



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Leaders expecting thousands at D.C. marriage rally

Washington (RNS)—A multicultural throng of evangelical Christians plans to spend three hours on the National Mall Friday to demonstrate their continuing support for a constitutional amendment that would declare marriage to be strictly between a man and a woman.

"We didn't start this fight," said Ken Hutcherson, a Seattle-area pastor who is spearheading the gathering, called "May-day for Marriage."

"We will finish it. We're not going to run away from it."

He said the issue of same-sex marriage, legalized in Massachusetts in May, has awakened evangelicals to speak out.

Hutcherson, pastor of a Redmond, Wash., megachurch, planned a similar event May 1 in Seattle. Only about 5,000 people registered for the free event, but more than 20,000 filled Safeco Field for the rally.

He hopes for similar results in Washington, predicting hundreds of thousands of attendees after the event's Web site received more than 250,000 hits in the last six weeks.

Eleven states have similar measures on the ballot for the November election.

Scheduled speakers include Focus on the Family Chairman James Dobson, Prison Fellowship Founder Chuck Colson, and Anne Graham Lotz, a Bible teacher and daughter of evangelist Billy Graham.

Days before the rally, gay activists and supporters of same-sex marriage will hold a "rally for marriage equality" in Washington.

Praying over Kentucky

Leaders: Prayer movements preceding God's activity in commonwealth

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Inez (BP)—Larry Martin is passionate about his heavenly bank account—"prayers on deposit," as he puts it—after seeing ministries springing up in recent years.

Martin, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team leader, said he and other leaders came up with the term after seeing prayers answered in various Kentucky communities.

Everywhere positive steps have occurred, they discovered, one or more Christians had been praying—for as long as 30 years—that God would move there.

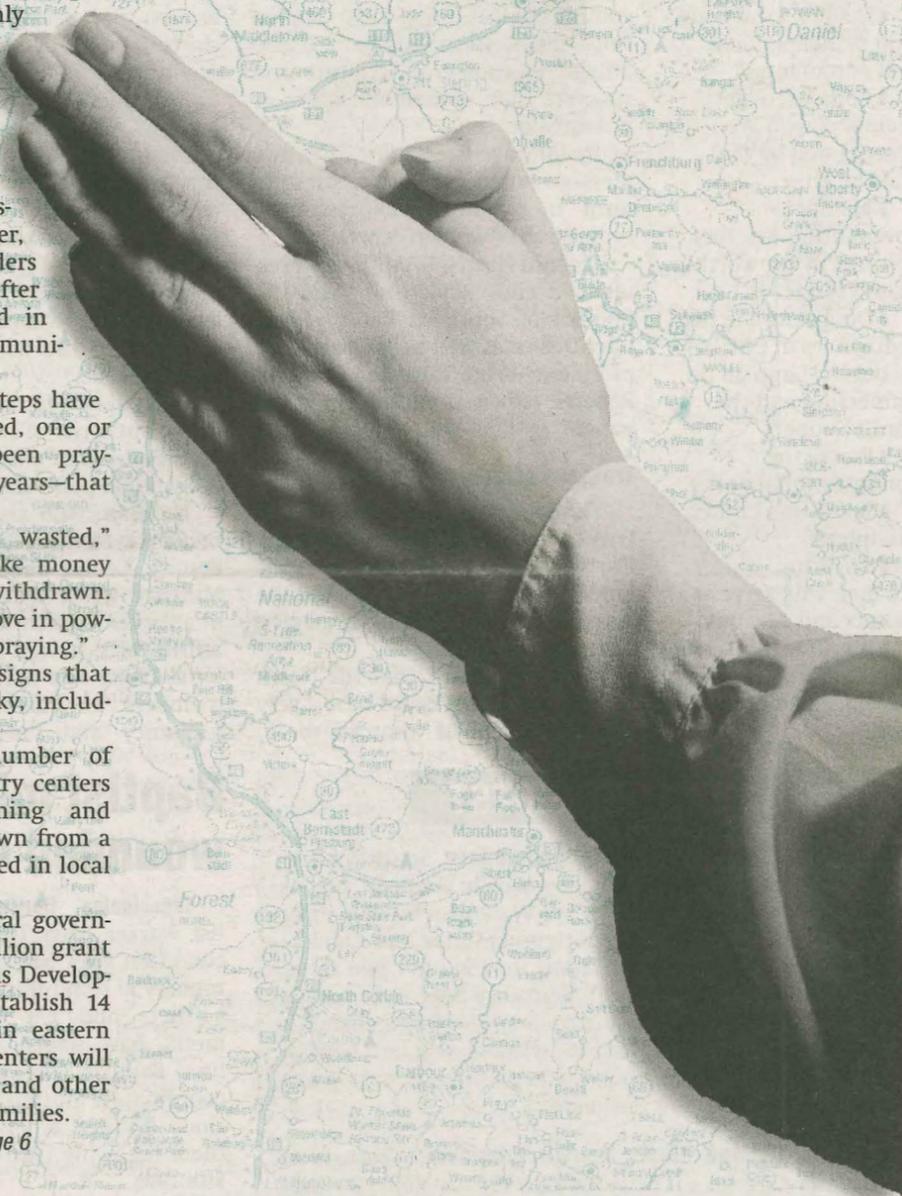
"Prayers are never wasted," Martin said. "They're like money in a bank, waiting to be withdrawn. When God is ready to move in power, He sets His people to praying."

Martin cites several signs that God is active in Kentucky, including:

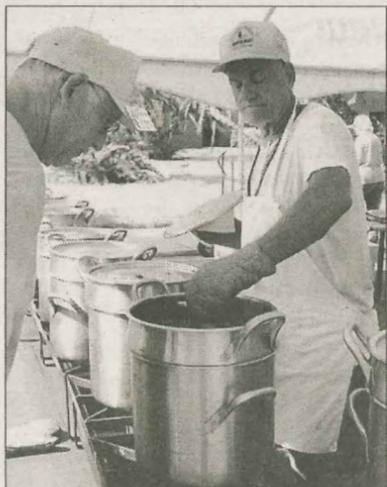
■ Since 1999, the number of Eastern Kentucky ministry centers dispensing food, clothing and other assistance has grown from a handful to 43, many based in local churches.

■ In March, the federal government awarded a \$3.1 million grant to the Mountain Missions Development Corporation to establish 14 family service centers in eastern Kentucky. The MMDC centers will provide medical, dental and other services to low-income families.

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Baptists prepare more than 2 million meals in Alabama, Florida



POTS COOKING Volunteers Stan Shepard and Sidney Ethridge of Georgia prepare food in Wauchula, Fla. (BP photo by Kathleen Murray)

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Since mid-August, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have prepared more than 2.1 million meals in the wake of four hurricanes that have battered Florida and neighboring states along the Gulf Coast and Atlantic Seaboard.

Typically, in disaster relief responses, Southern Baptist volunteers prepare most of the meals distributed by the American Red Cross. Southern Baptists are the third-largest disaster relief agency in the country behind the Red Cross and Salvation Army, with more than 28,000 trained volunteers on call for local, state and national emergencies.

Jim Burton, director of the North American Mission Board's volunteer mobilization team, said he expects

Southern Baptists' national disaster relief response, which has been in continuous operation for nearly two months, to eclipse the record of 2.5 million meals prepared in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, which blasted south Florida and parts of Louisiana in August 1992.

"As of today, we have about 65 mobile disaster relief units on site, including about 1,300 volunteers, and most of those are in Florida with cleanup and recovery units still on site in Alabama," Burton said.

Southern Baptist disaster relief feeding operations continue in the wake of Hurricane Jeanne, which slammed into Florida's east coast, near Stuart, on Sept. 25. Southern Baptist mobile kitchen units from nearly 20 states have helped pre-

pare more than 95,000 meals during the first week's response.

All Kentucky volunteer teams have returned home, but not before cooking approximately 147,000 meals, according to Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's men on mission department.

Mickey Caison, manager of NAMB's Disaster Operations Center near Atlanta, said he expects that most of the mobile kitchen units will shut down operations this week as electricity is restored across Florida.

Caison said long-term disaster relief efforts currently are being planned and rebuilding efforts should be under way across southwest Florida and the Panhandle before the end of the year.

Summary of NAMB church guidelines

According to a summary of guidelines adopted last week by Southern Baptist North American Mission Board trustees, a Baptist church is defined as:

- Committed to the authority of Scripture for faith and practice while recognizing that all Scripture is God-breathed.

- Submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

- Visible, local body that is independent and autonomous.

- Composed of members who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

- Members covenanting together voluntarily for worship of and service to God.

- Observing the two ordinances of Christ (believers' baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper).

- Practicing congregational polity.
- Practicing church discipline.

- Scriptural officers are men who serve as pastors and deacons.

- Invisible, universal body that includes all the redeemed of all the ages.

NAMB adopts church planting guidelines

Document affirms inerrancy, opposes women deacons

By Martin King

SBC North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board approved a 34-page document Oct. 6 that will serve as a guideline for what constitutes a New Testament church. Southern Baptists start approximately 1,500 churches each year.

The document, written by Stan Norman, associate professor of theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, includes a commitment to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. It also affirms inerrancy of Scripture and suggests that women not serve as ordained deacons.

By contrast, the Baptist Faith and Message statement neither uses the term "inerrancy" nor addresses the ordination of women deacons.

Richard Harris, NAMB's vice president of church planting, said the Council of Southern Baptist Seminary Deans, as well as SBC seminary presidents Paige Patterson and Phil Roberts, reviewed and affirmed the paper.

Trustees offer strong support

The paper was approved by NAMB trustees with two dissenting votes. Harris said his staff will use the guidelines to review and guide the agency's church planting strategies, processes and materials.

"It is important that the North American Mission Board have a very clear statement of what we see to

be a Baptist church," said NAMB President Robert Reccord. "We are not planting 'baptistic' churches. We are not planting churches that resemble what Baptists are. We are planting Southern Baptist churches that reflect what a biblical New Testament church is."

Reccord said the document was needed because of the rapid proliferation across the country of some non-biblical church models.

"In many parts of North America, an errant theology of church has begun to spread, especially in a few younger church planters, because these non-biblical models sound good and it's easy to get sucked in," he said. "What we're doing with this document is giving guidelines to ensure that Southern Baptists are starting biblically sound New Testament churches."

