



# WESTERN RECORDER

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### WMU Kentucky Notes



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### FOR THE RECORD

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## Fast food in Florida

*Kentucky team can cook 10,000 meals per day*

By David Winfrey  
News Director

Fort Meyers, Fla.—This evening, the menu is spaghetti and meatballs with bread and a dessert of chocolate pudding. Yesterday the entrée was southwest chicken.

Welcome to "Chez Disaster Relief," the last restaurant you ever want to need.

The mobile kitchen of the Kentucky Baptist Convention rolls into towns for a limited engagement only when a flood, tornado or other disaster renders most house kitchens inoperable.

Currently, it is set up in the parking lot of First Baptist Church of Fort Meyers, Fla. Hurricane Charley preceded their visit, and the American Red Cross has asked KBC volunteers to expect an extended stay.

Volunteers can hit the ground running, firing up stoves before they unpack the rest of their gear. Other times, they must wait for the food to arrive or the Red Cross to coordinate where meals go.

With industrial ovens and other tools, cooks can prepare 10,000 meals a day with no problem. That total has gotten as high as 23,000 meals in 24 hours.

As with any serving kitchen, the local health department must inspect the facilities. In Fort Meyers, the kitchen received an A-plus, according to Larry Koch, coordinator of Kentucky Disaster Relief for the KBC's men on mission department.



**READY TO GO** Insulated containers of food, prepared by Kentucky Disaster Relief volunteers, wait to be delivered. (Photo by Green Wagers)

Chief cook Harold Moore says the volunteers rotate jobs, both to learn the operation and to keep from getting bored. Each trip becomes a training opportunity and a chance to refine practices.

A few years ago, they learned a few years ago, they learned to prepare spaghetti. Formerly, workers boiled noodles, heated the sauce and mixed it up before sending it out in the insulated containers, called cambros. The problem, Moore says, is some people got more noodles than sauce or vice-versa.

Then someone showed them they could pour boiling water into a cambro filled with noodles. They cook in about 45 minutes.

The old way, volunteers cooked 200 servings in an hour. Now, Moore says, they use less propane and can prepare 1,000 servings in the same time.

"We don't have to watch it. We don't have to worry about it sticking," he adds. "It's more like getting a meal in a restaurant."

While speed is a consideration, taste is not an afterthought, Moore and Koch insist.

"I always want to sample things before we send it out," says Moore, a member of First Baptist Church of Ashland. "If I wouldn't eat it, I don't want it sent out for anybody else to eat it."

Red Cross deliverers in Fort Meyers report that local residents are sending their compliments back to the chef, Koch added. "They can't wait until tomorrow."

In addition to preparing the food for distribution by the Red Cross, the kitchen also has a feeding line at the church.

"This way we get to meet the people that we're serving and we love it," Koch said. "It gives us a chance to witness to them about the love of Jesus that drives us to come down here to begin with."

For more information about Kentucky Disaster Relief, call the KBC men on mission department toll-free at (888) 254-5720.

## KBC pastors: Leadership is key to having more baptisms

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Elizabethtown—As Kentucky Baptists seek to increase annual baptisms by more than 40 percent during the next five years, a recent study shows the baptism trend since 1980 has gone the opposite direction.

"Kentucky Baptist Convention Baptismal Trends: 1980 to 2003," a study by Rainer Research, was commissioned by the KBC church development/evangelism team. It found that annual baptisms in Kentucky Baptist churches have declined from more than 20,000 in 1980 to 16,543 in 2003.

In response to the study, KBC evangelism leader Dan Garland convened a ministers' think tank session last week at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. More than 40 pastors and directors of missions from across the state met Aug. 24 to discuss the study's findings and suggest ways to reverse the KBC's baptism decline.

Thom Rainer, president of the Rainer Group, compiled the baptism analysis. Rainer, who also is dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, is the author of 17 books including "The Unchurched Next Door" and "Good to Great Churches."

While the KBC's overall baptism trend points downward, the study added, "Somewhat encouraging is the fact that total baptisms reached a low in 1994 of 14,000, and they have not been below 16,000 since 1997.

"On the one hand," the study notes, "one can bemoan the decline of 3,917 annual baptisms from 1980 to 2004, a 19.1 percent decline. On the other hand, we see a more positive picture. ... From 1994 to 2003 baptisms increased 2,210, an increase of 16 percent in 10 years.

"Still," the report states, "the positive news of this increase is tempered by the fact that KBC baptisms have been in a plateau since 1997." During the past seven years, baptisms have averaged 17,199, ranging from a high of 18,143 to a low of 16,365.

If current trends continue, the study projects average annual baptisms would drop below 17,000 by 2009 rather than reaching the 25,000 annual goal set by the KBC mission study committee.

"We're in a crisis," Garland told Kentucky Baptist leaders last week. "If we were in business, we would be on the verge of going out of business."

□ See KBC pastors: ... *Page 6*

## Does your church have plan to involve new members?

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Owensboro—Every congregation must guide new members into church participation if they don't want to lose them, a discipleship leader told a Super Saturday workshop at Bellevue Baptist Church.

Jonathan Propes, minister of discipleship and outreach at Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, said if churches don't develop an intentional process, new members don't know where to go.

"The reality is they will go right out the back door if you're not careful," Propes said. "I would love to say that 100 percent of the people stay at Little Flock, but I would be lying. One of the saddest things is when people walk out."

Churches should develop their own structured learning experience for new members and new Chris-

tians, he added.

Little Flock offers five classes designed to teach new members the basics of Christianity, Propst noted.

The courses begin with such basics as salvation and baptism, and proceed to other topics, including prayer, worship and missions opportunities.

"If we don't plug people into ministry, we're doing them a disservice," Propst said. "A great number of people will go out the back door if we don't have a meaningful place for them to serve."

The assimilation process at Little Flock precedes someone's conversion, he said.

Deacons visit first- or second-time visitors on the afternoon of their visit. Visitors also get a call from a staff member or Sunday school teacher, followed by a welcome letter from the pastor, Propst said.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, August 25.

**"Local churches should not become platforms for partisan politics."**

Phil Strickland, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission

## Falwell offers election advice at SBC seminary

Fort Worth, Texas (ABP)—Visionary Christian leaders in America's pulpits, courthouses and statehouses can transform the nation and change the world, televangelist Jerry Falwell told students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Falwell, an independent-turned-Southern Baptist, spoke Aug. 24 for the first time at the largest Southern Baptist seminary, preaching a sermon on visionary leadership and sharing his own vision for turning the United States toward God.

He also confirmed his support for President George W. Bush. At the beginning of his address, Falwell quipped, "The press is here today, expecting me to get into politics, which I'm not going to do—except to tell you to vote for the Bush of your choice."

### Patterson: Falwell is "prophet"

Seminary President Paige Patterson introduced Falwell as a "prophet and a man of true courage." Falwell reciprocated by calling Patterson "the only clergyman I know slightly to the right of me."

Falwell, founding pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church and chancellor of Liberty University, both in Lynchburg, Va., told the seminary students, "May God lead many of you to some of these moderate churches that deserve fundamentalist pastors like you. ... Sometimes it takes a full year before that church is who you are."

Declaring that "America is about to lose her vision," Falwell added, "We're a nation under God, built on the Judeo-Christian ethic. Runaway judges have almost wrecked the country these last 40 years, expelling God from schoolhouses and

now courthouses."

Activist judges have attempted to "create a secular nation out of a Christian nation, which our founders clearly intended," he continued. "Your job and mine is to refuse to let them do it."

Falwell said he has "no intention" of allowing Americans United for Separation of Church and State "to steal the country from people of faith."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United, recently asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate Falwell for posting a Web site column endorsing Bush for president.

After the chapel service, Falwell reiterated his position to reporters, saying: "I think John Kerry is a formidable opponent. I also think he is the most liberal person ever to run for the office of the president, and I hope he loses."

Even though he believes pastors have the legal right to endorse candidates without endangering their churches' tax-exempt status, Falwell emphasized the key is not pastoral endorsement but get-out-the-vote efforts in churches.

"All the surveys indicate that people of faith who are regular church attenders will vote pro-life and in support of traditional families. In this election, that means George Bush," he said to the media.

Before Falwell's chapel sermon, Patterson told the crowd the seminary would launch a concerted voter registration effort among students.

"This year's election—whether it's the presidency, the House, the Senate or whatever—is really a referendum on what constitutes marriage," Patterson said.

## Seminary launches class to promote CP support

New Orleans (BP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has launched a new initiative to promote and strengthen the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

During the seminary's mid-August student orientation, 189 new master's-level students enrolled in a required course that details the history of NOBTS, the SBC and the CP. Special attention is given to the

12 SBC entities and how each entity benefits from the \$180-plus million given to the SBC through local church members and state conventions each year. Students also learn how the CP provides funding for Southern Baptist missions and ministry endeavors throughout the world.

"The Cooperative Program is both the lifeline and glue of the Southern Baptist Convention,"

Before Falwell came to the pulpit, Patterson invited Pat Carlson, chair of the Tarrant County Republican Party, to make an appeal for students to become registered voters.

"Do you realize how different this country would be if every Christian voted? Our elected officials and our government policies would reflect biblical principles," she said, noting in particular Christian voters could elect officials who oppose abortion and support "traditional family values."

### Hold officials accountable

She particularly urged ministerial students to challenge their church members to become politically involved.

"I truly believe we will not see any change in the behavior of Christians as far as participating in politics until the pastors of this country have the courage of their convictions to stand in the pulpit and hold ungodly elected officials accountable," she said.

Phil Strickland, director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission, expressed concern that Southwestern Seminary could be placing its own tax-exempt status at risk—not by urging students to vote or discussing moral issues, but by failing to present a balanced view in a contested political race.

Failing to offer students that broader perspective offers a poor model for ministers who want to encourage responsible Christian citizenship in the churches they serve, Strickland insisted.

"Local churches should not become platforms for partisan politics," he said.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley said. "It is the lifeline that makes the ministry of all the entities possible."

"We want every student to leave the seminary with a strong sense of their Southern Baptist identity and a passionate commitment to participation in the Cooperative Program," he added. "We hope to raise up a generation of students who will one day take CP to higher levels of support than ever before."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Hispanic seeks BGCT presidency.** Albert Reyes, president of Baptist University of the Americas and current first vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will be nominated for president of the BGCT this fall. If elected, Reyes will become the first non-Anglo president in the state convention's history. As Texas moves from being a predominantly Anglo culture to a Hispanic-majority state, Reyes said electing a Hispanic president would make "a very strong statement to the whole Texas Baptist family—that there is a pattern of inclusiveness we've seen in the past few years."

**Retired seminary professor dies.** Craig Skinner, former professor of

preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, died Aug. 10 in Atlanta after an extended battle with cancer. He was 75. He taught preaching at Golden Gate's Northern California campus from 1982 until his retirement in 1994. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and three daughters.

**CBF projects honor 9/11 victims.** In memory of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will sponsor a day of mission projects Sept. 11, 2004. The Fellowship's young leaders network will organize 11 projects in 11 states to commemorate the date of the attacks. Each mission project will focus on peacemaking or rebuilding communities and relationships.

## ERLC, others call on Congress to authorize FDA to regulate tobacco

By Tom Strode  
SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty  
Commission

Washington (BP)—The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is urging adoption of legislation that would authorize the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products.

The ERLC is part of a coalition of about 50 public health and religious organizations supporting FDA authority over tobacco. Among the members are the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Medical Association, Children's Defense Fund, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, Islamic Society of North America, National Education Association and Presbyterian Church (USA).

The FDA never has regulated tobacco, but Congress may be on the verge of granting the agency such authority. The Senate approved an amendment to that effect in July, but a version of the same bill approved by the House of Representatives did not include the provision. After the Senate and House reconvene Sept. 7, a conference committee will negotiate a final report on the different versions to submit to Congress for passage.

