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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
"Chief Doctor Mama" among emeritus missionaries. *Page 2.*

Men on Mission
Black Baptist leader wants African-American Baptists to link with disaster relief and construction work. *Page 3.*

Kentucky
Paige Patterson is among six speakers at next month's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Cross Over crossing cultures for Christ. *Page 5.*

Sexual abuse
Movie intends to wake up churches to the issue. *Page 7.*



Disaster relief
Volunteers take help and hope to Alabama victims. *Pages 8-9.*

Media adviser warns churches to communicate with care publicly

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—When Little Flock Baptist Church encountered problems with staff members visiting students on public school campuses, senior pastor Ron Shaver thought a solution could be negotiated quietly.

Instead, the disagreement made headlines last spring throughout the commonwealth and beyond. The resulting media coverage included controversial remarks Shaver made about a Bullitt County school board official.

"I was sharing with the congregation our dilemma, talking to our church family and the school board's lawyer got the tape and made it for public consumption," Shaver recalled.

"When you get to be newsworthy, everything you say is for public consumption."

And that is the point, according to a media consultant who will lead a workshop next month at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville: Be careful when communicating with the public.

Public relations specialist Karen Pruenete said she regularly deals with crises sparked by business executives sending nasty e-mails to managers that later wind up in print.

"These days anything you say publicly is for the media's ears," said Pruenete, Midwest managing director for Dallas-based Spaeth Communications.

"We call it 'message bleed.' It happens all the time. Especially if it's inflammatory, there's a good chance it's going out the door."

A former reporter with affiliates of NBC and National Public Radio, Pruenete will discuss "The 10 Commandments of Media Relations" at her workshop.

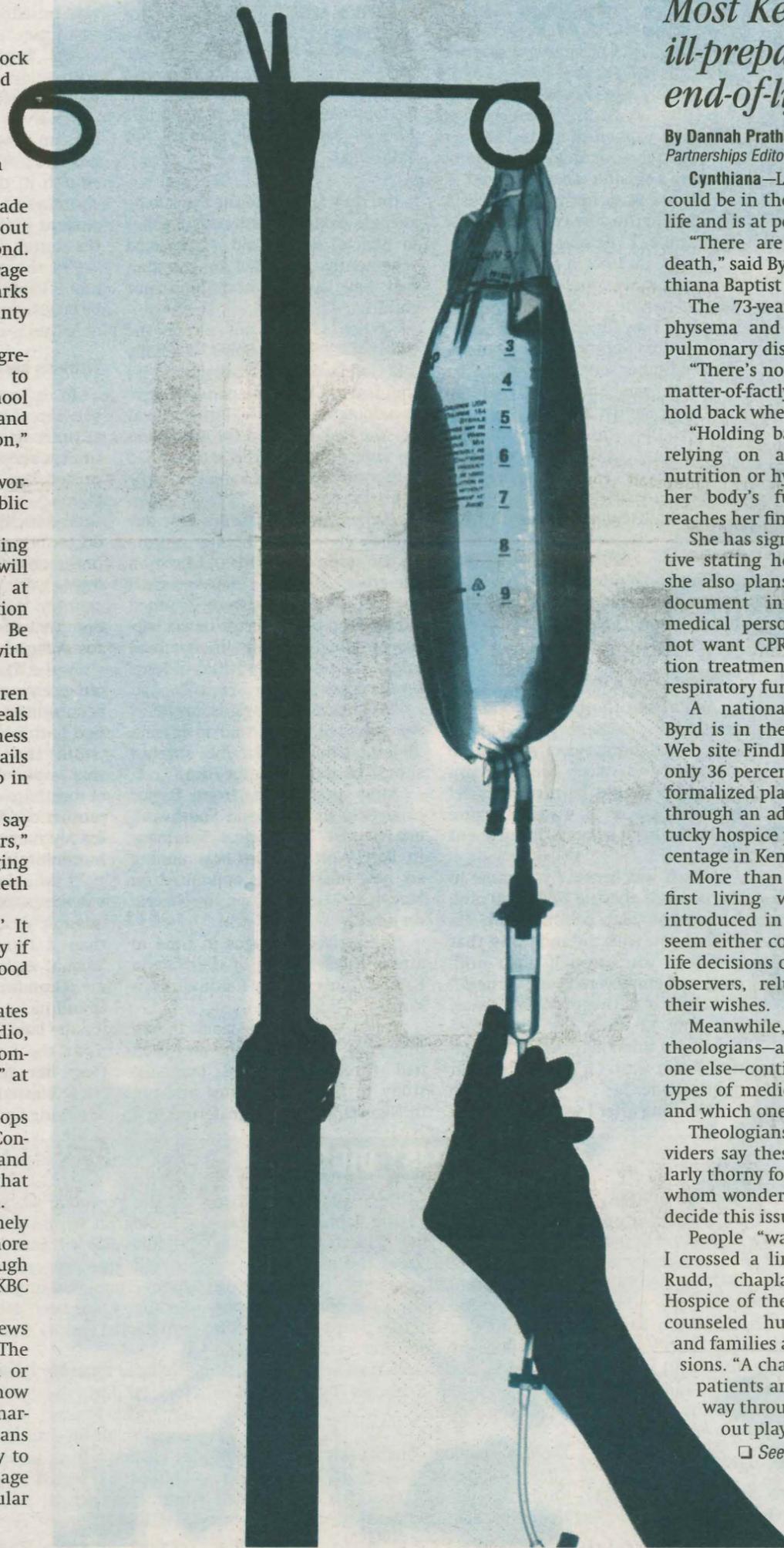
It is one of several workshops related to "Kentucky Baptists Connect," the new evangelism and church development emphasis that launches during the convention.

The workshop is especially timely as church leaders are having more opportunities to speak out through the media, said Robert Reeves, KBC communications director.

"When you think about the news coverage that the release of 'The Passion of the Christ' received or the coverage being generated now by the debate over same-sex marriage, you realize that Christians have a tremendous opportunity to communicate a positive message about our faith through the secular media," Reeves said.

□ See *Media consultant ... Page 3*

At life's end



Most Kentuckians ill-prepared for end-of-life matters

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Cynthiana—Lou Byrd knows she could be in the final months of her life and is at peace with that.

"There are worse things than death," said Byrd, a member of Cynthiana Baptist Church.

The 73-year-old has both emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"There's no cure for it," she said matter-of-factly. "I'm not going to hold back when He calls."

"Holding back," to Byrd means relying on artificial respiration, nutrition or hydration to maintain her body's functions when she reaches her final hours.

She has signed an advance directive stating her wishes. Byrd said she also plans to sign a separate document informing emergency medical personnel that she does not want CPR or other resuscitation treatment if her cardiac and respiratory functions stop.

A national survey indicates Byrd is in the minority. The legal Web site FindLaw.com reports that only 36 percent of Americans have formalized plans for end-of-life care through an advance directive. Kentucky hospice providers say the percentage in Kentucky is even lower.

More than 30 years after the first living will legislation was introduced in the U.S., Americans seem either confused about end-of-life decisions or, according to some observers, reluctant to formalize their wishes.

Meanwhile, doctors, judges, theologians—and just about everyone else—continue to debate which types of medical care prolong life and which ones prolong death.

Theologians and hospice providers say these issues are particularly thorny for Christians, many of whom wonder if they are meant to decide this issue in the first place.

People "want to know, 'Have I crossed a line here?'" said John Rudd, chaplain supervisor for Hospice of the Bluegrass, who has counseled hundreds of patients and families about end-of-life decisions. "A chaplain's job is to help patients and families find their way through those issues without playing God," he said.

□ See *Most ... Page 6*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, October 6.

'Chief Doctor Mama' honored

54-year missions veteran among 37 recent IMB retirees

"I said to myself, 'If Jesus could die for me, surely I should be able to live for Him.'"

Alma Rohm, Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria for 54 years

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

Richmond, Va. (BP)—When King S.O. Abimola II bestowed an African chief's title on a 56-year-old woman from Texas, young people danced in procession to the palace and hundreds assembled for the ceremony.

The honoree, Southern Baptist missionary Alma Rohm, donned a traditional hand-woven Yoruba dress, coral jewelry and a headdress adorned with akoko leaves.

The king had planned to give her the title "Iya Nisin," often used of Christian women to mean "mother of those who worship." But one of the area's Muslim chiefs objected.

"No, we want her to be 'Iya Nisin Ilu' ('mother in service of the whole community')," he said.

It was, in 1982, a fitting tribute to a woman who had poured out 32 years of her life for Christ among the people of Iwo, Nigeria.

But Alma Rohm was far from finished with her service in Iwo.

Rohm was among 37 veteran Southern Baptist missionaries who received the title of emeritus missionary Sept. 13 in a service at New Bridge Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. Her 54 years in Nigeria was the longest tenure in a group with 1,172 years of overseas service among them.

Only three missionaries have had longer tenures in the IMB's 159-year history. Only three others have had tenures longer than 50 years.

"Obeying God's call"

Addressing the retiring missionaries, IMB President Jerry Rankin said, "You didn't give yourself to missionary service because you thought it would be nice to travel to exotic places. It wasn't because of the financial benefits and affluent lifestyle.

"No, it was because you came to the point of obeying God's call and, because of your commitment, He blessed you with an anointing that sustained you through great difficulty and empowered your witness."

Rohm, a native of Waco, Texas, was only 12 when she committed her life to missionary service in Africa. But it wasn't a child's decision lightly made.

"Not long after I was saved at age



MISSIONS LEGACY. International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin introduces Alma Rohm, the most senior of 37 emeritus missionaries recognized Sept. 13. Rohm's 54 years in Nigeria is the fourth-longest tenure in the board's 159-year history. (IMB photo by Roy Burroughs)

9, the Holy Spirit told me I was to be a single woman missionary teacher in Africa," Rohm said. "I objected vehemently. I wanted to get married, have a lovely home and four children.

"When I could not escape the voice of the Holy Spirit, I finally told God I would be a missionary if I could go to China or Japan and serve as a doctor or a nurse. But that was not the task God had for me. When He kept repeating the same call, I stubbornly told God I would not be a missionary.

"When I was 12 years old, our church choir sang an Easter cantata on the seven last words of Christ on the cross," she said. "Between each anthem, the lights were dimmed except for a lighted cross in the baptistery, and the choir director read one of the seven last sayings of Jesus on the cross.

"As I heard those words, my heart was touched, and I said to myself, 'If Jesus could die for me, surely I should be able to live for Him.'"

After graduation from Baylor University in Waco and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Rohm was among six new missionaries appointed on May 4, 1950. She set sail for Nigeria on July 5.

She arrived in Lagos in time to attend a celebration of the Nigeria Baptist Convention's 100th anniversary.

Rohm was sent to teach briefly in a girls' school in Yaba and then had three months of language study in Ire. A year after arriving in Nigeria, she was transferred to a

Baptist teacher-training college in Iwo, a Muslim town in southwestern Nigeria.

At the Baptist college, Rohm taught English literature, education and organ classes, served as school librarian, played piano for the church, led the choir, directed Shakespearean plays and organized an annual nationwide Baptist music workshop.

When Nigeria gained its independence from Britain in 1960, her choir was invited to sing the country's new anthem as its flag was raised over the capital for the first time.

On Sundays, Rohm went out with students who preached on the town's streets.

"Iwo was one of the most solidly Muslim towns in Nigeria," Rohm recalled. "There was one Baptist church in the town and two small churches that had been started by student preachers, as well as a Baptist church at the college.

"In those early years, I saw two more Baptist churches established by our street preachers. One of those churches is now the largest in Iwo."

Tireless service & spirit

In a country where tensions between Christians and Muslims at times flare into violence, Rohm's tireless service and Christian spirit earned her the title "Chief Doctor Mama."

She is chief by a king's decree; a doctor because the Baptist seminary in Ogbomoso wanted to honor her music work in churches all over the country. "Mama" is a title of respect bestowed affectionately on those the Yoruba love.

At the thanksgiving ceremony after receiving the chief's title, Rohm acknowledged that she had found God faithful in her obedience.

"In the Bible, Jesus promised that 'everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold,'" Rohm said.

"I thought I was leaving all that, but here I am, living in the largest mission house in Nigeria. More than a thousand people call me 'Mama.' At least 28 I can name call me 'Grandma.' Ten call me 'Great Grandma.' And now you have given me the land."

At the Sept. 13 retirement service, her testimony was simple: "How blessed I have been! How undeserving I am!"

SBC, BWA leaders differ over appeal to SBC churches

Nashville—A Baptist World Alliance fund-raising appeal directed to Southern Baptist Convention churches has drawn criticism from Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Chapman claims the effort violates denominational policy. That policy, however, is limited only to SBC entities.

The policy, included in the SBC's business and financial plan, specifies that "in no case shall any convention entity approach a church for inclusion in its church budget or appeal for financial contributions."

While BWA leaders voluntarily honored that policy when the SBC was affiliated with BWA, the two entities no longer have formal ties. SBC messengers voted in June to withdraw membership from the international Baptist body.

