



# WESTERN RECORDER

February 22, 2005  
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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Report: Mormons fastest growing U.S. faith group

Washington (RNS)—Mormons are the fastest-growing church in America and rose to the No. 4 spot of the country's top 10 faith groups, according to church membership figures compiled by the National Council of Churches.

The 2005 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches reports a 1.71 percent growth rate for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2003, for a total membership of 5.5 million in the United States.

The yearbook is considered the most authoritative report of U.S. church membership. The 2005 Yearbook (based on 2003 data) found 163 million members in 217 denominations.

The Roman Catholic Church, with 67 million members, continues to hold the No. 1 spot, with the third-highest growth rate of 1.28 percent. Southern Baptists maintained their No. 2 spot with 16.4 million.

United Methodists, with 8.2 million U.S. members, hold third place. The Mormons bumped the Church of God in Christ out of last year's No. 4 slot to fifth place, with 5.4 million members.

Rounding out the top 10 were the National Baptist Convention, USA (5 million); Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (4.9 million); National Baptist Convention of America (3.5 million); Presbyterian Church (USA) (3.2 million); and the Assemblies of God (2.7 million).

## Adopt a missionary



**ADOPTED** Arlene Miller (left), director of Impact Ministry in Hopkinsville, talks as volunteer Jim Ramey (right) hugs fellow worker Mary Miles on her last day at the ministry. Miller is among the missionaries who have been "adopted" by a Kentucky Baptist church. Miles was leaving Impact to work with Bright Life Farm ministry near Princeton. (Apex MediaWire by Billy Suratt)

## Project links churches with Kentucky missions

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Hopkinsville—The letter notifying Arlene Miller that a teen girls Sunday school class in Henderson had "adopted" her as a missionary last spring couldn't have arrived at a better time.

Miller, the veteran director of a food and clothing center in Hopkinsville known as Impact Ministry, was hurting over the loss of her 39-year-old son in an automobile accident.

"I was having a pity party," said

Miller, who oversees distribution of about \$4,000 worth of groceries each month, plus various clothing items.

"It was a rough time. This was an encouragement I needed to keep me moving."

Establishing such caring links is what Eric Allen envisioned two years ago when he organized "Adopt-a-Missionary" for the network of Mission Service Corps missionaries throughout Kentucky.

The program matches churches with those who either volunteer

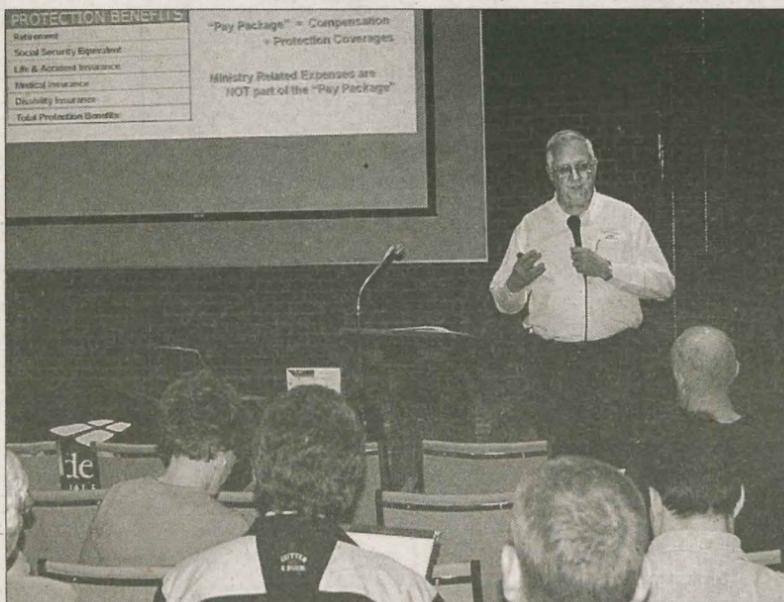
or raise their own financial support in order to carry out various ministries.

Allen, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's state missions director, said thus far 46 churches have signed up to establish ongoing relationships with 148 MSC missionaries.

Regular correspondence, birthday cards, prayer and financial support are among ways Kentucky Baptists can encourage these missionaries, Allen said.

□ See *Missionary adoption ... Page 3*

## Specialist outlines common financial problems for churches



**MONEY TALK** Don Spencer, director of the KBC annuity department leads a church finance workshop Feb. 15 at the KBC building in Middletown. Spencer said some churches should give their pastors "the freedom to work another job."

By Ken Walker  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Mishandling financial matters can damage a church's health, according to a specialist in such matters for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Don Spencer, director of the KBC's annuity department, noted that a congregation in another state recently learned how painful poor record keeping can be.

A federal judge penalized the church for failing to require documentation for its pastor's business expenses.

The judge also threatened the church with the loss of its tax-exempt status, Spencer added.

Financial mismanagement can take many forms, he said, such as:

- Allowing use of a church credit card for personal expenses.
- Abuse of reimbursed cell phone expenses.

■ Failing to require documentation for travel expenses.

"One of the most common mistakes is handling ministry-related expenses," said Spencer, who conducted a series of two-hour workshops on church finances throughout the state last week.