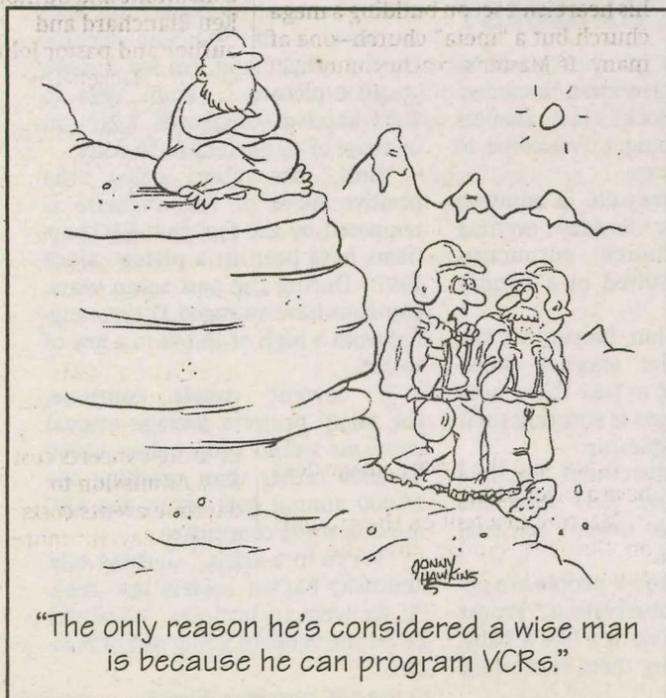
ERLC President Richard Land encouraged House Majority Leader Tom Delay, R-Texas, in a letter to work for approval of the amendment.

"We find it incredible that the FDA can ensure the safety of everyday items like macaroni and cheese, but has no authority over tobacco, a product that kills over 400,000 Americans every year," Land wrote.

Tobacco companies "continue to spend billions of dollars to addict people to this deadly product," he said. "We also know that the federal government can reduce the staggering addiction rate, particularly among vulnerable children, by fully regulating tobacco products."

The Senate-approved bill would give the FDA regulatory authority over the manufacturing, marketing, labeling, distribution and sale of tobacco products. Under the measure, the agency would be empowered to restrict tobacco advertising that targets children. The FDA also would be able to mandate changes in tobacco products to make them less addictive or toxic.

The legislation would eliminate the federal quota and price support programs for tobacco. It also would establish a buyout program for tobacco growers that would be funded by tobacco companies.



# High impact congregations

*Lexington church models new strategy for church starts by Kentucky Baptists*

Lexington—One month before its public launch, The Master's Church in Lexington already averages more people in worship services than 60 percent of Kentucky Baptist congregations.

Such is the strength of "high impact" church starts, according to pastor and church planter Scott Wilkins.

"Most churches try to launch too small, with five or six families," says Wilkins, a native of Owensboro. "They don't have the resources or the manpower to maintain growth."

That's not the case for "high impact" starts, which are a key component of Kentucky Baptist Convention's "Connect" strategy, outlined by last year's KBC Mission Board mission study committee.

The report calls for starting 75 churches by Jan. 1 2010, with a third of those being high impact starts.

High impact starts get \$100,000 in funding from the KBC during their first three years, giving them money for programming, staff and other resources to grow quicker and reach a critical mass toward self-sufficiency.

"That's where a lot of breakdowns in church plants happen," says Wilkins, who moved to Lexington earlier this year from a pastorate in Indianapolis. Master's is the first high impact start. "Many of them fail to exist beyond five to 10 years because they've never made that transition from a core to a congregation."

KBC leaders say they expect the high impact church starting strategy to benefit more than just the 25 congregations it helps fund.

"High impact churches will help all Kentucky Baptists learn how to be more effective in reaching the previously unreached," says Paducah pastor Kevin McCallon, a member of the mission study committee.

## Growing the core group

Located in northwest Lexington, The Master's Church has been meeting since Easter to grow a "core group" of supporters and leaders. The church, which will launch publicly Oct. 3, already has an average worship attendance of 120 people.

According to last year's Annual Church Profile, 1,505 of the KBC's approximately 2,500 congregations reported an average worship attendance of 119 people or fewer.

## Lightning strike sparks fire destroying 152-year-old church building in Christian County

St. Elmo—Salem Baptist Church's building burned to the ground July 13 when lightning struck the structure's steeple, according to Interim Pastor Ronnie Grace.

"Everything is gone," said Grace, whose most personal loss was the Bible he had been preaching from for three decades.

According to the objectives of Kentucky Baptists connect, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has set a goal of starting 75 churches by Jan. 1, 2010.



25 of those will be "high impact" churches, receiving \$100,000 in KBC funds during their first three years



"High impact" churches will have a goal of 250 people or more attending worship within five years



Wilkins

While Master's might have more resources than many church starts, Wilkins says the message remains the same as any new congregation. Leaders and members must sacrifice personal preferences and luxuries in order to focus on reaching out to nonbelievers, Wilkins says.

"You have to remain focused on your primary goal and that is you want to target your community," he says. "You can't go into a church plant with the mentality of 'We four and no more.'"

## The sacrifice to start a church

Although his church in Indianapolis helped sponsor four church starts while he was there, Wilkins says he didn't realize the level of personal sacrifice until he stepped out on faith to lead a church start at The Master's Church.

The move back to his home state cost him financial security, a comfortable home and his three children's about sponsors.

"The thing about sponsoring, you don't necessarily have to leave your comfort zone to make those sacrifices," he notes.

But the 43-year-old pastor adds it has been worth it. He says God has opened a variety of doors to help the congregation grow.

"I'm standing in a warehouse right now," he says, referring to the

building where the congregation currently worships. "Four months ago, we didn't know where we were going to meet."

Jim McGee, a KBC church development strategist for southeastern Kentucky, played a key role in the new congregation.

Formerly minister of education at Porter Memorial Baptist Church, McGee met Wilkins when he drove down from Indianapolis to officiate at the funeral of a family member last October. McGee later recommended Wilkins for the position.

The congregation is running about 60 percent young adults and features a blended worship style that favors the contemporary side.

But McGee says worship style doesn't define a high impact church as much as its commitment to missions and starting new churches.

"We feel like, being the first one, we've got a real responsibility for this thing to work," McGee says. "We feel it is working well. By having that money to start out, it helps do everything to let people know about the church."

Volunteers have been performing random acts of kindness to spread the word about the new church.

Last month, they handed out more than 3,000 bottles of water at a county fair. In mid-August the church hosted a free cookout to mark the end of a week of backyard Bible clubs. Soon, it will distribute boxes of light bulbs to 5,000 homes

not its contents, he said. Members, who are meeting in the basement of Pembroke Baptist Church, already have seen drawings from an architect, he said.

Members also set up a fund at the local BB&T Bank to collect gifts, which Grace said already are flowing. "People have been so generous."

with an invitation to the launch service.

## Covenant to cooperate

Last Sunday, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey spoke at a morning worship service where he and officials from the KBC, Elkhorn Baptist Association, Victory Baptist Church (the sponsoring church), and Master's signed a covenant.

The covenant signifies the congregation's pledge to participate in the association, state and national conventions. Master's already tithes from its offerings to the state convention and association.

Master's most visible community project will be a free fireworks show and concert Sept. 4 at Applebee's Stadium after a Lexington Legends baseball game. The event will feature comedienne Victoria Jackson and singer Bob Carlisle, best known for his hit tune, "Butterfly Kisses."

Despite this splash, Wilkins says his heart isn't set on building a mega church but a "meta" church—one of many. If Master's reaches only 250 in attendance but starts 10 similar churches, he says it will create a domino affect.

"New churches grow three times as fast and baptize three times as many people," he notes. "We want to be a church that enlarges God's Kingdom."

Based on an article by Ken Walker for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, with additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

Grace said the fire's damage does have a silver lining.

Meeting in a tent on the grounds on the first Sunday after the fire, one woman made a profession of faith and two others rededicated themselves to Jesus, he said.

"We're really seeing a revival in our church right now."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

The Kentucky Baptist Public Affairs Committee voted Aug. 25 to join the "Vote Yes for Marriage" coalition, a statewide alliance promoting passage of the proposed Kentucky marriage amendment. The coalition urges members "to elevate the institution of marriage as one man and one woman" and "to work diligently to ensure a victory in the Marriage Protection Amendment on Nov. 2." Committee members also agreed to link their Web page ([kybaptist.org/publicaffairs](http://kybaptist.org/publicaffairs)) to the coalition Web site ([VoteYesForMarriage.com](http://VoteYesForMarriage.com)) for access to pro-amendment bumper stickers, yard signs and other resources.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children recently named Jay Allen Graham as vice president for development and communications. He is responsible for the ministry's statewide fund-raising and communications efforts. Graham previously was associate vice president for development at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He is a member of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.

Author and speaker Henry Blackwill will be in Louisville Nov. 18 for a "Lead Like Jesus" conference at Southeast Christian Church. Other speakers include management consultant and author Ken Blanchard and author and pastor John Ortberg. Tickets cost \$75 before Sept. 15 and \$85 after Sept. 15. For more information, visit [leadlikejesus.com](http://leadlikejesus.com).

The National Quartet Convention, featuring gospel singers from throughout the country, will be held Sept. 13-18 in Louisville's Freedom Hall. Tickets to evening concerts cost \$22. Admission to daytime events costs \$12 per day. For more information, visit [natqc.com](http://natqc.com).

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Growing spiritual intimacy in marriage

By Gary Chapman

Winston-Salem, N.C. (BP)—“I know I should talk with my wife about spiritual things,” a husband said to me, “but when our relationship isn’t right in other areas, it feels hypocritical to start talking about God and the Bible.”

Spiritual intimacy is crucial if Christian couples are going to experience all the blessings God intends, yet too often it is the one thing Christian marriages lack. In my counseling ministry, I have encountered many couples who separately were experiencing personal spiritual growth but did not have spiritual intimacy—the closeness that comes when marriage partners share something of their own spiritual pilgrimage with each other.

Spiritual intimacy does not come easily for everyone. Some couples might find it difficult to talk about spiritual things. A partner who feels spiritually inadequate may avoid talking about anything spiritual because he or she is worried about being embarrassed.

What we must remember is that the ground at the cross of Christ is level. Spiritual growth is not knowing more about the Bible; it is becoming more like Christ. We need not apologize for our present state of growth. We simply must be open to allowing Christ to continue to work in our lives.

Spiritual intimacy can begin when we turn to God together, asking Him to help us build total intimacy in our marriage. Here are five practical avenues that, if worked into the fabric of your marriage, will develop spiritual intimacy between you and your mate:

**Talk about it.** Spiritual intimacy grows stronger when a couple talks and listens during discussions about spiritual matters.

The word is talk, not preach. Talking is sharing what God is doing in your life. Talking is a means of letting another person into your heart and relationship with God. You can

do that by sharing when God speaks to you through the Scripture or discussing what you found insightful in a sermon or book.

When your spouse shares something with you, listen attentively. Be accepting, not condemning. If you feel compelled to share a different interpretation, share it as your interpretation, not the latest word from God. Leave room for the Holy Spirit to work in your mate; do not try to do God’s work yourself.

And don’t think you can share only the areas of spiritual life in which you are becoming more like Christ. Spiritual intimacy does not demand perfection. Ask your spouse to pray for you, about some of the ways God is challenging you to become more like Him.

**Pray together.** The experience of praying together unites hearts. We feel closer to each other and closer to God. Few spiritual exercises hold as great a potential for spiritual intimacy as praying together.

What’s important is seeking God together, not the method of prayer. If you are uncomfortable praying aloud in the presence of another person, then hold hands, close your eyes and pray silently. God hears silent as well as audible prayers.

