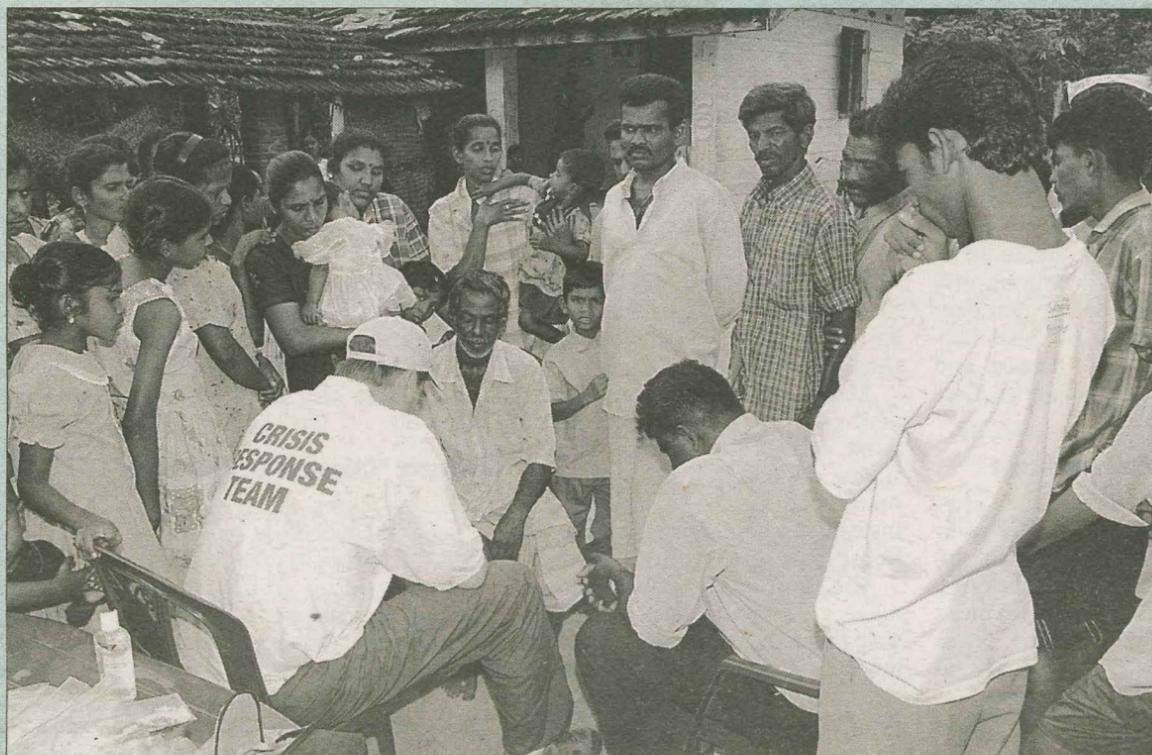


February 8, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 6**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**
Black conventions hold meeting to express unity. *Page 2.***Kentucky**
Conference links prayer to church health and growth. *Page 3.***Editorial**
Draper's "frog" campaign deserves support. *Page 5.***Nation**
Habitat for Humanity board fires founder Millard Fuller. *Page 6.***Marriage**
Judge rules New York constitution requires same-sex marriage rights. *Page 6.***Georgetown**
Joel Gregory to join staff on part-time basis. *Page 8.***True forgiveness****MINISTRY TO PERSECUTOR** Sri Lankan pastor S. Vijayaraj (standing, right foreground) and members of his congregation in Batticaloa pray with a man (seated, center) accused of attacking and burning the church. (Photo by Rex Campbell)**Pastor shows love to persecutor after tsunami****By Craig Bird**
*Texas Baptist Child & Family Services***Batticaloa, Sri Lanka (ABP)**—The four previous encounters between the Hindu man and the young Sri Lankan pastor had been violent.

Each time, Balram (not his real name) led a mob attacking Vijayaraj, the young pastor.

Each time Vijayaraj was tied up and severely beaten and his church set ablaze.

And each time, the congregation of Heavenly Mission Harvest Church in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, rebuilt and Vijayaraj kept preaching about Jesus.

But when the two men met for a fifth time, in the horrific aftermath of Sri Lanka's tsunami, Vijayaraj lived out a sermon on forgiveness.

In four years since becoming the first Christian convert in his rural fishing village of 300 people, and despite the fierce persecution of the militant Hindus, Vijayaraj has led his church to grow to include 27 families.

They all were worshiping on the morning of Dec. 26 when the tsunami swept onto the coast of Sri Lanka.

While many church members lost homes and fishing boats, not a single Christian from the village drowned, though as many as 10 of their neighbors died.

When a disaster-relief team from Baptist Child and Family Services of San Antonio, Texas, arrived less than two weeks later,

two volunteers—medical doctor Andrew Bentley and psychologist Richard Brake—went to the village to set up a clinic.

"We were told not to mention 'Gospel for Asia' (the group that Vijayaraj's church belongs to) because of the hostility," Bentley said.

"I imagine that's why the clinic was at the pastor's house instead of at the church," he added. "The idea was to help the entire community."

"I noticed an old man with a glazed look," recalled Bentley, who lives in Tyler, Texas. "The translator told me the man had lost his entire family—and that, by the way, he's the one who has been persecuting the pastor."

When it was obvious the wait would be long, Vijayaraj invited the Hindu man into his house and fed him.

"It was amazing that Vijayaraj was not making any difference" between Balram and the others seeking help, Bentley said.

"The man ... was already dazed, primarily from grief over losing his family," Brake said. "But I think he was further stunned by the way he was welcomed and loved."

Brake, the psychologist, counseled the man extensively while he waited to see Bentley. Then Bentley treated him for some cuts and bruises that already were healing and confirmed that the soreness in his chest was not

Inside: Christian organizations focus on tsunami ministry, not evangelism in tsunami-damaged areas, but that doesn't mean there's no witness. *Page 9.*

life-threatening and likely "from being beaten up by the waves."

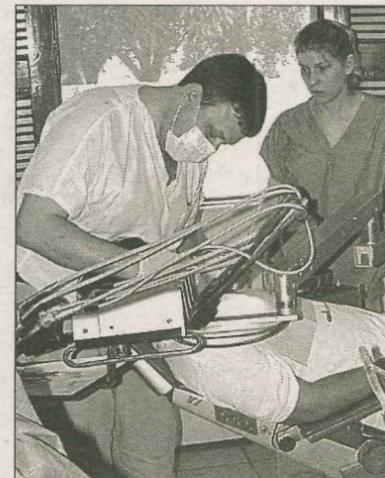
The two Texans said they know they performed only "minor ministry" that afternoon when compared to Vijayaraj.

"I flew halfway around the world to share my faith and help needy people. And then, as I watched Vijayaraj do exactly what Jesus said and love his enemy and forgive those who persecuted him, I thought, 'Wow, I just got nailed,'" Brake said. "In America we have trouble forgiving the jerk who cuts us off in traffic. And here this Sri Lankan pastor basically says, 'Jesus said to love, so I guess I have to do it.'"

"When I told him how impressed I was, he just kind of looked down at the ground and didn't make a big deal out of it. And that's what Jesus told us to do too."

"We never knew for sure that the man accepted Jesus because of that afternoon," Bentley said. But he added he is confident Balram either became a Christian then or will in the near future.

"I just feel in the deepest part of my heart that the truth of the gospel reached him because of Vijayaraj's willingness to be faithful to his God and to God's Word."

**GOSPEL WITH GAUZE** Dentist Todd Johnson and assistant Megan Fuller, both members of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, are among more than 100 Kentuckians who already have traveled to Brazil in preparation for the three-year partnership with Baptists there. (KBC file photo)**Baptists in Brazil, Kentucky gearing up for three-year missions link****By Trennis Henderson**
*Editor***Louisville**—Brazil is a land of rich diversity—and deep spiritual need.

Kentucky Baptists will have the opportunity to make a spiritual impact in that South American nation as the Kentucky Baptist Convention launches missions partnerships this year with Baptist conventions in two regions of Brazil.

KBC messengers voted in 2003 to enter a three-year partnership with Baptists in northeastern Brazil beginning this year.

Approximately 30 projects ranging from evangelism and church planting to medical missions and prayerwalking have been requested by leaders of the Piaui Baptist Convention and the Federal District Baptist Convention which includes the Brazilian capital city, Brasilia.

Scott Pittman, a former Kentucky Baptist pastor now serving as a Southern Baptist missionary in Piaui, is the partnership's field coordinator for that region.

Pittman, who has served in Brazil 13 years, told KBC messengers the overall goal of the partnership is "evangelism that results in decisions; decisions that result in Bible studies and small groups; small groups that result in congregations; and congregations that result in churches."

During a trip to the Federal District last month, Ross Bauscher, director of the KBC's partnership missions department, contracted with Brazilian seminary student Davi Chaves to serve as field coordinator in that area in cooperation with convention general secretary Gerson Camargo.

Noting that the partnership
□ See *Baptists in Brazil ... Page 8*

Black Baptist groups gather in historic show of unity

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Nashville (RNS)—Members of four African-American Baptist denominations, representing more than 15 million believers, gathered in Nashville Jan. 24-27 for a historic show of unity.

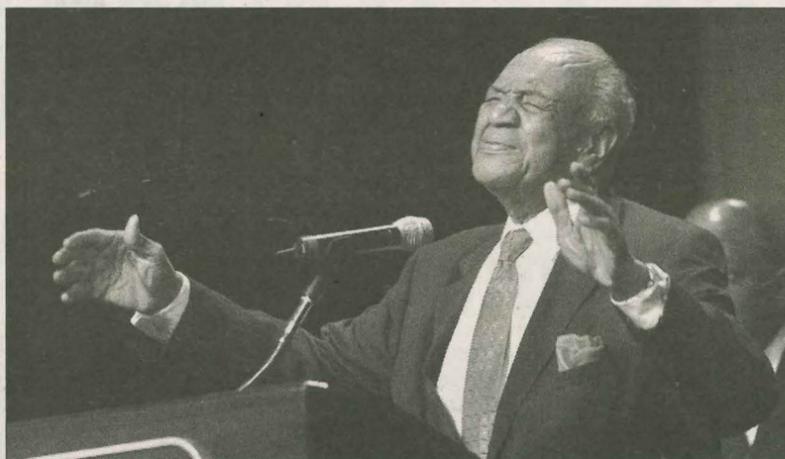
The four denominations severed ties decades ago over a variety of issues, including disputes over leadership, civil rights and a publishing house. But church leaders have high hopes for future unity.

