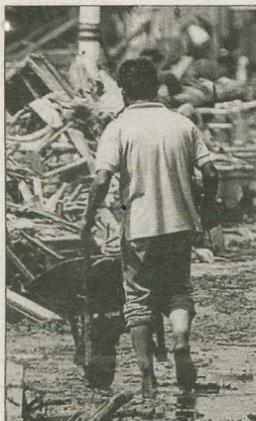


January 18, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 3**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**James Draper details urgency of increasing baptisms, involving emerging leaders. *Page 2.***Kentucky**Tony Hough shifting gears, plans to keep ministering to ministers. *Page 3.***Editorial**What will you do for yourself in 2005? *Page 5.***Tsunami relief**Workers mourn dead, focus on living. *Page 6.***Nation**Bush's comments on faith stir controversy. *Page 8.***Inauguration**Groups battle over prayer, crosses for ceremonies. *Page 9.***Most doctors tell survey they have seen 'miraculous' results in patients****New York (RNS)**—A national survey of U.S. doctors finds that a slim majority say they have seen treatment results in patients that they would consider to be miracles.

Fifty-five percent of doctors said they would describe some results that way, compared to 45 percent who did not, according to a survey released by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

The doctors represented a range of religions including various segments of Christianity and Judaism as well as Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and a category titled "other."

Seventy-two percent of the physicians surveyed said religion provides a necessary and reliable guide to life. Fifty-nine percent said they pray for individual patients and 51 percent said they pray for their patients as a group.

More than half—58 percent—said they attend worship services at least once a month.

"The picture that emerges is one where doctors, although presumably more highly educated than their average patient, are not necessarily more secular or radically different in religious outlook than the public," said Alan Mittleman, director of the seminary's Louis Finklestein Institute for Religious and Social Studies.

'Connecting' with seniors**KBC goal for new units requires help from older adults, specialist says****By Ken Walker**
*State Correspondent***Louisville**—The secret to reaching the Kentucky Baptist Convention's goal of starting 5,000 Bible study units by 2010 might come from an untapped resource: older church members.

Darryl Wilson, leader of the KBC's adult Sunday school/discipleship group, reached that conclusion after listening to best-selling author Bob Buford.

Buford, whose book "Halftime" discusses remaining productive later in life, spoke at a recent "Lead Like Jesus" conference in Louisville.

Interviewed by Ken Blanchard, Buford shared some of the conclusions he reached during research for his latest book, "Finishing Well."

Buford predicted that retiring at age 65 will become a thing of the past.

"People die of boredom and lack of purpose, just like they die of diseases," said Buford, who interviewed more than 250 people for "Finishing Well."

"They need to find their next life's work in the second half (of life) during the first half," Buford said. "If employers are going to motivate (people), they need to provide for that, which could mean granting leave time to work at church or in the community."

□ See Leader: Seniors needed ... *Page 3***Technology gap divides smaller, larger churches, study finds****Phoenix (BP)**—A significant gap in the use of the Internet and computers is emerging between large congregations and small congregations, a recent study has found.

Ellison Research, a full-service marketing research firm in Phoenix that conducted the research for the January/February issue of Facts & Trends magazine, reported that nine out of 10 Protestant ministers have access to the Internet either at home or at work, but only about half of all churches maintain a Web site in this growing technological age.

Facts & Trends is published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"As the American public becomes more and more reliant on technology in everyday life, they will logically expect churches to have things such as Web sites, streaming audio or video on the site, or study materials on video or computer software," Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research,

said. "Small churches often don't have the budget to pay for technology, or the staff or volunteers to implement it. The increased use of technology in churches has a real potential to widen the gap even further between small churches and medium or large congregations."

In a survey of 700 Protestant pastors nationwide, 91 percent said they have access to the Internet—reaching across all ages, church sizes and denominations.

But only 52 percent of those pastors said their church maintains a presence on the World Wide Web, where surfers can access information ranging from service times to ministries offered.

The breakdown by church size was striking: 88 percent of churches with 200 or more people attending worship services on a typical weekend have a Web site, while 60 percent of churches with 100-199 in attendance have one. Just 28 percent of smaller churches are on the Web.

A pastor's age also factors into whether the church maintains a Web site, Ellison found. Among ministers under 60, 56 percent have a church Web site, though among ministers 60 or older, 35 percent have a site.

When asked to rank which particular use of technology would be most important to the work of their church during the next five years, doing research on the Internet topped the list with 34 percent of pastors choosing that answer.

About one of every four ministers said using Bible study software, maintaining a church Web site, using PowerPoint or other graphic presentations in worship services, being able to show DVDs or videos and using e-mail to communicate with church members would be important uses of technology in the coming years, the study said.

Again, church size gave some indication of whether its pastor would rank a certain use of technology high.

Forty-nine percent of large church pastors said building and maintaining a Web site would be extremely important, but only 16 percent of small church pastors said so.

"Some technology is not appropriate for all churches," Sellers noted. "A PowerPoint presentation in morning services wouldn't fit with the worship styles of many congregations, for instance."

"But pastors need to take a hard look at where technology might no longer be a matter of style or a luxury for the congregation, but an expectation," he added.

"For example, with a majority of Americans using the Internet, it's amazing that over one out of four medium and large churches don't have any presence on the Web—particularly with many churches trying to figure out ways of attracting younger people, who are particularly likely to use the Internet to gather information and explore their options."

Draper details urgency of baptisms, emerging leaders

"We as a denomination have got to get beyond the Bible wars of 25 years ago and do something with what's been gained."

James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources

By Chris Turner
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—James Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, had no idea what would unfold from the 2004 Southern Baptist Convention when he expressed two concerns he had about the denomination. It has turned out to be a pleasant surprise.

In his report to SBC messengers, he said he was concerned about the fourth consecutive year of decline in baptisms and the lack of involvement by younger ministers within the SBC.

Over the succeeding months Draper released a series of columns challenging both veteran and emerging leaders to develop mutual trust.

Response to the columns was overwhelmingly positive and hundreds expressed an interest in "being a part of the solution," as one pastor wrote. There has been an ongoing dialogue between Draper and those who responded. He will meet this spring with emerging leaders to further discuss ways to increase baptisms—an indication of effective evangelism—and to better involve them in the denomination.

The January/February 2005 issue of Facts & Trends, a publication of LifeWay Christian Resources, includes an article in which Draper elaborates on why he's drawn attention to these two issues. Excerpts from that interview include:

Why do you feel these two issues (declining baptisms and less SBC involvement by younger pastors) are directly related and why do you believe they are significant to address at this time?

They are actually issues we as a denomination should have addressed years ago. On the first issue, decline in baptisms, I feel this shows a lack of focus on evangelism.

Let's go all the way back to the beginning of the Southern Baptist Convention 150-plus years ago.

Baptists came together then for the express purpose of evangelism and missions. Those things are in our DNA, but unfortunately we as a denomination and as churches have strayed somewhat from that foundation, often focusing on a lot of things that have nothing to do with either of those. Baptism follows evangelism.



James Draper

I've become concerned as I've traveled around the country that baptism is not being emphasized. The reason is not wanting to offend or embarrass someone. Baptism is a public recognition of our commitment to Christ who died publicly for our sins.

Baptism should inspire us to more faithfully serve Him. We need to keep focusing on how well we are penetrating our communities. How are we helping to alleviate crime and reduce poverty? How are we helping to improve literacy? These things become the outgrowth of witnessing, not something we do instead of witness.

Now here is why I believe it is important to connect evangelism—the heartbeat of Southern Baptists—with this generation of emerging leaders. This is the most visionary generation I've seen. My generation dreamed of a country club membership in a county seat town while serving at First Baptist Church. This generation doesn't even think like that. ... They are just as likely to go start a church somewhere. This is a powerful combination: their passion for evangelism and the willingness to go anywhere. We've got to find a place at the table for that in the SBC.

Do you believe there is a place for emerging leaders in the SBC at this time?

I believe so. We can do a lot better sharing leadership opportunities. Look at the opportunities our seminaries are offering by giving credit for going overseas to work

as missionaries. There are other opportunities through our mission boards with partnership missions. Associations maintain a number of ministry opportunities that need local church support. Throughout our SBC there are many areas of ministry opportunities and we need to maximize our energies. I'll always be convinced that we can do more together than we can do individually.

There definitely is a mutual need. We older folks have got to pull a chair up to the table for the younger ones. The enthusiasm and passion of the younger people is needed in any setting whether it is the association, the state convention or the SBC.

At the same time, the younger leaders need to learn from the experience of those who have gone before. My dad used to quote from a poem about an old bridge builder who came to a span and built a bridge. Someone asked him, "Old man, why are you building this bridge? You've already crossed this way and you won't be returning." He responded, "There is a young man who comes behind and this chasm may be a pitfall for him. I'm building this bridge for him." That's the kind of mutual need we have of each other. The younger generation needs the prayer and guidance of the older generation and the older generation needs to have the fervor and passion that used to characterize their lives.

Do you see organizations like the associations and state conventions as obsolete?

I certainly believe new wine needs to go into new wineskins. But it goes back to what I said earlier. We are most effective when we work together. Christ did not create His church to operate in a vacuum. The association and the state convention need younger and older leaders who feel that way. Other churches need them. There are a lot of these younger leaders who have great ideas that need to be shared with others. Asso-

ciations and state conventions offer available networks through which that energy can flow. The path to Kingdom growth passes through the local church.

But many times the methodologies of emerging leaders are so different than those used by their predecessors. Do you really believe there would be acceptance?

We've got to come to the point where we celebrate diversity. We don't want diversity in the message, but we want it—we need it—in the methods. Look at God's creation. Each of us is so different from everyone else and everything in our world is so different. Why then would we think God expected all churches to be the same?

