



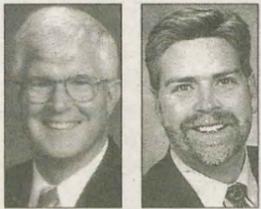
WESTERN RECORDER

Newspage Edition

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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
NAMB appoints task force on reaching Hispanics. *Page 2.*



Kentucky Baptist Convention
Presidential candidates share their perspectives. *Page 3.*

Editorial
KBC messengers face key issues. *Page 5.*

Family
Missionaries expect a retreat for soldiers at Fort Campbell to pay dividends. *Page 6.*

Evangelism
Workshop offers witnessing tips. *Page 7.*

Resources
Too few churches consider how to retain members, a consultant says. *Page 10.*

International missions
Missionaries spend 40 days in the African bush to get ready for service. *Page 13.*

Here's one way to stop pesky cell phone distractions

Monterrey, Mexico (ABP)—Any pastor who has had a sermon interrupted by a cell phone in the congregation might get an idea from this story.

Leaders of four Roman Catholic churches in Monterrey, Mexico, are placing cell phone jammers in their sanctuaries to keep phones from receiving a signal while in the buildings.

The size of paperback books, the Israeli-made jammers are nestled unobtrusively among paintings and statues.

"There are still some people who don't understand that being at mass is sharing a moment with God," said Juan Jose Martinez, a spokesman for the archdiocese. "Sadly, we had no other choice but to use these little gadgets."

The ringing of cell phones is increasingly being thwarted—from Mexican sanctuaries and India's parliament to Tokyo theaters—by devices originally developed to help security forces avert eavesdropping and stop phone-triggered bombs, according to Associated Press.

Currently, use of these devices is illegal in the United States and most Western nations, but Mexico and many other countries have no law prohibiting them.

The devices at the Monterrey churches were imported from Tel Aviv-based Netline Communications Technologies Ltd.

Officials for Netline say they are selling thousands of jammers a year and have expanded their business worldwide.

Preaching in the 21st century

Role of pastor and sermons in worship could be changing, speakers predict

By Craig Bird
Associated Baptist Press

Waco, Texas (ABP)—In the past half century, evangelical worship has seen a lot of changes.

Music styles have morphed, orders of service have flip-flopped, chalk talks gave way to PowerPoint presentations and pew Bibles and fill-in-the-blank sermon outline forms have appeared. In some cases, the lectern has disappeared, and the speaker has "dressed down."

But overwhelmingly, the preacher still delivers a 20- to 30-minute uninterrupted soliloquy, most often with three points. It's a lecture format, intended to inform and inspire.

But even that could be changing, according to several speakers at a recent conference on the future of worship.

Many leaders in postmodern-influenced "emergent churches"—which the New York Times has called the possible "next big wave of evangelical worship"—said their sermons differ from the traditional style seen in many churches.

"I don't think we will have master orators much longer," predicted Chris Seay, pastor of Ecclesia in Houston and a frequent commentator on postmodern culture.

"Art, dance and music are new forces that will play increasingly larger roles" if the church is to be



relevant to the Millennials, today's teens and young adults.

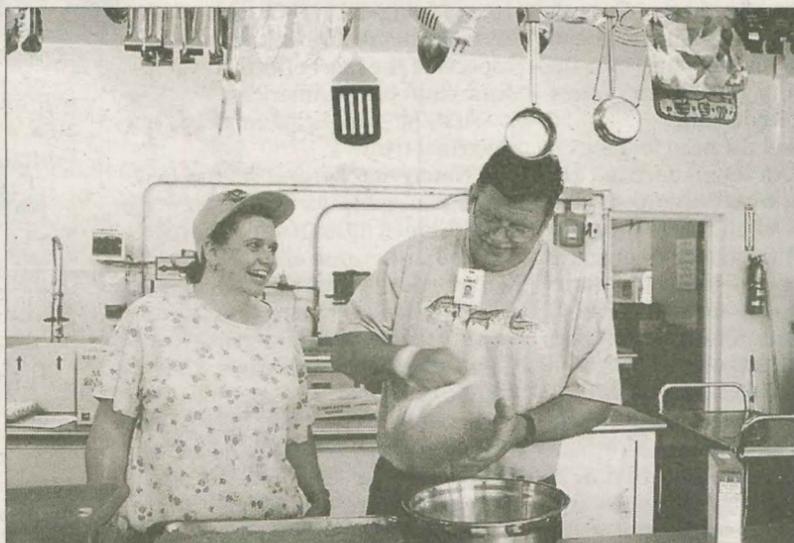
Pushing this change, they say, are shorter attention spans of young adults as well as multi-media-influenced learning styles.

The postmodern person "celebrates experiences" and wants to "engage all the senses," Seay

explained. "They have shorter attention spans and they process information differently from earlier generations. They learn through narrative—stories—and the visual is very important."

Author Brian McLaren, pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church □ See *Are sermons, role ... Page 10*

Couple: Daughter's tragedy helped share Christ at Spring Meadows



KITCHEN HELP Frank Wiczorek gets some help from his daughter Michelle in the kitchen at Spring Meadows, a children's home operated by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Wiczorek and his wife, Renee, say Michelle's car accident 10 years ago helped them better share the message of God's love with Spring Meadows children.

By Julie Roberts
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Louisville—Not long after they were married, Frank and Renee Wiczorek felt called to minister to children.

Little did they know the impact their own child would have on that ministry.

Frank had spent years behind the pulpit as a minister before he and Renee became teaching parents at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in the 1990s.

With their own daughters grown, the Wiczoreks moved to Spring Meadows Children's Home to take charge of a cottage full of teen girls who had been abused or neglected by their own families.

"We were scared to death at first, but we knew enough to trust the Lord for good results," Renee recalled. "It took a lot of work to

get the girls willing to trust adults again, but we became a family."

Tragedy struck in October 1995, when the Wiczoreks' youngest daughter, Michelle, was left clinging to life after a car accident.

Among Michelle's injuries were a ruptured spleen, broken arms, lacerated liver, collapsed lungs, broken jaw, broken pallette and a dif-fused axonal brain injury. Doctors told the family to prepare for the worst, predicting Michelle never would wake.

That's when the Wiczoreks say they were able to teach the girls at Spring Meadows a valuable lesson: Miracles still occur. Through bedside vigils at the hospital and group prayer at the cottage, Frank and Renee shared their faith in God.

"It was tough for the girls," Mrs. Wiczorek said.

□ See *Couple: God used ... Page 12*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, November 3.

BAPTIST DIGEST

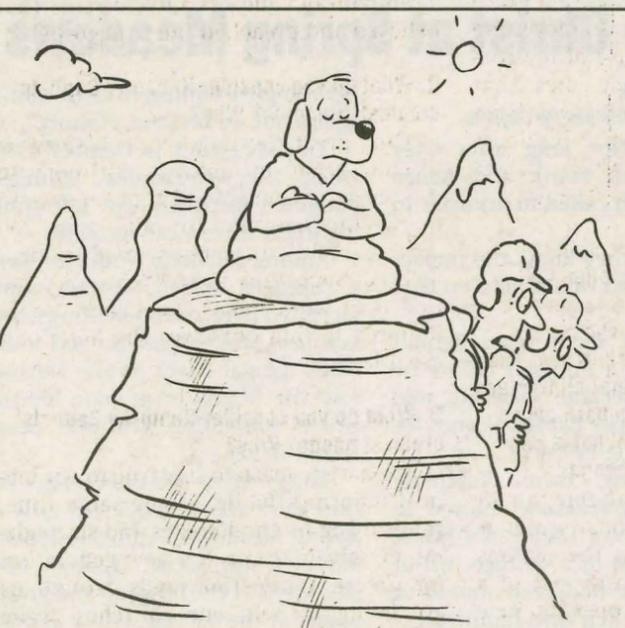
Southwestern pursues undergraduate school. Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary are continuing plans to open an undergraduate college in the fall of 2005. The school, tentatively named The College at Southwestern, will offer a bachelor's degree in biblical studies and other programs in the history of Western ideas on the seminary's Fort Worth, Texas, campus. A task force has begun formulating the school's curriculum and has designed application materials.

Seminary offers Saturday degree plan. Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary recently endorsed a Saturday master of divinity plan and approved certificate courses in Haiti and at the state prison in Mississippi. The 91-hour Saturday master of divinity plan is designed for students in full-time jobs or ministry positions who have scheduling conflicts during the week. The seminary will partner with the Florida Baptist Convention to offer ministry training for pastors and church leaders in Haiti. Trustees also authorized a certificate in Christian ministry program at Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman.

D.C. messengers adopt ambitious budget. After a lengthy discussion, messengers to the District of Columbia Baptist Convention overwhelmingly adopted a budget that the convention's Executive Board had considered too ambitious only weeks before. Messengers passed the budget Oct. 26 by a 72-3 vote. The \$1,225,842 figure was higher than an earlier \$1,050,000 cap the Executive Board had set in June on the 2005 budget. However, when board members became aware at a Sept. 27 meeting that the budget would mean eliminating three staff positions—cutting an already bare-bones staff nearly in half—they reversed themselves and asked the convention's finance committee to come up with a new budget. The convention used to receive about \$475,000 a year from the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, but NAMB officials discontinued the funding in 2002.

CBF links missionaries with local churches. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is launching a new category of mission service that will allow churches to directly fund specific missionaries who work through the Fellowship. The program—called AsYouGo—allows missionaries to affiliate with CBF Global Missions even if they are funded by churches, have full-time employment that takes them abroad, or both. In the new arrangement, a church can completely finance a missions worker, and that worker can join in the work of other CBF mission personnel.

Drakeford, retired Southwestern professor, dies. John Drakeford, a distinguished professor emeritus of psychology and counseling and a writer-in-residence at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Oct. 16. Drakeford, 90, was the author or co-author of more than 40 books, including "Marriage—How to Keep a Good Thing Going" and "A Christian View of Homosexuality." Drakeford, a native of Australia, taught at Southwestern 31 years before retiring in 1985.



"He's good, but he can be dogmatic."

NAMB task force taps Hispanic leaders

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Citing an increasing openness to the gospel among the nation's growing Hispanic population, Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President Robert Reccord has appointed a task force to help Southern Baptists reach this ethnic group.

"The explosive growth of the Hispanic population is surpassing even the most aggressive demographic projections," Reccord said.

Even though Southern Baptists are starting 240 churches per year in predominantly Hispanic communities, Reccord noted, "There are literally thousands of Hispanic communities throughout North America without an evangelical

witness. It is going to take unprecedented communication and cooperation between national, state and local SBC leaders to reach Hispanics in North America for Christ.

"To help us determine the needs, concerns and dreams of our Hispanic Baptist churches, I've invited many of our Hispanic leaders to meet together as a task force to advise our NAMB leadership," he added.

The 15-member task force will be chaired by Daniel Sanchez, director of the Scarborough Center for Church Planting and Church Growth and professor of missions since 1983 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Gustavo Suarez, di-

rector of missions for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, will be the vice chairman.

"As Hispanic Baptist leaders," Sanchez said, "we are faced with the awesome challenge of discerning the signs of the times and providing leadership in designing creative, bold and culturally relevant strategies for reaching our people for Christ in larger numbers than we have ever done before.

"We've been invited to work with NAMB's mission strategists to study the best opportunities for reaching Hispanics, develop a report with recommendations to their executive staff and then dialogue about ways the recommendations can be implemented cooperatively," he added.

Seminary audit: 'No criminality' in car dispute

Wake Forest, N.C. (ABP)—Auditors have made "a number of constructive suggestions for improvements" to financial procedures at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., according to seminary officials.

The recommendations came after reports surfaced about a car given to an aide to former President Paige Patterson in 2003. The car initially was considered a gift, but the school later received a \$6,500 check—half the value of the six-month-old vehicle—from the aide's father-in-law. That money had been considered a donation, but school officials later said it would not qualify as a tax-deductible gift.

The auditors' suggestions were mentioned in a letter from Colby Daughtry, a partner in the account-

ing firm of McGladrey & Pullen, to Southeastern President Danny Akin and Phillip Mercer, chairman of the trustees' audit committee. The letter, which was released by school officials, did not list the specific recommendations. School officials did not elaborate.