The document, titled "Ecclesiological Guidelines to Inform Southern Baptist Church Planters," states that "church planting strategies and endeavors must be conducted in such a way that they are obedient and submitted to the New Testament for faith and practice as well as committed to Baptist ecclesiology as stated in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

The paper addresses such issues as the authority of a Baptist church, classic marks of a true church, congregational polity and autonomy.

Norman, who also serves as director of New Orleans Seminary's Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry, wrote that "the covenant of a Baptist church must minimally affirm three things: the Lordship of Jesus Christ over the church and its members; the divine inspiration, inerrancy and authority of the

Bible; and the membership of the church consisting only of regenerate persons who have professed their faith in believer's baptism by immersion."

While the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message "leaves open the issue of whether or not women can serve as deaconesses in SBC churches," Norman states, "My position is that, if a local church ordains its deacons, then women cannot serve in this capacity."

"In SBC life, ordination carries with it implications of authority and oversight, and I believe the Bible relegates authority and oversight to men," the NAMB document adds. "If a church, however, does not ordain its deacons, then the authority-oversight prohibitions would not apply. In that case, the generic meaning of the term 'deacon' ... is that of a servant or a table waiter. Thus, any member of the congregation is qualified to serve."

"This document will matter"

Tennessee Baptist pastor David Thompson, chairman of NAMB's church planting committee, said, "I'm very passionate and excited about this document. One hundred years from now, much of what we do won't matter, but I believe this document will."

In other business, trustees:

- Approved a 2005 budget of \$120.7 million, a 2 percent increase over the 2004 budget.

- Appointed Richard Singer as president of FamilyNet through 2005 in addition to his responsibilities as chief counsel and special assistant to the president.

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

Up to 10 state conventions to face anti-public school proposals

Alexandria, Va. (ABP)—Although a resolution urging Christians to pull their children from public schools failed to gain approval at the Southern Baptist Convention last summer, the issue is expected to come to a vote in as many as 10 state Baptist conventions this fall.

T.C. Pinckney of Virginia and Bruce Shortt of Texas were unable to muster support from the SBC resolutions committee to bring their proposal before messengers last June. Generating considerable pre-convention publicity, the resolution decried the secular condition of public or "government" schools, as Pinckney describes them. The measure urged parents to remove their children from "godless" and "anti-Christian government schools and see to it they receive a thoroughly Christian education."

The issue is expected to resurface at nine state Baptist conventions and one multi-state convention, according to Exodus Mandate, a group advocating a Christian departure from public education.

Those state conventions are in California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. The Baptist Convention of New England, representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, is also expected to have the resolution introduced at its annual meeting. The executive directors of three conventions—Illinois, Missouri and New England—were unaware of the movement to introduce the resolutions at their annual meetings.

Last June, the SBC resolutions committee declined to act on the anti-schools resolution, saying to do so would "usurp" the responsibility of parents to decide how to educate their children. Pinckney's attempt to add the anti-school language to an SBC resolution on secularization in America also failed.

Pinckney, a retired brigadier general from the U.S. Air Force and a former SBC second vice president, said he does not expect the resolution to pass in even one state convention. But raising the issue is necessary, he said, to build awareness for the cause.

Larry Reagan, a Tennessee pastor, said he and another co-sponsor are revising the language of the resolution so it's not as confrontational as the one rejected by the SBC. He will bring it the Tennessee Baptist Convention's annual meeting Nov. 9-10. Reagan's goal is also to build awareness and encourage more churches to start their own schools.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Welch completes 50-state evangelism tour. Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch wrapped up his 50-state evangelism tour Oct. 7 in Waikoloa, Hawaii. After traveling by bus to the 48 contiguous states and Canada, Welch flew to Alaska and Hawaii for his final two stops. Welch, who traveled through Kentucky Sept. 7 as part of his "Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism," is calling on Southern Baptists to "witness, win and baptize 1 million" converts in one year beginning at next year's SBC annual meeting in Nashville.

Louisiana College elects Yarnell president. Trustees of Louisiana College in Pineville announced Sept. 30 that conservative seminary scholar Malcolm Yarnell will be the embattled school's new president. Yarnell is assistant dean of theological studies and associate professor of systemic theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The college's trustee board has been divided between the conservative majority and a moderate minority, and the school is now under investigation by its accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Former President Rory Lee and trustee chairman Joe Nesom both resigned in June after trustees adopted a series of new policies, including requiring faculty members to have all classroom materials approved by the academic dean.

Boyce partners with international schools. The International Center for Youth Ministry at Boyce College in Louisville has formed an informal alliance with four international schools. Boyce, the undergraduate school of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has established Centers for Youth Ministry at Kiev Theological Seminary, Kenya Baptist Theological College, Mexico Baptist Theological College and Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary. The partnership is aimed at training career youth ministers through a combination of academics and hands-on experience.

Baptist mission worker in Honduras wounded during attempted robbery

Tegucigalpa, Honduras (BP)—Baptist worker Patsy Dietz is in good condition after being shot during a robbery in Honduras.

Dietz and her husband, Raymond, have served as North Carolina Baptists' on-site partnership coordinators for southern Honduras since disaster relief efforts began there following Hurricane Mitch in late 1998.

On Sept. 23, the Dietzes were driving two separate vehicles as they transported a group of volunteers from the airport in Tegucigalpa to the southern city of Choluteca, where the Dietzes have a home and host volunteers in a backyard bunkhouse. Most of the volunteers were from a church in Virginia.

Choluteca is a four-hour drive south of Tegucigalpa. Raymond Dietz, three men and much of the team's luggage traveled in a truck-type SUV. Patsy Dietz and eight other volunteers followed in a van.

About halfway through the journey, the vehicles became separated by traffic. A truck carrying three armed bandits forced Raymond Dietz's truck off the road, according to Richard Brunson, executive director for North Carolina's Baptist Men and partnership missions. The bandits then robbed Dietz and the three volunteers at gunpoint.

Patsy Dietz and the other volunteers slowly approached the scene in the van and then sped up when she realized what was happening. One of the bandits fired a shot through the rear window. The bullet missed all the passengers but struck Dietz on the back of her head. According to Brunson, the bullet traveled beneath the skin and exited through her jaw without breaking any bones. Dietz remained conscious and managed to stop the van safely. As other vehicles approached, the robbers fled.

Dietz was driven to a town where an ambulance was available, then taken to the North American Hospital in Tegucigalpa.

The Dietzes participated in many mission trips to Honduras during the 1990s, and bought a home in Choluteca. The home was flooded when Hurricane Mitch struck. The storm killed thousands of people through flooding and mudslides.

As North Carolina Baptist Men disaster relief teams began their work in Honduras, the Dietzes were recruited to help coordinate partnership work in the country, especially in the southern area around Choluteca. The partnership was expanded in 2001 to include other humanitarian and evangelistic efforts.

Baptist Builders help Mountain Outreach expand with new office

Williamsburg—For years, the Mountain Outreach program at Cumberland College has been reaching out to needy families, building 116 homes during the last 21 years.

This year, Mountain Outreach has begun building a new office, which will further expand its ministry.

The Kentucky Baptist Builders were on hand the last week of September to use their skills to help Mountain Outreach with construction.

"This is what God has called us to do," said John Edwards, a leader of the Kentucky Baptist Builders team.

His passion for construction ministry has taken him across the country and overseas. "You get a lot of things done and help a lot of people," he said.

Baptist Builders framed and finished the roof, windows and doors of the new building.

Besides office space, the 3,000-square-foot building will have room for summer missionaries to stay while working on construction projects in the area.

"It feels good," said David Honeycutt, director of Mountain Outreach, as he watched the progress. "This will expand our ministry capabilities for the people in the area."

"It allows us to have (volunteer) groups in the fall and in the spring. I've never been able to do that before because I didn't have anywhere to house them."

Honeycutt said he hopes the building will be in use by January.

The Mountain Outreach program at Cumberland College began in 1982, when two Cumberland students recognized the great need in the communities surrounding the college. With the energy of youth, the two students decided to build a home for an elderly man. Since then, the program has continued to carry on these students' vision by providing housing for more than a hundred families in the Whitley County area.

In addition to home construction, the ministry operates a clothing warehouse and coordinates volunteers for home repair and weatherization.

Approximately 200 student volunteers and 800 volunteers from elsewhere work with the ministry each year.

The ministry is expected to build four houses this summer, and organizers currently are signing up volunteer groups.

For more information, call (606) 539-4346 or send e-mail to dhoneycu@cumberlandcollege.edu.

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey and the Cumberland College public relations office

Hispanic growth

Baptist leaders seek more churches to help with outreach

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Bowling Green—Hundreds of people flocked to Lampkin Park Oct. 2 for the Hispanic Fiesta, an event whose turnout has doubled annually since it started in 2002.

The festival's expansion is one of many indicators of rapid growth and accompanying spiritual opportunities with Hispanics, according to Gus Reyes, a volunteer missionary with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Look at the secular world, like Wal-Mart," says Reyes, who also is pastor of Neuva Vida (New Life) Baptist Church in Bowling Green. "They used to have no spices or food and now they have shelf after shelf of Hispanic foods."

"In Bowling Green we find a lot of business people are seeing Hispanics are a great market," he said. "Hispanics have physical needs. Baptist people need to see they have spiritual needs."

No doubt, Hispanics are an increasing presence in Kentucky. A recent report from the Kentucky State Data Center estimates this ethnic group's population has increased statewide by 19 percent the past three years.

But Grundy Janes, who directs Hispanic ministries for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said most counts fall short.

A bank survey of Shelbyville found that two-thirds of the town's 10,000 residents are Hispanic, Janes said. That compares to the Data Center's estimate of about 2,400 in all of Shelby County.

Whatever the exact figures, they represent a growing mission field, said Janes, the KBC's language missions consultant.

"People are here and they need fellowship and opportunities to share their language and culture," Janes said. "We have an opportunity to provide that and provide them the gospel of Jesus Christ."

63 congregations statewide

Increasing numbers of Kentucky Baptists are opening their arms to these new settlers. Currently, there are 63 Hispanic congregations statewide, seven of them churches and the rest missions or migrant ministries.