That's contrary to God's nature. There are a lot of folks out there doing it a lot differently than I've done it, but that's OK. Again look at the fruit. If it glorifies God then let's celebrate it. We need to affirm the innovation many of the emerging leaders are applying to reach this generation.

Do you sense there is a disconnect with younger Southern Baptists from their denominational heritage?

I think there is a frustration on the part of emerging leaders because they see the denomination as being against everything and everybody, even each other. They are effective in their ministries and see the denomination as not being able to contribute because of the politics.

I understand their concern in this area. We as a denomination have got to get beyond the Bible wars of 25 years ago and do something with what's been gained. That's why I say we must refocus on evangelism. Look at our history and that's the common thread. That's why we were founded, the reason the Cooperative Program was established, the reason for fighting for biblical integrity and what we need to be doing. That is what the emerging leaders are focusing on.

BAPTIST DIGEST

California Baptists aid flood victims. California Southern Baptist disaster relief teams were activated Jan. 11 to aid flood victims after heavy rainstorms pelted the southern region of the state. Thousands of residents were evacuated due to threats of flooding and mudslides. Don Hargis, director of the California Southern Baptist disaster relief effort, said volunteers set up a small kitchen to serve up to 300 meals a day for evacuees and rescue workers.

Educators group marks 50th anniversary. The Baptist Association of Christian Educators will gather Feb. 24-26 to celebrate the group's 50th anniversary. Highlighting the theme, "Equipping the Church to Engage the Culture," members will meet at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta. Pollster George Gallup and authors Michael Lindsay and Sue Mallory will be featured speakers. For more information, visit www.baptisteducators.org.

Ohio pastor named seminary worship minister. James Caldwell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Heath, Ohio, has been named director of recruitment and minister of worship for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Caldwell, 45, has served churches in Ohio, Indiana, Virginia and West

Virginia. He holds three degrees from Emmanuel Baptist College in Connelly Springs, N.C.

Bettye Cothen, wife of retired SBC leader, dies. Bettye Cothen, wife of retired Baptist Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen, died Jan. 10 in Miami. Cothen, 83, had Parkinson's disease. She was a former trustee of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children, nine grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Mainstream Baptists host convocation. Highlighting "A New Day in Baptist Life," the fourth annual Mainstream Baptist Convocation will be held Feb. 25-26 in Atlanta. The event is designed to "begin a conversation that attempts to envision what the Baptist landscape might look like as we proceed into the 21st century," according to a letter by co-chairs Bill Wilson and Bob Stephenson. Speakers include Theo Angelov, immediate past general secretary of the European Baptist Federation; Penny Long Marler, associate professor of religion at Samford University; Albert Reyes, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Walter Shurden, director of the Center for Baptist Studies at Mercer University.

Lotz: Worldwide Baptists survive, reflect century of cultural change

McLean, Va. (ABP)—Through 100 years that have seen some of the most dramatic changes in history, worldwide Baptists have emerged with a spirit of unity, according to Denton Lotz, general secretary of Baptist World Alliance.

In an open letter ushering in BWA's centennial celebration, Lotz said that in 1905, when BWA was founded in London, "there was excitement that this was going to be 'the Christian Century.'" But two world wars "doomed the so-called Christian West to extinction" in Europe, he added.

Disunity in the world also has expressed itself in disunity within the church, Lotz noted. He described BWA, an international fellowship of Baptist organizations, as a notable exception.

"We rejoice at the great unity among Baptists worldwide as expressed in the Baptist World Alliance," he said. "In spite of the recent Southern Baptist exodus, we rejoice at the tremendous support for the

BWA from its 211 member bodies in every part of the globe."

BWA will hold its centennial world congress July 27-31 in Birmingham, England. It will be the group's first worldwide meeting without the Southern Baptist Convention, which withdrew its membership and funding in October.

The past century saw a dramatic shift of Christianity southward, Lotz wrote. In 1905, more than 85 percent of Christians in the world were in Europe and North America. In 2005, 60 percent of Christians are in Asia, Africa and Latin America, he said.

The last century witnessed significant cultural changes, Lotz said, such as the fall of communism, the end of apartheid and the war on terror.

"All these changes meant the church had to develop new strategies for mission," he noted, "with new opportunities in Eastern Europe and Africa and hindrances in the Middle East."

Hough shifts gears, continues 'ministry to ministers'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Tony Hough has had a passion for ministry most of his life.

Sensing a call to ministry at age 15, he eventually responded to that call during his sophomore year in college.

Inspired by a US-2 missionary in his hometown of Muncie, Ind., Hough determined that he "deeply wanted to live out my early ministry as a US-2 missionary"—a two-year mission assignment for young adults sponsored by the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Hough served as a US-2er at the former Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., and later in Vermont. "When the Home Mission Board sent me to New England," he recalled, "the promise the Lord made me at that time was that if I would go there, I would learn things that would put me on track for the remainder of my ministry."

God remains faithful

Hough repeatedly has found God faithful to His promise. Even when he takes early retirement in March from his role as director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's extension-ministries department, Hough won't be concluding his God-called ministry. He simply will be changing gears.

After completing his US-2 assignment, Hough spent two more years

in Vermont as pastor of Precision Valley Baptist Church. He also met and married his wife, Patty, during that time.

The Houghs moved to Louisville where he attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and then he served more than five years as a pastor in Minnesota.

Noting that the church tripled in membership during his time there, Hough added, "That was part of the fulfillment of that directive from Vermont. I was living out the call to plant churches."

Discovering "a call to minister to ministers," Hough returned to Southern Seminary to pursue a doctorate. He later served as pastor of Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville and as director of missions and ministries for Long Run Baptist Association. In each ministry role, he gained insights into such efforts as literacy missions, community ministry, race relations and administration.

Those varied experiences came together in 1992 when he joined the KBC staff, working in such areas as church and community ministries, ethnic and language work and church planting.

"That is really what I have seen over the last 25 or 30 years," Hough reflected. "Experience after experience has been a process of building and integrating to make me better

at the next stage."

As he helped provide leadership for church-planting efforts across the state, Hough added, "One of the greatest challenges was redirecting local church thinking from merely doing local evangelism to planting new churches which typically win many more people to Christ than established churches do."



Tony Hough

Larry Martin, who retired in December as leader of the KBC missions growth team, noted that "God has blessed Kentucky Baptists through Tony's ministry."

"Under his leadership, Hispanic ministries have multiplied," Martin said. "He led in developing regional Hispanic ministries and in establishing a new Hispanic institute for training leaders."

"Through his leadership of church and community ministries," Martin added, "many more churches today are intentionally ministering outside their church walls in their local communities."

"A real heart for people"

Grundy Janes, the KBC's ethnic and language ministries consultant, has worked closely with Hough in recent years.

"Tony has a real heart for people and for church planting," Janes said. "He is a real missiologist at heart. He has a deep love for the people of other ethnic groups."

Leader: Seniors needed to help start 5,000 units

Continued from page 1

Buford was speaking about future retirees, but Wilson sees practical application for current seniors.

Wilson is planning a series of meetings this spring with various associations about multiplying leaders and units.

The sessions are designed to encourage churches to initiate new Sunday school classes and Bible study units.

That's one of the aims of "Kentucky Baptist Connect," a collection of statewide ministry goals introduced at November's state convention annual meeting.

Overlooking experience

One of the key problems church leaders cite in launching new Bible studies is a lack of group leaders, Wilson said.

But too many people overlook the experience within their midst, he added. Too often, churches allow seniors to retire in the wrong way, hanging up their shingle instead of putting it up and showing what they can do, Wilson said.

"They're already there, they've already available and they've already been given the gift," Wilson said. "They've got the ability and the experiences. It's a matter of helping them understand why God has put it at their disposal and being allowed to employ it for Him for all of life."

That may include senior adults acting as mentors to upcoming leaders who have enthusiasm but lack experience, the discipleship



CHALLENGING GOAL As part of Kentucky Baptist Connect, Kentucky Baptists have a goal to start 5,000 Bible study units by the year 2010

leader said.

"A lot of us would love to have somebody take us under their wing and be shown the example of Jesus," Wilson said, "to be shown how we can love like Jesus (and) how we can live out the fruit of the Spirit."

"I believe apprenticing is going to be one of the ways we're going to teach people to be like Jesus and we're going to teach people to be teachers," Wilson added.

Two other KBC staff members agree that seniors have much to offer to the convention's growth initiative.

Nearly one-third of the state's

148 volunteer or bivocational missionaries are over age 60, said Eric Allen, KBC missions department director.

"Seniors serve in Mission Service Corps because they feel called to participate in ministry," Allen said. "They come from various backgrounds."

Skilled seniors seeking fulfillment

"Some were professionals prior to retirement—they were in the business world, banking, medicine or engineering," he said. "They bring skills in terms of professional administration, relational and social skills. Their experience in managing a business makes them exciting candidates to manage a ministry."

After working extensively with seniors, Allen said he has learned that they want to find activities that bring meaning to their lives and that make them feel they're making a difference.

Seniors also want to find fulfillment by feeling they've added value and satisfaction to someone else's life, Allen said.

Shelly Johns, the convention's senior adult associate, said churches can use elderly members more effectively by appreciating their worth and wisdom and by acknowledging their need to belong.

Many don't even like the term "senior citizen" because of negative connotations that they are either decrepit or happy just to be entertained with trips, Johns said. "They're looking for substance and meaning at this stage of their life."

"I have found Tony to be a real Christian gentleman with a real heart for sharing Jesus Christ through establishing new churches."