The letter said the suggestions did not include changing the school's financial statements or cause the firm to adjust its "unqualified opinion" of the school's financial fitness.

During a regularly scheduled meeting Oct. 25-26, Mercer said the school had asked auditors to take a closer look at the seminary's financial procedures, in part due to the controversy surrounding the car. The more extensive investigation "found nothing untoward in any areas," Mercer said.

In a statement released Oct. 27 by seminary officials, Akin said the auditors' report had resolved the questions raised. "We asked the auditors to review our actions, and they found no concerns," he said. "We have instituted some new procedures to guard against making the same mistakes again."

The release also quoted Mercer, who said the auditors' report chastened the school's administrators, but also vindicated them. "There were some issues in procedures but there was no criminality whatsoever," he said. "There were no signs of anything fraudulent or illegal. Our procedures need to be tightened up and we need to be more thorough. We have to do a better job of tracking acquisition of fixed assets, like a car."

Mohler and Rainer urge churches to combine teaching and reaching

Louisville (BP)—What will it take for churches to thrive in the new century?

The "Church in the 21st Century Conference" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary focused on that question, drawing nearly 150 participants Oct. 5.

Seminary President Albert Mohler and Thom Rainer, dean of Southern's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, were the featured speakers, discussing such issues as major challenges facing the church in the coming century and keys to successful Christian leadership.

Mohler cited the need for churches to teach both sound doctrine and reach the lost with the gospel.

Two types of churches predominate the contemporary evangelical scene, Mohler said—those that focus on teaching and seek to have all their doctrinal foundations properly ordered and those that focus on evangelism and reaching the lost.

"We don't have many teaching and reaching or reaching and teaching churches, and that is a problem," he said. "Because if you look at the New Testament, it is the reaching church that is also a teaching church."

"If we have to choose between the two, I can't go either way," he noted, "because the apostles would not ac-

cept that as a forced choice."

"There are churches that will sacrifice almost anything in the name of reaching people," Mohler said during a question-and-answer session. "But there are (other) churches ... that think their only responsibility before God is to teach and God will do the reaching. A part of this is just an insidious misunderstanding of the gospel."

Based on research conducted by interviewing recent Christian converts, Rainer described the common aspects of the most effective evangelistic churches in America.

First, he said, is an emphasis on doctrinal truth.

"Ninety-one percent of the new Christians (who were interviewed) said, 'I ended up at the church where I ended up because of its doctrine,'" Rainer said. "When we take stands, when we are clear on what Scripture says, ... the lost world begins to say, 'That might be something that I want to talk about.'"

Because non-Christians are drawn to doctrinal truth, he added, churches must take care to teach scriptural truth and display confidence in the Word of God.

"Doctrinal absolutes are critical," he said. Churches must "not simply say that we have this fuzzy belief system, but we have a clear and certain belief system."

Hankins named Louisiana exec

Alexandria, La. (ABP)—David Hankins, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, was elected executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention Oct. 28.



Hankins

The former Louisiana pastor will begin his new duties Jan. 1 as director-elect and will assume full duties Feb. 1 after Executive Director Dean Doster retires Jan. 31.

"I will not stick my finger in the air to see which way the wind is blowing," Hankins said. "I will place it into the holy Word of God (and lead) from the Spirit of God and the written Word."

Hankins, 54, served 10 years as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La., before becoming vice president for convention policy for the SBC Executive Committee in 1996. He was named vice president for Cooperative Program in 1998 and was promoted to executive vice president in September.

KBC presidential candidates describe ministry vision & goals

Ellison: Reaching people for Christ is my heartbeat

Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, is former president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.

Q: Why are you willing to be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president?

The standard answer is that I prayed about it and said yes. But reality is that the request caught me completely off guard. My life didn't need the added complexity and challenge, but I love Kentucky Baptists dearly. I have been blessed to travel the state as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies president, I grew up in Louisville and God's call on my life came through first in Western Kentucky. I prayerfully considered the request, talked it over with my wife and our lay leadership at Walnut Street, and then said, "OK."



Ellison

Q: What would be your primary hopes and goals as KBC president?

My primary hope would be to continue the course that Bill Mackey, the KBC leadership team and the Mission Board are currently navigating. I don't want to see our state fragmented politically. We do "get along" in Kentucky. I want to keep it that way.

Q: Please share briefly about your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

I came to Christ at age 13 and was baptized by Bill Rogers at Melbourne Heights Church in Louisville. First Church of Murray was my "summer church" and my earliest memories of missions were there.

Pam and I were members of Paducah First, when I heard a clear call of God to full-time ministry. Seven years later, at the age of 40, I came back to Louisville to attend Southern Seminary, finishing my master of divinity degree in 1992. My first pastorate was Benton First, followed by Cedar Creek in Louisville, and then I went to the camp and conference centers prior to Walnut Street.

Q: KBC messengers will vote next month on a proposed constitutional change that will allow KBC-related colleges to have up to one-fourth of their trustees who are not members of Kentucky Baptist churches. The proposal specifies, however, that all trustees must be "Christians who are in harmony with historic Baptist beliefs." What is your opinion of this proposed change?

I'm for the proposal. I believe that we must allow our college presidents the freedom to expand their trustee base in the years ahead. The various challenges facing our colleges today, not the least of which are financial, are such that our presidents can add strength to our schools as they bring carefully selected trustees from outside the usual circles. Enrollment at our KBC-related colleges is at an all-time high, but we must continue to be innovative in meeting the pressures that come with these increasing enrollments.

Q: One of the key responsibilities as president is to appoint three members to the KBC committee on committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

I want to appoint three members whose motives are pure when it comes

to Kentucky Baptist life. We are blessed in Kentucky in that we have avoided some of the deep divides that have encumbered and forever changed the landscape of Baptist life in some of our sister states. I tend to get nervous over agenda-driven persons, preferring those whom I believe I can trust to serve Kentucky Baptists in a way that allows Dr. Mackey, the leadership team and the Mission Board to continue the direction we are currently headed.

Q: How would you describe yourself in the current political landscape of Baptist life?

I am a political centrist, with authentic friends all over the landscape of Kentucky Baptist life. I serve a church that embraces diversity—theologically, politically and culturally. And I love it. I wouldn't trade places with any pastor in our state. Walnut Street is gloriously complex with regard to her make-up.

Q: As the first president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies after it became a separate entity in 1997, you instituted a number of programming changes that drew both affirmation and criticism. Why did you feel it was important to revise many of the camps' traditional programs despite some Kentucky Baptists' concerns?

The attendance at our camps was going down, down, and the cost of maintaining both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek was going up at an ever-increasing rate. We knew we were headed toward a train wreck and that's why KBA was formed. I knew that the changes we had to make wouldn't be popular in some circles, but I take great satisfaction in the incredible progress we've made at Jonathan Creek, and I now see Cedarmore positioned for similar progress.

When I took over the camps, I said it would be 10-12 years before we got both places turned around. I still hold to that timetable. Change is seldom popular in Baptist life, but I wasn't called to the camp ministry to run a popularity contest. If one looks at the numbers today—numbers of students, numbers of decisions and financial numbers—we are much stronger than we were seven years ago.

Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

I think our greatest strengths include our steady capacity to cooperate in the many mission causes our state embraces, from mountain missions in the east to far west Kentucky, from Europe to Brazil, and all places in between. Our partnership missions have changed thousands of lives overseas and in our churches. As Kentucky Baptists, we've stayed steady in our support of Cooperative Program missions.

Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest needs? Why?

I think our greatest need is to encourage our churches to more effectively reach more people for Christ. That's my heartbeat. However, it's a challenge to develop a church culture where missions and evangelism pervade all the church does. I serve a church that is representative of that challenge. Our people know I love them, but they also see that I love lost people and I get really excited when they come to Christ!

York: KBC must 'stay true to our biblical moorings'

Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, also is professor of Christian preaching and associate dean of ministry and proclamation in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of theology.

Q: Why are you willing to be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president?

I believe in the mission of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and am willing to do anything—whether I am elected or not—to help this convention glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen our commitment to the Great Commission and grow the local church. Serving as president is merely one more way of doing that.



York

Q: What would be your primary hopes and goals as KBC president?

I am praying that God might use my presidency to spark a deeper commitment to prayer, evangelism, expository preaching, cultural engagement, biblical fidelity in our schools, and practical educational opportunities for pastors who don't have a natural support group around them, especially bivocational pastors.

I want to reach out to younger pastors who don't see the benefits of KBC involvement and get them excited about what God is doing in this state.

I would also like to see a stronger tie between our state convention and the incredible resources of Southern Seminary. I pray the Kentucky Baptist Convention and some of our Baptist colleges and universities will enjoy greater camaraderie and partnership with Southern. It's time to heal old wounds.

Q: Please share briefly about your personal spiritual pilgrimage.

I grew up in a pastor's home, was saved by God's grace when I was seven, surrendered to ministry when I was 19, and have been in full-time ministry since I was 20. I used to be quite legalistic, but in my early 20s the Lord allowed me to have a grace awakening and realize that God loves me because of Jesus, not because of my conformity to a set of man-made rules. That was epoch-making and I have never been the same. It gave me a desire for holiness out of passionate love for Christ rather than out of a need to earn God's favor.

Q: KBC messengers will vote next month on a proposed constitutional change that will allow KBC-related colleges to have up to one-fourth of their trustees who are not members of Kentucky Baptist churches. The proposal specifies, however, that all trustees must be "Christians who are in harmony with historic Baptist beliefs." What is your opinion about this proposed change?

In all candor, I am not happy about non-Baptists serving on the boards of Baptist colleges, and think that the reasons behind this change are mostly out of a false hope that this might open up new sources of revenue.

When they promise that these non-Baptists must be "in harmony with historic Baptist beliefs," which do they mean?

Eternal security? Believers' baptism by immersion? They had better not assume that an affirmation of the separation of church and state and priesthood of the believer is sufficient.

I am going to hold my nose and support it, however, because it mandates that each trustee must commit to maintain the relationship between the schools and the KBC. Frankly, this puts the boards of our schools on record that they will not follow the path of schools in other states and abandon the KBC after years of sacrificial investment by the churches and people of this convention, so I think we get more than we lose on this one, especially since the KBC is not obligated to accept the nominations of the presidents.

Q: One of the key responsibilities as president is to appoint three members to the KBC committee on committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

While I can work in a cordial, warm and Christ-like manner with any Kentucky Baptist, I will only appoint to the committee on committees Kentucky Baptists who affirm the inerrancy of Scripture as expressed by the KBC's affirmation of several statements of faith, including the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. But cold-hearted orthodoxy is not a sufficient criterion, either. My appointees will have proven track records of giving, evangelism and service.

Q: How would you describe yourself in the current political landscape of Baptist life?

I am conservative theologically, aggressive evangelistically and progressive methodologically.

Q: As former pastor of a Kentucky Baptist congregation that historically has promoted the Landmark "Trail of Blood" theory that the Baptist church can be traced back in unbroken succession to the time of Christ, what is your view of that belief?

I am not now nor have I ever been a successionist in my ecclesiology. I believe, however, the *perpetuity* of true New Testament churches because of Jesus' promise that He would be with His church to the end of the age. By that I mean that I accept by faith that the light of the gospel has never been extinguished from this world to be recovered later, but from the time of Jesus there has always been a remnant of believers and churches that believed and preached the true gospel.

Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

Our great heritage and history is unique. What an amazing testimony to the power of God's Word that we have so many churches that are more than 200 years old and still going strong. My own beloved Buck Run is 186 years old and God is at work today. Our generation is honored to find ourselves the heirs of a great legacy.

Q: What do you consider Kentucky Baptists' greatest needs? Why?

We have to learn to stay true to our biblical moorings while, at the same time, reinventing methodologies and strategizing creatively to reach a new generation for Christ. While thousands around us are going to hell, our churches argue over worship styles! We simply must get beyond that and train, place and network a new generation of preachers and churches for maximum impact.

KBC 2004

Presidential Candidate Profiles

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Why I am proud to be a 'Jesus liberal'

Editor's note: Henlee Barnette, a noted Southern Baptist pioneer in Christian ethics, died Oct. 20 at age 93. One week before he died, Barnette submitted the following commentary for publication. Described at his memorial service as "an unashamed Baptist radical," Barnette challenged conventional thinking throughout his ministry. His final commentary reflects his commitment to pursue "Jesus' mission ... of liberation."