The letter from BWA President Billy Kim and General Secretary Denton Lotz, dated Aug. 27, addresses charges made by the Southern Baptist BWA study committee and also details the ministry of BWA. The fund-raising appeal notes that a gift of \$250 will make a church an "associate member" of BWA while a gift of \$1,000 will make it a "Global Impact Church."

In a Sept. 24 letter to BWA officials, Chapman wrote, "In attempting to encourage Southern Baptist churches to include the Baptist World Alliance in their budgets, you are violating a policy by which our entities abide for the sake of Southern Baptist cooperative world missions. Therefore, on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches, I respectfully ask you to cease immediately any fund raising appeals to our churches."

Acknowledging that "Southern Baptist churches are autonomous and can voluntarily support the BWA financially should they choose to do so," Chapman added that "solicitation of funds from our churches fails to honor the convention's cooperative plan for supporting missions, and thus, defies the spirit of working together with another Baptist body."

Ian Chapman, BWA's director of promotion and development, said that in addition to SBC churches, BWA's letter was mailed to churches in the American Baptist Churches USA, Baptist General Conference and Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Now that the SBC "is no longer a member of the Baptist World Alliance, there's no reason for us not to send (letters to) individual churches," he said. "Baptist autonomy means that churches can make their own decisions."

Based on reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson and Baptist Press

BAPTIST DIGEST

Church leaves association over BF&M. A Georgia Baptist church with husband and wife co-pastors withdrew from Floyd County Baptist Association after messengers voted 428-130 to adopt the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as the association's official doctrinal statement. The Southern Baptist Convention faith statement specifies that "the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture." Tony and Katrina Brooks have served as co-senior pastors of North Broad Baptist Church in Rome, Ga., since November 2003.

BJCPA name change highlights religious liberty. Directors of the Baptist Joint Com-

mittee on Public Affairs voted Sept. 27 to rename the agency the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. The former name "is a relic from the old days," said David Massengill, chairman of the board's bylaw revision committee. Virginia Baptist pastor Jim Baucom told board members, "It is religious freedom that we need to begin preaching, not church-state separation. ... It is the job of our forebears that we need to begin doing again."

Thomas named Southwestern chaplain. Claude Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, has been named seminary chaplain and special assistant

to the president at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Thomas also will assist in the doctor of ministry degree program and student recruitment. Thomas, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, has been president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Phillips, disaster relief coordinator, dies. Joel Phillips, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's national offsite coordinator for disaster relief, died Sept. 29 at his home from an apparent heart attack. Phillips, 52, served 22 years on the staff of four churches in Georgia before joining NAMB in 2000.

Annual pastors' conference lineup includes Paige Patterson

Louisville—Seminary president and SBC conservative resurgence architect Paige Patterson will be among the six speakers at this year's Kentucky Baptist pastors' conference, Nov. 15 at St. Matthews Baptist Church.



Paige Patterson

The conference is designed to be a day of inspiration and worship leading into the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting to be held in the same location Nov. 16-17.

Mark Payton, pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church and president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, said this year's conference theme is "Connecting Kentucky Baptist Pastors to Evangelism."

"It's really well lined up with what the convention is doing," he said, referring to the KBC meeting unveiling the five-year "Connections" emphasis.

"It's sort of setting the tone in the pastors' conference for what's going to be presented in the convention," he said.

The free conference will feature two sessions. The first will be from 1:30-4:50 p.m.; the evening session will be from 6:30-9:35 p.m.

The conference features both national and Kentucky speakers.

In addition to Patterson, speakers include:

■ Billy Carpenter, pastor of Mount Ash Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

■ Geoffrey Lacefield, pastor of Cloverleaf Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

■ Ergun Caner, author and professor of theology and church history at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

■ Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Stock Church of Woodstock, Ga.

Payton is serving a one-year term as president of the pastors' conference. Robert Tarrance, pastor of Green Ridge Baptist Church in Lewisburg, is the vice president/secretary.

Payton said the speakers weren't given an assigned topic or theme. "We're just turing them loose."

No pre-registration is required for the event. While there is no cost to attend, an offering traditionally is collected to help underwrite some of the costs.

For more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

Baptist Men recap past year, look ahead

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—The former moderator of Kentucky's African-American Baptist church association forged closer ties with Kentucky's Baptist Men last weekend at the group's annual convention at the Executive West Hotel.

Lincoln Bingham, who during his term in the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky welcomed two white congregations as members, spoke at the closing session on Saturday.

Bingham also attended a workshop Friday night on disaster relief and construction. Those are two primary activities of the organization, which last January changed its name from Brotherhood to Baptist Men on Mission.

"I want to get more African-Americans involved in Baptist Builders and disaster relief," Bingham said. "This is a way to get that done."

The pastor of Louisville's St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Bingham hopes to enlist builders to help complete a 500-seat sanctuary now in the planning stages.

Workshop coordinator Mike Melloan cautioned to be prepared to coordinate with several groups, since different ones handle framing, plumbing and concrete finishing.

But Melloan, a member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, said, "You might save \$200,000 if it's done right."

"We're trying to save money to turn loose more money for missions," said Bingham, who praised Baptist Men for spreading the gospel through disaster relief and construction projects. This year the group has responded to eight disasters and worked on 15 buildings.

"I find many people are more ready to listen than we're willing to tell," Bingham said. "They are eager to hear good news. They hear bad news all the time."

The convention marked the 20th anniversary of Kentucky Baptists'



DISASTER RELIEF Kentucky Baptist volunteers place spaghetti into food carriers at First Baptist Church of Bay Minette, Ala. Workers there and in Brewton, Ala., wrapped up their work this past weekend after serving more than 140,000 meals to the victims of Hurricane Ivan. (Photo by Green Wagers)

disaster relief—and ironically, that effort reduced the turnout. The convention attracted 90 registrants, about half the number anticipated by director Randy Foster.

Disaster relief reduces attendance

The crowd's size was reduced considerably because of the latest disaster relief response that began in mid-August in Florida and later moved to Alabama.

Since setting up a kitchen at Fort Myers Beach, Fla., work at four sites has involved a total of 250 volunteers. About 100 people wrapped up meal service Saturday in Bay Minette, Ala.

Foster said crews there and in Brewton, Ala., served 140,000 meals over two weeks. While volunteers could be summoned to another site, Foster said they were returning home for now to rest.

The crews reported that four people in Alabama received Jesus as their Savior, including a Red Cross kitchen manager and three family members from a chainsaw crew.

Baptist Men's annual report in-

cluded these statistics:

■ Campers on Mission built churches, camps and mission centers in Kentucky and four other states.

■ More than 800 volunteers worked on four Kentucky Changers projects. During Kentucky Changers, 40 people accepted Christ as Savior and about 25 responded to a call to ministry.

■ The Eastern Kentucky Sunrise ministry is distributing 50 tons of food per month; a food and clothing distribution center at Fleming Neon serves more than 1,200 people a month.

■ Various training sessions prepared 73 people for work with Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and Baptist Men on Mission.

Despite the convention's modest turnout, Foster said hurricanes and other disasters in recent weeks have increased Baptist Men's profile.

"The publicity has shined a spotlight on disaster relief," Foster said. "President Bush has talked about Southern Baptists and news articles in Lexington and Louisville have highlighted it."

Media consultant: People are always listening

Continued from page 1

"Workshops like this one can help us all be more effective in what and how we communicate."

Although Prunte has worked with such well-known organizations as Federal Express, Kimberly Clark and Baylor University Hospital, she said the same guidelines apply to the pastor of a 100-member church in a rural community.

The leading commandment is to put forth a positive message, whether talking to the news media, church members or community leaders, she said.

"Make your messages match," said Prunte, who lives in Columbia, Mo. "So people, whether they read the paper or hear it from a parishioner or hear it from the pulpit, they hear the same message."

Keeping the message positive is important whenever dealing with the media, Prunte said. For

example, even denying a negative trait can make someone sound negative and reinforce the wrong impression, she said.

Instead, Prunte suggests replying with a list of positive attributes that characterize the church since it's the positive words you want others to remember.

"The other thing that happens when you go on the defensive is your body language shuts down," she said. "Your hands and arms tighten up and you kind of go into a shell. So even if you say, 'No, we're not those things,' you look very angry and communicate 'We are.'"

In addition to emphasizing the positive, she encourages churches to always share their message.

One of the biggest mistakes Prunte observes in crisis situations is people saying, "No comment."

There is always something to say. The issue comes down to whether you will help shape pub-

lic perceptions or let other parties control that, she said.

"The media is a wonderful way to get the message out," Prunte said. "It's a matter of understanding how it works and practicing."

After his experiences, Shaver agrees with Prunte's observations about emphasizing the positive.

Once he understood that Little Flock's dispute with the school board had been deemed a newsworthy event, Shaver said he never issued any more statements that could be misconstrued or used against him.

Instead, the senior pastor concentrated on emphasizing the positive points of his message.

"You have to stick to one or two points because people have low attention spans," Shaver said. "Build a case around one or two points."

"Be wise and gentle," he said. "People usually decide on the demeanor of the presentation more than the facts. If your demeanor is wrong and your message is right, in modern society you still lose."

Wayne Jones leaves KBC staff after brief tenure

Louisville—Wayne Jones, associate team leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development/evangelism team since January, left that position effective Sept. 30.

Team leader Dan Garland said Jones "chose to seek other employment" because "he felt like his gifts could best be utilized in a local church."

Jones was the first person to hold the newly created associate position after the former church growth and evangelism growth teams were combined last year. He previously served 15 years as executive pastor of churches in Florida, Tennessee and Virginia and also served on the staff of three Kentucky Baptist churches.

In his KBC role, Jones was responsible for supervising ministry in the areas of Sunday school, discipleship, stewardship and new member connection and engagement.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve Kentucky Baptists even though it was for a short period of time," said Jones, who is exploring other ministry options. He said he plans "to continue to serve churches through cutting-edge ministries and my involvement in local churches."

Garland said he plans to revise some responsibilities of the associate position with a primary focus on "connecting effective churches and helping other churches be more effective" as part of the state convention's "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis.

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

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7 ways a small group can share Jesus

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—“Some men arrived carrying a paraplegic on a stretcher. They were looking for a way to get into the house and set him before Jesus. When they couldn't find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus. Impressed by their bold belief, He said, ‘Friend, I forgive your sins’” (Luke 5:18-20, *The Message*).

Do you remember the story of the paralytic in Luke 5 when four men broke through the roof of a synagogue to lower their friend to Jesus? Sometimes it takes something that radical to lead someone to Jesus!

And sometimes it just takes the caring, consistent love of a small group of Christians.

Consider these seven pointers: **Your small group can care about people who don't know Jesus.** The reason God used the four friends in Luke 5 is because they cared for the paralytic. Just like those four, your life mission has to start with love. The No. 1 reason Christians don't share Christ with others is that they are too preoccupied with themselves.

Before you can care about others, you must become aware of them. Once you become aware of them, start praying for them. Pray for three things:

- An opportunity to share your faith in a non-threatening way.
- For God to soften their hearts.
- For God to soften your heart.

Your small group must believe God can reach the person. No one is hopeless. When the four friends looked at the paralytic's condition, they could have responded in doubt: What could Jesus do? Instead, they believed God could heal him—they had faith. The Bible said the paralytic's sins were forgiven when Jesus saw the faith of the four friends.

There are people paralyzed in our world, who aren't necessarily physically paralyzed, but who have a paralyzed faith. Whether they're paralyzed by doubts, loneliness, fear or anything else, the result is the same—they need the faith of others.

In a sense, they don't have enough faith to believe, so your faith is going to have to bring them to Jesus.

Your small group must make a plan. Although faith and prayer are important ingredients in bringing others to Jesus, you need to do something too! You need a plan.

When the four friends saw the way to Jesus was blocked, they came up with a plan to get the paraplegic to Jesus. Without a plan to bring people to Jesus, your small group will never bring anyone to the Savior.

Your small group must overcome difficulties. When the four friends saw the path to Jesus blocked, they had every reason to feel discouraged, but they didn't give up. They looked for another way to bring the man to Jesus.

Everybody gets discouraged at times. But in order to share Jesus with our friends, we must persist through those difficulties. I remember a small group at Saddleback Church who prayed for a lost friend for two years before that person made a commitment to Jesus. I'm sure that guy is glad they didn't give up after a year and a half.

Your small group needs the courage to do something different. When faced with a discouraging situation, these four friends decided to do something different to get their friend to Jesus—they went through the roof! Sometimes we have to do something different to get people to Jesus as well.

Although you might not crawl through a roof to get someone

to Jesus, you might host a party. For a small group in a San Diego church, that meant buying season tickets to see professional football games. Besides buying their own tickets, the couples bought one extra ticket—for someone who didn't know Jesus. That group brought 13 couples to Christ through that experience.

Your small group must work together to get the job done. Have you ever tried to carry someone on a stretcher with only three people? It doesn't work. If all four of the friends hadn't helped, the paralytic would have fallen off the stretcher.

Some people will come to Jesus only through a group effort. Studies have shown that people come to Christ faster when they come through a supportive environment.

That's why small groups are so essential in bringing people to Christ.

When you talk to someone at work and it's just you and that person, you're the only witness. If you're able to bring them to a group event—particularly one that is fun—they'll go. “Wow, these people aren't goofy. They aren't religious nuts. They're normal people.”