During more than 12 years on the KBC staff, Hough has seen the number of Hispanic ministries in the state grow from one mission to 65 ministry sites. He also has worked closely with seminary extension programs, deaf ministry and community ministry centers.

For his part, Hough said he has "had mentors who were willing to coach me and help me understand my role." He has responded by mentoring other ministers and by teaching extension classes in Louisville for Campbellsville University and Mid-Continent University.

As he concludes his KBC ministry, Hough said, "I have absolute certainty that I have been in the right place for this period of time. It's time to move on and explore other things."

Reiterating his ministry philosophy of "people over programs, people over procedures, people over policies," Hough added, "Ministers have to be servants and not controllers. People of Christ have giftedness—and real ministry is to help them identify that and maximize it."

Hough said he plans to continue teaching and other ministry efforts. "I will continue to live out my ministry to ministers," he said. "I will continue to mentor."

"People of Christ have giftedness—and real ministry is to help them identify that and maximize it."

Tony Hough

Kentucky churches respond to tsunami, quake with relief dollars

Churches throughout Kentucky are collecting money to assist tsunami and earthquake victims in southern Asia.

A random sampling of congregations found several quick responses by churches throughout the commonwealth.

Northside Baptist Church in Princeton showed a video about the relief efforts of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board before collecting money the past several Sundays, according to office manager Linda Lewis.

"Our prayers are with all those survivors and the workers trying to get to them," she said. "We wanted to help toward that."

As of last week, the church had collected \$1,428 toward the effort, she said.

Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville collected \$1,332, according to Pastor John Chowning.

Noting that the church collected funds for two weeks, Chowning said they will forward the assistance to the Baptist World Alliance's Baptist World Aid network.

In Oldham County, Crestwood Baptist Church gave all of the money collected during Jan. 9 worship services, approximately \$75,000, to support IMB-related relief efforts.

Pastor Troy Dobbs told the Lexington Herald-Leader that the church doesn't have a plan to make up the hole in the church budget.

"We're going to trust Him (God) that we're going to be OK," Dobbs said.

Some churches have begun to send donations to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, according to Cathi Roy-Sanders, director of the KBC's accounting services office.

With churches sending donations directly to a variety of Baptist agencies, a statewide total would be impossible to determine.

Donations sent to the state convention offices should be designated for Asia-disaster relief, Roy-Sanders said.

"They can send it to us and we'll send it on, or they can send it directly to IMB."

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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Are we numb yet?

Within the blink of an eye, Mother Nature sent a tsunami cutting like a knife through the domain of thousands of people. Killings have mounted to more than 150,000 innocent people.

Our government has responded, and rightfully so, to meet the needs of the victims of this act of nature. Corporations have responded, giving their money and resources to help in the effort. Individuals have responded, donating their time, talent and money to help the victims. School children have raised money to send to help in the effort. This is compassionate capitalism at its best.

We have to be grateful that Mother Nature has not sent such a disaster to this country. Many say God Himself causes such disasters. Many say the devil is in control of such acts. For now, let's agree that it is an act of nature out of the control of man himself.

If such a thing were to happen to our own country, killing 150,000 innocent people, we certainly would respond with as much, if not more outpouring of compassion and effort to protect and help the innocent. What if this happened once a month, on a scheduled basis? How many years would it take before we, as a culture, would become numb to the death and devastation caused from such a travesty?

Within the blink of an eye, the knife of man, not Mother Nature, enters the protected domain of more than 100,000 innocent children per month in this country through an act called abortion. This destroys our greatest natural resource and our future. Somehow we justify "Operation Abortion" in an unjustifiable way, according to God. Take a stand today to protect our children in our country. As a society we appear numb to this act of man. Are you numb yet?

Jack C. Fisher
Mayfield

Creative approaches to ministry

I recently had the privilege of being in several churches that are trying creative approaches to ministry. Let me share with you a little about these:

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Daviess-McLean Baptist Association has purchased a school building next door to the church for educational space and activities in the gym. The pastor, Kenneth Stone, wanted his son to participate in wrestling, so the local school principal gave permission for a team if the pastor would coach. The church has sponsored the team financially, and the team has been so successful that other schools have permitted students to participate. This effort has required much discipline and work but has provided a great outreach opportunity.

Lakeside Baptist Church in Louisville, where Wes Brockway is pastor, dedicated new facilities Dec. 12. The design is open with a large glass-covered atrium which serves as the

Don't divide & destroy

I have served as pastor of Southern Baptist churches for more than 60 years and, until recently, I have been proud to be a Southern Baptist. Right now, I am brokenhearted because of the struggle for control of the convention.

I know there are some in the convention who are more liberal in their preaching and teaching than some of us would like. However, I believe there always have been some who were more liberal than most Southern Baptists liked, but as long as we claim to be champions of freedom of religion, I suspect there always will be those who we feel are too liberal.

I fear that in our zeal to root out liberalism, we may be in danger of violating some long-cherished Baptist principles and in so doing divide us and destroy the greatest program of missions and evangelism the world has ever known.

My prayer is that God will raise up some godly leaders who will refuse to let extremists take control of the convention and destroy the effectiveness of our great programs.

George R. Gaddie
Campbellsville

Darwin affirms creation

For more than the 61 years I have been in the ministry, I couldn't conceive of the origin of life from any other source than God.

Thank you for the article in the Jan. 4 issue about the change of Anthony Flew's concept of the origin of life from atheist to deist.

When I read that article, I was skeptical. I could hardly believe what Flew said about Darwin.

Being a Missourian, I began to browse through a copy of Darwin's "Origin of Species." After several hours of reading, I found, on the last page, in the last paragraph, the last sentence these words:

"There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, hav-

ing been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed laws of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and more wonderful have been, and are being evolved."

If Darwin had known about DNA, he probably would have theorized that every form of life was already present in the DNA of that first simplest form of life.

So the Darwinists are creationists after all, whether they will admit it or not. Why hasn't someone told us this long ago? It probably would have saved a lot of unhappy animosity and a lot of embarrassment for being so uninformed.

Thank you for putting me on the trail of a lost treasure that has solved my problem. Darwin believed in creation, too!

Richard W. Luebert
Shelbyville

The sin of greed

Capitalism is not all good and not all bad. Capitalism's most grievous sin is greed—the engine that drives it.

Directly and indirectly, greed is the source of evil. It is the root cause of war and exploitation of the environment and its natural resources. Greed also exploits humankind's most important resource—the world's people.

If greed could be eliminated, capitalism would be an ideal economic system. Replace capitalistic greed with the universal desire to redistribute the wealth. All of the earth's natural resources really belong to our Creator.

Interdependence—rooted in love—was God's plan for the global community. The world has a long way to go to reach the desired goal of making capitalism compassionate and interdependence-friendly.

We deceive ourselves if we believe America has most-favored nation status with God.

Paul L. Whiteley Sr.
Louisville

Program, and more than \$50,000 through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The church has a strong commitment to Christian education and serves as the location for Lexington Christian Academy.

Pastor Kevin Hamm at **Valley View Baptist Church** in Louisville shared with me that God provided 174 decisions for Christ—54 of them professions of faith—during a special commitment service on Jan. 2. Hamm and the staff had listened to people for months speak of their desire to be a part of the church family, but many said they preferred not to walk down an aisle. Those making professions of faith will publicly declare their faith through baptism.

Hamm and the staff were so overwhelmed by the results that they thought some other churches might want to consider this approach. Feel free to call Valley View Baptist Church for more information.

It is gratifying to see God at work in creative ways among Kentucky Baptists. Let's encourage and pray for one another that all people might be connected to Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Recognize the warning signs of too much debt

By Don Spencer

There is a time for the good use of credit. However, one of the major problems for many people, especially younger couples, is the overuse of credit. Too many people are in their heads. You will never have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.

Just because you can pay your monthly bills, including the minimum debt payments each month, that does not mean you are free of credit problems. Low minimum payments are to the creditor's benefit, not yours. Being able to pay your monthly bills—including debt payments—time is great, but that also can lead to a false sense of security about your handling of debt.

Do you have a problem with debt and credit? Here are some of the warning signs:

1. You make only the minimum monthly payment on your debts.
2. Each year, more of your income is going toward paying your debts.
3. You have more than two major credit cards.
4. You don't have an emergency fund and other savings.
5. You're unsure of how much total debt you really have.
6. You use cash advances from one credit card to pay another.
7. You use credit cards to purchase things that you used to buy with cash.
8. You and your spouse tend to fight over money issues.
9. Your credit card debt is at or near its maximum limit.
10. You've had calls from collectors or been denied credit.

If you answered "yes" to three or more of these, you might be heading toward credit/debt problems and should be serious in guarding against getting in deeper trouble.

If you answered "yes" to more than three of these, you probably are already in over your head and need to get professional help to deal with this problem. The sooner you act, the better.

The Web site www.credit.about.com is one of several Web sites that offer valuable guidance on dealing with debt/credit problems.

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



What should families look for in an effective youth group?

Q: Because our church offers very little for teenagers, we have decided to begin visiting other churches. What should we look for in a good youth program?

Whether you are looking for a new church or seeking to strengthen the youth program in your current church, let me encourage you to look at the following areas Rick Warren highlights in "The Purpose-Driven Church." Healthy churches and healthy youth groups are balanced and are seeking to grow people rather than programs. Ask:

PARENTING

■ Does this youth group emphasize fellowship and is there a sense of warmth and inclusiveness within the group?

■ To what extent is discipleship a mainstay of the group and a passion of the leader? Are teens growing deeper as they study God's Word? Are they encouraged to pray and develop daily spiritual disciplines and are these commitments evident in the lives of the leaders?