It also is important to pray for each other daily in your personal prayers. Be specific. Pray for the concerns your spouse has shared with you. Try praying Bible prayers for your spouse, especially those that ask God for spiritual wisdom and power, such as Ephesians 1:15-23 or Philippians 1:9-11.

**Study the Scriptures.** Spiritual intimacy can be greatly enhanced when a married couple is involved in Bible study together or shares with each other the fruit of individual Bible study. As we study the Scriptures, we discover how God views the world and our role in it.

You can begin by sharing one thing that impressed you or one question you have after you each have studied your weekly Bible les-

## COMMENTARY

## Outreach efforts at three churches

On a recent weekend, my wife, Kay, and I had the privilege of being in three Kentucky Baptist churches that are reaching people for Christ in uniquely different ways.

**Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville—FAITH.** Parkland Baptist Church, where Tom Curry is pastor, has used the FAITH evangelism program through the Sunday school in a very effective way. More than 100 people have been trained as the church celebrates its 10th anniversary of using FAITH. Last year Parkland reported 802 people enrolled in Sunday school and 35 baptisms.

For the fall semester, more than 40 participants had signed up for the 16-week training before the celebration and launch banquet. It was a privilege to bring a biblical message of encouragement and to observe the large number of children and preschool workers participating in FAITH.

Parkland has provided support for Parkland Hills Baptist Mission in

Spencer County

**Bell City Baptist Church—100 years.** Under the leadership of Pastor William Dodson, Bell City Baptist Church recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with great music and two messages. It was my privilege to share the pulpit with Cloys Bruce, a popular biblical preacher and evangelist in West Kentucky.

Pastor Dodson honored many living workers and the families of some of the faithful who now have gone on to their heavenly reward by presenting certificates noting major offices and ministries.

Bell City Baptist Church is a talented rural church with about eight instrumentalists and five song leaders. The Nance brothers and their sister make up a strong quartet. Several other members of the congregation, including Dodson, provided special music along with several guests.

Dodson reported that the church has given to missions and had at

son. Then try reading a devotional book together each day. Eventually you might even enroll together in a discipleship course or Bible study offered by your church and discuss the lessons with each other.

**Serve God together.** The great challenge of the Christian life is to give our lives in service to others under God’s direction. Because service to God is so central in the Christian life, it also plays an important role in developing spiritual intimacy within marriage. Spiritual intimacy greatly increases when a husband and wife serve together.

Many service projects are informal. You simply observe an opportunity and agree to make the time and exert the effort to do it together. You might take a single parent’s 10-year-old on an outing or help a widow by cleaning gutters, mowing a yard or painting a house. In such service, not only are you growing spiritually as individuals, you are growing a spiritual bond that will enrich the rest of your life together.

**Dream together.** Too many of us grieve the past rather than dream about what God has planned for us in the future. Dreaming dreams keeps us from becoming bogged down with the failures of the past or the routine of the present. Spiritual intimacy intensifies when you dream with your mate.

Dreaming plants seeds of hope and stretches our vision. Make your dream lists and share them with each other. God has plans for the two of you, and you are responding to the promptings of His Spirit to accomplish those plans.

A relationship with God is central in building a lasting, satisfying marriage. The Christian life is a journey of becoming like Christ. Each of us must be responsible for our own spiritual growth, but God’s plan is for a husband and wife to connect spiritually.

Gary Chapman, author of “The Five Love Languages,” is senior associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. This article is adapted from Chapman’s latest book, “Covenant Marriage: Building Communication and Intimacy.”

## GIVING

## Gifts to Baptist causes can make lasting difference

By Laurie Valentine

Your church and association as well as the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its agencies and institutions have a variety of important ministries that need and deserve financial support.

Needs range from launching new ministries to expanding current programs. The methods by which you can support these vital causes through legacy giving (giving out of your assets, rather than your income) also are wide-ranging.

A gift of cash, appreciated securities or real estate probably is the most common—and simplest—way to make gifts during your lifetime.

Other methods of lifetime giving, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, allow you to provide a future benefit to one or more Baptist causes while retaining an annual income for your lifetime or a certain number of years.

There also are a variety of methods you can arrange now to benefit the causes of your choice at your death.

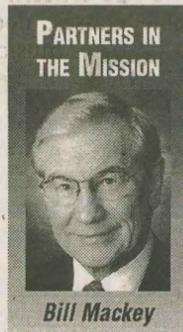
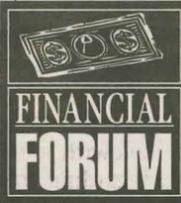
The most common is a bequest in your will or living trust. Another option is to name a Baptist cause as the beneficiary of some portion of your retirement plan death benefit, IRA or a life insurance policy no longer needed for family security.

You can designate your gift be used for a specific program or ministry of the benefiting organization, rather than giving the organization the choice of how to use your gift. You also might want to limit the organization to using only the earnings off what you give. (This type of arrangement is called an “endowment fund.”)

Gifts can be made directly to the benefiting organization or given to a third party, such as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, to manage for the designated beneficiary cause or causes.

Whether you wish to make gifts during your lifetime or at death, there are a variety of ways in which you can make a lasting difference for the cause of Jesus Christ in our world.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Bill Mackey

## Is it OK for spouse to bring up past hurts during arguments?

**Q: My husband and I have been married for seven years and every time we have an argument, he brings up times in the past when I hurt him. He says he has forgiven me but if he has, why does he keep bringing up the past?**

Often during an argument when one or both spouses feel defensive and angry, memories of past hurts and angry feelings come to mind. The old saying "forgive and forget" is a falsehood. God gave us brains that remember, so forgetting is not a choice—but forgiveness is. Although memories of past hurts come to mind, we can choose what we do with those memories.

### MARRIAGE

Set up a time to talk with your husband about your feelings regarding how the two of you argue. Choose a time to talk when you are not upset with each other. Share with your husband how you feel when he brings up the past during a present argument. Share with him how you want to approach future arguments. Invite him to share his thoughts and feelings about the way the two of you argue.

Disagreements are normal and natural for married couples because God has made each of you different. Actually, disagreements can be beneficial to your marriage because they require each partner to work at hearing one another and responding to a different perspective. This type of interaction promotes growth and greater intimacy. Without conflict, a marriage might not be nudged toward deeper ways of relating.

It is important though how you argue. If a disagreement always dredges up the past and leads in directions away from the present conflict, that is not fruitful. Forgiveness is a process where we as sinful creatures must continually choose to forgive and let go of our hurt and anger. If these feelings have not yet been dealt with, they need to be in order for true forgiveness and reconciliation to occur. The two of you together can seek God's forgiveness and guidance in repairing and strengthening your marriage.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: How can I help my child overcome the problem and embarrassment of bedwetting?**

Bedwetting affects approximately 15 to 20 percent of school-age children between the ages of 4 and 16. Medically known as enuresis, bedwetting results from an inability to control the flow of urine during the night. Some children also have problems staying dry during the day. Enuresis creates embarrassment for the child, and sometimes makes participation in overnight events such as camps awkward.

### PARENTING

Enuresis is not an illness. In fact, 90 percent of the time a child who wets the bed has nothing wrong from a physical standpoint. Several factors can contribute. Some children sleep so soundly that their brain does not "hear" the message from their bladder saying it needs to be emptied. This can be related to what Dr. Kerry Short calls a "developmental lag." The nervous system simply has not matured to the point of being able to sense when the bladder is full. Children are still growing, and some have smaller bladders than others. Certain foods containing high levels of artificial color and sweetener have been connected to bedwetting. Anxiety also can be a factor, but emotional problems typically are not to blame.

Most children grow out of bedwetting. If the problem persists, doctors can prescribe medication. However, medication only manages the problem rather than curing it. The BUPA Health Information Team offers tips for making it through the night dry. Make sure your child for visiting the toilet just before going to bed. Make sure your child doesn't have anything to drink within two or three hours of bedtime. Leave a light on so your child can reach the bathroom quickly and easily during the night. Reward dry nights.—David Garrard

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: vvhvdmn@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.



## Recorder expands partnership with pastors

"Partnership" is a prominent principle in Baptist life these days. From participating in international mission partnerships to financially supporting ministries through the Cooperative Program or taking part in local church partnerships on the associational level, such teamwork reflects Baptists' ongoing efforts to accomplish more together than we can separately.

As the Kentucky Baptist Convention implements its "Kentucky Baptists Connect" strategy to connect all people to Jesus Christ, the Western Recorder is among KBC entities committed to being a vital ministry partner. For more than 175 years, Kentucky Baptists' state Baptist paper has partnered with the state convention and local congregations to provide news stories, feature articles and other timely resources of benefit to readers throughout the commonwealth and beyond.

Over the years, the Western Recorder has provided complimentary subscriptions upon request to current Kentucky Baptist pastors. Of course, with pastoral resignations and retirements, address changes, new pastors moving into the state and other factors, the subscription list can become quickly outdated.

In an effort to strengthen our ministry partnership with churches and pastors across the state, this issue of the Western Recorder—as well as future issues—is being mailed to every current KBC pastor. Rather than waiting for veteran pastors to submit an address change or new pastors to request a subscription, pastors in every Kentucky Baptist congregation will receive a free copy of the state Baptist paper each week.

This slight policy change will cost the Western Recorder several thousand dollars in printing and postage costs each year—but we are confident it is worth the investment. As every pastor in the state has the opportunity to read each week about what God is accomplishing through Kentucky Baptists, I believe such information will benefit both the pastors and their congregations. Those

churches that have had little or no exposure to the Western Recorder in recent years will be able to stay informed about prayer needs, training opportunities, mission updates and countless other valuable resources published in each issue of the Recorder.

For pastors who are new to our subscription list this week, I am pleased to welcome you as part of the Western Recorder family of readers. I believe you will reap numerous benefits in the weeks and months ahead.

In addition to personally gaining timely information about Baptist life on the local, state, national and international levels, you will be able to communicate that information to your congregation. Those resources can help enhance your church's vision and involvement in significant ministry events and issues in the broader Baptist family. Hopefully, your

church also will discover the benefit of providing subscriptions to the Western Recorder for other key church leaders—such as the deacon chairman, trustee chairman, Sunday school director, missions organization leaders and others—or perhaps even to each church family.

Scores of churches also customize their version of the Western Recorder by publishing their church newsletter on the back pages of the Recorder each week—at a substantial savings over traditional newsletter production and mailing costs.

As the Western Recorder staff seeks to provide our readers "Practical Resources for Christian Living," it is our privilege to expand our pastor subscription list as part of our partnership with "Kentucky Baptists Connect."

Whether you are a first-time reader or a long-time subscriber, I appreciate your time and interest. If you would like more information about additional subscriptions, church newspaper editions or other resources, please contact Janet McIntosh, our marketing and business manager, at (502) 244-6473 or toll-free at (888) 254-5728, or visit our Web site: [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org).

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Camps help touch eternity

By Calvin Hibbard

Have you ever had the chance to touch eternity? I had that experience during a recent camp.

The last week of July is the annual Laurel River Baptist Associational Camp in Whitley County. We have campers from every walk of life and from a variety of backgrounds.

This gave us a wonderful mix of children—and the largest number we have ever had to bless the camp. Many campers already were Christians and involved in their home churches, some were casual church attenders and some had a very limited experience with church and faith. It posed quite a challenge for the counselors and staff, but God blessed us all week.

When we work with children, we never know where they are coming from. Some come from loving, caring homes; others from neglect; and yet others from homes in which we cannot ever imagine the nightmare they live in each day. Some are victims of abusive parents, relatives or neighbors and do not know there is a different world in Jesus Christ.

The week at camp is spent without cell phone, CDs, MP3s, television, video games or other outside distractions. During the week, we shower the campers with genuine love and concern. They are taught Bible classes, doctrine, missions, music and crafts. All of these are presented with scriptural teaching and evangelism. In the evenings, we have worship and after recreational activities, the campers have cabin devotions.

