



WESTERN RECORDER

Newspage Edition

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FOR THE RECORD

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Teens test poll: Bending rules a must to succeed

Colorado Springs, Colo. (RNS)—A recent poll found a third of teenage respondents said they believed one must "bend the rules to succeed."

The poll, was conducted for Junior Achievement, an organization focused on educating young people about business, and Deloitte & Touche, a major accounting firm.

The same poll on a different question found 62 percent of teens said people who practice good business ethics are more successful than people who don't.

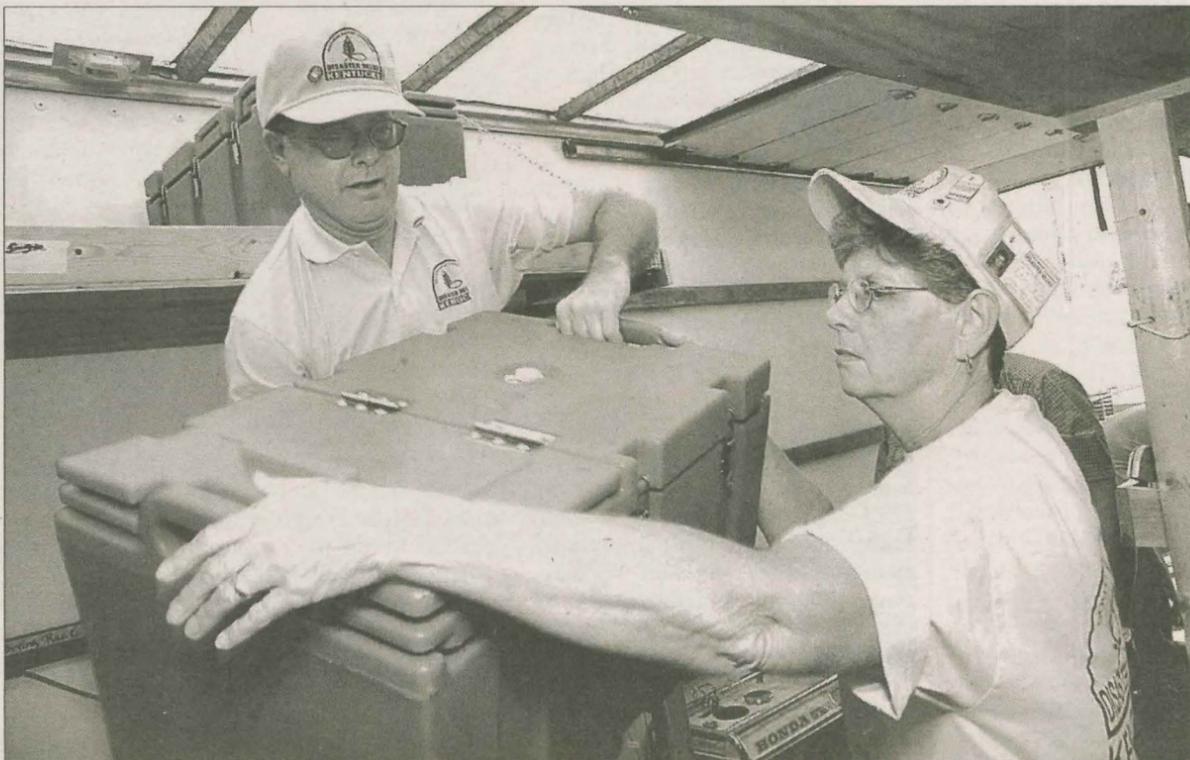
"These poll results indicate that teens are getting mixed messages, so we continue to believe that ethics education must begin early, during formative years," said James Quigley, CEO of Deloitte & Touche USA LLP, in a statement.

Teens also told the poll they are far more likely to seek out their friends for help with ethical decisions than to ask a member of the clergy.

Eighty-three percent of teens said they would turn to their friends for help in making such choices, followed by their parents (68 percent), teachers (27 percent), the Internet (24 percent) and clergy (14 percent).

The poll of 624 teens was conducted in July and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.9 percent.

Ivan relief continues



Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief volunteers continue to provide relief in Alabama. They are among an estimated 800 Southern Baptist volunteers assisting Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and West Virginia in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. **Above:** Roger Slagle, a member of Cooper Baptist Church, Monticello, and Vera Duvall, a member of First Baptist Church of Monticello, unload their mobile feeding trailer at First Baptist Church in Brewton, Ala. **Right:** Volunteers conduct a mass feeding at First Baptist Church of Bay Minette, Ala. Volunteers are expected to be needed for at least another week. For more information, contact the KBC men on mission department at (888) 254-5720. (Photos by Stanley Leary for the SBC North American Mission Board photo and Larry Koch for the Kentucky Baptist Convention)



Groups try to keep ministers from burning out in stressful times

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Gulf Shores, Ala. (RNS)—In the wake of Hurricane Ivan, Pastor Lloyd Stilley helps members of his congregation pick through rubble and voices thanks that felled trees landed in his yard instead of on his house.

What he has not done is tend to his own emotional health.

"To be honest, I had not thought about that," said Stilley, 43, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gulf Shores, Ala. "I had not had time to stop and think about those things."

Fortunately for ministers like Stilley, several organizations are providing care for caregivers during one of the most challenging hurricane seasons in recent memory.

Specialized religious relief workers focus on the particular needs of clergy and their families. They check in with ministers and other church staffers, develop workshops to help them face the days ahead and sometimes simply offer comfort, food and a listening ear.



ON TASK Pastor Lloyd Stilley of First Baptist Church of Gulf Shores, Ala., offers a sermon for the few church members in attendance for the Sept. 19 morning service in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. (RNS photo by John Mercer)

Along the way, their ministry provides lessons for pastors and church leaders everywhere about ways to prevent burnout when in the midst of high-stress situations.

Bill Sage, a recovery program coordinator for Church World Service, conducted mid-September assessments in the parts of Florida hit by Hurricanes Charley and Fran-

ces to determine the needs of the clergy and other first responders.

He expects to set up four-hour interfaith workshops—about as long as ministers will likely be able to pull themselves away—to help them deal with the emotional and spiritual roller coaster they're riding.

At those sessions they'll discuss how to draw boundaries—realizing they can't meet every single member's needs—and how to prevent stress and try to save some energy for the long recovery ahead.

"If you don't provide some kind of support and comfort and work on a network for them for the long term, caregivers are going to back out of it," said Sage, who leads a trauma response team. "They're going to burn out."

A history of pastors leaving

That's exactly what happened after Hurricane Andrew hit southern Florida, drastically affecting that area, including the Miami District of United Methodist churches,

in 1992.

"Within two years after the hurricane was over with, every Methodist pastor who had served a local church that was directly affected either had left the local pastorate or had asked for a transfer to another church," recalled Warren Langer, pastor of Sun City Center United Methodist Church, located between Sarasota and Tampa, Fla.

The former Miami-area minister is using his training in crisis intervention counseling to help coordinate assistance for pastors who've been faced with the more recent hurricanes.

He's located retired pastors who can spell others by preaching for them on a Sunday. Other retired clergy help coordinate a church's relief work while the regular pastor spends time preparing a sermon.

For the longer term, a year-old agency called Shade and Fresh Water will be providing relief to pastors in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

□ See *Groups work to prevent ... Page 6*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, September 29.

Future at stake in '04 election, Land tells SBC leaders

ERLC claims role as 'swift boat of the culture wars'

By Tony Cartledge
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Nashville (ABP)—America is approaching "the most crucial election process in our lifetime," according to Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Land told the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee Sept. 21 that Americans will choose between a high road and a low road during national elections in November. Choosing the "high road" could lead to renewal, revival and possibly reformation, he said. But choosing the "low road" will lead American society into outright sexual paganism, he told the committee at their semi-annual meeting in Nashville.

Claiming the recent Massachusetts Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage is what makes the election so important, Land said, "Legalizing same-sex marriage will be the final death blow to marriage as defined by God" and as accepted in Western society for hundreds of years.

And because of the gay marriage issue, democracy is also at stake, Land continued. Americans must choose "whether we will have government of the people, by the people and for the people," or whether government will be "of the judges, by the judges and for the judges."

Land cited several states in which citizens have voted to amend their state constitutions to prevent judges from ruling in favor of marriage between same-sex partners. He said even California residents voted

Chapman announces key staff adjustments

Nashville (BP)—Several top-level staff changes within the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee were announced by President Morris Chapman during the committee's Sept. 22 sessions in Nashville.

Chapman said David Hankins will become executive vice president of the Executive Committee; Bill Merrell will become senior executive adviser to the Executive Committee; and August Boto will carry the added title of general counsel.

Hankins, 54, joined the Executive Committee staff as vice president for convention policy in 1996 and was named vice president for Cooperative Program in

1998. While pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La., Hankins served on the Executive Committee from 1986-94, including two years as chairman. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Merrell, 60, who continues to recover from a stroke last fall, has served as the Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations since 1996. While his new position will be voluntary, he will continue to receive retirement and medical benefits through the Executive Committee.

Prior to joining the Executive Committee staff, Merrell served as director of communications

for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; director of missions for Oklahoma's Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association; and pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Texas. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Boto, 53, joined the Executive Committee staff in 1998 as vice president for convention policy. His new title will be general counsel and vice president for convention policy. Boto holds a law degree from Baylor Law School and is a former county attorney and private attorney in Texas. He also served as a Texas representative on the Executive Committee from 1995-98.

"Legalizing same-sex marriage will be the final death blow to marriage as defined by God."

Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

against allowing the marriage of "girlie men."

