."

The Kentucky crews are part of nearly 100 cleanup and recovery



CHARLEY CLEANUP Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers Stanford Owens (left) and Jerry German of Gloucester, Va., cut a fallen tree at First Baptist Church in Oviedo, Fla. They are among the nearly 800 Baptist volunteers working in Florida providing mass feeding, cleanup and shower services. (BP photo by Kathleen Murray)

teams serving in Florida, representing more than a dozen state Baptist conventions.

Nearly 800 volunteers

Mickey Caison, manager of the Disaster Operations Center at the North American Mission Board, said that as of Aug. 17, Southern Baptist volunteers already had prepared more than 30,000 meals.

Nearly 800 Southern Baptist volunteers from across the country were participating in more than 350 disaster relief projects throughout southwest Florida in the wake of Hurricane Charley, Caison said.

State officials attribute 19 deaths to the storm and more than \$11 billion in property damage.

Caison said Southern Baptist vol-

unteers are providing both physical and spiritual care to Floridians during the time of crisis.

"I believe God is truly being glorified by the words and actions of Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers serving sacrificially throughout central and southwest Florida," Caison said.

Volunteer John Henry, from Pearl, Miss., said his feeding unit was happy to serve in a time of crisis as a way to share the gospel.

"We'll be here as long as we need to be," he said. "Anybody who will listen, we share the gospel with them, also."

In North Port at South Biscayne Baptist Church—which is hosting the Florida Baptist Disaster Relief Command Center—members found

that its building had electricity, unlike most of their homes.

Two days after the storm, South Biscayne Pastor John Cross preached from 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.

"God is the God of all comfort. In time in trouble, He's going to comfort us," Cross said, describing his sermon. "But verse four says that we are comforted so that we can go and comfort others. I believe that God wants those of us who have not suffered great loss to now go and comfort and share His love with this region."

At McGregor Baptist Church in Fort Myers, a large, electronic sign read on Sunday: "Yes, we're having church." The church also is hosting a chainsaw team from Tennessee that is clearing downed trees.

Pastor Richard Powell praised the state disaster relief teams.

Fort Myers is not the Bible Belt and some residents are skeptical or even hostile to Southern Baptists, Powell said. But the disaster relief effort is "a great example for us to just let the community know we really do care, we really do care. We're excited about doing that."

Contributions to offset direct costs of the response may be sent to state conventions, associations or churches responding to the effort, or to the North American Mission Board. NAMB contributions may be made online at www.namb.net/disasterrelief or mailed to: North American Mission Board, Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543

Compiled from reporting by James Smith of the Florida Baptist Witness, Lee Weeks of the SBC North American Mission Board and News Director David Winfrey

Learning to work

Oneida's lessons in job skills can stay with students 'for time and eternity'

By Dave Jaspersen
Boys' Work Program Supervisor

We recently completed another summer school session. Each afternoon when school was out, the boys reported to roll call, ready to work for the afternoon.

Oneida Baptist Institute's mission statement, "Education for Time and Eternity," is a statement that not only focuses on God and academics, but also on learning to work. One's ability to do a job and do it well does not come naturally; it is something that has to be learned. A work ethic is as much a part of education as learning to read or write.

Our students will be in the classroom for 12 to 15 years, but they will be expected to work for the rest of their lives. We require our students to work each day, come to work on time and work at a task until it is completed. Cleaning classrooms, mowing grass, cleaning the dormitories, working on the farm and working in the kitchen not only benefits the school but also benefits the student by giving him or her the tools it takes to do a job well, and to reap the satisfaction that comes from it. It's the same kind of satisfaction that comes from good grades in school.

At Oneida we recognize students who have learned to do a job well with an awards certificate. To some this might seem trivial, but to a young person who never has worked before and has learned to do a job, the recognition with a simple piece of paper that says he did a good or outstanding job is something that will stay with him "for time and eternity." Most students come

to OBI having never worked, or having never had anyone teach them how to work.

"Joe" (not his real name) is just such a boy. Joe came to us last school year, a small boy who was not feeling very good about himself. Many of the other boys picked on him because of his size. He was quiet and shy. I saw him standing in the classroom he was supposed to clean, not even knowing how to use a dust pan. I took just a minute to show him the proper way to do it, told him "good job," gave him a pat on the back and left the room.

