



WESTERN RECORDER

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Should married parents get lower insurance rates?

Washington (RNS)—The Christian head of a conservative think tank says married couples with children enjoy better health than single, divorced or cohabiting people, and should have lower insurance rates.

Citing several recent studies, Allan Carlson, president of the Howard Center, a "pro-family" think tank in Rockford, Ill., said there are health benefits for "breadwinner, homemaker, children-rich families," in which the father works while the mother raises children at home.

Speaking Jan. 26 at the Washington-based Family Research Council, a conservative Christian organization, Carlson said a two-pronged solution to lowering health care costs would be eliminating Medicaid and Medicare, and giving insurance breaks to young parents.

"Regarding health care, the corollary is to begin taking prudent steps to dismantle the Medicare-Medicaid regime, so that the real benefits and advantages of life within the natural family come back into play," he said.

In his analysis, Carlson said young families are "losers in the current scheme," paying for government insurance programs as well as their own premiums.

"Young adults, who are expected to marry and find homes, carry an unfair burden," Carlson said.

Missionary explosion



CHURCH STRENGTHENER Mission Service Corps missionary Jennifer Peed teaches children an interpretive movement at Lakeside Community Church in Taylorsville. Peed and her husband, Jeff, serve a variety of roles to help this new church. They are among 148 MSC workers in Kentucky, a figure that has mushroomed in the past five years.

Mission Service Corps grows five-fold in Kentucky

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Taylorsville—For years Jeff Peed tried to find fulfillment as an auto body repairman. But it wasn't until 1998 that the longtime Christian said God showed him there was more to life than work.

"Lord, whatever you want me to do," he said with a sigh.

Soon after, Peed called the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to inquire about

Mission Service Corps. The national program trains Christians to serve in a variety of ministries.

The Kentucky native and his wife, Jennifer, spent five years in Colorado helping a small congregation as "church strengtheners" a job title that includes everything from teaching Sunday school to training other leaders to encouraging the staff and their families.

Last year they felt God leading them back to Kentucky.

Today they work as "church strengtheners" with Lakeside Community Church, a small congregation that currently meets in an old store that members are renovating in the heart of Taylorsville for its first permanent home.

Since starting at Trinity Baptist Church in Gunnison, Colo., the couple has done everything from teaching Sunday school and discipleship training to leading mission trips.

□ See MSC workers fill ... Page 3

Girl power: Young adults energizing anti-abortion movement

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, February 2



MARCH FOR LIFE Teenagers from West Virginia rally on the Ellipse at the 32nd annual March for Life in Washington on Jan. 24. (RNS photo by Andrea James)

By Celest Kennel-Shank & Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Young people were some of the most vocal participants in the 32nd annual March for Life Jan. 24.

"A lot of teenagers have to face this choice later in life, so they decide now what they want to do," said Cassie Feller, 15, of Parsippany, N.J.

She carried a sign saying "Rock for Life," with a logo of a fetus playing an electric guitar.

From the snow-covered Ellipse, the expanse of lawn across the street from the White House, to the multiple tiers of the MCI Center arena, teens and college-aged youth protested the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Older activists said they were encouraged by the youthful energy.

"If they live that way in their

youth, truly they will do good for our country and our world," said Metropolitan Herman, leader of the Orthodox Church in America, one of several religious leaders addressing the rally.

High school groups—often carrying banners of their school or state—figured prominently both at the march on the Ellipse and at a rally earlier in the day at the MCI Center.

Georgette Forney, co-founder of the National Silent No More Awareness Campaign, said people born since the 1973 Supreme Court decision realize they could have been aborted.

"A lot of kids know they've lost a sibling," she said in an interview, as she gathered at the rally with 45 other women who had abortions.

"My 15-year-old daughter wishes she had her sibling."

□ See Girl power: Youth ... Page 8

Dialogue promotes 'convention renewal'

By Brooklyn Noel
Baptist Press

Bossier City, La. (BP)—What began with a frog in a kettle has evolved into a series of face-to-face dialogues throughout the nation that began Jan. 24 in Louisiana.

LifeWay Christian Resources President James Draper visited First Baptist Church of Bossier City near Shreveport to discuss the concerns of younger leaders throughout Louisiana. The group gathered to brainstorm solutions to issues raised on LifeWay's younger leaders online message board (www.lifeway.com/youngerleaders).

"I know the problems and you do, too," Draper told the more than 60 participants. "But what are we going to do about it?"

Open door for dialogue

With his "Is the Southern Baptist Convention a Frog in the Kettle?" column in June 2004, Draper opened the door for dialogue with Southern Baptist leaders under age 45 by voicing his concerns about the "lack of denominational involvement and loyalty ... among younger ministers."

When responses to that and subsequent columns flooded into his e-mail inbox, Draper began inviting people to post their concerns, observations and opinions about younger leaders and the SBC on an online message board. More than

40,000 people have visited that site and about 1,700 have offered their insights since the site went live in November.

"The whole intent is to find a way to set up a dialogue like this," Draper said of the Web site. "We can connect and find out what your concerns are."

LifeWay pastoral ministries specialist Mitch Martin told the crowd that most of the message board entries fall into one of five main categories: missions and evangelism, creative and innovative approaches, convention renewal, diversity and inclusiveness without compromising Scripture, and healthy relationships.

"We don't come with the answers," Martin said. "We come with open ears and open hearts for you to talk to us."

Louisiana State Convention Executive Director David Hankins and First Baptist Pastor Fred Lowery joined Draper and Martin in welcoming participants before about 90 minutes of breakout sessions began.

As Draper and others listened, younger leaders met in groups to discuss each of the five message board categories and to brainstorm solutions.

"I wanted to be able to meet and get to know other people in the area," said Robyn Horton, children's minister at the Bossier City church. "I wanted to see what works and

doesn't work and improve our ministry together."

Martin instructed participants to spend the best way the SBC, the state convention and associations could address concerns such as encouraging networking opportunities among young leaders or creating more diversity among church leaders.

Seeking solutions

Groups then discussed ways individual young leaders could work toward solutions.

"We carry a responsibility to make a change for convention renewal," said David Denton, a participant in the convention renewal breakout session. "I can model that for my personal renewal and for my congregation."

Denton, pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church in Dry Prong, La., said he took part in this younger leaders dialogue in hopes of hearing an "openness" from convention leaders. "This is very much a dialogue," he said. "Before any decisions are made there needs to be a dialogue."

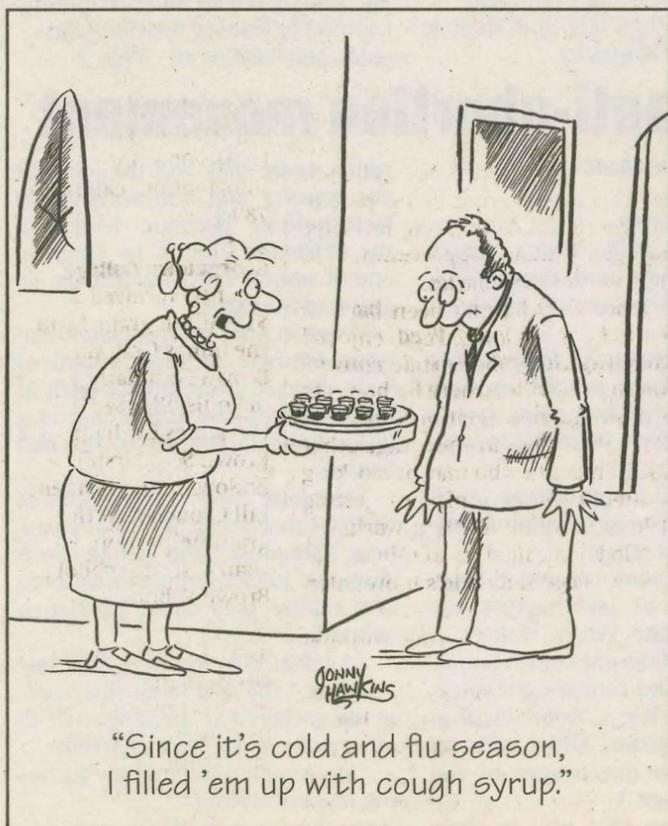
Each breakout group eventually chose their best solutions, which will be posted on LifeWay's younger leaders Web site. At least six more younger leaders' dialogues are scheduled nationwide in the coming months, and ideas from those meetings also will be posted.

The meeting in Bossier City featured a two-hour format because it was held in conjunction with the state evangelism conference, but the other dialogues will allow participants about five hours to discuss, network and frame solutions to convention leaders.

"We want them to know we're listening to them," Draper said. "We value their input and their relationships and their opinions. We want to help them feel they belong."

The dialogues will culminate with a meeting June 19 in Nashville, just before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

FACE TO FACE LifeWay Christian Resources President James Draper met with younger leaders Jan. 24 in Louisiana in the first of several dialogues sessions focusing on their concerns and hopes for the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazeur)



X-Fuge summer youth camps feature Casting Crowns, Big Daddy Weave

Nashville (BP)—Planners of X-Fuge are looking beyond the limits of previous summer camp experiences to a high-rise resort, white sand beaches and top Christian recording artists such as Casting Crowns and Big Daddy Weave.

X-Fuge, one of several summer retreat ministries coordinated by LifeWay Christian Resources, will combine those elements with Centrifuge's focus on Bible teaching in a high-energy environment that impacts teens.

Centrifuge, meanwhile, will continue in 2005 at 20 locations across the nation for students in junior and senior high school. The program includes Bible study, guided quiet times, recreation, worship, personal tracks and fellowship.

M-Fuge, with an emphasis on community ministry, also will continue in 2005.

X-Fuge will be held July 6-10 and July 11-1 at Edgewater Beach Resort

on the Florida panhandle. Edgewater is a private resort with tennis, golf, multiple swimming pools, spa and fitness center near Panama City Beach.

Bryan Currie will serve as worship pastor. X-Fuge also will feature Tyra Lokey's Creative Ministries. Lokey is a member of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg.

The first week's lineup also includes Tree63 as worship leader and Casting Crowns as concert artists. Week two's lineup includes Richard Ross, co-ordinator of True Love Waits, as teaching pastor, Big Daddy Weave as worship leader and Building 429 as concert artist.

Four X-Fuge weekends are set for 2005 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, Feb. 11-13 and March 11-13; Shocco Springs, Ala., Feb. 25-27; and Jonathan Creek, April 8-10. For more information visit www.lifeway.com/fuge/youth/x-fuge.asp.

Annie Armstrong gifts set record, gear up for '05

Atlanta (BP)—Southern Baptists gave a record \$53,845,989 to last year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, exceeding the previous year's offering by 8.5 percent and falling just short of the \$54 million national goal.

Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, described Southern Baptists' "sacrificial generosity" in 2004 as a "significant breakthrough" in North American missions giving.

"Southern Baptists have proven themselves faithful to the cause of missions and reaching North America for Christ," Reccord said. "Never before has funding been more critical to the mission of ensuring that every person in the United States, Canada and their territories has the opportunity to hear the gospel, respond with faith in Christ, and participate in a New Testament fellowship of believers."

"On behalf of our missionaries and mission partners, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the pastors and mission leaders in every church that challenged their members to prayerfully give to this vital offering," Reccord said. "I want to especially thank the leadership and membership of Woman's Missionary Union who tirelessly support all of our missions endeavors. Without them, Southern Baptists would not have the missionary enterprise we do."

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering accounts for 45 percent of NAMB's budget, while another 36 percent comes from church gifts through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. One hundred percent of gifts to the Annie Armstrong offering are used to jointly support nearly 5,200 missionaries and their ministries with state Baptist convention partners. Most of the missionary force is involved in starting new churches and an array of evangelistic endeavors.

The 2005 offering's goal is \$55 million. The offering will be promoted in most Southern Baptist churches in March beginning with the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 6-13, and continuing through Easter on March 27.

The national mission offering was established in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union to support Southern Baptist missionaries in the United States. In 1934, the offering was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, WMU's founder and longtime missions advocate.

For more information about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, visit www.AnnieArmstrong.com.

KBC to house 10-state Appalachian Regional Ministry

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

Louisville—Appalachian Regional Ministry, a 10-state ministry partnership, will shift its headquarters from West Virginia to Kentucky effective April 1.

Bill Barker, who has directed the ministry effort since 2001, will continue in that role as an associate on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team.

Barker, a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board-approved missionary, was elected to the KBC staff Jan. 27 by the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee.

"I'm excited about what Bill Barker has done over the past four years," said Randy Jones, leader of the KBC missions growth team. "He has the heart of an evangelist; he's good at church development."

"God is at work"

Jones, who also serves as chairman of ARM's executive committee, added, "I think there's a genuine excitement about bringing Ap-

palachian Regional Ministry to Kentucky. ... God is at work in the mountains."

ARM stretches along the Appalachian region from Georgia to Pennsylvania. Other state Baptist conventions involved in the partnership include North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio, Maryland, the Baptist General Association of Virginia and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. The 11 conventions also partner with NAMB and national Woman's Missionary Union.



Bill Barker

The region is home to more than 19 million people, including an estimated 12.6 million people who are unchurched or unreached with the gospel.

The 10-state coalition was launched in 1999 "as an intentional missions response to the spiritual and physical needs of persons living in the Appalachian region," according to ARM resources.

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists housed the partnership for the first five years

of the effort. Terry Harper, executive director of the West Virginia convention, asked that another convention take primary responsibility for the partnership office so West Virginia Baptists could shift limited resources into a full-time church planter position.

Barker is "uniquely qualified for this position," Harper said. "One reason ARM has been so overwhelmingly successful is because Bill has been in that position. He is a native of Appalachia and he understands the culture and relates to the people so well."

Ministry aids "Connect" goals

Jones said ARM's ministry priorities will mesh well with the KBC's "Connect" goal of involving 1,250 churches in developing and implementing outreach ministries and missions strategies.

Barker will spend about 35 percent of his time coordinating ministry projects in Kentucky and 65 percent working with other state conventions. KBC leaders have made an initial three-year commitment to funding the position.

"Why would we want to give 65

percent of a staff member's time to other states?" Jones asked. "Because it's part of Kingdom work. When the Kingdom wins, everybody wins."

Barker served more than 20 years as pastor of churches in Georgia, including a church start in Columbus. He is a graduate of Shorter College in Rome, Ga., and Covington Theological Seminary in Rossville, Ga.

Describing ARM efforts as "a God thing that's been taking place" the past few years, Barker said, "As we began to make known the needs that are out there, the response has been overwhelming."

In the past year, more than 50,000 volunteers have been involved in more than 800 ARM-related mission projects such as church planting, home repair, evangelism, literacy and medical missions.

Emphasizing that he has seen "God work in miraculous ways across the Appalachian Mountains," Barker said, "Each day I wake up wondering, 'What is God going to do today?' Whether it is a need for volunteers or money for a ministry need, God seems to raise up just the right person or persons at just the right time."

MSC workers fill variety of ministry roles throughout Kentucky

Continued from page 1

"I didn't feel God called me to preach, but I could walk alongside the pastor," said Peed, who works as an auto collision repair specialist. "We've done everything we can to grow a church."

"To be able to live what I grew up reading about is wonderful," added Mrs. Peed, who as a youngster attended Girls in Action and Acteens at a church in Sonora.

The Taylorsville couple is part of the swelling ranks of MSC missionaries who serve throughout Kentucky.

Since 1999, their numbers have grown from 30 to 145 today.

"It has impacted the state dramatically," said Larry Martin, who recently retired as leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team. "It has more than doubled our number of field missionaries. There is no way we could have ever thought of funding this number of diverse ministries."

Though sometimes called volunteers, Mission Service Corps prefers to call them "missionaries."

The workers are an eclectic group. Like Peed, some are bivocational. Others rely on donations. Some are retired.

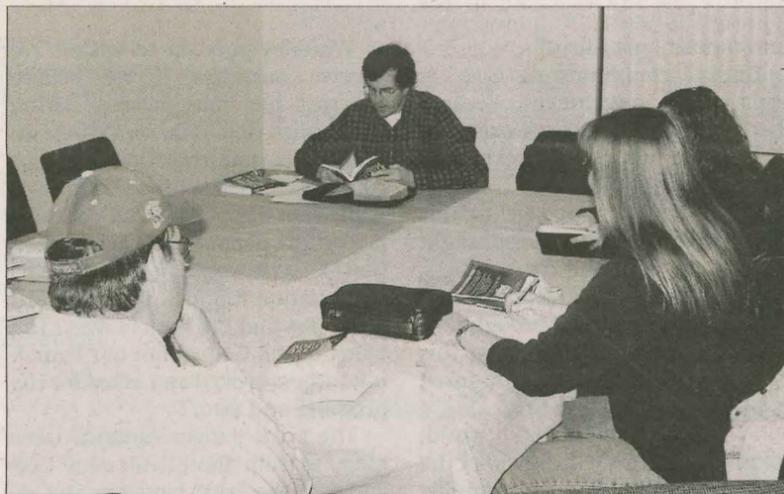
All complete an application and training process and commit to invest at least 20 hours a week in ministry.

Among the notable projects in Kentucky directed by these missionaries:

■ Christ's Outreach for the Blind near Mount Vernon, founded by Mike and Gloria Gates. The camp is slated to open next summer.

■ Haven of Rest in Inez, which provides lodging for families of prisoners at a nearby federal correctional facility and is directed by Eileen Mullins.

■ Bright Life Farms, a residential farm for mentally challenged adults at Princeton. It was founded by Bar-



BIBLE STUDY LEADER Jeff Peed (center) leads a "Bondage Breakers" adult Bible study on Wednesday night at Lakeside Community Church in Taylorsville. Peed and his wife, Jennifer, serve as Mission Service Corps missionaries. Previously, they helped a church in Colorado.

bara Greenfield, wife of former KBC president Harold Greenfield.

■ Various ministry centers in Eastern Kentucky and jail ministries across the commonwealth.

Through training workshops, conferences and an annual retreat sponsored by the state convention, these missionaries build camaraderie and encourage each other, Martin said.

Growth called divine movement

As for the five-fold increase in their numbers the past five years, Martin said there is no explanation other than a divine movement.

"There's no event you can point to," the missions leader said. "There's the verse (Matthew 9:38) to pray for the Lord to send laborers into the harvest. He's doing that."

Alan Witham, a state church development strategist and former pastor of Lakeside, sees MSC as a way to encourage people with a passion for ministry to answer that call.

In the case of the Peeds, he is grateful they chose Lakeside after deciding to return to their native en-

vironments. In addition to Mrs. Peed leading children's discipleship training on Wednesday nights, her husband has filled in for Witham as a Bible study leader.

Witham said the couple and their children also have participated in monthly service projects, such as washing cars, passing out refreshments and painting a gazebo at Spencer County High School.

"They've been very helpful at doing what's needed," said Witham, who recently resigned as pastor to focus on his work as a KBC church development strategist.

"A lot of times Jeff will ask, 'What can I do to help?' He's really had a servant's heart in helping the church. It made my job a lot easier."

Although the couple's mission career is relatively new, Mrs. Peed said it goes back to 1980. Then a University of Louisville student, she spent two weeks in Chicago, helping an inner-city church.

At first she was in culture shock, Mrs. Peed said, recalling a gang shooting that occurred her first night in Chicago. But she quickly

For more info

To learn more about Mission Service Corps opportunities, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's state missions office at (888) 263-5080.

Those interested in MSC also can attend a basic training session March 11-12 at the KBC building.

Information also is available from the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board at www.namb.net/msc.

adjusted.

"That gave me a taste of unconventional mission work," she said. "Eight different language groups met in that church during the week. That was neat and I wanted to be part of that."

While it took a while before her husband warmed to missions, today he is an avid believer in smaller churches grow.

He also appreciates Mission Service Corps, saying being part of a network validates their ministry and gives them opportunities to meet other missionaries.

Since they haven't been back in Kentucky very long, Peed enjoyed attending November's state convention in Louisville, where he hopes to form several new relationships.

He also hopes to encourage other MSC personnel who may be working in out-of-the-way ministries, getting little recognition for their work.

"God has called us to minister to people," Peed said. "He's more interested in individual lives than how many people are coming through the (church) door."

"We're more interested in ministering to people than getting bigger and bigger. God has called us to the few, but we get emotional and spiritual support from Mission Service Corps."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat will be Feb.

11-12 at the Cave City Convention Center. Bret Robbe, pastor of Clearview Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., will be keynote speaker, outlining how the deacon ministry supports the mission of the church. The deadline for registration, which costs \$25, is Feb. 4. For more information, call (502) 254-5722.

Phillip Landgrave,

senior professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will present the premier performance of his musical, "Peter: A Musical Montage," Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., at Alumni Memorial Chapel on the school's Louisville campus. The work features compositions by Landgrave and will include a 70-voice choir from eight churches where Landgrave has served as minister of music.