"We can do this," Land said. "The majority is with us. We must mobilize our citizens, register them, and get them to vote their values."

Referring to the ERLC as "the swift boat of the culture wars," Land also highlighted the development of the "I Vote Values" campaign to register voters, provide values-based information about party platforms, and encourage people to vote their values.

Welch rallies leaders

Earlier in the two-day meeting, Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch brought the Executive Committee to its feet with a stirring call to action.

Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., recently finished the eastern swing of a promotional bus tour in which

he plans to visit all 50 states and Canada within 25 travel days.

Welch and other SBC leaders are promoting a goal of 1 million baptisms during the 12-month period between the 2005 SBC annual meeting in Nashville and the 2006 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. This comes after four years of declining baptisms in the SBC, with 377,357 recorded for 2003.

Welch said Baptists must stop viewing the church as a fort and think of it as a forward operations base. Welch, a decorated Vietnam veteran, said a forward operations base is not intended to be permanent, but is designed to facilitate an army's forward progress. Soldiers advance from the forward operations base, then return to it for rest, nourishment, medical attention, encouragement and new weapons before going out again, Welch said.

Likewise, Baptists should think

of their churches not as places of retreat but as forward operations bases from which they go out to work for God.

"Facility-based evangelism, where people must come to a building in order to be reached with the gospel, will eventually kill us," he predicted.

In other business, the Executive Committee agreed to:

- Ask the SBC to request a "good faith estimate" from cooperating state conventions as to when they anticipate reaching a 50-50 division of Cooperative Program funds between the state conventions and the SBC.

- Set aside \$150,000 from SBC reserve funds to support Welch's evangelism emphasis and agreed to reimburse First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach for initial expenses of about \$50,000 advanced toward the initiative.

Virginia WMU leaders oppose 'devaluing' women in ministry

Richmond, Va. (ABP)—Leaders of Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia have adopted a declaration endorsing the "diverse and unlimited" Christian vocations of women.

The measure also "rejects" both the Southern Baptist Convention's official opposition to women pastors and the refusal of the denomination's North American Mission Board to endorse women as military and prison chaplains.

The "Declaration of the Dignity of Women" was unanimously approved Sept. 11 by Virginia WMU's board of trustees and its advisory board.

Speaking "at a time when the leadership of women has been devalued and suppressed," the leaders declared:

- "That we reject all blanket discrimination against women in the work of Christian ministry, in particular as elaborated in the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message." The SBC statement of faith, as revised in 2000, maintains that Scripture limits the office of pastor to men.

- "That we reject the findings and policy of the North American Mission Board with regard to the non-endorsement of women in chaplaincy positions."

NAMB voted last February to cease endorsing women for chaplain positions "where the role and function of the chaplain would be seen the same as that of a pastor."

- "That we reject any devaluation of women worldwide."

"The women of Virginia have always seen themselves as leaders in the church," said Earlene Jessee, WMUV executive director. "But in recent years they have seen the role of women in the church devalued and no one has stood to speak against the devaluing. In discussing that, our women came to the conclusion that they must say something. As one of our trustees said, 'Silence is consent.'"

IMB, seminaries evaluate mission methods

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Help is desperately needed in places where churches are multiplying more rapidly than leaders can be trained, Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees were told during a Sept. 14-15 meeting in Richmond, Va.

Trustees also received 10 recommendations designed to clarify the methodology and purpose of overseas work, strengthen the vision for reaching a lost world and improve partnership with the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Trustee Chairman Tom Hatley reported on an Aug. 13 meeting between IMB staff and trustee leaders and presidents and missions professors from the six Southern Baptist seminaries and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

The meeting was an outgrowth of concerns expressed last year by Keith Eitel, a missions professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Eitel had contended that "pervasive" theological error is reflected in the IMB's approach to strategic planning, in partnerships with other

Great Commission Christians, in a perceived lessening of theological training requirements for new missionaries and in the role of women serving as strategy coordinators.

A letter of reply from IMB President Jerry Rankin described the criticisms as "unfounded" and rejected the implication that IMB trustees had "overseen and embraced a failure that represents an aberrant theology."

Hatley, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Rogers, Ark., said the meeting with seminary leaders was "very helpful."

"The purpose was to discuss ideas and concerns about work on the field, how we can make it better and more theologically sound and how we can more frequently involve our seminaries," he said. "The results were even greater than I had expected. Clarity was given to many issues, very constructive ideas were offered and were received with grace."

Board Vice Chairman Michael Barrett presented the trustees with a set of 10 recommendations that were being referred to various trustee committees. Among the recommendations were calls to:

- Review the training, number of required hours from the seminaries and the particular courses required

for missionaries who will serve as strategy coordinators.

- Clarify the boundaries and levels of cooperation with "Great Commission Christian" groups.

- Continue to evaluate missionary training on subjects such as church-planting movements, ecclesiology and the role of women in ministry.

- Revisit and clarify the definition of a local church.

Reporting on a recent overseas trip, Hatley said he met the leader of a large movement of house churches that had been growing at a phenomenal rate.

"He is instructing his people that, for the next two years, they are not to allow the churches to more than double each year," he said. "The reason for the slowdown is that they ... could not train leaders fast enough to adequately staff the churches being formed. Without training for leaders, there was a danger that the movement would become weak and open to damaging strains of theological thought."

Regional leaders and stateside staff are addressing the need, Hatley said, but he challenged trustees to "find a way to bring leadership to those groups that are experiencing exponential growth."

Cross Over Metro Louisville to precede KBC annual meeting

Louisville—Meeting physical needs and sharing their faith will be the focus of Kentucky Baptists Nov. 10-15 before their annual meeting in Louisville.

Cross Over Metro Louisville is a community outreach weekend planned in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting, Nov. 16-17 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Cross Over is a joint project of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the local Long Run Baptist Association.

This year's Cross Over provides Kentucky Baptists with an opportunity to serve in an urban area as they seek to meet needs that exist in Kentucky's largest city.

"This is an opportunity for the public to see what Kentucky Baptists are all about, loving and helping people," said Dan Garland, leader of the KBC's church development/evangelism team.

Cross Over Metro Louisville will feature a variety of outreach projects including community prayer walks, surveys to determine physical needs, distribution of "The Hope" video about the Christian faith, and social service projects.

The teams will work in six Louisville areas: the Americana Apartments, Portland community, West Louisville, Shelby Park in downtown, the Churchill Downs area and the University of Louisville campus.

Projects will include sponsoring a three-on-three basketball tournament for children at the Baptist Fellowship Center of Louisville, winterization and minor repair of homes in the Shelby Park area, and gift bag distribution for Churchill Downs track workers.

This is the fourth Cross Over event sponsored by the KBC since 2001. Cross Over is designed to give Baptists from throughout the commonwealth an opportunity to work together to serve the host city and to share the Christian faith, Garland said.

Last year, more than 800 volunteers from approximately 100 churches took part in Cross Over the Bluegrass in Lexington.

Their work in a variety of projects resulted in at least six professions of faith and 80 other spiritual decisions.

For more information, contact Garland at (502) 254-4737 or toll free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5722.

Kentucky Baptist churches can register to participate by using an online form. Information is available on the KBC Web site at www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

Scarce commodity



OVERFLOWING? Expect parking lots to fill quickly during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting, Nov. 16-17 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. The church, which sits in the middle of a residential area, has approximately 500 parking spaces. Last year's meeting attracted 1,231 messengers plus guests.

Parking to be tight for annual meeting

By David Winfrey
News Director

Louisville—Parking spaces are expected to be in short supply when messengers arrive for this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville.

"We're encouraging messengers to arrive early Tuesday morning for the best parking selections," said Denise Withers, a KBC communications specialist who is serving as logistics coordinator for the event, Nov. 16-17.

Parking at the host location, St. Matthews Baptist Church, likely will be full when messengers arrive, traditionally between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Tuesday of the annual meeting.

"We have about 500 designated parking spaces and obviously we're expecting more people than that," said John Shapanus, a KBC administrator for St. Matthews Baptist.

Last year's meeting in Lexington attracted 1,231 messengers, plus guests and exhibitors. Using the general rule of two people per car, it's easy to see the potential problem, he said.

"We're right in a neighborhood, so there are no (additional) places around to park," Shapanus noted.

Officials are encouraging messengers to use two satellite parking sites from which shuttles will run all day:

Canaan Christian Church, 2840 Hikes Lane. This site, which is four miles from St. Matthews Baptist, will serve as the primary satellite location.

Southeast Christian Church, 920 Blankenbaker Parkway. This site, about eight miles from St. Matthews Baptist, is being promoted

Directions to alternate lots

Canaan Christian Church, 2840 Hikes Lane. From I-264 (Watterson Expressway): Take Taylorsville Road, south (Exit 17A). Go .6 of a mile to Furman Boulevard, which is at the first stoplight. Turn right onto Furman and continue .8 of a mile to the stoplight at Hikes Lane. Turn right onto Hikes Lane. Canaan Christian Church is a half mile ahead on the left.

Southeast Christian Church, 920 Blankenbaker Parkway. From I-64: Take Blankenbaker Parkway North (Exit 17). Access to the Southeast Christian Church parking lot is half a mile ahead on the left. Turn left at the first entrance, which is across from a gas station and an assisted living facility.

to messengers staying at hotels on Louisville's east side.

"Those arriving during late morning hours need to consider using one of our alternate parking lots and then catch a return shuttle to St. Matthews Baptist Church," Withers said.

Shapanus said he's encouraging locations their first choice instead of their last resort.

"I think our normal human nature would be, 'Well, let me see if I can find a spot first at St. Matthews,'" he said.