■ Is there an emphasis on worship? Are the teens encouraged to worship individually and corporately and are they provided adequate opportunities to do so in the life of the church?

■ Is this group actively involved in ministry as they grow to see themselves making a difference in the lives of others?

Also, make sure the youth program is led by individuals who do more than give lip service to evangelism. Do they model sharing faith with others and encourage youth to share the gospel of Christ with their friends? Remember, the marks of a strong youth group are the marks of a healthy church—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: I don't like my wife's friends. For one thing, I think she tells them about problems we have. Then I feel awkward around them. I think marriage problems should be kept private. I don't go running to my friends about my marriage. What should I do?

It sounds like your relationship with your friends is different than the relationship your wife has with her friends.

As children, girls often play games that bring their feelings and problems into their play. Boys often enjoy playing games that are interactive with each other but involve fewer relational elements. Because God created us for community, we need to be in relationship with others. Yet the marriage relationship cannot fulfill all the needs of a person. Having friendships outside marriage is healthy.

It is important that your wife come to you first to address problems in the marriage. It is biblical to go to a person and seek reconciliation. It also is important how you respond when she shares with you. If you repeatedly discount what she feels or shares, do not be surprised when she goes elsewhere to be heard.

If you do not see a problem in your relationship and your wife does, the marriage has a problem that needs to be addressed. Good communication involves actively listening to the feelings, thoughts and dreams of your spouse.

Pray for guidance and the courage you need to listen fully to your wife. Share with her your anger or hurt that she chooses to talk to her friends about your marital problems before coming to you. Let her know you want to hear her needs and are willing to share yours. If you are unwilling to do this or do not feel it is necessary, you are missing an opportunity to build a more intimate relationship with your wife. The more we are willing to be vulnerable in our marriages, the more likely we will allow God to mold us and shape us.—*Valerie Vincent*

Family Forum writers are:

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



What will you do for yourself this year?

With 2005 well under way, what do you plan to do for yourself this year?

I realize that from a Christian perspective, we're supposed to ponder what we can do for others rather than ourselves. But one way we can better serve others is to take time for our own physical, spiritual, emotional and intellectual renewal.

Scripture tells us that Jesus "kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). Those are worthy goals for each of us.

One way to experience renewal is to take advantage of retreats, training conferences and other events on the church, associational and state convention levels. Among diverse opportunities in the next several weeks are:

■ The Kentucky Baptist Convention's quarterly prayer meeting for spiritual awakening Jan. 27-28 at Maple Grove Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ The Great Commission Prayer Conference Feb. 4-5 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ The Kentucky Baptist Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat Feb. 11-12 in Cave City.

■ The Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference Feb. 28 and March 1 at Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ KBC Creative Ministries Festivals March 4-5 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville and March 11-12 at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

What can you gain from such events? Spiritual refreshment, Christian fellowship and practical ministry resources.

Like many churches across the commonwealth, my congregation hosts an annual men's retreat. This past year's retreat, held a few weeks before the hectic

holiday season hit, highlighted the theme, "Leave a Legacy."

Floyd Price, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pres-tonburg and a member of the Western Recorder board of directors, led a series of sessions on that theme. He addressed such questions as: Who am I? Am I traveling alone? How will I be remembered?

Noting that "we're living in a time when more people are searching for God," Price pointed out, "There are people all over the world trying to find a spiritual identity—and we're sitting on it."

"You cannot know who you are until you know Whose you are," he added. "The Apostle Paul identified with Christ because He belonged to Him."

Christians don't have to travel alone, Price emphasized. "If we are to make it, we need to be a friend and have a friend. ... If I am His and you are His, we are laborers together."

Describing Jesus as the greatest friend, he added, "If you want to know how good a friend Jesus is, look at the cross."

Urging participants to build a positive Christian legacy, Price warned, "We can spend our whole time making a living and miss out on making a life. ... How you want to be remembered will determine how you travel."

In addition to the words of spiritual encouragement, the retreat included times of prayer, worship and recreation with fellow church members. I left the weekend event challenged, refreshed and better prepared for daily ministry opportunities.

Whether it's a personal devotional time, church retreat or regional training event, how will you invest in your spiritual growth this year? It's worth the time—and so are you.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Tsunami survivors: 'Is there any hope?'

By Tony Cartledge

Galle, Sri Lanka (ABP)—On the waterfront in Galle City, a road runs parallel to the beach, but there are no cabanas and beach chairs to be seen. Large, colorful shrimp boats lean together on the curb,

ripped from their moorings and swept ashore by the infamous tsunami of Dec. 26. Across the street, a long city block has been turned to rubble.

A small Hindu shrine stands partly preserved amid mattress-sized chunks of broken concrete. Parts of two walls remain. Leaning against the broken roof is a crude hand-lettered sign painted on a scrap of plywood. In the swirling cursive script of Sinhalese, it asks "Is there any hope for refugees like us?"

Behind the sign is an expanse of debris where many houses once stood. Thick concrete and cinder-block walls lie toppled and broken. A small boat sits near a mattress and a bicycle wheel.

Despair amid debris

A slim, brown woman picks through the flattened debris of her home. Her name is Weeregoda Mashashi Niluka Priyanthi. She and her husband were working at a nearby bus stand when the tsunami hit. Like hundreds of others, her husband was swept away by the giant waves.

Her daughter was at home but ran inland when the first wave came, and survived. Now every day mother and daughter return to the ruined spot where their home once stood, looking for salvageable items. They don't know what else to do

Women's shoes and broken dishes are visible, but the jewelry she seeks is not to be found.

A 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra sent a tsunami speeding across the Indian Ocean on a beautiful, sunny morning after Christmas. An hour later, an estimated 30,000 Sri Lankans were dead, and thousands of homes were destroyed.

A. Fonsaka stands alone, staring silently at the calm blue waters, remembering the day when the sea raged. His home also had been across the street. Now his broken fishing catamaran lies in two large pieces atop the flattened remains of his house. He wears a silver crucifix around his neck. He waits for someone to offer help.

A young man named Nimal, a member of a Baptist church in Galle, did not own a home, but the one he was renting washed away. "I have no home, no clothes but these," he says, fingering his worn knit shirt. "For the future, I have no income."

North of Galle, in the fishing village of Dodanduwa, P. H. Piyarangth is anxious to tell what has happened to him. He is a small, dark man with silvering hair and a gray mustache that makes him look older than his face does. In a gesture seen too often since the tsunami, he touches his fingertips to his chest, then holds his hands out, palms up, with a mournful expression. "I am a poor man," he says. "My mother died. My house finished."

His mother was washed out to sea when the tsunami came, he says. She could not run fast enough. Piyarangth found her body on the beach. She was one of nine from the village

who died. Two were never found.

Piyarangth's fishing catamaran lies just inland of the beach, broken into several pieces. He survived because of his experience with the sea, he said. As a fisherman, he recognized that the water level was dropping quickly, three hours before the expected low tide. Sensing trouble, he ran to get his family and take them to high ground where they "climbed up in a big house" and escaped the first giant wave.

He watched as the second wave covered his house. The third wave flattened its walls of cinderblocks and mortar.

"Sea is our life"

Sarath Weeraraththa is a tourist guide, proud that he speaks English and German as well as his native Tamil. "My house is finished," he says. "My mother's house is flat." He points to an area that could have been bombed. "We are staying in the temple," he says. He points to a small area where 26 houses once stood. They are no more.

As a guide, Weeraraththa is knowledgeable about Dodanduwa. He says there are 15,000 residents in the area, and 190 men and boys work as fishermen, sailing their catamarans several miles offshore.

But, even for those whose boats survived, there is no more fishing for now. The people refuse to eat fish for fear that the fish have eaten parts of dead bodies.

A boat, broken in half by the waves, sits beneath the palm trees. Carefully painted above a smiling fish are the words: "Sea is our life."

Tony Cartledge, editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder, traveled to Sri Lanka this month as part of an advance disaster relief team for North Carolina Baptist Men

Workers in Indonesia mourn dead, focus on living

So far, \$2.7 million given to IMB for tsunami relief

Richmond, Va.—More than \$2.7 million has been donated toward earthquake and tsunami relief through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board since the Dec. 26 disaster.

"We've just been overwhelmed by the response," said Ritchie Lipscomb, who directs the department handling financial gifts at the agency.

The IMB has committed that all funds given to relief efforts will go to the affected areas; none will be used for administrative costs.

The following Baptist-related agencies are collecting funds specifically for earthquake and tsunami relief:

IMB disaster relief fund. Gifts designated "Asia Earthquake Disaster Relief" can be mailed to the International Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Money also can be given online at the IMB's Web site, www.imb.org.

Woman's Missionary Union Foundation. Funds can be sent to HEART Fund-Tsunami Response, Box 11346, Birmingham, AL 35202-1346. Contributions are also accepted online at www.wmufoundation.com.

Baptist World Aid. Donations designated "Asian Tidal Wave Appeal" can be sent to Baptist World Aid, c/o Baptist World Alliance, 405 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046. For more information, visit www.bwa.org.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Checks designated "#17016 Asian Relief" in the memo line can be mailed to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Box 101699, Atlanta, GA 30392.

Samaritan's Purse. The ministry operated by Franklin Graham is accepting donations through its Web site, www.samaritanspurse.org.

Banda Aceh, Indonesia (BP)—Minutes after feeling the earthquake Dec. 26, Ibu Tetty was in her house in the small village of Desa Nusa, about 10 kilometers from the coast in Indonesia's Aceh province.

She was giving thanks that her home was still standing.

"But then I saw the people running up the hill," she says, pointing at the slope nearby.