Your small group must be willing to pay the cost to bring someone to Jesus. These four men wouldn't have made a hole in the roof unless they were willing to fix it. They had to pay the cost of bringing their friend to Jesus.

Bringing a friend to Jesus always requires sacrifice. For many small groups, that means sacrificing their own comfort within the group. Many people have become so comfortable within their small groups that they are afraid of adding new people and messing up the group dynamics.

Before our friends will come to Jesus, they need to see us get out of our comfort zones.

Rick Warren is the founding pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of “The Purpose-Driven Life” and “The Purpose-Driven Church”

COMMENTARY

Ministry across Kentucky

It is unusual for me to preach 11 sermons in nine days, but it did happen recently. Here's how:

Wilmington Baptist Church in DeMossville invited me to help celebrate its 200th anniversary. Pastor Bill Scott is grateful for the ministry of the church and its strong support of the Cooperative Program, and is most excited about the potential growth of the church in the future. He also is rightfully proud of his son who is pastor of Mason Baptist Church, and his daughter who is a missions volunteer, soon to finish college.

On Sunday evening I spoke at **Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville**, where David Hughes is pastor. The church places a strong emphasis on missions and I was invited for the special emphasis on state missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering. Pat Reaves, a Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board member, is a member there and is active in her church and in associational missions.

Then, Monday through Sunday nights, I preached in revival services at **Holly Grove Baptist Church in Summersville**, where

Leslie Jewell is pastor. Pastor Jewell is bivocational and God has used him in a wonderful way to lead the church in growth. With swings, a basketball court and a large picnic shelter on the church grounds, the church has discovered a vital ministry to young families and children.

Holly Grove has several people who provided special music, especially the Holly Grove Quartet, the Bradshaw sisters, and Erica and Kirsten Whitlow.

The youth choir of Friendship Baptist Church where Tim Shirley is pastor was also inspiring. Other guest musicians included the Back Row Boys and the Durrett Family. It was a joy to worship with God's people at Holly Grove.

The emphasis on state missions continued at **Henderson Memorial Baptist Church in Hopkinsville**, where Ron Hicks is pastor. The

church receives the offering for state missions at the close of the service. It was good to share with the congregation about the local partnership with Christian County Association in new work and a language ministry center near Fort Campbell, where a new battalion has been located.

Henderson Memorial has been strong in support of missions through the Cooperative Program and although only 47 years old, the church has exceeded \$1 million in Cooperative Program gifts.

Finally, on Monday afternoon I had the privilege of participating in **Ohio Valley Association's meeting at First Baptist Church of Clay**. The meeting was well attended and the church provided an excellent meal.

Royce Pyle, director of missions, shared his good report with the messengers and encouraged them to be involved in missions and outreach.

Please continue to pray for Kentucky Baptists as we seek the Lord's direction in connecting all people to Jesus Christ!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Learn to pursue six key steps to financial security

By Don Spencer

Are you interested in discovering keys to long-term financial security? Consider these six steps:

Step 1: Invest in yourself.

Your earning power is a key asset. Seek opportunities to develop skills that will increase your earning power.



These new skills might be related to another job but often they simply are improving the skills required of your current work.

Step 2: Protect your loved ones and your assets. Have adequate insurance to cover possible major expenses due to illness, disability, liability and death. Without adequate insurance, you are betting your financial security that nothing bad will happen.

Step 3: Control the use of debt. This is a major problem for many people today. You will never have financial freedom as long as debt controls you. If debt is a problem, get rid of the credit cards. Many studies have proven that people spend significantly more when using credit than when using cash.

Step 4: Pay God and yourself first. As a Christian, contribute your tithe and set aside a specific amount for savings. Do this first. Do not wait to see if there is money left at the end of the month. Discretionary expenses always seem to expand to consume all available funds.

Step 5: Don't go for the home runs. Invest regularly and wisely. Use time, not timing, in investing. In baseball, those who go for the home runs also strike out frequently. Most successful investors aim for lots of singles and doubles. Invest in high quality. Diversify your investments. At any given time, some types of investments will be up and others will be down. No one can consistently predict with accuracy which ones will be up in the near future.

Step 6: Reduce expenses now to fund a more comfortable future. Take steps now to make it comfortable for you and your heirs. Take advantage of tax-deferred retirement plans. Reduce and avoid debt. Use a budget to help prioritize your fixed and flexible expenses.

Address all six of these steps in the context of a biblically based perspective and your financial security will improve dramatically. Jonathan Swift reminded us, “Every man ought to have money on his mind. No man ought to have money on his heart.”

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department

'Training' rather than 'trying' can improve teen's behavior

Q: The last few years have been frustrating ones for us as parents as we have watched our 16-year-old daughter continue to get into trouble, usually involving irresponsibility at school, work or home. After each incident, she seems truly sorry and sad, telling us she will try harder. Unfortunately, the problem keeps repeating. How can we help her break this cycle?

PARENTING

Imagine you have the opportunity today to ride 100 miles on a bicycle through a rolling section of central Kentucky. If you finish within seven hours you will receive \$1,000. Could you do it?

If you are like most people, the answer probably is a resounding no. What if you tried really hard? The answer probably still is no, unless you were already in pretty good shape.

Suppose, on the other hand, that you are given a chance to train for six to 12 months. Do you think you could do it then? Probably. Why is that? It is because training trumps trying every time. Trying is of some value, albeit limited. Training, or discipline, is of great value.

Perhaps the best way to help your daughter is to encourage her to begin to see that overcoming her problems is less about trying and more about training. What behaviors can she begin to practice on a daily basis that ultimately will become healthy habits? Perhaps it might involve carrying a schedule book in her purse, or meeting with a mentor at a given time each week, or checking in by phone each day at a given time.

Help her develop a "training plan" that ultimately will be much more valuable than her "trying plan." Keep in mind the words of Paul to Timothy concerning "training in godliness" being of ultimate value (1 Timothy 4:8).—Scott Wigginton

Q: Sometimes I feel emotionally shut out by my husband. This is so frustrating. What can I do to keep from feeling so alone?

Husbands and wives often deal with problems quite differently. Many wives might choose to talk with friends in order to work through a problem. Our culture seems to grant women greater permission to do this.

MARRIAGE

It is considered normal for women to talk about a variety of subjects such as parenting, job stress, grief and relationships. Magazines certainly give evidence to this fact.

Men in our culture typically are given less permission and encouragement to talk out their problems. Often men may hold back and keep their thoughts and feelings hidden. Some men seem to believe this is what they are supposed to do to be a man. Talking about feelings is considered too feminine.

Consider this, "I call to the Lord for help; I plead with Him. I bring Him all my complaints; I tell Him all my troubles" (Psalm 142:1-2). The Psalmist models for us the importance of sharing our deepest thoughts and feelings.

One comparison that Scripture makes to our relationship with God is the marital relationship. God intends both husband and wife to talk openly about problems with one another in order to pray for each other, comfort and encourage. Just as open, honest communication with God facilitates intimacy, so does being open with your spouse.

Share your feelings with your husband. Let him know you feel shut out. Closing oneself off from a spouse is a way to gain control in the relationship. This can be destructive to the marriage bond. Read through some Psalms and consider being as painfully honest and forthright as those writers.—Valerie Vincent

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.



Cross Over crossing cultures for Christ

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's latest version of Cross Over is going cross-cultural.

Cross Over Metro Louisville, the KBC's fourth annual Cross Over evangelistic emphasis, will be held Nov. 10-15 in conjunction with the 2004 KBC annual meeting Nov. 16-17. Highlighting the theme, "Lifting Christ in the City," the ministry blitz seeks to reflect Louisville's diverse ethnic and cultural mix.

Cross Over coordinator Dan Garland, leader of the KBC church development/evangelism team, said the emphasis is expected to involve Hispanic, African-American and Anglo volunteers and recipients in keeping with the city's multicultural flavor.

"We're trying to focus on the Hispanic and African-American cultures more so than in previous Cross Over events simply because of where we are," Garland explained. "We're seeking to focus on some of these areas not only to discover needs, but to invite people to Bible studies in homes to be started in those areas."

Among the diverse ministry opportunities during Cross Over are:

- Winterizing and repairing homes in the Shelby Park area of downtown Louisville Nov. 10-13. Participants also will help area churches with repair and painting projects.

- Distributing gift bags to workers on the backside of Churchill Downs the afternoon of Nov. 15 and inviting them to a worship service that evening at the track.

- Sponsoring a 3-on-3 basketball tournament for children and youth Nov. 13 in cooperation with the Baptist Fellowship Center. Volunteers are needed to help keep score, serve refreshments and lunch, and witness to those who attend.

- Participating in door-to-door community/prayer

needs surveys and "The Hope" video distribution Nov. 13. According to Cross Over promotional information, the video "shows how God's plan gives meaning to our lives here on earth and hope for an eternal future."

- Taking part in prayerwalks/journeys that involve walking or driving through selected areas beginning two weeks before Cross Over and praying for residents to be receptive to the gospel. Volunteers also are needed to prayerwalk the University of Louisville campus Nov. 14, 2 to 4 p.m.

The ministry emphasis, which is co-sponsored by Long Run Baptist Association, is designed to help churches "get a vision for taking the gospel to the streets instead of just expecting people to come to church," Garland noted. "We're trying to model for churches that evangelism is done outside the walls of the church primarily.

"We're hoping the gospel will be clearly shared and modeled and that as a result, lives will be changed as people come to Christ and some people come back to church," he added. "We're hoping to make Christ real for those people in the communities we serve. We're hoping to plant seeds and in some instances to see a harvest."

Individuals, families, Sunday school classes, youth groups, mission organizations, congregations or others who would like to participate in Cross Over Metro Louisville can contact the KBC church development/evangelism team at (502) 254-4737, toll-free at (888) 254-5722 or visit the Web site www.kybaptist.org/crossover for more information.

Together, Kentucky Baptists from throughout the state can help connect people to Jesus by "Lifting Christ in the City" during next month's Cross Over Metro Louisville.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Ministry in the school system

As we look at ministry in the local school, one of the most challenging issues is the lack of consistency from school system to school system when it comes to faith-based involvement in their schools.

Some youth ministers have a green light to do ministry and still can walk onto campus, sign in and eat lunch with students. Others campuses are closed and youth leaders can do nothing on campus.

At Trigg County High School in Cadiz, Jason Strickland, associate pastor of Cadiz Baptist Church, serves as a school volunteer during the second period of the school day. "I do everything from grading papers to lining the football field," he notes.

Strickland also works with The Cats with Character program at Trigg County High (home of the Wildcats) where the team gathers for a meal and program each Wednesday night of the football season. The purpose of the gatherings is to build team unity and develop individual character. The gatherings begin with a meal, followed by a speaker or program.

"This meal is served in the school cafeteria after football practice and is provided by a local church or community group," Strickland said. In addition, "each football player is required to perform 10 hours of mandatory community service." The

players also are encouraged to join the team on alternating Sundays as they visit a local church together.

In Hopkinsville, the three public middle schools and two public high schools have been adopted by local churches. These churches have provided meals for faculty and staff during professional development days; labor to paint doors, handrails and classrooms; and weeded and mulched flower gardens. A young adult Sunday school class chaperoned one of the school dances. They even have served watermelon to the high school football teams after practice. These schools also are priority prayer concerns for each church.

So what can your church do?

Become involved in student activities. Be there, or better yet volunteer to help with school teams, both athletic and academic. Practice the ministry of presence; just being there says a lot both to our students and unchurched students. Have you been to a middle school band concert or a freshman girl's basketball game and seen how few people actually attend?

Volunteer, either in the classroom or through a local youth service center. Teachers and administrators need people to help in their school. Budgets get tighter every year, and by volunteering we can help stretch their limited dollars. You will have

to obtain a criminal background check to work with students, but some school systems will absorb that cost.

Adopt a school. It continues to amaze me how open administrators are to people who want to come and help their school facilities and their students. Pray intentionally for that school. Put the administration and teaching staff on your prayer list. For more information and ideas, log onto www.everyschool.com.

Mission action projects. Schools are filled with opportunities to share the love of Christ in tangible ways. School supplies, clothes, tutors, classroom volunteers, lunch for school staff, gate attendants for events, parking lot duty, hosting an end-of-the-season banquet for a sports team—the list is endless. Check with the principal or the youth service coordinator for more details.

Crisis response. When three students in the Hopkinsville school system committed suicide last year, we were called in to assist students with the grieving process. Make yourself available to the guidance counselors to help. Every school has a crisis response plan in place. Volunteer to be a part of that team.

The reality is that the school system sets our boundaries and our job is to work within those boundaries. Any place at the table is better than no place at all.

Joe Ball is minister of education and youth at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. His column appears the first issue of each month. Contact him at balliv@yahoo.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

Most Kentuckians ill-prepared for end-of-life issues

Understanding end-of-life terms

Some medical terms related to end-of-life care can add to the confusion and anxiety of dealing with this issue. Here are the definitions for some terms:

Palliative care. Often described as "comfort care." Palliative care eases uncomfortable or painful symptoms of a disease or a condition, but does not provide a cure.

Hospice. A program that provides palliative care to a patient with a terminal illness or condition, most often at the end of the patient's life.