Russell Awkard,

moderator of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, will be the featured speaker at Campbellsville University's chapel convocation as part of the school's celebration of African-American History Month Feb. 9, 10 a.m. Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville for more than 30 years, also is president of the Bluegrass State Baptist Convention (National Baptist Convention USA). For more information, call (270) 789-5227.

Georgetown College

recently received a \$1 million grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville for the James Graham Brown Scholarship Endowment. President Bill Crouch said the grant helps more than just the school's Brown Scholars. "It impacts the institution as a whole because it strengthens the overall endowment and moves us closer to our goal of attaining Phi Beta Kappa standards."

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

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Unseen cracks in the 10/40 Window

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va. (BP)—The mammoth earthquake that shook Asia Dec. 26 opened huge fissures on the Indian Ocean floor, scientists say, and changed underwater terrain far from the epicenter.

Along the region's coastlines, the destruction and death caused by the quake and the tsunami waves it spawned are all too visible.

The cataclysm also opened unseen cracks. Where? In a part of the "10/40 Window," the wide geographical band from North Africa to Southeast Asia containing most of the people who have yet to hear the gospel. Whether those cracks open further or close quickly will be determined by prayer—and the way Christians serve the survivors.

Christians are sending millions of dollars and many trained volunteers to save lives and ease suffering in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India and other affected countries. They'll do much more in the months to come. Justin Long, an Asia-based mission researcher, said Christian response should be threefold after such an event:

■ In the first weeks, pray—and send relief funds with first responders.

■ In the first months, respond

through organizations with the training and "staying power" to overcome enormous logistical challenges. "Roads, phone networks, computers, power, water, medicines—everything has been destroyed," Long says. "All of that needs to be brought in and provided not just for local people who are hurt but also the workers who are coming in to help them."

■ In the first years, help survivors rebuild their homes, schools, cities and infrastructure. "It's during this period that most everyone can have an impact of some kind," Long notes. "Short-term teams can come to help rebuild. Doctors can come to help treat those with long-term disabilities. ... Begin praying now about what kind of role you and your church can have (for the long term). That is when you will be needed most."

Critics often accuse evangelicals of seizing on tragedies to rush into places once off-limits to Christians. They don't care about the victims' physical needs or long-term welfare, the critics say; they just want to save souls and make converts.

That charge may stick to some tunnel believers. Christians walking in the love of God, however, care about bodies and souls. They

weep with those who weep, heal the sick, feed the hungry—and yes, look for opportunities to share the good news of Christ.

Many people in the regions devastated by the tsunamis are asking questions about God's judgment and mercy. One day after the earthquake struck, a Buddhist monk in India was talking to a Christian worker. "Do you believe it was because of God's judgment on the people that this great wave killed so many?" the monk asked.

The Christian worker opened his Bible to the Gospel of John and told the monk about the time Jesus encountered a man who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Was it for his sins or the sins of his parents that this man was born blind?" Jesus responded to assign blame. Instead, he said, "This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." Then He healed the man.

Jesus, the worker told the monk, taught that "the most important response to a tragedy is assigning blame, but offering help and healing."

If that message is offered through loving service to the tsunami survivors in the weeks, months and years to come, this part of the 10/40 Window just might open wider.

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

COMMENTARY

Christ cures greed

A monetary system is not the cause of greed. The Jan. 18 edition of the Western Recorder contains a letter from Paul L. Whiteley Sr., which states, among other things, "Capitalism's most grievous sin is greed—the engine that drives it."

The cause of greed is the sinful nature of the heart of man, but there is a cure. It is found in the shed blood and Lordship of Jesus Christ. Whiteley offers a different cure when he proposes to "replace capitalistic greed with the universal desire to redistribute the wealth." So the answer is atheistic

communism, not Christ?

Under communism, God is replaced by government. Because there is no God, no check exists for the greed or lust for power exhibited by the ruling elite. The common man, in bondage to this system of sin, is caught in sloth and covetousness. Everyone, except for the ruling elite, is brought low in shared misery by this devil's lie that promised so much.

In Whiteley's world, communism is even the savior of the environment. Go to any communist or former communist country and see for yourself how well the environment has fared.



Why focus on God's Kingdom?

I was challenged recently by the speaking topic, "Why Kingdom Focus?" which was assigned to me by the planning committee for **First Baptist Church of Richmond**. This church has gained 146 members since it relocated and dedicated new facilities last June and is working on ways to effectively assimilate these new members and others who will come.

A planning committee of about 30 members is working on this with Pastor Bill Fort and Kentucky Baptist Convention consultants French Harmon and Karl Babb. KBC Church Development Strategist Glen Cummins also is lending support to the project as he prepares to assist other congregations.

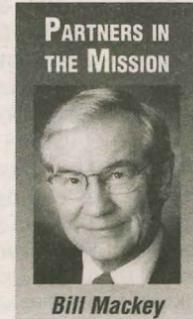
So how did I answer this question? I believe being Kingdom focused means we recognize and honor the sovereign God and seek the Kingdom of God in our lives and

in the lives of all people (Matthew 6:33, 6:10).

We are to be Kingdom focused because God's purposes are grander than ours (Acts 1:6-7), God's power is greater than ours (Acts 1:8) and God's vision is broader than ours (Acts 1:8).

Being Kingdom focused means churches of all sizes can be effective as they discover and build on their God-given strengths for the growth of God's Kingdom.

This is evident in some of the other churches I also have had the privilege of visiting recently. For instance, I recently spoke at **South Elkhorn Baptist Church in Lexington**. This church was established in 1783 and is one of our oldest churches. Although attendance is under 100, more than 20 percent of the adults have been on a mission trip, most of them to Poland where the church goes annually. In various



Bill Mackey

Whiteley goes on to write, "We deceive ourselves if we believe America has most-favored nation status with God." Oh, really? Are we then to assume that God does not concern Himself with the affairs of man? That our prayers and petitions fall on the deaf ears of a clockwork God? That He would not bless and favor a nation founded upon biblical principles and the Rock of Ages? The name of the God whom our Founding Fathers evoked and asked for His blessings and favor?

The great danger America faces today is from those who deny God and that the great blessings and security we enjoy are gifts from Him.

Chuck Estridge
Williamstown

mission projects last year, members distributed more than 10,000 gospel tracts. The congregation also contributes to world missions through the Cooperative Program and special offerings.

Another church with a Kingdom focus is **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church** in Muhlenberg County Association. Pastor Thurman Harris shared that during his stewardship meditation before the offering was taken on Jan. 16, he talked about the tsunami tragedy in South Asia and suggested that those present (27) might want to take up a special offering and send it to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. One of the men held up his hand and said he wanted to give right then. Another did the same. A third suggested that the church give twice the morning offering. Another offering was taken and the total amount given that day for this offering was almost \$1,500.

Let us all pray for each other daily and ask God to help us keep our focus on Him and His Kingdom!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Consider creative ways to distribute family heirlooms

By Jeremy White

You probably know it's wise to have a will. A will is your written instructions to name the next steward of God's assets. A will and beneficiary designations are how you carry out Proverbs 13:22, "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children."

Most wills clearly bequeath the big stuff to specific people. For example, the house and land go to John Jr. The CDs go to Susan. The IRAs and life insurance go to the named beneficiaries.

But what about the little stuff? What about the house and garage full of personal property? Most wills have a provision saying something like "all my remaining property be equally divided among my heirs."

While this sounds fair enough initially, how do the three kids or the five grandchildren divide equally the heirloom furniture, the sentimental jewelry or the coin collection? Often, this is where family conflict starts and continues through the years. Here are some practical ideas to give your heirs a process to follow to divide the "residue" of your estate:

Be random. Let an impartial person (non-heir) draw names from a hat, flip a coin or draw straws for the order to choose the first round of items. Then, draw again for the next round and so on.

Give more selections to those with later choices. Perhaps in combination with the random method above, the person with the first selection receives one choice. The person with the second selection can make two choices and so on.

Rotate possession. For the heirloom antique or jewelry, rotate each year who keeps the item.

Have a Monopoly auction. Have the executor estimate the total value of the property. Distribute equally among the heirs Monopoly money totaling the value of the property. Let the heirs bid on the property they want.

Have a real auction with only heirs present, not the public. Allow the heirs to bid with real money on the items they want. All the money received goes in a pool. After all items are bid for and purchased, the pool of money is divided equally among the heirs.

Jeremy White is a freelance public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Web site at www.consultcpa.com.



Avoid actions and attitudes that can kill your marriage

Q: After six years of marriage, my wife and I are definitely out of the "honeymoon" stage. I am not sure if our marriage will survive much longer. How can I know if we should keep trying?

Biblical marriage is based on a commitment, a covenant between you and your wife, and not on how you feel. Feelings can change from morning to night.

MARRIAGE

Not too long ago there was a movie titled, "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

If your marriage had a movie title, such as "How to Kill a Marriage in Six Years," how many of these are you currently doing?

- Don't spend time with your spouse.
- Show little or no affection.
- Express no gratitude for anything your spouse does.
- Create and believe an illusion that everything is fine without doing any work on your marriage.
- Treat your spouse as if he or she is not really human with feelings and thoughts.
- Hold back any kindness and bestow it on others in front of your spouse.
- Do not forgive your spouse and be sure to hold onto the resentment and anger.
- Blame your spouse for anything that upsets you.
- Talk about your spouse only in negative ways.
- Always make assumptions about what your spouse is thinking, but never ask him or her.
- Do not listen to your spouse.
- Never tell your spouse what you want or need. If you must speak, be vague and never specific.
- Ignore and deny any responsibility you have for what is bad or wrong in the marriage.
- And by all means, keep Christ out of it.

If you follow these guidelines, almost any spouse can kill a marriage (and probably sooner than six years). Marriages end every day because of this list. Change your list! Go to Scripture for clear guidance on how to love your spouse and honor your marriage vows. (See Song of Solomon, Proverbs, Philippians, Ephesians, 1 Corinthians 13.)—Valerie Vincent

Q: My 15-year-old son made a profession of faith in Christ last year at a church camp but is very shy and has not followed through with baptism. Since baptism is not necessary for salvation, why is it important?

"The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman suggests that there are different preferred means (languages) of expressing and receiving love. Chapman lists quality time, acts of service, words of affirmation, meaningful touch and gifts.

PARENTING

Remind your son that God also has a love language; it is obedience. 1 John 2:3 says, "We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands." 1 John 5:3 says, "This is love for God, to obey His commands."

The most important reason to be baptized is obedience to the command of Jesus. On the day Jesus ascended into heaven, He said to His disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ..." (Matthew 28:19). Remind your son that baptism is an act of obedience as well as a way of publicly declaring his identification with the saving action of Christ.