"One of the affirmations of this gathering, to me, is that the things that divided us were not things that were really central to who we are as bodies in Christ," said William Shaw, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA.

The meeting had members of Shaw's denomination joining others from the Progressive National Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention of America and National Missionary Baptist Convention of America.

Leaders issue joint statement

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, leaders stated their opposition to the war in Iraq, citing the conflict's "sorrow, suffering and financial cost." They also voiced opposition to government funds for scholarships to parochial and other private schools and called for eliminating mandatory minimum prison sentences.



CALL FOR UNITY Gardner Taylor, past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, prays during his sermon at a historic meeting of four African-American Baptist denominations. "The Master Surgeon has operated on us and the cancer is out," he declared. (RNS photo by Michael Clancy)

Speakers urged Baptists to use their collective voice to change society and speak to political leaders on the local and national levels.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, decried the everyday circumstance of "children going to drug houses because they're always open instead of schoolhouses and church houses that are too often closed."

She said black churches can make a difference and urged participants to be ready with questions for their congressional representatives when they return home in February during a Capitol Hill recess.

"I hope today that this powerful network of black Baptists coming together will answer God's call to repent and to provide justice for the children and the poor," Edelman said.

Jackson: "Complete King's agenda"

Jesse Jackson of the Chicago-based Rainbow/PUSH Coalition told reporters he hopes other black Baptists will join his efforts to oppose the Iraq war and to push programs for improved jobs and health care.

"It's time to go back to the streets to complete Dr. (Martin Luther) King's agenda," noted Jackson, who says he is affiliated with all four of

the religious bodies.

As they consider unity—but not merger—representatives of the denominations see a need to move beyond the issues that prompted them to form separate organizations since the early 1900s.

"The problems that we face as a people are not peculiar to some of us," said Major Jemison, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, in an interview. "They are the same for all of us. A collective voice is better than an individual voice."

Clarence Newsome, president of Shaw University, a historically black university in Raleigh, N.C., called the meeting "a happening." He said leaders are determined to accomplish new strategies for addressing some of the most serious problems facing African-Americans.

"Black Baptists will point to this as an ultra-high watermark in the life of organized religion among black Baptists," he added.

Whatever the next steps may be, Baptist leaders agreed they experienced a memorable new beginning during their time together in Nashville.

"The Master Surgeon has operated on us and the cancer is out," said Gardner Taylor, past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, in the meeting's closing sermon. "The patient is healthy and will go on to the responsibilities that health enables."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Hispanic Baptist leader Hernández dies at 77. Rudy Hernández, a past Southern Baptist Convention second vice president and former president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, died Jan. 28 at his Grand Prairie, Texas, home after battling cancer. He was 77. Since 1973, he was president of Rudy Hernández Evangelism International. He served the Baptist General Convention of Texas as the first Hispanic evangelism director in 1955-69. From 2001-2003, he served as special assistant to the SBTC executive director and strategist for Hispanic ministries. Hernández served on the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee and on the Implementing Task Force during the SBC's restructuring in the mid-1990s.

Relief work continues in California. California Baptist disaster relief teams worked throughout January aiding flood and mudslide victims after three back-to-back rainstorms soaked Southern California. For more than a week, a disaster relief crew worked out of a kitchen site at First Baptist Church in Newhall, preparing about 6,000 meals, according to Don Hargis, California Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief coordinator. He said a disaster relief team began cleaning homes Jan. 24 around Caliente, Nev., also hard-hit by flooding. A Southern Baptist feeding unit already was operating in the area.

Looking for "Fast 50" information? Registration information about LifeWay Christian Resources' "Fast 50" ministry seminars is available online at www.lifeway.com/events. The June 23-24 seminars, to be held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville, will feature workshops on such topics as evangelism, discipleship, Sunday school, church leadership and mission leadership.

LifeWay vice president to retire. Jim Carter, vice president of LifeWay Christian Resources' finance and business services division, has announced his retirement effective June 30. LifeWay's chief financial officer and treasurer, Carter is responsible for the entity's financial, strategic and business plans. A graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Southern Methodist University and the U.S. Army War College, Carter has served at LifeWay since 1995. He previously worked for several corporations in Dallas.

IMB trustees affirm Baptists' tsunami response

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists' record giving to tsunami victims and their on-site relief efforts gave Southern Baptists International Mission Board trustees plenty to applaud during their Jan. 24-27 meeting in Richmond, Va. But the growing death toll reminded them of unfinished work among people who have never heard the gospel.

The board also appointed 54 new missionaries and approved alternatives in missionary education requirements.

After the tsunami struck countries in South Asia and the Pacific Rim regions Dec. 26, Southern Baptists mobilized to help those in need. Since then, they have raised more than \$6.8 million for relief efforts.

"People around the world, including Southern Baptists, have responded in a tremendous outpouring," said David Steverson, the IMB's treasurer. He noted that 100 percent of all donations sent to disaster relief will be spent for that purpose.

In last November's trustee meeting, board members focused on finding ways to close the gap of

reaching those who have never heard the gospel.

As some areas affected by the tsunami open their borders to outsiders for the first time in years, Southern Baptists must not waste this opportunity, IMB President Jerry Rankin said.

"The media is saying 'Where is God?'" Rankin said. "The question is, 'Where were we? Where were we who allowed thousands to be swept into eternity' before hearing about Jesus?"

Southern Baptists must act now before it is too late, he said.

"There is nothing we can do about the multitudes who lost their lives," Rankin said. "We couldn't have helped them in the disaster of a tsunami wave. But we stand accountable for the fact that they ... never had an opportunity" to accept Jesus as their Savior.

In other action, the board affirmed the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message definition of what constitutes a church and clarified how that definition is interpreted in IMB work around the world.

The faith statement describes a New Testament church as "an

autonomous local congregation of baptized believers ... seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth." The section on the church also specifies that "the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

The recommendation was made to ensure that missionaries, seminaries and other groups involved with Southern Baptist missions were on "the same page," said IMB trustee Bob Pearle, "so that we are speaking the same language to our missionaries."

Trustees also approved a recommendation to provide options in formal education requirements of career missionaries assigned to church and home responsibilities. Those who do not have the required college hours must complete 15 semester hours of board-approved bachelor's-level biblical, theological and missiological study.

Larry Cox, former president for the IMB's office of mobilization, was honored for his 22-year career on the field and with the board's home office. Cox resigned in the fall to accept a position with WinShape Foundation in Rome, Ga.

GuideStone assets top \$8.3 billion, hit all-time high

Dallas (BP)—Assets of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention reached an all-time high of \$8.3 billion at the close of 2004—a 12.05 percent increase over the 2003 closing numbers of \$7.3 billion.

"We are pleased to surpass the \$8 billion mark again," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins. He

noted that the growth "reflects a significant increase in many participants' accounts and hopefully offers a higher level of financial security for them in their retirement years."

In addition, the 13 mutual funds available to Southern Baptist participants through GuideStone turned in a positive performance for 2004.

Rodric Cummins, executive officer for investments, noted, "Despite the significant losses in the stock market in 2001 and 2002, our investment approach and the disciplines of our philosophy have not changed. ... We are pleased with the results of our investment program and our ability to capitalize on the opportunities for our participants."

Conference encourages more prayer time for churches

By David Winfrey
News Director

Louisville—Christians in America should increase their prayer lives if they want to see their churches be more powerful, speakers told participants during the Great Commission Prayer Conference last weekend.

"There is no lack of resources about prayer," Eric Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions department, told a workshop audience. "But there is a lack of practice."

John Ewart, an associate professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor in Louisville, said he is discouraged by how few congregations have an evangelistic prayer ministry.

Too often, he said, prayer meetings are reduced to "organ recitals," where people pray for ill family and friends.

"We should pray for physical illness," said Ewart, pastor of Cedar Creek Baptist Church. "I do hope our churches will learn to balance our prayer for both physical and spiritual and health concerns."

But while American Christians affirm the importance of prayer, research suggests few really spend much time praying.

Allen said the book "Return to Worship" by Henry Blackaby and Ron Owens reported that the average American pastor prays 10 minutes per week and the average American church member prays five

minutes per week.

Allen contrasted the prayer lives of American Christians with those in Korea. While the baptism rate in the United States isn't keeping pace with the birth rate, Korea is having conversions at a rate of four times the birth rate. The difference, he suggested, is that the average Korean pastor prays more than two hours per day.

"We have bigger churches and more resources (in America) than we've ever had before, and yet we've got fewer baptisms and spending less time in prayer," he said.

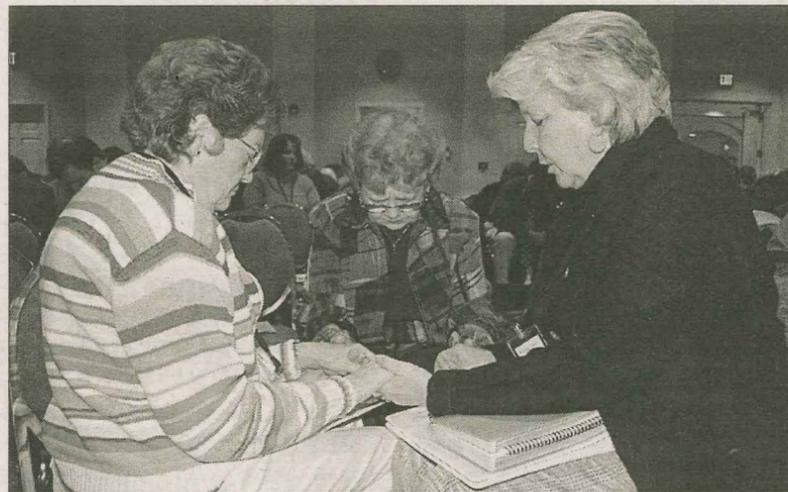
Allen did note some reasons for optimism. The KBC has identified approximately 600 Kentucky Baptist churches that have designated someone as "prayer coordinator."