"But if they try and do that, they may run out of time to get back on the shuttle if they have to go elsewhere."

Neighborhood parking prohibited

Organizers say they are attempting to balance being good hosts for KBC messengers and good neighbors for residents living in the community.

"One of the things that we will have to make sure of is that people don't park on the streets or block people's driveways or otherwise inconvenience people," Shapanus said.

Parallel parking along Grandview Ave., Nanz Ave. or other side streets in the immediate area of the church is prohibited, and police will tow, Shapanus said.

"It's a safety reason," he said. "If fire trucks or other emergency vehicles needed to get either to our church or to the surrounding houses, we want to make sure those streets are free and clear."

Withers said the shuttle stops will be clearly marked. Parking attendants at St. Matthews also will have detailed maps to alternate lots.

To help messengers who might not wish to leave after securing parking on Tuesday morning, box lunches will be available at the church at a nominal cost.

Limited shuttle traffic to a local mall food court also will be available during the lunch break.

Shuttles to and from both alternate lots begin at 7:45 a.m. Tuesday and will continue until the close of the evening session.

For more information about the 2004 annual meeting, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting or call (888) 254-5713.

With additional reporting by Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications department

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Members of West Kentucky Baptist Association's Executive Board adopted a resolution Sept. 14 supporting the Kentucky Marriage Protection Amendment which will be on Kentucky's Nov. 2 ballot. The measure, a version of a sample resolution distributed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention communications department, notes that "marriage is the foundation of the God-ordained institution of the family." Warning that "the institution of marriage is now in crisis" due to efforts to legalize "same-sex 'marriages,'" the resolution urges Kentuckians to vote for the proposed constitutional amendment. Copies of the sample resolution are available by calling the KBC communications office at (502) 254-4731 or toll free at (888) 254-5713.

Robert Webber, an author and professor at Northern Baptist Seminary in Wheaton, Ill., will deliver Clear Creek Baptist Bible College's James C. Barry Lecture Series Oct. 21-22. Webber has written more than 40 books on worship and the church, including "Renew Your Worship!" For information, call the school's office of college relations at (606) 337-3196.

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

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Prepare for election fallout

By Joe Phelps

An enormous pastoral task awaits the religious community on Nov. 3, the day after this year's presidential elections, no matter the outcome. Now is the time for religious leaders to anticipate this challenge and to prepare ourselves to respond to the inevitable fallout.

Election 2004 is being described as the most important crossroads in modern American politics. Interestingly, both sides employ the same language: "The future of our country hinges on the outcome of the election." "It's winner-take-all." "This is a battle between good and evil." "Losing is not an option."

The religious community needs to anticipate the inevitable: One candidate, along with all his supporters, will lose on Nov. 2. Close to half of those who vote in our country likely will be hugely disappointed, many in serious grief, when they wake up on Nov. 3.

This will be a strategic pastoral moment. What should pastors, counselors, chaplains and denominational leaders of all stripes anticipate? How can we be ready? Consider the following suggestions to help begin the conversation:

Stay connected. In order to care for all members of our flock, we must rise above philosophical and political differences in the few weeks before the election and value each person as a child of God. Pastors must work to preach religious truths without lapsing into partisan politics. In the remaining weeks, let us choose words that unite rather than polarize.

Be prepared. As community leaders we must be prepared for the election results, and have personally dealt with our reaction even before the votes are tallied. You might lose. Or you might win. Regardless, we've got pastoral work to do amid our grief or relief. We don't have the luxury of waiting until election

night to begin working through our personal feelings of joy or despair. We must deal with some portion of our reaction in advance, in order to be farther down the emotional road than those we serve.

Think theologically. Let us continue to remind ourselves that the Kingdom of God does not rise or fall on this election. Despite the

assertion that much rides on the outcome, and it does, the losing party's followers must be invited to view the bigger picture. We must challenge despair. We must resist isolation from brothers and sisters of the other party.

Anticipate effects. Obviously, the election results will affect those most deeply invested in the process: politicians, campaign volunteers and people with strong convictions about what our country needs. Anticipate that Nov. 3 will not be a highly productive day.

Election losers likely will go through various expressions of grief—denial, anger, resentment, depression, isolation, hypersensitivity—in the way most people do, which is erratically and vaguely. It will require patient, persistent pastoral care to restore hope.

Election winners likely will feel euphoric and vindicated, and will deal with this in the way most people do, which is also erratically and vaguely.

Note underlying issues. In addition to legitimate political concerns, response to the election will be shaped by the high degree of competition that colors the American psyche. In this "winner-take-all" election, we can anticipate some badly damaged egos on Nov. 3. What a shock to accept that the candidate they were certain would win, lost. This means they lost too.

Reaffirm common ground. Political campaigns are about distinguishing one candidate from another. Opponents are demonized and

minimized, while one's champion is heralded as the true patriot. This rhetoric is no longer necessary on Nov. 3, and so, predictably, the political olive branch will be extended.

The church must do better than this. Our country is deeply divided. It has been some time since Americans have visited our common ground. The church can articulate this common ground, and should begin reminding our congregations about it in our prayers, hymns and proclamation in the remaining weeks before the election.

Encourage restoration and reconciliation. Churches could begin now to plan community services of worship for the days following the election. A single service of worship that attempts to bring both sides together might seem too ambitious. Perhaps a community could offer separate "Services of Hope," one for those who lost, and a second for those who won.

Just as congregations needed worship in the aftermath of Sept. 11, many will feel violated, isolated and afraid after Nov. 2. Churches could announce that their sanctuaries will be open as safe havens for prayer and reflection following the election.

A Service of Hope for those who won could guide worshipers toward God's larger call to all nations and not just America. It could remind citizens that our ultimate trust is in God, not in political victories.

It would be a beautiful witness to the reconciling nature of religious communities if the order of service for these gatherings were formed in advance by clergy of differing political persuasions, using identical hymns, Scriptures and litanies, even if the tone in these services are understandably different. It would serve as a reminder that in joy and despair, through it all, we are one.

A great deal hinges on the outcome of Nov. 2, 2004. But much more hinges on how the church responds to the aftermath.

Joe Phelps is pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville

COMMENTARY

Kentucky Baptist celebrations

During a recent four-day period, Kay and I had the privilege of celebrating special occasions with two associations, three churches and a Kentucky Baptist Convention ministry.

Wayne County Baptist Association celebrated 100 years of ministry during its annual meeting at Steubenville Baptist Church. Director of Missions Robert Spradlin shared his vision for reaching and developing people for missions and ministries. Calvin Kennett made a presentation on the history of the association.

The next evening, Russell Creek Baptist Association celebrated its 200th anniversary during its annual meeting at Brush Creek Baptist Church. Participants were encouraged to remain for a wonderful meal and time of fellowship. Wilburn Bonta, director of missions for 11 years, shared a visual presentation including each church.

I participated in the Super Saturday Conference at First Baptist Church of Somerset the next day. The KBC Mission Board staff did

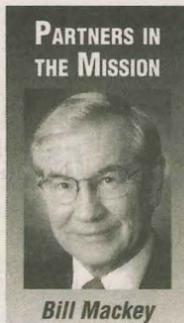
an excellent job conducting the six Super Saturday training conferences. The conferences I attended, as

well as the one I attended earlier at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, had excellent leaders and the participants shared creative practices that are working in their churches.

On Sunday, Kay and I had the privilege of celebrating with First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, their \$1 million milestone in giving to missions through the Cooperative Program. Pastor Tony Brown graciously suggested that the recognition be presented to J.T. Ward who had served as treasurer, deacon and Sunday school teacher for more than 30 years.

A retired president of the Bank of Whitesburg, J.T. and his wife, Ruth, conducted mission Sunday schools for 12 years near Premium. He currently is a trustee of Oneida Baptist Institute.

The Wards are known for their loyalty to the Lord, their church and pastor, and support of world



Bill Mackey

missions through the Cooperative Program. They represent thousands of Kentucky Baptists who have similar commitments, for whom I give thanks to God.

Earlier on Sunday, I visited Premium Baptist Church to celebrate with Pastor Dock Frazier the church's sanctuary expansion and new fellowship hall where 75 children and youth are taught on Wednesday nights. It was my privilege to baptize David Banks three years before he became the Premium Mission pastor in 1975 and later founding pastor of the church. The fellowship hall is named in his honor.

Sunday afternoon Kay and I participated in the installation celebration of Ricky Ray, the new pastor of First Baptist Church of Hazard. The mayor, local ministers, Three Forks Association Director of Mission James Castlen and church members were present to extend their welcome, encouragement and prayers.

Please pray for all who are serving our Lord through local church and associational ministries as well as through the KBC and world mission causes.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Foundation can help donors meet giving objectives

By Laurie Valentine

As you seek to achieve your legacy giving objectives, using the resources of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can benefit both you and the Baptist cause you wish to support.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is the only agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention that can receive legacy gifts for the support of all Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes.

As a "member of the family," the foundation has a special appreciation and affection for the mission and ministry of the causes that will be supported through your gifts. This connection assures donors that the Foundation has each cause's best interests in mind as it manages the gifts made for that cause's benefit.

Many donors want to provide support to more than one cause and realize that dividing their gift may result in lower total support. A single trust or endowment fund established with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can be set up to provide support to more than one Baptist cause. This can result in more consistent levels of support for all—each cause will have the benefit of the same level of investment management services and the economies of centralized fund management.

Setting up the Kentucky Baptist Foundation as the manager of your gift assures the causes you want to support are left to do what they were called to do—missions, Christian education, child care, evangelism, disaster relief, etc. You relieve their board, trustees and staff from day-to-day investment research, analysis, decision-making, transacting and reporting, and place those responsibilities with the organization whose purpose is to provide prudent financial management for the causes designated by its donors.