In the past two years, I have seen something phenomenal happen. Many of the older youth (junior high and high school) have become very close and involved in God's work. Several of the young men have surrendered to the ministry in their home churches, and two of the girls have surrenders to full-time Christian service.

There is one thing that stands out. We have seen life changes in campers of all ages. They will continue to share and evangelize the world they live in. The witness of this week will continue not just for next year, but for generations to come. Who knows what eternal

impact these efforts will have? God has blessed us.

On Friday, as we were preparing to go home, I heard one camper say, "I'm ready to go home and see my mom." Another camper sitting nearby said, "I don't want to go home. I have nothing to go home to." This broke my heart to hear, but I hope things will be different for many of the campers. Others asked if we could have two weeks of camp. Well, my heart is in it, but I fear my 62-year-old body couldn't handle it.

Yes, I feel that we have touched eternity by touching the lives of so many people. Even the counselors tell of their great blessing and growth during the week.

I thank God for the experience, growth and blessings of camp and I can tell you, without reservation, that it is worth the effort to be a part of God's work at camp.

Pray for our Baptist camps and everyone who is involved. Pray especially for the campers—for some will be among our future church staffs and leaders, and they too will touch eternity.

Calvin Hibbard is pastor of Laurel River Missionary Baptist Church in London

## KBC pastors: Leadership key to increasing baptisms

Continued from page 1

### Baptism study details trends

Among key findings in the study, "Kentucky Baptist Convention Baptismal Trends: 1980 to 2003," are:

■ Kentucky Baptist churches baptized 5.45 people for every 1,000 Kentucky residents in 1980. That ratio declined to 3.925 per 1,000 in 2003.

■ From 1980 to 1994, annual baptisms in Kentucky Baptist churches declined 7,065 (34.5 percent). From 1994 to 2003, however, annual baptisms increased 2,210 (16 percent).

■ Baptisms among people age 24 and younger decreased 4,202 (26.2 percent) from 1980 to 2003.

■ If current trends continue, average annual baptisms will drop below 17,000 by 2009.

Garland said another troubling finding is that the bulk of the decline was among people age 24 or younger.

"The baptisms of people over age 24 has been basically the same since 1980," he explained. "The big change came in the 24-and-under age group." He said a 26 percent drop in that age group accounts for about 4,200 fewer baptisms per year.

### Alarming trend

A decline in baptisms among children and youth is especially alarming, Garland said, since research indicates more than 80 percent of Americans who become Christians do so before age 20.

Reasons for the drop cited in the study include churches not being as intentional about evangelizing young people as they were in the past, a decline in evangelistic efforts in vacation Bible school and Sunday school, and pastors becoming less evangelistic personally.

According to the report, "about half of our pastors are not actively sharing their faith with another human being," Garland noted. "If it's not happening in the pulpit, it ain't going to happen in the pew."

Session participants divided into small discussion groups to address those concerns. Reconvening later in the day for a joint session, the

Kentucky Baptist leaders agreed that effective pastoral leadership is a key to increased baptisms across the state.

"How can we create pastoral accountability about sharing our faith?" asked Jeff Eaton, pastor of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg. Asking whether pastors are "willing to take the hit," he added, "If you do the Great Commission, Satan is going to find you."

Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, said leaders' examples also impact lay members. The laity "do not feel passionately about this at all," he said. "The fervor has been allowed to die because of the pastoral leadership."

"When your faith is genuine, you share it," insisted Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. "How do we begin to create a culture in Kentucky Baptist life that this is about connecting people to Jesus Christ?"

"One of the ways to change it," suggested host pastor Billy Compton, "is for pastors to model it, teach it and find ways to get people to do it. ... You raise the value of evangelism and then deal with the methods."

"We've got to really believe that lost people are lost without Christ," he added. "That's the first place you start with your theology if you're evangelistic."

Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, cautioned that churches "are making nominal Christians out of a whole lot of people." He called on Baptist leaders to "focus on mentoring those young guys and bring them on board" as effective, evangelistic pastors.

### Mentor "emerging leaders"

"If the tide will be turned in the state of Kentucky, we've got to be focused on those young guys and the next generation of pastors," Chitwood said.

Suggestions offered by session

participants include emphasizing prayer, discipleship and outreach; promoting a missionary mindset in local ministry; strengthening evangelistic emphases in VBS, Sunday school and other settings; and serving as mentors to fellow ministers who are in difficult situations.

"We will certainly take to heart what you have shared with us today," Garland responded. "One of the things we have discovered is we don't see any church reaching people for Christ that doesn't have effective pastoral leadership. Pray that God will raise up passionate pastors."

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Dr. Mohler



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October 5, 2004

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"The Church of the Undivided Christ"

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# KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union  
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Supplement to Western Recorder

Funding for this publication made possible through contributions  
to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

## Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions

2003-04 Basic Goal:

\$900,000

Challenge Goal:

\$100,000

Total: \$1,000,000

**Amount received  
through August 20:  
\$892,940**

You may continue to give to the  
2003-2004

Eliza Broadus Offering  
through August 31, 2004.

Fall 2004

## A Personal Word

September 1 marks a milestone for me. Five years ago I was privileged to begin work as your State WMU Executive Director-Treasurer. Compared to



**Joy Bolton**  
Executive  
Director-  
Treasurer

Anna Mary Byrdwell and Brenda Price, I am a newcomer. Yet, five years is long enough to begin to see progress. I now know names and faces across our state. I've learned my way around Kentucky (though I still keep a map handy!). I've experienced some wonderful times in churches and associations. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord with you.

One of the things that I find exciting in our work is the development of our state missions materials. We've produced our first DVD ROM this year with more material than ever for use in promoting state missions. The Eliza Broadus Offering continues to grow. The 2003-2004 offering is the largest amount ever given. As of June 30, it had reached over \$881,000. We continue to strive to reach a million dollar goal.

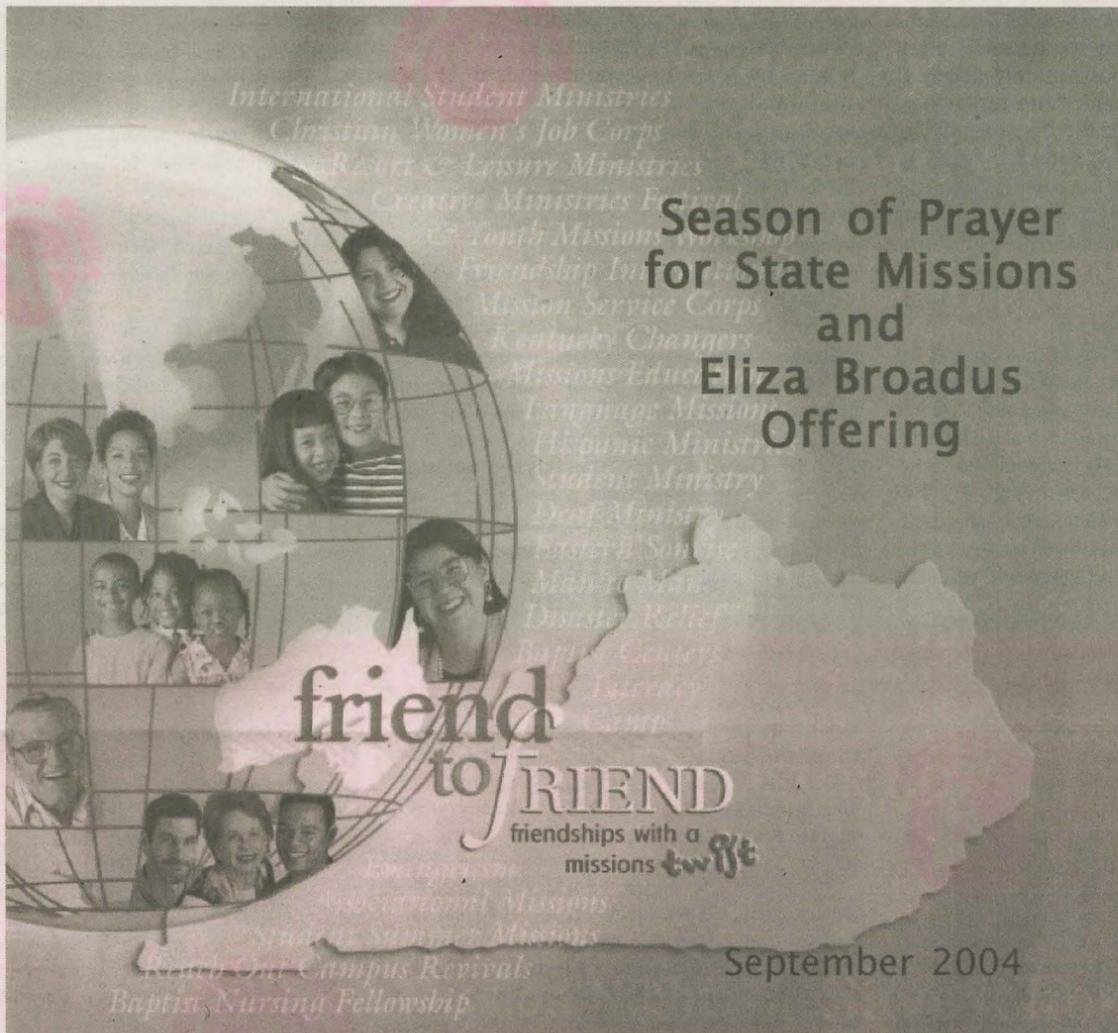
Cedar Crest, the WMU camp at Cedarmore, has received renewed attention this year. In May and June more than 80 volunteers cleaned, painted, did a variety of repairs, hung new curtains and set up new tables and chairs in all the cabins. Over \$28,000 has been given this year for repairs and upgrades at the camp. Thus far we have spent just over \$5,000 on repairs, supplies, tables and chairs. New bunk beds for two cabins will be installed this fall. Additional beds will be purchased as funds are available. We are in the process of getting bids on replacing the roof on the Martha Ware Chapel. We will complete the roof project and make other repairs such as new windows at the chapel as we receive donations.

Missions LINK, the Kentucky WMU expansion plan, is making an impact. Operation Missions LINK, a day of hands-on ministry in September, was a great success in its first year. We hope that even more churches will plan ministry projects and involve new people in missions this year. The suggested date is 9/11. What better way to remember that day than through ministry. By Linking Involvement, Needs and Knowledge for Missions, we hope to encourage WMU growth and see an increase in the missions education, support, and involvement. The 2003 Annual Church Profile showed a 12.5 percent increase in WMU enrollment. We hope this will be repeated year after year.

MissionsFEST, a mission trip opportunity sponsored by national WMU, came to Kentucky in 2004. Many Kentucky Baptists participated alongside the volunteers that came to our state from other places. The impact of MissionsFEST in Enterprise Association continues, not only in the lives of those to whom we ministered, but also in the lives of the volunteers. For many Kentucky Baptists, this was a first-time experience on a mission trip. We pray that many will now go on other MissionsFEST trips and also participate in ministries right here in Kentucky.

Thank you Kentucky WMUers for all you do in missions.

-Joy Bolton



**Offering Goal: \$1,000,000**

Contact Kentucky WMU for state missions teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes, promotional ideas and a video on DVD ROM.

1-888-254-5726

Read about ministries of Kentucky Baptists through Man-to-Man, Christian Women's Job Corps, International Student Ministries, Friendship International, and the Creative Ministries Festival/Youth Missions Workshop in the Sept. 7 issue of the *Western Recorder*.



Girls from across Kentucky experienced God, teamwork, and the joy of a job well done at Cedar Crest. For a complete camp roundup turn to page 4 of this insert.



# KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of  
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

## Information for WMU Directors

So you are the WMU Director in your church for 2004-2005—  
Do you have these tools?