I told his supervisor to keep an eye on him and to show him what else needed to be done to finish the job. That was nine months ago. Since that day, Joe has earned a good worker award and a most improved award.

Joe is still in his early teens, and still gets teased sometimes because of his size. But he has come such a long way from that first day on the job. He is no longer shy, nor is he very quiet. He feels good about what he has accomplished. He has done so well that this summer I made him a supervisor in a position where he had to report to work on his own without going to roll call.

Joe did a great job. He has learned to come to work on time, do a job till it is finished and reap the benefit of it. It might not have great monetary reward, but he has learned to work and be responsible in the task he is asked to do.

Joe is like so many other boys who come to OBI not knowing how to work. But when they learn to do a job and do it well, it will stay with them "for time and eternity."

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



W.F. Underwood

Back to school at Clear Creek

College emphasizes Christ's centrality throughout year

A new academic year at Clear Creek started Aug. 5 with a faculty and staff retreat. How I wish other educators could begin their year like us—bowed in prayer, united in Christ.

This month, we launch a year-long emphasis on one of our four core values, the centrality of Christ: We are a community of Christians brought together by faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, and by surrender to His call to service. We are committed to seek His will; to deepen His lifestyle through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and patiently work for His unity among us.

Desk prayer cards, bulletin boards, syllabi, campus publications and correspondence remind us of this core value and challenge us to do what we can to make it a reality. A six-sermon chapel series, preached by faculty members, examines Scriptures that focus on each aspect of the core value.

Stressing believers' unity in Christ, Louis Evans Sr. said, "One, plus one, plus one, equals one." Clear Creek has a unique diversity of ages, culture, education and theology. Only Christ can bring that

diversity into oneness for His glory and the need of the world.

Forty-two new degree-seeking students add to the diversity of the Pineville campus. Enrollment continues at a new extension center in Wise, Va. The Kingston, Tenn., center enrolled 22, an increase of four students.

The new students came from 10 states: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The largest state contingents came from Tennessee and Kentucky with 15 students each.

The average age of these students is 30. Ten are under age 21, and two are over age 50. Thirty of the new students

are married; 12 are single.

New students were welcomed at several campus events. First Baptist Church of Pineville and Gap Creek Baptist Church near Harrogate, Tenn., hosted them for Wednesday night supper. The Gospel Envoys of Owensboro concluded the welcome in a Southern Gospel music concert, on the Kelly Hall lawn.

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



Bill Whittaker

Ethicists fear advent of biotech babies

By Kathi Wolfe
Religion News Service

Seattle (RNS)—Encouraging the “breeding” of the “fittest” babies became discredited by the crimes of Nazi Germany. Yet eugenics is resurfacing today in the advances of biotechnology, according to some ethicists and theologians.

The eugenics of the past originated with government, says Ted Peters, president of Pacific Lutheran Seminary and a researcher at the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences.

“We’re going to see free market eugenics. Families are going to plan the genetic makeup of their children.”

Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin’s, coined the term “eugenics” in 1886. His idea was to “improve the human race through better breeding,” says Christine Rosen, author of “Preaching Eugenics: Religious Leaders and the American Eugenics Movement.”

To achieve this goal, Galton and other adherents of eugenics encouraged “the production of the fittest specimens,” she says.

The urge to produce “the fittest” is still with us, some bioethicists

say. Now, parents have begun to use genetic screening and engineering to keep their children free from diseases, Peters says.

He cites the use of amniocentesis—the procedure used to predict whether a baby will have Down syndrome—as one example of this.

But in the near future, he says, biotechnology will permit parents to move beyond “therapy”—preventing or treating disease. “Designer babies” could be on the horizon within five years, Peters says.

Designer babies

This technology, which Peters and other bioethicists consider to be “enhancement” rather than “therapy,” would allow parents to use genetic selection and modification to enhance traits of their children such as intelligence and musical ability.

“Only the wealthy could afford it. A ‘gene-rich’ class could develop,” he says.

Gilbert Meilaender, a member of the President’s Council on Bioethics, says that though the biotechnology of the present is different from that of Galton’s time, it doesn’t make the resurfacing of eugenics

any less significant or troubling.

Some of the new biotechnologies “invite us to think of ourselves as the makers rather than the begetters of our children,” says Meilaender, a theologian at Valparaiso University. This makes parents think of their offspring as “products”—to view themselves in a God-like role, he says.