And approximately 200 people attended last weekend's prayer conference, held on the campus of Southern Seminary.

Prayer in outreach

Ewart said every church could use prayer to reach out to unchurched neighbors. He noted that author Howard Tryon found that more than 90 percent of all Americans believe in prayer.

All those people might not view prayer the same way as Christians, he said, but their belief in prayer can be a connection for linking churches to non-Christians. "In our postmodern culture, prayer is a huge window of opportunity."



GROUP PRAYER Penny Lawrence (right), a member of Williamstown Baptist Church, leads a time of prayer with Shirley Simpson (left), also of Williamstown, and Lorene Heskett, a member of Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort. The Great Commission Prayer Conference was co-sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. (Photo by David Winfrey)

Describing a method he's taught in scores of churches, Ewart said small groups can call friends, family and even strangers, offering to pray for a concern.

Ewart said that more times than he could count, a church group reported that they got a response of someone who needed prayer for a problem or medical concern. As a result, non-Christians get a non-threatening introduction to the church, and church members learn how to pray for the concerns of others.

Elaine Helms, prayer coordina-

tor for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, said churches can gauge the health of their prayer ministries by such measures as:

- How many people want to visit the church prayer room or prayer meeting.

- Whether people care how long a prayer meeting lasts.

Churches should remember to report answered prayers back to the congregation, she added.

"God wants us to know and give Him the glory for what He's done."

Baptists in Brazil, Kentucky gear up for 3-year missions partnership

Continued from page 1

projects will focus on a "holistic approach of meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs," Bauscher said the Brazilian Baptist leaders "have tremendous vision."

While up to 90 percent of Brazilians in the region consider themselves Catholic, Bauscher said many are "cultural Catholics" rather than practicing Christians. The majority also have incorporated spiritism and folk religions into their religious traditions, he added.

Describing Piaui as "the least evangelized and poorest state in Brazil," Bauscher said 140 of the state's 223 counties do not have a Baptist church, and 11 counties are less than 1 percent evangelized.

Piaui, with a population of 2.8 million people, has 52 Baptist churches. The Federal District, with a population of 3.2 million, has 114 Baptist churches.

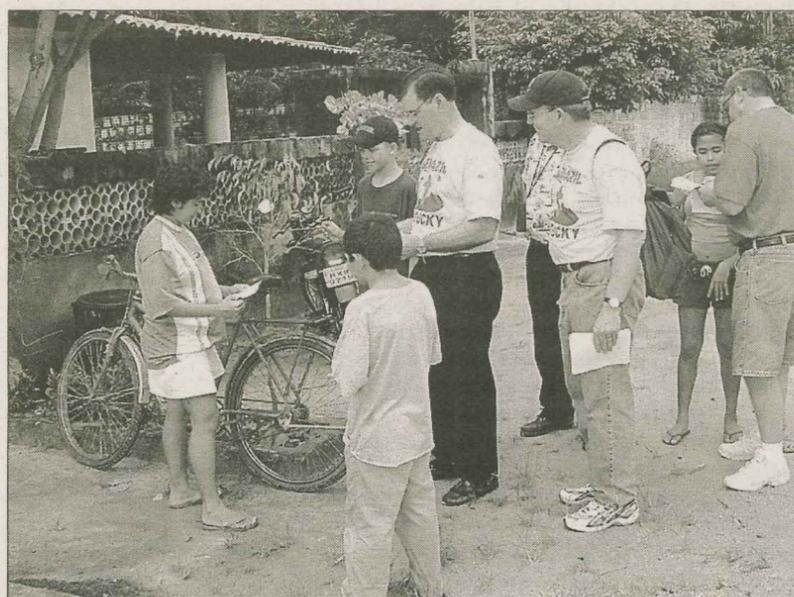
Among major goals in each of the regions, the partnership in Piaui is designed to "assist the Baptist churches of the Piaui Baptist Convention ... to proclaim the gospel to all people in their area, to accelerate the planting and development of churches and to meet human needs," according to the covenant agreement signed by Kentucky and Brazilian Baptist leaders.

Specific goals include:

- Increasing Piaui's evangelization rate to 10 percent of the population.

- Helping start 100 churches.

- Training 100 Piaui Baptists in church planting methods and 500 in personal evangelism.



EVANGELISTIC VISIT David Campbell (center), a missions mobilization specialist for Brazil with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, and Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, share Christian witnessing materials with a woman in Brazil. More than 30 mission projects have been requested by Brazilian Baptist leaders for the first year of the three-year partnership.

- Conducting simultaneous revival meetings and follow-up projects.

- Enhancing discipleship in existing churches.

Partnership goals in the Federal District include:

- Involving 500 Kentucky Baptists on a Kentucky/Brasilia prayer team by December 2005.

- Distributing 1,000 tracts or copies of the Bible and conducting 1,000 in-home Bible studies.

- Planting at least 20 churches.

- Presenting the gospel through evangelism teams, choirs, vacation Bible school, children's activities and medical and dental teams.

- Training 800 Brasilia pastors, church planters and lay leaders in church planting strategies, discipleship and family ministry.

Sixty-eight Kentucky Baptist volunteers took part in a series of seven initial mission trips to Piaui last year. Distributing more than 23,000 tracts and witnessing to more than 2,600 people, workers reported nearly 400 professions of faith in Christ.

Projects scheduled for this year include prayerwalks, church construction, medical teams, evangelism, church planting and pastor training.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Georgetown College recently received a \$756,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the school's Underground Railroad Research Institute. The new funds will support expansion of current research and community programming, hiring of a publications manager and production of a quarterly newsletter, "The Voices of Freedom."

Karen Taylor was named director of communications for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children effective Jan. 31. She succeeds Vickie Grassman who left KBHC in December. Taylor, a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, previously served as marketing director for an accounting firm in Louisville and assistant director of development for Christian Academy of Louisville.

Rhonda Abbott, a former campus minister at the University of Georgia, was hired by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship Jan. 21 for the newly created position of associate coordinator for missions. Abbott, a native of Maryville, Tenn., will coordinate missions efforts on a statewide basis, with a focus on Partners in Hope, the Fellowship's rural poverty initiative, in Eastern Kentucky.

Bauscher said a 19-member medical/evangelism team will travel to Brasilia in March. Medical volunteers expect to help meet the physical needs of up to 125 people a day.

"Medical work is something we're really trying to tap into," Bauscher added. He said Brazilian Baptist leaders "want to do church planting through meeting medical and spiritual needs, sharing their compassion."

As Bauscher recruits volunteers, he said, "I just pray, 'Lord, you're going to have to supply the people.' Ultimately it's up to them and their willingness to seize the opportunities God gives them."

Several first-time participants

Noting that several Kentucky Baptist churches and associations are getting involved in international partnership missions for the first time, Bauscher said, "I get a joy out of seeing people get involved in missions and taking the love of Christ into an area."

"Transformed lives can lead to transformed churches," he added. "People come back fired up and want to share more. I get excited about seeing the possibilities."

In addition to partnership projects in Brazil, Bauscher said Kentucky Baptists will continue to be involved in projects in the International Baptist Convention, Malta and Poland.

For more information about partnership missions opportunities, contact the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5724.

WESTERN RECORDER

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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET McINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

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SpongeBob welcome

Say it ain't so, SpongeBob! Referencing your Jan. 25 article about the "We Are Family" video featuring SpongeBob SquarePants and other children's characters, I am deeply disturbed by the loose and paranoid reaction to something good. The We Are Family Foundation aims to ameliorate intolerance and bigotry in favor of a celebration of ethnic and cultural diversity. Its agenda has nothing to do with promoting homosexuality.

In describing the foundation's Web site, your article quotes Peter Sprigg from the Family Research Council saying, "Much of what they have is coded language that is regularly used by the pro-homosexual movement such as 'tolerance' and 'diversity.'" I'm sorry, but when did these words become dirty words?

It seems that Jesus showed much with whom He shared fellowship. It seems that Jesus and His followers promoted diversity by their interactions with women, men, Samaritans, Jews, Gentiles, slave, free, etc.

Please, in the name of the Christ who loves all the little children, don't allow virtues such as tolerance and diversity to be redefined as vices. SpongeBob can come to my church any time—even if he does wear square pants.

Tim Hobbs
Henderson

Inconsistent views?

Let me expound upon one verse. 1 Timothy 3:2 says: "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach."

This is one of the texts used to prove that women are excluded from being pastors. I heard a preacher use this just a day or two

ago. He reasons like this: God's Word said that a bishop (pastor) must be the husband of one wife and women cannot be the husbands of one wife. That settles it.

My contention is that if that settles it, then it ought to settle some other things as well. He has to have a wife. He has to have children. He cannot ever have a second wife; no divorce. It plainly says one wife. He also must have a house; he must not have unruly children, etc. In fact, it says he must be blameless. Most of us will tear this down to fit our own theology.

It is much like the verse in 1 Corinthians 14:34 where the question of speaking in tongues comes up: "Let a woman keep silence in church." Some apply this to preaching but not to singing, praying, teaching, etc.

We see a lot of the time just what we want to see. But it seems to me that we really ought to be consistent in making our interpretations.

Joseph H. Scalf Jr.
Danville

Hough makes impact

I read the recent article about Tony Hough. Tony has been an extremely valuable asset to the Kentucky Baptist Convention for years. He's had a major impact in my life, as well as the lives of other pastors in our state.

Visitation Baptist Church in Red River Association has much to appreciate Tony for. While many people are credited with helping the work there, as the planter of

What are you thinking?

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

Help oppose expanded gambling

One of the bills introduced in the Kentucky General Assembly this year calls for a referendum to be placed on the November 2006 ballot to expand gambling in Kentucky. A companion bill would allow the racetracks to become casinos—complete with highly addictive slot machines—and for additional land-based casinos to be opened across the state.

These are both dangerous bills, and it is very important for Kentucky Baptists to contact their legislators and the governor now to express their concerns about this legislation. Both calls will take only a few minutes of your time and can have an important impact.

To reach your legislators, call the Legislative Message Line at (800) 372-7181. The operator will help you identify your legislators and you can leave a single message that will be delivered to all. **You can call the governor's office at (502) 564-2611.**

You may recall that the argument was made that instituting

the lottery would be the great solution to all educational, tax and social problems. Time has, of course, shown that it has become a part of the problem and not the solution.