By Henlee Barnette

Liberal-bashing has become a favorite pastime. Religious fundamentalists and extreme talk show hosts are at it continuously. They deconstruct and demonize those who do not agree with their ideology.

Rush Limbaugh is the "top gun" in bashing Democrats. He calls them idiots, imbeciles, fools, liars and nuts. He calls women feminazis and babes. Other talk show hosts, who are wannabes, echo the same sophistry.

I am proud to be a liberal and to be identified with the liberals. Here is why:

I am a liberal because they have compassionate character. All seven dictionaries in my house characterize a liberal as someone who is free from prejudice, favoring more civil liberty and generous. Moreover, liberals favor policies of reform and progress.

I am a liberal because our Constitution is liberal. "We the people" produced the Constitution "to promote," among other things, "the general welfare" and to secure the "Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." The Declaration of Independence declares that Americans are "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life,

Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"—and when the "Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it." Over half of the amendments to the Bill of Rights have to do with human rights, progressively achieved. These documents of democracy are progressive and call for reform in government when it fails to preserve and practice these values.

I am a liberal because I know what it is like to work under a conservative and an oppressive economic system. In the "good old days" (1925-1935) I worked in a cotton mill 10 hours per day, five and one-half days per week. Beginning pay—18 cents per hour. There was no medical care, no retirement program, no minimum working hours, no minimum wage. A worker could be fired for no reason at all. All members of the family had to work to survive. This was so-called "free enterprise."

Progressive liberals changed the system, and we now have legislation that provides a quality of life more in harmony with the principles of the Constitution, the Declaration and the Bible. Practice of these principles saved us from revolution that plagues other nations.

Necons denounce economic and social progress led by liberals: minimum wages and working hours, Medicare, Social Security, welfare for the poor. Ironically, they gladly accept these government services for their retired parents and grandparents and will for themselves when they become older.

I am a liberal because Jesus was one. (See my article "Jesus was a liberal," Baptists Today, Nov. 20, 1997.) Jesus' mission was one of liberation. He was anointed to preach

the good news to the poor, recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:16-19).

Jesus came to liberate us from sin (Matthew 1:21). He is a liberal because He put human need above ecclesiastical law. (Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-6; Luke 6:1-5).

Jesus liberates little children (Mark 10:14). He liberated women by providing them with a place in His ministry (Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:40-41). They financially supported His ministry (Luke 8:2-3), stood by Him at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56; John 19:25-27) and were first to witness His resurrection and to carry the joyful news to the deserting disciples (Matthew 28:1-10).

Jesus was a liberal because He was inclusive. He included Gentiles in the embrace of His grace and the orthodox sought to kill Him (Luke 4:16-30). Jesus was ecumenical. His disciples discovered someone casting out devils in Jesus' name who did not follow Him, and they tried to stop him. Jesus rebuked their narrow view (Luke 9:49-50). As Christians we are all one in Christ so "that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

For these reasons and much more I am a Jesus liberal who puts love above law, righteousness above ritual, justice above injustice and mercy above meanness.

Henlee Barnette was an emeritus professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and retired clinical professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

KBC annual meeting's new format

The Wednesday morning session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville (8:30 a.m.-noon on Nov. 17) will have a new look this year. The session will feature the presentation of a research report on the unchurched Kentuckian, workshops with nationally known presenters and a closing challenge by Charles Lowery.

The well-respected George Barna Group has just completed the research project on the unchurched and less churched Kentuckian. David Kinnaman, the director of the project, will share the results.

The research has been segmented into four regions of the commonwealth. There also will be video segments of interviews with the unchurched in Kentucky as part of the presentation.

A summary of the report will be available for those in attendance. I believe this information will prove invaluable to church and associational leaders as well as the KBC Mission Board staff in shaping

future ministries.

After the research presentation, nationally known presenters will anchor six outstanding workshops addressing the Kentucky Baptists Connect objectives and goals. I encourage churches to bring multiple participants so that they will be represented in each workshop and can take a copy of the resources for your church.

As of this writing, more than 150 individuals already have registered for these free workshops. You can do so as well by going online to www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting. Space is limited for some of the workshops so I encourage you to sign up now.

Lowery will draw on his well-known humor and experiences in church development and from the research to challenge participants.

The Wednesday morning session will be a wonderful staff experience for those within driving distance. I know of one Louisville church that plans to close its offices so the entire staff can participate.

The entire convention will focus on the theme: "Kentucky Baptists

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

Connect, Connecting All People to Jesus Christ." This convention will begin a full year of sharing information about Kentucky Baptists Connect and seeking to enlist participation.

The Tuesday evening session commitment time on Nov. 16 will feature great music by the Severns Valley Baptist Church choir and praise team and life-transforming testimonies. Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, and Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, will lead narration and the closing commitment time. Both men are convention officers.

Plan to be present with hundreds of Kentucky Baptists for this great evening of worship and personal commitment!

The rest of the convention will provide opportunities to conduct all business and worship. The Pastors' Conference will provide additional inspiration with a focus on evangelism. Pray for all participants in Cross Over Metro Louisville and plan to participate.

Please pray for God to bless the gathering and deployment of His people.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Checklist offers financial insights for ages 20-35

By Don Spencer

Certain basic principles of Christian financial planning apply throughout life. Since financial needs at each stage of life change, however, there are different priorities for

each age group.

There also is a tendency of each age group to make certain financial errors.

Below is a checklist of financial issues typically to be considered by those in their 20s and early 30s. Over the next couple months, I'll have similar lists for older age groups.

This list is not meant to include everything one should consider but can serve as a starting point.

What to do for ages 20-35:

- Develop a habit of tithing.
- Develop a financial record-keeping system.
- Make a spending plan (budget).
- Establish a savings plan of at least 5-10 percent of income.
- Establish a credit history but carefully manage any increased need for credit.
- Make sure you have adequate life, health and disability insurance. Coverage may need to be adjusted during this period of life.
- Provide for child rearing costs and expanding housing needs.
- Begin and build education funds for children.
- Write wills.

What to avoid for ages 20-35:

- Too much emphasis on current needs resulting in failure to prepare for future life stages.
- Overspending.
- Having no financial goals or having unrealistic goals.
- Failure to seek professional assistance.
- Insufficient insurance.

What to accomplish:

- Assess your financial needs and set appropriate future financial goals.
- Keep spending, borrowing and savings balanced.
- Establish a system to keep financial and legal records and documents organized.
- Develop basic financial planning skills.
- Establish a pattern of other family members' involvement in financial decisions and planning.

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



'Empty nest marriages' offer time to enhance relationship

Q: As the holiday season approaches, our youngest child will spend one last Thanksgiving and Christmas at home before moving out on her own. How does the last child leaving home typically affect a couple?

"Empty nest marriages," as they are often called, typically have spent the majority of married life with children as the focus of marital attention. It is not unusual for a couple to have directed the majority of their time, energy and finances toward children for well over two decades, only to wake up one morning to discover that they must redirect their lives and reinvest in one another.

While it is true that the empty nest years often coincide with midlife, this does not need to constitute a crisis, but rather an opportunity. While the couple might face the challenges of caring for aging parents, compounded with grief over the children leaving, they also have some unique opportunities to reflect once again on priorities.

Making careful decisions not to over-invest in work or pleasure-seeking lifestyles, men can communicate a powerful message to their wives about their commitment to the marriage as they lead in initiating time together. Women should remember that husbands are at a point where they often need some excitement in life beyond the mundane day-to-day activities. Be willing to try new things with him. Men should remember that wives need to be reminded that they are special. Court them by doing the little things you did when you were dating!

Above all, remember that this is an ideal time to freshly recommit to serving Christ together. Experiment with opportunities such as combining your love for travel with short-term mission trips. Consider taking a daily couple walk that can be combined with a prayer time or a chance to read a passage of Scripture. Volunteer to mentor a newly married couple or to work together beautifying the building and grounds at church. Keep in mind that the launch of your last child can open the way for the re-entry of marital intimacy.—Scott Wigginton

Q: When should I say "no" to my kids?

Most parents desire to give their children as much as possible. For the most part, today's parents also have the ability to do that. Saying no becomes even harder when you can afford to say yes. In a materialistic world, affluent parents must learn how to say no to a child's incessant demand for things in order to help that child learn that life has limits.

Say no enough to help your child be appreciative. The child who has everything typically appreciates nothing. Be alert for this attitude in your child. Watch to see how quickly your child asks for more after receiving gifts. Are they satisfied and thankful, or do they immediately begin talking about what they didn't get or still want?

Say no enough to teach value. The child who has too much often does not value what he has. Watch to see how your child cares for possessions.

Say no enough to make things special. Years ago, eating out was a treat, but today meals at restaurants are nothing special because most of us eat out all the time.

Say no when you find yourself giving your child things instead of time. Busy parents often try to make up for their absence with gifts and toys. They say yes out of a sense of guilt or to avoid conflict and arguments.

Say no enough to protect your child from the tyranny of things. Jesus warned that too much stuff can become a distraction that distorts every relationship. Monitor your child's attitude toward things. Is he or she self-centered and greedy or eager to give and share?—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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



Convention messengers face key issues

By the time you read these words, Americans will know who will serve the next four years as our nation's president—hopefully.

Since this issue of the Western Recorder went to press the day before the Nov. 2 elections, no one knew who would win what promised to be another incredibly close race. If the system worked and a winner was declared, we now can move on to other significant issues. If not, we will be discussing the election process and its outcome for weeks to come—again.

Assuming someone was named president this week, one of the next priorities for Kentucky Baptists is this month's state convention annual meeting. Major items of business will include launching "Kentucky Baptists Connect," electing convention officers and considering a proposed Baptist World Alliance study committee.

As messengers prepare to attend the Nov. 16-17 gathering at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, details of those issues include:

Kentucky Baptists Connect. The state convention's five-year mission study plan, adopted last year by the KBC Mission Board, encourages each Kentucky Baptist church to baptize at least one more person each year through 2009. The emphasis also calls for Kentucky Baptists to baptize a total of 125,000 people, launch 75 churches and start 500 Bible study units during the next five years.

As state convention leaders seek to enlist participating churches in the coming year, Kentucky Baptists Connect officially will be launched with a commitment service during the annual meeting's Tuesday evening session.

Presidential election. Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, and Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, are the two announced nominees for KBC president. Ellison also is former president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies and York is a professor and associate dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

One of the KBC president's key responsibilities is to

appoint three members to the committee on committees, who in turn nominate members to the KBC committee on nominations which is responsible for recommending trustees for state convention entities.

Ellison, who said he tends "to get nervous over agenda-driven persons," said he would appoint committee members "whose motives are pure when it comes to Kentucky Baptist life."

York said he would "only appoint ... Kentucky Baptists who affirm the inerrancy of Scripture," adding that his appointees also would have "proven track records of giving, evangelism and service."

Both men candidly shared their views in a question-and-answer interview published this week on page 3. I encourage every messenger to carefully read their perspectives and make an informed decision about who you believe should lead Kentucky Baptists in the coming year.

BWA study committee. In light of the Southern Baptist Convention's recent decision to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance, the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee has proposed establishing a study committee to examine "how the Kentucky Baptist Convention may relate to the Baptist World Alliance." If approved by the full Mission Board, the proposal will be presented to KBC messengers for consideration.

While some Kentucky Baptists on both sides of the BWA issue would prefer an up or down vote this year, the KBC's Baptist Faith and Message study committee demonstrated that a thorough, reasoned study can produce a win-win solution while maintaining harmony. Hopefully, the same will prove true with the BWA issue.

Numerous other issues will be addressed at the annual meeting, including a proposed \$23.1 million Cooperative Program budget for 2005-06 and a constitutional amendment to allow non-Baptists to serve on KBC-related college trustee boards.

Whether or not you serve as a convention messenger, pray that God will be honored as Kentucky Baptists gather to conduct Kingdom business.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

'Trading spaces' enhances ministry

In a staff meeting last fall at Edgewood Baptist Church, we began to brainstorm about what discipleship classes we were going to offer during our Wednesday night program.