In addition, the KBC's extension ministries department is discussing sponsorships with seven Anglo churches.

Around Kentucky, five full-time missionaries and 24 bivocational pastors work with Hispanic ministries.

"I find it very healthy at this point," Janes said. "I feel we have a lot of churches that see the need and want to be involved in reaching out to Hispanics in Kentucky."

The growth is touching Eastern Kentucky for the first time, with a ministry in the Ashland area and others being considered in London, Corbin and Barbourville.



COMMUNITY FESTIVAL Children play at a balloon jump at a community festival co-sponsored by Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church and Arcade Baptist Church in Louisville to reach out to area Hispanic residents. Leaders say more Kentucky Baptist churches are needed to reach out to the growing Hispanic communities.

In the latter three communities, a few people started Bible studies or English as a second language classes in the past.

But Janes said those fizzled because there weren't enough people to carry on the task.

"If you don't have a church and a missions committee, it's going to go by the wayside," Janes said. "You have to have a group of people who are committed to it."

Sponsoring these missions also takes openness to holistic ministry, said Jesus Pachecho, pastor of a mission at Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville.

This includes a willingness to get involved in helping people who don't know English with doctor visits, court appointments or parent-teacher conferences as well as opening food and clothing closets for newcomers struggling to get on their feet.

It also might involve offering social and recreational outlets, Janes added.

"If you have a bunch of men living together they will go out drinking if we don't provide activities for them," Janes said. "We're trying to reach out and provide things in addition to Bible study and ministry."

Pockets of church resistance

Despite advances, several missionaries have encountered resistance.

The first pastor Reyes approached about sponsoring a mission told him they were afraid Hispanics would grow too fast and take over the church.

Reyes told him that wasn't likely, since most groups that grow eventually move out and purchase their own building.

Fears often can arise from stereotypes and misunderstandings, added Reyes' wife, Gloria.

People need not fear Hispanics, Mrs. Reyes said. She pointed out that if a group of Hispanics congregate, it doesn't mean they're out to rob someone. Often, they know each other and are prone to stick together, particularly if they don't know English, she explained.

"We have a couple from Rich

Pond Baptist Church who came to help teach Sunday school and have 12 to 15 children," Mrs. Reyes said. "They're excited about learning Scriptures. ... Once (Anglos) get in with the children, they find out they're just like any other children."

Sponsoring a mission isn't that expensive, says Carlos de la Berra, who works in central Kentucky and also is pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Bloomfield.

Common misconceptions

Anglo churches often want to know what something will cost and refuse if they don't have enough money in the budget, de la Berra said.

"But it's not that expensive," he said. "Mostly it's love. Many church facilities are closed six days a week. On Saturday evenings when nobody is using the building, we can use it."

Another misconception many Kentucky Baptists have, de la Berra said, is the belief that no Hispanics live in their community.

De la Berra said because so many immigrants arrive without government help, their key to survival is becoming invisible. In many small towns they disappear "into the system," he said.

"Our job is to take the Anglo church out of the building and say, 'Come with me to Wal-Mart on Saturday evening, or come to the soccer field and see 300 people,'" de la Berra said. "Open your eyes and see the people."

The other fallacy some churches have is that a Hispanic mission will drain their finances.

In reality, many Hispanics are tithers and generous givers, de la Berra said. He pointed to Gethsemane paying off a \$100,000 loan on its building in 30 months.

Pachecho said Kentucky Baptists have a major growth opportunity ahead of them.

"In Texas they have 1,700 Hispanic Baptist churches," Pachecho said. "There's the same opportunity here they had there 30 years ago. But if people aren't missions minded, they don't see the possibilities."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy will host a forum on "The Persecuted Church and the State of Religious Freedom in the World," Oct. 14, 5 p.m., in Little Auditorium. The program will feature Joseph Grieboski, president, and Aurel-Dragos Munteanu, executive vice president of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy in Washington.

Cumberland College will host a campus Discovery Day Saturday, Oct. 16. For reservations or information please contact the school's admissions office at admiss@cumberlandcollege.edu or call (800) 343-1609.

Mid-Continent University's teacher education program recently received the second highest rating in the commonwealth by the Kentucky Department of Education Professional Standards Board. Mid-Continent's program was one of nine out of 26 that received an "excellent" rating. Centre College in Danville received the highest rating in the state.

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

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The sweetest revenge is mercy

By **Erich Bridges**

Richmond, Va. (BP)—In the 1970s, Zhou Enlai, communist China's elder statesman and foreign minister, was asked to assess the historical impact of the French Revolution of 1789.

Zhou paused, rubbing his chin thoughtfully. "Too soon to tell," he replied. When you're part of a 4,000-year-old culture, you take the long view. That's an alien concept to Americans; we have a hard time remembering who won the last Super Bowl—or waiting for the next one. Regardless of the issue or task at hand, we like to deal with it and "move on."

Problem is, the world won't "move on" with us. Only recently did China and South Korea tentatively settle a dispute over the borders of the kingdom of Koguryo, which ruled parts of both lands—from 37 B.C. to A.D. 668. In the heart of modern Europe, the Balkan wars of the 1990s resulted in part from religious and ethnic hatreds spawned a millennium ago.

Revenge has long shelf life

After surviving such ideologies as communism and fascism born in the 19th and 20th centuries, the West now finds itself under sustained attack by medieval warriors

with modern weapons. One of their aims: to re-establish a grand Islamic empire that went into decline centuries before Karl Marx was born.

These warriors also want revenge—not just for current U.S. support of Israel or foreign military presence in the land of Mecca, but for the expulsion of Muslims from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. They aren't likely to win, but they could heavily damage the delicate machinery of international order before they're defeated.

Revenge has a long shelf life. The desire for revenge grips people—from the driver who gets cut off in traffic to the victims of great injustice. It becomes part of the historical memory of whole nations. Unchecked, it becomes obsession.

Revenge is in no hurry. If you can't get it in this generation, there's always the next. "Revenge is a dish best served cold," the saying goes.

According to new findings by scientists at the University of Zurich, the impulse for revenge actually stimulates the dorsal striatum—a part of the brain that plays a key role in the emotions of enjoyment and satisfaction.

Forgiveness really is divine; it sure isn't human.

No wonder loving enemies is so

COMMENTARY

Missions support

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for the largest Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions ever given!

We closed out the 2003-04 Eliza Broadus Offering on Aug. 31 with a total given of \$897,648. Your gifts helped provide funding for state missionaries, language missions, church and community ministries, evangelism, student work and ministries by Baptist Men on Mission such as disaster relief. Your

gifts also helped provide grants to association- and church-based ministries across our state such as Friendship International, migrant ministries, jail ministries, ministries to the poor and much more. Your gifts helped provide missions education materials, activities and events such as Mission Adventure Camp for Girls at Cedar Crest.

Our 2004 state missions emphasis is "Friend to Friend: Friendships with a Missions Twist." We pray that you will use the 2004 materials to help your church



Express appreciation to ministers

October is Clergy Appreciation Month nationwide and a great time for church members to express appreciation to ministers and their families. There are so many little ways to express appreciation that will never be forgotten.

Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, has been confined to his home after surgery. In a recent telephone conversation, he shared that he had received more than 200 cards from the church family. He and his wife, Sandy, were so blessed and encouraged by those cards.

Terry could not stop talking about the wonderful church family. He said he wished every pastor could have such a thoughtful and caring congregation. Terry will return to the pulpit on Oct. 24 and the church has planned a hero's welcome.

Every minister needs encouragement at times in the ministry. The Apostle Paul was facing the uncertainty of his trip to Rome as a

prisoner when some "brothers" met him and assisted him in the journey. The Bible states that when Paul saw them, he "thanked God and took courage." This passage in Acts 28 confirms that Paul needed encouragement and so does your minister.

The pressures of ministry have never been greater. So much is changing in our culture and world on a daily basis. The pastor is expected to be knowledgeable about everything and yet spend most of his time with the people. There are three sermons or Bible studies to prepare each week, which is an incredible challenge in study and spiritual preparation for worship.

There also are challenges involved in leading organizational and program development as well as outreach. There are planning and counseling sessions to conduct along with hospital visits to make and community activities in which to participate. There are weddings

and funerals and baby dedications. There is the denomination asking for time and leadership as well. And of course, along with all of these time demands, the pastor's own family has needs as well. All can be physically, emotionally and spiritually draining. When does the pastor find personal renewal?

Showing mercy amid terror

In a time of war and terror, American Christians must remember mercy. We're citizens of a great democracy—second. First, we're subjects of an absolute monarchy: the Kingdom of God.

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him a drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:19-21). His justice will come in His time. Until then, mercy triumphs over our justice.

"Living well is the best revenge," wrote George Herbert, the 17th-century Anglican poet and priest. For the follower of Christ, living well is living in forgiveness—and showing mercy as it has been shown to us.

Erich Bridges is a senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

understand the importance of our state missions work and how you can be personally involved.

Our 2004-05 Eliza Broadus Offering basic goal is \$925,000. The challenge goal of \$75,000 is designated for church planting and Cedar Crest. We continue to strive toward the \$1 million mark in our giving for Kentucky missions through this offering.

If you would like a copy of the 2004 video or other materials, please contact Kentucky WMU or visit our Web site at www.kywmu.org.

Joy Bolton, executive director
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

and funerals and baby dedications. There is the denomination asking for time and leadership as well.

And of course, along with all of these time demands, the pastor's own family has needs as well. All can be physically, emotionally and spiritually draining. When does the pastor find personal renewal?

October is a great time to encourage your minister. Some churches may develop a resolution of appreciation, provide a special dinner for the minister and the family, pay for an overnight getaway and/or provide additional retirement benefits.

Consider a gift of \$180 for your pastor and wife to experience renewal during the Shepherding the Shepherd conference, Jan. 13-15, 2005. This is an incredible conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention for couples in ministry. Leaders will include Henry and Richard Blackaby.

All of us know godly ministers who have been used by God to make a profound difference in our lives. Find ways to express your appreciation today!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Work with spouse to decide major financial issues

By **Jeremy White**

Even if you are the one who handles the family finances in your home, you might need help with significant financial decisions. Don't neglect your in-house counselor: your spouse.