"Why are you running?" I asked them. They were screaming, "Water! Water! Run! Run!" There was no time to get anything from the house."

The frightened villagers climbed on top of homes at the top of the hill. "When the water came, it was rolling and rolling," Tetty recalls, spinning her hands frantically. "Oh, dear God! I was crying. People were screaming and crying, 'Forgive us, God! Have mercy on us, God!'"

With tears in her eyes, she looks toward the ocean. "Alhamdulillah (thanks be to Allah), all of my family is OK."

The view from the ridge that saved Tetty's life—and the lives of her husband and six children—will never be the same. Framed by low mountains in the distance, the vista looking to the sea is one of complete desolation.

Stunned silence

Similar scenes greet aid workers arriving in Banda Aceh, the devastated provincial capital. Once a city of more than 200,000, an accurate count of the dead there might never be known. In the wreckage of what was once a bustling port city, people walk through rubble in stunned silence.

Mixed into the debris are hundreds of bodies that might never be recovered. There simply are not enough people to dig out the remains.

"It's like a huge fist first smashed down hard on the whole area, and then a huge hand stirred it all up," an aid worker said, struggling to find words. Throughout the city, buses, trucks and boats lie mangled and tossed about like toys. Shattered fishing boats lie in obscure resting places—atop bridges, along streets nowhere near water.

Nearly four weeks have passed since the Dec. 26 earthquake shook this city on the northern tip of Sumatra. Many testaments to its force remain: toppled minarets once reaching proudly to the sky, buildings collapsed on their foundations, deep cracks opened in the earth. But it was the ocean off the once-beautiful Sumatran coastline that destroyed the city—and still strikes fear in those who lived through the tsunami.

Like many survivors, Mr. Yusmanto escaped death only because he works outside Aceh. He doesn't understand why his house wasn't leveled in the tsunami. Still, having a house frame doesn't make him fortunate. Everyone in his family is dead.

"Whatever they say the death toll is, in reality it is higher," he said. Sweeping an arm out to the rubble of his community, Yusmanto estimates as many as 30,000 died in the immediate area.

Intermittent stacks of corpses



BAREFOOT SURVIVOR A tsunami survivor pushes a wheelbarrow through debris near the center of Banda Aceh, Indonesia. People throughout the city, desperate for help, ask for rubber gloves and masks while they help recover some of the thousands of corpses of victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami. (IMB photo)

enclosed in body bags line the road near his home. According to Yusmanto, many bodies recovered are pulled out by family members. But with entire families dead, "most bodies will stay here, because there is no one else to do it," he says.

Six hours south of Banda Aceh, the coastal town of Meulaboh—population 40,000—has few survivors, early observers say.

"Between Meulaboh and Banda Aceh are many, many smaller coastal fishing villages and towns," says "Antonio," a Baptist worker assessing the needs in Aceh. "If Banda Aceh and Meulaboh are that completely destroyed, there's no doubt everything in between is also gone."

Devastation "keeps going"

According to Antonio, estimates say half the population of the city of Banda Aceh have been killed.

"After what we've seen, that really seems to be conservative," he

ordinates Southern Baptist disaster relief in Asia. (For security reasons, his name is withheld.)

"We need to get past the death toll and get focused on the living—because that's where our ministry is going to be," he says.

In Aceh, the Indonesian territory hit hardest by the tsunami, reconstruction will take years. As volunteers begin to arrive, the coordinator says selfless acts of service will make the greatest impact.

"We need doctors and nurses and people with specific fields of expertise," he says. "But we need a lot more people who will do dirty work. ... There are so many needs—giving food and water to other volunteers; setting up water filtration systems; carrying sacks of rice; digging out debris and bagging badly decomposed corpses."

Antonio says relief and aid delivered with humility and cultural sensitivity will have major impact.

"We've got an opportunity to reshape the people's perception of Christianity," he says. "They've got us categorized in just one box (together with all Westerners). ... We can reshape that."

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NATIONAL NOTES

Graham among "Most Admired" for 48th time. A Gallup survey shows that Billy Graham was one of the 10 most admired men of 2004, giving the evangelist a record 48 years in which he has made Gallup's annual listing. Graham has made the most appearances on a list that has been released by the polling organization since 1948. The late Ronald Reagan is second with 31, followed by Pope John Paul II with 27.

Rick Warren to pen column for Ladies' Home Journal. Baptist pastor Rick Warren, whose book "The Purpose-Driven Life" has dominated secular best-seller lists for two years, will now write a monthly column for Ladies' Home Journal. The column, which debuts in February, will be called "Purpose" and will address topics of spirituality and the search for meaning among American women and their families. The magazine has a circulation of 4.1 million.

Supreme Court sidesteps Florida homosexual adoption ban. The U.S. Supreme Court has declined, without comment, to hear a challenge to Florida's ban on adoptions by homosexuals. The denial means a ruling last year by a federal appeals court upholding the law will stand. The law, enacted in 1977 is unique in the nation. It categorically excludes gays from the ability to adopt.

Lutherans maintain homosexuality stance, for now. A Lutheran task force last week recommended no change to church rules that ban gay clergy and same-sex unions, saying a majority of the church does not support "wholesale change" to existing gay policy. But the panel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America proposed that the denomination refrain from disciplining churches and pastors who feel "conscience-bound" to disobey the rules.

Georgia textbook evolution disclaimer unconstitutional. A federal judge struck down a suburban Atlanta school district's policy of placing disclaimers about evolution in science textbooks, saying the policy violates the Constitution's ban on government establishment of religion. United States District Judge Clarence Cooper issued a ruling Jan. 13 ordering the immediate removal of textbook stickers that caution evolution is "a theory, not a fact." The disclaimer had been placed in public-school science texts in Cobb County, Ga.

Critics respond to Bush's remarks about faith

Washington (ABP)—President Bush said recently he doesn't understand "how you can be president without a relationship with the Lord." But that testament brought a protest from one of the country's top Jewish leaders.

Bush made the comment in an interview with editors and reporters of the Washington Times, reported by the newspaper Jan. 12.

David Saperstein, director of the Washington-based Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, told reporters Jan. 13 he is "deeply troubled" by Bush's remarks.

"Such an assertion violates the spirit of the Constitution's ban on religious tests for political office and endangers the strength of the religious pluralism and tolerance that the president has so often affirmed—and re-affirmed in the same interview," Saperstein continued.

Bush prefaced his statement, according to the newspaper, with an assertion that he supports the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom for all Americans, including those who have no faith.

"I fully understand that the job of the president is, and must always be, protecting the great right of people to worship or not worship as they see fit," he told the Times. "The greatest freedom we have—or one of the greatest freedoms—is the right to worship the way you see fit."



Elsewhere in the interview, Bush defended the right of non-religious Americans to challenge the government when they believe it has unconstitutionally endorsed or supported a religious view.

Referring to Michael Newdow's efforts to get a phrase he views as offensive removed from the Pledge of Allegiance, Bush said, "The great thing about our country is some-

body can stand up and say, 'We should try to take "under God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance.'"

But, Bush noted, "the backlash" to a federal appeals court decision in 2002 endorsing Newdow's view "was pretty darn significant."

"Whether they voted for you or not," Bush said, "there's a lot of values in this country, for which I'm real proud."

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'In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye'

Fast pace of life requires students to prepare in advance, use time wisely

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul told his audience how suddenly the Resurrection would take place. This extraordinary event was to be expected and preparation had to be made in advance because there would not be time to prepare later. It would happen "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." It will happen much quicker than the devastating tsunami that visited millions so unexpectedly the day after Christmas.

Another year has come and gone, not exactly in the "twinkling of an eye," but I have noticed that the older I get the quicker the years seem to go by. Additionally, it appears to me that I accomplish fewer and fewer of my goals each year. When I pause to consider what has been accomplished during the past 12 months, it seems as though the year has come and gone much too quickly. There was so much still to be done.

Now as 2005 has begun and I consider all that needs to be done during the next 12 months, I am nearly overwhelmed with the task ahead. Each day is too short, every week passes quickly and the pages on the calendar are replaced much too soon. How will we ever accomplish all that needs to be done? As the days of our lives flow by at an ever-increasing rate, the reality of our mortality becomes more obvious. When we look back over the years of our lives, in many ways it does seem to be similar to the "twinkling of an eye."

Graduation for the class of 2005 is just months away. It is nearly too late for those who have not prepared the academic foundation they will need

for college and beyond. For those who have not used their time wisely, the handwriting is on the wall. Time is running out! Preparation and plans for college needed to be made years ago. Without a solid foundation, a structure will not stand. The foundation is laid at the beginning of construction, not when the roof is being installed.

Fortunately, most of the 2005 class have made preparation and are eagerly waiting for the opportunities to continue their education and life beyond college. Time has served them well, and they have prepared for their future.

During the next months we will face no greater challenge than to use all our energy and skills to prepare our students spiritually and academically for an education that will serve them "For Time and Eternity." Those who serve in the tutoring lab and in the classroom will have the dauntless task of inspiring their students to study and explore the universe in which they live. Many of those students have

never found learning to be easy or fun; they will require the greatest effort from our teachers. Our houseparents and support staff will try to teach our students the dignity of work and the value of athletic competition—to be competitive, to give their best effort and to remember they are part of a team effort.

Finally, but certainly not least important, will be our efforts to lead young people to the saving and redeeming knowledge of Jesus Christ. The majority of our students have had little or no spiritual training. This task will require our greatest effort!

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

No UK tickets for this student

North Carolina transfer anticipates May graduation

For several years, a steady stream of students from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in North Carolina have completed their bachelor's degree at Clear Creek. Fruitland's excellent two-year program is accepted in its entirety toward our bachelor of arts degree in ministry.