Advance directive. Any written document that gives explicit instructions regarding health care treatments prior to a serious or life-threatening illness/injury. Without an advance directive, health care decisions will be made on a patient's behalf by a court-appointed guardian, spouse, child, parent or nearest living relative.

Continued from page 1

Margie Montgomery, executive director of Kentucky Right to Life, said many people believe they already have informed loved ones about their end-of-life care wishes through informal talks.

"Most of us feel we have someone in the family who feels like we do," she said. "But there are terrible arguments that can ensue in hospital corridors."

Florida judges ruled recently on one of the most high-profile end-of-life disputes in recent years.

The Florida Supreme Court ruled 7-0 against "Terri's Law" a 2003 act that allowed Florida Gov. Jeb Bush to order a feeding tube be reinserted into a 40-year-old disabled woman (see sidebar).

Science changing options

Such matters were practically unheard of 40 years ago according to Dr. George Webb, a retired anesthesiologist and medical director of the Hospice Institute in Louisville.

A 1962 medical school graduate, Webb marvels at the advances in medicine he has witnessed during his career. "Transplants were just being thought of," he said. "Heart-assist devices and ventilators were in the early stages."

Medical progress has blurred the lines between life and death, creating the need for the formalization of end-of-life wishes through an advance directive.

An advance directive is any written document that gives explicit instructions regarding health care treatments prior to a serious or life-threatening illness/injury. A living will is the most common type of advance directive.

Louisville attorney Jay Turner helps friends and church family who want advice on estate planning. He said only about 20 percent of the plans he has facilitated have included advance directives.



FRIENDLY VISIT Lou Byrd chats with Randy Johnson, chaplain with Hospice of the Bluegrass, during one of his visits to her Harrison County home. Byrd, a member of Cynthia Baptist Church, receives regular treatment from hospice nurses for emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

"Everybody knows who they want to have their stuff," Turner said. "But a lot of Christians are even loath to approach the subject of end-of-life issues."

The hesitancy is more than just a reluctance to talk about death, according to Robert Parham, founder and executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics. "The Christian community has the strong tendency toward avoiding decisions out of fear of making an imperfect decision," he said.

Parham called advanced directives an exercise in Christian stewardship and unselfishness. They spare family members from making agonizing choices for a loved one, he said. "As responsible moral agents we need to be more accountable for our own decision-making."

As a Baptist layman, Turner agrees. "I consider that trying to offer a solution before the problem presents itself to be taking care of the temple," he said.

Most observers agree that end-of-life decisions should be made, but the choices themselves are less clear.

"Presumption of death"

Court rulings since the mid-1970s granting the discontinuation of artificial respiration, nutrition and hydration have contributed to a critical shift in perception, Montgomery said.

Judges, juries and family members once assumed most people would prefer to live, even in a chronically-debilitated condition, Montgomery said. Now there is "a presumption of death," she said, where friends, family and courts assume a person would rather die.

This shift led the National Right to Life Committee to establish the "will to live" project to assist people in forming end-of-life plans that go beyond most living wills. The "will to live," like any advance directive, is a binding, legal document.

"Decisions coming down from the courts indicate a need for people to have these protections in place," Montgomery said, pointing to a recent ruling by the Kentucky Supreme Court as an example.

In August, the high court upheld a 1994 law that permits guardians or relatives to discontinue life support—including artificial nutrition and hydration—for an unconscious person who does not have an advance directive.

"It sets a dangerous precedent," Montgomery said, noting that the decision would permit "removing food and water from a person not in the last stages of a terminal illness."

Montgomery said the language in most living wills is too broad. "You can't paint it all with a wide brush as some documents indicate," she said. "We should determine what is in the best interest of each individual patient."

According to the National Right to Life Committee, the "will to live" records a patient's desire to receive treatment that would preserve life, even if that treatment might not cure or improve his condition.

Artificial nutrition and hydration would be considered basic treatment and not medical care under a "will to live." The document can also outline special conditions for the discontinuation of certain medical care and treatment if a patient is suffering from a terminal illness or death is imminent.

For end-of-life care decisions, Parham said Christians should "use the best resources available. The biblical witness calls us to practice the gift of discernment."

Byrd said she is "leaning heavily on the Lord" as she makes decisions that will affect not only herself, but her husband of 54 years, Richard.

"I know the Lord can heal me instantly if He wants to," she said. "And if not, one way or the other, He's going to take care of me."

Court strikes down 'Terri's Law'

Tallahassee, Fla. (ABP)—The Florida Supreme Court ruled Sept. 23 that the law passed to restore Terri Schiavo's feeding tube is unconstitutional and violates the separation of powers among the judicial, legislative and executive branches of the state government.

"Terri's Law," passed by the Florida legislature in 2003 and immediately signed into law by Gov. Jeb Bush, allowed Bush to override a lower court's decision that Schiavo's husband, Michael, could have the tube removed, presumably allowing Terri Schiavo to die.

In its unanimous ruling, the state's highest court said the Florida legislature improperly delegated power to the governor.

"We recognize the tragic circumstances underlying this case make it difficult to put emotions aside and focus solely on the legal issue presented," wrote Chief Justice Barbara Pariente, who authored the opinion. "We are not insensitive to the struggle that all members of (Schiavo's) family have endured since she fell unconscious in 1990. However, we are a nation of laws and we must govern our decisions by the rule of law and not by our own emotions."

Schiavo has been in what doctors have described as a "permanent vegetative state" since 1990, when she collapsed and suffered subsequent brain damage as a result of a previously undiagnosed medical condition.

It was not immediately clear whether Bush will go to federal court to attempt to appeal the ruling by the state Supreme Court, or how soon Terri Schiavo's feeding tube might be removed. The court did give each side in the dispute 10 days to ask for a rehearing in the case.

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Uncovering child sexual abuse

Experts say movie can wake up churches to long-ignored issue

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—On the make-believe screen of the movie theater, Bishop T.D. Jakes spends time in a prison cell, visiting a woman torn by the vestiges of child sexual abuse.

In real life, the Dallas megachurch pastor would like to see more Christian leaders pay attention to the scourge of abuse that affects children and adults who were victims of molestation.

"There needs to be increased awareness," he said in an interview recently. The film, "Woman Thou Art Loosed: The Movie" was released last Friday.

"For me, 'Woman Thou Art Loosed' is an opportunity to give voice to the silent screams of women who have written me (from) around the country for the last 10 or 11 years, sharing their stories and their secrets."

Jakes hopes his R-rated movie motivates religious leaders and the general public alike to pay attention to abuse victims—young and old—and prevent further crimes when they can.

The Pentecostal preacher said he hopes the movie will trigger conversations between parents and children and among spouses about secrets they've kept concerning their past or present lives.

Experts on religion and on abuse agree that the attention is needed. Studies suggest at least 1 in 10 children have been sexually molested by age 18.

Observers say churches have increased the use of background checks for workers with children and started support groups for

abuse victims in the last decade, but still have far to go.

Catherine Clark Kroeger, an author and faculty member at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass., recently helped start an organization called Peace and Safety in the Christian Home to try to foster church involvement and create networks to address domestic abuse.

Churches: "silence, ignore, deny"

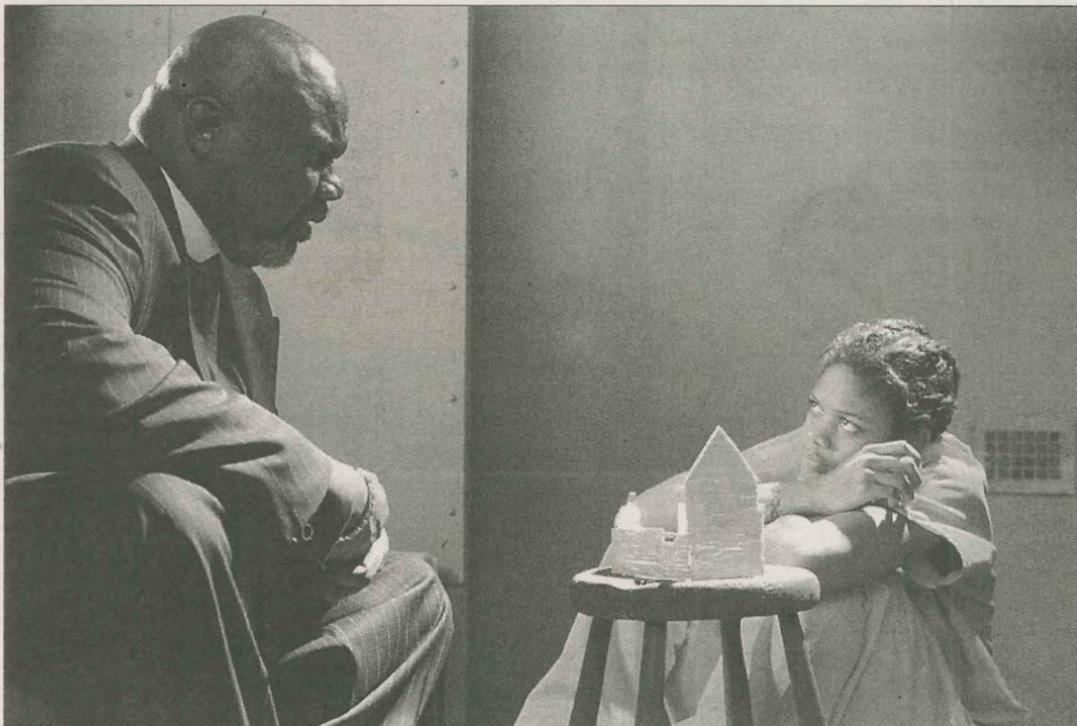
"They're not doing anywhere near as well as they should," she said of congregations. "The standard idea is minimize, silence, ignore, deny."

Jakes is carrying that same theme through the movie, which he partially funded. He invited religious leaders and social workers from the secular realm to screen the film. To draw more attention to the subject, he held a pastors' conference in preparation for the nationwide opening of the movie.

"It is important that clergy understand that we are legally bound to report any suspected case of child abuse," Jakes said. "It's not our job to prove it."

His congregation, the Potter's House, has taken preventative measures to screen anyone working with children, from choir directors to bus drivers. At the Megafest event he held in Atlanta in August, there was extra security—and insurance riders—for the 8,000 children under the age of 12 who attended.

But beyond background checks and police officers, Jakes says more work is needed within homes to address the issue. He thinks the movie might help achieve that. Though the R rating means adults will have



to accompany those under 17 to the movie, Jakes said he thinks young audiences should view it.

"Young people need to be able to see this," he said, envisioning it as a method for them to be able to reveal "something like that happened to me."

1 in 10 children sexually abused

Researchers' statistics vary on child sexual abuse, but most agree that at least 1 in 10 children have been sexually molested by the age of 18, said James Garbarino, a child abuse expert and co-director of Cornell University's Family Life Development Center in Ithaca, N.Y.

Such statistics are behind the efforts of Jakes and others to do more.

The film stars actress Kimberly Elise (who appeared in "The Manchurian Candidate," "John Q" and "Beloved"), who plays a sex abuse

victim who turns to a life of drugs and violence as she continues to suffer the trauma of childhood molestation. Jakes plays himself as the pastor to whom she reveals her story, in a series of flashbacks, and whose revival she attends. Her mother, played by Loretta Devine (who appeared in "Waiting to Exhale"), doesn't believe her own boyfriend could be responsible for the actions her daughter claims.

"Part of the healing"

Diane Langberg, board chairperson of the American Association of Christian Counselors and a speaker at Jakes' conference, said there has been far less religious attention on adults who once suffered child abuse than on the safety of children currently attending church.

"The church ... needs to be part of the healing community for adults who've been abused as children," she said.

Langberg, a Philadelphia psychologist who has worked with abuse and trauma victims for three decades has assisted churches faced with serious cases.

She's dealt with situations in which someone in leadership has abused a congregant and with cases where a known offender wants to attend a particular church.

"Churches have typically erred on the side of naivete about sex offenders," she said. "Because someone cries and says they're sorry, they assume it's all over."

Jakes and others advocating for greater church attention to the subject say part of their mission is to help hesitant clergy be open to working with those outside the theological realm who have expertise in this area. The movie's Web site lists resources for abuse victims, including links to coalitions and government offices.

"It is not wrong to invite the help of counselors in the rehabilitative process," Jakes said.

"You don't have to be Superman. We can work with sociologists and psychologists," he added. "We can deal with the spiritual part, but they can deal with the mental and the emotional part."

HIGHLIGHTING ISSUE

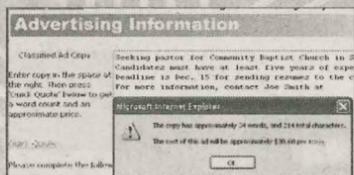
T.D. Jakes, left, stars with Kimberly Elise in "Woman Thou Art Loosed," a movie that draws attention to the issue of child sexual abuse. Childhood abuse leads Elise's character to a prison cell, where Jakes visits her. (RNS photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures)

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Tuesday evening
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www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

Hot meals, help & ho

Kentucky Baptists bring hope and food to Alabama disaster victims

By Karla Ward
Lexington Herald-Leader

Bay Minette, Ala.—Mike Hays tears up when he recalls losing his Falmouth home to a flood in 1997 and losing his mother to cancer shortly afterward.