Voters have discovered that the gambling industry's promises aren't fulfilled, said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy research for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"The only people enriched by gambling are the gambling establishments and those few businesses that support them," he said. "Most Americans know someone whose life has been significantly affected by a gambling problem."

Tom Grey, executive director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, said gambling proponents have lost ballot proposals in at least five states this past year and won only one. That follows the turning back 43 of 46 attempts to expand gambling in 2003, he said.

Last November, voters in Cali-

fornia, Nebraska and Washington turned down attempts to establish casinos or slot machine parlors, in-state slots at betting facilities or expand gambling options. In Washington, voters turned down a proposal to authorize electronic scratch ticket machines.

"These results indicate there is a backlash of 'Enough is enough,'" Grey said.

Gambling is a poor excuse for sound economic development. The advertising is intense, persuasive and designed to enlist people in trying to get something for nothing. I hope that the good people of Kentucky will learn from other states and that Gov. Fletcher will refuse to sign any bill designed to expand gambling.

Kentucky Baptists are involved in economic and spiritual development in Eastern Kentucky. Please pray and give to support these efforts through the Cooperative Program and mission offerings.

Materials on gambling are available to you through the KBC Web site. Access these at www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Joey Rogers
Means

STEWARDSHIP

Tax time tips help maximize impact of charitable gifts

By Don Spencer

Most people who read this column probably are motivated to make charitable contributions primarily to causes to which they are committed or want to provide aid.



At this time of the year, we are reminded there also may be tax saving benefits to those gifts. Here are a few points to keep in mind about taxes and charitable contributions:

■ Cancelled checks generally provide adequate proof for cash contributions of less than \$250.

■ You must have prior written substantiation for cash contributions greater than \$250 to be tax deductible.

■ Designated contributions to a church-approved project or program generally are tax deductible. The church must be able to exercise full control over the donated funds.

■ Designated contributions that generally are not deductible include contributions to a benevolence fund or scholarship fund that designates a specific individual.

■ The value of personal services is never deductible. But unreimbursed expenses incurred in performing services on behalf of a church or other charity may be. Example: Bill, a plumber, installs a new sink in the church kitchen at no cost. The value of his time is not deductible. The cost of supplies and materials that he donates are deductible.

■ Charitable contributions must be claimed on one's taxes in the year when the contributions are delivered. (A check is considered "delivered" on the date it is mailed.)

■ Churches and charities are to provide acknowledgement of non-cash donations with an adequate description of the gift. However, it is up to the individual to determine and justify the value of those gifts for purposes of a tax deduction.

■ Non-cash contributions valued at \$500 or more must meet other substantiation requirements to be deductible and values of more than \$5,000 must be supported by a qualified appraisal.

One final word for ministers: Your tithe must be treated as a charitable contribution for tax purposes. Some ministers have sought to count their tithe as a "business expense" in order to save the self-employment Social Security on that amount. The IRS generally will not allow this.

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

Valentine's Day offers ministry options for couples & singles

Q: Why do churches have couples' events around Valentine's Day? Isn't such an emphasis insensitive to the needs of single people?

Valentinus was a religious leader in ancient Rome, who was imprisoned for marrying Christians and for working to help them avoid persecution. When he began to try to convert the emperor, he was sentenced to death. Valentinus was one single adult who cared about marriages.

A vital question for churches is: How can we meet the needs of both married and single people and reach them for Christ?

First, consider how to strengthen marriages. Just as folks gather at a wedding to support a couple when their marriage begins, couples need the strength of community as they face inevitable challenges along the way. Valentine's Day is a logical, strategic time to do this.

The flip side of the coin is for the church to reach the half of the adult population that is single. Otherwise, it is guilty of the Pharisaical notion that all adults should be married. (Jesus, Paul and many other biblical and Christian leaders would disagree.)

Jesus was intentional in His ministry to the Samaritan woman at the well. His goal was not to get her married one more time. His goal was to give her living water. The church must be intentional about getting living water to single adults.

Married people can provide childcare for single parents so they can do the things necessary for a single-parent family to survive. Married adults can provide fellowship, friendship and hospitality to those single adults who would love to be a part of a family.

May this St. Valentine's Day be a reminder to strategically reach out to both married and single adults. In the Kingdom of God, one "state" is not superior to another, and our church's programming should reflect that. When the goal of the Kingdom is to reach all people for Jesus Christ, how wonderful it would be if half the church's resources were targeted to reach the half of adults who are single.—James Stillwell

Q: Why do I need to buy my spouse a Valentine's Day card to tell her that I love her? It takes time to go to the store, money to buy the card and energy to go through all the cards that just don't fit. Why can't I just tell her?

While Valentine's Day has become the "Secular Super Bowl of Romance," I believe there are several reasons it makes sense for Christian couples to observe it.

First, although we should reject a strictly romantic view of love, we must remember that God created humans with feelings that respond to concrete acts of caring. Every time we act out love, we affirm the truth that it is easier to act ourselves into appropriate feelings than it is to feel our way into appropriate actions.

Valentine's Day also calls us to an act of "remembering," an opportunity to echo what our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer does in eternity. From the beginning of time, God has remembered His people. The word "memory" is cognate with the Greek word "merimna" or care. Therefore, remembering is caring for what we remember.

Remembering one's spouse on Valentine's Day, or any day, is a reminder to that person that caring is ongoing. In fact, taking time to go to the store, and to honor the marriage journey by choosing just the right card, is more than just a way to do the right thing. It is a discipline of caring that gives us an opportunity to be more like the One who is the ultimate Bridegroom.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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



Draper's 'frog' campaign deserves support

Kudos to LifeWay Christian Resources President James Draper for attempting something to involve younger ministers and laypeople in denominational life.

Draper, a former Southern Baptist Convention president and head of LifeWay since 1991, outlined his concerns during his agency report at last summer's SBC annual meeting. He posed tough questions about the future of the denomination in such areas as baptisms and participation by younger leaders.

Four years of declining baptisms "reflect a denomination that has lost its focus," Draper told SBC messengers.

Warning that "there is a lack of denominational involvement and loyalty among young ministers," he added, "We haven't shown them the relevancy of being Southern Baptist. We battle in many churches

over trivial issues like forms of worship or who's in charge."

Draper followed his convention report with a widely published column titled, "Is the SBC a frog in a kettle?" He recounted the familiar illustration that one way to boil a frog is to put it in a kettle of lukewarm water and slowly turn up the heat.

"I'm afraid the Southern Baptist Convention resembles the frog a bit too much these days," he noted, "and it's time for us to realize the water is heating up."

Draper said he has discovered younger leaders are asking, "Is there a place for me at the table in the SBC?" Current leaders have a choice, he suggested: "Selfishly hoard the power and see our denomination die within the next 20 years, or transfer leadership, theology and passion to future generations."

Draper has written subsequent columns, including a follow-up titled, "The frog isn't cooked yet." Noting that his initial article "created quite a stir," he called for face-to-face dialogue with younger ministers.

Draper noted a few months later that his efforts "scratched the surface and revealed an entire generation-plus of ministers frustrated with the SBC, its

politics, its loss of evangelistic focus and its exclusion of many younger ministers from positions of leadership."

He said he also discovered that "younger ministers" is a misnomer. "I've gone from saying 'younger ministers' to 'emerging leaders,'" he explained, "since there is such a great diversity."

Draper invited emerging leaders to participate in an online bulletin board in December and to attend dialogue sessions being held across the SBC.

Emphasizing that "we are most effective when we work together," Draper said, "Christ did not create His church to operate in a vacuum. ... We've got to come to the point where we celebrate diversity. We don't want diversity in the message, but we want it—we need it—in the methods."

Draper's first dialogue session for emerging leaders was held last month in Louisiana. At least six more are scheduled in the next few months, culminating with a June 19 session in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting in Nashville.

What is Draper's motivation? While he has been a key player in the SBC's conservative shift, he consistently has pledged to work with people of diverse views.

When he was elected SBC president in 1982, he expressed his desire to "get Southern Baptists talking to each other instead of about each other." While that hasn't proven very successful in denominational life in recent years, it remains a worthy goal.

In his role as LifeWay president, Draper committed to serve all Southern Baptists. "I am not someone who feels that you have to agree with me to have fellowship," he said.

As Draper anticipates retirement in the next year or two, his "frog in a kettle" campaign likely will become one his most lasting contributions to denominational life.

For the sake of the SBC's long-term ministry impact, current and emerging leaders need to address the denomination's diverse needs and challenges—warts and all.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Don't settle for good; God calls for great

By Janus Jones

"Kentucky Baptists Connect" is now the official theme for Kentucky Baptists. We have voted to connect churches and individuals to reach the unchurched in Kentucky.

The recent Barna study introduced a new term to me—"de-churched." The de-churched are those who once attended church, but no longer attend. There are a large number of these in Kentucky. Because Baptists are the largest denomination in the state, a large number of the de-churched are Baptists.

I like to play with numbers, and I was fascinated with the study. It identified de-churched as those who have not attended in the last six months except for holidays. The percentage, as you would guess, was huge. I had a variety of responses as I listened to those who were interviewed. I was angry. I was concerned. I was sympathetic. I was moved almost to tears.

What did I learn from this very expensive study? I learned that people are not "turned off" by the gospel or by the church. There is a very real reason for the feelings they were expressing against the

church and against Christians: "The god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of those who do not believe" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

I learned that those outside the church do not know what they want. The results contradicted themselves over and over. I learned they are not coming to us; we must go to them. I learned that we must meet them where they are in their spiritual condition, and not label them what we think they are. They are "seekers," and not "lost."

I learned that it is going to take all kinds of churches to reach them, not one kind. There are those who are attracted to large churches and big programs, but there are more who like little churches. There are those who are attracted to contemporary music and praise and worship, but there are more who are attracted to old-fashioned hymn singing.

I learned that they are all looking for sermons that speak to the needs of today. If it is text preaching, topic preaching or expository preaching, it must speak to the needs of people today.

Some of the things I already knew, but the studies proved what

I thought were true. We must pray for these seekers by name. The study used a new term for something as old as the church—evangelistic prayer.

I learned that we must intentionally try to reach youth and children. I used to say, "Reach children to reach their parents." But I now say, "Reach children whether or not we ever reach the parents."