In the recent Asian tsunami that was so devastating, one fascinating human-interest story concerned a couple who were completing their first official scuba dive while on vacation. Upon surfacing, they both exclaimed that it was a very challenging experience. What they did not know was that they were diving at the precise time the tsunami hit and were in one of the safest places they could be.

Remind your son that being under the baptismal waters, in obedience to Jesus, is a poignant picture of the safest place in all the world.—Scott Wigginton

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Prayer & networking: Vital ministry tools

Two major components of Kentucky Baptists' five-year "Connect" strategy are prayer and networking—in essence, connecting to God and connecting to other people.

More than just theories or lofty goals, those efforts are being pursued on a practical level across the commonwealth. Two noteworthy examples that took place last week are:

Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening. Entering its eighth year of focused prayer, these two-day gatherings are held in various locations across the state. Last week's meeting at Maple Grove Baptist Church in Louisville was coordinated by Larry Martin, who recently retired as leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions growth team, and Eric Allen, director of the KBC missions department.

One distinguishing feature of the programs is that the bulk of the time is spent in prayer, rather than just talking or learning about prayer.

"The whole concentration is on spending time in prayer," Martin explained. Various prayer emphases include such disciplines as prayerwalking, praying through Scripture and guided prayer sessions that highlight diverse ministry needs and successes.

Citing the growth in prayer ministries throughout Kentucky in recent years, Martin added, "We can't keep up with all the prayer groups that are going on. It's amazing to see what God is doing."

Pastor/Staff Forum. Dan Garland, leader of the KBC's church development/evangelism team, coordinated a one-day forum for Kentucky Baptist ministers involved in networking churches for encouragement, mentoring and sharing resources.

"This is the beginning of the 'Connect' goal of developing 100 networking churches across the state," Garland said. Forum sessions at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown addressed "everyday issues pastors are dealing with in churches that are seeking to make a difference in their communities," he added.

Among 20 discussion group topics, Jeff Eaton, pastor of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg, led

a session on "Reaching the De-churched." The issue reflects a recent Barna study finding that 81 percent of Kentucky's unchurched population previously attended church.

Noting that many de-churched people are hurting, Eaton said, "The de-churched are looking for what's real. One of the reasons they're de-churched is because they saw no power in the church.

"Find ways to bridge gaps," he urged. "It's got to be Holy Spirit-driven. ... To reach the de-churched and unchurched, you've got to be broken for them and love them. Our church takes the whole approach of being who you are and reaching the people around you."

Kevin Hamm, pastor of Valley View Church in Louisville, led a session on "Closing the Back Door." Describing his church's ministry to first-time guests and new members, Hamm noted, "From the first time they walk into your church, you begin a process to start closing the back door."

Outlining a nine-point guest follow-up plan, Hamm said key efforts include a "write" ministry that involves church members sending personal notes to guests, a personal letter and phone call from the pastor, a Wednesday night supper coupon and free gift certificate and contacts by Bible study leaders, deacons and staff.

Once individuals join Valley View, the church has a four-step assimilation process that includes classes about church ministries, beliefs and spiritual gifts as well as encouraging involvement in an adult Bible fellowship.

"A whole lot of our growth is personal follow-up," Hamm said. "Keep the vision before the people and celebrate successes."

Whether it's a matter of connecting to God through focused prayer or connecting to other churches and ministers to share valuable ministry resources, "Kentucky Baptists Connect" will require intentional efforts to make a lasting spiritual impact.

Prayer and networking remain two vital tools in making those connections successful.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

How should we equip students for life?

I got to thinking the other day about some of the students who had passed through our youth ministry.

I began to think about where they are now and I wondered what they needed in the world outside the safe confines of youth ministry that we could or should have done better. So I asked several of them.

The following responses are a sampling from students who are now in college about what they could have used from the youth ministry in their home church. Only one of these was from my youth group; the others are students I have met through the years. While this is not an exhaustive or scientific study, the results were humbling.

The importance of Scripture. "I think the one thing that youth ministers should have done more to prepare me with was how important the need to develop a personal Bible study is and how your knowledge of God's Word is going to affect the rest of your Christian life," Brad wrote. "If you know what God's Word has to say for yourself, then decisions are a lot easier to make. I would like to see youth ministers stress the fact that youth need to really study the Bible for themselves and not rely on

the pastor or what the church has to say about God's Word.

"Since I have found how important reading God's Word is for myself, I am better able to see God's

plan in my day-to-day life," he added. "It was a struggle going through my Christian life not knowing what God's Word really had to say. I relied on what other people told me and not what I knew to be true from my own reading."

Matt noted that what he could have used was "more help on how to conduct a personal Bible study/quiet time. I know to read the Bible every day, and I do, but I've never really learned how to just sit down and dig into the Bible. It's been rough from time to time trying to keep that relationship going in college, especially when you're out on your own for the first time."

Apologetics. "When I got to college," Brad said, "I was forced to come to terms with what I believed because it was constantly being challenged."

According to Josh, "You are not prepared for ... homosexuals, opposing worldviews and how to defend and stand up for your views, sexual pressure and alcohol."

Life is different for young people

outside the security of our churches, and we need to make sure they are prepared. We need to teach them, as Paul said in Ephesians 6:11, to "put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the wiles of the devil."

Practical advice. "The other thing that I've struggled with and could've used a little help with would've been finances," Matt said. "I've never learned how to prepare or stick to a budget, and I'm paying for it now, big time—no pun intended."

Karen noted, "The only thing that really can be done is to prepare your students well for what's ahead. College isn't easy, especially if you're far from home."

"The support system I had had for the last four years was gone," she added. "For a while the youth group still felt like home; once I left for college and came back it was different. Leaving the youth group is a part of growing up, a hard part, but still a part."

Addressing youth ministers, Karen added, "As a youth minister you need to prepare your students for life, for the hardships that come as well as the joy. Deepen their puddles so that while beginning a new life may cause them to stumble, they'll fall into their God and not into the world."

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

NATIONAL NOTES

Marriage amendment re-introduced. A marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution was re-introduced in the Senate Jan. 24 with support from Majority Leader Bill Frist and 21 other senators. Although the amendment was defeated last year, supporters hope it has a better chance of passing this session following a slew of conservative victories on Election Day, when voters in 11 states passed marriage amendments to their respective state constitutions.

Religious liberals: Health care a life-and-death issue. Insisting that health care is a moral issue, religious liberals are demanding that Capitol Hill make it a priority when Congress takes up the president's budget proposal, to be released Feb. 7. A letter to Congress signed by more than 75 nationally known religious leaders and scholars says they will evaluate the government budget to make sure it provides health care, education and housing for the neediest Americans.

Bob Jones III to retire from Bob Jones University. Bob Jones University President Bob Jones III will retire in May, the conservative Christian school in Greenville, S.C., has announced. Jones has been president for 34 years and expanded the university's academic programs and campus facilities during that period. The school now includes students from the country's 50 states and 46 countries. Jones will be succeeded by his son, Stephen Jones, who currently serves as vice president for administration and chief administrative oversight officer.

Unborn child pain bill reintroduced in Congress. More than 100 members of Congress have cosponsored reintroducing legislation requiring women be informed about the pain a fetus experiences during late-term abortions. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., introduced on consecutive days the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, S. 51 in the Senate and H.R. 356 in the House.

Bush meets with black pastors. President Bush met with more than 20 African-American leaders Jan. 25, including religious leaders and supporters of faith-based initiatives, in one of the first meetings of his second term. Many of the ministers in attendance are theologically conservative, but White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said in a press briefing beforehand that the members of the overall group "represent a diversity of views from within the African-American community."

"Passion"-ate movie fans cry foul. Conservative Christian groups expressed outrage that the box-office hit "The Passion of the Christ" didn't receive an Academy Award nomination for best picture or best director. Mel Gibson's film received three nominations, for "makeup," "cinematography" and "original score." But some fans still see a snub. "There's no question that bigotry and prejudice is rank among the liberal elite of Hollywood," said Louis Sheldon, founder of the Traditional Values Coalition.

Supreme Court declines life-support case. The U.S. Supreme Court last week declined to review a case involving Terri Schiavo, a brain-damaged woman whose right to life has been at the center of a 15-year legal battle. The decision leaves standing a Florida Supreme Court decision that stated Florida Gov. Jeb Bush did not have the power to block a court ruling that Schiavo's life support be stopped. Lawyers for Schiavo's parents said the ruling, while disappointing, won't affect other ongoing legislation to prevent Schiavo's feeding tube from being removed.

Scalia: Be fools for Christ. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has been speaking out about religion lately, telling fellow Catholics to be "fools for Christ." Speaking to a group of the Knights of Columbus, Scalia said, "If I have brought any message today, it is this: Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world." The reference to "fools" echoed a biblical admonition by the Apostle Paul, who said if anyone considers himself wise by the world's standards, he should become a fool for Christ.

Ohio university abandons religious hiring policy. Trustees at Ashland University have decided to abandon a policy that would have limited new faculty hires to Jews and Christians. Instead, trustees at the Ashland, Ohio, school intend to require only that faculty and administrators support the private university's mission statement, including a commitment to Judeo-Christian values. Emanuel Sandberg, chairman of the university's board, said trustees intended to clarify Ashland's values to job applicants. "It turns out that in the process we created new difficulties."

Churches rush to minister at Super Bowl

By Joni Hannigan
Florida Baptist Witness

Jacksonville, Fla. (BP)—On a day when three-quarters of a billion people worldwide will be glued to their televisions watching Super Bowl XXXIX, hordes of Florida Baptists will take to the streets in Jacksonville—the site of the game—to ensure that everything goes like clockwork.

And though some plan to catch at least part of the excitement of Sunday's game, many will be working as volunteers to set up the stage for the halftime show, to serve as casting directors for the pre-game show, to greet visitors and to transport guests and NFL officials and workers to and from their hotels.

"The eyes of the world are going to be on Jacksonville ... and there is a tendency of the church to run away, but this is our time to shine," said David Garrett, director of church and community ministries for the Jacksonville Baptist Association.

Garrett said Florida Baptists have an unprecedented opportunity to be salt and light to an expected 100,000 visitors to the city and to countless residents.

"Doing what's right and in right ways can in itself be a ministry," Garrett said. He and others on a specially created task force suggested churches "don't run away," but instead find ways to involve their members in community and church-based activities.

In other words, Garrett is calling for believers to be the "church dispersed" in Jacksonville.

"First Down First Coast," an evangelism effort encompassing

'Playbook' has tips for evangelistic party

Jacksonville, Fla. (BP)—With the motto, "You can't share Jesus too many times. And you can't have too many balloons," Tim Knopps teaches Christians to plan and to enjoy an eternally productive Super Bowl watch party.