"The two schools are very similar in classroom size, the atmosphere and the way professors teach," senior Craig Boley noted. "The major transition comes with trying to convert me to a UK fan. But I'm still faithful to Carolina blue."

Craig is called to be a pastor. "Equipping the saints is the biggest need; saints prepared to accomplish all God has called us to do," he said. "Discipleship that motivates Christians to share their faith is what I want to emphasize."

Converted at age 9, he wandered away from Christ through his teenage years. "Meeting Beth (his wife) made the difference," Craig stated. "She pushed on me that I needed to get back in church. Through her I'm here today. I accepted my responsibility and wanted to be my best for Christ." In his prayer life, God began to deal with him

about the ministry. One day Beth asked him, "Has God called you into ministry?" Craig told her no, but two weeks later he stood before the church to announce God's call.

Their families at first wondered if he had made the right decision. "I ran my own business in custom cabinetry and made good money,"

Craig said. "Through our dedication they saw the decision was right and encouraged us to go for it." Beth is also a full-time student; they have shared some classes. "I think God called both of us, and a ministry spouse also benefits from the training," he said.

It was a difficult transition at first for their children, C.J., 15, and Kyle, 9. "They moved from their home of 11 years," Beth said. "But they have accepted that this is our life." East Cumberland Baptist Church in Middlesboro recently called Craig as minister of education. Graduation is May 6. They are praying about Craig taking seminary extension classes while Beth completes her degree at Clear Creek.

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

CLEAR CREEK
CHRONICLE

Bill Whittaker

God & the inauguration

Prayer lawsuit, crosses conflict highlight diversity of opinion on faith at ceremony

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Kirbyjon Caldwell won't reveal exactly what words he'll use in his second inaugural benediction after President Bush's swearing-in on Jan. 20.

"You'll have to just tune in," said the senior pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston.

Four years ago, his prayer "sparked a little hoopla," as he puts it, when he ended with the name of Jesus and the words "Let all who agree say, 'Amen.'"

Some critics said the reference to Christ was exclusionary to non-Christians.

As Bush's second inauguration approaches, legal sparring over planned prayers and a ban on crosses on the inaugural parade route already have erupted, illustrating how religion has become an increasingly contentious issue at the once-every-four-years event.

Times have changed from the spring day in 1789 when the first president prayed during his inaugural speech and then was accompanied by members of Congress to a worship service a few blocks away.

This year's inauguration prayers are to be uttered by Caldwell and Luis Leon, pastor of St. John's Church, a Washington-based Episcopal congregation near the White House.

But if California atheist Michael Newdow has his way, there will be no such prayers. He filed a suit last month to halt the tradition.

Newdow said in an interview that his suit is part of his effort to

stand up for atheists in a society that he believes falsely links being a "true American" with belief in God. He thinks the 2001 inaugural prayers by Caldwell and evangelist Franklin Graham affirmed that notion.

The Bush administration begs to differ, saying that prayers at the inauguration are a tradition that Newdow shouldn't be able to stop.

"Inaugural prayer serves the permissible secular purpose of solemnizing a ceremony in a manner that traces back to the earliest days of our nation, and involves no greater appearance of endorsement of religion than any of the other ceremonial references to God that are ubiquitous in our nation's history and culture," reads the court document filed on behalf of the president.

No crosses on parade route

Just down the street from the upcoming inauguration, Patrick Mahoney and supporters of his Christian Defense Coalition intend to gather along the parade route for a prayer vigil and demonstration in favor of anti-abortion Supreme Court justices.

But, if Secret Service regulations are followed, they cannot have crosses or other structures unless they are made of materials considered safe by the authorities. Mahoney says Christians are being singled out in a discriminatory way and his lawyer has written to the federal agency seeking a change in the language.

Mahoney's organization has joined efforts to oppose Newdow's



INAUGURAL PRAYER Evangelist Franklin Graham gives the invocation at the 2001 inauguration. Critics say distinctively Christian prayers at the event exclude non-Christians. (Photo courtesy of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

case even as the evangelical Christian leader exchanges letters with the Secret Service about the religious rights of Christians.

"What you're seeing is that public expression of religion is becoming much more of a hot-button issue and you see both sides of the spectrum here," Mahoney said.

"Actually, the Newdow case and our case, in a way, encapsulate the drama that we're seeing across the nation."

Kenneth Wald, author of "Religion and Politics in the United States," said he thinks the inaugural debates have escalated as evangelical Protestants have increased their public role.

"Historically the goal has been ... to make (the inauguration) non-sectarian," said Wald, a political science professor at the University of Florida in Gainesville. "Bush re-

ally got away from that in 2001 and my guess is he'll do the same thing in 2005."

Diversity leads to debate

Caldwell attributes the legal rumblings to diversity rather than drama.

"I just think we live in a diverse and democratic community," he said of the differing points of view highlighted this inaugural season. "I think that's a good thing."

Caldwell said the White House did not give him guidance on his wording last time around and he doesn't expect any executive edicts this time either.

"It was not my intent to exclude or insult," he said, responding to Newdow and other critics. "It is obviously his right to express his opinion and I look forward to offering the benediction."

Historic Bible ready for Bush's oath of office, if he wants it

By Andrea James
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Four years ago, a 234-year-old red goatskin-covered Bible sat inside the Capitol awaiting the moment George W. Bush would take the oath of office for his first term as president.

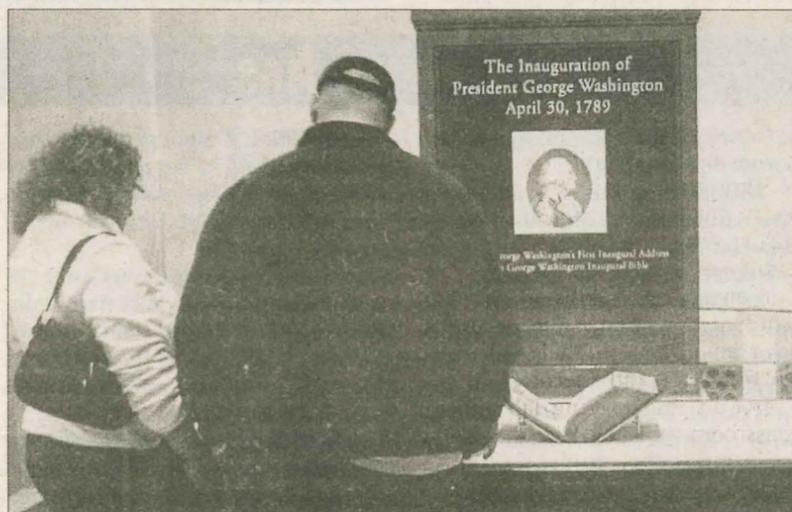
If Bush had used that Bible, he would have joined Presidents George Washington, Warren Harding, Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter and Bush's father, George H.W. Bush, in using it.

But the Secret Service wanted the Bible outside on the Capitol steps one hour before the ceremony began. The Bible's caretakers determined the delicate pages shouldn't be exposed to the rain and sleet falling that day, so Bush used a family Bible instead, the same Bible he plans to use this year.

If Bush changes his mind, the historic Bible is on display nearby in the National Archives building to celebrate the 2005 presidential inauguration.

It's on loan from St. John's Lodge No. 1 of the Free and Accepted Masons in New York City and can be viewed until Jan. 25.

The Lodge has not had any communication from the White House, but the Bible could be made ready



INAUGURATION BIBLE Blaine and Diana Gasch from West River, Md., visit George Washington's inaugural Bible, on display at the National Archives building in Washington until Jan. 25. (RNS photo by Andrea James)

quickly, said Ryan Johnson, chairman of the George Washington Inaugural Bible Committee.

"You're not ticking anyone off"

The Bible, which Washington kissed at his inauguration on April 30, 1789, is treated with the same dignity and care as the original Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

Because it is a Freemason Bible,

not belonging to any denomination, it was considered appropriate for the first presidential inauguration, according to Johnson.

By using a Masonic Bible, "you're not ticking anyone off," Johnson said. "This is the document that was used to launch the executive branch of the federal government."

The King James Version Bible, printed in London in 1767, has 103 steel-plate engravings and gold

decorations.

Nineteen years later, the first inaugural planners forgot about a Bible until the last minute, so one of Washington's aides grabbed the Bible from the lodge, according to popular legend. Other historians say Washington planned to use the Masonic Bible all along.

Washington placed his hand on chapters 49 and 50 of Genesis, where Jacob blesses his sons and acknowledges their differences, symbolizing the unification of the 13 original colonies. After the oath, Washington said "I swear, so help me God" and kissed the page.

The Bible is handled with gloves and travels with three St. John's members at all times.

Only the president, the governor of New York, the grand master of Masons in New York State, the master-elect of St. John's Lodge and third-degree candidates of St. John's Lodge may take their oaths on the Bible.

The book was present at the laying of the cornerstones of the U.S. Capitol, Washington Monument and Statue of Liberty pedestal, among other historic events. It was also present at the funeral processions of Presidents Washington, Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylor.

Inaugural prayer dates back to Washington, 1789

Washington (RNS)—Back in 1789, when President George Washington was sworn in for the first time, the chief executive himself included prayers within his inaugural text.

"It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe," he said on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York.

Marvin Kranz, a historical specialist at the Library of Congress, said Washington's words were the first in a line of religiously related language from inaugural speeches.

"Almost all the presidents—as far as I know virtually all of them—have had some reference to a power beyond ourselves," said Kranz, who has composed exhibits at the library on inaugurations. "I think it was pretty much accepted that this was a normal thing. In more recent times, we've been squabbling over the overt role of religion in public life."