Financial expert Larry Burkett often said, "If both of you are the same, then one of you is unnecessary." You and your spouse sometimes will have different views on investments, debt, starting a business or major purchases. But that is by God's design.

A typical tension is between a husband who wants to invest, start a business or make a significant purchase with debt and a wife who disagrees.

Let's say that one spouse is considering buying property that is "sure to go up in value." A spouse often will have a God-given intuition, a common-sense discomfort or see loopholes in the deal.

The more enthusiastic spouse understandably would not have these reservations if it's his idea. None of us wants to be told "no" or have cold water thrown on our ideas. But God gives us one another for help, protection and comfort.

Take time to listen to and think through your spouse's point of view. Come to absolute agreement and willingness to mentally and emotionally "let go" of the money or opportunity.

You also will want to guard against the blame game in the future. The temptation for resentment and "I told you so" is too great if there is disagreement.

No amount of monetary return can replace trust and unity between you and your spouse. No amount of ego-boost resulting from a "great" investment and from doing things your way "no matter what she says" is worth breaking the heart of your spouse. You communicate value to your spouse by asking and waiting for agreement in financial matters.

Consider this: Perhaps a spouse is not trying to squelch your dreams of financial success; perhaps she is protecting them, because she can foresee problems in the plan.

I don't want to suggest that wives are always correct. (My male brotherhood would kick me out of the club!) But I've observed through the years that husbands more often regret not listening to their wives on significant financial matters than accepting their input.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah

Communication aids spouses' emotional & sexual intimacy

Q: I have a hard time asking this question, but I did not want to turn to a secular women's magazine. How do I respond to my husband's desire for sex? It seems he always is wanting to have sex, and I am not in the mood most of the time. What do I do?

This is an issue for many couples. The sexual needs of one spouse often are very different from the needs of the other. Communication is extremely important for both emotional and sexual intimacy needs in marriage.

MARRIAGE

For women in general, sex is not simply a physical act, but a complete giving of mind, body, spirit and emotions. Because God made the bodies of men and women differently, the sex act for men can be a powerful physical and visual experience. Men are much more visually stimulated, creating a desire for sexual intercourse.

Women often desire intimate conversation and non-sexual touch to help create closeness and stimulate arousal. A woman's body needs more attention and preparation for intercourse than a man's. That being said, a woman needs to communicate her physical needs to her husband, being specific and clear.

Not all sex must be an earth-shattering experience, but it is good to take the time to give your physical relationship the attention it deserves. Sometimes the sexual encounter will be brief, but these times also help meet the physical needs in the marriage relationship.

There are a number of factors that rob marriages of the time and energy needed for a healthy sex life. These include parent and job responsibilities, church commitments, social activities and medical conditions. Talk with your husband about your concerns. Together you can discuss each of your needs and consider ways to create the kind of sexual intimacy that will enrich your marriage.

For additional information about sexual intimacy needs, consider the following Christian authors: Doug Rosenau, Ed and Gaye Wheat, Joyce and Clifford Penner.—Valerie Vincent

Q: I read recently about the "developmental assets" of children. Why are they important?

Eugene Roehikepartain, director of family and congregation initiatives for the Search Institute, a research and consulting organization that promotes healthy children, youth and communities, spoke earlier this year at Baylor University on the issue, "What do children need to succeed?" His answer was both simple and complex.

Using an extensive interview process, the Search Institute identified 40 "developmental assets" that impact the degree to which children and adolescents develop positively. Roehikepartain said the more of these assets that are present in a child's life, the more likely a child will be to make good decisions, avoid high-risk behaviors and develop maturely.

The list includes family support; parental involvement in schooling; safety at home, in school and in the neighborhood; family boundaries with clear rules and consequences; high expectations; time spent at home; involvement in a religious community; adult role models; positive peer influence; resistance skills; personal responsibility; and restraint.

Many of the assets are characteristics that common sense tells you have obvious value. Still, the Search Institute discovered that the average U.S. youth possesses just 18 of the 40, and 62 percent have fewer than 20 percent.

Roehikepartain says offering more programs isn't the way to help children and youth get more of the assets. Instead, relationships hold the key.

"Our greatest gift ought to be our authentic presence with them," he said. This means providing caring mentors, guides, friends and role models.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

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



Faithful ministers 'worthy of double honor'

October traditionally is Clergy Appreciation Month in churches throughout the nation.

Why bother setting aside a special time to honor your pastor and other church staff members? In the words of 1 Timothy 5:17, "The elders (pastors or overseers) who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."

While double honor doesn't mean double wages, it does indicate that ministers who are serving effectively should be held in high esteem by their congregation. We've all heard anecdotes about church members who openly criticize their pastor for every little shortcoming but fail to ever offer words of encouragement or support. October is an ideal time to let your pastor and other church staff know how much you appreciate their commitment, vision, sacrifice and other strengths.

Perhaps your congregation already has honored your pastor this month or plans are under way to do so in the next few weeks. If not, consider the following ways you can show "double honor" to the spiritual leaders God has led to your congregation:

- For starters, make certain that your church's staff members are adequately compensated for the ministry they provide. Have they received appropriate salary increases in recent years? What about adequate health insurance and retirement benefits over and above their base salaries? This month would be an excellent time for church leaders to revisit those issues and make certain your congregation is following Christ's teaching that "the laborer is worthy of his wages."

- Once the salary and benefit issues are squared away, look for ways to honor your minister with gifts that reflect your church's gratitude. Perhaps it could include a gift certificate to your pastor's favorite restaurant, tickets to a sports event or equipment for a favorite hobby such as golf, fishing or camping. The key is to share a gift that indicates you both know and appreciate your minister as an individual.

Non-partisan politics in the pulpit

By Barry Howard

Every election year, pastors are faced with the challenge of how to address political issues fairly and legally from the pulpit.

While some ministers on both the left and the right attempt to hijack the pulpit in order to support their cause or their favored candidate, many of us in ministry strive to encourage members to participate in the political process without instructing members how to vote.

As a pastor, I have observed half a dozen presidential elections, numerous local elections and dozens of referendums. Early in my ministry, thanks to wise mentors, I committed to a strategy for dealing pastorally with political issues from the pulpit. This strategy is based on four objectives:

- To maintain a non-partisan pulpit.

- To recognize the separation of church and state.

- To respect the political diversity within the congregation.

- To honor the biblical texts on the role of government in a given culture.

In recent weeks, news agencies around the nation have reported accounts of ministers who publicly endorse candidates from the pulpit,

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

- For churches with small budgets or financial challenges, there still are many ways to express your appreciation. Perhaps an extra week of vacation for your church staff or a book of coupons from church members volunteering such services as car washes or maintenance, lawn mowing, babysitting or other activities that would save your minister time and money. Get creative and think of other ways you can honor your pastor without having to be financially extravagant.

- In his column this week on the same subject, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey suggests paying for your pastor and spouse to attend next year's "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference. Whether it's Shepherding or some other conference, retreat or special event, consider collecting donations from church members to finance such an outing. It actually becomes an investment in the life of your church as your minister comes back refreshed and better equipped to help meet the needs of the congregation.

- Above all, pray regularly for your pastor and other church staff members. One option is to enlist at least 31 individuals or families to pray once a month for your pastor and church staff. Assign each participant a different day of the month. After each person prays for your church staff, have them send a brief note, card or e-mail to the ministers, telling them of their prayer support. Imagine your pastor, music minister or youth director receiving a message every day from a church member who is undergirding their ministry with prayer. That simple act would be enough to keep most ministers encouraged throughout the year.

Whether you pursue one or more of these options or come up with other ideas, make a commitment to be an encourager to your church's ministerial staff. Don't let October slip by without clearly showing your pastor and other ministers that those who faithfully share the gospel of Christ in your congregation and community truly are worthy of double honor.

churches who provide values-based (biased) voters' guides and churches who have invited political candidates or their representatives to speak in Sunday worship services. To me, all of the above seem to be abuses of pastoral privilege and a violation of a pastor's civil and spiritual responsibility.

If blatant partisan political activism in the pulpit is inappropriate, what is an appropriate and proactive strategy for addressing election-related issues from the pulpit without being politically partisan?

Encourage members to vote. Words like these have frequented my sermons as election time nears: "We are blessed to live in a country that values political and religious freedom, and you have both the opportunity and responsibility to participate in the electoral process as you vote your convictions."

I have never suggested to a church member, either explicitly or implicitly, how he or she should vote, only that each of them should vote. In fact, I have never revealed to a congregation the name of the candidate for whom I intend to vote. (Actually, I do not even tell my wife which candidate I plan to vote for.)

Challenge church members to pray for their elected leaders. People

of faith should pray for their political leaders, whether they approve of a leader's performance or not. Additionally, I encourage church members to pray for candidates seeking office. Choosing to seek public office requires tremendous sacrifice and takes a toll on a candidate's entire family whether they win or lose.

Invite church members to consider running for public office. Just as I invite members to consider a vocational ministry, mission service or a host of other careers, I also invite members to consider political service as a part of their spiritual calling. I have been privileged to serve as pastor to candidates on the local, state and national levels, many of whom were elected and enjoyed multiple terms of effective service. Although an individual should never enter the political arena naively, many individuals find political office to be a high-impact avenue of public service.

While the Bible instructs believers to "render unto Caesar," the Bible was not written in a culture where citizens participate in choosing Caesar. The pulpit is a place to accent the privilege and responsibility of choosing, not a place to dictate the choice.

Barry Howard, a minister in Birmingham, Ala., is former pastor of First Baptist Church of Corbin

Leaders: Prayer preceding God's work in Kentucky

Today, the Kentucky Baptist Convention knows of 570 churches with prayer coordinators, nearly one-fourth of the state's 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches.

Continued from page 1

■ Baptists in Kentucky started five job training centers last year, with 100 people currently enrolled in courses. Some students have become Christians through the ministry.

■ Churches are being started in previously untouched rural hollows. One congregation that originated with a pair of summer outreach initiatives has purchased land. A second recently baptized 16 converts and had to move to larger quarters.

Martin recounted such signs during the latest state convention quarterly prayer meeting, held July

22-23 near Inez.

Led by the missions growth team, the meetings have been held in various locations for the past seven years, attracting between 12 and 40 participants.