Meilaender is sympathetic to the desire of parents to protect the health and improve the lives of their children. But “we must ask whether the goal justifies the means,” he says.

Rosen says many religious leaders have opted out of today’s bioethics debates.

“I’d like to see them in the debates,” she says. “Not to impose a theocratic view” on science, but because religious leaders of all faiths would bring a valuable moral perspective to the discussion.

“Nobody in religious groups is thinking about eugenics now,” Peters says. But it will be on their radar screen when people in church pews begin asking clergy about the ethical and theological implications of advances in biotechnology, he says.

Investigation faults military official for religious speeches

Washington (RNS)—A U.S. Defense Department investigation of an undersecretary who said the war on terrorism was a religious battle has concluded that military officials should take “corrective action” against him for violating department rules.

The report from an inspector general, obtained by The Washington Post and Reuters, states that Lt. Gen. William G. “Jerry” Boykin did not get clearance for his remarks and failed to clarify that his statements were not official.

“We recommend that the acting secretary of the Army take appropriate corrective action with respect to Lt. Gen. Boykin,” the report stated, according to the news reports.

The investigation also found that Boykin did not report a reimbursement for travel expenses from a nongovernment source. It did find that he made efforts in “good faith” to gain legal advice about his speaking engagements and said that should be considered when determining the seriousness of his rule violations.

Both the Post and Reuters said the investigation report did not dwell on whether the contents of Boykin’s remarks were appropriate for someone in his position.

Media coverage in the fall of 2003 about Boykin’s remarks at churches prompted controversy and charges of religious intolerance. In one speech, he said terrorists were trying to destroy the United States “because we’re a Christian nation.”

In October 2003, Boykin requested the inspector general investigation and apologized saying, “I am not anti-Islam or any other religion.” President Bush said he did not agree with Boykin’s controversial statements.

NATIONAL NOTES

Christian leaders call for separation of church & politics. A dozen Christian leaders from various theological perspectives have issued a statement urging the U.S. presidential candidates to “respect the integrity of all houses of worship.” The statement, called “Playing Politics With Church,” was spearheaded by Wake Forest University Divinity School professor James Dunn and Baptist sociologist Tony Campolo. “It is proper for church leaders to address social issues, but it is improper, and even illegal, for them to get their churches to endorse candidates or align their churches with a specific political party,” the statement reads.

‘Abortion’ hotline ordered closed. A phone hotline that calls itself an abortion referral service was shut down by a federal judge who ruled Aug. 4 it was nothing but a guise to stop women from seeking the procedure. U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval also ordered the phone line’s operator, William Graham, 53, of Metairie, La., to stop misrepresenting the service, and barred him from using the name Causeway Center for Women, which is similar to a long-established abortion provider.

Update: Court won’t reconsider assisted suicide ruling. The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has rebuffed the Justice Department’s request for reconsideration of the court’s May decision blocking a federal ban on the use of drugs to aid patients in committing suicide in Oregon. The Justice Department had urged the Ninth Circuit to rehear the case as an 11-member body. That request came after a three-judge panel voted 2-1 to uphold a federal judge’s injunction blocking enforcement of Attorney General John Ashcroft’s 2001 order that barred the use of federally regulated drugs for the purpose of assisting patients in committing suicide.

Bible display ordered removed from outside courthouse. A district judge has ordered a Texas county to remove a Bible from a monument outside a courthouse, saying it is unconstitutional. Federal Judge Sim Lake in Houston said the Harris County display at its civil courts building violates the constitutional separation between church and state, Associated Press reported. The county should be exercising religious neutrality and “not be seen as endorsing Christianity,” Sim said.

Falwell opens law school. Jerry Falwell’s Liberty University opened its new law school to students this past Monday. Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., said he hopes to train lawyers to fight for the conservative perspective on such issues as abortion rights and gay marriage. “We want to infiltrate the culture with men and women of God who are skilled in the legal profession,” said Falwell, who is chancellor at Liberty. “We’ll be as far to the right as Harvard is to the left.”

World Relief to aid trafficking victims. World Relief, an evangelical humanitarian agency, recently announced that it plans to launch a network to aid U.S. victims of human trafficking. The agency, which is the relief arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice that it will use to aid victims of human trafficking who are brought across international borders and subjected to sexual exploitation or forced labor. “With almost 20,000 victims trafficked annually to the U.S. for exploitation, we knew we had to get involved,” said Ruth Billings, deputy director for program initiatives.