- ✓ *WMU In Your Church How-to*
- ✓ *WMU Year Book 2004-2005*
- ✓ *Missions Leader (formerly Dimension)* subscription
- ✓ *WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit, 2004-2005* subscription
- ✓ *Kentucky WMU Supplement to the Year Book, 2004-2005*

These are the basic materials you need to lead the WMU leadership team. Many other materials are needed for age-level organizations. Adult women need *Missions Mosaic*; Acteens need *The Mag*; Girls in Action need *GA World* or *Discovery*, and the leaders need *Aware*; Mission Friends leaders need *Start*; and the preschoolers need *Share*. Coed groups need specific materials, also. As WMU director, you will want to check with leaders and see if they need other supplemental materials for a meaningful year in learning about missions.

Encourage adult women to participate in one of the fall retreats. Children in Action will want to be a part of the day camp on September 18 at Cedar Crest; and Youth on Mission will look forward to their special event at Western Kentucky University, October 22-23.

### The New Two-Year Emphasis: Christ Followers

You will see this emphasis in many Kentucky events during these next two years. Those who attended World Missions Unlimited in July will be wearing yellow, blue, or purple t-shirts with "Christ Follower" on the back. Mark your calendar now for the April 8-9 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting in London, Ky. Watch for ways that the *Christ Follower* theme will be emphasized.

### Kentucky Baptist Convention— November 16-17—St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville

It is important that those of us who are missions leaders in our churches recognize our role as a missions participant in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. We hope that you will plan to be a part of this inspiring event for Kentucky Baptists.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

## Adults

"Then Jesus said to all the people: "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross each day and follow me." (Luke 9:23 [CEV])

That's an awesome commitment isn't it? Are you there? Are you ready for what that means? We are called and required to deny ourselves and take up the cross and follow Him. That means we must know Christ and we must obey Him. We have to be willing to go against what is popular and what we want sometimes. It's what Christ calls us to do. It is through our giving to missions, praying for missions, teaching missions, developing spiritually towards a mission lifestyle, participating in the work of the church and denomination or doing missions.

Through the various adult ministries of Kentucky WMU, the opportunity to develop into a *Christ Follower* lifestyle is there! This coming new year, adults will have the chance to attend and participate in old and new events.

### Worthy of Honor and Praise

*every woman...everywhere...everyday*

The 2004 WMU Fall Retreats are just around the corner. Have you made your reservation? We are expecting God to bless and inspire you as you come together and share in the joy of worthiness as a woman who fears and loves the Lord. There are early bird conferences for those of you who can get away earlier in the day. The music and worship leaders are so talented and gifted: Lisa Hussung from Bowling Green will be at Jonathan Creek; *REJOICE* from Mt. Washington will be at the

first Cedarmore retreat and Shannon Thomas from Paris will be at the second Cedarmore retreat. **And super speakers:** Andrea Mullins, author of *Extraordinary Living* and product center director at national WMU, will be at Jonathan Creek and the first Cedarmore retreat and Judy Murray, national BNF president, will be at the second Cedarmore retreat. The tradition of talent show and fellowship on Friday night continues.

Workshop titles include: *I feel like Superwoman, so where's my cape?*; *Missions LINK*; *Taking care of ourselves to be everywhere*; *Finding time to pray in an everywhere, everyday lifestyle*; and so many more. Of course, we will have missionaries to share their experiences. Please see the ad in this issue of KY notes for dates and location information.

**Baptist Nursing Fellowship** has accepted the challenge of being a Christ Follower and over the next two years will develop and design ministry projects working with pregnant and parenting teens and young women in Kentucky. This is close to the heart of many of the nurses and fits right into the Project HELP: Poverty emphasis for the next two years. One of the projects of this new ministry is to have a retreat for twelve pregnant teens and young women and offer educational classes on nutrition, budgeting, child care and stress management, as well as have a fashion show, with makeup



tips and hair care. Time will also be set aside for spiritual development with Bible studies, devotions and a prayer walk. This project will require lots of prayer support and sponsorship. Information will be shared with associations and churches, as time grows closer. The first retreat is scheduled for May 13-15 at the Wendell Belew Center.

Two new events for you to put on your calendar for 2005:

1. The first annual Kentucky **Adults on Mission Rally** will be held at First Baptist Church of Sonora on June 11. All Adults on Mission groups are encouraged to attend. If your church has been thinking about starting Adults on Mission, this would be a great opportunity to come and meet those who have been involved. Get some ideas from those who have been there.

2. August 6, 2005 will be a great time for all you who enjoy quilting, crafts or scrap-booking. First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington will host the **Quilters, Crafters and Scrapbookers Day**.

I know you are on the edge of your seat for more information! No more details...you will have to continue reading Kentucky Notes.

Peace, Joy and Blessing!

—Wanda Walker

## Youth

Fall is here and all that is left of summer are the great memories. Many youth gave their time this summer to serve God on mission trips. Others attended camp where their relationship with God moved to a deeper level.

Acteens attended Mission Adventure Camp and Splash in good numbers and learned about being a Christ Follower in a very real world. Encourage your youth to use the times of spiritual growth and renewal during this summer as a foundation for a great year at school.

The 2004-2005 **Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel** has been selected. They are Kimberly Bannon (Louisville), Chelsea Ballou (Corbin),



Leah Drennan (Cadiz), Rebecca Gardner (Shelbyville), Katie Hildabrand (Russellville) and Cristina Mitchell (Shelbyville). The panel met August 20-21 in Louisville to plan Exalt 2005. Details will be released soon.

Operation Missions LINK is Saturday, September 11. Operation Missions LINK is a day of simultaneous missions and ministry projects in the commonwealth of Kentucky. Be sure to involve your youth as Kentucky Baptists from Paducah to Ashland and Bowling Green to Covington serve their communities.

Mark October 22-23 on your calendar and then go to Mapquest® for directions to

the BSU building at Western Kentucky University. **Youth on Mission Night 2004** will be held there that weekend and promises to be a great one. Our missionary speakers will be Bill and Linda Egbert. The BSU will provide a praise band, lead in games and several special interest seminars. Saturday will be great. Everyone will participate in mission projects.

That Saturday is Western's homecoming and it will be buzzing with activity.

—LaRaine Dail



## MISSION FRIENDS

As a Christ Follower, you have an awesome responsibility in teaching preschoolers about Jesus and His mission. *Start, Share* and *First Steps in Missions* are essential tools that will enable you to provide developmentally appropriate activities for each child. The 2004-2005 *WMU Year Book* contains helpful planning information for Mission Friends.

September is the time to involve preschoolers in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. The study material for preschoolers focuses on ministries to internationals and is available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office. Launch the state missions emphasis by involving preschoolers in Operation Missions LINK, a simultaneous missions project day across Kentucky on Saturday, September 11.

Plan now to introduce preschoolers to missions in Mexico through the *International Missions 2004 Preschool Teaching Guide*. The unit contains activities and stories and can be taught during a church-wide study in December or during any regular class for preschoolers.



## GIRLS IN ACTION

Welcome Aboard! The **GA Cruise** begins in Girls in Action as girls in grades 1-6 "visit" many places around the world this year. Be a prepared ship captain (leader) by:

- Using the 2004-2005 *WMU Year Book* to help you know, month by month, what is in store for Girls in Action.
- Becoming familiar with *Aware* and using one of the teaching plans in it, along with *Discovery* for grades 1-3 and *GA World* for grades 4-6. Read the "ExtraAware" section carefully each month for additional information.

• Involving GAs in learning about poverty and how they can help fight poverty through Project HELP.

• Encouraging GAs to participate in the World Hunger Sunday on Oct. 10.

• Joining RAs in the special emphasis, On Mission: Next Generation Sunday, on November 7 to recognize the critical importance of



missions education for girls and boys.

• Involving GAs and other children in your church in the 2004 State Missions Emphasis in September and the International Missions Emphasis in December.

• Discovering more information about Girls in Action at [www.gapassport.com](http://www.gapassport.com).

## CHILDREN IN ACTION

Attention all agents! You are invited to come to the **Children in Action Missions Day Camp** on Saturday, September 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cedar Crest (located on the grounds of Cedarmore). Children in Action is WMU's coed organization for boys and girls in grades 1-6. Children will meet international and North American missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, participate in a ministry project, play games and lots more. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.

—Brenda Price





## "Real World, Right Now" Camp Report 2004

Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest hosted 646 campers this summer! Girls age 6 to 16 participated in week long and Mother/Daughter camps.

Our camp theme, "Real World, Right Now," included the real world of the upcoming Olympics. Campers learned how volunteer missionaries share their faith at the Olympics. Girls in Action and Acteens celebrated the theme with creative ministries as well as sporting events. Girls learned how they could use their special talents to share God's love in their "real world."



Missionaries from Turkey, Germany, Philippines, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Brazil shared about their ministries as well as the cultures of their particular countries. Our weekly offering will support missionaries through the Cooperative Program.

Many girls' hearts were sensitive to the Lord's calling on their lives. There were eleven professions of faith, six rededications to Christ, and one possible call to missions.

Look for even more adventure next year as Kentucky WMU seeks to expand and enhance it's camping program at Cedar Crest!



## WORTHY OF HONOR AND PRAISE

*Every woman ...  
Everywhere ...  
Everyday!*

### 2004 Kentucky WMU Fall Retreats

**September 24-25**

Jonathan Creek Baptist Conference Center  
Women on Mission and Baptist Nursing Fellowship  
Featured Speaker: Andrea Mullins

**October 8-9**

Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center  
Women on Mission  
Featured Speaker: Andrea Mullins

**October 15-16**

Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center  
Women on Mission, Collegiate Women on Mission  
and Baptist Nursing Fellowship  
Featured Speaker: Judy Murray

**REGISTER NOW!**

### Calendar

#### September

- 11 Operation Missions LINK  
Super Saturday, Lone Oak First BC, Paducah  
Super Saturday, First BC, Somerset
- 18 Children in Action Missions Day Camp,  
Cedar Crest
- 19-26\* Season of Prayer for State Missions  
and Eliza Broadus Offering (\*suggested date-  
materials are undated)
- 24-25 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Jonathan Creek

#### October

- 8-9 Women on Mission Retreat, Cedarmore
- 10 World Hunger Sunday
- 15-16 Women on Mission/BNF/Collegiate Retreat,  
Cedarmore
- 22-23 Youth on Mission Night, BSU Building at  
Western Kentucky University
- 29-31 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting,  
Cedarmore

#### November

- 1 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- 16-17 Kentucky Baptist Convention,  
Annual Meeting, St. Matthews BC, Louisville
- 28-12/5 Season of Prayer for International Missions  
& Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

#### December

- 11/28-5 Season of Prayer for International Missions  
& Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 1 Acteens Activators Applications Due to KY WMU

## Youth on Mission Night 2004 October 22-23

# REVEALED

**BSU Building at WKU**  
**Speakers:**  
**Bill and**  
**Linda Egbert**  
Missionaries to Costa Rica

**Cost: \$10**

## Save Those Labels



You can help in the ministry of the Baptist Friendship House of New Orleans by providing them with labels from the following products:

- Campbell's Soups
- Campbell's Supper Bakes Meal Kits
- Franco-American Gravies
- Franco-American Pasta
- Pepperidge Farm Bakery, Goldfish Crackers, Cookies and Puff
- Pace Foods
- Prego Sauce
- Swanson Broth
- V8 Juices

The Friendship House is striving to receive a van through Campbell's Soup Company. Please make sure the weight of the product and the company name is visible as you remove the label. Labels are to be sent to:

Baptist Friendship House  
813 Elysian Fields Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70117



## NATIONAL NOTES

**Stem cell research emerges as key issue.** Most American voters now support embryonic stem cell research, according to a new poll released last week. Support for the research has inched up nine points in two years, to 52 percent of all Americans. Support has grown across the board, including among groups like evangelical Protestants and active churchgoers where majorities still oppose the research. The poll, commissioned by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, also found that supporters included 56 percent of "swing voters" who might be wooed by John Kerry's embrace of the research.