Knopps' party "playbook" has been widely distributed among Christian groups throughout the country in preparation for the Feb. 6 Super Bowl. The 30-page how-to manual contains not only practical suggestions for planning parties both at home and at church, but also games and humorous illustrations.

From decorating tips to testing video equipment, the

booklet walks a host through a two-week "countdown calendar" of preparation.

In contrast to Super Bowl party tips one may find in secular periodicals, this evangelism tool adds concrete ways to build witnessing into the agenda. He suggests setting aside areas for quiet conversation in the room layout. He also suggests obtaining an NFL player's videotaped testimony or planning to share your own testimony during commercials or halftime.

To order a copy of the Super Bowl Watch Party Playbook, e-mail Tim Knopps at tknopps@timothyinstitute.org, or call (405) 205-0303.

more than 30 projects, was coordinated by a task force of local and state convention organizers with the help of Tim Knopps, founder of the Timothy Institute for Evangelism, based in Oklahoma City.

Garrett, the project's coordinator, said local churches are not planning big events to attract the masses. Instead they are involved in several outreach activities. As a member of the Jacksonville 2005 Super Bowl Host Committee, Garrett also has urged churches to stay involved by enlisting church members to help in a variety of sanctioned events, rather than to try and go it alone, given such a large task.

First Down First Coast has committed to mobilizing about 20 percent of the 8,000-9,000 volunteers

needed to staff events such as the NFL Experience and other Host Committee-sanctioned events.

Burton said the association is treating the Super Bowl like any big evangelism project and has procured tracts and Christian materials, along with marked New Testaments and 25,000 copies of Sports Spectrum magazine with resources made available by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board.

"This is like a foreign mission trip, only the people are coming to us," Burton said. "We need to aggressively take advantage of the enthusiasm in the air ... and instead of spending money, effort and time to go and do missions, we are seeding the gospel and leading people to Jesus on the streets of Jacksonville."

Religious conservatives praise opposition to children's PBS TV show

Washington (RNS)—Conservative Christian groups are praising U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings' efforts to oppose a children's TV show episode showing lesbian parents.

Spellings expressed in a letter to PBS President Pat Mitchell her "strong and very serious concerns" regarding a scene in "Postcards From Buster," a TV travel diary in which the animated bunny Buster visits children around the United States.

In the Vermont episode, "Sugartime," Buster eats dinner with a Vermont girl and her two mothers before they run off to see how maple sugar is made.

Spellings wrote in her letter, "Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in this episode."

The program was funded in part by a federal literacy grant. Spellings asked that references to government funding and sponsorship be removed from the episode.

PBS pulled the episode—scheduled to air Feb. 2 in schools nationwide—Jan. 25 after a review by its affiliates.

James Dobson, head of the Colorado-based Focus on the Family, commended Spellings' actions, reported USA Today. Tim Wildmon, president of the American Family Association, a Tupelo, Miss.-based Christian advocacy group, said he

also agreed with Spellings' actions.

"The purpose of a children's television program is to promote the traditional family," he said. "I don't think that two lesbians being parents is a legitimate family."

Henry Becton, president of WGBH, the PBS Boston station that produced and will air the Vermont episode "Sugartime," said in a statement he disagreed with PBS' decision.

The intent of "Postcards From Buster" is to represent families from a wide variety of religious and cultural backgrounds, he said.

Becton said Buster has visited Mormons in Utah, Hmong in Wis-

consin and a Pentecostal Christian family.

"We believe, as do the series' advisers, that the program is appropriate for our audience and fits the series' mission to introduce children to the rich and varied cultures that make up the United States, including kids living in a wide range of family structures."

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SERIOUS CONCERNS

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

The estate tax fate

Upcoming decision might affect charitable donations

Among the issues to be considered by Congress this year is the fate of the federal estate tax. As it stands today, the tax is scheduled to disappear in 2010, only to reappear in 2011. So if someone dies between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2010, regardless of the size of the estate, there will be no federal estate tax liability.

However, if someone has the misfortune of dying on Jan. 1, 2011, and the estate is more than \$1 million, that estate will be subject to the federal estate tax, and the top rate will be 55 percent. Not surprising, members of Congress disagree on what should be the fate of this tax, which was established in 1906.

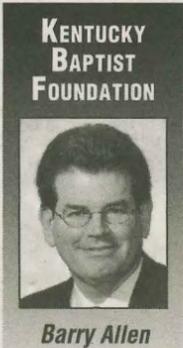
The potential impact of this decision on some individuals and all charitable organizations is huge. The critical question from the point of view of charitable organizations is: Would the elimination of the estate tax have a negative impact on charitable organizations and the people and causes they serve?

A recent Congressional Budget

Office study found charitable donations in 2000 would have been billions of dollars less, if the federal estate tax had not existed. That study found the estate tax does lead affluent people to donate far more than they otherwise would, whether the gift was made during life or as a bequest at death, because of the reduction in the estate tax liability. As Christians, our primary motivation is not the tax deductibility of our gifts; however, we should not hesitate to let tax advantages impact the timing, the size and the type of asset we use in making our gifts.

Let me suggest you call toll-free Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, for assistance in determining the potential impact death taxes will have on your estate under the current federal and state laws. Also, encourage your church leaders to invite Laurie and me to conduct for your members the Christian Estate Planning Basics seminar, which deals with the taxes potentially payable at death.

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



Barry Allen

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 ___ water
- 4 One of Shem's children (Genesis 10:22)
- 8 Business correspondence abbr.
- 12 That (Sp.)
- 13 Latvian monetary unit
- 14 Composer Stravinsky
- 15 Becoming slower, in music (abbr.)
- 16 Layer
- 17 ___ of the above
- 18 "___ not at the matter: for he that is higher ... regardeth" (Ecclesiastes 5:8)
- 20 ___ culpa
- 22 Person concerned with (suffix)
- 23 Evergreen tree of the cypress family, known for its berries
- 27 "Thou shalt be missed, because thy ___ will be empty" (1 Samuel 20:18)
- 29 Source of poi
- 30 Norma ___, Oscar-winning movie
- 31 "So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to ___" (2 Chronicles 33:9)
- 32 "So will I do for my servants' ___ that I may not destroy them all" (Isaiah 65:8)
- 33 Carbohydrate (suffix)
- 34 Resinous substance of South Asia
- 35 Canned (colloq.)
- 36 Not brand new
- 37 Son of Uzziah (Nehemiah 11:4)
- 39 One (Scot.)
- 40 Mountain stat.
- 41 "He is ___ of death" (Matthew 26:66)

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44	45	46			47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 44 He helped build the towns of Ono and Lod (1 Chronicles 8:12)
- 47 Steel beam used in construction
- 49 Biblical exclamation
- 50 Presidential power
- 51 Alley Oop's girlfriend
- 52 Paving substance
- 53 "The land is as the garden of ___ before them" (Joel 2:3)
- 54 Joyeux ___ (holiday greetings in Grenoble?)
- 55 Sea eagle

- 11 Before (poet.)
- 19 Profession of the late James Herriot (colloq.)
- 21 Son of Seth
- 23 Father of Agur (Proverbs 30:1)
- 24 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees ... ye compass sea and land to make one ___" (Matthew 23:15)
- 25 At ___ (heard at boot camp)
- 26 Bane of oboist?
- 27 Actress Ward
- 28 He was (Lat.)
- 29 "He exacted the silver and ... gold ... of every one according to his ___" (2 Kings 23:35)

Down

- 1 Time in an elected office
- 2 "All they which dwelt in ___ heard the word of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:10)
- 3 "Let me freely speak unto you of the ___ David" (Acts 2:29)
- 4 Amend slightly
- 5 Complain bitterly
- 6 Gobbled up
- 7 "But their scribes and Pharisees ___ against his disciples" (Luke 5:30)
- 8 ___ Peninsula
- 9 Time past
- 10 "Unto us a child is born, unto us a ___ is given" (Isaiah 9:6)

- 32 Breeze along
- 36 Iowa institute of higher learning (abbr.)
- 38 "And Moses told ___ all the words of the Lord" (Exodus 4:28)
- 39 Related to the sense of hearing
- 41 Strong wind
- 42 Speed along
- 43 Seafarer's woolly tale?
- 44 Whom the serpent beguiled, ever so subtly
- 45 Hotel room requirement
- 46 Summer on the Seine
- 48 Startling sound

Last week's solution

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A	N	E	W	A	S	P	N	E	T	S	
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Because PowerBall is not in the Old or New Testament.

Rolling Stone reverses decision against ad for Bible translation

Cascade Township, Mich. (RNS)—An ad for a newly translated version of the Scriptures will appear in Rolling Stone Magazine, after magazine publishers reversed their decision to reject it.

The revelation was good news for Zondervan, the Cascade Township publisher trying to spread the word about its "Today's New International Version Bible," which is being marketed to young, hip readers.

Zondervan was surprised earlier last month to learn Rolling Stone rejected its ad, which shows a young man with tousled hair, a two-day growth of beard and a beaded necklace. In a dark space next to him are the words: "Today it makes sense more than ever."

The ad, which does not mention Jesus, is an important piece in Zondervan's \$1 million ad blitz.

"We're ecstatic they've decided to accept our ad," Doug Lockhart, Zondervan executive vice president for marketing, said. The ad will appear in mid-February.

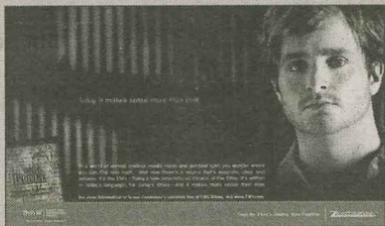
Rolling Stone, which has 1.2 million readers, refused to comment on its original decision to reject the ad, other than to say it did not accept advertisements for religious messages.

The decision led to widespread criticism from conservative and religious commentators. For Zondervan, the controversy meant free advertising—so much so that it moved up its release date of the new Bible by two weeks, to Feb. 1.

"There's been broad interest in the discussion, and we're pleased about that," Lockhart said.

Zondervan is trying to reach out to the huge market of 18- to 34-year-olds—8 million strong by its research. Its ads also are scheduled to run in the Onion, an edgy satire newspaper, in Modern Bride, and on MTV and America Online Web sites.

Still, the translation won't be available at LifeWay Christian bookstores. Southern Baptist leaders have criticized some changes compared to the NIV, especially efforts to be "gender accurate."



Girl power: Youth energizing anti-abortion movement

Continued from page 1

President Bush, in what has become a tradition during his presidency, addressed the crowd members—young and old—in a message via telephone.