Appeals court bans town’s Christian-only prayers. A federal appeals court has banned a South Carolina town from offering Christian-only prayers at city council meetings. A three-judge panel of the Richmond, Va.-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled July 22 that the Great Falls, S.C., town council violated the U.S. Constitution with its practice of offering only Christian prayers to solemnize council meetings. Town resident Darla Wynne, who embraces the Wiccan religion, sued the town. Judge Diana Gribbon Motz said the town council may not “advance its own religious views in preference to all others.”

Man sentenced to 20 months in botched exorcism. A man who performed a fatal exorcism on an 8-year-old autistic boy was sentenced by a Milwaukee judge to 30 months in prison and ordered not to do any more exorcisms. Ray Hemphill was charged with lying on the chest of Terrance Cottrell Jr. while trying to expel “demons” during a ceremony at a church on Aug. 22, 2003, according to Associated Press. Hemphill was convicted of physical abuse of a child recklessly causing great bodily harm. His lawyers argued the boy died of a medication overdose; an autopsy ruled he died by suffocation.

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.**

After the cruise you’ll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d’Alene; Montana; Yellowstone (Old Faithful) and Grand Teton National Parks; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You’ll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2330 (per person, double occupancy). Included is round trip airfare, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, transfers, and baggage handling.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Williams’ letter call:

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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries throughout Kentucky:

Mission Service Corps Missionary Leonard Adamson of Russellville. Adamson is a missionary chaplain and volunteer coordinator at the Green River Correctional Institute in Central City. His faithfulness to the spiritual needs of the inmates is evident by his involvement in worship services, Bible study, academic course work, the "Lifers Club," "prison invasions" and personal evangelism. Pray that God will continue to provide for Adamson's needs as he gives of himself each day. Pray also that inmates will be convicted of sin and spiritual strongholds removed from their lives.

Hellier Baptist Church. The church's building burned this summer and is almost a total loss. The members are holding worship services and Bible study in the Freeda Harris Ministry Center until the church can be rebuilt. Pray for Pastor Greg Whitetree and the congregation as they deal with the resolution of insurance issues. Pray also that God will send volunteers and materials as the process of rebuilding begins.

Deaf Café. Louisville Deaf Café is a new church plant for the hearing impaired. Growing from 25 participants when it began one year ago to 160 today, the Deaf Café meets at Deer Park Baptist Church and is sponsored by the Louisville Deaf Church. Pray for Steve Dye and other café leaders as they seek to share the gospel of Christ with the deaf community.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BURGIN**—Burgin Church recently honored **Nancy Royce Royalty** on her 80th birthday. **Mike Hamby** is pastor.

■ **DIXON**—**Randall Hurt** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Immanuel Church recently honored Pastor **Charles Darland** and his wife, **Suzanne**, on their 30th wedding anniversary.

Severns Valley Church recently honored **Robert Routt** for 15 years as director of maintenance.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Faith Church has named **Tammy Hull** as administrative assistant. **Bob Fox** is senior pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will host a church picnic Aug. 29, 5 p.m. **George Smith** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will host "Paid in Full" in concert Aug. 29, 10:45 a.m.

■ **LEBANON**—Muldraugh Hill Church will celebrate its 130th anniversary Nov. 3-7. For information, call (270) 692-2420.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church will hold a fall revival Sept. 26-29 with **Steve Pearson** of South Caro-

lina as evangelist.

St. Matthews Church recently honored Pastor **Leslie Hollon** and his family for 10 years of ministry.

West Broadway Church will host a musical potporri, "Down to the River," Aug. 29, 6 p.m.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—**Adam Brown** recently resigned as pastor of Pond River Church.

■ **MURRAY**—Flint Church recently called **DeWayne Chadwick** as pastor.

■ **PROVIDENCE**—**Brian Browning** recently resigned as pastor of Green Grove Missionary Church.

■ **SONORA**—First Church called **Billy McClure** as youth minister. He previously was interim youth minister.

■ **WHITESBURG**—North Fork Church recently called **Keith Williams** as pastor. He is a senior at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

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.

Estes, pastor of First, Warsaw, dies

Warsaw—Timothy Estes, pastor of First Baptist Church of Warsaw, died Aug. 18 at age 51.