**Federal judge upholds Defense of Marriage Act.** A federal judge in Washington State has upheld the constitutionality of a 1996 federal law that defines marriage exclusively in heterosexual terms—making him the first federal jurist to rule on the law. Judge Paul Snyder of the Federal Bankruptcy Court in Tacoma said that the Defense of Marriage Act does not violate the constitutional rights of a lesbian couple who attempted to file for personal bankruptcy as a married couple.

**Cheney calls gay marriage states issue.** Distancing himself from President Bush and disappointing social conservatives, Vice President Dick Cheney said Aug. 24 that he believes the issue of same-sex marriage should be decided by the states. "With respect to the question of relationships, my general view is that freedom means freedom for everyone," said Cheney, who has a lesbian daughter. The statement came one day before Republican Party officials ratified platform language that endorses Bush's support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

**Commandments plaque gets official placed on leave.** A Missouri superintendent who posted a Ten Commandments plaque in a school cafeteria was placed on leave after saying he would not follow religious expression laws. School board members approved the administrative leave without pay for Humansville, Mo., Superintendent Greg Thompson by a 6-1 vote on Aug. 11. Thompson hung an 11-inch-by-14-inch plaque shortly after he was hired six years ago. In March, resident Carrie Roat argued in a federal lawsuit that the plaque violated the constitutional separation of church and state. In July, the school district in southwestern Missouri agreed to pay Roat \$45,000 and to stop displaying religious symbols.

## Second federal judge rules against 'partial-birth' abortion

**New York (ABP)**—A second federal judge has ruled against the government's ban on so-called "partial-birth" abortions, saying the federal law passed by Congress last year is unconstitutional.

The Aug. 26 ruling by U.S. District Judge Richard Casey of New York City came on the heels of a similar decision by a San Francisco judge in June.

Conservatives, including many Christians, applauded the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, signed last year by President Bush, as a significant first step in the battle to reverse legal abortion. Proponents of the ban said it applied only to one kind of late-term procedure involving the destruction of a "living fetus" that is at least partially outside the mother's body.

In the latest decision, Judge Casey said the procedure is protected by previous Supreme Court rulings and could be outlawed only if a "medical consensus" agreed that no circumstance exists in which a woman could benefit from it.

Nonetheless, Casey called partial-birth abortion a "barbaric" procedure that probably subjects fetuses to "severe pain."

# Celebrate Moments

*An event for couples to celebrate & strengthen their marriages.*

**September 25, 2004**  
 First Baptist Church • Richmond • 859.623.4028  
 Keynoters: **Wayne & Cindi Spivey**  
 Worship Leaders: **Jim & Linda Krutza**

**October 23, 2004**  
 Bellevue Baptist Church • Owensboro • 270.685.5103  
 Keynoters: **Skip & Leigh Anne Alexander**  
 Worship Leaders: **Jim & Julie Hatcher**

Couples will enjoy:

- Biblical encouragement and insights for nurturing healthy marriages.
- an opportunity to renew their marriage vows in a public ceremony.
- a time of fellowship with other couples committed to growing their Christian marriages.
- a time of fun and learning together.

Church and association leaders will experience:

- a marriage celebration model that can be applied in local churches and associations.

**\$20 registration fee per couple (includes lunch).**

**Call churches directly to register for FREE childcare.**

**KBC**  
 KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

To register or obtain more information, call **502-254-4733** or **888-254-5702**, or visit us on the Web at [www.kybaptist.org/marriagecelebration](http://www.kybaptist.org/marriagecelebration)

This conference is organized to help churches reach the leader training and networking goals of the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis.




## 'So thankful and respectful'

## Two different summer stories show reasons to be proud of Oneida students

Every parent or grandparent knows how proud you feel when someone brags on your child.

With a family of children as large as ours, you can understand that we have many opportunities either to be proud or disappointed in our children. Recently, two differing stories came to my attention that made me very proud of two of our "children."

First, let me share part of a letter I received a few days ago: "This is to let you know of the blessings plus a lift, each time we visit Oneida. ... Each time there is a new blessing. The children are always a blessing, but this time there was something new.

"While my friend and I were cutting a dead tree by the print shop (these two men were volunteers for several days on our campus), a young man was driving a tractor pulling a trailer with a lawn mower and two younger children with trimmers on board. We couldn't keep our eyes off them. They unloaded the mower. He (the older boy) noticed the mower had a tire half flat. He was ready to load it up and head back to the shop. We asked if we could help. I had a portable air pump in my truck. I found the valve stem was leaking. I found a valve stem in my truck and we fixed it.

"My point is this. This young man was so thankful, respectful and so serious and adult, you would think he owned the place. I'm sorry I can't remember his name. The two younger children were the same, absolutely no nonsense, going about their work in a serious manner. What

a blessing. What a lift for two old men! ... I cannot help but sense an overwhelming reverence for the lives of the children at Oneida."

Wow! No wonder my hat did not fit later that day. I also noticed the buttons on my shirt were a little snug as my chest was a little larger after reading that letter. I often mention our volunteers and the invaluable service they provide to this ministry. These two men were part of nearly 700 volunteers we had this summer and others still to come this fall.

The second story was equally exciting. A new student enrolled this past summer for summer school. We were told that "Marty" (not her real name) was a good kid who needed a little help academically. When Marty enrolled, she told us her two main goals were to be more responsible and to make better grades.

Part of the Oneida experience is learning to be more responsible. This includes sharing a room with two or three other students. That experience requires respect for each others' space and sharing the room cleaning responsibilities.

When Marty's mother brought her back for the fall term she told us how embarrassed Marty was when she returned home after summer school and saw her room. She asked her mother, "Did I leave this mess? How could anyone live in a mess like this?" Marty's mother was elated to know that her daughter finally had come to realize how important it was to keep her room looking nice. A little later, Marty had totally cleaned her room. Her grades have improved too!

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



W.F. Underwood

## Does criminal justice degree help?

## Couple from Ohio preparing for ministry to families

Why would a man with a degree in criminal justice come to Clear Creek?

"Because 22 police departments turned me down," Jonathan Paugh stated. "Obviously, that was what I wanted to do, rather than God's will." His degree did open the door for employment with Quest Communications, investigating phone fraud.

"I worked third shift, and since my job was mostly visual and I worked alone, I often listened to sermons. After three years I surrendered to do God's will," Jonathan said. "I was saved at age 8 through the influence of my mother; she always made sure we went to church. I struggled with the call for 12 years; it was easy to put it aside."

But his wife, Michelle, had not married a minister. "It was difficult at first," she said. "I'm an only child, and coming to Clear Creek was the first time away from my family. We've both grown by being more on our own." The Columbus, Ohio, natives found encouragement from several "buckeyes" on campus.

James Poynter, a 1993 graduate, introduced them to Clear Creek at

Jersey Baptist Church, a congregation with long-time ties to Clear Creek. "James knew I wanted to be involved in family ministry," Jonathan said. "The family setting here is a good beginning."

Their family includes Amanda, 5, and Natalie, 7. At First Baptist Church of Ewing, Va., Jonathan and Michelle direct Sunday morning children's church, and the family is together for the evening worship. The children's group has grown from three to 15. Michelle home schools Natalie, teaches swimming to other home school students, and works at the Pomeroy Family Life Center.

Jonathan majors in missions and evangelism. He believes the family is definitely a mission field. "Families today are struggling and need help," he said. "In many churches, the emphasis is on age groups and families are sometimes fragmented by activity. I hope to be in a ministry that works with the family unit." He's also noticed some of the work for the criminal justice degree helps him understand ministry problems.

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

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Sparks models wave of 'moral fiction'

By Ted Parks  
Associated Baptist Press

New Bern, N.C. (ABP)—To be the best-selling, tear-jerking master writer of romantic fiction, Nicholas Sparks' own life seems, well, pretty mundane.

Spinning heart-throbbing tales is not what life is all about for Sparks, author of "The Notebook," his third book to be made into a movie. More important for this writer, a committed Christian, is the enduring kind of love experienced in his family and built on faith.

"Writing is not who I am. It's part of what I do," Sparks told Associated Baptist Press in a recent interview, adding, "Faith plays the central role in my life."

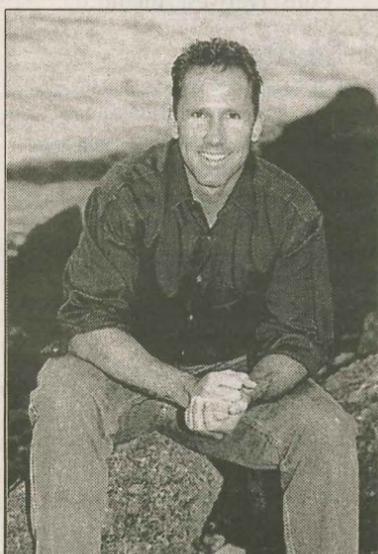
That said, Sparks has proven himself a master of what he terms "commercial fiction." Each of his eight published novels has been a national bestseller, beginning in 1996 with "The Notebook," his first big book but the latest to be adapted to the big screen. After his initial writing success, Sparks sold the film rights to his 1998 "Message in a Bottle" before finishing the manuscript. "A Walk to Remember," published in 1999, became a hit movie in 2002.

### From sports to literature

Instead of the tortured turns of the artist, Sparks' path to fame followed the day-to-day twists of ordinary life.

A high-school track star in California, Sparks went to the University of Notre Dame on an athletic scholarship. Injured in his freshman year, Sparks wrote his first novel out of boredom the following summer as he nursed an ailing Achilles tendon. Unsatisfied with the novel's simplistic style, Sparks buried the book in the "literary graveyard" of his attic.

Graduating with a degree in business finance, Sparks went back to California and married a girl he



"NOTEBOOK" AUTHOR Nicholas Sparks says he attempts to tell decent stories by avoiding themes and techniques incongruent with his own standards. "They're all defined by loyalty." (Warner Books photo)

had met during his last spring break trip in college. Another attempt at a novel, this one submitted for publication but rejected, joined his first book upstairs. After several short-term jobs and a try at starting a business, Sparks and his wife moved to North Carolina in search of a more affordable life.

Though successful in the South in his new career selling pharmaceuticals, Sparks, a Roman Catholic, decided to try his hand at writing one more time.

The effort paid off. Warner Books bought the rights to "The Notebook" for \$1 million. "I jumped up and down so long I got a cramp in my calf," Sparks said in an autobiographical sketch on his Web site, nicholassparks.com.

"The first thing I bought was a new wedding ring for my wife," he added.

Sparks attempts to tell decent

stories by avoiding themes and techniques incongruent with his own standards. "I don't use profanity in my novels," he explained. While humanly falling short of moral perfection, his characters' lives center on "faith, family, community, friendships," he said. "And they're all defined by loyalty," Sparks added.

### Polite fiction finding niche

Dale Brown, director of an annual Festival of Faith and Writing at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., said morally inoffensive fiction is finding a publishing niche.

Brown cites the case of widely read author Jan Karon, for example, who "talks about trying to write about goodness rather than sin."

The success of this kind of fiction, Brown added, "suggests a market that is tired of the Fox network sort of sleaziness in books and media in general."

Critic and teacher Randall VanderMey of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif., explained that so-called moral writing runs the gamut from authors who passively avoid objectionable topics to those who, from the standpoint of faith, actively confront the grittiness of human fallenness.

But for Sparks, writing seems less about agendas than making a living and enjoying a balanced life.

"I go to Tae Kwon Do with my kids. We go to church every Sunday. ... My wife volunteers at school like every other mom. We still eat Kraft macaroni and cheese," Sparks wrote. "Our relationship with each other, with our children, with our community, and with God, will always be the most important things in our lives."