Those tears help him relate to Alabama's victims of Hurricane Ivan.

As part of the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission's disaster relief effort, he often shares the story of how he put his losses aside and helped 37 Falmouth families clean the mud out of their homes.

When it was over, the Men on Mission helped him.

"I was so tired I couldn't see, and the mud was up to here in the basement," Hays, of Cynthiana, told one hurricane victim. "I said, 'God, I've helped everybody else, and I can't even help Mom.'"

Then, he recalled, 12 men wearing the bright yellow shirts of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief walked in and began scooping the mud from his floor.

"I found out what the other end's like," he said.

As his story ended, Hays gave a hug to the Ivan victim whose yard he had just helped clean.

Dozens of Kentucky Baptists like Hays have been on the road almost non-stop since mid-August, cooking for hurricane victims in Florida and now Alabama as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief efforts.

Working with the Red Cross, the program provides thousands of free, hot meals each day, cleanup help, and, best of all, hope.

"Outside of pastoring, this is the richest experience I've ever had in my life," said Hays, pastor of Oakwood Avenue Baptist Church in Cynthiana.

The program has been serving food and helping residents clean up trees, mud and other debris after tornados, hurricanes and floods since 1984.

The volunteers, who come from throughout Kentucky, spent three months in New York after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Wherever disasters send them, food is always the group's priority.

"The trees will wait," Larry Koch, associate director of Kentucky's Baptist Men on Mission disaster relief effort, said as the volunteers served hamburgers to a line of Bay Minette residents that never seemed to get any shorter. "These people haven't had a hot meal since the storm hit."

Rebecca Curry of Greensburg became hooked on relief work after her first trip, to help victims of Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

"It makes you feel so good to help someone, and there's just so many hurting people," she said. "It just breaks your heart."

The volunteers served meals in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., after Hurricane Charley but were evacuated when Hurricane Frances drew near.

They served in Punta Gorda, Fla., after Frances, but were again evacuated because of Ivan's approach.

After Ivan, the group began arriving in Bay Minette on Sept. 18 and had grown to 73 volunteers within two days. Others are expected to come and go over the next several weeks.

They will be sleeping on the floor of the church gym until most residents have power back on, which could take three to six weeks.

"It becomes kind of like a little family outside of your church family," said Vicky Filiatreau, who takes time off from her job at a pregnancy help center in London, Ky., to do relief work.

Another group of Kentucky Baptists from Henderson has set up a kitchen in Brewton, Ala.

"I know they can cook!"

Most of the states in the Southern Baptist Convention have such kitchens, although Kentucky volunteers think they have one of the best.

The convention owns two 40-gallon steam kettles, two 30-gallon tilt skillets and four commercial convection ovens, allowing the group to cook in enormous quantities.

Elaine Frazier of Louisa cooked chicken and dumplings, spaghetti with meat sauce, peas and green beans by the gallon from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. one day.

She had to clean the stainless steel vats more than once because of a steady stream of people.

"The Lord gives you strength," Frazier said. "As long as there's a child or a person in line, we try to feed them."

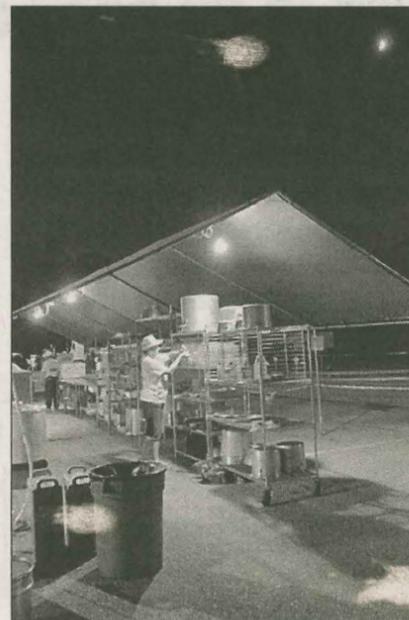
Frazier is a retired school cook who didn't expect to quit and go home until Sept. 28.

It takes at least 25 people to run the kitchen, which uses frozen food provided by the Red Cross.

Once those needs have been taken care of, the group is able to begin sending crews into neighborhoods to clean up downed trees.

In areas where there is flooding, volunteers remove mud that is sometimes several feet deep in homes.

Continued on next page



CLOSING TIME The kitchen finally closes for business after a long day, under the half moon. The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Men on Mission set up their disaster relief effort in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church to bring food to the residents of Bay Minette, Ala.

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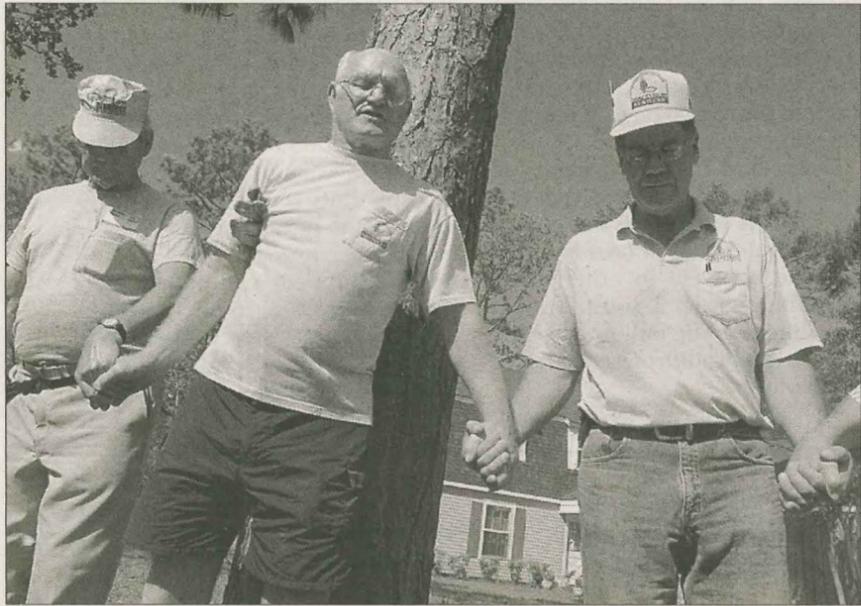
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PRAYER CIRCLE Bill Henderson of Cynthiana; Mike Hays, pastor of Oakwood Avenue Baptist Church in Cynthiana; and Paul Filiatreau of London, prayed together after clearing a downed tree from the property of Hugh Lonergan in Bay Minette, Ala. Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers are still serving those impacted by Hurricane Ivan. (Lexington Herald-Leader photos by Janet Worme)

Continued from last page

"God has always provided the number of people that we need," said Koch, the operation's only paid employee.

Most of the volunteers are retirees, although some use their vacation from work to do disaster relief.

"Our pay's not of this world," said Paul Dunnington of Monticello. "We don't know who we're reaching, but we give a cup of cold water or a hot meal in His (Christ's) name."

Residents were grateful for the hot meals.

"Delicious," said Jonathan Mark Gullede, who brought his three children and another child in his care to the church to pick up dinner. "Their work is outstanding."

Aside from a tree on the roof and no electricity, Gullede's home is fine, but his workplace, Pensacola Pools, was heavily damaged by the hurricane, leaving Gullede without a job.

Dorothy Grace picked up dinner for herself, as well as for some neighbors whose mobile home was destroyed.

Her face lit up when she heard the group was from Kentucky: "I know they can cook!"

5,700 meals on Monday

The American Red Cross assigns the city; the group usually sets up camp in the parking lot of a Baptist church in that town.

When the Baptist Men on Mission are finished cooking a meal, much of the food is packed into bright red crates and loaded onto Red Cross vehicles, which drive the streets, serving meals.

On Sept. 20, disaster relief workers served 3,700 meals in the serving line—more than they ever had before. An additional 2,000 went out on Red Cross trucks.

"You get attached to the people who come through the line," Curry said. "You learn a little bit about them each time they come."

After Ivan tore through last Sept. 16, Bay Minette was left looking much like Central Kentucky after the 2003 ice storm, only without the ice. Winds knocked down trees, limbs and power lines, leaving residents without power and some with major roof damage.

Although a few homes were destroyed, the town of 10,000 is, overall, "so blessed" that no more damage was done, said Henry Cox, pastor of the church where the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission set up.

On Monday, the Men on Mission's cleanup crews began helping residents with downed trees.

Wood chips flew as Rita Kennedy of Owensboro used a chain saw to tear through an oak tree blocking the front of Hugh Lonergan's house and ensnaring his American flag while her husband, Brent, dragged branches she'd cut to the curb.

Kennedy prefers cleanup to kitchen work.

"You can give up or keep going," she said. "I've got a chain saw—I'm happy now."

After the group had finished the tree, they gathered in a circle, held hands and prayed with Lonergan.

"When you're back in Kentucky, pray for me," he said.

"Most important time of day"

After the last person has been fed, the group settles into a loose circle in the church gym each night for what Koch calls "the most important time of the day."

"We're giving of ourselves all day long," he told the group. "We need this time to be fed upon the Spirit of the living God."

There are announcements about the work that was done and arrangements for the next day.

Scriptures are read.

"What I saw today was people who were working really hard—a lot harder than you've worked at home in days," said Harold Moore, unit coordinator, from Ashland. "I thank you."

And there are prayer requests—for a nephew in Iraq, for the churches in Florida where they've handed out meals.

Finally, after Moore has prayed for them all, he offers a prayer for those they're here to serve. "All of the people who have lost so much ... we pray, Lord, that you will be very close to each one."

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Trading Spaces Through Missions Involvement - Features ministry testimonies from those in the trenches, "how to do" suggestions, ideas for involving your church in missions and suggestions for where to go for resources.
Nate Adams, North American Mission Board.

Opening the Arms of Your Church: Effectively Assimilating New Members - Participants will discover new and exciting ways to get members to understand and experience the opportunities to use their gifts and abilities in their church.
Ken Lupton, LifeWay Christian Resources.



Traction or Friction: Emerging Leaders in Changing Culture - This seminar will provide leadership applications from the life and ministry of Paul to help you serve effectively.
Led by Dr. Gene Wilkes, pastor of Legacy Church in Plano, Texas.

Worship for Emerging Generations - Take a look at the emerging generations, explore why worship is different for them and explore Biblical perspectives and leadership paradigms for planning culturally relevant, Biblical worship.
Led by Rod Ellis, contemporary music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Tog Goodson, music minister at Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.



The Wednesday session will conclude with a strong charge featuring **Charles Lowery**. Lowery is president and CEO of the Lowery Institute for Excellence, a non-profit educational organization. He travels the country, using humor to inspire and educate both religious and secular audiences.



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NATIONAL NOTES

Ohio court says marriage amendment is OK. A state constitutional marriage amendment in Ohio has moved one step closer to appearing on the ballot after a state appeals court refused Sept. 20 to toss out petitions gathered by supporters. Ohio's amendment would ban both same-sex "marriage" and Vermont-type civil unions.

Anti-hunger organization to be recognized. An Arkansas faith-based organization that fights worldwide hunger and poverty will receive a \$1 million humanitarian award. Heifer International will receive the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Award on Oct. 28 in New York City. Based in Little Rock, Ark., Heifer was established in 1944 to fight hunger and poverty. It provides livestock and agricultural training to poor families in 38 U.S. states and 50 countries. The organization is rooted in the peace and justice traditions of the Church of the Brethren.

Protestant Hour merging. The Protestant Hour, which produces a weekly preaching program called "Day 1," has merged with the Episcopal Media Center. The two Atlanta-based ministries will share trustees and staff while retaining individual identities. About 160 radio stations carry "Day 1," which formerly was known as "The Protestant Hour" and dates to 1945. The Episcopal Media Center does audio, video and television productions such as the Emmy Award-winning PBS film "Shadowlands."

Guidelines released for churches & politics. A nonpartisan group devoted to religion and public life has issued guidelines to help churches navigate through the complex web of laws regulating political activity. The guidelines, titled "Politics and the Pulpit," were devised by the Washington-based Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. They are in response to widespread confusion over what political role religious organizations can play during an election year. They are adapted and distilled from the Internal Revenue Service code in an effort to simplify the situation. To access the guidelines, visit the Web site pewforum.org.

House majority not enough to pass marriage bill

Washington (ABP)—The U.S. House of Representatives failed to get a two-thirds vote last week for a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban marriage—and, arguably, marriage-like benefits—for same-sex couples.

A House version of the Federal Marriage Amendment proposal did receive a majority of 227 to 186. Twenty-seven Republicans joined most Democrats in voting against the amendment, while 36 Democrats crossed the aisle to vote in favor of it.

A similar proposal failed a procedural vote in the Senate in July, when supporters of the marriage amendment failed to gain a majority.

Many Congress observers had predicted ahead of time that the House vote would fail, and the earlier Senate failure led many Democrats to accuse Republicans of playing election-year politics with the bill. Even if it had passed the House, its defeat in the Senate means the amendment almost certainly would have gone nowhere until next year.

But recent court decisions on gay-rights issues forced the House leadership's hand, advocates said.