Estes, who had served the Warsaw church since 1996, previously was pastor of Goshen Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg and Salt River Baptist Church in Danville.

In addition to his pastoral ministry, Estes was vice president of the board of Christ Academy in Gallatin County, missions chairman for Ten Mile Baptist Association and a Kentucky Raceway Ministries chaplain at Kentucky Speedway. He also was an author, musician and vocalist.

A graduate of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., Estes also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Estes had worked as a program specialist for Seven Counties Services in Louisville as well as executive director of The Arc of Kentucky where he directed a project related to supported employment for people with disabilities.

Estes is survived by his wife, Carol, two brothers and a sister.

His funeral service was held Aug. 23 at First Baptist Church of Warsaw. Memorial gifts may be made to the church.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

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, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville.

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, TBA.

25 Senior Adult Choir Festival-East, Porter Memorial, Lexington.

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

Ministers' wives event set for Sept. 18

Elizabethtown—Ministers' wives from across Kentucky will gather Sept. 18 at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown for the 2004 Ministers' Wives Conference.

Highlighting the theme, "Count Your Many Blessings," the conference will include worship sessions, workshops and fellowship with other women who understand the joys and struggles of church ministry.

Brenda Smith, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's news and web specialist, will be the keynote speaker.

Other speakers include:

■ Cyndi Spivey of Cynthiana,

"How to Be a Minister's Wife and Love It."

■ Wyndee Holbrook, campus minister at Berea College, "God Doesn't Call Us to Be Stepford Wives."

■ Shelly Jones, KBC associate for senior adult and women's ministry, "Heart Call: Women Sharing God's Heart."

The conference begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. Registration costs \$10, which includes lunch.

For more information, visit the KBC Web site, www.kybaptist.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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@fbcmiddlesboro.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for music/worship and small groups. Trinity Baptist, Lexington (CBF and SBC), is a multi-racial church with ministries to special needs, foster families and internationals. Work with established lay leaders of choirs and instrumentalists. Provide musical leadership and instruction to praise band. Provide and supervise special music. Train and supervise lay small group facilitators. Assist with pastoral care of church family. For job description, see www.yourtrinity.com. Send resumé by Sept. 13 to TBC, 1675 Strader Drive, Lexington, KY 40505; Fax: (859) 254-8147.

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

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

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 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.

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.

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.

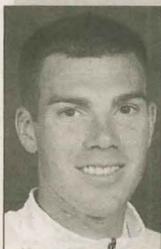
SEEKING: Pianist to play for morning worship and sanctuary choir in traditional Northern Kentucky church. Comfortable with hymns, praise songs, anthems and piano solos. Steve@latoniabaptist.org, or PO Box 15103, Covington, KY 41015.

SEEKING: Minister of music to bring liveliness, passion and blended/convergent elements to worship in a traditional Northern Kentucky church. Part-time position planning morning worship, leading 35- to 40-voice choir, overseeing accompanists, handbells and children's music. Staff of five minister includes two women (CBF, SBC). E-mail steve@latoniabaptist.org, or mail to PO Box 15103, Covington, KY 41015; www.latoniabaptist.org.

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U.S. marathoner believes success is more than just winning races

Athens (BP)—Dan Browne is the first U.S. Olympian in 32 years to compete in both the marathon and 10,000 meters this month in Greece. The last person to do it, Frank Shorter, won the marathon in 1972 and finished fifth in the 10,000 meters.



Browne

Browne would love to duplicate Shorter's success. But regardless of the outcome, he holds forth an even greater goal.

"It's my job to take what God's given me and do the best I can with it," Browne told Baptist Press. "I do my absolute best to honor God when I run. I run with my full heart and soul. God decides who wins and loses ultimately."

Browne, 29, grew up in a Christian household and made a profession of faith in Christ while he was in middle school. But it wasn't until his college years at West Point that he became serious about his faith.

"I got baptized my freshman year of college at West Point," he said. "That was a big step for me."

Since then, Browne's walk with the Lord has included active involvement with Athletes in Action, a Christian sports ministry, and in his home church, a Presbyterian congregation in Portland, Ore.

That relationship with God has helped Browne overcome some of the struggles he faces as an athlete, such as selfishness and getting caught up in the pursuit of winning.

"I've learned that you can sort of attain as much worldly success as is out there, but if you're not doing it for the right purposes, it's kind of a hollow victory," Browne said. "As much as I enjoy the thrill of victory, if I don't do it for the right reasons it would not hold the allure that it does."