Vincent Phillip Munoz, an assistant professor of political science at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, said Washington also started the traditions of placing a hand on the Bible and ending the oath of office with the words "so help me God" as an effort to solemnize the occasion.

Although now some would think it was "peculiarly improper" to acknowledge God during the swearing-in ceremony, Munoz said such religious expression has become a historical tradition.

"I suspect that President Bush will swear his oath on the Bible and end it with 'so help me God,'" he said. "George Washington definitely would not have thought that was unconstitutional."

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following requests related to Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Brazil, Europe and New England:

Urgent need:

Four pastors and ministers of music for simultaneous revivals in Parnaiba, Brazil, April 18-29. For information, contact the partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.

That volunteers would sign up for projects in Malta.

Backyard Bible Club workers are needed for a children's festival, July 9-21, and prayerwalkers are needed for any time.

A 10-member construction team heading to Teresina, Brazil,

in March, that the site would be ready and that they will lead residents to Christ as they build the church in the community.

Mary Baldrige, a Spanish instructor at Carson-Newman College, as she works with Brazilian interpreters in Teresina, Brazil, this month to improve their English-speaking skills.

Brazilian and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union leaders, meeting next month in Teresina, Brazil. Please pray for traveling safety for Kentucky WMU leaders. Pray also for the workshops, that local church leaders will be prepared to better support their churches' work in missions.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will host a Southeast Connect training conference Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event for pastors, deacons and Sunday school leaders will focus on reaching, teaching and ministering to those in the local church. Speakers will include representatives from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and LifeWay Christian Resources. **Darren Gaddis** is pastor. For more information, contact **Jeff Crabtree** at (606) 528-6650 or jcrabtree@gocentral.org.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—New Bethel Church recently called **Carlton Brinkley** as interim pastor.

■ **HARDINSBURG**—Hardinsburg Church recently called **Doug Miller** as pastor. He previously was an

associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's adult Sunday school/discipleship group.

■ **NEBO**—Johnson Island Church recently called **Neil Kolody** as pastor.

■ **PEMBROKE**—Pembroke Church will host a joint worship service with Salem Church Feb. 6, 6 p.m. **Hershael York**, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will be the guest speaker. **Jack Studie** is pastor of Pembroke Church and **Ronnie Grace** is pastor of Salem Church.

■ **SALYERSVILLE**—Licking River Church recently called **Daniel Lucas** as pastor.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Bethlehem Church recently called **Paul Crews** as interim pastor.

WMU announces MissionsFEST, FamilyFEST projects for 2005

Birmingham, Ala.—National Woman's Missionary Union will host a series of MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST ministry projects in 2005.

MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST are three- or five-day pre-planned ministry experiences that provide volunteers an opportunity to partner with other Christians in designated cities to support ongoing mission projects.

MissionsFEST events are open to adults age 18 or older. FamilyFEST is open to anyone in first grade or older, offering an opportunity for adults to model a missions lifestyle to their children, grandchildren and other young people, explained **Kristy Carr**, WMU's Volunteer Connection specialist.

"It is such a privilege to see volunteers beam with excitement and enthusiasm as they see God working and realize that He has not only called every Christian to be involved in missions, but He has

equipped them for missions," Carr said. "They return home eager to learn about needs in their area and do what they can to be on mission wherever God calls them to serve."

The types of ministry projects vary depending on the needs of the local community. Typical opportunities include prayerwalking, servant evangelism, light construction and repairs, block parties, health fairs and sports camps.

MissionsFEST will be held in New York, April 9-16; Salt Lake City, July 9-16; North Carolina, July 16-22; and West Virginia, Sept. 17-24.

FamilyFEST sites include San Diego, Calif./Tijuana, Mexico, June 26-July 1; Salt Lake City, July 12-16; and North Carolina, July 19-22.

For more information, contact WMU's Volunteer Connection at (205) 991-4097, or visit www.wmu.com/getinvolved/ministry/volunteer/.

AVAILABLE: Southern Gospel quartet, Magnify, seeks to magnify the precious name of Jesus. Everywhere! The men of Magnify are active in the KBC. Please prayerfully consider inviting this group of committed Christian men (who all work "day" jobs) to sing praises to Jesus at your gathering. Love offerings are greatly appreciated. Contact David at (859) 654-1706, or davevaughan@juno.com.

FOR SALE: 1993 Baldwin upright piano. 40" natural cherry finish. Kept professionally tuned. \$2,000 firm (to fund mission trip). (270) 782-6989 (Bowling Green).

FOR SALE: 19 pews: six 13'; four 11'; five 16'; and four 8' padded, light-colored pews with a light tan texture. Please contact Lighthouse Baptist Church in Hickory, Ky., at (270) 856-3507 or tmullenax@baptist.com.

FOR SALE: We have a church building ready to be moved to your location (building sits on a basement and can be moved easily). Building is one open room, perfect for a sanctuary, was our fellowship hall. Make offer and pay for moving. Call (606) 528-8410, or go

to www.completeinchrist.org and e-mail one of our staff.

SEEKING: Full-time administrative assistant for Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville. For more information, see www.lrba.org.

SEEKING: An experienced, full-time senior pastor to lead a missions-focused Southern Baptist congregation in a growing community in central Kentucky. Send resumé with references to: First Baptist Church, 111 Main St., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Senior pastor to lead growing, missions-focused church in rural northeast Nelson County. Church has three associate pastors; worship attendance (in two services) is 350; Sunday school attendance is 190; AWANA program attendance is 135. Candidates must have an earned master of divinity or higher degree. Candidates must have demonstrated experience in leading and completing a building project. Candidates must have demonstrated experience in leading a growing church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Bloomfield Baptist Church, PO Box 217, Bloomfield, KY 40008.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 25 Pastors' Forum, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Maple Grove Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 28-29 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Trinity Baptist Church, Lexington.

February

- 4-5 Great Commission Prayer Conference, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 11-12 Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat, Cave City Convention Center.
- 15 Regional Annuity Conference, Baptist Building, Middletown.
- 15 Regional Annuity Conference, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 17 Regional Annuity Conference, Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 17 Regional Annuity Conference, First Baptist Church, Hazard.
- 19 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 26 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 26 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Murray.
- 26 Regional Keyboard Festival, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 28-March 1 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Valley View Baptist Church, Louisville.

March

- 4-5 Creative Ministries Festival 2005, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 5 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Sand Springs Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.
- 5 RA Congress Region 3 & 7, White Plains Baptist Church, Scottsville.
- 5 RA Congress Region 5, Mays Lick Baptist Church, Mays Lick.
- 5 RA Congress Region 8A, Oakland Ave. Baptist Church, Catlettsburg.
- 5 Ring & Share—East, Sand Springs Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.
- 5 VBS Clinic, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 11-12 Creative Ministries Festival 2005, Hillvue Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 12 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 12 RA Congress Region 1, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 12 RA Congress Region 3, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Shepherdsville.
- 12 RA Congress Region 7, Stanford Baptist Church.
- 12 Ring & Share—West, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 12 VBS Clinic, First Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 18-19 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Cedarmore.
- 19 RA Congress Region 2, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 19 RA Congress Region 6, Red House Baptist Church, Richmond.

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



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for New Hope Community Baptist Church of Jackson, Ky. Please submit resumé to: New Hope, 1621 Highway 30 W, Jackson, KY 41339.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of administration and part-time minister of praise. Please send resumé to: Search Team, Red House Baptist Church, 2301 Red House Road, Richmond, KY 40475.

SEEKING: Full-time student minister (middle school through college) for an energetic and team-oriented individual with experience and good organizational and relational skills. Individuals interested may submit resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 214 Lincoln Ave., Danville, KY 40422; or by e-mail to: secretary@calvaryindanville.com by Jan. 21.

SEEKING: Bivocational youth minister for a growing, suburban Northern Kentucky church. This ministry position could potentially become full-time in the future. A love for Christ and teenagers a must. Please send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091, by Feb. 1, 2005.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/church administrator in one of Kentucky's fastest-growing Southern Baptist churches. Resident membership: approximately 1,400. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Hillcrest Baptist Church, 920 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, or fax to (270) 886-6231.

SEEKING: Director of missions. The Personnel Committee of Elkhorn Baptist Association, Lexington, Ky., will be receiving resumé in January and February, 2005. Resumé and letters may be sent to: Terrence Freeman, 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington, KY 40505.

SEEKING: An experienced pastor to lead this missions-focused church located in a growing community. Referrals are welcome and encouraged. Send resumé with references, in confidence, by Jan. 31, 2005, to: Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4300 S Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014, Attn: Search Team.

SERVICE: Christian long distance at 3.9¢/minute (24/7); no monthly service charge. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com.

Lower-caste Christians in India pushing for rights

Delhi, India (BP)—India's Supreme Court has asked the federal government why an employment quota system for members of lower castes has been withheld from those who convert to Christianity, according to an organization that monitors religious persecution.

Under India's caste system, certain quotas are reserved for lower caste citizens, called "Dalits," a term that literally means "broken people."

The Supreme Court's notice came at the end of a drawn-out legal battle by India's Christian minorities who are seeking equal access to the government employment scheme, according to the organization Compass Direct.

About 26 percent of government jobs in India are reserved for members of "Scheduled Castes," as the government defines them.

The quotas aim to bring Dalits into the political and social mainstream, but currently Dalits who convert to Christianity are not entitled to jobs under this plan.

Quota rights initially were denied to Christians on the grounds that Christianity does not discriminate between castes. But observers say this ignores the fact that all Indians, regardless of religious background, live in a society bound by centuries of caste tradition.