We kicked around several ideas, including that I take a month and teach the adults in the sanctuary. As minister of education and youth, it wouldn't be the first time I had taught adults here or the first time I had led prayer meeting, but Wednesday is my time with the students.

At the same time, our pastor was feeling a need to get to know our youth better. So we decided we would trade spaces. He would teach our students and I would lead adult prayer meeting. It had been a while since either of us had taught the other age group, so we gave ourselves a couple of months to prepare. We agreed on a six-week period after the first of the year in which we would teach the winter Bible study on 1 and 2 Timothy.

One benefit of the process is that it brought us closer together as a ministry team in several ways, including:

Not letting each other fail. We "had each other's back" during this process. It was as risky to let the

pastor loose with our students as it was to let the youth minister with his PowerPoint games and discussion questions loose on the adults in the sanctuary. The first week he

brought me some of his commentaries and some other teaching materials to help with my preparation. I was not used to having to talk for 50 minutes a night and I was not sure how many PowerPoint slides that would equal. Throughout the weeks that followed, we continued to invest in each other through resources, supplies and intentional prayer to help make sure the other one was successful.

The time we spent together. Every week we spent time together discussing how the previous week's teaching, student interaction and activities had gone and sharing ideas for the next week. As in any relationship, spending time together, talking, dreaming and hanging out together helped our relationship grow.

Gaining a better perspective on what the other one deals with every week. Putting together a 50-minute PowerPoint presentation and a listening guide to cover all the material for each week was a bigger undertaking than I had imagined,

and trying to corral a room full of teenagers one night a week is no simple task either.

Gaining a sense of humility. I am not irreplaceable; I have always known that deep down inside. But sometimes in the midst of what success we have in ministry, we think we are the only ones who can do the job we do as well as we can.

Our students quickly began to develop a relationship with our pastor, and some of our adults got a new appreciation for that middle-age guy who hangs out with our teens. Just being humble before each other and before God brought us closer together.

It was a success for us. Our students got to know our pastor better. He became more than just the guy who delivers the sermons on Sunday. They came to understand that he loves them and cares for them as much as anyone else in the church.

But I guess the best part of the experience was strengthening the relationship between my pastor and me. After all, "there are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us" (1 Corinthians 12:5-6 NLT).

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

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November 16-17

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Session Schedule

Tuesday morning
8:30-Noon

Tuesday afternoon
1:30-4:15 p.m.

Tuesday evening
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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Soldiers' retreat organizers expecting long-lasting impact

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Oak Grove—Leaders of the first Kentucky Baptist-sponsored military-family retreat say the event will reap dividends for months to come.

More than 180 soldiers and spouses attended the event, Oct. 22-23 at First Baptist Church of Oak Grove.

Three people accepted Christ as their personal Savior as a result, according to Roy Callahan, a Mission Service Corps missionary who works with soldiers at Fort Campbell.

"It will be far reaching," Callahan said. "A lot of people have talked about how it spoke to them and touched them."

The retreat was organized by Linda and Larry Otterback of Woodland Baptist Church in Middletown. Their team of 30 leaders came from eight denominations and four states.

"It was a spiritual thing," Mrs. Otterback said of the response to the various sessions. "Many went to the altar. You could see the loving hands, the tears and the joy."

Founders of Eastern Sunrise Ministry, the Otterbacks have led half a dozen men's and women's retreats in Eastern Kentucky, but this was their first in the western region.

Keynote speakers included Steve Austin of Murfreesboro, Tenn.,

founder of a ministry to those struggling with addictions; and Clay Chancellor, a pastor from Mississippi who is a paraplegic.

Callahan said those two speakers were the most popular, with Chancellor—crippled by an auto accident—affecting many young people.

"When you get youth excited about Clay coming back, you've touched somebody's heart," Callahan said. "They're still talking about him."

The retreat included small-group sessions on pornography, reconciliation, temptation and marriage.

Mrs. Otterback said she already has gotten inquiries about holding a similar session at Fort Knox.

Mrs. Otterback said she first was inspired through a dream to organize the retreat. In the dream, she said, she and her husband were driving to Western Kentucky and saw a wheelchair in the road. She relates that dream to Chancellor, although at the time she didn't know him.

The day after the retreat ended, her husband delivered his first sermon since selling his business in August to become a chaplain. Larry Otterback spoke at Sharon Baptist Church in Mayfield, which sponsors the couple as MSC missionaries.

"We feel God is calling us to Western Kentucky in a big way," Mrs. Otterback said.

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Men's ministry workshop offers witnessing strategies

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—In Scripture, Jesus promised to enable His followers to tell others about Him, but Jim Carpenter thinks too many Christians are failing to carry out that task.

Speaking at a recent workshop for the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission annual convention, Carpenter said reasons people don't witness range from the fear of getting tongue-tied to lacking the know-how.

But Carpenter, church development strategist for Long Run Baptist Association, questioned why people are fearful about sharing what God has done in their lives. They aren't giving people all the answers, just introducing them to the Answer, namely Jesus, Carpenter said.

"A lot of times, we fear because we're trying to do it ourselves," Carpenter said. "God loves us and wants an intimate relationship with us, but we have to make changes. We have to give up trusting ourselves and trust Him."

Carpenter joked that he likes to paraphrase Acts 1:8 as "Why are you gawking? Get to work." He said Christ promised that His followers would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them.

After asking how the audience defined the Holy Spirit, Carpenter said the best way he can explain it is "the empowering presence of God in our lives." Thus, Christ's followers receive the power of God within them, he said.

"The only way we can witness is through an intimate relationship with God and allowing Him to live through us," Carpenter said.

Yielding to God includes the practice of daily prayer, he said. Referring to a quote by a noted Christian leader, Carpenter said prayer is not preparation for the battle, it is the battle.

Evangelism will be more effective when Christ's followers talk to God about another person before they try to talk to that person about God, Carpenter said.

"I think we make witnessing a lot more complicated than it is," he added. "It's basically one person telling another person where to find help."

In addition to overcoming the fear factor, Carpenter said Kentucky



SHARING CHRIST A man (above) witnesses during an evangelistic crusade. "A lot of times we fear because we're trying to do it ourselves," said Jim Carpenter, of Louisville's Long Run Baptist Association. (BP file photo)

Baptists have to make witnessing a priority.

Many people use a busy schedule as an excuse to avoid the task, he said. Too many people, he said, have the attitude, "If this was important, I guess I'd find time to do this."

Making non-Christian friends

Setting priorities includes taking the time to make friends with people who aren't Christians, he said.

Surveys show the longer a person is a Christian the smaller his or her circle of non-Christian friends, Carpenter said.

He suggested that might call for such proactive steps as finding a hobby or other interest that attracts people from outside the church. "That means we have to be strong enough that we're not swayed by their lifestyle," Carpenter said. "We're to be the influencer instead of being influenced."

Christians also must lead authentic lives, he added, noting that if someone's lifestyle doesn't match his or her words, the message won't go far.

Many churches think adopting a new musical style or watering down the gospel will make services more acceptable to non-members, Carpenter said.

However, he said research shows many converts decide to follow Christ because they were looking for God and felt God was in a particular church.

"If we Christians would live like God was the main thing in our lives, our witnessing would be easier," Carpenter said. "We have to be more loving. The whole premise of the gospel is to love people."

2004 KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

November 16-17

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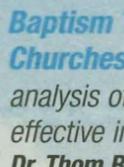
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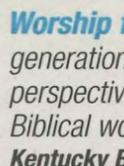
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Ken Lupton, LifeWay Christian Resources.



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Led by Dr. Gene Wilkes, pastor of Legacy Church in Plano, Texas.



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Led by Rod Ellis, contemporary music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Tog Goodson, music minister at Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.



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



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Covenant change would allow Foundation to serve non-Baptists

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Foundation could begin serving non-Baptist charities if Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers approve a change in the foundation's articles of incorporation later this month.

KBC messengers will be asked to consider a change in both the articles of incorporation and the covenant agreement between the foundation and convention during the convention's annual meeting Nov. 16-17 in Louisville.

Currently, the foundation manages approximately \$200 million in funds that benefit Kentucky Baptist agencies and churches as well as other Baptist groups "whose purpose is not in conflict with Kentucky Baptist Convention causes."

The articles of incorporation also authorize the foundation to serve non-Baptist 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations that aren't in conflict with Kentucky Baptist purposes if some of that group's fund benefit a Baptist cause.

The proposed change would delete the requirement that some funds go to a Baptist cause.

Barry Allen, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, said he has gotten inquiries from Christian charities that don't have access to a group like the foundation, which uses a Christian-based screening approach to investments. "We would like to at least be able to serve those," he said. "We're not changing who we are."

Allen said serving other Christian charities could help the foundation eventually increase staff and enhance services to Kentucky Baptists as well as reduce its dependency on Cooperative Program funds. "We think it has the potential to benefit the whole family of Kentucky Baptists without it costing anything."

The foundation's covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention stipulates that both the foundation trustees and KBC messengers must approve any changes in the agreement by a two-thirds majority, according to Steve Thompson, the KBC's associate to the executive director.

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Jennifer Keitt
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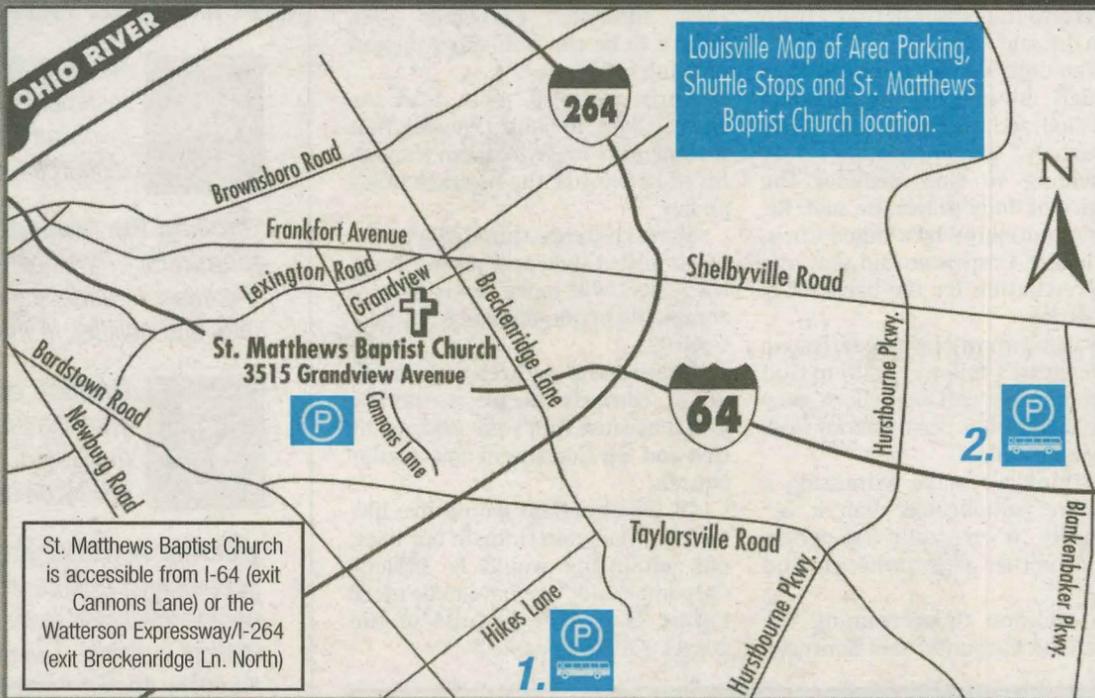
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Parking at St. Matthews Baptist Church is limited. Arrive early on Tuesday for best selection. Shuttles to two alternate parking locations marked on the map above will run all day on Tuesday. If you anticipate arriving after 10 a.m. on Tuesday, it is suggested that you use one of the following alternate parking lots and catch a shuttle to St. Matthews.

1. **Canaan Christian Church** (formerly Canaan Missionary Baptist Church) - 2840 Hikes Lane
2. **Southeast Christian Church** - 920 Blankenbaker Parkway. This site is near most of the hotels blocked for the Annual Meeting. **Both lots will have clearly marked shuttle stops.**

Special Note: BOX LUNCHES will be available on site at St. Matthews on Tuesday. A shuttle to The Mall St. Matthews food court area will also be available between the morning and afternoon sessions.