Browne finished third in both the marathon and the 10,000 meters at the U.S. Olympic trials, earning himself a spot on the Olympic team. A self-described "long shot" in the 10,000 meters in Athens, Browne thinks he has a greater potential in the Aug. 29 marathon.

Some might see Browne as a long shot in the marathon as well. Shorter was the last U.S. Olympian to medal in the sport, when he won a silver in 1976.

But win or lose, Browne is happy just to compete in the Olympics. He said his chief desire is to glorify God through his performance.

"The way I compete, I want it to show what's inside of me and why I run, and that's for God."

Head over heels for God

Silver medal-winning high jumper keeps eyes on what's most important

By Tim Ellsworth
Baptist Press

Athens (BP)—As a high school athlete, Matt Hemingway made it abundantly clear that he was serious about Christianity.

His high school's teams in Buena Vista, Colo., were named the Demons, and Hemingway refused to wear the word "Demons" on his uniform. His stance was so adamant that the track coach ordered uniforms with only the school name on them.



Hemingway

At the Olympics in Athens, Hemingway didn't have to worry about satanic references on his uniform and gladly wore "USA" instead. But the high jumper, who won a silver medal this past weekend, is still concerned about living a life of faithfulness to God, especially in a setting as visible as the Olympic Games.

"It's been a long journey to get to this point," Hemingway told Baptist Press before the Olympics began. "I'm going to go over there and I'm going to enjoy it. I totally believe that this business of jumping is totally a gift."

It's a gift that others have recognized. "Off one foot, Hemingway can pop a 52-inch vertical leap," Jody Berger recently wrote for the Rocky Mountain News. "Take a second and picture that. From a standstill, he can hop over the average fourth-grader."

But Hemingway almost never made it to Greece. A standout athlete at the University of Arkansas, he was the first alternate in the high jump on the 1996 U.S. Olympic team. But after that, Hemingway's career as a jumper went downhill quickly.

"I'm a workaholic by nature," Hemingway said. "When you com-

bine that with a high-pressure program like Arkansas was, I was exhausted—mentally, physically, spiritually."

He lost the will and the drive to be a world-class high jumper, and by his own admission he hated the sport. He decided to walk away, and he didn't jump at all in 1998 and 1999.

"God brought me back"

Other pursuits occupied Hemingway's life for two years. He got married and worked as a whitewater raft guide in Colorado. Only gradually did Hemingway come back to the sport, and even then he did it more as a hobby.

He only had one problem—just a few months after he began jumping again, he had the highest jump in the world in 2000. He suddenly had a renewed interest in returning to the sport.

"God kind of brought me back to it," Hemingway said.

Despite winning the U.S. indoor title in 2000, Hemingway didn't have such a strong showing at the 2000 Olympic trials, and he didn't make the team.

He continued working fulltime, and he continued jumping. He was the runner-up at both the 2002 and 2003 U.S. outdoor competitions. At this year's Olympic trials, his effort paid off. He finished second at the trials with a jump of 7 feet, 6.5 inches to earn a spot on the Olympic team.

As a Christian athlete, Hemingway said he tries to be an example and a model to those with whom he associates by living a life consistent with the faith he professes. As he prepared for his Olympic competition, Hemingway said he had mixed



feelings about any success he might achieve.

Hemingway was excited about the possibility of winning a medal and the doors such a performance might open for him to do some speaking—an opportunity he would welcome.

But Hemingway also said he knows the pitfalls of success, because he's seen the effects many times.

"I've seen fame ruin so many people, and I've seen people drop the things that they proclaimed that they stood for out of convenience," Hemingway said.

For the past several months, Hemingway sought to stay focused strictly on the jumping and not worry about any success or failure. He said his life doesn't revolve around track and field, and he wants to continue to live for God's glory regardless of the outcome in Athens.

"To me it's always been about the jumping," he said. "As long as I jump what I'm capable of jumping, I'll be happy. A gold medal's great, the Olympics are fantastic, but they're not the end of the world. And they're not the beginning of it either."

EYE ON THE PRIZE Matt Hemingway, who won a silver medal this weekend, said he's worked to keep from being spoiled by success. "I've seen fame ruin so many people," he said. (U.S. Track & Field photo)

Former Olympic wrestler found lessons in 'losing'

Amarillo, Texas (BP)—Brandon Slay missed out on his chance for Olympic gold four years ago in Sydney, Australia. Or so he thought.