The board and staff of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation are committed to help each Kentucky Baptist determine how he or she can practice personal Christian stewardship at a higher level.

This commitment is reflected in the variety of legacy gift plans offered and the ability of the foundation to accept gifts of any size.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Questions offer starting point to assess child's spiritual growth

Q: What are some developmentally appropriate expectations I should have for my child's spiritual growth?

When it comes to spiritual growth, George Barna says you get what you measure. Barna's research underscores the importance of establishing expectations for the spiritual growth of our children—milestones that can be observed and measured. The following list provides parents with a starting point for thinking about how their children are doing spiritually:

- Does your child know God exists?
- Does your child know how and why the world was created?
- Does your child know that God loves him or her unconditionally?
- Does your child have an understanding of sin?
- Does your child understand that God sent Jesus to forgive sin?
- Is your child asking questions about what it means to be a Christian?
- Does your child know the books of the Bible?
- Does your child look to the Bible as an authority for life?
- Does your child pray and read the Bible regularly?
- Does your child share and give?
- Does your child treat others with respect and kindness?
- Does your child obey you and honor you in his or her attitudes and actions?
- Is your child truthful and honest?
- Is your child forgiving?
- Is your child actively involved in worship?
- Is your child involved in some kind of service to others?

All of the above are components of Christian character and commitment. Their presence or absence in your child's life can serve as a good indicator of your child's spiritual maturity.—David Garrard

Q: I have a roommate who is beginning to get on my nerves with her annoying habits. She stays out late, reeks of smoking and sometimes uses offensive language. When I point out her bad habits, she tells me not to nag or be judgmental. Yet she has indicated her desire to change and I wonder how I can help. Any suggestions?

First of all, you indicate it's a roommate situation, not a lifetime commitment. It should be within your power to find another roommate or to live alone if that is within your means.

On the other hand, if your friend is legitimately asking for help, give these steps a try:

Don't nag. It only serves to push the other person to do what she might not otherwise do in order to assert independence from you.

Let her know her annoying habits are affecting you. Use this formula: "When you ... I feel ..." Using an "I" message rather than a "you" message means you are owning your feelings rather than casting blame.

Lend an ear. Chances are she is doing these things because of some internal anxiety and restlessness. Your listening ear can be just the thing to open up the necessary space for change to take place.

Offer unconditional support. Your support for her might be more effective when not sharing living space. But to be there for her unconditionally, assuming she is really working to change, gives her a buffer against the winds of life that are driving her to do things that bring her negative consequences.

Remember the wise words of Scripture such as Proverbs 15:1, 23 and especially Proverbs 27:6, which indicate that a godly use of words can have a powerful effect on the life of your friend.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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

PARENTING



Election 2004: Let your voice be heard

Has church-state separation gone too far in the United States? Has it gone far enough?

Those are among questions many Americans are wrestling with in the midst of a closely watched presidential race; an effort by the U.S. House of Representatives to protect the Pledge of Allegiance and its "one nation under God" language from judicial rulings; and mixed efforts at funding faith-based initiatives.

The current political season also has seen church/state-based challenges to prominent Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell's campaign to "get serious about re-electing President Bush" as well as a Florida congregation that hosted a Democratic rally. During a recent message at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Falwell told listeners, "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."

At the same time, faith-based groups ranging from the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's "iVoteValues" campaign to the National Council of Churches' "Let Thunder Roll" voter registration drive are seeking to mobilize voters for November.

During the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June, messengers adopted a resolution urging "all Christians to vote in accordance with biblical values rather than according to party lines, personalities or candidate rhetoric." The measure also called on churches to conduct voter registration and education.

Amid that wide-ranging backdrop, a recent poll conducted by the non-profit Council for America's First Freedom found that 49 percent of respondents said it is important to keep church and state separate. Another 20 percent said there is no need for church-state separation and 29 percent said it has become "too severe."

The same survey also found that 52 of respondents cited freedom of religion as a primary legal guarantee in American society.

Stephen Elliott, executive director of the council, described the findings as both "heartening and disquieting." While the results "show a public that holds religious liberty as among our most prized

freedoms," he added that "in an apparent contradiction," respondents are "ambivalent about the constitutional tenet that keeps church and state separate."

Baptists historically have been strong advocates of church-state separation, thanks in large measure to the efforts of such luminaries as Roger Williams, John Leland and George W. Truett. Maintaining that lofty commitment, both the 1963 and 2000 versions of the Baptist Faith and Message boldly declare that "church and state should be separate."

Emphasizing that "the church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work," the faith statement adds, "The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. ... A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal."

While church-state separation is vital to maintaining religious liberty for all, it does not mean stifling individual believers' right and responsibility to let their voices be heard in the public square.

Granted, IRS regulations prohibit tax-exempt churches from campaigning on behalf of individual candidates. But congregations can take stands on moral and ethical issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage. They also can organize voter registration campaigns and distribute voter guides, provided that such efforts are nonpartisan.

On the personal level, Christians have every right to participate in the political process. One crucial way to do so, in the words of the recent SBC resolution, is for "all Christians to vote in accordance with biblical values rather than according to party lines."

Keep in mind that this is the final week to register to vote in this fall's elections. Whether voting in the presidential race, casting your vote on Kentucky's proposed Marriage Protection Amendment or other issues, make a point to let your views count Nov. 2.

Your personal involvement in the democratic process can help preserve America's legacy of a free church in a free state for generations to come.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Pursuing focus and challenge

Nashville (BP)—Southern Baptist pastors and people say they understand and appreciate the past convention battle for the Bible and the soul of the Southern Baptist Convention, and they are glad it was won. Further, they are committed to staying vigilant on these matters.

But they want to see these gains translated into action that unites us, challenges us, grows us, and reaches lost souls here and around the world.

These are some of the things I am hearing in the cross-country bus trip I am making to launch the "Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism" campaign, which has the goal of "witness, win and baptize 1 million" by SBC churches in one year.

We are now at a time where we do not need to hear only a defense of the Word of God, but we urgently must have an unprecedented dissemination of the Word.

Younger and older pastors might

have some differences of opinions but they take the same perspective on many things, such as their answers to the following questions:

"Which pastors and people should be placed in leadership roles?"

Not those seeking position, power, prestige, but those demonstrating a servant leadership exemplified by sacrifice, soul-winning and self-denial, as well as support and involvement in SBC efforts, including Cooperative Program giving to support national and international missions and ministry.

A number of people have emphasized to me that it should not be forgotten that multiplied thousands of both young and older pastors and staff persons have remained extremely committed and active in SBC causes and efforts.

"Why are many becoming less and less active in SBC efforts?"

They usually are inactive because they do not find a compelling reason

to be more active. They are not willing to go somewhere if it leads to nowhere.

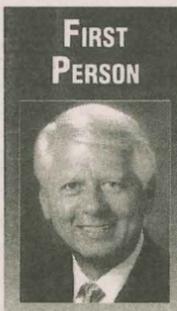
"Why do they look to other networks, organizations and people outside the SBC?"

It is not always for something "new" but usually for something they believe to be challenging and worthwhile. They want a God-sized challenge that is worth the best of the rest of their lives.

"What is the biggest need in the SBC?"

Focus and challenge! Whether true or not, there is a feeling that too much is too fragmented and compartmentalized, with most organizations running in different directions. A clear-cut, God-sized goal and unified effort would be welcomed. The SBC must immediately achieve a unity of purpose for evangelism. If we do not, we will prove our critics in the press and elsewhere to be prophets in their prediction that our days are numbered.

Bobby Welch is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla. This column was adapted from his address to the SBC Executive Committee Sept. 21 in Nashville.



Bobby Welch

Baptist relief work expands to six states

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—More than 1,500 Baptist disaster relief volunteers from 25 states are cooking meals, cutting up fallen trees and providing childcare in six states in the path of destruction left by Hurricane Ivan from the Florida Panhandle to the Midwest.

Disaster relief officials also are evaluating damage from Hurricane Jeanne, the fourth hurricane to hit Florida this season.

Baptists already are providing an average of 50,000 meals a day in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, West Virginia and Ohio, according to Jim Burton, disaster relief director for the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board.

Operations in South Carolina, Louisiana and Tennessee, meanwhile, have ended.

SBC volunteers, the third-largest disaster relief force in the country, have been responding for nearly seven weeks, providing 1.2 million meals to date and completing more than 4,000 cleanup and recovery projects.

In addition, they've been asked to help both the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army staff their mobile kitchens and drive their delivery vehicles.

"And today Southern Baptists put in an order for enough food for 1.2 million more meals," Burton said. "We're going to be doing this for a long time, and we haven't even started the long-term rebuilding process that will probably take years."

Groups work to prevent ministers from burning out

Continued from page 1

Trudy Corry Rankin, program coordinator of the agency that advocates for clergy families, is arranging retreats for clergy and their spouses to give them a chance to jointly experience the "catharsis" of processing what they've been through.

Rankin said some clergy were thrilled just to receive a letter saying support for them was available.

"He broke down in tears," she said of one minister she called after sending him a letter. "Whether he was going to use it or not, he just had this sense that there was a support out there somewhere."

Care for self, then others

Since Ivan struck, Lutheran counselors and relief workers have been contacting pastors and staff to check on their welfare.

They use a theologian's suggestion of following the same guidance one does with an airplane's oxygen mask—taking care of themselves first, said Johanna Olson, associate director of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Domestic Disaster Response in Chicago.