We must accept the fact that churches that reach people will look different. There will be crayon marks on the walls and stains on the carpet. There will be people wearing clothing like we have never seen before, and with body piercings and rings in strange places. When you vote yourself a dress code, you vote out your future. Let the Holy Spirit and God do the changing and not the church.

We must give priority to children and youth. That includes teaching the children in a language they understand. (That is Spanish, French, Russian, American Sign or just plain English.) We must teach parents to lead their children to Christ when they begin to ask questions.

We must never settle for good when God calls for great.

Janus Jones is director of missions for South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association

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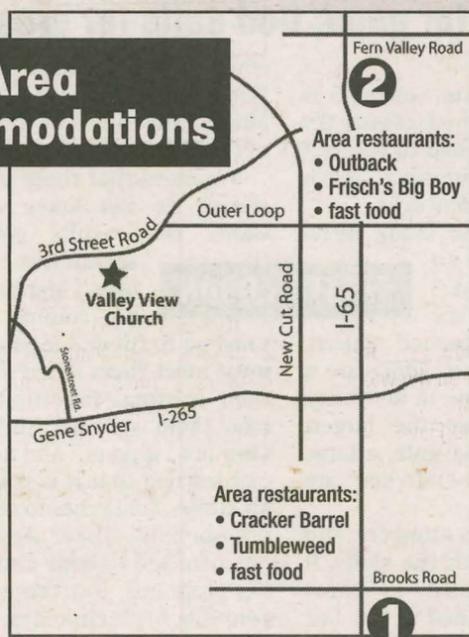
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Habitat founder and wife fired in dispute with board

By John Pierce
Baptists Today

Americus, Ga.—Millard and Linda Fuller were immediately dismissed Jan. 31 from their jobs with Habitat for Humanity International, the worldwide Christian housing ministry they founded and led for 29 years.

The organization's executive committee charged the Fullers with being "divisive and disruptive to the organization's work" through their public comments.

Fuller told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "I devoted 29 years of my life to this—morning, noon and night—and then these people say that they can't stand any criticism."

The Fullers and the Habitat board of directors have been in conflict for several months over a transition of leadership. Directors wanted Fuller to retire as president this month when he turned 70. Fuller wanted to remain at the helm until the 200,000th house was dedicated later this year.

The issue seemed resolved in October when it was announced that Fuller would become "founder president" and serve with his wife, Linda, as ambassadors for the ministry while daily operations would be led by managing director Paul Leonard.

But board chairman Rey Ramsey, a Baltimore attorney, said in the Jan. 31 release that the board tried repeatedly to resolve differences with the Fullers publicly criticized the board's efforts.

"In every instance, the Fullers ultimately have rejected or been openly critical of any and all steps taken toward appropriate compromise," Ramsey said. "The board must therefore fulfill its fiduciary obligation to the organization and our moral responsibility to all those who share in Habitat's mission. No issue, no person, no debate can be permitted to compromise the integrity and work of this extraordinary



MILLARD & LINDA FULLER The founders of Habitat for Humanity were dismissed last week by the Christian agency's board of directors.

ministry."

According to the release, former President Jimmy Carter expressed his continuing personal friendship with the Fullers as well as his support of Habitat for Humanity International. He will serve as an honorary chair of the search committee to find Fuller's successor.

Fuller admitted to the Atlanta newspaper that he is "a hard charger" and "sometimes damages relationships," particularly with the Habitat board.

In a personal statement released Feb. 1, Fuller called their firings an "extreme decision," but urged continued support for Habitat.

"Habitat is my life work," said Fuller. "I do not want to harm the ministry in any way. I applaud President Carter for his pledge to continue his involvement. I urge others to do the same."

Interim CEO Leonard also asked Habitat supporters, staff and volunteers to stay on mission despite the conflict and change.

"I know the importance of this work and of our mission," Leonard said. "With our feet firmly planted as a Christian homebuilding ministry and with our eyes firmly focused on the future, we will not falter."

The Fullers started Habitat in 1976. The housing ministry, which partners with qualified families that purchase their homes at no interest and no profit, now has affiliates nationwide and in 100 countries.

Judge orders New York City officials to issue same-sex marriage licenses

New York (ABP)—A state judge has ordered New York City officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples on an equal basis with heterosexual couples.

On Feb. 4, New York Supreme Court Justice Doris Ling-Cohan said a law the state attorney general has interpreted as prohibiting same-sex marriage violates the state's constitution.

"Similar to opposite-sex couples, same-sex couples are entitled to follow their hearts and publicly commit to a lifetime partnership with the person of their choosing," Ling-Cohan wrote in her 62-page opinion. "The recognition that this fundamental right applies equally to same-sex couples cannot legitimately be said to harm anyone."

The judge ordered the city clerk in New York to stop his office's practice of denying marriage licenses to

gay couples. She also said gender-specific language in the state's Domestic Relations Law that officials had interpreted to ban gay couples from marrying each other should be read as gender-neutral.

But Ling-Cohan delayed implementation of her ruling for 30 days in case city officials choose to appeal it.

Unlike in many states, the New York Supreme Court is a low-level trial court. There are two levels of appellate courts above it.

Although the judge's decision interprets the state constitution, at this point the ruling affects only marriage licenses issued in New York City.

The city's legal office issued a statement after the ruling saying simply that it was "reviewing the decision thoroughly."

The case is Hernandez et al. vs. Robles

Crossings at Cedarmore, 2006

Churches gave ideas for new summer camp program

Perhaps many of you have heard news regarding the future of Cedarmore and the camps that take place across the vast expanse of property. This past weekend, we met with churches from across our state and even Indiana to begin the process of planning for a new camp that will be called "Crossings at Cedarmore."

This past fall, we sent evaluations to every church that participated in Youth Week during the last five years. Along with the evaluations were invitations to our Cedarmore forum, a free event for two people from each church.

In spite of cold and snowy weather, we had a full room in the Boone Lodge dining room Friday and Saturday. I was encouraged as many people expressed their passionate heartfelt attachment to Cedarmore and, more importantly, to the youth to whom they minister on a weekly basis.

Our staff set forth our hopes to begin a new camp that targets youth groups that are different from the typical "Crossings at the Creek" church. The plans also

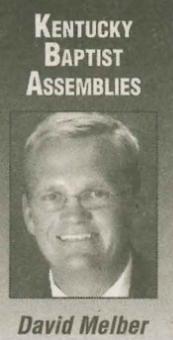
included updating the status of the property sale and the many improvements to come during the next five years. We will begin a quarterly newsletter that we'll send to anyone interested in Cedarmore and the ministry of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. This newsletter will keep people current with the many new and exciting events as they develop.

Change is never easy, but change is always certain. As all who attended the forum can testify, we want to build on the best of what has occurred during the last several years at Cedarmore and implement new ideas, many of which are coming from our churches as they share from their experiences.

I want to personally thank those who braved the weather. I also want to thank Keith Inman and all the collegiate ministers who attended and expressed support for this new endeavor.

Crossings at Cedarmore is coming, and you can be a part of setting the course as we prepare for the summer of 2006. Please call with your questions and comments.

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



David Melber

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 And so on (abbr.)
- 4 Describing nonclergy
- 8 "This ___ Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven" (Acts 1:11)
- 12 Gala event, to Gabrielle
- 13 ___ Domini
- 14 "The Lord be a ___ and faithful witness" (Jeremiah 42:5)
- 15 Poetic contraction
- 16 Welcome benefit or blessing
- 17 Transportation (colloq.)
- 18 "All the land of Canaan fainted by ___ of the famine" (Genesis 47:13)
- 20 "The children of Keros, the children of ___" (Nehemiah 7:47)
- 22 Uncle of Saul (1 Samuel 14)
- 23 Fortified rampart
- 27 Hit TV show
- 29 "And his ___ went throughout all Syria" (Matthew 4:24)
- 30 Busy one
- 31 Untried, as talent
- 33 "Beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of ___" (Luke 16:20)
- 34 Singleton, in Strasbourg
- 35 Doctors' support group (abbr.)
- 36 Mythological god of war
- 37 KJV word for "bud," as on a flower (Exodus 25)
- 38 "I will utter dark ___ of old" (Psalm 78:2)
- 40 "Lord, if it be thou, ___ me come unto thee on the water" (Matthew 14:28)
- 41 The year 1501, to Flavius
- 42 Son of Levi (Numbers 3:17)
- 45 Continent
- 48 Change direction slightly
- 50 Land where Cain dwelt (Genesis 4)
- 51 What is unfurled

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- 52 Fencing sword
 - 53 Food fish
 - 54 Actress Daly
 - 55 Actress Talbott
 - 56 WWII milieu (abbr.)
- #### Down
- 1 Father of Peleg and Joktan (Genesis 10:25)
 - 2 Noxious weed (Matthew 13)
 - 3 "Create in me a ___ heart, O God" (Psalm 51:10)
 - 4 Apply some elbow grease
 - 5 Therefore (arch.)
 - 6 Ending for many words in Italian
 - 7 Devours
 - 8 "She (Rebekah) said ... We have both ___ and provender enough" (Genesis 24:25)
 - 9 Onassis
 - 10 Miry clay
 - 11 Shoe width
 - 19 "I will ___ no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Psalm 101:3)
 - 21 The Philippines, for example, to Rene
 - 23 Uncovers
 - 24 "And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great ___" (2 Samuel 12:30)
 - 25 Nevada city

- 26 "Thou wilt ___ him in perfect peace" (Isaiah 26:3)
- 27 Times of historical significance
- 28 "In ___ was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping" (Matthew 2:18)
- 29 "Be of good cheer; thy sins be ___ thee" (Matthew 9:2)
- 32 "After the ___ which they call heresy, so worship I the God" (Acts 24:14)
- 33 "A foolish man, which built his house upon the ___" (Matthew 7:26)
- 37 "In the night ___ of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence" (Isaiah 15:1)
- 39 Another word for idol
- 40 City of Macedonia where Paul preached
- 42 "With them in the clouds, to ___ the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 43 "For he shall grow up ... as a ___ out of a dry ground" (Isaiah 53:2)
- 44 ___ the seer (2 Chronicles 12:15)
- 45 Rear of a ship
- 46 Cunning (John (Scot.))
- 47 Onn (Scot.)
- 49 On or upon (prefix)

Last week's solution

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FAMILY FORUM

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER

Joel Gregory named to part-time position at Georgetown College

Georgetown—Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, has been named a distinguished fellow by Georgetown College.