"When I'm writing well, I feel the presence of God," Sparks said. "I feel this enormous sense of completion and wonder and awe at the gift that I've been given."

## Chuck Norris mixes Christ and kicks in autobiography

By Sara Horn  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Atlanta—When success and fame couldn't help during a personal crisis, Chuck Norris writes in a new book that he learned to lean on God.

"I had earned millions of dollars over my lifetime," writes Norris, a six-time world karate champion, and star of 23 films.

In his new autobiography, "Against All Odds: My Story," Norris describes feeling helpless when his wife, Gena, went into pre-term labor with their unborn twins.

"I'd been a friend to several presidents, yet all the money in my bank account couldn't help me now. ... There was only one person to whom I could turn." It was God.

Carlos Ray Norris was born into a family struggling to survive, led by an alcoholic father who moved the family 16 times by the time the future actor turned 15. Norris' mother, a Christian and prayer warrior, never gave up or let her children give up despite living in poverty.

"God has a plan for you," she told her son daily, convincing him he could, indeed, beat the odds.

His mother's enormous faith was a great example for the young Norris. It was she who insisted the family go to church wherever they were living. Norris began a personal relationship with Jesus Christ at an early age, and he rededicated his life to Christ as a young adult when he attended a Billy Graham crusade.

Norris says his mother continues to be a great influence in his life.

"She loves Jesus with all of her heart and soul and made sure we understood that (growing up,) he said, following a book-signing in Atlanta. "She influenced me spiritually and instilled in me a sense of responsibility that carried over in my later adult life. She always told me 'God has plans for you,' and I didn't know what she meant. I think I do now."

### Career full of kicks

You could say the action star's career "kicked" off as a young airman stationed in Korea studying martial arts. He wasn't initially strong, and success did not come easily, but within eight years, Norris became a martial arts world champion. He holds the distinction of being the first man in the Western hemisphere to receive an eighth degree black belt grand master in Tae Kwon Do.

The chain reaction that followed his success in karate moved him rapidly up the ladder of recognition. His karate championships led him to open a successful chain of karate schools and gain appearances on television, including "The Tonight Show." Eventually Hollywood took notice, and it wasn't long before he was cast in his first feature film.

These days, children are important to Norris. After a difficult pregnancy, his wife of six years, Gena, gave birth to healthy twins, a boy and a girl, both now age 3. Norris also continues to work on his KICKSTART program for middle school students. The proceeds of his book will go to KICKSTART.

More than 30,000 kids have graduated from the program, currently found in 37 schools. While the focus of the program is on martial arts, it is designed to also build self-esteem.

"Many have gone on to college, and one of our kids just graduated from MIT on a scholarship," Norris said proudly.

It's clear he's passionate about the program, almost as much as he is about his faith. By his own acknowledgement, he's grown deeply in his walk with God in the last 10 years. But Norris said he gets frustrated at the silent majority of Christians who refuse to speak out on issues of faith.

Members of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, Norris said he and Gena hope eventually to get involved in missionary work as their children grow older. He also remains passionate about KICKSTART.

"We're hoping to help millions and millions of kids and show them that they don't have to give up," Norris said. "The odds aren't stacked too highly against them to achieve their dreams. I want them to know that if I can overcome the things in my life, there's no reason why any of them can't do the same thing."



## 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."



P.O. Box 43433 Louisville, KY 40253-0433  
502-254-4731 or 888-254-5713



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

**Thank God for the open doors in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil,** as a result of a volunteer team that shared their testimonies and practical know-how with businessmen in the city. Pray for follow-up in the area.

**Workers in Sofia, Bulgaria,** who are praying God will start a church planting movement among young adult residents in that city.

**Thank God for the progress made by a Kentucky volunteer team** that led vacation Bible school at Immanuel Baptist Church in Wiesbaden, Germany.

**Follow up from a Kentucky Baptist team** that hosted "holiday club" (a version of vacation Bible school) in Brackley, England.

**The believers and missionaries in Wroclaw, Poland,** who are working to start a Christian coffeehouse as an outreach to young adults.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Bardstown Church recently honored Pastor Emeritus **Kit Yeaste** on his 80th birthday.

■ **BELL CITY**—Bell City Church observed its centennial anniversary Aug. 22 with **Bill Mackey** and **Cloys Bruce** as guest speakers. **William Dodson** is pastor.

■ **ELK HORN**—Yuma Church will hold revival services Sept. 10-12 with **Skip Alexander**, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, as evangelist. The church will hold its 50th homecoming service Sept. 26. **Bob Langlois** is pastor.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—Fordsville Church will host its third annual pig roast Sept. 4, 10:30 a.m., featuring free food, games and gospel music.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Correction: An incorrect Web site address was published in an Aug. 10 article announcing Thornhill Church will host contemporary Christian band **Casting Crowns** in concert Oct. 8, 7 p.m., at the Frankfort Civic Center. The Web site for more information is [www.thornhillbaptist.org](http://www.thornhillbaptist.org).

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Midlane Park Church recently called **Chris and Abby Huff** as youth ministers.

**Harry Wampler**, a deacon, moderator and Bible teacher for 22 years at Parkland Church, died Aug. 14 at age 87. He is survived by his wife, **Dora**.

■ **MURRAY**—West Fork Church re-

cently ordained **Tommy Dean** and **James Towery** as deacons.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Wing Avenue Church recently called **Anthony Cobb** as pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Fairview Church recently called **Vestal Meece** as interim pastor.

■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church will hold revival services Sept. 17-18, 7 p.m. and Sept. 19, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with **Billy Collett** as evangelist. For information, call Pastor **John Collett** at (859) 428-9396.

■ **WALLINS CREEK**—Wallins Church recently honored former pastor, **Lt. Col. Judson Segars**. He served as a U.S. Army chaplain from 1942-73.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—**Nancy Eckler**, an assistant Sunday school teacher and nursery worker at Williamstown Church, died Aug. 12 at age 63. She was a county extension agent for home economics at the University of Kentucky. Eckler is survived by her husband, **Jack**, two sons and three grandchildren.

### 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](mailto:wesrec@earthlink.net).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.

28-29 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, First Baptist Church, Murray.

30 Pass, Punt, Kick, Campbellsville University.

### November

5-7 International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

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

## LifeWay officials announce several key leadership changes

**Nashville**—LifeWay Christian Resources has named Selma Wilson associate to the vice president of its church resources division. LifeWay officials also announced other divisional leadership changes effective Aug. 20.

Wilson, a 10-year veteran with LifeWay, has served most recently as director of organizational performance for church resources. She and her husband, Rodney, are co-editors-in-chief of HomeLife magazine.

Other key changes in the church resources leadership team include:

**Louis Hanks**, formerly director of publishing, is now director of ministry and business development, a new position that oversees nearly a dozen teams involved in LifeWay's magazine publishing.

**David Francis**, formerly director of regional operations, now directs a newly organized Sunday school team that will focus on Sunday school strategies and products.

**Jay Johnston**, formerly director of church ministry leadership, is now director of a new emphasis called FAITH/Evangelism & Discipleship. He also will work with Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch and LifeWay's network partnerships team to help Southern Baptists pursue a goal of 1 million baptisms in 2005.

**Mike Miller**, formerly director of church relations, is now director of LifeWay's regional operations.

**Gary Hawk**, formerly director of leadership and adult publishing, is now director of publishing.

**Jim Johnston**, managing director of publishing services and multimedia, will serve as interim director of marketing.

**Mark Marshall**, formerly director of LifeWay's southeast region, is now director of a new training and events team, coordinating the ministries of leadership training and student, men's and women's events.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Bestselling books by Christian author, Glenn Mollette. Silent Struggler: A Caregiver's Personal Story; Spiritual Chocolate: Inspirational Delights for the Heart. All books available at [Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Southern Baptist congregation that enjoys a blended style of worship. Duties include planning and leading Sunday morning and evening worship, and leading adult choir practices on Wednesday evenings. Please send resumé: EFBC Personnel Committee, 457 Versailles Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/youth or two part-time positions. Send resumé: Dr. Tom Stokes, First Baptist Church, 302 Magnolia, Tompkinsville, KY 42167; or call (270) 487-6538.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to students for Southern Baptist church. Experience and/or seminary degree a plus. Send to MSSC, 814 Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, Maryville, TN 37801. Target date for receiving resumé is Sept. 30, 2004.

**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](mailto:Steve@latoniabaptist.org), or PO Box 15103, Covington, KY 41015.

**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](mailto:csummers@fbcmiddlesboro.org).

**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](mailto:steve@latoniabaptist.org), or mail to PO Box 15103, Covington, KY 41015; [www.latoniabaptist.org](http://www.latoniabaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister for Highland Park First Baptist. Call (502) 231-3917.

**SEEKING:** Church secretary. Must have proficient computer skills, people skills; perform administrative tasks and maintain the confidentiality of the position. Office hours: 8:30-4:30, Monday-Friday. Send resumé to: Kendall Shuler, Broadway Baptist Church, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of education and youth. FBC Chester, Ill., is seeking an educated and experienced man to fill a brand-new program staff position. Chester is located in southern Illinois. FBC is a healthy, growing church. Please send resumé to: FBC Chester, 719 State St., Chester, IL 62233, Attn: Search Team; or e-mail resumé to: [chesterfbc@yahoo.com](mailto:chesterfbc@yahoo.com).

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

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Eastern Kentucky Southern Baptist church. Call (606) 349-7185, or e-mail: [svhoward@foothills.net](mailto:svhoward@foothills.net).

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

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

## Abstinence in Athens

*True Love Waits marks anniversary in Olympic city*

By Chris Turner  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Athens (BP)—The 10th anniversary of the True Love Waits sexual purity movement culminated in the shadow of one of the ancient world's most impressive ruins, once a site of sexual indulgence.

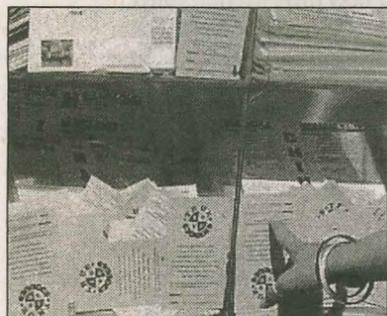
A few hundred people gathered Aug. 22, at the Dora Stratou Theatre, located on a hill adjacent to the Acropolis, site of the Greek Parthenon.

The rally featured comments by Olympian Carl Lewis as well as True Love Waits' founders and a display of 460,000 commitment cards from youth in more than 20 countries. More than 200,000 of those cards came from South Africa.

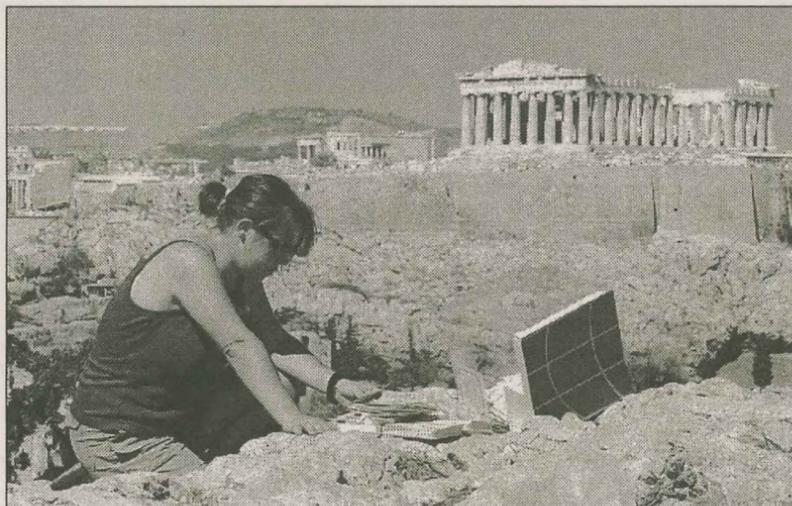
"Set yourself apart in your group by being a leader and not giving in to what others are doing," Lewis said, challenging the youth in attendance.