"Many of us in the House would prefer not to have this debate," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas). "The question of the future of marriage in this country has been forced on us by activist judges, legislating from the bench."

DeLay referred specifically to a 2003 decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that legalized same-sex marriage in that state. As a result, the commonwealth became, in May, the first in the United States to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

DeLay and other opponents of same-sex marriage argued that federal lawsuits ultimately would lead to the invalidation of laws banning same-sex marriage in other states—meaning a federal constitutional amendment is the only way to prevent the legalization of gay marriage nationwide.

The amendment, as proposed,

read, "Marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

Supporters vowed to bring it up again in the next Congress. "This is only the beginning, I'm telling you, because this body will protect marriage," DeLay said, to rare applause from the House visitors' gallery. "We will take it from here, and we will come back, and we will come back and we will never give up."

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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.

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

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Delivering hope amid disaster

Disaster relief ministries worthy of financial support

The late Mr. Rogers used to say, "The world tomorrow will belong to those who give it hope." I do not know any who have been delivering more hope than our Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers. Since the first hurricane hit the Florida coast Aug. 13, our fellow Kentucky Baptist volunteers have been responding non-stop to provide hot meals, chainsaw crews and mud-out efforts to assist storm victims all along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to get their lives and property back in order. Amid this terrible string of natural disasters, these self-sacrificing individuals have been delivering hope in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have been connecting men and women, boys and girls to Jesus Christ.



Barry Allen

only gifts provide some financial resources for this infrastructure. However, this all-important ministry would not be as effective without the additional gifts that come directly from individuals.

Obviously, a disproportionate share of financial resources has been consumed, given the scope of this most recent round of storms. As a result, this is a most opportune time for you prayerfully to consider delivering hope amid the disasters of the future through your direct financial support of this ministry. You can make an outright gift of cash, appreciated stock, bonds, mutual funds or real estate to be used under the care

and supervision of the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission office of the KBC Mission Board. Perhaps you want to consider establishing a perpetual fund from which only the earnings would be used by this ministry, but the principal would remain invested.

Please call Laurie Valentine or me to assist you in a giving plan.

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

None of this would be possible without an infrastructure. That infrastructure includes a fleet of vehicles, all kinds of specialized equipment, which cost money to purchase, maintain and replace, and a director, who is Larry Koch. A portion of your gifts through the Cooperative Program, the Eliza Broadus Offering and Kentucky

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn M. Boyington

Across

- 1 Chop off
- 4 One of Hezekiah's overseers. (2 Chronicles 31:13)
- 9 One's own turf?
- 12 Mother of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:2)
- 13 Kind of finish
- 14 "The ___ appeareth, and the tender grass showeth itself" (Proverbs 27:25)
- 15 Atlantic seaboard state (abbr.)
- 16 Altar end of a church
- 17 "When I ___ the five loaves among five thousand" (Mark 8:19)
- 19 New churches, evangelically speaking
- 21 "As for ___, he made havock of the church" (Acts 8:3)
- 22 "I go my ___, and ye shall seek me" (John 8:21)
- 23 Paul or Peter or John or ...
- 26 "A river went out of ___ to water the garden" (Genesis 2:10)
- 28 "Serve him in sincerity and in ___" (Joshua 24:14)
- 29 Masculine nickname
- 30 City in central Israel
- 31 "And Abram passed through the land ... unto the plain of ___" (Genesis 12:6)
- 32 In the ___
- 33 Jesus conversed in this language when on earth (abbr.)
- 34 "Eldad and ___ do prophesy in the camp" (Numbers 11:27)
- 35 "I will give thee a crown of ___" (Revelation 2:10)
- 36 Day of baptism (two words)
- 38 Kitchen implement
- 39 Vainly
- 40 Progenitor
- 43 Number of men who met Abraham at his tent, including the Lord (Genesis 18)

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51				52					53	

- 45 ___ in full
- 46 Conjunction
- 47 Consume
- 48 Desire strongly
- 50 Jane or John
- 51 "He planteth an ___, and the rain doth nourish it" (Isaiah 44:14)
- 52 Gluts
- 53 "For ye are all ___ in Christ" (Galatians 3:28)

- 20 Held in fear
- 21 Flowed or gushed out (O.T. spelling)
- 23 "Women adorn themselves ... not with ... costly ___" (1 Timothy 2:9)
- 24 Gold ___
- 25 Life on the ___ (Dobson book)
- 26 Ardor
- 27 Feminine name
- 28 "Exhort one another daily, while it is called ___" (Hebrews 3:13)
- 31 Samplings of songs?
- 32 "Whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall ___ him" (Ecclesiastes 10:8)
- 34 Darius the ___ (Daniel 11)
- 35 Master
- 37 "The voice of ___, and the voice of gladness" (Jeremiah 7:34)
- 38 Symptoms of malaise
- 40 "She shall shave her head, and ___ her nails" (Deuteronomy 21:12)
- 41 "I will cause the sun to go down at ___" (Amos 8:9)
- 42 The ___ of life (Revelation 22)
- 43 Prince of Wales, for example
- 44 Owns
- 45 Stand ___
- 49 Apiece (abbr.)
- 50 Accomplish

Down

- 1 "Thy word is a ___ unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105)
- 2 "And Joktan begat ... ___ and Abimael and Sheba" (Genesis 10:28)
- 3 Greek letter
- 4 "The Lord hath brought me home again ___" (Ruth 1:21)
- 5 Girl in Glasgow
- 6 Resident (suffix)
- 7 ___ al
- 8 "And ___, and Shilhim ... all the cities are twenty and nine" (Joshua 15:32)
- 9 Biblical verb
- 10 "Ye shall be as an ___ whose leaf fadeth" (Isaiah 1:30)
- 11 What to do with eggs?
- 16 One among the covenant sealers (Nehemiah 10:26)
- 18 Make haste

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
L	E	V	I	A	T	H	A	N	D	O	G
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F	O	X	U	N	I	C	O	R	N	D	

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Billy Graham says he's fit for Los Angeles & Kansas City crusades

Montreat, N.C. (RNS)—Evangelist Billy Graham has confirmed that his health has improved enough for him to continue with plans to preach in Kansas City, Mo., and Los Angeles this fall.

"I feel better than I expected to at this point and I am thankful that God has strengthened me for continued ministry," Graham said in a statement released Sept. 23. "I appreciate everyone's prayers on my behalf and I look forward once again to bringing a message of God's love and forgiveness to the people of Kansas City and Los Angeles."

The evangelist suffered two serious falls that resulted in surgeries earlier this year for partial hip replacement and the repair of a pelvic fracture.

Billy Graham

On top of health challenges, the home Graham shares with his wife in the mountains of western North Carolina suffered minor damage after Hurricanes Frances and Ivan.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who continue to recover from these devastating storms, and especially with those who have lost loved ones," he said.

Graham's next crusade is set for Oct. 7-10 at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, followed by the Los Angeles crusade, to be held Nov. 18-21 at the Rose Bowl.

"We are not just reaching out to touch hearts but also homes to make a difference in the lives of the impoverished and needy in the urban setting," said Jack Hayford, a California pastor who co-chairs the Greater Los Angeles Billy Graham Crusade.

Graham also is preparing for what his representatives say is likely his last crusade in New York City. He is scheduled to preach four days next June in Madison Square Garden, a return to the site of his 1957 crusade, which attracted more than 2 million people and was extended from six to 16 weeks.

Tom Phillips, a crusade organizer, told Associated Press "it will probably be the very last crusade in the New York area" for Graham.

Asked if it would be his last crusade ever, Phillips replied: "It's very possible, but we don't know that."

"He just keeps going and going."

TV show sparks church ministry idea

By John Hall
Baptist General Convention of Texas

Grapevine, Texas (ABP)—If healthy families begin with healthy homes, then one Dallas-Fort Worth-area church recently gave several families a large shot in the arm.

To celebrate the congregation's fifth anniversary, members of 121 Community Church in Grapevine, Texas, remodeled the homes of several families who live near the church, between Dallas and Fort Worth.

The families are not members of the congregation but were selected through an interview process.

The project, dubbed "Aiding Spaces" after the television remodeling show "Trading Spaces," included repairing homes in many cases, as well as painting, carpeting, insulating and redecorating—all in 48 hours.

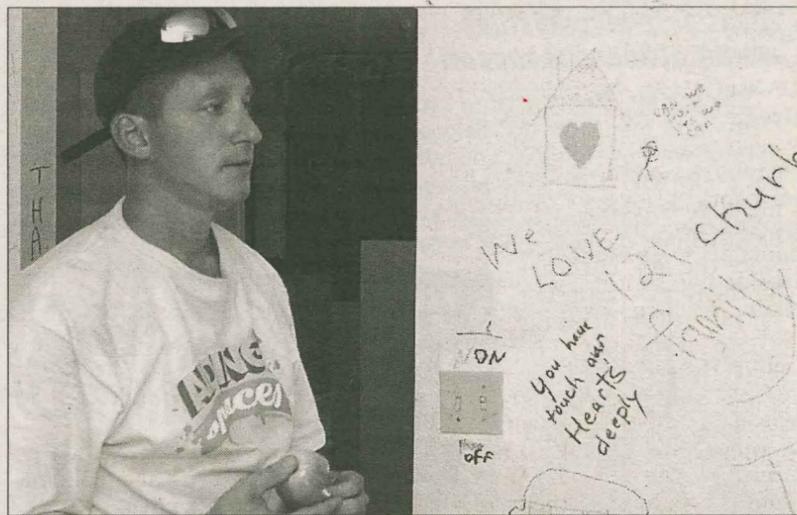
Church member Allen Branam, who directed the effort at one of the homes, said the stories of each family touched the congregation in a unique way.

The house where he worked provided shelter for a single mother of four children, three with special needs. Hearing her testify about how God is working in their lives led him to want to help them.

"It just grabbed me," Branam said. "I can't tell you how or why."

While the family rested in a hotel paid for by the church, volunteers installed hardwood floors, added air conditioning to a room, replaced furniture, erected a wall and gave the family new pots and pans as well as their first set of matching dishes.

The family's gratitude was clear



'AIDING SPACES' Allen Branam, a member of 121 Community Church in Grapevine, Texas, reflects on the messages of thanks left for him and his crew of volunteer workers. Church members remodeled the house in 48 hours for a family in need, mimicking home improvement TV shows.

even before construction started. Each member wrote notes on the walls for volunteers to read. Many praised God's goodness. Others were expressions of thanks to the workers.

Long poems were written in several parts of the house. The family marked "God is good" on many of the windows.

The project took hold of the community as well.

Hearing of the effort, neighbors near many of the houses joined in, causing the number of volunteers to surge from 30 per house to 75.

Other individuals bought toys for the children, and local hardware stores donated materials.

"I've not yet called anyone who has said, 'No, I will not donate,'"

church member Beth Brockert said before the construction started.

Workers gathered at the end of construction to present the homes to the residents and celebrate the work.

The congregation viewed a video of the project, shot in reality-show fashion.

"I think this is where I'm supposed to be," Brockert said.

"This is where the Lord wants me to be."



He wanted to do better

Student finds Oneida the right place to get both grades and life in order

The vast majority of phone calls received in our admissions office are from parents, grandparents or guardians of young people who have needs that we believe can be met at Oneida. It is not always an easy decision, but normally after gathering the information needed, we accept those students who need and want the opportunities we provide. We believe it is important for young people to understand they may have some special needs and they must be willing to enroll with an honest desire to improve.

Needless to say, there are those who have needs that do not fall within the ministry we provide. From time to time, it appears that the student either has serious needs that we do not believe we can meet or allowing the student to enroll might place our other students in an environment in which we are not comfortable.

"Sta-van" (not his real name) is a student who presented some challenges. But when we collected all the information, we felt Oneida could be a helpful place. Sta-van is one of our international students. He has lived in the U.S. for many years with his parents. Actually, they made their American home right here in Kentucky. Sta-van's parents had heard about Oneida from a family member. Sta-van was having considerable problems at school. In fact, his school records were deplorable. Defiance of authority, a history of being tardy, dress code violations and skipping school are just some of the many school infractions he faced. His grades ranged from B's to F's, but the most were F's.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

At home, he was disrespectful, refused to do his schoolwork and he spent too much time running around with his friends. He had considerable friction with his father, and the fact that his parents were separated did not help.

When we interviewed Sta-van, it was obvious that he really wanted to be here and he knew he was not going to do well at home. He told us he wanted to change his behavior and he admitted that he needed more structure. Additionally, he was not happy with his grades. We were aware that going to church would be a new experience for Sta-van. His parents never attended church and they had no particular interest in Christianity.

During his first quarter with us, his grades went from mostly F's to all A's except for an F in one of his math classes. However, during the second grading period he was able to bring the F up to a B and he had a 3.71 grade point average at the end of his second quarter with us.

Sta-van returned this fall to begin his second year at Oneida. During our fall revival he went forward with several other students and later talked to our pastor about his spiritual needs. Sta-van indicated that he had invited Christ into his heart and wanted to be baptized. During a Wednesday evening service a week later we witnessed Sta-van and five other boys being baptized. Others would be baptized the following Sunday and Wednesday. I will write about some of those students during the next few weeks.