Turning to prayer

The prayer sessions originated with a pair of events during which personnel expressed frustration over a lack of results in the field.

The first occurred in 1996 at the annual mountain missions conference at Oneida Baptist Institute. As that summer's meeting concluded, frustration led one person to suggest they stop meeting.

Instead, Martin said, people fell to their knees and prayed.

"God, if You don't do something in the mountains, we can't go on," he described their pleas.

Although the three-day session was near its conclusion, participants prayed for three more hours.

The following year, a new mountain missions director joined the state convention staff. He scheduled a series of prayer meetings in five state park lodges, which were held in 1998.

Meanwhile, at a state training event in 1997, Martin said a director of missions in Western Kentucky broke into tears when discussing the problems he faced. That conversation prompted the first state convention-sponsored prayer meeting

later that year.

A former Southern Baptist missionary who spent a decade ministering in Boston, Martin believes the activity in Kentucky signifies another Great Awakening.

Noting that New England was a center for the first national awakening, and Kentucky (home to the famed Cane Ridge meetings of 1803) the second, Martin said a similar movement is developing today.

A friend of Martin's in Boston has documented that 300 pastors meeting for prayer in 1979 had a dramatic impact. Today there are 50 percent more churches in the city than 30 years ago, and those that survived a long period of spiritual decline are 50 percent larger, Martin said.

The movement in Kentucky is following along the same lines, Martin said, even though much of it is quiet.

Slow rain vs. tornado

Martin compares the activity to the difference between the impact of a tornado and the pattern of the sun and rain. While the tornado gets more headlines, the latter has a longer-lasting impact, Martin said.

One visible demonstration of God answering prayer was the scene of the July prayer meeting—Haven of Rest, scheduled to open Oct. 1.

Founded by the wife of a retired pastor, the facility offers free lodging and food for low-income

families coming to visit inmates at a nearby federal prison.

Eileen Mullins, a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the North American Mission Board, said she has received direction from God regularly because of prayer. That included the Lord leading her to approach the wife of the businessman who donated the property where Haven of Rest sits.

A participant in various community prayer meetings in recent years, Mullins said she has seen God provide in so many ways it's hard to count the miracles. Mullins estimates volunteer labor and donations of supplies have enabled her to save about \$180,000 on the project, much of it coming "in the last minute and in small amounts."

"And He's always come through," Mullins said of her continuing struggle to raise funds.

Eric Allen, co-director of prayer strategies for the state convention, said prayer efforts extend beyond the quarterly gatherings.

Four years ago, his office knew of about 120 churches with prayer coordinators. Today he counts 570, nearly one-fourth of the state's 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches. Fifteen associations (of 74) also have prayer coordinators.

"That says to me that churches are beginning to realize the importance of prayer and people are taking responsibility," Allen said.

Prayer requests

Despite the growing attention to prayer among Kentucky Baptists, state convention officials and Mission Service Corps missionaries say many needs remain, including:

- Continued growth and development of new ministries started the past five years, and that these ministries would make an impact on the people they serve.
- More long-term volunteers to help supervise and manage the increased number of short-term volunteers coming into the state.
- More conversions and that God would do a great work in Appalachia.
- Inspiration for Appalachians church members to send mission teams to other areas.
- More churches to focus on evangelism and discipling new Christians.
- More mission teams willing to work alongside local churches.

CONVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual Cooperative Program Goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in annual session.

1. That the 2005-2006 Cooperative Program Operating Budget goal be set at \$23,100,000, a 2.65% increase (\$596,000).
2. That the percentage for the division between KBC and SBC causes remain the same as in 2004-2005: SBC = 36% KBC=64%. That this division be subject to the Mission Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990, which stated "In case of a financial crisis, allocations be reduced proportionately to the SBC, Kentucky Baptist institutions of Christian Education and the Mission Board staff and/or programs."
3. That the 2005-2006 Cooperative Program Challenge Budget goal remain the same as 2004-2005, \$1,300,000.
4. That 36% of any Challenge funds be distributed to SBC causes and 64% to KBC causes. The Mission Board will recommend to the Convention in Louisville November 16, 2004 the 2005-2006 goals and percentages.

	ORIGINAL 2003-2004 BUDGET		REVISED 2003-2004 BUDGET		APPROVED 2004-2005 BUDGET		PROPOSED 2005-2006 BUDGET	
I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL								
A. OPERATIONAL BUDGET	<u>23,200,000</u>	0.0%	<u>22,181,335</u>	-4.39%	<u>22,504,000</u>	1.45%	<u>23,100,000</u>	2.65%
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	8,352,000		7,985,281		8,101,440		8,316,000	
		36.0%		36.0%		36.0%		36.0% (d)
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	14,848,000		14,196,054		14,402,560		14,784,000	
		64.0%		64.0%		64.0%		64.0% (d)
B. CHALLENGE FUNDS (c)	<u>1,300,000</u>		<u>1,300,000</u>		<u>1,300,000</u>		<u>1,300,000</u>	
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	468,000		468,000		468,000		468,000	
		36.0%		36.0%		36.0%		36.0% (d)
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	832,000		832,000		832,000		832,000	
		64.0%		64.0%		64.0%		64.0% (d)
TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL	24,500,000		23,481,335		23,804,000		24,400,000	

- (a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.
- (b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.
- (c) If Challenge Goal is attained, total CP through the SBC would equal 36%.
- (d) Subject to the Mission Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990.

We need college students

Growing programs increase both camps' staffing needs

This past weekend, I had the privilege of attending "Focus" with hundreds of college students from across our state.

Focus is sponsored by the collegiate ministry department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. For those of you who are not familiar with Focus, it is a time when college students are ministered to and a time when they are challenged to give back and serve others through missions and other ministry opportunities.

Our camping ministry is vitally dependant upon college students. For many years, Cedarmore has been staffed with college students who comprise the Son Teams. For the past five years, Crossings at the Creek has used more than 170 collegiate staff. As our ministry has expanded to year-round programming, our dependence upon these young adults continues.

During the past year, we have been developing our ministry plan for the next six years. This plan certainly will stretch our faith as we seek to be a part of something only God can do. Apart from God's

provisions, one of the most critical success factors in our plan is to find and use college and seminary staff from throughout our state. Our projections by the end of our ministry plan could have us needing approximately 150 students each year. These students would not just serve in the summer, but throughout the year as our programs extend past the typical camp time of June and July.

Camp and conference ministry is certainly unique in many ways, and perhaps one way is its reliance upon so many workers to help provide guests the services they have come to expect. The vastness of property and buildings coupled with the need to provide programming with a low staff-to-camper ratio creates a situation that is greatly dependent upon many to serve in our ministry.

Please pray for us that God will bring the needed staff. And as you encounter college students, encourage them to pray about serving our churches through camp and conference ministry.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

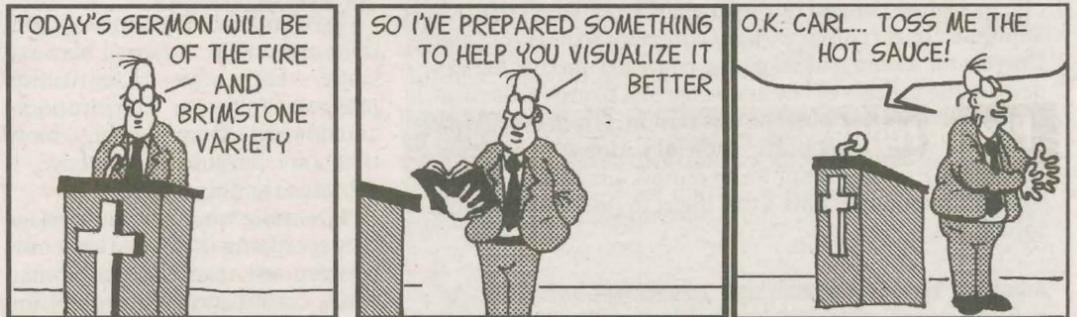
Kudzu

Doug Marlette



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn M. Boyington

Across

- 1 Cry
- 4 Dream or organ
- 8 ___ team
- 12 Mouth (pl.)
- 13 "The children of ___ of Hezekiah, ninety and eight" (Ezra 2:16)
- 14 Jewelry setting, with no metal showing
- 15 By means of
- 16 Nurture
- 17 Great Lake
- 18 Masculine name that is an amalgam of Abraham and Noah
- 20 Make ___
- 22 Prim and proper
- 24 In Arthurian legend, the wife of Geraint
- 25 Writing ___ (what Zacharias asked for in Luke 1)
- 26 "___ thou not unto his [God's] words" (Proverbs 30:6)
- 27 Gazelle
- 30 Biblical exclamation
- 31 Possessive pronoun
- 32 "Thou hast enlarged my steps ... that my feet did not ___" (Psalm 18:36)
- 33 Affirmative
- 34 Compass pt.
- 35 Obeys, to an AKC member
- 36 He was a prisoner on Patmos
- 37 Obliterate
- 38 Stick
- 41 Mentally acute
- 42 Not present and unaccounted for (abbr., pl.)

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42						43	44				45	46	47
48						49					50		
51						52					53		

- 43 What commandos do
- 45 Anger
- 48 Parchment shade
- 49 "He ... saw others standing ___ in the marketplace" (Matthew 20:3)
- 50 Not (prefix)
- 51 "And they straightway left their ___, and followed him" (Matthew 4:20)
- 52 Minister to
- 53 Our Father
- Down
- 1 Absorb
- 2 Crude metal
- 3 He accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey
- 4 Procession
- 5 Article on a list
- 6 Legume
- 7 Missions
- 8 ___ trap
- 9 Give notice
- 10 Like many golfers?
- 11 What to wear when golfing? (pl.)
- 19 Nard, olive, et al.
- 21 Word that precedes day or air
- 22 Between check-in and check-out
- 23 "We spend our years as a ___ that is told" (Psalm 90:9)
- 24 All gone!
- 27 "Yet ___ grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree" (Isaiah 17:6)
- 28 Sesame, canola, et al.
- 29 Usually the east end of a church
- 31 "For such as be blessed of him shall ___ the earth" (Psalm 37:22)
- 32 Arid
- 34 Conjunction
- 35 Noticed
- 36 "Even so, come, Lord ___" (Revelation 22:20)
- 38 So be it
- 39 Prepare vegetables for cooking
- 40 "As the ___ panteth after the water" (Psalm 42:1)
- 41 Oven
- 44 Fruit drink
- 46 One of Pooh's pals
- 47 "And then shall the ___ come" (Matthew 24:14)

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NATIONAL NOTES

McAteer, Religious Right pioneer, dies. Ed McAteer, a Southern Baptist layman credited with being the "godfather" of the modern Religious Right, died last week at age 78. McAteer died after a long battle with myeloma, a form of cancer, Oct. 6 at his home in Memphis, Tenn. McAteer—along with Religious Right activists Paul Weyrich, Paul Viguier and Howard Phillips—helped Jerry Falwell found the Moral Majority in 1979. He also founded the Religious Roundtable, a group he directed until his death. McAteer devoted much of his time to building support among evangelical Christians for the modern state of Israel.