"I encourage you to take heart from our achievements, because a true culture of life cannot be sustained solely by changing laws," he said. "We need, most of all, to change hearts. ... I ask that God bless you for your dedication."

From the stage, Nellie Gray, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, said participants were there to send a message.

"We march today to tell all three branches of government the slaughter must stop," she said. "Roe v. Wade must be overturned."

With T-shirts, signs and even dolls, some of the more youthful members of the audience made their stance known.

Jess Wilson, 14, and Jill Francesco, 17, both from Churchville, Pa., carried plastic baby dolls.

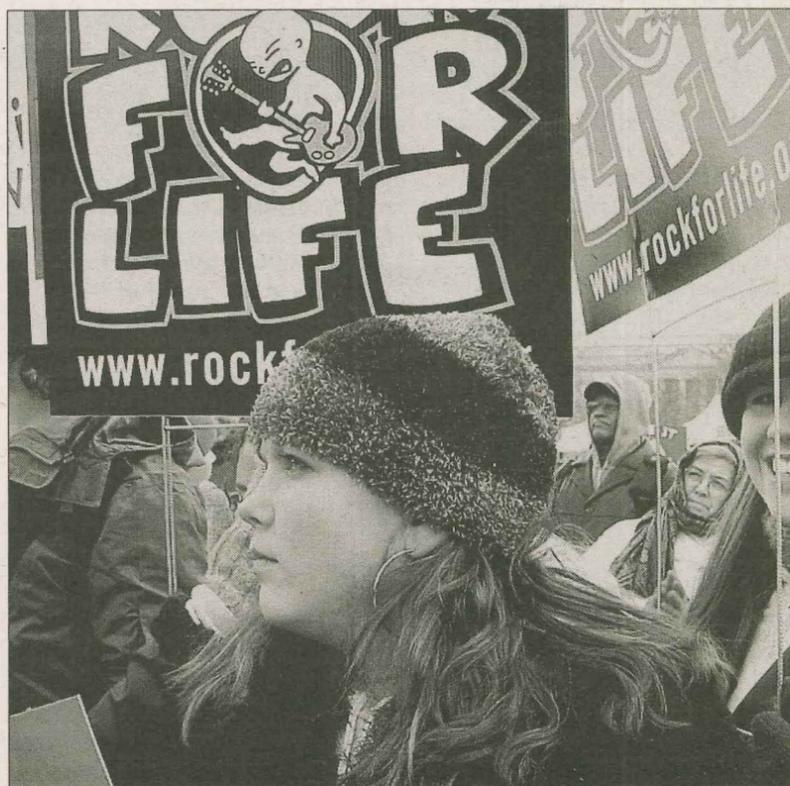
"Any young person who gets pregnant can handle a baby," said Wilson, speaking of young women like herself.

Francesco, agreed, saying: "All the women out there that get pregnant don't have to have abortions. It's not the only option."

"Rock for Life"

One 20-year-old rallier, Mary Sanna of upstate New York, wore a hooded sweatshirt from the "Rock for Life" youth festival featuring Christian bands.

Sanna said she traveled to the day's events because "I don't want babies to die. They're part of our



TEEN ACTIVIST Cassie Feller, 15, of Parsippany, N.J., listens to a speaker during the March for Life in Washington on Jan. 24. (RNS photo by Andrea James)

generation."

Other participants, including a group from Portland, Ore., wore the traditional plaid uniforms of their Catholic schools.

"The desire to have a pro-life nation in America is not fading out, because you have it—a new generation," said Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, at the start of the Mass that featured more than 200 Catholic clergy.

Also impressed by the turnout was singer and youth leader Steve

Angricano of Denver, who told the crowd, "I wish the whole world could see the power of the young Catholic church today."

Some parents attending the anti-abortion rallies brought younger children as well as teens to instill in them their beliefs against abortion.

David Remaniak, 46, of Talbot County, Md., said he brought four of his children, ranging in age from 6 to 14, "so that they would see it's an important thing to stand up for the unborn."

When kids aren't 'cool'

Oneida Baptist Institute stresses accepting kids in all shapes and sizes

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

Though I work at a private Christian school, I graduated from public schools. I always have been a supporter of families who choose to send their children to public schools. More than 40 million students attend public schools. Many Christians work and serve in public schools, and I respect and appreciate the impact they have on young people.

My own school experience—plus years as a Baptist youth minister—taught me a lot about what students go through in any school, but especially in large schools where the social experience can be very difficult. I learned that school can be very hard for kids who aren't "cool."

What do I mean by "not cool"? Adolescence is a time when teenagers adopt strong opinions about what is normal and acceptable. Despite the obvious fact that young people mature at different rates, come from different families and have differing talents and abilities, youth culture—particularly in public schools—is often unforgiving of the child who has less talent, the wrong clothes, extra pounds or fewer social skills. The "uncool" student might be intelligent, good natured, helpful and kind, but those traits don't always count for much in schools where looks, money and athletic talent determine who is popular and successful.

Oneida Baptist Institute has many students who would be "uncool" in a public school, but they are "very cool" at our school. I am not saying we have totally avoided the negative side of

youth cliques and judgments, but I believe OBI is one of the most tolerant, affirming, accepting and inclusive schools in America. Here, many students who have been "outsiders" in larger schools find acceptance, friendship and success.

At OBI, the "uncool" student might work on the farm, even drive a tractor. He or she might supervise other workers. The "uncool" student will meet and even room with students from all over America and from around the world, and acceptance of those who are different is encouraged. (Sometimes nothing is "cooler" than being the student with an accent no one has heard before.)

The talents of every student are appreciated at a small school. Being "cool" is fine, but being able to catch, throw, swim, draw, sing or run a lap is appreciated by everyone. We take pride in students who take part in our co-curricular activities, but who wouldn't participate in larger schools.

Because adults and students are together all the time in our school community, there is a greater spirit of inclusiveness. Appreciating students from different places and with different appearances and abilities is part of the way our staff represents Christ and serves others in His name.

"Uncool" kids are "just kids" at Oneida. Kids come in all shapes, sizes and experiences. We love them all as best we can, and we encourage them to love one another. We still have progress to make in encouraging acceptance of everyone as a person made and loved by God, but Oneida is a continuing example of what Francis Schaefer said: "In God's sight, there are no 'little people.'" And no "uncool kids" either.

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



W.F. Underwood

His will through our will

Estate plans can provide a legacy gift to institutions

A few months ago, my wife and I completed a needed revision of our wills.

They had not been changed since we made the decision of who would care for our three minor children. With five grandchildren, it was past time to bring these documents up to date. We also drafted health care directives and power-of-attorney documents. I hope you have made these decisions; it will make it easier on your loved ones.

You've probably read or heard Kentucky Baptist Foundation President Barry Allen's challenge to make a legacy gift through estate planning. My wife and I decided to do this and through the foundation established the Bill D. and Rebecca Howard Whittaker Endowment Fund. With a minimal gift the fund is already activated. We will make gifts to it throughout the remainder of our lives. A percentage of three life insurance policies goes to the fund upon our individual deaths, and 10 percent of the last survivor estate goes to the fund. Income from the endowment is divided, with 60 percent to assist Clear Creek and 40 percent

supporting the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

We want our estate to be a testimony of Christian stewardship. Everybody leaves something behind, and there are many options through which you can continue witnessing for Christ until He comes.

The Bible study class of Jennie Carter Black at Central Baptist Church in the North Broadway community of Knoxville, Tenn., has given to Clear Creek for many years. After Mrs. Black's death, the college received \$300,000 from her estate; she stipulated half of the gift be used for improvement of facilities or new construction and half for student scholarships. Her detailed will remembered her church, other charities, family and friends. Because Mrs. Carter was in God's will, she remembered God's work in her will. This summer we'll complete renovation of a student cottage with funds from her will.

Will God's will be done through your will? I encourage you to contact our development office or the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for assistance.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Serving in Sri Lanka

Workers committed to ministering as long as it takes to make a difference

Colombo, Sri Lanka (BP)—Southern Baptist workers are committed to serving Sri Lankans for as long as it takes to make a significant difference in their lives, according to assessment team members providing food and other services there.

"This week, (Southern Baptist workers) have shown God's love for Sri Lankans by handing out hot meals to the homeless. In the days to come, the needs will change, and we will be here to meet those needs as well," said one team member who serves as the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's strategy coordinator for the Sinhalese Buddhists of Sri Lanka.

(For security reasons, his name and others are not given.)

The assessment team worked closely with local Baptist leaders to determine the most effective ways to minister both physically and spiritually to the people in Sri Lanka.

"I asked a pastor friend what the people's greatest need is right now, and he said they need Bibles. These people have lost everything. Their Bibles were washed out to sea," the strategy coordinator said.

As of Jan. 9, Southern Baptist gifts had purchased 600 Bibles in the Sinhala and Tamil languages. A little more than half had already been distributed to residents, not randomly, but to those who said they wanted a Bible, the coordinator said.

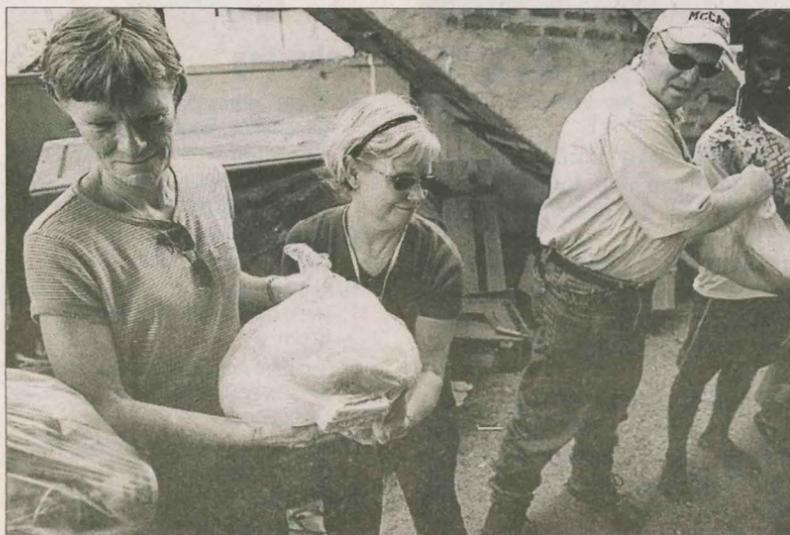
Sri Lanka mostly Buddhist

About 77 percent of Sri Lanka's nearly 20 million population are Buddhists; fewer than 1 percent of Sri Lankans are evangelical Christian believers, the coordinator said. About 8.5 percent are Muslims, and about 8 percent are Hindus. Southern Baptists are trying to help everyone in need, regardless of their faith, said David Garrison, the IMB's leader for the South Asia region.