During the past six years, Hindu nationalist groups have orchestrated campaigns against Christian missionaries, and against Dalits and tribals who have converted to Christianity, particularly in the south and east of India.

India Christian church leaders recently wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress party leader Sonia Gandhi—a Christian—asking them to restore "human dignity" to Dalit Christians.

Iraqi Christians threatened

Ten percent of Christian citizens already fled country

By Borzou Daragahi
The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger

Baghdad, Iraq (RNS)—Each school year, Sister Beninia Hermes Shoukwana, a Christian nun and headmistress of the public school near Palestine Street, is peppered with the same innocent questions from her mostly Muslim students.

"Madame Headmistress," they ask me, "why don't you dress like mommy? Why do you always wear the same white dress?"

But this year, some remarks from students—and parents—have become cutting, even vicious.

"I've been accused of trying to convert little Muslims into Christianity," says Sister Beninia, 64, as creases of worry spread across her forehead and her eyes turn downward. "Leaflets have been distributed asking the parents to withdraw their kids from my school."

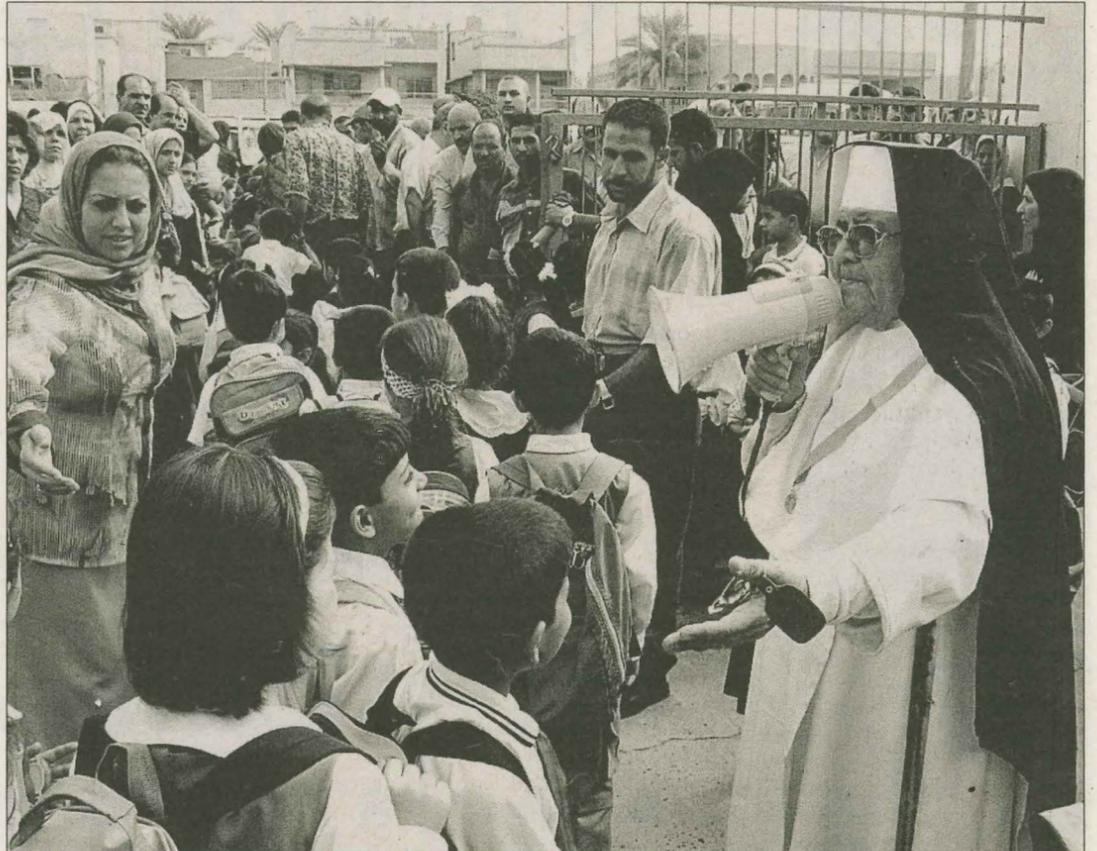
After decades of living in relative harmony with the country's Muslim majority, Iraq's Christian minority says it is under threat as never before, with increasing violence directed at its places of worship and a growing exodus of its 800,000 or so members.

Already an estimated one of every 10 Iraqi Christians has fled the country, most of them to neighboring Syria.

Sister Beninia has been running the Hebtikar School for more than 30 years. These days, she says, are the worst of times, and she's unable to hide her distress over the fate of her country and fellow Christians, most of them Chaldeans, members of the Nestorian sect who converted to Catholicism in the 16th century.

"For years Christians and Muslims lived like brothers and sisters," she says. "Today the extremists are trying to separate us."

Five Baghdad churches were attacked in October. In August, similar attacks killed at least 10 and wounded nearly 50 Iraqi Christians.



"The people are terrified, actually, about what is happening," says Saad Hanna, a priest at Mary Jacob Church in the Dora section of Baghdad.

Recently a bomb blackened the side of the small church. Its parishioners number a third of what they did before the war.

"The people no longer come to church," Hanna says. "The truth is, we are in trouble, and we don't know how to overcome this."

No plans to leave

Sister Beninia says she has no plans to leave, vowing to continue her efforts to educate Iraqi children and build bridges between different faiths.

She's had plenty of experience facing down troubles, beginning with the Baath Party's 1974 decision to nationalize all schools, including Hebtikar, which originally was run by her convent.

"They wanted to force me to join the Baath Party, but I always

refused," she says.

Despite her refusal to join Saddam Hussein's political machinery, she kept her job because of her organizational skills and popularity with students and parents. Another challenge came during Iraq's war with Iran in the 1980s. Because of fuel shortages, Sister Beninia walked three hours to and from her school.

In the chaos after the 2003 fall of Saddam's regime, she spent the entire spring and summer holed up at Hebtikar, protecting it from would-be looters.

Sixteen students, mostly Christians, recently left the country.

Every day desperate parents visit Sister Beninia's office, saying they are frightened and considering abandoning Iraq. She urges them to stay.

"I try to explain to them that wherever they go they'll always be immigrants," she says. "Iraq is like our house. It's our duty to try to clean up our house."

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Sister Beninia Hermes Shoukwana, a Catholic nun who works as headmistress of a public school in Baghdad, addresses her students, most of whom are Muslim. (RNS photo by Delphine Minoui)

Author: Religious strife to continue as Christianity shifts south

By Alison Wingfield
Associated Baptist Press

Atlanta (ABP)—Christians should prepare for religious struggles ahead as the center of Christianity shifts toward the Southern Hemisphere, says historian and author Philip Jenkins.

In his book, "The Next Christendom," Jenkins says that by the year 2050 the heart of Christianity will move to the Southern Hemisphere, with the majority of Christians living in Latin America and Africa.

Jenkins is a distinguished professor of history and religious studies at Penn State University.

The coming global shift will have ramifications not only for Christians, according to Jenkins, but also the growing Muslim world, as the two religions find themselves in political and religious clashes in the midst of world population changes.

"Muslim and Christian nations will expand adjacent to each other, and often Muslim and Christian communities will both grow within the same country," he noted in his book.

"Age of religious struggle"

As those populations grow, so does the rivalry, with struggles for converts, and "competing attempts to enforce moral codes by means of secular law. Whether Muslim or Christian, religious zeal can easily turn into fanaticism."

Religious struggles facing the world today will continue to escalate, Jenkins said in a recent interview. "It might be that regardless of what Christians do, what churches do, we are in for an age of religious struggle," he said. "I don't see much chance of avoiding religious confrontation."

Because of the global changes taking place, the face and meaning of missions is changing, said Jenkins, author of numerous other books, including "The New Anti-Catholicism: The Last Acceptable Prejudice" and "Images of Terror: What We Can and Can't Know About Terrorism."

"For one thing, it changes the whole idea of mission as sending," he said. "That suggests you're sending from a Christian world to a non-Christian world. We need to consider the whole world as a missions area. A lot of the missions arrows are going south to south, such as Asia to Africa and Latin America to Asia."

When Jenkins addresses an audience, he said, he asks them to think about what kind of church presence in their cities represents the "Global South." He finds it

surprising how many people do not know about these churches. "If you don't know, it's a good idea to find out, because those people have a good connection to their home countries," he said.

Finding and connecting with different diaspora communities, such as the large Nigerian population in Houston, is a key way churches can learn from and create partnerships with different ethnic churches in their own areas and use those relationships as a way to build up missions partnerships in the countries of origin, Jenkins said.

He also encouraged Christians to think more about their concept of history, particularly the history of Christianity. "We need to be aware that Christianity is much more of a global thing. (Christians should look at) what is cultural and what is the core of our religion."

"We need to be aware that Christianity is much more of a global thing."

Philip Jenkins, author of "The Next Christendom"



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Since 1980, approximately 2,000 young people have been recognized with scholarship awards for their outstanding Christian leadership in church, school and community through the Georgetown College Christian Leadership Program, the oldest scholarship program of its kind in Kentucky.

Offered in partnership with The Meetinghouse at Georgetown College, the Christian Leadership Program provides recipients a four-year program featuring retreats, dinners, travel and a sophomore seminar on vocation - allowing students to focus on their chosen calling while vastly expanding their horizons.

The Christian Leadership Program (formerly known as the Pastor's Christian Leadership Scholarship) provides scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$7,000.

Application deadline is February 1, 2005.

More information on this financial aid opportunity and an application may be obtained online at www.georgetowncollege.edu or by contacting either Shanna Coleman or Kojo Poku at (800) 788-9985.

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