"Are they seeing this not as a sprint, but as a marathon?" they are asked, she said. "That's for us to constantly keep out there, that self-care. You need to put on your face mask first."

Less than a week after Ivan made landfall in Alabama, a minister to ministers headed from Georgia, his vehicle filled with some large pizzas and dozens of doughnuts for staff members at the Alabama Baptist State Convention in Montgomery.

Dan King Sr., a Southern Baptist pastoral counselor, directs the Shepherd's Staff, a division of his independent Living Well Family Ministries in Dublin, Ga. In a cell-phone interview as he headed out of town, he said he hoped to help confront feelings of inadequacy when clerical caregivers can't offer quick fixes for the long-term problems now facing their members.

"These people are human beings, we need to remember," King said. "And they have the same emotional and spiritual issues as the rest of us, plus those of the people that they commit themselves to care for."

Just trying to get by

And as the experts try to help the clergy realize the long-term recovery ahead, some of those on the ground are just trying to get through the next few weeks.

Stilley, at his 600-member church two miles from the Gulf of Mexico, is working with other pastors to help elderly residents in his community, some of whom they have seen dragging heavy tree limbs in one hand and a cane or

walker in the other.

"We're trying to mobilize and organize where we can," he said. "Just get a chain-saw-carrying, wheelbarrow-toting group that just starts down this block and does what we can do to get things cinched up in the short term."

Gone, he said, are thoughts of the sermon preparation and hospital visits that usually fill his week.

"Attending to the normal ebb and flow of what life brings to the community and to our church membership—that has all been jettisoned and I don't know when that will end," he said.



STRESSFUL TIMES The crumpled steeple of First Baptist Church of Atmore, Ala., sits beside the church. Groups say pastors can become so involved in serving others after a catastrophe that they forget to take care of themselves. (BP photo by Stanley Leary)

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SERIOUS CONCERNS

- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

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Southern Baptist Minister to Host

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On July 24, 2005, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. Dennis Daniels on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Daniels is Senior Adult Pastor of The First Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He has also led tour groups on a variety of vacations over the years, including an Alaska Cruise.

Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake; Idaho Falls; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton and Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Parks; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver board your 5-star ship HAL's ms Zaandam.

Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and amazing Glacier Bay.

After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2498 (per person, double occupancy). Included is round trip airfare, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, transfers, and baggage handling. \$100 deposits now due. Friends & family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Daniels' letter call:

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R. Albert Mohler Jr.
OCT 12
10 AM



Russell D. Moore
OCT 13
10 AM



James Merritt
OCT 14
10 AM

Golf Tournament

Thursday, October 14, following chapel at Glen Oaks Country Club
For more information, call (502) 897-4700

Celebrating the legacy of nearly one hundred and fifty years of faithful service to the Kingdom of Christ, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary invites you to join us for our Fourth Annual Heritage Week. An important part of this celebration will be our First Annual Golf Tournament at Glen Oaks Country Club on Thursday, October 14, following chapel. Please be our guest on the historic campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as we worship God and celebrate our legacy.



2825 Lexington Road · Louisville, Kentucky

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Crossings on Mission

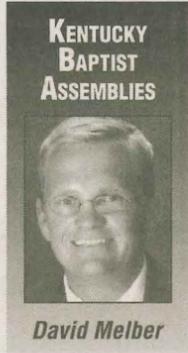
New experience coming to Northern Kentucky next year

During recent years, literally thousands of youth from churches all over our state and beyond have attended camp at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

The visitors always bring great excitement and their visit provides a time when we can "pick their brains" about the daily challenges of youth ministry. We have kids only one week at a time, but local church ministers and lay leaders serve them year round. This reality challenges us to continually ask probing questions about how we can better support and serve your ministry.

versity's campus. From the campus, youth will spread throughout greater Cincinnati to serve the needs of the community.

The needs that have been presented so far range from working with senior adults in our Baptist Life Communities to backyard Bible studies in inner city projects, to various shelters serving the homeless.



David Melber

We are excited about what these experiences can offer, not only to the person in need, but to the student who seeks to be a Christ follower. These "points of impact," as we call them, will challenge and stretch our youth to see that the world is comprised of many people who are vastly different, but who ultimately all have the same need, Jesus Christ.

During the past three years, a common theme has been a challenge to us to begin offering a mission-focused camp. Because of the population proximity around Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, it would be difficult to find adequate ministry outlets to keep hundreds of youth busy each week. We began praying and searching for areas of opportunities, and God led us to the Northern Kentucky area.

Crossings on Mission will be based on Northern Kentucky Uni-

Crossings on Mission will begin with three five-day sessions in July 2005. If you are looking for an opportunity to place your youth on the front line of servant evangelism, consider this opportunity in Northern Kentucky. For more information, contact Cedarmore Conference Center at (502) 747-8911.

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

COLLECT FOR THE CHILDREN KBHC Food Round-Up!



It's Food Round-Up time!

Help us provide for the abused and neglected youth in Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's care across the state, both on our campuses and in our foster homes. Your donations of grocery gift cards, food and personal care items are greatly needed for the coming year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Collect non-perishable food items, personal care items, and grocery gift cards to major retailers such as Kroger or Wal-Mart this month and deliver these items to your nearest pick-up point between Oct. 4-8.



Find a list of pick-up points and other helpful hints at www.kbhc.org. Or call us at 1-800-456-1386.

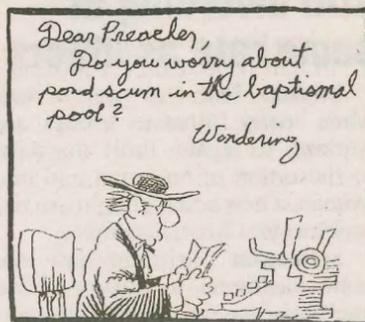


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Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "Thou breakest the heads of ___ in pieces" (Psalm 74:14)
- 7 "Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a ___" (Judges 7:5)
- 10 In on
- 11 Like an aria
- 12 "___ it ever so humble"
- 13 Conjunction
- 14 "Behold behind him a ___ caught in a thicket by his horns" (Genesis 22:13)
- 17 Loathing
- 18 Feminine nickname
- 20 Brit. islands (abbr.)
- 22 Blue pencil pushers? (abbr.)
- 23 Printer's measure
- 24 Wisconsin, the ___ State
- 27 Catch sight of
- 30 "I ___ the true vine" (John 15:1)
- 31 "The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow ___" (Deuteronomy 14:5)
- 32 "All ___ like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6)
- 34 Rooster's better half
- 35 Chicago sight
- 36 Dad, in Dublin
- 38 One of the 13 original states (abbr.)
- 39 "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring ___, walketh about" (1 Peter 5:8)
- 42 Stags
- 44 What to do with the frizzies and large felines

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- 46 Greek letter
- 47 Iron (symbol)
- 48 Verb in primer's vocabulary
- 50 Director Lupino
- 52 Kind of engineer (abbr.)
- 53 TV network
- 54 "Shalt thou exalt like the horn of an ___" (Psalm 92:10)
- 16 Large quantity
- 19 Preposition
- 20 "Easier for a ___ to go through the eye of a needle" (Matthew 19:24)
- 21 Part of psyche
- 24 Requested (arch.)
- 25 "She maketh fine linen ... and delivereth ___ unto the merchant" (Proverbs 31:24)
- 26 Harsh
- 28 Penn's pad? (abbr.)
- 29 "The king doth not fetch home again his ___" (2 Samuel 14:13)
- 33 Exclamation of scorn
- 34 Tortoise's tormentor
- 37 City near Bethel
- 40 These may be yoked
- 41 Division of the United Kingdom (abbr.)
- 43 "And Peter followed ___ off" (Luke 22:54)
- 45 Fuss
- 49 Good or well (prefix)
- 50 Characteristic of (suffix)
- 51 Word in a command

Last week's solution

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829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837
838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846
847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855
856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864
865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873
874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882
883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891
892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900
901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909
910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918
919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927
928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936
937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945
946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954
955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963
964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972
973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	9

NATIONAL NOTES

House approves bill preventing court 'under God' rulings. The U.S. House of Representatives approved last week a bill that would prevent courts from ruling on whether "under God" belongs in the Pledge of Allegiance. By a vote of 247-173, the House passed the legislation that could affect the Supreme Court as well as lower federal courts. It would prohibit them from hearing cases involving the recitation of the pledge and prevent federal courts from striking the words "under God" from it. Consideration of the legislation in the Senate is not likely this year.

Dobson urges Procter & Gamble boycott. Focus on the Family Chairman James Dobson has encouraged listeners to his radio program to boycott products of the Procter & Gamble company because of a "tacit endorsement of gay marriage," but the Cincinnati manufacturer says conservative groups are mistaken about its stance. At issue is Procter & Gamble's donation of \$10,000 to a campaign for the repeal of a city ordinance barring enactment of gay rights laws. Company spokesman Doug Shelton said that matter is not related to the marriage issue. "The two issues are separate and distinct and our company has not taken a position on the definition of marriage."

Request to reconsider Roe v. Wade denied. A federal appellate court has dismissed a suit from the woman plaintiff in the Roe v. Wade case who tried to challenge the Supreme Court's decades-old decision legalizing abortion. Norma McCorvey, the Dallas woman known as "Jane Roe," said the case should be reheard in light of evidence that abortion may harm women. Her protest of Texas' ban on abortion led to the landmark Supreme Court ruling in 1973. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans dismissed her suit against the Dallas County district attorney. A three-judge panel said it was moot because the state has not had a law addressing abortion for more than 30 years.