Preliminary assessment by local Baptist leaders just after the tsunami allowed the Southern Baptist team to focus immediately on the greatest needs, said Pat Julian (not his real name), Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator for Asia. Local believers knew of tsunami survivors who had been overlooked by the government and aid agencies because they were not in the hard-hit areas.



GRATEFUL FAMILY A family in Sri Lanka sits down to a hot meal provided by Southern Baptists. Displaced by the Dec. 26 tsunami, this family lives with five other families in a 20-foot by 20-foot schoolroom.



VOLUNTEERS South Carolina disaster assessment team members deliver dry goods to displaced families living in a Buddhist temple. Southern Baptists provided funds to supply each family with food for one week. (IMB photos)

Disaster relief team members from South Carolina arrived on the heels of the assessment team. The next day they—in partnership with local Baptists and the IMB—were scooping chicken curry onto plates for 800 hungry people at a camp of displaced persons, handing out 300 packets of dry goods at a Buddhist temple and a Muslim mosque and preparing kitchen sets for 618 families who had lost all their cooking utensils.

"The recipients knew that Christians were sharing with them," Garrison said. "They were touched that those they had formerly persecuted were now extending love to them."

"We are grateful to Southern Baptists and to the Lord for the generous way in which they have responded to this crisis," the strategy coordinator for the Sinhalese Buddhists said.

"Many of these families have not only lost their homes and possessions, they have lost their livelihood as well," he added. "They have no resources for the essentials like food, so the thought of replacing children's schoolbooks is overwhelming to them. Yet, Southern Baptists are there for these people, already providing food for them and evaluating what is next."

More than \$3 million donated

As of Jan. 18, Southern Baptists and others had contributed more than \$3 million to help tsunami survivors.

Proper assessment is critical because IMB personnel want to use relief gifts responsibly. Fishermen need their boats replaced, but the government regulates the construction of boats and the types of boats fishermen use. It would be poor stewardship to purchase boats that do not meet such regulations, a coordinator said. The IMB also is waiting before rebuilding houses.

"We are not ready for construction crews. The government may restrict where the people can build, forbidding them from rebuilding on their coastline property," a worker said. "We do not want to spend relief money to build a house that might be bulldozed down in the months to come. When the government has announced its decision, then we will determine how we can help shelter Sri Lankans more permanently."

How to help

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

■ **International Mission Board.** Gifts designated "Asia Earthquake Disaster Relief" can be mailed to the International Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Or visit www.imb.org.

■ **Woman's Missionary Union Foundation.** Funds can be sent to HEART Fund-Tsunami Response, Box 11346, Birmingham, AL 35202-1346. Or visit 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. Or visit www.bwa.org.

■ **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.** Checks designated "#17016 Asian Relief" can be mailed to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Box 101699, Atlanta, GA 30392.

■ **Samaritan's Purse.** The ministry is accepting donations through www.samaritanspurse.org.

No IMB orphanages planned

The team already has determined that the IMB will not start orphanages. Extended family members will take in most children orphaned by the tsunami, Julian said. Agencies that specialize in child care and placement will help those who have no family.

"Our focus will be to fill in the gaps, to help in ways that others are not and to minister to those who have been traumatized by the tsunami but are being overlooked," a coordinator said. "To do this, we ask for Southern Baptists' prayers and for their patience. We want to act with purpose—not just doing good works, but serving in obedience to God's will and with His guidance. Apart from that, apart from Him, we will accomplish little, so pray that He would lead and we would listen."

Blackaby's Kentucky comments about tsunami draw response

Dallas (ABP)—"Experiencing God" author Henry Blackaby believes the tsunamis that hit South Asia were God's punishment of an area where Christians have experienced particularly intense persecution. But some missions experts with links to the region disagree.

Speaking at a recent Shepherding the Shepherd conference in Lexington, Blackaby said he recognized God's hand of judgment in the tsunami after he saw a map published by Voice of the Martyrs showing areas of intense persecution of Christians worldwide.

Many of the areas highlighted on that map "match to a T" the tsunami's impact, he said.

"If you read the Old Testament, especially, God is very concerned how the nations treat His covenant people," he said in an interview after the session.

"The nations that persecuted, offended and killed His people, God came down and destroyed them. And He's the same God today. He's just as concerned about His people."

Tom White, spokesman for Voice of the Martyrs, expressed appreciation for Blackaby's "Experiencing God" materials, but noted, "We do not agree with Blackaby's suggestion regarding the tsunami. We do not agree that God was

behind the deaths. Our Indonesia staff is rushing to deliver material and spiritual aid to the Muslims in that region."

The idea of God using natural disasters as instruments of punishment is "a biblical concept," said Todd Johnson, director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Some Christians in South Asia have expressed the idea that the tsunamis were God's punishment for some wrongdoing, he noted.

But Johnson urged caution before definitively linking any natural disaster to divine wrath—particularly without the benefit of long-range hindsight.

Reports on the Voice of the Martyrs Web site indicate persecution of Christians in three countries hit by the tsunamis—Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka. But ethnic strife between Muslims and Christians in Indonesia has been centered in portions of the country not greatly affected by the tsunami rather than in the hard-hit Aceh province, which is almost entirely Muslim.

The U.S. Commission on International Freedom listed only two tsunami-affected nations—India and Burma—as "countries of particular concern" regarding religious freedom abuses.

Burma suffered minor losses from the tsunami compared to other neighboring countries. And the commission was divided in its decision to name India as a country of particular concern because conditions appeared to improve there after the most recent national elections.

"If anybody deserves judgment, it's Christians"

Regardless of whether persecution is more intense in South Asia than in other parts of the world, Stan Parks, international liaison with the Baptist General Convention of Texas-affiliated WorldconneX missions network, said he would "categorically disagree" with Blackaby's assessment.

"If anybody deserves judgment, it's Christians who horde the gospel and who lavish God's blessings on themselves with bigger buildings and finer homes," he said, adding that Christians have a responsibility to respond to new opportunities to share God's love with needy people who have not heard or seen a Christian witness.

Responding to the differing views, Robert Reeves, director of communications for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said KBC leaders "are always delighted to be able to bring high-quality, national-level speakers to events like Shepherding. We were very happy to be able to have Henry Blackaby come.

"That doesn't mean everyone is going to agree with everything every speaker has to say," Reeves added. "I would expect there is a wide variety of opinions on this particular subject among Kentucky Baptists.

"The thing to focus on for us is that this tsunami is a terrible thing and that God loves and values every person," he said. "We're grateful that we have Southern Baptist missionaries and personnel in the area so we could begin ministering to people immediately.

"We think that's the appropriate kind of response—that we reach out to people and share God's love in every way we can, especially in the time of grief and national disaster such as the tsunami."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Glen Cummins

February is known as a month for sweethearts, Valentines and love.

The familiar words of John 3:16 declare, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Love was at the foundation of all Jesus said and did.

Often when someone considers becoming a Christian, they look at the church or the people in the church. They claim pain, hurt or hypocrites as reasons not to follow Jesus.

But what do you think about Jesus? What is your relationship to Him? Jesus is about love. Consider the following Scripture passages that reflect His love:

Responding to one man's question about eternal life, "Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' He said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, and follow Me'" (Mark 10:21).

In John 15:13, Jesus declared, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Matthew 20:34 notes that "Jesus had compassion (love) on them, and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight, and followed Him."

Remember the chorus, "O how He loves you and me. He gave His life, what more could He give? O how He loves you and me!"

Acts 16:31 explains, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

Jesus wrote each of us a personal love letter by dying for us on the cross. Why not respond to Jesus' eternal love for you during this season of love?

Glen Cummins, former associate pastor/education for Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, is church development strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's north central region

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church will host a tri-county choir Feb. 12, 7 p.m., for an old-fashioned hymn sing and reception. **Edwin Talley** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church honored former pastor **J. Chester Badgett** with a Jan. 16 reception in recognition of his 90th birthday. Badgett, who served 30 years as pastor of Campbellsville Church, retired in 1980. He also is a former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church recently called **Paul Strahan** as transitional pastor. He works in the pastoral ministries area of LifeWay Church

Resources. The church also ordained **Philip Disney, Scott Chandler, David Webb** and **Joe Wilk** as deacons Jan. 23.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church ordained **Rob Caturano** and **Jody Stivers** as deacons Jan. 23. **Kevin McCallon** is pastor.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—**Charles Lowery** will be the guest speaker at First Church Feb. 13 at both the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. **Ed Erwin** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church ordained **Bob Atha, Kevin Naranjo, Doug Stanley** and **Brad Whiteford** as deacons Jan. 16. **Steve Rice** is pastor.

Souper Bowl to aid tsunami victims

For the 12th year in a row, Souper Bowl of Caring will help provide relief for the hungry and hurting.

On Feb. 6, Super Bowl Sunday, local churches will collect \$1 donations in large soup pots for area charities of their choice. This year, many groups will donate half of the money raised to help tsunami victims in Southeast Asia.

Last year's efforts raised more than \$4.26 million for soup kitch-

ens, food banks and other charities, according to Souper Bowl of Caring's Web site. This year's goal is \$5 million.

All money is sent directly to the chosen charities. Souper Bowl of Caring's only request is that groups report their collection in order for a national total to be determined.

For more information, visit www.souperbowl.org or call (800) 358-7687.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: The solution to your seeking? Consider Fred Moffatt, (502) 633-6638, as interim pastor; and Harold Price, (502) 366-4804, as interim minister of education. One would be good; both would be great.

FOR SALE: 2004 enclosed Hallmark cargo trailer. Black; 6x9; excellent condition; bought new in May 2004 for \$1,875. Will sell for \$1,400. Call (859) 516-1699, or e-mail herose@mikrotec.com.

FOR SALE: Protect your gym floor with 2,500 square feet of tan Thor Tarp covering, 18mm in five 10x50-foot rolls. Made of fire-retardant vinyl that will not scratch valuable gym floor and is slip-resistant. Paid \$1,215 new in June 2004. Selling for \$800. May deliver, depending on distance. Call (859) 516-1699, or e-mail herose@mikrotec.com.

FREE: 15 oak pews approximately 12' long, available to any church willing to pick up. Pews have upholstered seating. Contact Danny Payne at Foster Ave. Baptist Church, (502) 239-7234.

NEEDED: Mission teams. Coastal Empire Ministries of Savannah Baptist Association needs mission teams who are on fire for the Lord to do ministry Jan.-Oct., 2005. Opportunities include: incarcerated, resort, sports, service, construction, family and urban. See Web site at www.sbassociation.org. Call Martha at (912) 354-5831; or e-mail: MLJ10CEM@comcast.net.