In that part-time consulting role, Gregory will visit the campus several times a year and serve as an ambassador-at-large for the Kentucky Baptist-related school.



Joel Gregory

Among his major responsibilities will be leading "Proclaimers Place," a small-group preaching seminar; coordinating alumni and friends travel such as a 10-day study tour on "Great Preachers of Great Britain"; and serving as a liaison to the African-American church community, including work with the school's Underground Railroad Research Institute.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity that has emerged," Gregory said. "President Bill Crouch surprised me by asking if I would consider joining the college in this position. After talking with him for a while, we worked out an agreement that was approved by the trustees.

"I'm totally positive about this relationship," he added. "I think we can do a new thing together."

Gregory will continue to live in Fort Worth, Texas, and also will continue his preaching and teaching ministry through Joel Gregory Ministries.

Eric Fruge, Georgetown's director of church relations, noted that Gregory's "heart is for ministry and God is using him in a significant way."

Despite his high-profile resignation as pastor of First Baptist, Dallas, in 1992 and the publication of his subsequent book, "Too Great a Temptation: The Seductive Power of America's Super Church," Fruge said Gregory's "star is rising again in many quarters of the Baptist world."

Affirming Gregory's "heart to see the art of preaching enhanced," Fruge added that "he opens doors for us to the larger Baptist world."

A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Gregory also is former pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, a former preaching professor at Southwestern and a two-term president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Georgetown board affirms school's goals

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Georgetown—Trustees of Georgetown College adopted a statement affirming the school's administration and faculty during last week's board meeting.

The four-paragraph statement did not specifically reference Georgetown's one-year probation handed down in December by its accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. But much of the document addressed issues related to the probation.

Trustees commend faculty

The trustee board "commends the administration and faculty of the college, noting especially its stellar academic programs, its quality student experiences and its sustained discipline," the statement notes. The trustees also expressed "gratitude to all alumni and friends who support the college's vision and aspirations."

SACS' decision to place Georgetown on "probation for good cause for 12 months" came after a two-year monitoring period of the school's finances. SACS officials found that Georgetown "failed to demonstrate compliance" with the requirement

that "the institution's recent financial history demonstrates financial stability."

Georgetown officials took issue with SACS' ruling, noting that the school has made significant financial progress the past two years.

Trustee chair Janice Shelton said board members wanted to affirm school leaders "for making progress even in light of all the economic circumstances" in recent years.

"We're reaffirming they are doing what they need to be doing," she said. "We have made progress and are moving forward and we think that's key and that's what the issue is about."

The trustee statement cites "such strong indicators of institutional health as record student enrollment and retention, a current budget surplus, a new equine scholars program, a \$4 million growth in assets, the expansion of student vocation programs and the documentation of over 400 planned estates naming the college as a beneficiary."

Trustees also affirmed Georgetown's intent "to achieve the highest standards of academic excellence as articulated by the nation's premier scholarly society, Phi Beta Kappa."

"At the same time," the state-

ment adds, "we assert the college's mission as a Christian institution."

Trustees voted in 1990 to pursue elite Phi Beta Kappa standards. Georgetown College President Bill Crouch acknowledged last month that SACS probation "is going to take our focus off Phi Beta Kappa just a little bit." He added, however, that the school remains committed to achieving those academic standards.

Christian heritage is priority

"We're after reaching the highest academic standards we can reach," Shelton agreed.

But "if it's in conflict with our Christian heritage, we won't go that direction," she said. "We believe you can achieve high academic standards and maintain your Christian heritage."

The trustee statement concludes by affirming "the importance of academic freedom as an essential component of the critical thinking skills at the heart of a liberal arts education."

Trustees also "encourage the continued nurturing of relationships with Baptist and other faith-based organizations throughout the world."

Education group notes schools' enrollment, tuition

Nashville—The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools recently reported enrollment and tuition figures for its 53 member schools across the nation.

All four Kentucky Baptist Convention-funded colleges—Campbellsville University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Georgetown College

and the University of the Cumberland—are members of ASBCS.

2004 fall enrollment figures and 2004-05 tuition costs reported by ASBCS for each school are:

Campbellsville—2,052 student headcount; 1,344 full-time equivalency; \$13,952 tuition, an 8.8 percent increase from 2003-04.

Clear Creek—212 student headcount; 178 FTE; \$4,400 tuition, unchanged from the previous year.

Cumberland—1,745 student headcount; 1,503 FTE; \$11,868 tuition, a 3.6 percent increase.

Georgetown—1,835 student headcount; 1,284 FTE; \$17,750 tuition, an increase of 8.4 percent.

Hot and spicy

Internationals add to the diverse flavor of Oneida, especially at Culture Fair

Students coming to Oneida have to make many adjustments. While our students have a lot of freedom, we must have rules about boys and girls being together, going to church, cleaning your room, getting to work and, well, you get the idea.

Living with two or three roommates is often one of the most difficult adjustments to make.

And then there is the food. Yes, the food! Students often tell us nothing here tastes the same way it does when their mother cooks it. I laugh when a student tells me we don't fry the eggs the way his mother fries them or that the mashed potatoes don't measure up to mom's. Students have even told me that the milk does not taste like the milk they have at home.

Adjusting to boarding school can be a challenge, and most students would put food at the top of the list of things one must get used to. As difficult as it is for our American students, imagine what a challenge it is for our international students. Oneida Baptist Institute is blessed to have a diverse student body. In addition to students from all across the United States with differing tastes in food, we also have students from around the world. Now they really have to make an adjustment when it comes to eating! How they long to have some home-cooked food. While our American students enjoy getting a package from home with some extra goodies in it, our international students really get excited when they receive a box from home packed with all sorts of food items.

For the past four years, we have given our

international students the opportunity to participate in a Student Government Association-sponsored "Culture Fair" highlighting food prepared the way it is back home. "Back home" for our students might be Thailand, Ethiopia, Japan, South Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Spain, El Salvador, Zambia, India or one of many other countries. While our international students account for less than 10 percent of our student body, they do provide a lot of diversity.

Several faculty and staff opened their homes and kitchens to the young cooks as they attempted to make their special dishes indicative of their

native countries. Two weeks before the fair, students were instructed to provide a list of all the ingredients needed for the cook-off. Many of the items were not available locally, so a trip to Lexington was made to purchase the special ingredients. Over the years, I have sampled many international foods cooked by our students. As one who does not care for spicy food, I can tell you that several of the dishes offered at the fair caused many students to make several trips to the water cooler.

In addition to the special food, many of the students dressed up in their native attire, which added to the festive atmosphere. The vast majority of our American students were quite willing to try most of the dishes even if some of them looked a little different and strange. Some of the dishes had been reported to be very—and I do mean very—spicy.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the diversity within our student body. And our American students certainly enjoyed the opportunity to sample food from around the world.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Clear Creek's first sweethearts

Founder L.C. Kelly and wife, Nancy, married 98 years ago

The grandchildren of founder L.C. Kelly recently sent us framed photographs of Dr. and Mrs. Kelly. They will be placed in Kelly Hall, a reminder of our heritage and an example of a devoted ministry couple.

In 1906, Kelly, a Southern Seminary student and publisher of the Kentucky Issue, an anti-saloon paper, spoke at a local option rally hosted by First Baptist Church of Stanford. At the rally he saw Nancy Newland, and her parents invited him to have lunch with them. A year later, they were married. Kelly was 33 and Nancy was 23. The local newspaper described the bride as "a handsome brunette and a most charming young woman in every way."

After a few months in Louisville, the Kellys served the Baptist church in Orlinda, Tenn., for six years. Daughters Majel and Lucile were born in Orlinda. While Kelly was pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church (1913-1919), he led a campaign to save the Russell Creek Academy; the institution became Campbellsville University.

On Jan. 1, 1920, Kelly became

pastor of First Baptist Church of Pineville. In 23 years he baptized 719 people and received 489 other members. During the summer Kentucky Baptist Encampments at Clear Creek the Kellys stayed 10 days, living in a cabin up in the hills.

In his book about L.C. Kelly, author Carvin Bryant wrote, "His

wife was a better assistant to the pastor than money could ever hire. She visited the sick people and helped with the other ministries of the church. She is remembered by the Pineville congregation as a loyal, faithful partner of Dr. Kelly."

On April 22, 1942, Dr. Kelly found Nancy collapsed on the floor of the parsonage. He said of her death, "It was like cutting the electric lights off from your house, leaving it dark."

In April 1943, he resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church to give his remaining years to Clear Creek Mountain Preachers Bible School. Kelly Hall, named for L.C. and Nancy Kelly, was finished in time for classes in the winter term that started in January 1943.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Making the gospel visible

Christian groups plant seeds of faith for later growth in tsunami-torn areas

By Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—When Pastor Tim Dearborn journeyed to tsunami-plundered Thailand in early January to encourage a team of Christian missionaries there, he reaffirmed what has become a standard vow for faith-inspired relief workers: We don't proselytize those we serve.

Refusing to proselytize, however, doesn't mean stifling hopes for church growth after an epic disaster.

On the contrary, Dearborn and others say they hope aid recipients will seek to know—and possibly experience for themselves—what it was that inspired so many workers to help them rebuild their lives.

"This builds the credibility of the gospel. It also builds the credibility of the church," said Dearborn, who is associate director for Christian Impact at World Vision International. "Our hope is that our work will open people up to a deeper understanding of who God is."

As tsunami relief projects begin to tackle long-term needs, Christian missionaries are bringing a similarly long view to the prospect of nurturing seeds of faith in south Asia.

Unlike the faithful of prior centuries, who might have rushed in with Bibles to convert the unsettled masses, today's established organizations are making it priority one to alleviate physical suffering and let indigenous communities minister to the acute spiritual needs of the afflicted.

The theory: Do good works, and local interest in the motivating faith might follow.

Ministry a common precursor

In providing relief as a sign of God's unconditional love, missionaries have at times laid groundwork for thousands of religious conversions, according to Todd Johnson, director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological School.