Louisiana voters approve gay-marriage ban. Voters in Louisiana have endorsed an amendment to their state constitution banning same-sex marriage. By a 78-to-22-percent majority, Louisianans approved the amendment Sept. 18. It carried every parish—including the generally liberal Orleans Parish, home to the city of New Orleans. Louisiana becomes the second state this year to adopt a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. In August, Missouri voters passed a similar amendment.

Study: Christians still divorcing at same rate as others

Ventura, Calif (BP)—At a time when many Christian groups are working to legally limit marriage to the union of one man and one woman, a new poll highlights an old problem for Christian couples.

Born-again Christians have the same likelihood to divorce as do non-Christians, according to the survey by Barna Research Group.

Among all adults 18 and older, three out of four have been married, and half are currently married. Among those who have been married, more than one out of three have been divorced, Barna found.

Though one-third of the married adults from the preceding two generations had been divorced, nearly half of all married Baby Boomers have divorced, the study, released Sept. 8, said. Researcher George Barna predicted Boomers will become the first generation in which a majority experience divorce.

Twenty-seven percent of married Baby Boomers already have been divorced, despite the fact that the youngest one-fifth of that generation has not yet reached the average age of a first marriage, Barna said.

When broken down by religious affiliation, both 35 percent of married born-again Christians have experienced a divorce and 35 percent of married adults who are not born again have experienced a divorce. Barna noted that some non-Christians tend to place less importance on the need for marriage and opt to cohabit instead, which would leave them out of the marriage and divorce statistics altogether.

Well done, thou good and faithful beds

Furniture gift helps us say goodbye to our worn-out World War II bunk beds

We can't deny the fact that Oneida has a long history of accepting old and discarded items, only to put them back into active service. Often friends bring us something with an apology, stating they have no idea how we can use the item. They generally add that if anyone can find a use for it, Oneida can.

Only those accustomed to bringing things out of retirement can appreciate the joy that comes from knowing that an otherwise useless item has been put back into active service. We experience that joy all the time. We still are using older trucks, vans, cars and a lot of other items that were brought back to life on our campus.

But even with the best of intentions, there comes the time when you simply must say goodbye to an old friend; a piece of equipment, furniture, a vehicle or other item that finally must be discarded. This week, we are saying goodbye to an old and faithful friend.

When my wife, Kay, and I enrolled as students at OBI in 1961 we spent our first night sleeping in World War II Army surplus bunk beds. Now don't jump to conclusions; she was in the girls' dorm, and I was in the boys' dorm. In fact, we were not even dating at the time. I honestly don't know how long the school has owned those beds, but I do know they were surplus beds from World War II and most likely purchased by Oneida in the early 1950s.

Any military person reading this article who served in World War II or the Korean War will remember the beds I am writing about.

These faithful old warriors not only served our military forces, but have served us faithfully for the past 50-plus years. They have been repaired and re-repaired many, many times during the past several decades. We have wanted to replace them, but often did not have the resources to do so.

We received a call from an organization two weeks ago with an offer of some good used bunk beds. We were promised the beds were in good condition and were quite sturdy. Being sturdy

is important! After seeing one of the beds, I agreed that they would be wonderful to replace our 60-year-old military bunks. A semi-truck arrived this week with more than 400 of the new/used bunk beds. We had only three hours to unload the truck. With the help of a group of volunteers and eight students, we quickly began to unload the beds.

While some were carrying the new beds into the dorms, others were busy taking apart and carrying out the old beds. It was hard work—very hard. The truck and its driver were sent on their way while we continued to set up the new beds and take down the old ones. By that evening, more than 200 students were sleeping on new beds for the first time in over 50 years! The other 100 beds were assembled the next day.

Additional furniture for the dorm rooms is due to arrive in a few days. What a blessing to receive so much furniture that someone else considered "worn out." The old beds served us well, but it was time to let them go!

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



W.F. Underwood

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From empty nest to dormitory

Greg and Kay Jones begin ministry in Kelly Hall

For about five years, Greg and Kay Jones knew God wanted them involved together in some kind of ministry or mission work. They hoped it might come after their son graduated from college.

"In May our son Robert finished high school and entered college," Greg said. "Our daughter Rebecca completed college this summer and secured a job teaching school in McKenzie, Tenn. When we saw the notice about Clear Creek we committed it to the Lord for His timing."

The empty nest didn't last long. In July Greg and Kay moved from a house they built in McKenzie, home for 16 years, into Kelly Hall, the 54-bed dormitory for single men and commuters. Greg is director of food services and he and Kay are co-directors of Kelly Hall.

"I let Kay run the majority of Kelly Hall, and I help with security, maintenance and discipline issues," Greg said. "In a Christian setting like Clear Creek, discipline is usually a minor problem compared to secular schools. It is very rewarding to work among Christians."

Married 24 years, Greg and Kay also have lived in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. A four-year Coast Guard assignment involved him in search and rescue, work on a buoy tender, and living in a lighthouse.

"When I got out of the service, I realized everyone has to eat so I went into food service," Greg said.

He's gained 18 years of experience at Morrison's, ARA Foodservice (which specializes in college and university food services), hospital and nursing homes.

"We're glad the Lord called us here after the Kelly Hall renovation; it's beautiful," Kay said. "After our children visited the campus, they saw the Lord's working. Our daughter is also happy to get some of our furniture that we can't use in the apartment."

What's their hope for the future? "When we leave, we hope people will say, 'They were persons we could go to and they prayed with me,'" Greg stated. "We want to be used to help mold others into better Christians."

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

CLEAR CREEK
CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Lewis vs Freud

Professor: Documentary can teach Christians about secular neighbors

By Ted Parks
Associated Baptist Press

Boston (ABP)—The Christian and the atheist—one British, the other Austrian—both shaken by war and personal tragedy, both clinging to the bitter end to their acceptance, or rejection, of the divine.

The ideas of C.S. Lewis, a leading 20th century Christian apologist, and Sigmund Freud, psychiatrist and architect of modern secular thought, are juxtaposed in a new PBS documentary that allows the two intellectual giants to address new life's most perplexing questions.

"The Question of God: Sigmund Freud & C.S. Lewis," began showing in two parts last week on PBS stations throughout the country.

Based on a book of the same title by Harvard professor and practicing psychiatrist Armand Nicholi, the four-hour series is also available on videocassette and DVD from PBS Home Video.

Though Freud, who worked in Vienna, and Lewis, who taught literature at Oxford and Cambridge, were born a generation apart, the documentary brings the two together by putting their words on the lips of actors dramatizing key moments of their lives. And contemporary panelists—believing and unbelieving—bring the thought of Freud and Lewis to bear on modern questions in the film through nine roundtable discussions moderated by Harvard's Nicholi.

Seeking classroom balance

The unusual linking of the Viennese psychiatrist with the Oxford don grew out of a Harvard course where Nicholi at first taught only the philosophy of Freud.

Nicholi said that, while students responded favorably to the class, they said it struck them as "unbalanced."

As counterweight to the denials of Freud, Nicholi introduced the affirmations of Lewis. With the change, "the class discussion ignited," Nicholi says in a PBS study guide accompanying the series.

In an interview, the Harvard professor linked his interest in Lewis with his own professional struggle with suffering. While an intern at Bellevue Hospital in New York, Nicholi was "haunted by the cries of ... parents" whose children died, he said. "I wondered how anyone in heaven or on earth with the power to prevent this would not do it," he explained.

At Bellevue, Nicholi happened on a copy of Lewis' "The Problem of Pain" in a hospital library. He then read Lewis' book and found it helpful as he confronted tragedy as a physician.

While the documentary

contrasts how Lewis and Freud understood the world, it also shows certain parallels in their personal lives. Both experienced the devastation of World War I. Both men lost beloved family members, Freud a daughter, Lewis his wife.

Contrasting Freud & Lewis

But despite the parallels, Freud and Lewis explained human existence and the role of the divine in vastly different ways.

Freud saw a heavenly Father as the mere human projection of an earthly one. For the Viennese psychiatrist, the Father and the Virgin Mary were "the idealized parents of childhood," commented Harold Blum, executive director of the Sigmund Freud Archives and one of several experts interviewed in the film.

Lewis, on the other hand, argued for a divine origin to human concepts of good and bad. He reasoned that people's shared sense of right and wrong reflects a universal "moral law" given by a divinely moral lawgiver. Rather than the product of human development, that law had to come from some transcendent outside source, Lewis believed.

A physician and the father of psychoanalysis, Freud was born in what is now the Czech Republic in 1856.

Leaving Austria after the Nazi occupation of the country on the eve of World War II, he died in London in 1939.

Born in Belfast in 1898, Lewis fought in World War I and witnessed the horrors of World War II, when Hitler's bombs ravaged London. Lewis died in Cambridge in 1963.

The British professor authored not only literary studies but widely read reflections on the Christian faith, including "Mere Christianity" and "The Screwtape Letters."

Lewis also wrote the popular fictional series for children, "The Chronicles of Narnia."

Speaking to postmoderns today

While Freud and Lewis lived and wrote in the past, Nicholi said they still speak to a post-modern world that dethrones reason and discounts knowledge of absolute truth.

"People that are thoughtful certainly can't believe something that they don't think is true," Nicholi said. "The only reason they can come to the conviction that it's true is if they use their reason to examine the evidence, as did Lewis," he explained.

The Harvard professor also believes that revisiting Freud can help people of faith better understand how their secular neighbors think.

"It's those people that they are called ... to share their faith with," Nicholi said.

Before God. George Stroup. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2004. 210 pages. \$18.