"A lack of requesting records is common. The key is a daily, detailed accounting. It has to have a business purpose connected to the expense."

Spencer offered several reasons that church officials should track expenses:

■ If expense payments are included in a pastor's pay package without requiring receipts, those funds become part of the minister's taxable income.

■ The church should recognize that such expenses are not pastoral compensation, but expenditures needed to get the job done.

□ See *Specialist outlines ... Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, February 23

BAPTIST  
DIGEST

**J.D. Pettit Jr.**, 8, son of Southern Baptist Board workers John and Shannon Pettit, died Feb. 10 from injuries in a fall he suffered while the family was on a holiday outing in Spartanburg, S.C., of Southland, S.C., serve in southern Asia. J.D. was with his parents at a waterfall Feb. 9 when the accident happened. He was rushed to a hospital critical care unit in Thailand, where he died the next day. He is survived by his parents and two sisters: Simone, 10, and Coralie, 6.

**Southern Baptist Missionary Carolyn "Cami" Ramsey** died Feb. 12 in Temple, Texas, after suffering a massive stroke two days earlier. She was 64. Ramsey and her husband, John, were appointed missionaries in 1978 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The Ramseys, who served in Brazil, Bermuda and Mexico, were on their final U.S. assignment prior to retirement.

**Registration is now open** for families to enroll their children in the preschool childcare, children's conference or youth Centrifuge June 19-22 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville. For information, visit [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) and click on "2005 SBC Annual Meeting," then "Child/Students." The deadline for preschool childcare registration is May 20.

**The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** Coordinating Council hired Constance McNeill Feb. 17 as coordinator of fellowship for the Fellowship's Atlanta Resource Center and elected Barbara Baldrige coordinator of global missions. McNeill previously was vice president for development and chief operating officer of Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kan. Baldrige was co-coordinator of CBF global missions with her husband, Gary, from 1999 until his retirement Dec. 31.

## Southern revamps Christian counseling department

School announces 'wholesale change' from traditional pastoral counseling

By David Winfrey  
News Director

**Louisville**—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary announced last week that its Christian counseling department, which defined the role of pastoral counseling for generations of ministers and Christian counselors, will make a wholesale change by emphasizing the sufficiency of Scripture to help people who are hurting.

The move is a departure from the department's previous integrative or "collaborative" approach, favored by many pastoral counseling professors and advocates. That approach teaches both behavioral sciences and biblical theology to equip pastors and others to minister to a person's hurts and needs.

The move drew unfavorable responses from several Christian counseling specialists who were students of Wayne Oates, the former Southern Baptist professor who established the school's "psychology of religion" department more than 50 years ago and who is considered a founder among Baptists in the pastoral counseling field.

According to a report from Southern's news office, the new vision for the department "is a wholesale change of emphasis built upon the view that Scripture is sufficient to answer comprehensively the deepest needs of the human heart."

Seminary officials characterized the school's previous model as one that prepared therapists for state licensure more than it did for ministry in the local church.

"We're very concerned with the way in which so many institutions are really being driven by licensure demands in the way that we really intentionally want to be driven by the needs of the churches," said Russell Moore, dean of the school of theology and senior vice president for academic administration.

**Moore: Integrative model "failed"**

Moore called the previous approach to integrate theology and psychology a "failed" model "because it is so naïve about the presuppositions behind secular psychologies."

"I think we're seeing now that psychotherapy is not a vision of science," he said. "You can't simply say you're going to integrate the science of psychotherapy with Scripture because there are only sciences and theories of psychotherapy that are contradictory and incoherent."

Wade Rowatt, a former professor at Southern Seminary and a counselor at the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center, said the same criticism of multiple and contradictory interpretations could be said of biblical theology, but ministers still learn and apply the Scriptures and integrate them with specific understandings of human personality.

"I don't want to pick a fight with Southern Seminary. I don't want to pick a fight with this other model," said Rowatt, who is also a professor of pastoral counseling at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky.



Wayne Oates



Russell Moore

"But I do want to speak a clear word of support for the model that has been terminated that has been there 60-something years," he added. "It's a system that's produced chaplains programs in hundreds of hospitals, that has trained hundreds of military chaplains, thousands of pastors to be effective care givers in their congregations."

**Hollon: Argument a "straw man"**

In the seminary's news report, President Albert Mohler said the department will emphasize teaching pastors and other church leaders how to apply Scripture comprehensively to the concerns and crises of everyday life.

"In this psycho-therapeutic age, it is really important that we think as Christians, that we employ historically Christian thinking, biblical thinking to human life, and that we do this in a way that, without apology, confronts and critiques the wisdom of the age and seeks the wisdom that can come only from God and from God's Word."

But Vicki Hollon, executive director of the Wayne Oates Institute, said seminary officials are creating a false dichotomy "by implying that pastoral care and counseling is not and has not been biblical."

"They have created the proverbial 'straw man,'" Hollon said. "And their movement away from science reveals a lack of faith, or at least a fear that somehow science is outside the realm of God's creation and domain."