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 40191.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Middlesboro, Ky. Submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, OYC Baptist Church, 225 S 38th St., Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Independent agents. Help promote and distribute the Thompson® Chain-Reference Bible, "the most helpful Bible ever published." For information, call (800) 428-4385.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader. Growing church family seeks an energetic individual to lead a blended style worship service—drama team, interpretive dance team and instrumentalists assist. Call for an appointment today: (502) 933-2761.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/education for Sharon BC in Wichita, Kansas (MSA 500,000+). Blended worship. Experience/seminary preferred. Resumés to: Bob Hartmann, 4621 N Farmstead, Wichita, KS 67220. E-mail: bhartmann@sharonsbc.org.

SEEKING: Full-time recreation and evangelism pastor able to give creative leadership in the context of a contemporary/innovative church. Must be able to administer sports outreach programs and large Upward leagues, and to provide evangelistic leadership and training. Substantive experience with a successful track record required. Send resumé to Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303, or fax to (270) 685-5134.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for Bagdad Baptist Church, Shelby County. We are looking for someone with a passion for youth and their spiritual development. We also are looking for someone wanting a long-term commitment. Please send your resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Bagdad Baptist Church, PO Box 8, Bagdad, KY 40003.

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: Associate pastor/church administrator. Culpeper Baptist Church, Culpeper, Va. 1,000 members, two worship services—contemporary and traditional. Moderate conservative church founded in 1774; affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Association, CBF, BGAV and SBC. Job description available on request. Resumés received at: Personnel Committee, 318 South West St., Culpeper, VA 22701; tfuson@culpeperbaptist.org. (540) 825-8192.

SEEKING: Minister of music. Culpeper Baptist Church, Culpeper, Va. 1,000 members, two worship services—contemporary and traditional. Moderate conservative church founded in 1774; affiliated with Shiloh Baptist Association, CBF, BGAV and SBC. Job description available on request. Resumés received at: Personnel Committee, 318 South West St., Culpeper, VA 22701; tfuson@culpeperbaptist.org. (540) 825-8192.

SEEKING: Full-time children's minister (birth-5th grade). This individual will oversee and provide direction for the church's weekday child care center as well as the children's ministries of the church. A competitive salary and benefit package is offered for the individual with both experience and training in working with children and who possesses strong leadership and administrative skills. Interested individuals may apply to Calvary Baptist Church, 214 Lincoln Ave., Danville, KY 40422; or e-mail: secretary@calvaryindanville.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, Watson Lane Baptist Church, 233 Watson Lane, Henderson, KY 42420.

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

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor with ministry focus on students and recreation for a vibrant First Baptist church in Southeastern Kentucky. Seminary training and youth ministry experience preferred. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, 201 North Main St., Barbourville, KY 40906, or e-mail to chsec@barbourville.com.

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

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

SERVICES: Health insurance. Lower premiums and taxes with Health Savings Accounts. Savings roll over each year and generate interest. Preferred male, 45: \$93.73. To learn more, call Stephen Scott, CPA, at (866) 910-2227.

Seminary student directs Louisville clothes closet

By Bryan Cribb
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Louisville (BP)—A hot lunch and a pair of jeans, some spaghetti and a coat for winter.

For most people, these items are afterthoughts. But for Kory Wenell, they are something more.

For this student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, one person's tossed-away afterthought can be an avenue for sharing the gospel with those who lack both clothes and Christ.

Wenell leads the clothing closet ministry of Immanuel Baptist Church in an inner-city neighborhood in Louisville.

Every Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wenell and nine other volunteers from the church distribute approximately 250 articles of clothing to two dozen or more people.

The church also provides lunch and has fed as many as 50 people.

Those who visit the closet come mostly from the surrounding community—Shelby Park in Louisville's downtown.

"You have a lot of people that have been in this small community in Louisville their whole lives," said Wenell, a native of Albert City, Iowa. "They get stuck in a rut. A lot of them have never held down a job and have never seen a good, healthy family, and their parents were alcoholics. They've never seen anything else modeled to them."

The ministry provides far more than temporal needs, he added. Wenell and the church volunteers attempt to offer clients eternal hope.

"The goal is not just to hand out

food or clothes," he said. "The goal is to have an opportunity to invest in people's lives."

The ministry seeks to accomplish that goal two ways. First, Wenell prepares a devotion for the lunch gathering every Friday, complete with a gospel presentation.

But the principal method to reach clients is through relationship building, Wenell said. He and the other volunteers attempt to visit each person client in order to establish a rapport with the families. With a few families, this rapport grows into a meaningful relationship.

Clothes resulting in relationships

"The clothes closet ministry opens up a lot of doors to build relationships in the community," Wenell said.

Wenell's group visits with, eats with and supports these families, sometimes on a weekly basis. But Wenell hopes the relationships are more than just friendships.

"A big part of the clothes closet is making connections, but the goal is conversion," Wenell said. "It's a slow, long process. And sometimes it can be pretty discouraging, because we put a lot of effort in visiting people and meeting with people and trying to help at their low points and also trying to be there for high points."

But Wenell said the ministry is bearing fruit. As a result of the connections with the families, several volunteers have initiated weekly evangelistic Bible studies in the homes. Wenell himself has seen two people make professions of faith in



Christ through the ministry.

Some of these relationships are established not with people who come to the closet, but with people who see the ministry of the closet.

"It (the ministry) says that we care," Wenell said. "Sometimes the people that we reach in the community are not necessarily the people we give clothes or food to. It's just because it communicates that we are here and willing to enter into people's struggles."

Wenell himself lives near the church and the ministry—an inner-city context that is a long way from the Iowa farm community

where he grew up and his parents raise hogs.

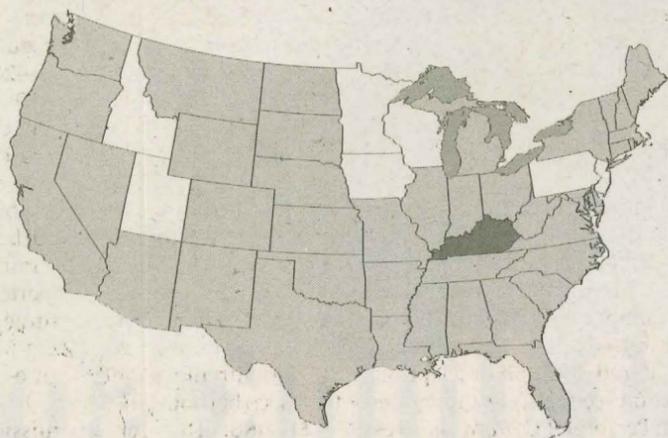
Wenell spends about 10-15 hours a week working with ministry related to the clothes closet.

"You have to really love these people to make it work," said Wenell, who will graduate in May. "It's not just a 'get together with them.' ... You've got to really love them."

"So, when their kid gets in trouble in school, you go to see the principal with them. When they're in prison, you are there at the trial. Those are extreme cases, but you want to be there in their lives."

CLOTHING WITH A MESSAGE Kory Wenell leads the clothes closet ministry at Immanuel Baptist Church in inner-city Louisville. Wenell says the outreach demonstrates to the community "we are here and willing to enter into people's struggles." (Southern Seminary photo by David Merrifield)

Our mission doesn't end at the state line



For more than 10 years, the Western Recorder has helped state conventions in newer work areas with their newspapers.

We work with local convention leaders, combining their local news with other resources, the stories we generate and news from wire services. As a result, the Western Recorder's ministry extends from the Bluegrass to the Hawaii-Pacific, Iowa, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, Minnesota-Wisconsin and Utah-Idaho conventions.

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERNRECORDER

More than 110 students attend Hyland's Discipleship-Now weekend in Henderson

Hendersonville—More than 110 students in Henderson were encouraged to "play with fire" during a recent Discipleship-Now weekend at Hyland Baptist Church.

The event involved youth from at least six other area churches, according to Hyland's minister to students Jason Cowan.

"It's something that every year is getting bigger and bigger," Cowan said. "We tried to combine the elements of fun and spiritual impact for folks."

The Friday through Sunday schedule includes fellowship activities with Bible study and worship.

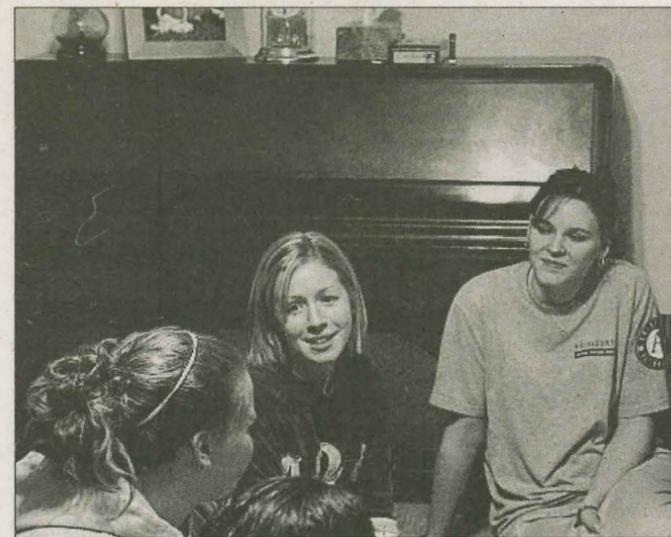
Cowan said the event not only attracted area youth but also approximately 30 college students who returned to Hyland to take part in the weekend.

The theme, "Play with Fire," was drawn from the story of Elijah, who prayed for God to consume an offering with fire from heaven, proving Elijah's God was real.

"We also tried to show the human side of Elijah," Cowan added. "He also had struggles that we all struggle with."

Worship leaders emphasized the importance of spiritual preparation and staying close to God during life's struggles, he said.

The weekend resulted in at least four public professions of faith, he added.



"It gives a boost to our student group," he said. "Hopefully we're going to see kids get excited and bring more kids to God."

The weekend included youth from Spotsville Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Morganfield, First Baptist Church of Sturgis, DuPey Baptist Church, Cairo Methodist Church and Country View General Baptist Church.

"Our whole mission is to open the umbrella so the kids can get under it and see the love of God," Cowan explained. "We want everybody to have the chance to see the love of God and experience that as well."

SMALL GROUP Shelly Rogers (center) and Amy Downs (right) lead a home Bible study group as part of the Discipleship-Now weekend in Hendersonville, sponsored by Hyland Baptist Church. Youth from at least seven area churches participated.



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