◆◆◆ (out of five)

"The dilemma for many people today is not uncertainty as to whether God exists. ... But believing that there is mystery is vastly different from believing that one's life, from beginning to end, is lived daily before God. ... Christian faith presupposes not only God's existence and transcendence but also that people live before God and are accountable to one another because they are first accountable to God."

George Stroup is concerned that most Christians, even the most evangelical among us, live their lives as practical atheists.

While professing faith in God and seeking God's grace and blessing, most of life is lived without any conscious awareness of God's presence, much less of God's desires and will. This oversight negatively impacts everything from ethical decision-making to the worship life of congregations.

Stroup contends that the basic biblical vision of human life is that it is played out before God. In the introductory section, he outlines the basics of a theology of "before-ness" and discusses the ways this theology has been seen throughout the church's history.

The concluding section outlines his diagnosis of the current situation and how we got there. The middle sections of the book explore how the theme of beforeness helps

us understand Jesus, sin, grace and gratitude. The final section deals with how we can practice a life fully conscious of being before God.

"Before God" is a thoughtful re-examination of Christian theology and life. Stroup's approach clarifies certain themes and material of Christian theology. At the same time his approach challenges some basic assumptions.

While this is neither a quick nor easy read, "Before God" is a stimulating and challenging call to examine the foundation upon which we live our lives. *Jim Holladay*

Boundaries Face to Face: How to Have that Difficult Conversation You've Been Avoiding. Henry Cloud and John Townsend. Zondervan, 2003. 266 pages. \$22.99. ◆◆◆

With this book, Cloud and Townsend add another work to their "Boundaries" series of books.

The initial book in the series, "Boundaries: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Take Control of Your Life," attempted to help people set appropriate limits in their lives. With this book the authors address the inevitable situation when people must set a boundary with someone with whom they have a difference.

As the authors indicate, most people want to avoid confrontation. Cloud and Townsend remind us, however, that confrontation literally means "to turn your face toward."

The authors make a good case for the need for people to move from a

natural hesitancy to confront someone to a position of willingness to address issues that might often create discomfort.

The book is a good balance between theory and practical techniques. Specific occasions in which confrontation is warranted are addressed in chapters that provide ample illustrations and sample conversations. The goal is that each confrontation be loving, honest and responsible.

Cloud and Townsend have packed a lot of information in this book. Chances are that the reader will need to refer back to the book when the next time for confrontation occurs.

To practice confrontation as the authors outline is a growing process, and they successfully show the benefit to spending some time encouraging the process. *Wayne Hager*

Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Ministry. Eugene Peterson. Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1987. 192 pages. \$16. ◆◆◆◆

Robert Baker, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, put me on to this book. It was not that

he asked me to consider reviewing it, but he shared Peterson's opening paragraphs with a group of seminary students, faculty and trustees as words that had challenged his ministry for more than 15 years.

Thankfully, not only is the book still in print, it has been reissued for a

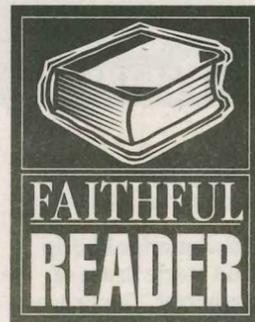
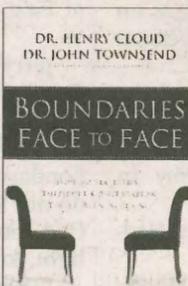
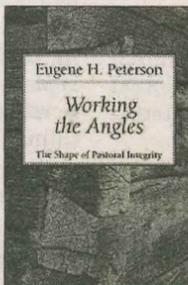
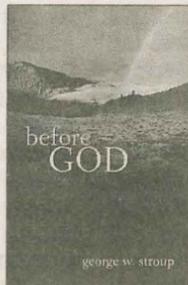
new generation of readers. "Working the Angles" is the third in a series of books that Eugene Peterson wrote addressing the shape, content, spirituality and practice of pastoral ministry. While familiar with the others, I had missed getting acquainted with this one.

Peterson begins by arguing that many pastors have left the ministry, though they are still in their studies, making pastoral visits, preaching and teaching. We are working hard, but at the wrong thing, having become shopkeepers rather than pastors. The reason is that we have ignored three crucial angles that shape pastoral work: prayer, Scripture and spiritual direction.

With the possible exception of spiritual direction, most of us who pastor would want to protest his diagnosis of the shape of our functioning. We pray. We have our quiet times each day. We pray in church gatherings, in funeral homes and hospital. In fact almost everywhere we go, someone says, "You're a minister. Would you pray for us?" We read Scripture, indeed we spend lots of time here getting ready to preach and teach.

And therein is the rub. We have learned to use the tools of the trade while forgetting their true nature.

Peterson's observations about prayer and Scripture in the pastor's life are searing, but his prescription for getting back on track is practical and inspiring. His call for us to recover the art of spiritual direction is refreshing. *Jim Holladay*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; and Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: whager@trifluent.net; or lyndonpastor@aol.com

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries throughout Kentucky:

Missionaries Phillip and Marie Bruce of Somerset. The Bruces serve as church planters in the Lake Cumberland resort area. They minister in a "gated community," with approximately 50 people in worship each week. They were given land upon which to build a church, but they currently meet in a restaurant. Pray that those to whom they minister will see beyond their material possessions to realize their need for a Savior. Pray also that additional finances will be committed to help with their monthly support and the construction of the chapel building.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Owensboro. The church recently acquired a school building and is renovating it. Pastor Kenny Stone is leading the church to begin several ministries in the community, including a much-needed childcare program. Pray that God will direct the church's vision as members develop a strategy for reaching out to the community. Pray also that the church will share Christ boldly through the sharing of their building.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to pray for a ministry of your church or association, contact Eric Allen at (888) 263-5080 or by e-mail at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AURORA**—Ferguson Springs Church will hold revival services Oct. 6-8, 7 p.m., with **William Lee Gray** as evangelist. Special music will be provided by **David Parr and the Messengers** Oct. 6, **Karen Eldridge** Oct. 7 and **Eugene Dick** Oct. 8. **James Keeling** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a free showing of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" Oct. 10, 5 p.m. For information, call (270) 789-0082.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will host **The Florida Boys** in concert Oct. 18. For information, call (270) 862-4228.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Retired pastor **Isaac McDonald**, a member of Severns Valley Church, is available for pulpit supply or interim ministry. He can be contacted at (270) 737-7731 or at Box 2072, Elizabethtown, KY 42702.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 24-27 with **Virgle Grant**, pastor of Eastside Church in Richmond, as evangelist. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Bruners Chapel Church will hold revival services Oct. 3-6 with **Don Mathis** as evangelist. **Greg Humpert** is pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—**Greg Burton** has resigned as pastor of First Church to become senior pastor of Colonial Heights Church in Kingsport, Tenn., effective Oct. 10.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church will host "Heaven's Gates

and Hell's Flames" Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 7 p.m. **Phil Schultz** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Chuck Haddaway** recently resigned as financial administrator/recreation minister of Ormsby Heights Church.

St. Matthews Church will host **Selah** in concert Nov. 5, 7 p.m. For information, call **Cinda King** at (502) 896-8882. The church also recently honored **Doug Smith** for leading the church orchestra for 20 years.

■ **MAYFIELD**—New Liberty Church ordained assistant pastor **Dyson Boyd** to the gospel ministry Aug. 28. **Aubert Rose** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—First Church recently honored **Addie Mae Alcock** on her 90th birthday.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Dover Missionary Church will hold revival services Oct. 3-9, 7 p.m., with **David Sisson** as evangelist. **Mike Wilson** is pastor.

■ **SIDNEY**—Sidney Missionary Church will hold revival services Oct. 4-8 with **David Peters** as evangelist. **Rick Gannon** is pastor.

■ **STONE**—Stone Church recently called **Robert Stephens** as pastor.

■ **UTICA**—Pleasant Ridge Church will hold revival services Oct. 3, 6 p.m., and Oct. 4-6, 7 p.m., with **Kenny Stone** as evangelist. **Tim Roberts** is pastor.

■ **WOODBURN**—Woodburn Church called **Frank Wright** as associate minister of youth and families effective Sept. 19. **Tim Harris** is pastor.

Two couples with Kentucky ties among 45 new IMB missionaries

Roanoke, Va.—Two couples with Kentucky ties were among 45 people commissioned Sept. 15 as Southern Baptist international missionaries.

Todd Poppell, a native of Elizabethtown, and his wife, Sandy, were appointed as missionary apprentices to South America where he will serve in evangelism and church planting and she will be involved in community and home outreach.

Pam Sheaffer, a native of Fort Mitchell, and her husband, Paul, were appointed as missionary associates to South America. He also will serve in evangelism and church planting and she will be involved in community and home outreach.

Poppell is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He has served most recently as an education intern at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

Mrs. Poppell, a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville, is a teacher and athletic director at Destiny Christian Academy in Raleigh.

The Poppells have one son, Haddon Thomas.

Sheaffer is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He has served since 1990 as pastor of West Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn.

Mrs. Sheaffer, who attended Moody Bible Institute, has worked as a sales associate, house cleaner and secretary.

The Sheaffers have three children, Kristen, Kasey and Kaitlyn.



Todd Poppell



Sandy Poppell



Paul Sheaffer



Pam Sheaffer

The new missionaries were commissioned Sept. 15 during a service at First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va.

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, told the workers, "Everywhere people are in spiritual bondage and darkness because they do not know the light of the world. God has chosen you to carry that light, to set them free.

"There is no greater thrill than to have the opportunity of being the first one to tell someone about Jesus," he added. "You cannot imagine the thrill of seeing their eyes begin to sparkle and the light of understanding begin to dawn that there is a God who loves them and has given His Son to save them from sin.