We are grateful to Kentucky Baptists and many others who allow Oneida to reach boys and girls from around the world for Christ!

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

Helping families manage their lives

Graduate celebrates 5-year ministry in Powell, Tenn.

David Trent recently celebrated five years as a staff member at First Baptist Church of Powell, Tenn., where he is pastor for young families.

"In 1983, I began to feel God's call into a more active ministry," Trent said. "After 10 years at TVA, I became so uncomfortable in my job that it threw things out of balance. In 1993 we moved to Powell, and the desire for ministry would not go away. We joined First Baptist in 1995, and I enrolled at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. I was able to take a full load of classes and still work at TVA."

A part-time counseling position opened at First Baptist, and Trent decided to leave a career and the financial security of a full-time job to begin his ministry. A full-time position eventually opened at the church; he graduated from Clear Creek College last May.

"We had some good ministries when I got here," he said. "Recently, we've designed our curriculum so that parents, youth, kids and preschoolers all study the same principles and can talk about them together. We even give parents dis-

cussion suggestions."

The church also has special evenings such as family dinner, movie night and the Kids Blitz, an evening in which teams compete in ways that bring biblical principles to the games. The August Blitz drew 650 people. At the Kids Fest alternative to Halloween, the church provides a carnival-like setting with live music, games, food and "trunk-o-treating," church members distributing candy from car trunks in the church parking lot.

Trent said young families express a desire to lead balanced lives and focus on what is really important in life. "We hold marriage and parenting workshops,

and the young families leadership team helps determine needs and if we are meeting them effectively," Trent said.

"This has been the most exciting time of my life," he said. "It is rewarding to watch kids grow spiritually and see parents take more control over their children's spiritual growth. And I'm having fun, too." (Edited from a story written by Jake Mabe in Powell News, Sept. 18, 2004).

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Religious groups call attacks on Gallup an attack on faith

New York (RNS)—Some religious groups are crying foul over a liberal advocacy group's attempt to make an issue about the faith of pollster George Gallup Jr.

MoveOn.org went after Gallup in a full-page advertisement in the New York Times Sept. 28 in which it criticized the pollster's methodology in surveys that showed President Bush leading Democratic challenger John Kerry.

The ad ended with a reference to Gallup's faith.

"Gallup, who is a devout evangelical Christian, has been quoted as calling his polling a 'kind of ministry,'" the ad said. "And a few months ago, he said 'the most profound purpose of polls is to see how people are responding to God.'"

"We thought the purpose is to faithfully and factually report public opinion."

Gallup, 74, and recently retired from the Gallup Organization, made some of those comments in a Religion News Service article.

Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, decried MoveOn.org's approach.

"It's one thing to challenge methodology and credibility," said Foxman in an interview with The New York Sun. "It's another thing to say that the methodology and credibility are motivated by faith. ... What if the poll was headed by a devout Jew? How would we have felt?"

The New York City-based Catholic League for Civil and Religious Rights was also offended.

"The implication is that if you take your religion seriously, you can't be objective," said Catholic League President William Donohue. "To bring in a man's religion

and basically suppose, 'It's those Christians again, misleading the public.'"

He later added, "I thought it was despicable."

Raymond Flynn, former Democratic mayor of Boston, said he sees the ad as part of a dangerous trend.

"Blatant anti-religious sentiment"

"There's really a growing, blatant, anti-religious sentiment in the United States," said Flynn, national director of Catholic Citizenship, a voter registration organization. "I think it makes it dangerous because then we can dismiss somebody on the basis of their religion for having a narrow, uneducated point of view."

Officials at MoveOn.org did not respond to a request from Religion News Service for an interview.

Gallup retired from polling in May of this year and remains active in the organization's outreach efforts.

Prior to his retirement, he spent five decades writing survey questions on a range of topics, including private religious beliefs and political attitudes.

In an interview with The New York Sun, Gallup shrugged off the criticism.

"I wasn't angered," Gallup said. "I've been polling for 50 years. Particularly at election time, people get very uptight and start throwing brickbats."

He dismissed the idea that he would skew a poll.

"One, it's dishonest," said Gallup. "Two, that would be absurd. It would make you look terrible, for the company and everything. That's off the wall, totally off the wall."

"Particularly at election time, people get very uptight and start throwing brickbats."

Pollster George Gallup, responding to charges his faith impacts his poll results

World evangelism conference looks at response to Islam, other challenges

Lusanne, Switzerland (RNS)—Coming together for their first world summit on evangelism in 15 years, 1,700 Christians have been meeting in Thailand to find faith-spreading strategies for a world transformed since 1989.

The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization is tackling 31 challenges to evangelism, ranging from poverty to AIDS and a rise in religious nationalism. With a goal of reaching a world made tense by Sept. 11 and its aftermath, these leaders have been brainstorming how best to engage non-believers in these uneasy times.

The question "is not 'How do we convert Muslims?'" said Roger Parrott, president of Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss., and chairman of the meeting.

"It's 'What is the evangelical response to the Muslim community?' Until the evangelical community can get the right posture toward the Muslim world, I don't think God is going to bless anything we do in evangelism."

Participants speaking 58 languages have come from 130 countries to Thailand, a largely Buddhist nation, which Parrott said was

Methodists encourage witness to Muslims

Port Elizabeth, South Africa (RNS)—Officials of the World Methodist Council have adopted a statement that accepts Muslims as people of faith but encourages Christians to invite them to convert to Christianity.

"Even though we recognize and affirm some similarities between Islam and Christianity and between the Quran and the Bible, we believe the distinctions between us are significant," the statement reads.

"While we understand that Muslims believe that Allah is revealed to the world in the Quran, we affirm that God is revealed in the Bible and God's ultimate self-

revelation is in the person of Jesus Christ."

The statement was adopted during the meeting of the council's Executive Committee, Sept. 18 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

It called for Wesleyan and Methodist Christians to "lovingly accept Muslim brothers and sisters as persons of faith," and noted the leaders' respect for aspects of Islam, such as the religion's emphasis on prayer, fasting, personal holiness and charity.

The statement went on to encourage those same Christians to invite Muslims and others "into life-changing relationships with God through Christ."

In speaking of their respect for the right to worship, the Methodist leaders stated that governments should not infringe on the religious rights of citizens.

"We affirm that if it is acceptable to build mosques in Christian cultures, it should be acceptable to build Christian churches in Islamic cultures," the statement reads.

Maxie Dunnam, a member of the council's World Methodist Evangelism Division, said he hopes the statement will aid interfaith dialogue.

"We as Christians must present a distinct witness to Christian faith, knowing there are clear differences between our faiths"

"This is not about position papers. It's about concrete action plans."

Roger Parrott, chairman of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization

chosen largely for its convenient location for the developing world. About half of those in attendance come from Western Europe and North America. The other half are from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

For the Lausanne Committee, the meeting marks the fourth summit since 1974.

This assembly of mostly evangelical missionaries, pastors and academics were scheduled to grapple in small groups with the issues laid before them.

Among the topics are how to work with nontraditional families, residents of new urban slums and people who learn via spoken words and pictures.

At the conclusion, Oct. 5, groups proposing new pathways were to present their suggestions at a plenary session. From there, strategies will be translated and circulated to as many churches as possible worldwide.

"This is not about position papers," Parrott said. "It's about concrete action plans."

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Saying 'Sorry'



IN CHAINS Jacques Vigouroux of Macon, France (left), and Geoff Sadler of Liverpool, England, stand in chains and a yoke in their role as "penitents" during a racial reconciliation walk in Annapolis, Md. They helped lead marchers on the Sept. 29 walk that traced the African-American history of Annapolis in an effort to improve race relations. The Lifeline Expedition, a London-based Christian organization, has visited European countries with links to the slave trade and continues its reconciliation effort with a tour of the eastern United States. The tour marks the latest attempt to foster improved relations between blacks and whites. (RNS photo by Michael Temchine)

How to BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Randy Record

Afraid of sharing your faith? Worried about what the other person might think?

Learn to love the nervousness because you cannot do it alone. Use the nervousness to totally trust the Lord to give you the words that you have studied and prepared beforehand (2 Timothy 2:15).

The late Larry Burkett, Christian financial author, said in a conference titled Business By the Book, "The Great Commission will not be done through church events. ... It will be done through business contacts." Live your life. See people. Share Jesus.

Sharing Jesus with your life's contacts is as easy as spreading the fingers and thumb of one of your hands and spelling the word F-A-I-T-H.

F is for forgiveness. You can have eternal life and heaven only with God's forgiveness.

A is for available. Forgiveness is available to everyone. Remind people that it's not an automatic deal. One must seek God for His forgiveness. Share John 3:16.

I is for impossible. It is impossible for God to allow sin into heaven. Explain what sin is. (Romans 3:23).

T is for turn. Explain that a person must turn from his or her own desires and sin and trust Christ alone.

H is for heaven. Only trusting Christ will give a person heaven (John 10:10, 14:1-3). Explain Romans 10:9-10 and 10:13. Have the person insert his or her name where appropriate.

Be nice and tactful (1 Peter 3:15). Let the gospel speak its own power; it needs to be shared. It is sufficient once it is voiced.

Enjoy your life's contacts.

Randy Record is minister of evangelism for Highview Baptist Church in Louisville

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church will hold revival services Oct. 24-27. **Edwin Talley** is pastor.

■ **BENTON**—Ferguson Springs Church will hold services Oct. 10 at Ferguson Springs in the Land Between the Lakes. Activities will include an 11 a.m. worship service, noon meal and afternoon gospel singing and fellowship. For information, call (270) 437-4289. **James Keeling** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Locust Grove Church celebrated homecoming Oct. 3, with **Randy Davenport** as guest speaker.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church licensed **Kyle Franklin** to the gospel ministry Oct. 3. Franklin serves as university outreach minister and assistant youth minister.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church's student ministries will host a conference on "The Blessing" by author **Bill Perkins** Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m. The conference will focus on parents learning how to spiritually bless their children. For information, call (502) 241-8534.

■ **EARNESTVILLE**—Retired Baptist pastor **Audley Lee Turner** died Sept. 26 at age 91. Turner, a native of Earnestville, was a Southern Baptist pastor for more than 75 years. He was a member of West Side Church in Hamilton, Ohio. Memorial gifts may be made in Turner's name to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **ELKTON**—Elkton Church will hold revival services Oct. 10, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Oct. 11-13, 7 p.m., with **Wyman Copass** as evangelist.

■ **GUTHRIE**—Tiny Town Church recently called **Larry Baker** as pastor.

■ **HEBRON**—Hebron Church will dedicate its new facility Oct. 24,

11 a.m. Activities also will include a noon meal and an afternoon laying of the cornerstone ceremony.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Pleasant Grove Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 7-9, 7 p.m., with **B.T. Bishop** as evangelist; Oct. 10, 11 a.m., with **Bob Grey** speaking; and Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m., with gospel singing by **The Cardin Brothers**. **Bryce Parks** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Henderson Memorial Church ordained youth pastor **Rodney Knous** to the gospel ministry Oct. 3.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Sand Spring Church will host **The Stamps Quartet** in concert Oct. 13, 7 p.m. **Mike Hamrick** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Correction: **Chuck Haddaway** recently resigned as financial administrator of Ormsby Heights Church. He continues to serve as the church's recreation director.

■ **MOREHEAD**—First Church recently honored **Lucy Parr** for 22 years of service as the church's administrative secretary. **Don Mantoath** is pastor.

■ **MUNFORDVILLE**—Munfordville Church ordained **Marvin Griffiths** as a deacon Oct. 3. **Kevin Coulter** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church will host author and speaker **Charles Lowery** Nov. 14. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

■ **PEMBROKE**—Pembroke Church will host a "Nothing Saves Like the Cross" youth rally Oct. 30, 7 p.m.

■ **SMITHLAND**—Fellowship Church recently called **Jewell Warford** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Wice Church in Boaz.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—**Doug Kineman** recently resigned as pastor of Bethlehem Church.

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

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, BSU building, Western Kentucky University.

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 Kentucky, Louisville.

15 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, First Baptist Church, Middletown.

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

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

Little River Church youth minister Mark Mason, 34, dies in accident

Hopkinsville—Mark Mason Sr., a bivocational youth minister for Little River Baptist Church in Herndon, died Sept. 10 from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident the previous day.

Mason, 34, was driving a farm tractor on Kentucky 164 in Christian County the evening of Sept. 9 when the tractor was struck from behind by a pickup truck. He was treated at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville and then transferred to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Mason, a native of Christian County, was a Marine veteran and a self-employed contractor.

Mason was posthumously awarded Christian County Baptist

Association's volunteer of the year award. He also was involved in the church's Christian County jail ministry.

Earl Grace, pastor of Little River Church, said Mason "was always there for the youth" of the church.

Noting that the number of youth had more than tripled in the past two years, Grace added, "He was a counselor to everybody. We're trying to continue on with his ministry."

Mason is survived by his wife, Teresa; two sons, Mark and Dylan; and a stepdaughter, Sasha Hale; as well as his parents and two brothers.

Memorial gifts may be made to a trust fund for Mark and Dylan Mason at U.S. Bank in Hopkinsville.

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.