For more information or to register for the workshops, go to:

www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

Consultant: Programs give members reason to stay

Nashville—Too few churches work to retain members by boosting their involvement in missions and ministries, according to a consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"In the vast majority of churches, these things aren't addressed at all," said Ken Lupton, the former minister of education at Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

"Even though we know (a problem) exists ... most churches don't put a process in place that's expected of new members," Lupton said.

Many churches have outreach strategies for attracting new members, but unless those members get involved in church activities, they might not stick around. Church strategists refer to losing uninvolved

members as "back door" departures.

Next month, Lupton will teach a workshop at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting that outlines strategies for churches to keep new members involved.



Ken Lupton

His seminar, "Opening the Arms of Your Church," will cover such strategies as teaching new members church philosophy, the importance of developing spiritual maturity and missions involvement.

The workshop is one of six during the Wednesday morning session of the KBC annual meeting, Nov. 16-17 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Lupton said he saw the importance of building a program to involve new members while he was on staff at Little Flock.

By 1993, the church had added

new Sunday school classes, expanded to two Sunday morning worship services and relocated to a new building to accommodate growth.

"We had done some good things," Lupton said, "but we really didn't have anything to wrap our whole mission around."

And while people were joining the church, Little Flock wasn't experiencing the net growth that should have followed, he said. New members simply weren't staying.

"We were still losing them out the back door," he said.

Learning from Saddleback

So Lupton and Little Flock Pastor Ron Shaver attended a conference led by Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Southern California, to learn how that church integrated new members.

There, they learned about Saddleback's "Class 101," a program that

went beyond spiritual development and included teaching church members their place in God's Kingdom and worldwide mission.

Afterward, Lupton said, he helped develop an assimilation process at Little Flock that encouraged members to participate in church ministries.

"We're not expecting you to sit, sink, soak and sour," Lupton said of member expectations. "You're here to serve."

Little Flock's version of Class 101 offers an overview of church mission, goals and structure, as well as the basics of salvation.

The church also has three more classes to strengthen member involvement:

■ Class 201 covers spiritual discipline, Bible study and stewardship.

■ Class 301 teaches members about spiritual gifts and becoming active in the church's ministries.

■ Class 401 is a primer on sharing one's faith and an overview of evangelism and missions work.

Assimilating newcomers should not be just an isolated program, Lupton warned. It should become deeply ingrained in the church's permanent culture.

To achieve that at Little Flock, deacons were involved in developing and presenting the courses so they would take ownership, he said. The pastor also should promote the classes from the pulpit, as Pastor Shaver did.

"We heavily promoted all classes before they came up," Lupton said. "People understood it was a part of who we were."

After launching the program, Lupton said, the church continued to add 100 new members per year, had 45 percent of adults involved in various ministries, and half the Sunday schools involved in discipleship classes.

Today, as a consultant for LifeWay, Lupton visits eight to 10 churches per week. His goal is to help grow Kingdom-focused churches, he said, based in part on his success at Little Flock.

"I'm not saying some (members) don't just sit," he said of Little Flock. "But the church has the strongest degree of lay involvement and spiritual gifts application of any church I've been a part of."

"We're not expecting you to sit, sink, soak and sour. You're here to serve."

LifeWay Christian Resources consultant Ken Lupton

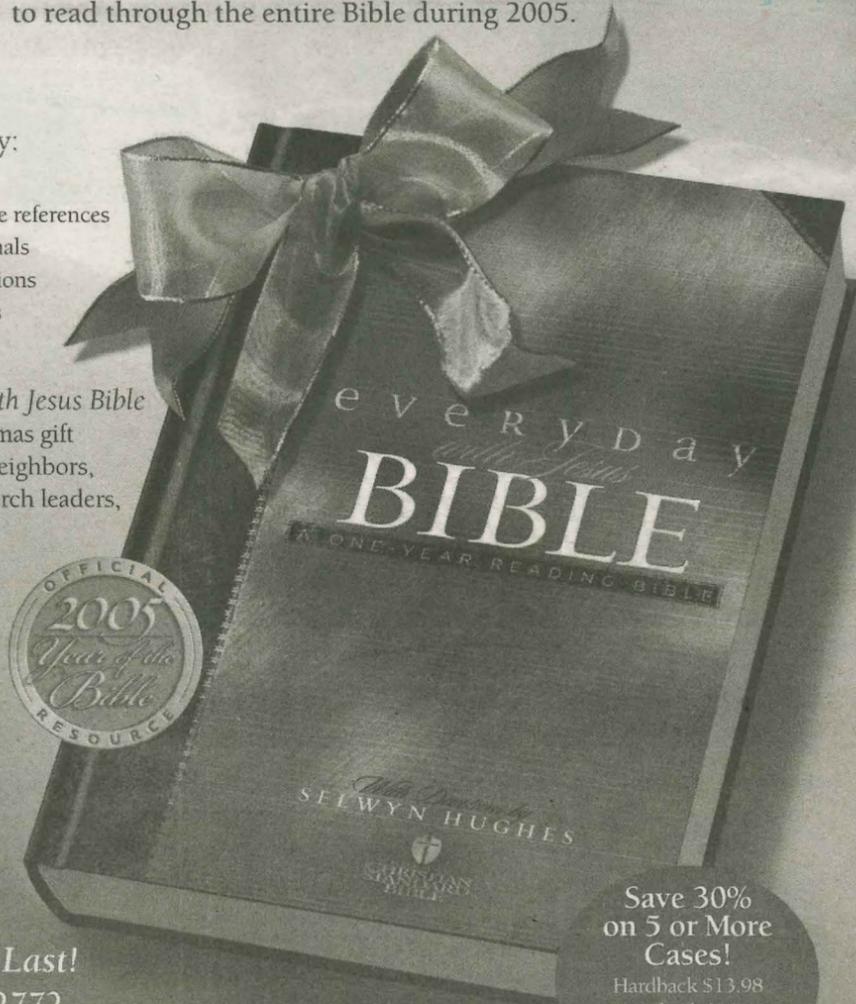
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Other workshops

The Kentucky Baptist Convention will offer six workshops Nov. 17 at this year's annual meeting, being held at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

In addition to Lupton's workshop, the other five are:

■ "Baptism Trends and Strategies for Kentucky Baptist Churches" by Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ "Trading Spaces Through Missions Involvement" by Nate Adams, vice president for mission mobilization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

■ "Emerging Leaders in Changing Culture" by Gene Wilkes, pastor of Legacy Church in Plano, Texas.

■ "The Ten Commandments of Media Relations" by Karen Prunette, vice president of Spaeth Communications.

■ "Worship for Emerging Generations" by Rod Ellis, contemporary music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Tog Goodson, music minister at Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.

Seats are limited for some workshops. For more information and to register online, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.

Rebuilding volunteers still needed in Florida & Alabama

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—After more than two months of operation, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief meal preparations for hurricane victims in the eastern United States was to have shut down this past weekend. But long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts remain, according to officials coordinating the unprecedented national response.

"This response compares to Hurricane Andrew in 1992, which previously had been Southern Baptists' largest response, but when you consider the logistics of it all, this was much more difficult because we had four different affords and two evacuations, and we were able to produce in the neighborhood of 2.5 million meals," said Jim Burton, director of the North American Mission Board's volunteer mobilization team.

Through Oct. 20, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have prepared more than 2.4 million meals since Hurricane Charley, the first of four hurricanes to pummel Florida within a six-week period, made landfall in southwest Florida on Aug. 13.

Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne followed, crisscrossing the Sunshine State and leaving a swath of destruction in the billions of dollars throughout the Gulf Coast region and along the Atlantic Seaboard as far north as West Virginia.

"Southern Baptists are going to need to have a presence in these affected states for at least two years helping to put back together both churches as well as owner-occupied homes that were under-insured or non-insured," Burton said. "We would encourage churches even now as they look toward their summer mission projects to check with Alabama and Florida to see if there are assignments they can help with in those states."

To learn more about disaster relief service opportunities, contact Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission at (888) 254-5720 or visit NAMB online at www.namb.net/disasterrelief.

Are sermons, role of preacher changing?

Continued from page 1

outside Washington, D.C., agreed. "We're facing a transition from the familiar/normal to something less formal. Songwriters and music publishers play important roles in the theological formation of a congregation—even more than the pastor. I'm pretty sure people don't catch themselves humming the sermon during the week."

Two other strong emphases in postmodern Christian worship—the desire for community and the desire for contemplation—also are apt to influence the preaching, several session leaders said at Baylor University's "Music and Worship in an Emerging Culture" symposium.

"For a long time, church has been a place to go, but you could go and sit in the same seat for years and never know the person who sat in front of you," said Sally Morgenthaler, author and founder of Sacramentis.com.

"But this generation wants to be connected, to each other and to God," she added. "The preaching experiences will need to contribute to that by being about worship instead of evangelism. The gathered church worships. The scattered church is involved with its community and showing what it means to be a Christ follower."

Contemplation and meditation might invade the sermon.

"I'm convinced that sermons

need intentional silences in them," said Hulitt Gloer, professor of preaching and Christian Scripture at Baylor's Truett Seminary. "I need to invite people not just to listen to what I say but to what God is saying. It's a radical idea to listen more than we speak so (the congregants) will know they are to be actively engaged."

Logic vs. stories

If the emergent-church model is accepted, preaching will shift from the linear style to the storyteller—like Jesus, who spoke in parables.

"I pretty much preach one-point sermons," said Louie Giglio, director of Choice Resources and a popular speaker on college campuses.

"My goal is to give them one image to take away with them that will help them live their life," he said. "And it's all about story, inviting them into God's story, telling about others who joined God's story. They aren't hungry for information. They hunger to know that there is a God Who loves them."

The perception of pastors also will change as the role shifts from being a spiritual example to a fellow traveler, some speakers predicted.

"I think of it as all of us going into a cave together and sharing what we've discovered with our pick-axes," said Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Waco. "It's not like where you tie a

Scripture to a chair and beat it with a rubber hose for 20 minutes to see what you can get out of it."

Pastors as "double agents"

The foundation of community also allows the pastor to speak the uncomfortable prophetic word.

"We have to be double agents," McLaren said, describing leaders who can both comfort and challenge their spiritual communities. "Promoting community and harmony can't keep us from saying the hard things that need to be said."

But those hard things will get a fair hearing "if we've ... been with them through hard times as well as good times," Pennington-Russell added.

Absolute honesty also makes people more willing to hear the hard things, Seay argued. "We do a disservice to the gospel when we make the people in the Bible out to be better than they were and we pretend to be better than we are."

"If we're honest about Abraham pimping his wife—and teaching his son to do the same thing—then the person sitting in the pew can realize, 'Hey, I'm not as bad as Abraham, so maybe God really can love me,'" he added. "If he knows his pastor uses non-theological language when he stubs his toe—but still keeps trying to follow God, then he will understand he can too, even when it's hard."

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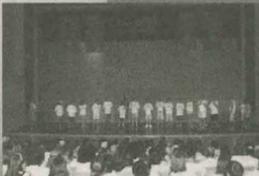
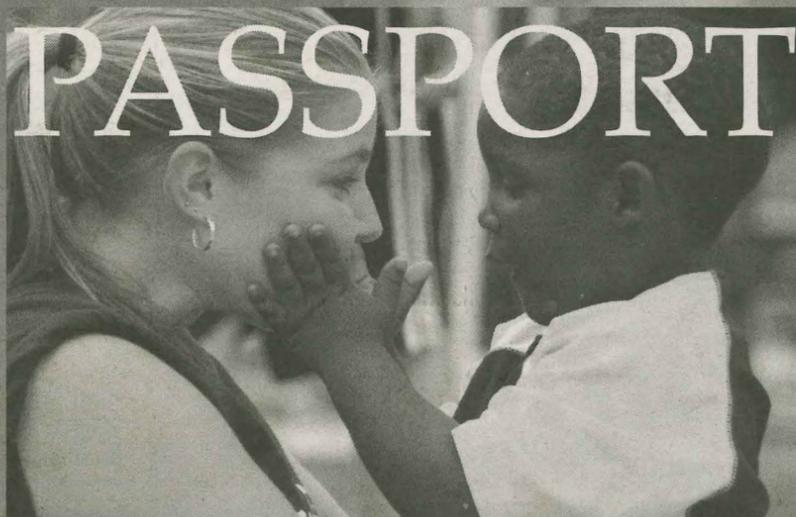
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A proposal to KBC messengers

Change would expand foundation's ability to serve

The foundation was established by the KBC in 1945 to serve, administer funds of and promote the churches, associations, institutions, agencies and enterprises that were fostered by or had the official sanction of the KBC. To such ends, the foundation was empowered to receive and administer funds for the benefit of these organizations. This included the missionary, educational and benevolent entities of the KBC and the SBC.