Supreme Court turns down Ten Commandments judge. Former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore's efforts to return to office reached the end of the line last week when the U.S. Supreme Court refused without comment to hear his case. Lawyers for Moore had asked the court to rule that he was denied due process of law and subjected to an unconstitutional religious test when he was removed from office Nov. 13 by the state Court of the Judiciary. Moore was ousted for refusing to obey an order to remove his monument to the Ten Commandments from the state judicial building rotunda.

Arkansas headed for marriage amendment vote. The Arkansas Supreme Court ruled Oct. 7 that a constitutional marriage amendment can remain on the ballot, despite objections from the American Civil Liberties Union. The ruling means Arkansas citizens will vote Nov. 2 on an amendment that bans both same-sex "marriage" and Vermont-type civil unions. The ACLU had argued that the ballot title is misleading and does not disclose the fact that it bans more than same-sex marriage. But in a 5-2 vote, the court disagreed.

Court asked to rehear Schiavo case. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush filed a motion Oct. 4 asking the Florida Supreme Court to reconsider its Sept. 23 ruling in which the justices said a law allowing the governor to order the resumption of Terri Schiavo's feeding and hydration tube was unconstitutional. The 17-page motion said the high court's decision had incorrectly assumed Bush's actions were unconstitutional. At issue, the motion asserted, is the fundamental responsibility of the government to protect the disabled.

Louisiana judge throws out same-sex marriage ban

Baton Rouge, La. (RNS)—Louisiana's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage was thrown out last week by a state judge who said lawmakers improperly passed the measure last spring.

An appeal of East Baton Rouge Parish District Judge William Morvant's ruling is expected to be filed this week. Voters approved the amendment Sept. 18.

Morvant, a Republican, said the amendment is flawed because, while the state Constitution prevents a law or constitutional amendment from having more than one purpose or objective, it contains two "objects":

■ Defining what a legal marriage is by specifying that it can exist only between one man and one woman while constitutionally prohibiting same-sex marriages.

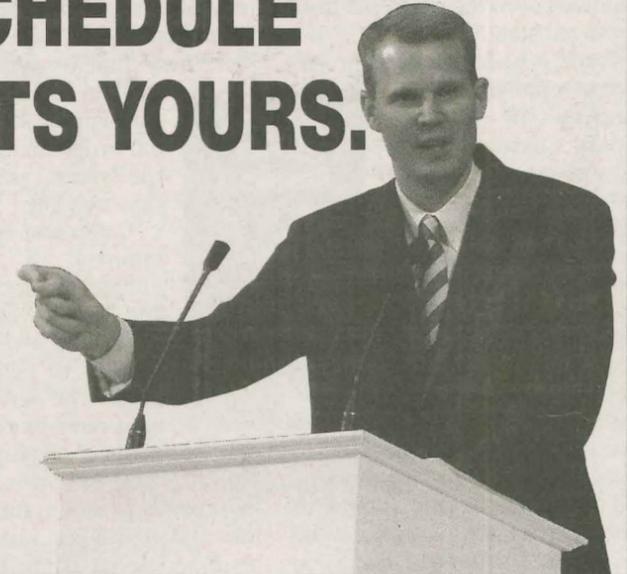
■ Preventing the state from recognizing "a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for any unmarried individuals."

As adopted, Morvant said, the measure would prevent civil unions, domestic partnerships and other relationships between gay or straight couples—a measure that should have been addressed in a separate amendment.

"The issue here is whether the issue was properly put to the voters," he said. "It is not about public support or public morality. It is about compliance with the Constitution. ... Emotion has no impact and no effect on this case."

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Meeting internationals' desire for education in the U.S.

How do students hear about Oneida halfway around the world?

A common question asked of us is how our international students hear about Oneida Baptist Institute.

While the answer is not complicated, it can be a little difficult to explain. I am happy to report that many friends, far and near, know about Oneida and the ministry we provide. Many of these friends do mission work around the world. Often they come in contact with young people who would love to come to the United States to receive a better education.

It is not difficult to understand how eager many young people from around the world are for the opportunity to attend school in the United States. The vast majority of these teenagers do not have the financial resources to travel to the U.S., much less to afford the education they so desperately desire.

Many of these Oneida friends will tell a young person and his or her parents about Oneida. While we cannot afford to allow every student to attend on a full scholarship, Oneida always has found a way to provide scholarships for those with genuine need. The generous support made possible by our faithful friends and the gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program make it possible for us to assist those who need special financial consideration.

"Mee Ko" (not his real name) was one of many young people who heard about Oneida from friends of this ministry. These faithful Kentucky Baptists are involved with international missions and became aware of Mee Ko and his desire to

attend school in the U.S. Mee Ko also has some medical needs, but at this time we have not been able to find anyone to help with those needs. These friends knew Mee Ko did not have the financial resources to afford schooling in the U.S., but they also knew that Oneida eagerly assists those with special financial needs.

My wife, Kay, is the primary contact person for our international students. She was contacted about Mee Ko and told of his desire to attend school in the U.S. After several phone calls,

letters and other correspondence, Mee Ko found his way to Oneida. He is one of the most personable and friendly young men you could ever meet. Though communication is difficult, it is easy to love him and to know how much he enjoys being here.

Mee Ko is now in his second year at Oneida and is a senior. With a lot of hard work and patience, he was able to make the honor roll the last quarter of school in May. During our fall revival

Mee Ko went forward at the invitation to express his desire to be a Christian and to be baptized. It was a joyful event to watch him and four other boys being baptized in a recent Wednesday evening service.

We want all of our friends to know how much we appreciate the financial, prayer and volunteer support we receive that make it possible for Oneida to meet the needs of young people from every corner of the globe.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Students connect with others on mission

Testimonies issue challenge to missions involvement

Four students testified recently in chapel about mission experiences.

Miranda Weston, a third-year student from Ohio: "My California summer included Bible schools, serving meals in a homeless shel-

ter and painting the walls of a mission. ... I wanted to give up at one church. The pastor left on vacation, there was no literature, and I didn't know much Spanish. We had three professions of faith! This was my first mission trip, and it confirmed God's call to mission service."

Chris Campbell, a fourth-year student from Kentucky: "Once missions gets in your blood, it affects you for life. This was my third trip to Russia. The first trip was all 'Ohs' and 'Ahs' and changed the military stereotype I had. My wife and I shared these last two trips and we helped construct a church, seeing the work progress from the basement to the third floor. The church serves an entire region and will establish other churches. With Putin wanting more authority, I fear our window of opportunity may be narrowing."

Kyle Sullivan, a third-year Kentucky student: "When I first went to Haiti, I was saved only 10 months and struggling with God's call. I volunteered to preach and thought afterward that God had the wrong guy. Subsequent experiences have confirmed my calling. With brother Joe Mobley of Crusades for Christ in London,

Ky., our team did morning Bible schools for the children, visited orphanages and hospitals in the afternoon, and preached nightly revivals. There is so much work to be done. God can use you. We must be persistent and faithful."

Ken Rutherford, a third-year student from Tennessee: "Our trip to

Belarus did not see any professions of faith, but we were faithful to go. Bob Hartman of International Ministries trained our team in apologetics to dialogue with college students. We taught ESL (English as a second language) classes and a computer class. Each of us had 25 to 30 students nightly. Government rules prohibit open witnessing, but we could answer questions. The first night a student asked, "Why do you love Jesus?"

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker



'AWESOME THREESOME' Evangelist Billy Graham is joined at a 2000 crusade in Jacksonville, Fla., by his longtime musical associates Cliff Barrows (left) and George Beverly Shea (right) in a rendition of "This Little Light of Mine." Shea, now 95, was not able to attend Graham's Kansas City, Mo., crusade due to a recent mild heart attack. (RNS file photo)

'Ticker trouble' causing Shea to miss Billy Graham crusade

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Montreat, N.C. (RNS)—A prominent face—and more significantly, voice—was missing from the stage at Billy Graham's crusade Oct. 7-10 in Kansas City, Mo.

George Beverly Shea, who has sung just before Graham takes the podium for nearly six decades, was sidelined by a recent heart attack.

"I had some ticker trouble in May and the heart people say it takes a good six months ... for a football player to get over something like that," Shea said in a recent phone interview.

At age 95, Shea has been advised that he should sit on his back-porch rocking chair rather than appear at Graham's side.

The physician's ruling marks the first time since 1947 that the singer has had to miss a domestic crusade.

He has been a fixture singing solos and joining the choir for such gospel standards as "How Great Thou Art" and his own composition, "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

"It's the doctor's decision," Shea said. "I asked Mr. Graham, 'Do you take the doctor's advice?' He said, 'Yes, I do.'"

Graham, 85, said he was disappointed to not have his close friend, who lives within a mile of him in western North Carolina, at the four-day event at Arrowhead Stadium.

"Nothing could discourage me more than to know that Bev Shea is not coming to be with us in Kansas City," the evangelist said in a statement to RNS.

"But, he has assured me that

his heart is with us and that he will be listening to the crusade programs live on WMIT, our local radio station where we live. We are counting on his prayers to help us here, and we know that we will have them."

Both Shea and Graham hope the man's deep singing voice will return to the crusade stage at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., from Nov. 18-21.

"We'll ask again," Shea said of a forthcoming consultation with his doctor.

But he's more hopeful about participating in the recently announced plans for a Graham crusade at New York's Madison Square Garden in June 2005.

"I trust I can," he said.