"It's a message that the world is waiting to hear."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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.

8-9 Daycare Orientation, Baptist Building, Middletown.

12-14 All State Junior High Choir, Campbellsville University.

12-14 Crossover KY, Louisville.

15 KY Baptist Music Conference, Baptist Building, Middletown.

16-17 KBC Annual Meeting, Louisville, St. Matthews Baptist Church.

20 Creative Ministries Workshop 101, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

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



CLASSIFIED ADS

EVENT: South Elkhorn Baptist in Lexington will be hosting "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. Childcare provided. For information, call (859) 254-5264.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister. College degree required; previous experience in youth ministry preferred. Salary negotiable. Responsible for leading youth in Bible study, teaching on relevant topics during youth meetings and planning youth activities and events. Submit resumé to: First Baptist Church, c/o Shane Fogle, 108 Cardinal Drive, Central City, KY 42330. E-mail: fogleshane@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Full-time assistant manager. Seventy-room hotel & conference facility is seeking a professional, people-focused, detail-oriented, computer-literate assistant manager to oversee daily hotel operations, including personnel and guest relations. Bachelor's degree preferred. Candidate must have a minimum of 3 years hotel, hospitality or related customer service experience. Send resume to personnel@sbs.edu or Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

SEEKING: Baptist church three blocks from WKU is accepting applications for full-time/part-time minister of music and/or youth. Loving congregation and good benefit package awaits interested applicants. Prayerfully send your resumé to: Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Minister of Music/Youth Search Committee; or email: ForPrkBapt@aol.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Crescent Springs Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Crescent Springs Baptist Church, 627 Buttermilk Parkway, Crescent Springs, KY 41017, Attn: Doris Perry.

SEEKING: Part-time interim music director for Fort Mitchell Baptist Church. Experience in leading blended worship services. Able to work with choir and praise teams. Forward resumé to: Personnel Committee, Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, 2323 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017. No phone calls please.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and recreation. Seeking a spiritually mature, dynamic and creative individual. Experience and formal training are preferred. Resumes accepted through Oct. 15. Please send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/recreation minister for First Baptist Church, Fulton, Ky. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Fulton First Baptist Church, PO Box 1140, Fulton, KY 42041.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/worship leader for a Southern Baptist congregation that engages in a blended style of worship. Seminary degree preferred and at least five years of local church experience required. Submit resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 720 West Seventh St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Resumes will be received until Oct. 15, 2004.

SEEKING: The Lynn Association of Baptist Churches is now accepting resumé for the position of director of missions. Please submit resumé or inquiries to Rev. Kelvin Edwards, 2368 Aetna Grove Church Road, Summersville, KY 42782. (270) 324-2920.

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.

Running from persecution

Thousands of fearful Christians in Iraq fleeing to Jordan & Syria

By Dale Gaffak
Religion News Service

Amman, Jordan (RNS)—Iraqi Christians flocked to the Latin Catholic church in the Hashmi district of the Jordanian capital, a drab working-class area, where they celebrated Mass in the ancient Chaldean language.

On a recent Sunday, approximately 200 worshippers packed the sanctuary, which is adorned with a simple wooden cross and a picture of the Virgin Mary and Christ. Here, away from their native country, these Iraqi Christians felt safe.

Fearing lawlessness and rising Islamic fundamentalism in their own country, large numbers of Iraqi Christians are fleeing to neighboring Jordan and Syria. No one knows for certain how many of Iraq's 750,000 Christians have left the country since the removal of Saddam Hussein, but estimates are in the tens of thousands.

The level of mistreatment Christians face in Iraq is disputed, even among Christians themselves, but no one can deny the fear, which is palpable among those crossing the border. Church bombings in Baghdad and Mosul only fuel that fear, but so do individual stories, even though few can be substantiated outside of Iraq.

Kidnapping, torture

One Christian attending the Mass, Samir, requested that his full name not be used because of fear of reprisals against his family. A businessman from Baghdad, he recounted how militants linked to renegade Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al Sadr recently kidnapped and tortured him until his family paid ransom money.

"A gang came to my shop with machine guns and forced me into a car where I remained for nine days," the businessman said. "They

wanted \$200,000 from me.

"They repeatedly hit me and poured boiling water all over my body. I was held hostage until my family paid them \$50,000 to finally get me released."

The man, in his mid-fifties, now walks with a cane and burn marks are visible on his body. He says he and his family fled to Jordan but hope to find permanent refuge in Australia because he cannot find legal work here.

Samir and other recently arrived refugees said militants are targeting Christians in Iraq because they perceive the Christians have money. They also say Islamists have attacked predominantly Christian-owned liquor, fashion and music shops demanding their businesses be shut down because they are deemed offensive.

Another fresh arrival in Amman, Bernadette Hikmat, says all this is unwarranted because Iraqi Christians are peaceful and have had a low-key presence in Iraq for the past 2,000 years.

Suspected collaborators with U.S.

Hikmat, a 29-year old former government employee, said she and her two younger brothers escaped with a few of their worldly possessions in a couple of suitcases.

"I believe we are also being targeted as Christians because we are viewed as suspected collaborators with U.S. and Western forces amid a rising tide of Islamic fundamentalism," she said. "Of course this is not true, but this perception only increases our problems."

The synchronized bombings of five churches in recent weeks and another car bombing at a Baghdad church on Sept. 10 have sent further shock waves into the Christian community.

The blasts killed 11 people and wounded more than 50 in Baghdad



and in the northern city of Mosul.

They were the first significant strike on Iraq's Christians, who make up about 3 percent of the country's 25 million people.

A previously obscure group, the Committee of Planning and Follow-up in Iraq, claimed responsibility and warned more attacks would follow.

As a result of the continued instability, large numbers of Christians are choosing to leave Iraq rather than return to their church pews. Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani, has condemned the attacks on the churches as "hideous crimes" but the country's migration minister says the exodus of Christians continues.

Pascale Isho Warda, herself a Chaldean Catholic Christian, estimates that 40,000 Christians have left Iraq because of a lack of security and organized attacks on their churches.

But the U.N. refugee agency disputes the figure.

A spokesperson for the Iraq

program of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees based in Amman said that the estimate is unsubstantiated.

UNHCR said reliable numbers are hard to come by because many refugees have gone directly to foreign embassies, such as the Australian or Canadian embassies, to make their claim and have bypassed the United Nations in the belief that a claim of religious persecution will provide a chance for quicker asylum.

Some refuse to leave

Even with the growing climate of fear in Iraq, there are stalwart Christians who choose not to leave their homeland. A small group of Pentecostal Christians visited Amman recently from Baghdad and reported that their church is growing, despite pressures.

They also refuted claims of intimidation from Muslim militants.

What is irrefutable is the fear and anxiety among many Christians, who see their future as uncertain, at best, in the new Iraq.

BAGHDAD CHURCH BOMBING Church officials survey the damage after an explosion in Baghdad Sept. 11, 2004. A car bomb exploded outside Baghdad's Adventist Church, damaging the building, but causing no casualties, witnesses said. (RNS/Reuters photo by Faleh Kheiber)

Powell adds Saudi Arabia to religious freedom 'concern' list

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—The U.S. State Department earlier this month for the first time included Saudi Arabia on a list of eight "countries of particular concern" for not allowing religious freedom, a potential stumbling block for relations between the United States and its Persian Gulf ally.

The department's sixth annual report on international religious freedom also added, Eritrea and Vietnam to the roster of those countries guilty or tolerant of "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom."

"Defending the sacred ground of human conscience is a natural commandment to all mankind and America will always heed this call," Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Designation on the "CPC" list does not carry immediate sanctions, and returning countries faced little more than diplomatic

pressure. Still, human rights advocates say being listed among "the worst of the worst" is a significant signal.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent watchdog group chartered by Congress in 1998, had urged Powell to also add Pakistan and Turkmenistan to the CPC list. The panel was divided on whether India should also be listed.

Pressure had been mounting on Powell to add the Saudis to the CPC list, despite their key role in the war on terrorism.

Critics accuse the kingdom of exporting a militant form of extremist Islam known as Wahhabism and suppressing all non-Muslim religions.

John Hanford, the U.S. ambassador at large for religious freedom, noted some "sincere improvements" among the Saudis to reign in extremists, open dialogues with Shi'a Muslims and revising text-

books with "inflammatory statements" against non-Muslims.

Still, Hanford said such steps were not enough. "We just feel the improvements aren't adequate at this point to put them in a position where they do not deserve designation," he said.

The report was more blunt than Hanford's public comments, noting that "freedom of religion does not exist" in Saudi Arabia, a distinction shared only with North Korea.

Factors cited in the other "countries of particular concern" included:

China: "intimidation, harassment and detention" of members of underground religious groups, especially Falun Gong, and a "poor" respect for religious freedom.

Burma: government monitoring and infiltration of private religious groups and restrictions on Buddhists and Muslims to worship freely.

North Korea: "arrest and harsh

penalties" for proselytizers of unauthorized religious groups and deaths of underground church members. "Genuine religious freedom does not exist," the report said.

Vietnam: persecution and detention of minority Protestants and faiths that are not officially recognized by the government.

Eritrea: persecution of Pentecostal, evangelical, Orthodox and Jehovah's Witnesses. "Prisoners of conscience are often subjected to inhumane treatment that includes poor living conditions and abuse," the report said.

Iran: imprisonment, harassment, intimidation and discrimination directed against Sunni Muslims, Baha'is, Jews and Christians.

Sudan: second-class status for non-Muslims and "ethnic cleansing" against ethnic black Africans in the western Darfur region that has killed at least 30,000 and displaced millions.

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