Through the years, KBC messengers in annual session have expanded the purpose of the foundation to extend its services to (a) other Baptist organizations whose purposes were not in conflict with KBC causes and (b) other 501(c)(3) organizations whose purposes were not in conflict with KBC causes and where a portion of the benefit of such funds was used for a Baptist cause. This made it possible for the foundation to simplify the giving by donors who wanted to establish one permanent endowment fund, but for the benefit of more than one Baptist cause, and perhaps one or more non-Baptist

causes. For example, a person can use the foundation to establish one fund and direct the foundation to distribute the income in perpetuity among several Baptist causes and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is not a "Baptist" organization, but it is a 501(c)(3) organization, under the Internal Revenue Code, and its purposes are not in conflict with KBC causes.

Periodically the foundation receives requests to assist other 501(c)(3) organizations whose purposes are not in conflict with KBC causes, but for which there would be no "Baptist" interest. We would like to extend to these organizations the benefits of our unique blend of a manager-of-managers, Christian-based screening approach to investing funds on a competitive basis. It would result in additional income to help the foundation enhance its services to Kentucky Baptists. Our board will present to the messengers for consideration this year a recommendation to make this possible.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen



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Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Evelyn M. Boyington

Across

- 1 With Deborah, he confronted the army of Sisera
- 5 One of the sons of Merari (1 Chronicles 6:30)
- 12 Poems
- 14 Burn with anger
- 15 Contented comment
- 17 "And the Lord God caused a ___ sleep" (Genesis 2:21)
- 19 "Suffer the little children to come unto ___" (Mark 10:14)
- 20 Apiece (abbr.)
- 21 Perimeter
- 23 Farm implements
- 25 The ___ Pavilions (Kaye novel)
- 26 Son of Seth
- 28 "I took the little book ... and ___ it up" (Revelation 10:10)
- 29 In the ___
- 30 Information
- 32 Balmy state (abbr.)
- 33 Spanish pronoun
- 35 "In the ___ God created" (Genesis 1:1)
- 37 Exclamation of surprise
- 39 Concerning, with "in"
- 40 Oppressed person
- 42 "I ... was come nigh unto Damascus about ___" (Acts 22:6)
- 44 "The Lord that delivered me out of the ___ of the lion" (1 Samuel 17:37)
- 46 "Thou art not a ___ of the law, but a judge" (James 4:11)
- 48 "For the stone shall ___ out of the wall" (Habakkuk 2:11)
- 49 Mentions
- 51 Bide a ___ (Scottish phrase)
- 52 Printer's measure
- 53 Great Commission verb
- 54 "The first came out red ... and they called his name ___" (Genesis 25:25)

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57		58			59		60			61		
62									63			

- 56 Note on the diatonic scale
- 57 Abandon
- 60 "___ ye from your evil ways" (2 Kings 17:13)
- 62 "Who hath called us unto his ___ glory by Christ Jesus" (1 Peter 5:10)
- 63 Daniel's den mates
- 22 Ruth and Orpah were "women of ___" (Ruth 1)
- 24 Pronoun
- 25 Note on the diatonic scale
- 27 Cheerless
- 29 Ate out
- 31 "Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full ___" (Hebrews 5:14)
- 32 Old-fashioned hand towel message
- 34 Yield
- 36 Mature
- 38 "God will send the ___ among them" (Deuteronomy 7:20)
- 41 "My ___ did not slip" (Psalm 18:36)
- 43 Worried exclamation
- 44 Greek letter
- 45 Occident
- 47 Bridle part
- 49 ___ fields (what Jesus went through on the sabbath day, Mark 2)
- 50 Son of Kish
- 53 European tongue (abbr.)
- 55 Father of Bezaleel (Exodus 31:2)
- 58 Quadrant in D.C.
- 59 British 'bye
- 61 "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be ___ strife" (Genesis 13:8)

Last week's solution

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Couple: God used tragedy to teach Spring Meadows kids

Continued from page 1

"They had a hard time understanding why Frank and I had to take turns spending so much time at the hospital," she added. "Once they realized the severity of the situation, they knew. They grieved with us, and they prayed with us."

After five months in a coma, Michelle slowly began to wake. She spent three months coming out of the coma, little by little, until hints of her personality began to show. Though she suffered from a severe brain injury, Michelle retained her sense of humor.

"She couldn't walk or move very well," Mrs. Wiczorek said. "But when she laughed for the first time, I knew things were going to be OK."

Mrs. Wiczorek had prayed repeatedly for Michelle's sense of joy to remain. She found comfort in Jeremiah 32:17, "Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is

too difficult for Thee."

"We stood on that promise, and God continually proved the skeptics wrong," she said.

Through the last nine years, the Wiczoreks say their ministry—and faith—grew stronger.

Wiczorek has continued to work with the youth at Spring Meadows Children's Home, where he now serves only boys, while Mrs. Wiczorek stayed home to care for Michelle during her recovery.

Mrs. Wiczorek later returned to work in the administrative office at Spring Meadows before eventually going on to a career in banking.

She said her heart is still at the children's home, but she could no longer take the pain she felt when reviewing the children's records that detailed the abuse and neglect each had suffered.

"A matter of serving the Lord"

Wiczorek's ministry continues at Spring Meadows, where he serves as the food service director for the 20 boys and numerous staff. He said his devotion to the children runs deep.

"It's not a question of serving KBHC, it's a matter of serving the Lord," he said. "This is where I'm called to be."

And though he doesn't get to spend as much time one-on-one with the boys, he's still able to minister.

"I've had kids call and tell me where they are in their lives now," Frank said. "There are no words to describe the feeling you get when you hear a boy say he's married now with two kids and he gave his life over to the Lord."

Mrs. Wiczorek has expanded her ministry to include speaking about her experiences to women's groups and others.

The Wiczoreks' ministry is far-reaching, said Mike Dixon, KBHC's religious life director. Dixon was program director for Spring Meadows when the couple first joined the children's home.

"They are an amazing and very genuine couple," Dixon said. "They've been able to witness to many of these kids through some very harsh, real-life circumstances. God clearly has His hand on them."

Michelle helps dad

Michelle, now 30, still suffers some of the effects of her brain injury. She joins her dad at Spring Meadows a couple days a week. She'll help dish breakfast and lunch

to the boys, who often ask about what happened to her.

"I tell them a miracle happened," said Wiczorek, who spends time explaining to the boys how Michelle overcame the odds and why she forgets their names easily.

The boys, like so many others, often ask why such a thing would happen to a family like theirs and how they were able to cope, Mrs. Wiczorek said.

"It's knowing that God will take it and use it for His glory," she said. "We may never know why."

FORMER HOUSE PARENTS The Wiczoreks continue to tell their story. Frank tells it to boys at Spring Meadows, where he continues to work, and Renee speaks to women's groups and others.



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Two Scriptures, one vision

Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son help us tell the story of Oneida's students

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the president

When I have the opportunity to speak about Oneida Baptist Institute, I am aware that many people never have visited OBI and might not know about our school's ministry. Oneida is a bit "out of the way," and though we enjoy telling our story, we do not spend very much of our financial resources on publicity and promotion. "A good word and a good reputation" have always served us well.

At the same time, ignorance isn't always bliss. There are misconceptions about any boarding school. Who can attend? (Any sixth to 12th grade student who is physically and emotionally able to be away from home and live with others.) Is it free? (No, but we are one of the least expensive boarding schools in the country, far less expensive than many Christian schools that do not board students.) Are students forced to come? (No. Every OBI student agrees, on his or her own, to be a student at our school. We do not accept them any other way.)

Sometimes the best way to communicate is through a familiar passage of Scripture. I enjoy telling people that Oneida is a ministry that meets the needs of two kinds of students: those similar to the story of the Good Samaritan, and those like the Prodigal Son.

The Samaritan found a man beaten and left for dead on the road. Others had walked past, afraid or unwilling to help. Many hurting young people have been left by the side of life's road, through no fault of their own. Perhaps their families are not functioning in a healthy way. Maybe public

schools have not been successful in helping them. Some have been "beaten up" by circumstances that most of us cannot imagine. These students need the opportunity for help and healing. They need the ministry of Christians willing to provide a haven, an education and guidance. Oneida has helped thousands of these students. With the support of "good Samaritans" who believe in this ministry, we will help many more. Because of the involvement of churches and concerned individuals, many young people have been picked up and brought to a place of healing.

Other students are like the prodigal son. They have made some bad choices and are living with the consequences. They are not criminals or threats to anyone's safety. They are children who did not have a father's guidance or a family's wisdom, so they have made mistakes that could have been avoided. Though they have taken a wrong turn, many have learned valuable lessons from their errors, and they are ready

to "come home" and start over. At Oneida, we are proud to represent the love of Christ for contemporary prodigals. We do not succeed with all of them, but it isn't for a lack of trying. As an OBI supporter, you are giving second chances to young people God created with a purpose that they can discover at our school. Many will owe their new lives to God's using our supporters to make this ministry possible.

Two passages of Scripture, but one vision. It is the vision of Jesus Christ for helping people. It is a hopeful, life-transforming vision. It is the Oneida vision. We welcome you to be a part of it.

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



W.F. Underwood

A career in medicine; a life on mission

Bill & Marilyn Rowlett are good stewards of God's grace

The life verse of Hopkinsville layman Dr. Bill Rowlett is 1 Peter 4: 10, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Bill came to know the grace of God as an 8-year-old through the influence of a godly family and the ministry of First Baptist Church of Murray. At Murray State University he was involved in Baptist Student Union.

In his sophomore year of college, the goal of medical school seemed impossible. God then provided a benefactor who committed resources for him to attend the University of Louisville. After completing 60 hours of pre-med classes in one year, he entered medical school in 1951, later graduating as a surgical ophthalmologist.

In the recreation room at the Baptist School of Nursing, he saw two pretty girls playing ping-pong. "I decided to play the winner and ask her for a date," Bill said. The winner, Marilyn Wilson, a surgical nurse, became his wife; they've been married 49 years and thank God for four children and 11 grandchildren.

"With a growing medical practice, a good church and so many other blessings, we wanted to give the Lord more," Bill said. "A volunteer medical assignment in West Africa was the first of many trips Marilyn and I have worked together. We learned how to pray for missions and missionaries. The Lord also taught me to depend on Him."

"When the Lord calls, He provides," Bill told the chapel audience. "Let the Lord provide someone to help you." The Rowletts have let the Lord use them to help Clear Creek; they recently provided a gift annuity through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

"I used to think God only called preachers, singers and doctors," Marilyn said. "Around the world we've seen how He uses the gifts of all His people—even the seamstress who sews the curtains for the surgical ward."

Bill and Marilyn Rowlett are good stewards of God's grace, serving others with the abilities God provides. The end result is "that in all things God may be glorified" (1 Peter 4:11).

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

40 days in African bush help missionaries prepare

By Clinton Wolf
SBC International Mission Board

Tigoni, Kenya (BP)—An ordeal in the African bush—designed to prepare new missionaries to live, work and serve with different cultures and peoples—has achieved a new level of effectiveness, thanks to a partnership with missionaries from another “Great Commission Christian” organization.

Thirty-five missionaries and their children—over half of them from Wycliffe Bible Translators—recently completed the International Mission Board’s grueling “40 Days, 40 Nights” intensive field orientation in Kenya.

The six-week program, in its second year, includes 24 days of living in safari tents.

The “40/40” program drops participants into an extended stay in the African bush that includes a week in the home of a Kenyan villager.