Shea said he was pleased to hear the 4,000-member choir at the Kansas City crusade planned to sing "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" on the first night at the point when he would sing.

"That thrills me to hear that," he said. "I love that song."

Graham "taking care of himself"

Shea was stricken with a mild heart attack on May 26, the day before he was planning to head to England for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Graham's first crusade in London.

At the time, he spent seven days in the same hospital where Graham was being treated for a fractured pelvis.

But Shea, who was visited by Graham a couple of weeks before the Kansas City crusade, said he's encouraged about his colleague's health.

"He's taking care of himself beautifully," he said of Graham.

Authors planning four more 'Left Behind' books

Wheaton, Ill. (RNS)—The popular "Left Behind" series detailing an evangelical Christian vision of "end times" will continue with more books, Tyndale House Publishers has announced.

The publisher had already forged an agreement with co-authors Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins to create two additional books to the 12-book series, one set prior to the first book and another set after the 12th. The last book in the series

was published in March.

Now, the authors have agreed to pen two additional books that lead up to "Left Behind," the first in the fictional series.

"The Rising," the first of the three "prequel" books is due out on March 1, 2005. The subsequent titles are expected in November 2005 and spring 2006. A release date for the story that follows "Glorious Appearing," the 12th book, has not been set.

Falling for God: Saying Yes to His Extravagant Proposal. Gary Moon. Shaw Books, 2004. 224 pages. \$13.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

I purchased this book because the title "Falling for God" inspired me to pursue God in a different light.

Many people have come to God in a personal relationship, but to what degree do they grow in that relationship after the initial steps? How deep or how passionate is that love relationship with the Savior?

Gary Moon challenges the reader to grow deeper in that one-on-one relationship with Christ. But instead of the traditional routine of such books—which list the challenges and then urge the reader to pray about it—this book offers specific "how-to's" at the end of every chapter. The process begins with Scripture, self-reflection questions, meditations and special steps in deep prayer, exercises and some object lessons.

The author takes strides to build this relationship through the three C's: conversation, communion and consummation.

"Most do not realize that the three C's are the only route that leads to soul transformation and the experience of life in full," Moon writes.

This book can help any individual wanting to grow in his or her Christian faith and daily walk. The book can be used in one-on-one mentoring and discipling others.

Overall, this book is great for all Christians who are serious about its topic. Many pastors will like the book, as it breaks down the discipleship process step-by-step and interjects stories that relate to the process of falling in love with God. Laypeople who want to grow will benefit from it as well. Steve Coleman

Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year. Robert Webber. Baker Books, 2004. 201 pages. \$14.99. ♦♦♦♦

Growing up, I thought the church year began in October (now September) when we promoted everyone to the next level in Sunday school. The church year was marked by special observances, such as Christmas, New Year's, January Bible study, spring and/or fall revival, not to mention the two big missions offerings, Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong. Such was the rhythm of church life, centered mostly on program emphases and secular holidays.

Later in life, I became familiar with a different church calendar, one that has been in use for most of the church's 2,000-year history. Rather than being shaped by programs or culture, it was (and is) designed to lead us through the meaning of Christian discipleship, beginning with Advent, flowing through Christmas, into Lent, Easter and Pentecost, finally into a five-month stretch focusing on the mission and work of the church.

If these terms or the basic concept seem strange, or eerily Catholic, Robert Webber invites you to take a look at this ancient pattern of using time to form disciples of

Jesus Christ.

Webber is a professor of ministry at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Ill. As an evangelical Christian, he has been writing about and leading seminars on worship for more than 20 years.

"Ancient-Future Time" is the third in his "Ancient-Future Church" series, which encourages church renewal through re-appropriating the ancient faith of the church for our day.

This book is immanently practical. It presents the concept of the Christian year clearly and makes a

solid case for why organizing worship and educational ministries around it can deepen the church's main task of disciple making. Each chapter ends with a chart outlining its contents, as well as guided questions for group or individual study.

Jim Holladay

Through a Season of Grief: Devotions for Your Journey from Mourning to Joy. Bill Dunn and Kathy Leonard. Nelson Books, 2004. 287 pages. 13.99. ♦♦♦

For decades, "Good Grief" by Granger Westberg, has been the book of choice for ministers to place in the hands of those experiencing

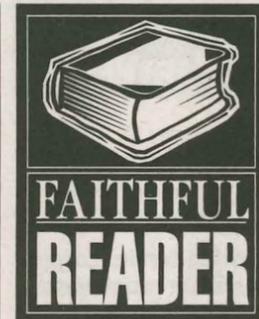
the death of a loved one. It is an excellent book, but because it is very short in length people tend to read it quickly and then set it aside. Long after the reading, the struggle with grief continues. While I encourage people to go back to the book repeatedly, I am not sure they do.

Bill Dunn and Kathy Leonard's book is designed to help the griever over a period of a year with devotions that guide the person through the journey of grief. Each day, a person dealing with grief can take another step toward recovery by being helped to understand where they are in grief and then be given hope for the next day.

For the most part, I found these devotions to be helpful and hopeful. Most of the sections of devotions apply to anyone suffering from grief. Two chapters deal specifically with the loss of a spouse and the loss of a child. The most helpful part of the devotions is when the authors quote people who share their own experience with grief.

The book is based on materials from the grief recovery support program GriefShare, from Church Initiatives, Inc. of Wake Forest, N.C. My only word of caution about the program and the devotion book is its heavy emphasis upon evangelizing the grieving. I certainly know the strong support one receives from faith in Christ during times of loss. But I am not comfortable with using loss as a tool to evangelize.

I personally think the devotion book is best used with those who already are Christians because they will simply affirm the importance of faith to the process, not feel pressured into faith. People who are not Christian would benefit more from a GriefShare group, where there is interaction with other people who share their own stories and, thus, provide a relational setting for sharing faith. Wayne Hager



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and Steve Coleman, pastor of education and youth at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: whager@trifluent.net; lyndonpastor@aol.com; risen4me@hotmail.com.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Mission Service Corps volunteer missionaries Roy Callahan and Larry & Linda Otterback in Oak Grove. These three missionaries are working together to provide a retreat for military personnel and families at Fort Campbell, Oct. 22-23. The retreat will be held just off the base at First Baptist Church of Oak Grove and will offer encouragement and inspiration, family skill development, worship experiences, breakout conferences, and classes for all ages. Pray that families will be strengthened and marriage commitments renewed by those attending. Pray also that those who aren't yet believers will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Taylor County and Central Baptist associations in Campbellsville and Lebanon. There is a growing need for a Hispanic ministry strategy in central Kentucky because of the growing Hispanic population. Both associations, under the leadership of Penny Akers, recently held a ministry summit with church and community leaders. Pray for directors of missions Robert Clark and Oliver Hawkins as they work together to develop this ministry. Pray also that God will give clear direction as they establish a leadership team and discern direction for the work.

If your church, association or ministry has a prayer request, please send the information to Eric Allen at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org or (888) 263-5080.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 31-Nov. 3 with **Bill Fort** as evangelist.
 ■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church recently honored **Joe and Jean Janes** on their 50th wedding anniversary.
 ■ **GREENSBURG**—Greasy Creek Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary throughout October.
 ■ **HARLAN**—Elcomb Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 17-22 with **Doug Bryant** from Mount Holly, N.C., as evangelist
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **Mercy's Mark** in concert Oct. 17, 7 p.m. For more informa-

tion, call (502) 367-0218.

South Jefferson Church will hold revival services Oct. 17-20, 7 p.m.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Brindle Ridge Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 18-22, 7 p.m., with **Chad Burdine** as evangelist. **Ron Roberts** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church welcomes **Nell Florence** as senior adult coordinator. **Kevin McCallon** is pastor.

■ **PAINTSVILLE**—First Church recently ordained **Daniel Lucas** to the gospel ministry.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Hill Church recently ordained **Joseph Harness** to the gospel ministry.



POET LAUREATE Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate in 2001-03, delivered the annual Robert Palmer Memorial Lecture Sept. 23 at Cumberland College in Williamsburg. Collins, a distinguished professor of English at Lehman College of the City University of New York, has published seven collections of poetry. After the lecture, Collins (left) signed copies of his books at a reception held in his honor.

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 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

Mosteller, retired IMB missionary with Kentucky ties, dies at age 80

Gallatin, Tenn.—Dorothy Brizendine Mosteller, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Thailand, died Sept. 19. She was 80.

Mosteller, a former Baptist Student Union director at Murray State University, and her husband, Paul, were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in 1956.

She served as a general evangelist in Prachinburi province, Hatyai and Bangkok until 1969, when she began ministering through Bangkla Baptist Hospital. She also was involved in church planting and refugee work in Songkhla and Phatthalung

before retiring in 1991.

Mosteller was a graduate of Murray State University and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

In addition to her work with the Murray State BSU, she worked as an American Red Cross case worker in Fort Worth, Texas, and Louisville.

She is survived by her husband; one son, Cliff Mosteller of Atlanta; one daughter, Anne Stewart of Gallatin, Tenn.; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the mission fund of First Baptist Church, Box 369, Gallatin, TN 37066.

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

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/worship and music for FBC Cabot, Ark. Seminary; contemporary/traditional; technology; people-skills; plus experience. Music Search Committee, PO Box 1023, Cabot, AR 72023. Visit www.fbccabot.org.

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: Outstanding opportunity to join a vibrant ministry team as a full-time minister to students at Walnut Street Baptist Church, a large, growing multi-cultural church located in the heart of Louisville, Ky. Ministry includes outreach and evangelism to middle and high school students and their families, with a strong emphasis on discipleship. Reply to Minister to Students Search Committee, Walnut Street Baptist Church, 1143 S Third St., Suite A, Louisville, KY 40203. E-mail: kwilson@walnutstreet.org.

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

SEEKING: Greenwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., is searching for a young man to serve as part-time youth minister. Must be Christian, Baptist, mature, have impeccable morals. Interested individuals: send resumé to: Greenwood Baptist Church, 5165 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104, Attn: Personnel Committee.

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 resumé to Pastor Brandon Cox, Scottsville Road Baptist Church, 6330 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104, or call (270) 843-6645. All resumé/applications must be received by Friday, Oct. 29.