But he adds a cautionary note, especially for a region marked by

passionate adherence to Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism: If relief workers are perceived to have ulterior motives, good relationships can abruptly turn sour.

"There is a window of opportunity that just has to do with human psychology," Johnson said, adding that spiritual openness tends to peak in times of transition and tragedy, as it did in America after Sept. 11, 2001. "But it's also a dangerous time because you don't know how outside forces will be perceived."

When the tsunami hit on Dec. 26, Christian organizations with years of history in the region used extensive contact networks to shuffle supplies to where they were needed. Elsewhere, Christian fundraisers kicked into gear just as quickly.

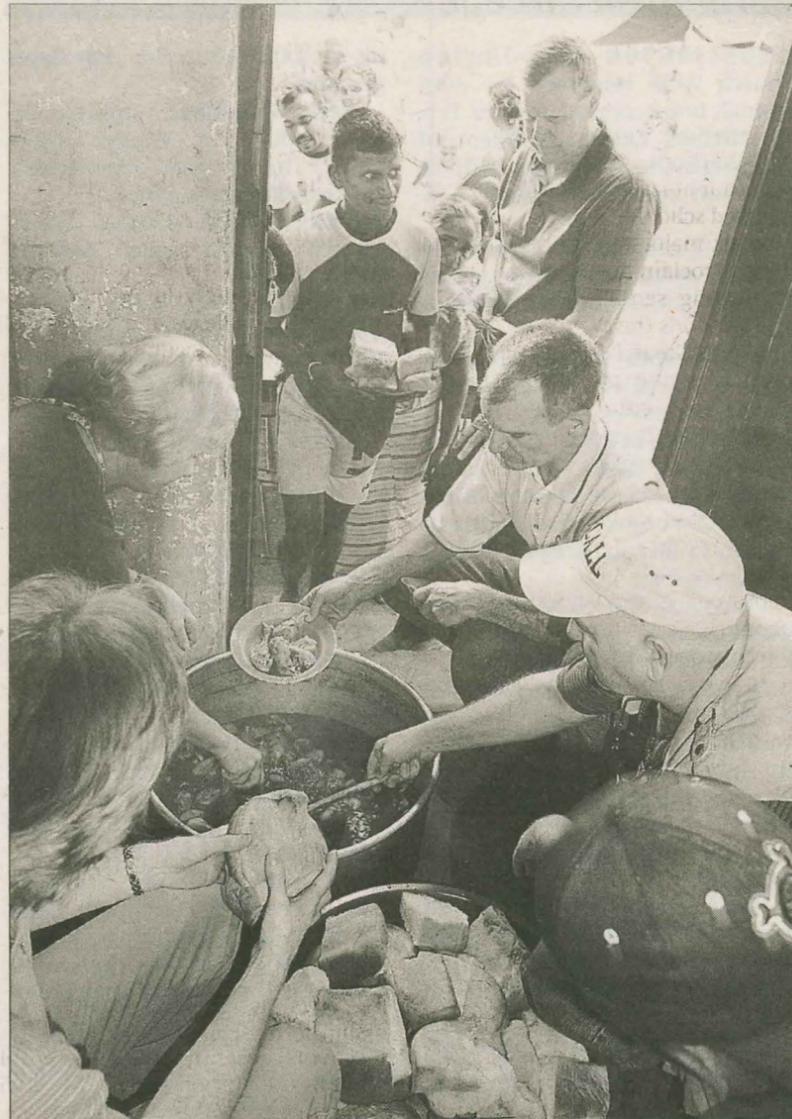
Millions collected for help

Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse ministry has committed at least \$4 million to tsunami relief. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board has collected more than \$6.8 million for relief. World Vision International, based in Monrovia, Calif., has raised more than \$200 million, the most ever for a single disaster since its inception in 1950. And non-Western Christians have mounted their own efforts, such as a campaign undertaken by Kenyans to send help to hard-hit areas.

To explain their passion for relief work, Christians routinely cite the example of Jesus, Who healed the sick and comforted the poor during His days in Galilee. To minister in His name, they say, is to bear witness to a God of grace and, in some cases, to expect that beneficiaries of such mercy might one day want to know that same God for themselves.

These dynamics date back to the Roman Empire, when Christians defied norms of the day by ministering to diseased outcasts, according to Dana Robert, co-director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission at the Boston University School of Theology.

"Because Christians believed in



HOT BREAKFAST In Sri Lanka, Baptist workers serve a breakfast of curry chicken and bread to those left homeless after the tsunami. (BP photo)

the resurrection of the body and in Jesus as a healer, they went in and nursed the sick," Robert said. "Those who were nursed were more likely to become a Christian. Was that a strategy? No. It was part of what it meant to be a Christian: to nurse the sick."

Some countries might halt workers

The work of missionaries in south Asia remains controversial. Indonesia has begun restricting the movement of humanitarian aid workers outside the hardest-hit provinces. And the Parliament of Sri Lanka is considering two bills that aim to protect Buddhism by barring all missionaries from the island, according to the Washington-based Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

"There are always people eager to exploit tragedy," said Nathan Katz, professor of Religious Studies at Florida International University and an expert in Sri Lankan Buddhism. "They're very nervous (in south Asia) about bringing in church- or mosque-related relief workers. ... The most disenfranchised ones in society are the most fertile ones for conversion."

Yet relief workers see a different picture. Those connected with Samaritan's Purse, for instance, are open with officials and aid recipients about being a Christian organization. Even so, they discuss matters of faith with indigenous people only when the latter group raises the subject, according to spokesman Jeremy Blume. Otherwise, the work done with bare hands in God's name is

meant to speak for itself.

"We hope they'll remember we loved them because God loved us, and our helping them is just a reflection of God's love," Blume said. "What they choose to do in response is between them and God."

Wendy Norville, acting vice president for the IMB's Office of Mobilization, noted that the IMB is not solely a relief agency. "We are a mission agency who offers relief help to those who are in need," she said.

"We were in the affected region of the world before the tsunami and will be there when others have offered their help and are gone. We are there because we love the people of these countries with a love that God has given us. When we offer a cup of cold water, feed the hungry, heal the sick, etc., we are doing so with the compassion that Christ taught us," she added. "We minister to all persons without expectation that they accept our beliefs as their own. There are no strings attached to our offering aid."

Still, Norville noted, many times as relationships are built, recipients of help will ask why a worker is volunteering to serve.

"It is then that we can share the reason for the hope we have (Christ) and help those who want to know how they can also know that hope," she said. "We believe each person should have the right to believe whatever they chose, but that Scripture teaches us to always be ready to give an answer to those who ask."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

How to help

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

IMB disaster relief fund. Gifts designated "Asia Earthquake Disaster Relief" can be mailed to the International Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Money also can be given online at the IMB's Web site, www.imb.org. All funds given will go to relief efforts; none will be used for administrative costs.

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

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

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

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



WORLD VISION Porselvi, a 20-year-old widow from India, receives relief materials from World Vision after her husband was killed in the tsunami. (RNS photo by Caleb Mpamei, courtesy of World Vision)

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Charles Blair, Mississippi River Ministry's coordinator. Mississippi River Ministry is a seven-state consortium of state Baptist conventions that work together to evangelize, start churches, develop and strengthen ministries, and mobilize volunteers to serve in the region. Pray that God will work in a tremendous way through those who serve in the region along the Mississippi River. Pray for Charles Blair as he ministers and gives leadership to the many partners in this ministry.

Missions ministry of Piner Baptist Church in Morning View. Under the leadership of Pastor Richard Collins and Associate Pastor Wayne Diehl, Piner Church is involved in more than 20 ministries such as ministry at flea markets, nursing homes and a horse track as well as clowning and children's clubs. These ministries take members outside the walls of the church as they seek to share the love of Christ in a variety of ways. To further strengthen and develop their impact on the community, the church is preparing for a missions and ministry fair. Pray that more members, especially new believers, will find their place of ministry and plug in to what God is doing. Pray also that the church will be sensitive to God's leading as members are active in the ministries He calls them to do.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org or call (888) 263-5080.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BURLINGTON**—Woodhaven Church will celebrate its 19th annual homecoming service Feb. 13. **Michael Carter**, president of Campbellsville University, will be the guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service.

■ **CADIZ**—Liberty Point Church ordained **Paxton Redd** to the gospel ministry Jan. 30. **Derrick Norris** is pastor.

■ **HARLAN**—**Sean Daniels** recently resigned as pastor of Teetersville Church to reenter college.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church ordained **Craig Wurst** to the gospel ministry Jan. 23. He has been called to Meadowbrook First Southern Church in Illinois. **Gregory Wills** is interim pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host **The Journey** in concert Feb. 20, 7 p.m. **Geoff Lacefield** is pastor.

Crescent Hill Church will offer a four-session divorce recovery workshop, "Starting Over—A Healing Approach to Divorce," Sunday evenings, Feb. 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 5 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (502) 896-4425.

Hurstbourne Church ordained **Spencer Barhan, Joyce Collins, John Hooker** and **Brad Oglesby** as deacons Jan. 30. **Wesley Pitts** is interim pastor.

Nathan Hardeman resigned Jan. 23 as associate pastor for students at Maple Grove Church to complete

his seminary education. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Gene Sutherland, minister to older adults at Walnut Street Church, has resigned effective Feb. 15. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MANCHESTER**—Horse Creek Church recently called **Anthony Lovett** as pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will hold revival services March 13, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and March 14-16, 7 p.m., with **Brady Weldon** as evangelist. **Don Embry** is pastor.

Dyson Boyd resigned as assistant pastor of music/youth at New Liberty Church effective Jan. 31. **Dick Tribou** is serving as supply minister of music. **Aubert Rose** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church ordained **Tim Armstrong, Jeff Carver, John Cinnamon, Chad Howlett** and **Barry Mattingly** as deacons Jan. 30. **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.

■ **OAKLAND**—Oakland Church ordained **James Bond** as a deacon Jan. 9. **Tim Colovos** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Buena Vista Church ordained **Larry Jagger** as a deacon Jan. 30. **Bruce Treon** is pastor.

■ **WEST VAN LEAR**—West Van Lear Church recently ordained **Chris Caudill** to the gospel ministry.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church will host a six-week study on "The Life-Changing Power of Prayer" by T.W. Hunt on Sunday evenings, Feb. 13 through March 20, 5 p.m. **Steve Rice** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

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

March

- 4-5 Creative Ministries Festival 2005, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 5 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Sand Springs Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.
- 5 RA Congress Region 3 & 7, White Plains Baptist Church, Scottsville.