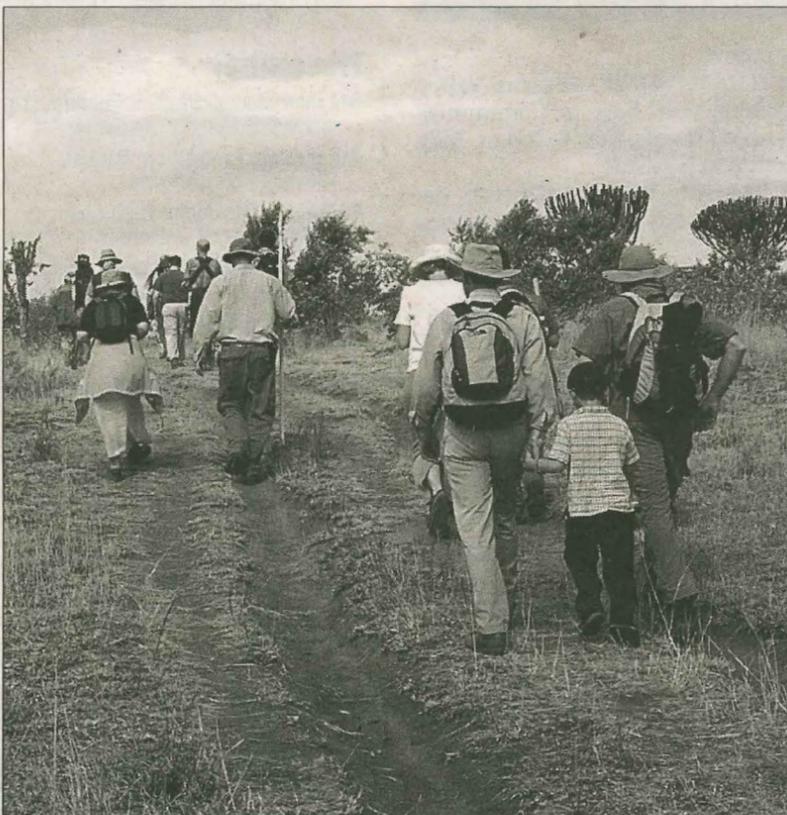
This year’s cooperation with Wycliffe, which carried out a similar training program for many years, improved the program, directors Jack and Judi Sprayberry said.

“Our partnership with Wycliffe began in 2002,” Jack Sprayberry recounted. “They know the value of cross-cultural exposure, and they provided expert instruction for the program, especially in anthropology and medicine.”

Sprayberry noted the value of interacting with missionaries from other countries and with a focus differing from that of IMB missionaries.

“Because they are translation experts, they bring a fresh focus to our Baptist teachings,” Sprayberry said. “Their input gives us new value and respect for the importance of God’s Word being translated into every language.”

The Wycliffe personnel who came from the Netherlands, Ireland and Great Britain gave the Southern



REALITY CHECK The International Mission Board’s grueling “40 Days, 40 Nights” field orientation program is designed to prepare new missionaries to live, work and serve with different cultures and peoples. (IMB photo)

Baptist workers opportunities for valuable cross-cultural interaction.

“It was amazing how God called people from all over the world, from vast differences in background and experiences and ages, to all be united here in Africa to share the Good News of Jesus Christ either through church planting or Bible translation,” said program participant Jonnie Brawley, a Texas native who will be working with his wife, Juanita, among the Baganda people of western Uganda.

From spiritual warfare to CPR

In the program, participants received training in anthropology, CPR and first aid, spiritual warfare,

ethnomusicology, chronological Bible storytelling, water purification, solar energy and open-fire cooking.

Hands-on experience was provided for tasks essential to life in the bush: chopping firewood, riding in crowded mini-buses, eating in roadside cafés and buying fruit, vegetables and meat at a village market.

Also included was an introduction to major religions in the region, including African traditional religions, Islam and Hinduism. This year’s training included a day’s session at a Muslim resource center and a visit to a mosque.

As challenging as the event is, “40/40” gives participants valuable

insight into African people, Brawley said. “It helped us to better understand the culture of Africans,” he said. “It gave us a close-up experience with the ways nationals live and work.”

Growing in confidence

Westerners need the kind of training the program offers, said Bob Brown, a Florida native who will serve with his wife, Bobbi, among the Japadhola people group in east Africa.

“There is a dramatic difference between the U.S. and Africa,” Brown said, “and I think people need to be aware they’ll face things that will test their patience and force them to deal with ambiguity.”

New missionaries must learn empathy and how to better adjust to the African culture if they are to have successful and permanent mission careers, Sprayberry noted. “New missionaries come into 40/40 apprehensive and uncertain about the test before them. We see them transformed into confident, informed servants, ready to plunge into whatever eastern Africa offers.”

Cross-cultural food encounters were among the challenges 40/40 participants faced during their stay in the African bush.

“Once Jonnie ate a piece of a raw goat kidney,” Juanita Brawley said. “The Maasai tribesmen who helped slaughter the goats would pop a whole kidney in their mouth and chew it up with happy expressions on their faces.”

Jonnie Brawley said the program isn’t conducive to false appearances.

“This is a good opportunity to see how other people really are,” he said. “It is a stressful environment. I’m glad to say that everyone stuck it out, and I believe grew stronger as a result of their experiences.”

“I was encouraged to know that I had such great people on my team in African missions.”

“The Maasai tribesmen who helped slaughter the goats would pop a whole kidney in their mouth and chew it up with happy expressions on their faces.”

Missionary Juanita Brawley

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Religious college students have better emotional health, study finds

Los Angeles (RNS)—College students with significant religious involvement report better emotional health than those with no involvement, new research from UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute shows.

The results, drawn from a national study of 3,680 college students, indicate that students who are not churchgoers are more than twice as likely to say they have felt depressed or had poorer emotional health than students who frequently attend religious services.

The findings, released Oct. 25, show that religious activity has positive links to emotional health. Those who often attend religious services are far less likely to frequently feel overwhelmed during college.

The survey examined religious involvement such as service attendance, participation in campus religious organizations and reading of sacred texts. It labeled feelings of depression, stress or being overwhelmed as indicators of “psychological distress.”

“College can be an unsettling time as students struggle with change and fundamental issues about themselves and the world,” said Alexander Astin, an education professor at the University of California at Los Angeles and co-principal investigator for the project. “This study suggests that religion and spirituality can play a positive role in the mental and emotional health of students.”

The study also found that of those who abstained from drinking beer before entering college, 74 percent continue to abstain during college if they are very religiously involved.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Leslie Hollon

The gospel is God's gift. As we open the gift, we see the good news. As we accept the gift, we know the good news. As we use the gift, we enjoy the good news. As we share the gift, we become evangelists—tellers of good news.

Christianity has moved through 100 generations because Christians are willing to be evangelists—Christians like those in Philippi who formed one of the great churches in early Christianity. (Acts 16: 11-40; Philippians 1-4). The church was led by:

- Lydia, the businesswoman.
- Lydia's household.
- The slave girl from the marketplace.
- The jailer.
- The jailer's household.
- Epaphroditus, a short-term missionary from the church.
- Eudonia and Syntyche, who in their friendship served the gospel, but in their squabbling threatened the gospel.
- Timothy, who served the church as a missionary pastor.

We, like them, have to start where we are. Everyone has the spiritual right to know the ABCs of being a Christian. They are:

- Admit** my need for Christ.
- Believe** in Christ.
- Commit** to follow Christ.

Take the next step in the gospel's riddle by moving forward from:

- Awareness of God as a Supreme Being to ...
- Initial awareness of Christ to ...
- Awareness of fundamentals of the gospel to ...
- Grasping the implications to ...
- A positive attitude toward the gospel to ...
- Trusting Christ with personal problem recognition to ...
- A decision to act to ...

A repentance and faith in Christ to ...
Becoming a new person in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17 & the Engel Scale)

Leslie Hollon is pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **AUBURN**—Carl Lee Carpenter, a member of Friendship Church for 74 years, died Sept. 21 at age 86. Carpenter served 47 years as a deacon and also served Logan Association as treasurer and church training director.
- **BARDSTOWN**—Bardstown Church recently called **Sam Fordham** as interim student minister. **David Stokes** is pastor.
- **BEREA**—Gethsemane Church will honor **Ed Cortez** Nov. 14 on his 10th anniversary as pastor. For more information, call (859) 624-9818.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a showing of "Last Flight Out" Nov. 7, 5:30 p.m. The movie is the latest release from World Wide Pictures, Billy Graham's film ministry. For more information, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning**

is pastor.

- **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will host a Community Gospel Singing Nov. 6, 7 p.m. **Billy Compton** is pastor.
- **HARLAN**—Wallins Church ordained **Buddy Howard** as a deacon Oct. 24.
- **HENDERSON**—New Hope Church will hold revival services Nov. 21-24 with **James Shutt** as evangelist. **Jim Adams** is pastor.
- **HICKMAN**—East Hickman Church will hold revival services Nov. 7-10, 7 p.m., with **David Gossum** as evangelist. **Ben Stratton** is pastor.
- **PAINT LICK**—Faith Decision Church recently ordained **Dale Stacy** as a deacon. **Jimmy Closterman** is pastor.
- **PRINCETON**—Correction: Second Church will celebrate its 75th an-

Cumberland College students honored for servant leadership

Williamsburg—Cumberland College students Caleb Brooks and Star Pugh recently were honored with the school's 2004 Servant Leadership Award.

Since 2001, Cumberland has been a member of a national program that honors students who reach out to their communities in Christian service. The Servant Leadership Program, sponsored by the Barney II and Moore Foundations, awards grants to college students who are recognized as models of servant leadership. A portion of the money awarded to each recipient is donated to a charity of the student's choice.

Brooks is the son of Bill and Edna Brooks of Louisville. He has been a leader in the Baptist Student Union,

a resident assistant and enjoys visiting local nursing homes. He is a member of the ultimate Frisbee team and plays junior varsity basketball and track. Brooks also has volunteered at the Cabbage Patch Settlement House in Louisville and spent several weeks in Cambodia as a summer missionary.

Pugh is the daughter of James and Judy Pugh of Essie. She has been involved with Appalachian Ministries at Cumberland College, as well as being a member of Phi Beta Lambda and Alpha Lambda Delta. Pugh has served as a vacation Bible school teacher and as a tutor in the Academic Resource Center, including volunteering to read for a blind student.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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

December

- 13-14 KBC Mission Board meeting, Baptist Building, Middletown.
- 24-31 KBC Christmas Holidays, Baptist Building closed.

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

Nov. 7, 10:45 a.m. with Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director **Bill Mackey** as guest speaker.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church recently honored **Hazel Hulet** on her 100th birthday. **Steve Rice** is pastor.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.



SERVANT LEADERS Jim Taylor, president of Cumberland College, congratulates Star Pugh (left) and Caleb Brooks (right), the school's 2004 Servant Leadership Award recipients.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Time share: Sedona, Ariz. Beautiful one-bedroom suite; deed; first week of September. For information, call (859) 586-9684.

FOR SALE: Seven cemetery lots. Beautiful Resthaven Memorial Park, Louisville, Ky. \$1,800 each. Call (502) 367-0671.

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

FOR SALE: Church pews. Beautiful, high-quality hardwood pews (one 14-foot; one 20-foot; some 9-foot). Excellent condition. For more information, please call (859) 635-5725.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Immanuel Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 1280 Faulkner Lane, Danville, KY 40422.

SEEKING: Full-time ministry assistant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, lending administrative support to the State Missions Department. Position requires three to five years related experience; excellent relational, organizational and computer application skills. Attractive compensation package. Contact: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Victory Memorial Baptist Church. Please submit resumé to: 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Associate pastor for worship and music. A large church with a very large music program including an orchestra. Committed to being God-centered, Christ-honoring and Bible-saturated; expository preaching; the doctrines of grace. Committed musically to both contemporary and the anthems of the faith. Sound theology is essential in singing and worship. We are passionately committed to sharing the gospel with all people that God might receive glory from all people. Applicant needs to be musically gifted, well trained, with good leadership and people skills. Loyalty to senior pastor essential. Elder qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-8 expected. We reject hyper-Calvinism, easy believism and revivalism. Looking for a lead worshipper rather than a worship leader. Our music program purpose statement: The purpose of the music program is to lead the church family to glorify God and to edify one another through singing and musical instruments, ministering with spiritual passion and doctrinal integrity, while maintaining high standards of musical excellence. Send resumé or inquires to tilbon@hiwaay.net.