Slay was facing Germany's Alexander Leipold in the championship wrestling match in the 167.5 pound weight class. Slay and his coaches had dissected the German's every move, and they had their strategy all worked out. Confidence was high.

But as the match progressed, Slay became the victim of officiating inequities. He insists he did nothing wrong, but the referee warned Slay twice for rules violations and awarded the German three points. Slay never had before been penalized for wrestling illegally, but he suddenly found himself in a three-point hole.

Slay had to settle for the silver medal. He couldn't protest because such challenges aren't allowed in the championship round.

Three weeks after Slay returned home to Amarillo, Texas, he was informed that Leipold had tested positive for illegal drugs. Leipold was stripped of his gold medal, and it was awarded instead to Slay.

Although Slay is happy that he officially won a gold medal, it didn't unfold like he hoped it would. He wasn't recognized as a champion at the awards ceremony in Sydney, which was what he wanted.

But through the ordeal, Slay learned some valuable lessons about life. Had he won the match against Leipold, he thinks he would have missed the message.

"God was showing me that I don't have complete control over everything," Slay said. "I think that God really wanted to teach me the lessons from the silver, the lessons from coming up short, the wisdom that comes from failure."

Those lessons still serve him today, as Slay operates a ministry called "Greater Gold," designed to encourage youth to live lives of faith and integrity.

Those lessons are important ones, as Slay is quick to acknowledge. The realization wasn't an easy one for someone who had worked toward an Olympic gold medal since he was 6 years old. He had worked hard to build the necessary physical skills.

He had prepared himself mentally and strategically for the gold medal match.

But Slay figured out the hard way that there's not much in life that he—or anyone—can control. He said he can control his obedience and his submission to God, but everything else is in God's hand.

"It humbles you," he said. "Having something like that happen to you is very humbling."

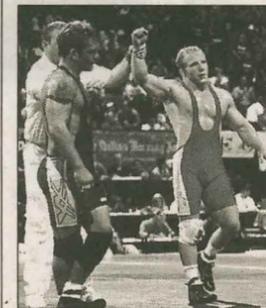
It's also a paradox.

"One aspect of that is frustrating," Slay said. "It's frustrating to our flesh and our human nature. But the other side of that is it's freeing."

Freeing, he said, because we don't have to worry about our ability to run things. Freeing because even though Slay knows that he can't control everything himself, he knows the One who does.

"God's sovereignty is real," he said.

Through it all, Slay came to appreciate the words of Proverbs 16: 16: "How much better it is to get wisdom than gold."

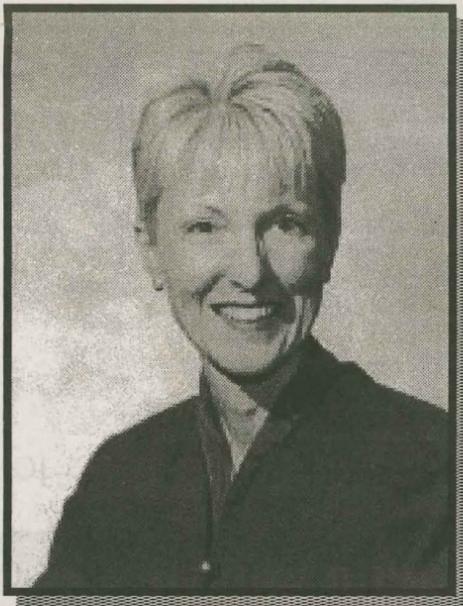


BRANDON SLAY The 2000 Olympic wrestler shown here at the Olympic qualifying match said his gold medal match in Sydney taught him lessons for more than sports. (USA Wrestling photo)

September is Baptist Foundation Month

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation, established in 1945, is part of your Kentucky Baptist family. The Foundation has a number of services it provides to individuals, families, churches, associations and institutions. One of the services the Foundation provides is private, confidential consultation, at no cost to you. This service has been pre-paid by your church's gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. She has practiced law for 22 years. Her primary practice areas are estate planning, incapacity planning, charitable or legacy gift planning and long term care planning.



Laurie welcomes the privilege of assisting you. Call her toll-free today for an appointment, or just to ask her a question about your plan.

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