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

SEEKING: God's man for the position of full-time pastor for Perryville Baptist Church, Perryville, Ky. Church membership of 540; worship attendance: 250; SS average 165. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Perryville Baptist Church, PO Box 26, Perryville, KY 40468. Fax to (859) 332-8729, or e-mail to sbarrett@pbaptist.org.

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

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister for Stanford Baptist Church. Call (606) 365-2178. Applications accepted through Oct. 15.

SEEKING: Youth-recreation minister. Experience and training are preferred. Please send resumé and references to: David Campbell, Buck Grove Baptist Church, 255 Buck Grove Road, Ekron, KY 40117.

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: 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. Resumé will be received until Oct. 15, 2004.

TOUR: Hawaii next February. Adults from your church are invited to join Christian Life Tours on an 11-day tour of Hawaii. Cost of only \$2,624 each includes round-trip air, sightseeing on each island, several meals, shows, a luau and an unforgettable fun time with a group of Christian friends. The price is based on double occupancy. For a free brochure or to make a reservation, call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free); if necessary, please leave message.

Even critics of Israel warn boycott might backfire

By Michele Chabin
Religion News Service

Jerusalem (RNS)—If mainline Protestant church groups divest from businesses operating in Israel, as they say they might, it could actually harden rather than soften Israel's stance toward Palestinians, warn prominent pro-Palestinian groups in Israel.

Proponents of divestment say it would pressure Israeli and American companies to change policies toward the Palestinians in the same way economic pressure on South Africa led to an end of apartheid.

But in Israel, even Israelis vehemently opposed to what they call Israel's "occupation" of Palestinian land doubt whether such a divestment strategy would work.

Yariv Oppenheimer, the head of Peace Now, a left-wing organization that has long fought for an end to Israeli military rule over the Palestinians, said divestment would serve only to strengthen Israel's self-image as a persecuted nation subjected to one-sided United Nations resolutions and boycotts instigated by Arab countries.

"We think divestment is not the right way to change the situation," Oppenheimer said. "If anything, it may have the opposite effect of the one intended. Israelis feel the entire world is against them, so the immediate response" to such measures "is always anger and mistrust," he said. "They will not convince Israelis that the occupation is a bad thing."

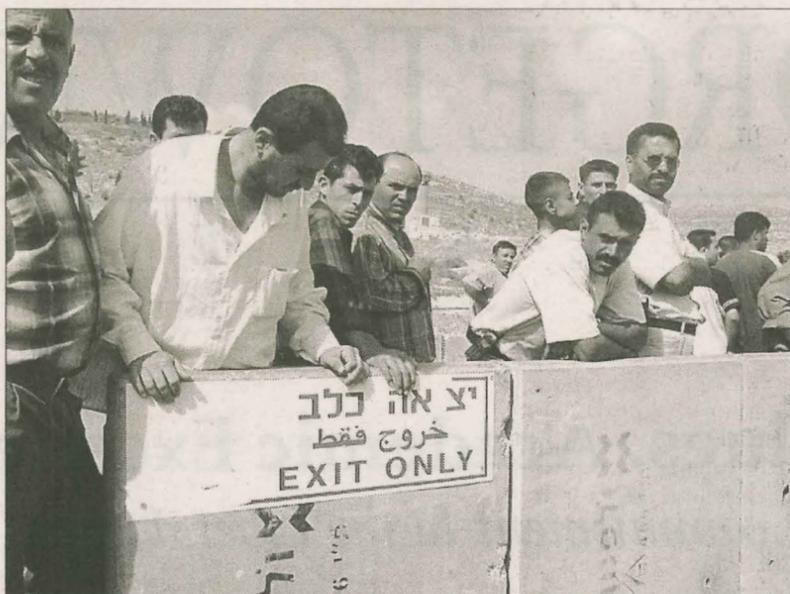
A drumbeat for divestment has been building among mainline Protestant groups since the summer.

Recently, top officials in the Episcopal Church said an investments panel will recommend a 12-month study of whether the American denomination should divest from companies operating in Israel.

South Africa boycott model

In September, members of the Anglican Peace and Justice Network said that the worldwide Anglican Communion should consider punitive measures against Israel. And in July, the Presbyterian Church (USA) made a similar announcement, saying it may target companies harming Palestinians.

"It happened in South Africa,



DIVEST DILEMMA A sign at a checkpoint near the West Bank city of Nablus reads "exit only" in English and Arabic but has been altered to "exit dog" in Hebrew. Some mainline Protestant groups say divesting from businesses operating in Israel could pressure the government to change its policy toward Palestinians. (RNS photo courtesy of Matt Robson)

and in South Africa the boycott had an effect," Jenny Te Paa, leader of the Anglican Peace and Justice Network, told the Guardian newspaper following a recent tour of the Palestinian territories. "Everybody said it wouldn't work and it did work. So here we are taking on one of most wealthy and incredibly powerful nations (Israel) supported by the United States. That's the Christian call."

Oppenheimer and other critics of divestment said such groups should consider what happened from 1948 through the mid-1990s when the Arab world maintained a worldwide boycott on companies that did business with Israel. Although the boycott isolated Israel economically, making it impossible for Israelis to obtain everything from Pepsi to Japanese cars, it had little or no effect on the government's policies.

For the churches to achieve their goals, Oppenheimer said, "they should engage in dialogue, not sanctions. Israel is a democratic country and if the majority of people vote to leave the territories, that will be the policy."

Even Uri Avnery, the outspoken leader of Gush Shalom—which Avnery himself calls "the most radi-

cal Israeli peace organization"—is against across-the-board divestment from Israel.

"We believe that a boycott of Israel in general is counterproductive because it pushes the reasonable elements (in Israeli society) into the hands of the extremists. We want to isolate the extremists."

Evangelical support for Israel

Protestant consideration of divestment is hardly universal.

Some American Christians, particularly evangelicals, actively support the Jewish state by financing everything from Israeli humanitarian aid programs to the absorption of new immigrants.

Last week, 4,000 evangelical supporters gathered in Israel to participate in the annual Feast of the Tabernacles organized by the International Christian Embassy, a pro-Israel organization. Israel's Tourism Ministry estimated that the conference has pumped at least \$10 million into the Israeli economy at a time when tourism is just beginning to rebound from four years of violence.

"The New Testament confirms that God has promised to bring

Robertson to Bush: Evangelicals watching

Jerusalem (RNS)—Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson has warned President Bush that any attempt to change the political status quo in Jerusalem would mean the loss of evangelical support at the ballot box.

Speaking at a press conference Oct. 4, Robertson insisted that Bush must not cave in to international pressure to make half of Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state. He was in Israel as the guest of the International Christian Embassy, a pro-Israel evangelical organization.

Robertson said that "the president has backed away from" the peace plan known as the "Road Map" but if he were to touch Jerusalem, "he'd lose all evangelical support."

The Palestinians claim eastern Jerusalem as its capital, while Israel insists that both eastern and western parts of the city must remain under Israeli sovereignty, as they have been since 1967. Robertson and other evangelicals, sometimes called "Christian Zionists," quote Old Testament Scriptures as a mandate from God to support Israel.

They consider any deviation from that support at odds with God's plan.

Rather than vote Democrat, the evangelist said, pro-Israel Christians would "form a third party" if Bush softened his support of Israel. Exit polls have shown evangelical Christians heavily favoring Republicans in recent presidential elections.

Robertson, based in Virginia Beach, Va., is a former presidential candidate and founder of The Christian Coalition. The co-host of "The 700 Club" television show, he has made numerous comments in the past that have offended Muslims.

At the news conference, he again blamed Muslim countries for violence in the Middle East.

"Arab nations want a conflict and want to keep the suffering of people in Gaza," Robertson said. "They don't want peace. They want the destruction of Israel."

the land and people of Israel back together for the purposes of world redemption," said David Parsons, media officer of the Christian Embassy. "We would hope that we're reading the same Bible and same newspapers as the Presbyterian Church (USA)."

It's unclear what the economic impact of such divestment would be.

"It is unlikely to have a major effect because I doubt they have very much invested directly in Israel," said Asher Blass, an economist and senior fellow at the Shalem Center, a Jerusalem think tank. "It would only make a difference, as it did with South Africa, if many American investors in capital funds and in high-tech companies were to pull out."

Evangelical groups get serious about protecting environment

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington—After taking part in an early October briefing by environmental experts, officials of several evangelical Christian relief groups said they expect to address the impact of global warming on the poor.

The Evangelical Environmental Network and the relief organization World Vision hosted a day-long discussion Oct. 4 on climate change.

Relief group leaders said predictions of greater floods and drought will lead them to work with Third World populations to prepare for and cope with changing weather patterns as well as help Western donors understand the seriousness of global warming.

The briefing—featuring represen-

tatives of the scientific, religious and political communities—continued efforts by evangelicals to draw greater attention to their role in addressing environmental changes.

"Climate change is indeed, I believe, a moral, ethical and developmental issue rather than a simple environmental issue," Bob Watson, chief scientist for the World Bank, told the two dozen people gathered at World Vision's Washington office.

He said the Earth's temperature had increased by one degree Fahrenheit in the last 100 years, prompting dramatic changes in flooding and drought that particularly affect poor populations across the globe. He predicted worsening problems—both physical and human—given scientists' expectations that the warming will continue,

and discussed how they are urging reduction of greenhouse gases.

Bruce Wilkinson, senior vice president for the international programs group of World Vision, said the briefing heightened awareness that relief organizations should develop programs to address effects of climate change and help their donors understand its impact.

"An awakening"

Keith Norris, director of economic development for the Asia Pacific region for World Hope International, wondered how the weather patterns would affect subsistence farmers his organization has assisted with small business programs.

"It's an awakening for me," Norris said. "I didn't really realize the impact that the climate change would have on the poor."

The briefing followed a similar gathering in North East, Md., in June of top evangelical leaders who committed to work on environmental issues, including global warming.

In that same month, the National Association of Evangelicals issued a draft document on civic engagement that featured a section calling on evangelicals to "protect God's creation."

An editorial in the October edition of Christianity Today called for more attention.

"With each passing year, we lose the ability to slow and minimize the effects of global warming," the editorial concluded. "Christians should make it clear to governments and businesses that we are willing to adapt our lifestyles and support steps toward changes that protect our environment."

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