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: Part-time minister of music (20 hours/week) who can bring energy, passion and blended/convergent elements to a traditional church with choir, organist, pianist. Latonia Baptist draws from metro Cincinnati area but is working to reach its neighborhood and younger people. We are CBF/SBC with ordained women. E-mail: Steve@latonia.baptist.org.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director. The position involves developing, implementing and promoting a balanced program of fellowship, worship, service and spiritual development. Submit resumé to: Dr. Ricky Ray, FBC, 560 Main St., Hazard, KY 41701. For salary information and a job description, visit our Web site at hazardfbc.org.

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: 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: 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: 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.

SERVICE: America's fastest-growing Christian long distance company. 3.9 cents/minute; no monthly fees; no codes or restrictions; 6 second billing; 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com. Home agents needed.

New York City getting Museum of Biblical Art by next spring

New York (RNS)—An art gallery at the American Bible Society in New York City has closed but will reopen next spring as an independent museum with a new name: the Museum of Biblical Art (MOBIA).

The new institution, inhabiting space recently occupied by The Gallery at the American Bible Society, will be the first scholarly museum of art and the Bible in the United States, said Ena Heller, who has served as the gallery's director and will head the new museum.

MOBIA hopes to create a space that explores "the meaning of religious art and artifacts in culture," though the museum's work will continue to be grounded in the biblical traditions of Christianity and Judaism, the museum announced.

The new museum will still be based within the American Bible Society's building in Manhattan, located on Broadway near the city's Lincoln Center arts complex, though space for the new facility will be enlarged and expanded to include additional exhibition room and an educational center. A second gallery will be constructed.

While the ABS is funding the planned expansion and renovations, the new museum will be independent of the ABS as its own nonprofit corporation and will have its own board of directors.

The decision to become an independent institution was prompted in part by a desire to raise the gallery's profile and expand its educational mission, Heller said. As it is now, New York City public school groups have been reluctant to visit the gallery because of concerns about patronizing a "religious institution."

"There is still this hurdle of (people viewing) 'biblical art,' especially in New York, which is such a secular city," Heller told Religion News Service. "Teachers have not wanted to run into problems related to church and state issues."

An opening exhibition at the new museum, scheduled to begin May 12, 2005, will examine themes surrounding the Bible and self-taught artists of the American South. A companion show will examine the early history of the Bible in North America.

The gallery opened in 1998 and has mounted exhibitions that have explored biblical themes from a variety of cultures and contexts. The ABS itself was founded in 1816 by a group of New York philanthropists and focuses its current work on biblical translation, publication and distribution.

World Series sermon

Some Red Sox use championship platform to talk about faith in God

By Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

Boston (RNS)—Ecstatic with their first World Series championship in 86 years, fans of the never-say-die Boston Red Sox are preparing to enshrine this team's players as bigger-than-life legends who overcame the infamous Curse of the Bambino.

But as the Fenway faithful gear up to pay them homage, the heroes of this Cinderella story have another idea, one that's giving pause for thought to famously reticent New Englanders. For this achievement, say many Sox players, give God the glory.

"I don't believe in curses," said Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez in an oft-repeated clubhouse sentiment after a four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals. "I just believe in God, and He was the One Who helped us today."

Such religious testimonies from high-profile athletes are nothing new in American sports, but in Boston they are as rare as Yankee fans.

Never before this year has a Boston-area professional team shared its faith in God so intentionally and openly with this region, where religion is largely regarded as a personal, private matter.

This year, however, was different. Players recruited from the Bible Belt and Latin America not only beat back the ghosts of series past, they described themselves consistently in interviews as players blessed by God—not cursed by a trade many years ago involving Babe Ruth.

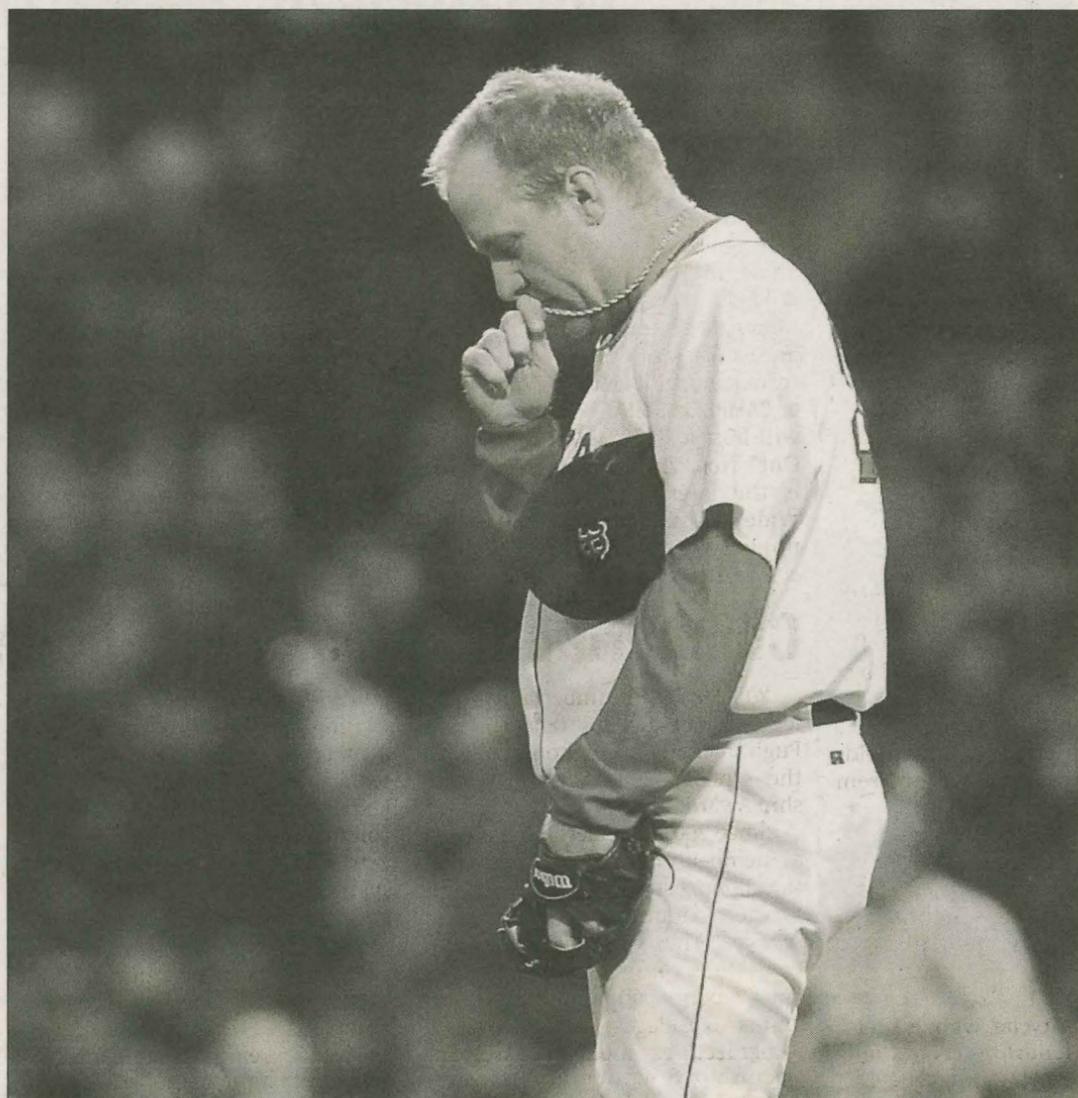
Fans ready to listen

Now that the trophy has arrived and all ears are trained on the city's biggest stars, adoring fans can't help but hear what Manny Ramirez, Tim Wakefield, Jason Varitek, Bill Mueller and others have to say about the divine source of their strength. And although few expect to be converted by their words, fans seem willing to learn whatever their beloved team's tale can teach them about the meaning of life.

"You can't say God's on one team and not another. That's pretty parochial," said Ralph Nesson, a Massachusetts native and a Reform Jew who now displays a Fenway Park sticker on his pickup truck in Fayetteville, Ark. "Yet here's a story of a team and all the people who have forever been disappointed ... This shows if you pray and hope and try hard, things can go your way."

In the rocky land first settled by stoic Puritans, tradition runs deep in religion as in baseball. Churchgoers fondly claim the nickname of the "frozen chosen"; they like to think in church, and to keep preachers guessing about how they really feel.

If anything can stir up New Englanders' passions, though, it's their beloved Red Sox. And that gives hope to those who pray God might use Sox players in a regional revival.



"If people ever tell me New Englanders aren't emotional people, I tell them that's a lie," said David Midwood, president of Vision New England, the region's largest evangelistic organization.

His evidence? He was there when the Sox beat the Anaheim Angels in the playoffs this year. After the ninth inning, the crowd exploded with cheers and tears of joy.

Schilling's testimony

"We have a powerful opportunity now to engage our culture in conversation. We can ask, 'What do you think of (Red Sox ace pitcher) Curt Schilling? Did you hear what he said the other night about why he could play with an injury that would have incapacitated most people? Did you ever have an encounter with God like that?'"

For Boston's news media, where the Sox' faith in God has been a story unexplored, Schilling's bloody ankle from a stitched up tendon injury has emerged as the quintessential emblem of grit mustered this year to overcome every adversary. But for Schilling, his performance despite the pain was a sign of something bigger.

"I've got to say, I became a Christian seven years ago, and I've never in my life been touched by God as I was tonight," Schilling said after dominating the Yankees in game six of the storied American League Championship Series. "I tried to go out and do it myself in game one, and you saw what happened. Tonight was God's work on the mound."

Such testimonies do little to inspire Cassie Cassler, 64, of Newburyport, Mass. She proudly wore

her Red Sox T-shirt to breakfast Oct. 28 at the Fish Tale Diner on the Merrimac River in Salisbury, Mass., 40 miles north of Boston. But when the players start to witness, she loses interest.

"That doesn't affect me," Cassler said. "If I want to believe, it's not going to be because an athlete said something about God. ... It smacks a little bit of proselytizing. This is not supposed to be your platform for proselytizing."

A matter of faith

In the diner, a riverside hut where baseball matters almost as much as fishing, 43-year-old Kim Scheidegger of Newburyport said it's not coincidence that a faith-filled team was the one that finally broke the alleged curse. The reason: The Sox had always been nagged by a loss of confidence down the stretch, but this team seemed to tap a source that wouldn't give out.

"Whether other people believe or not, it helps an individual with their self-esteem and confidence to believe they can do it," said Scheidegger, an observant Roman Catholic.

Whether or not faith in God helped bring the championship home and banish the dreaded curse, one thing is certain: New England's preachers can no longer use the Red Sox as the ultimate example of faith in things unseen.

"No more can we use the Red Sox as an example of sheer perseverance," said Patrick Gray, assistant priest at The Church of the Advent, an Episcopal church on Beacon Hill in Boston. "So how do we use the Red Sox now that they've reached the Promised Land? Well, to say perseverance pays off."

OPENING PRAYER Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling bows his head in prayer on the mound prior to making his first pitch in the second game of the World Series. Several Boston players have credited God for their success. (RNS photo by David Molnar)

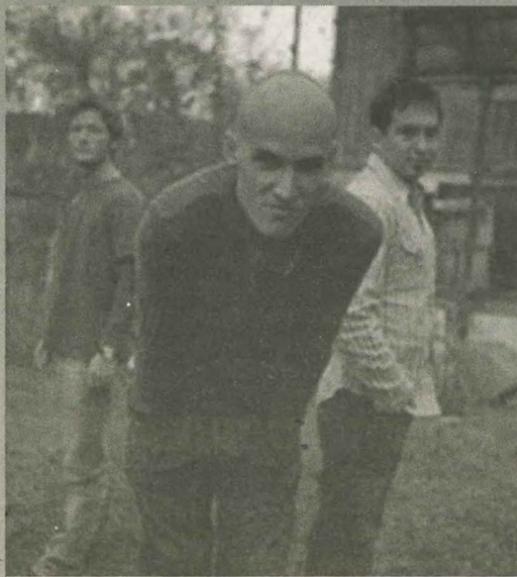
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