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

FOR SALE: Buy & sell good-quality used Christian books. Narrow Path Bookstore, 1829 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Ky. (502) 459-4001. narrowpathky@earthlink.net.

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

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: God's will for a senior pastor serving a congregation of 400 active members. Send resumé to: Lancaster Baptist Church, 201 Richmond St., Lancaster, KY 40444, Attn: Pastor Search Team.

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: Applicants for position of preschool director. Preschool is licensed for 55 children and employs 11 to 13 staff; Christian curriculum is employed for classroom training. Successful applicant must be devoted Christian with Baptist convictions, meet at least minimum requirements of the state for licensure and have ample experience in early childhood education. Send resumés to Pastor Brandon Cox, Scottsville Road Baptist Church, 6330 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104, or call (270) 843-6645. All resumés/applications must be received by Friday, Oct. 29.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Freedom Baptist Church. Experience and training are preferred. Send resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, 3505 North Highway 27, Stanford, KY 40484.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for a Southern Missionary Baptist church in Mt. Vernon, Ky. The service area is mainly rural with diverse backgrounds. Enrollment: 183; average attendance in Sunday school: 107; morning worship: approx. 115; several mission and children's programs. We strive to be God's lighthouse in the community and to be Spirit-led in accomplishing our tasks. It is preferable for the candidate to have prior experience and formal training (Bible college or seminary). Please send resumé to: Fairview Baptist Church, Route 3, Box 347, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456. If possible, please include video or DVD of yourself leading worship.

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

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

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. Resumés will be received until Oct. 15, 2004.

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Saving Baptist history

City leaders, congregation work to preserve Civil Rights icon

By Greg Garrison
Religion News Service

Birmingham, Ala. (RNS)—Carolyn McKinstry guided a visitor through the basement of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and pointed out some glaring cracks in the walls.

"The building is a symbol and has its own voice," McKinstry said.

Right now, the voice seems to be asking for help.

Church and community leaders are answering the call with the launch of a fund-raising campaign to repair and upgrade the structure.

"This is our sacred site; this is our community treasure," said McKinstry, who as a 14-year-old girl survived the Sept. 15, 1963, bomb that killed four other girls, her friends, as they prepared for Sunday service.

The \$3.8 million restoration plan calls for stabilizing the foundation, repairing cracks, re-roofing the building and creating a new drainage system to stop water leaks into the church basement.

"It's something that needs to be done," said Arthur Price, pastor of the 200-member church. "Sixteenth Street is a Birmingham icon, an Alabama icon."

At a ceremony for Mayor Bernard Kincaid's second-term inauguration in January, Neal Berte toured the church after a worship service.

Standing water & cracked walls

"There was water standing on one side of the downstairs where they teach Sunday school," said Berte, chancellor of Birmingham-Southern College and co-chair with McKinstry of the campaign steering committee. "On the outside, the bricks were separated.

It just sort of said over and over, there are major restoration needs for this facility."

Berte helped gather community participation for a newly formed nonprofit foundation that commissioned a detailed report on what it would take to stabilize the building. Anyone walking around the building can see the need.

"You can see a crack right in the middle of the back wall of the church," Price said. "Where they found the bodies, there's cracking in the wall. On a rainy day, the church takes in water."

The deterioration of the architectural icon means that Birmingham's historical heritage is at stake.

"This is in many ways Birmingham's church," Berte said. "It just needs to be taken care of."

Berte hopes about \$3 million will be raised in Birmingham and hopes for \$800,000 in contributions from around the country, including possibly some federal funding.

So far, the foundation has pledges of about \$1,367,000, Berte said. "We're counting on the community at large to step up and get this done," Berte said.

Seeking historic landmark status

The nonprofit foundation will fund the restoration. It will remain completely separate from the church budget, Berte said.

The foundation plans to use about \$80,000 of the money to make a push for national historic landmark status for the church, a designation similar to that given to the Old North Church in Boston.

"We think it is appropriate to be named a landmark," Berte said.

A recent community service at the church commemorated the



CRACKING WALLS Cracks are visible in the walls of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. Community leaders have launched a drive to raise \$3.8 million to fix up the building, where four girls were killed in a racial bombing in 1963. (RNS photos by Jeff Roberts)

deaths of the four girls in 1963.

Since the bombing, the church has attracted more than 200,000 visitors a year.

"As a survivor of 1963, I just witnessed an outpouring of emotion and awe and respect for that church by people all over the world," McKinstry said. "I've seen it over and over again."

The steady stream of visitors offers the city a chance to convey a new image to the world, she said.

"There's more to the story than what happened on Sept. 15—how did all of Birmingham rise above what happened here?" McKinstry said.

"It is a poignant story. It leaves us with a grave responsibility. We have a legacy to preserve."

Key rallying site

In 1963, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church served as a key meeting place for civil rights rallies led by Martin Luther King Jr., and a start-

ing point for marches and rallies.

Founded in 1873 as the First Colored Baptist Church, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church members began construction on the present building in 1909; it was finished in 1911, with seating for 1,600 people. Wallace Rayfield, the city's first black architect, designed the structure.

After so far withstanding a bomb and the ravages of time, it remains a beautiful and enduring monument, Price said.

"This is a pretty sound building," Price said. "There was a lot of detail and excellent work that went into the building."

The modified Romanesque and Byzantine arch design features twin red-roofed towers at the front corners.

"It provides a sense of hope, a sense of courage for the struggle," Price said. "This is one of Alabama's treasures and we need to keep it around."

"This is our sacred site; this is our community treasure."

Carolyn McKinstry, member of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.



HISTORIC CHURCH Restoration efforts include a push for national historic landmark status for the church, a designation similar to that given to the Old North Church in Boston.

Our newsletter plan can help you stretch this more than you ever imagined.

WESTERNRECORDER

Kentucky Baptist Heritage

Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

September 28, 2004

Kentucky Baptists' Historic Mission to Ohio Part one of a three part series

By Ron Deering

During the Great Depression which began with the crash of the stock market on "Black Tuesday," October 29, 1929, and in its aftermath, thousands of Kentuckians moved to Ohio to find employment and support for their families. Many of these families settled in and around Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton – an area of developing industrial centers near the northern Kentucky border.

These Kentuckians did not leave their religion at home. Though many originally sought spiritual homes in the existing Northern Baptist churches in the areas, they longed for the more familiar expressions of their faith that they had known in the Southern Baptist churches of Kentucky.

One particular concentration of Southern Baptists from Kentucky found their way to Hamilton, Ohio, which was said to have the largest concentration of any Ohio city of people who had moved from or had Kentucky roots. In that milieu Kentuckians developed a Southern Baptist Church, the West Side Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio, that was to have a profound influence on the religious life of Ohio, and to become the bridge between Kentucky Baptists and the subsequent phenomenal development of Southern Baptist churches throughout the state of Ohio, and from there into Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, and even into New England.

While the West Side Baptist Church was not the first such church established by former Kentucky Baptists in Ohio, it was destined to become the springboard and a major influence with a few other contemporary Southern Baptist churches that led to today's large and effective Southern Baptist witness in Ohio. For an excellent history of the earliest Southern Baptist work in Ohio, see L. H. Moore, *The History of Southern Baptists in Ohio*, Columbus, Ohio: State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, 1979, pp. 3-47.

The West Side Baptist Church was established as a mission of the Northern Baptist First Baptist Church on September 8, 1929, a few days before the stock market crash that would usher in the devastating financial depression that followed. From the beginning the church membership was largely drawn from the working classes of Hamilton, the majority of whom had roots in or had recently migrated from Kentucky to find work in the factories and shops of the area. Its first pastor, Ham Barber was a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Harry H. Welch was its second pastor from 1931 through 1941, and had been educated at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Already during this earliest period many people who joined this church were former Kentuckians. During this period Rev. Audley L. Turner, missionary of Laurel River Association in Kentucky, held three revivals in West Side and many others in the area. This large body of Kentucky Baptists led to the call of its third pastor who was to have a determinative effect upon the Southern Baptist life of this congregation, and a formative influence upon the development of what became the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio of Southern Baptists, now ministering throughout that large state. Just at the end of Rev. Welch's pastorate the church left the Northern Baptist Convention to affiliate with the North Bend Association of Kentucky Baptists.

For its third pastor it was natural that these former Kentucky Baptists would look to their home state for pastoral prospects. Members from Jackson County, Kentucky had been active with a Kentucky missionary in the founding of churches in their home county. The church felt led to this man from Western Kentucky who was to have an historic role, not only in the life of their church, but also of the entire mission of Kentucky Baptists to the state of Ohio. He was V. B. (Van Boone) Castleberry, who had been born January 30, 1898 in Benton, Kentucky. Self educated, he was ordained at age 18. Returning to Kentucky for health reasons, after three years' missionary service in Brazil, he became for 17 years an area missionary of the Kentucky Board of Missions in and around the Greenup Association in east and central Kentucky.

Rev. Castleberry became pastor of West Side Baptist Church on November 13, 1943. The church had already become affiliated with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky through its North Bend Association, and in 1944 the church joined the Kentucky Baptist affiliated White Water Association which had been founded under the influence of R. E. Sasser of Jackson County, Kentucky, on November 1, 1940 of churches in Indiana and Ohio. With West Side's joining the association it assumed a new potency and it became the seedbed of Southern Baptists in Ohio. In 1947 Castleberry resigned his pastorate to become Southern Baptist's first missionary to Ohio, as the White Water Associational Missionary until 1952. He thus began his leadership that eventuated in the founding of many Southern Baptist churches in the area, and the inspiration and facilitation that led to the establishment of the statewide work of Southern Baptists in Ohio. After 1952 he devoted his ministry to similar mission work in Indiana, retiring in 1962, and passing from this earthly life in 1976. Castleberry's work at West Side and in White Water Association launched the coordination of Southern Baptist churches in Ohio with each other, led to a mission outreach throughout the state; and his work was soon to eventuate in the organization of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Several young men were called to the ministry during Castleberry's pastorate at West Side, among them Dr. Ronald F. Deering, who served on the faculty of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as its librarian from 1961 through 2001, and Rev. J. Willard Jarvis, who founded and was first pastor of the influential Whitehall Baptist Church in the state's capital city, Columbus, Ohio for many years.

Another Kentucky Baptist, among many others, to profoundly carry forward Kentucky Baptists' mission to Ohio was Ray E. Roberts. Though not born in Kentucky, Dr. Roberts was a graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in

Louisville and had an outstanding ministry in Kentucky as evangelist and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Danville, Kentucky. Dr. Roberts was elected the new Associational Missionary of the White Water Association, and began his work on July 1, 1952. Ray Roberts led in the extension of the Southern Baptist witness throughout Ohio and the establishment so appropriately at the West Side Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ohio, fifty years ago this year, on January 8, 1954 of the State Convention of Baptists of Ohio, now with some 636 congregations, including 558 organized churches and 74 missions – a noble outgrowth of Kentucky Baptists' mission to Ohio.

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Kentucky Baptists: Early Leaders in Education First of a Three Part Series

By Christopher Beckham

Early Kentucky Baptists believed in the value of education. The combination of their pioneering efforts with the sustained commitment of subsequent generations now means that Baptist-affiliated education spans the length and breadth of the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately, many historians have overlooked the substantial contributions Baptists made to education in the South. However, in Kentucky, education quickly emerged as a major issue following the founding of the state convention in 1832. "There is nothing that more intimately pertains to the prosperity of Baptists in Kentucky, than the establishment of a school or schools for the education of those of our younger ministers who may desire it." ("Circular Letter" printed in the 1838 *Minutes of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky*, p. 15. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.) While educating ministers was vitally important, it was not the sole concern. Kentucky Baptists wanted to provide education for non-ministers also. "[W]e should be forward," they wrote, "to train the youthful mind in those great principles of truth and morality, without which the glorious fabric of our constitution must totter and fall." (IBID.) Sentiments like these joined them with other Southern Baptists who voiced support for Christian education, such as Basil Manly, Jr., who stated, "our greatest danger is in the ignorance of the masses... Our great want, our only and sufficient safeguard, is the proper moral and mental training of the young." (*A Plea for Colleges*, p. 16. Special Collections Library and Archives of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.)

Moreover, when Kentucky belatedly moved toward the establishment of a common school system in the 19th century, Baptists were among this move's supporters. In fact, the Reverend R.T. Dillard, D.D., a prominent Baptist minister, served a term as the state's superintendent of schools in 1842-1843. In those days, it was common for ministers to serve in this office. ("History of Education in Kentucky" by Barksdale Hamlett, *Bulletin of Kentucky Department of Education*, Vol. 7, No. 4, 1914) However, Dr. Dillard and other nineteenth century Baptists cautioned against introducing sectarian Christianity into the public classrooms. In 1848, a Kentucky Baptist committee writing in support of education stressed that they "heartily disapprove[d] and condemn[ed] the inculcation of sectarian peculiarities in schools..." (1848 *Minutes of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky*, p. 21)

Kentucky Baptists today should be grateful for these educational pioneers and their faithful efforts to bring Baptist education to Kentucky. A sure way to honor their memory is to be better informed about the history of Kentucky's Baptist colleges and schools, and continue to support the worthy cause of Christian education.

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