True Love Waits began in 1993 in response to requests from teenagers and their parents for some way to express their beliefs that people should remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

More than 3 million American youth alone have made an abstinence pledge through True Love Waits. More than 100 organization—secular and religious—have



**CARD WALL** As part of the True Love Waits rally, students built a display of 460,000 commitment cards from more than 20 countries around the world.



**SCENIC PRAYER SITE** Kelli Dees, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, prays over some of the more than 460,000 commitment cards that were assembled in Athens, Greece, for the True Love Waits movement's anniversary celebration (SBC LifeWay Christian Resources photos)

adopted True Love Waits to promote sexual abstinence.

Co-founders Richard Ross and Jimmy Hester called on youth of the world to make a stand for sexual purity by remaining sexually abstinent until marriage.

"You stand before a holy God today and you have to make a decision," Ross challenged the audience. "Do you love God to the point where you are willing to set yourself apart from what the world is doing so that you can be a holy vessel through which He can work?"

### Global impact

Hester said the international setting was an appropriate place to celebrate the success of True Love Waits because of how the ministry has spread globally.

It was introduced into Uganda 10 years ago and is credited by Ugandan First Lady Janet Museveni as the sole reason for a dramatic decrease in the number of newly diagnosed cases of AIDS in that nation. The majority of True Love Waits' global expansion has come in the past four years, having taken root in more than 85 countries, leaders say.

Teenagers who pledge to remain

sexually abstinent until marriage are 34 percent less likely to have sex than those who do not take virginity vows, according to a study published in 2001 by the American Journal of Sociology. The pledge works, the study suggested, because it creates an "identity movement" or "moral community" that provides peer support for teens.

It is an environment that Ross is hoping will take root in countries like Greece where abortion has become a key form of birth control and the average girl may have multiple abortions before she reaches age 25.

Sixty-seven percent of sexually experienced teens in the United States say they wish they had waited longer before having sexual intercourse, according to a survey by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

"Sexual activity outside of marriage leads to all types of tragic consequences," Ross said. "My prayer is that countries like Greece will be transformed because Christian young people make a moral stand and influence their peers not just for sexual purity but lead them to a personal relationship with Christ. The two are very much related."

## Three years later, groups still ministering to Sept. 11 victims

New York (RNS)—The United Services Group, a New York City humanitarian consortium that helped victims of the Sept. 11 attacks, closed up shop on July 31. But that doesn't mean the long-term relief work is anywhere near over.

Stephen Solender, who served as chief executive officer of the group coordinating a range of religious, secular and ethnic groups, estimates that the cases of thousands of people still in need have been referred to social service agencies in the New York region.

"There are ... a certain number of people who feel that we are coddling some of these people and that we ought to say, 'Look, it's 36 months since 9/11. It's time for you to really pull yourselves together and get going,'" Solender said.

"Unfortunately, life and human behavioral problems don't get resolved that way."

From Methodist relief workers in New York to Catholic Charities counselors in Boston to post-Sept. 11 interfaith gatherings in Washington, religious organizations continue to help those who were directly or indirectly affected by the terrorist attacks. As some continue the traditional work of counseling and helping pay bills, others are fostering dialogue between faiths and preparing for whatever tragedy may lie ahead.

Solender said cases now handled by groups such as the Salvation Army, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and Catholic Charities include victims who still carry physical and emotional scars from the attack on the World Trade Center. Widows with children struggle with the lack of funds after losing husbands and incomes.

"There was a delay for a certain number of people in feeling the pain because they were almost anesthetized after 9/11 and it took a year or two for them to fully comprehend how profoundly they had been affected by that tragedy," he said.

In Boston—the starting point of the two jetliners that were flown into New York's Twin Towers—Pat Dunn of Catholic Charities has worked with other charitable groups and government offices in a "community of care" to meet ongoing needs.

In New York, the United Methodist Committee on Relief has served more than 2,000 families since April 2002, said Ramon Nieves, executive director of the organization's New York Disaster Response program. He predicts the program will open 40 cases in August.

He said some of the people they assist are "hidden victims," noncitizens who have not qualified for other kinds of assistance.

In other cases, clients have come to the Methodist relief agency for help as they face unemployment.

"I would say 80 percent of our clients walk in here with a letter from their former employer saying, 'Due to 9/11 tragedy, we had to let Mr. Smith go,'" Nieves said. "We're also seeing that persons who have experienced mental health problems have not been able to stay consistent with their employment."

## Pastor finds meeting people's needs yields harvest of souls

By Lee Weeks  
SBC North American Mission Board

Orlando (BP)—Worship attendance averaged less than 200 and baptisms averaged five per year when, in 1976, Charles Roesel became pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla.

Today, the congregation claims more than 7,000 members and baptizes, on average, at least 200 new Christians each year—a string unbroken for the past two decades.

Yet while the church ranks consistently in the top 1 percent of Southern Baptist churches in evangelism and missions giving, Roesel still preaches in the same 1,200-seat sanctuary that was erected in 1962.

"We're using God's resources over and over," said Roesel, who leads three Sunday morning worship services each week. "Use God's resources over, and over, and over, and you can give more to ministry and to missions."

Today, a multi-million-dollar "ministry village" on the church campus stands as a testament to a town of 15,000 people of what God can do when His people put the physical and spiritual needs of others before themselves.

The church theme defines its strategy for growth and evangelism: "Meeting Needs—Sharing Christ."

### Ministry-based evangelism

"As far as I'm concerned, the most effective, consistent way to reach people for Jesus Christ is ministry-based, servant, intentional evangelism," Roesel said during Connection 2004, a recent leadership conference sponsored by the North American Mission Board.

"Because of ministry-based evangelism, we've been able to consistently, day by day and week by week reach people for Jesus Christ."

The church opened its first rescue mission in 1982 and has since

expanded its campus through 31 property purchases and donations near the church.

Walk across the church campus and you will find a medical clinic, pregnancy care center, benevolence center, as well as homes for children, teens, women and men in crises—all owned and operated by the church.

"If a person gets excited about a vision and what can happen, it's amazing what they will give," Roesel said. "There are millions and millions (of dollars) out there that people want to give away and the money goes not to the greatest needs, unfortunately, but to the best-written grants."

### Big buildings, small ministries

Roesel said most churches, regardless of size or resources, could do more to meet the needs of people in their communities in an effort to build relational bridges to

share the Christian faith.

"I've never seen a time when we had more opulent buildings," he said. "I've never seen a time when we had more money than we have today. And I've never seen a time in my 51 years as a Southern Baptist pastor when we are less effective than we are in America today. If we continue at the present rate in America, by 2020 there will be more Muslims in America than Christians."

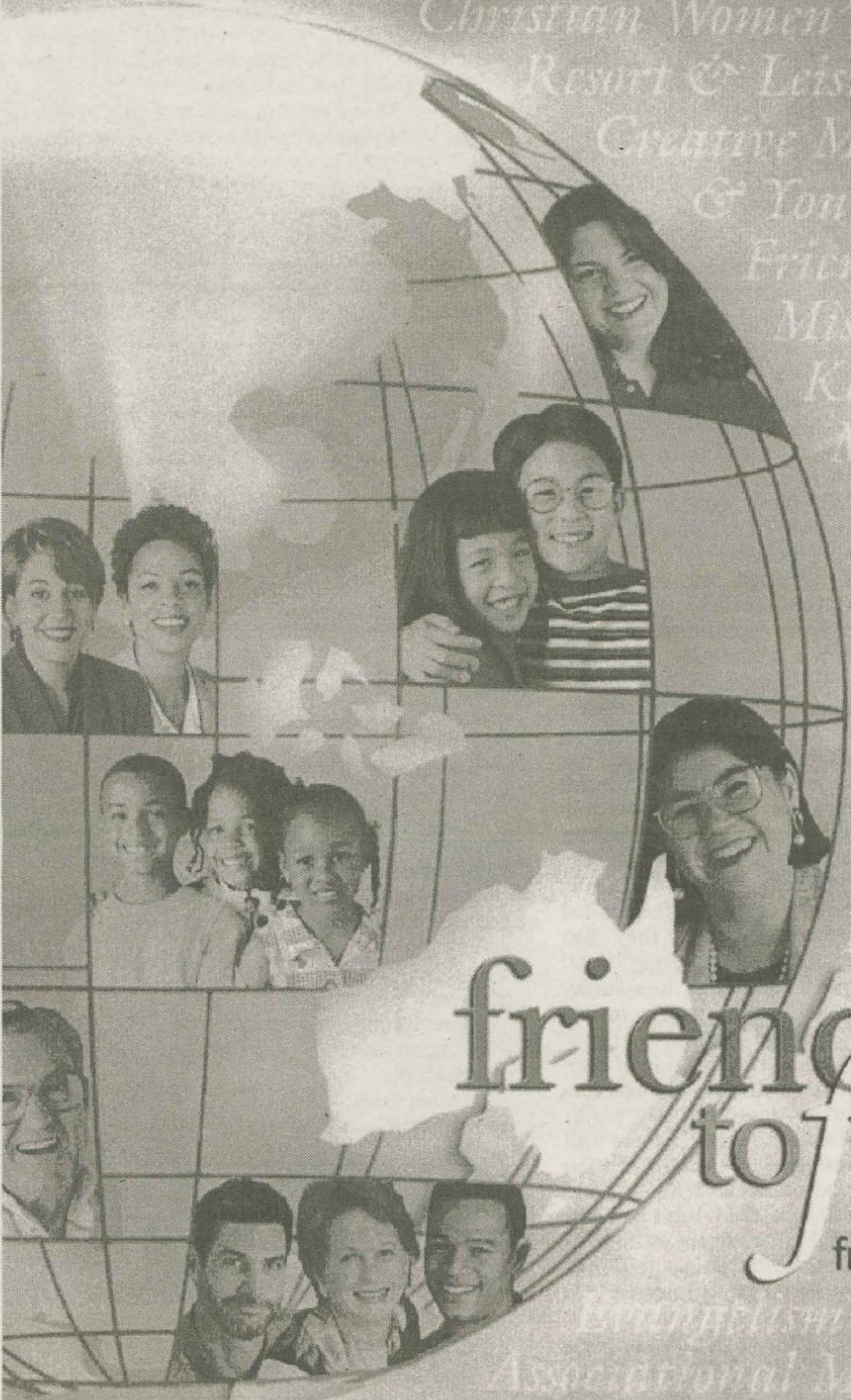
Roesel encouraged pastors and ministry leaders to be consistent and patient when leading their churches to reach their communities through ministry evangelism.

"The most important thing I can do is to model it," he said. "I should not expect them to be evangelistic if I'm not. ... It took five years of preaching, teaching and praying before the church moved from a maintenance mentality to ministry."

# Season of Prayer

for State Missions and  
**Eliza Broadus Offering**  
 September 2004

*International Student Ministries*  
*Christian Women's Job Corps*  
*Resort & Leisure Ministries*  
*Creative Ministries Festival*  
*& Youth Missions Workshop*  
*Friendship International*  
*Mission Service Corps*  
*Kentucky Changers*  
*Missions Education*  
*Language Missions*  
*Hispanic Ministries*  
*Student Ministry*  
*Deaf Ministry*  
*Eastern Sunrise*  
*Man to Man*  
*Disaster Relief*  
*Baptist Centers*  
*Literacy*  
*Camp*



## friend to FRIEND

friendships with a  
 missions *twist*

*Evangelism*  
*Associational Missions*  
*Student Summer Missions*  
*Reach Out Campus Revivals*  
*Baptist Nursing Fellowship*

*"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13 NIV*

### goals

**Basic: \$925,000**

**Challenge: \$75,000**

*(for New Work & Cedar Crest)*

**Total Offering: \$1,000,000**



Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union