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

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.

AVAILABLE: Retired SBC pastor for supply or interim. Over 50 years experience (78 years old and in good health). Recently relocated to Danville, Ky. Will consider within 50-mile radius. Joseph H. Scalf Jr., 137 J.E. Woods Drive, Danville, KY 40422. Home: (859) 239-9205; cell: (859) 583-9641.

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.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/youth. Send resumés to: Staff Selection Committee, First Baptist Church, 306 West Main St., Richmond, MO 64085.

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 resumés to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064. Attn: Brent Highfill, or call (270) 965-2149. turnerchandler@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Director of missions. Search Committee of Pike Association SB will be receiving resumés through March. Send resumés to: Search Committee, PO Box 2973, Pikeville, KY 41502.

SEEKING: Director of missions, Mineral Area Baptist Association. \$50,000 salary and benefits; \$3,500 convention and travel. Send resumés by March 15 to: DOM Search Committee, Mineral Area Baptist Association, 5169 Flat River Road, Farmington, MO 63640-7404.

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: Full-time youth minister for First Baptist Church of Marion, Ill. The individual will be responsible for developing and maintaining the youth program, college/career. They also will be directing the recreation programs. Benefits include: salary, housing allowance, annuity, health insurance, dental insurance and disability. Please send resumés to: Mike Malone, Church Administrator, First Baptist Church, 401 W Union, Marion, IL 62959.

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 resumés to: Search Committee, 201 North Main St., Barbourville, KY 40906, or e-mail to chsec@barbourville.com.

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

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 resumés 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 resumés to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Bagdad Baptist Church, PO Box 8, Bagdad, KY 40003.

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

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader. Seeking 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 pastor for New Hope Community Baptist Church of Jackson, Ky. Please submit resumés to: New Hope, 1621 Highway 30 W, Jackson, KY 41339.

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.

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Bush praises faith community at prayer breakfast

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—President Bush praised the role of faith in the country Feb. 3, singling out faith-based groups for their response to the devastating tsunamis in South Asia.

Bush, speaking at the 53rd annual National Prayer Breakfast, praised churches, mosques and synagogues for a "superb job" in delivering relief to victims of the Dec. 26 disaster that left at least 158,000 people dead.

"People of faith have no corner on compassion," Bush said. "But people of faith need compassion if they are to be true to their most cherished beliefs."

Bush's brief remarks to the thousands of assembled clergy, lawmakers and diplomats came just 10 hours after his fifth State of the Union address, in which the president backed a constitutional

amendment to ban gay marriage and vowed to help build "a culture of life" against abortion and embryonic stem-cell research.

"Today, millions of people across this earth get the help they need only because our faith-based institutions live the commandment to 'love thy neighbor as thyself,'" Bush said at the breakfast.

"Often, that means remembering the people forgotten or overlooked in a busy world."

The annual invitation-only prayer breakfast featured prayers from the Christian and Jewish traditions in an atmosphere of bipartisanship. Bush's Democratic challenger in last year's election, Sen. John Kerry, was among the attendees.

Tony Hall, the U.S. ambassador to United Nations food and hunger agencies in Rome, told the audience he became a Christian 26 years ago

after attending a prayer breakfast as a member of Congress.

"What's interesting is that I had to come to the Congress of the United States to find God," Hall said. "I know that sounds strange. People have all kinds of images of what this city is all about."

Faith in the State of the Union

While Bush's remarks at the breakfast featured the religious references and rhetoric that have become commonplace in his administration, his language during Wednesday's State of the Union address was more measured.

Bush came out strongly in the State of the Union address against "activist judges" who would allow gay marriage, and signaled that he will continue to limit the use of federal funds for controversial embryonic stem-cell research.

"I will work with Congress to ensure that human embryos are not created for experimentation or grown for body parts, and that hu-

man life is never bought and sold as a commodity," he said.

The president also made a passing reference to his "faith-based initiative," stalled in Congress, that would allow religious groups to compete for federal funding for social service programs.

"Our government will continue to support faith-based and community groups that bring hope to harsh places," he told Congress.

Bush's nod to his evangelical base won wide praise from conservative activists, who have been concerned that Bush may not use his bully pulpit to advance their agenda in his second term.

"We have at times wished that he would have said more during the campaign," said Tom Minnery, vice president for government and public policy at Focus on the Family.

"We do not wish that any longer, because he has boldly asserted his support for the marriage amendment."

"Today, millions of people across this earth get the help they need only because our faith-based institutions live the commandment to 'love thy neighbor as thyself.'"

President Bush



Bush

Warren, Land among magazine's list of influential evangelicals

New York (RNS)—Last week's Time magazine released the first-ever list of "The 25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America."

The list coincided with the same week as President Bush's State of the Union Address on Feb. 2 and the National Prayer Breakfast the following morning.

Among those named is Douglas Coe, 76, head of the Washington-based Fellowship Foundation, which convenes the breakfast. The annual event gives invited religious leaders a chance to interact with politicians and diplomats.

Baptists on the list included Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Orange County, Calif., and Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics &

Religious Liberty Commission.

Others chosen exert influence in a variety of positions, from Tim LaHaye, author of the "Left Behind" book series, to Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., known for his opposition to abortion and gay rights.

Time writers compare the influence of Warren, author of the "Purpose Driven Life," to that of Billy Graham.

"Although Franklin Graham is heir to the throne of the Billy Graham organization, many believe that Warren, 51, is the successor to the elder Graham for the role of America's minister."

Time refers to Land as "God's

lobbyist," noting his clout as Bush administration officials include him on conference calls to plot strategy on moral issues.

"Princeton- and Oxford-educated, he is as formidable a public spokesman as he is in Washington's corridors and regularly battles culture-war foes on venues such as Meet the Press," Time states.

Several of those named played a role in persuading the 78 percent of white evangelical Christians who voted for Bush, according to Time.

The cover of Time displays a cross with the faces of many of those named and asks, "What Does Bush Owe Them?" and "Do the

Democrats Need More Religion?"

Left off the list are Jerry Falwell and religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, evangelical leaders who are often in the news.

"Instead, we focus on those whose influence is on the rise or who have carved out a singular role for themselves," said Steve Koepp, deputy managing editor of Time.

Others mentioned in the list include evangelist Billy Graham and son Franklin Graham; James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family; Bill Hybels, founder of Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago; and Brian McLaren, a leader of the "emerging church" movement, who will speak March 1 at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference.

"Many believe that (Rick) Warren, 51, is the successor to the elder Graham for the role of America's minister."

Time Magazine



Scientist suggests shroud might be older than earlier thought

Los Alamos, N.M. (RNS)—A New Mexico scientist said the Shroud of Turin—the linen cloth that many believe was used for Jesus' burial—could be 1,300 to 3,000 years old, which puts it in the same time frame as Christ's death.

The shroud had been deemed a hoax after Vatican-approved tests in 1988 at three separate laboratories dated the shroud from between 1261 and 1390. Scientists concluded that the cloth was a deception from the Middle Ages.

But Raymond Rogers, a retired scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, said those tests were inaccurate because they sampled a 16th century patch from the shroud, not the original material.

Rogers was part of a 1978 team who took samples from the original shroud. His tests on those samples were radically different than the results found in 1988, he said.

"Even allowing for errors in the measurements and assumptions about storage conditions, the cloth is unlikely to be as young as 840 years," he said.

Christians on Patriots stay grounded by prayer, Bible study

By Art Stricklin
Baptist Press

Jacksonville, Fla. (BP)—When hard-hitting New England Patriots cornerback Rodney Harrison gets ready to start another day during the football season, he usually has a full schedule.

The 11-year all-star usually has a packed schedule of team meetings, practice, endorsement deals and sessions with agents, reporters and sponsors.

But there is one thing Harrison, who this past Sunday collected his second Super Bowl title in as many years with the Patriots, won't start the day without—his daily time of worship, prayer, meditation and Bible study.

"Without my faith in the Lord, there is no way I would be here," he said at media day on the Tuesday before Super Bowl XXXIX.

"I have to start my morning out right with devotion, prayer and reading God's Word. I can't start my day without it. I pray about becoming a better dad, a better husband, a better person in Christ."

Harrison, who played for the San Diego Chargers for several seasons before joining the Patriots, was one of many players happy

to express their faith in Jesus Christ to any of the 4,000 media people at the stadium covering the football extravaganza.

Wide receiver Bethel Johnson, who is now in his second year with the world champions after playing for Texas A&M, said the Patriots have "a strong group of Christians ... and we know that what happens on the field Sunday is not the most important thing in our lives.

"If we win or we lose, I know it's in God's hands and I want to give whatever glory to God for what happens," Johnson said.

He credited the Christian leadership on the team by linebacker/defensive back Don Davis and strong safety Je'Rod Cherry along with longtime team chaplain Walt Day for helping carry the team to its stellar record.

"Guys' character off the field carries over on the field. Anybody who doesn't think so is foolish," Davis said. "What you are in the dark, in your room, will be shown on the football field and that's why we have such a strong group."

Davis leads a players Bible study every Thursday night during the season and has begun to disciple some of his younger spiritual teammates. His experience has even

led him to consider going to seminary for further training when he retires.

"There are eternal blessings in everything you do, like moving from linebacker to safety in the middle of the year," Davis said. "All this is temporary," he said, pointing to the Super Bowl field. "We have a great group of guys who want to walk in light, not darkness."

With the prayers and work of the team's Christian leaders, Cherry said this year has been as exciting off the field as on the field. "We're seeing some team evangelism, we have people coming to Christ and strengthening their walk in Him," he said.

"It's all about God, not all about football," Cherry added. "He still opens and closes the doors for all of us. No matter what happens on Sunday, that's not nearly as important as seeing some off our players walking for Him."

Nearly 100 million people tuned in for the Super Bowl. But for the Christian New England players, the 24-21 final score in Sunday's game was not as important as the final score in their personal lives.

"You have to be grounded in the Word, grounded in the Lord," Harrison said. "Without Him I could get caught up in all of this hype. You have to depend on Him for all things."



Don Davis

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