The Louisville-based institute was established to advance the field of pastoral counseling, the focus of the namesake's writings and teaching.

Oates taught at Southern from 1948-74 and afterward at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. The author of 57 books, including "The Christian Pastor," Oates died at the age of 82 in 1999.

"Dr. Oates' unique contribution was to lead Baptists to say we need to be thoroughly informed about understanding persons through personality theory, and understanding families through family systems theory, and understanding groups of people, understanding society," Rowatt said, "and then integrating it with sound biblical theological scholarship in constructing a theory for the pastoral shepherding of persons."

"That has been the collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to preparing ministers to walk with persons in a time of crisis," he said.

Rowatt described the process as a "trialogue," with "the minister, the person in crisis and the Holy Spirit, seeking wholeness and healing in a

**McCall: Tension over psychology not new**

Duke McCall said the tension at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary between behavioral science and Christianity dates back to when he was president of the school and Wayne Oates was teaching there.

"This discussion is not new," McCall said last week. "There was always a question whether Wayne Oates was going to be primarily a psychologist or a psychiatrist or a biblical counselor. He, of course, saw himself as a biblical counselor."

In fact, when Oates wrote his doctoral dissertation on Sigmund Freud, a critique of those who blindly subscribed to every theory Freud offered, he never published it out of concern that he would be labeled a Freudian.

Oates told the Western Recorder in 1998 that when people asked if he was a Freudian or follower of some other figure in psychology he always responded, "No, I'm a Christian pastor."

When his second book, "The Bible in Pastoral Care," was published, five professors went to then-President McCall to protest, Oates recalled. They "complained that I didn't have any right to write on the Bible."

McCall, Oates said, was unimpressed by the protest and told the professors they should write their own books about the Bible instead of criticizing Oates.

McCall said he couldn't recall that conversation, adding with a chuckle, "but it sounds like Oates and me." David Winfrey

spiritual journey."

But Moore said such a process is leading to the inclusion of counter-Christian beliefs in such programs. "What we're seeing in other institutions is an integrationism in which Freudian and Darwinist and behaviorist understandings of human nature are just uncritically accepted into a Christian world view."

Rowatt countered that he hasn't seen the teachings of Freud advanced in any Christian pastoral counseling program he's aware of.

"We don't train junior psychologists and psychiatrists," he said. "We train pastors who have a knowledge of Bible theology and the behavioral science and supervision in the integration of that for the practice of ministry."

Roy Woodruff, retired executive director of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a student of Oates, said the implication that the previous pastoral counseling model was not biblically based "is either totally ignorant or totally arrogant, and I don't know which."

Pastoral counseling, Woodruff said, is "always focused within a theological and spiritual frame."

"I think pastoral care and counseling without theological integrity and biblical bases is deficient and lacks something pretty crucial," he said. "But biblical counseling without the discipline of psychotherapeutic awareness and study in that area ... has the danger of being abusive, and not understanding the dynamics and dimensions of the person being counseled."

**Students can finish degrees**

Southern officials said the new direction is not a new degree program but will involve "a wholesale change of emphasis."

The seminary's master of divinity degree with an emphasis on pastoral counseling was renamed the master of divinity degree with an emphasis on biblical counseling.

Its master of arts in Christian counseling was renamed the master of arts in biblical counseling.

The 70 students already enrolled in both previous degree programs can finish the degrees they started, said Lawrence Smith, Southern's vice president for public relations.

In the new model, students will take courses that deal with such topics as biblical and theological foundations for counseling, marriage and sexuality, parenting and family, and biblical foundations for the nature of personhood.

Moore said Southern will emphasize Titus 2 to teach women counseling other women. In Titus 2:3-5, Paul instructs Titus to teach the older women in Crete to be reverent so they can train younger women "to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the Word of God."

The new alignment does not deny the existence of some mental conditions that science attributes to chemical imbalances, such as bipolar disorder or severe depression, he said. "The problem is we are living in an era in which there is the notion that there is a pharmacological solution to every human problem."

Last week's announcements are not the only recent changes for the counseling department. Within the past year, Southern announced that clinical pastoral education training would no longer be accepted for school credit for new students.

**Impact on graduates**

Both advocates and detractors said the new model will impact both graduates and churches.

"The ramifications of this course correction will be felt in congregations throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and the evangelical world," Moore said. "It ultimately is not about curricular changes or faculty additions, but about the love of Christ for hurting people in the church and in the world."

But Hollon and Rowatt said the new program will produce students who cannot gain the accreditation or certification required by many agencies for such roles as hospital, hospice or prison chaplain.

"Omitting knowledge from the behavioral sciences and the hard sciences will produce ill-equipped pastors, chaplains, counselors who will have knowledge of the comprehensive understanding of the other factors," Rowatt said.

## Specialist outlines common church finance problems

Continued from page 1

Another common problem Spencer said he sees are churches that make lump sum payments to pastors for salary, housing, insurance and other costs. While this method makes it easy for a church to see the bottom line, Spencer said it creates several problems. One is creating a false impression of the pastor's salary, leading members to think it is higher than it really is.

### "Lump-sum" payment problems

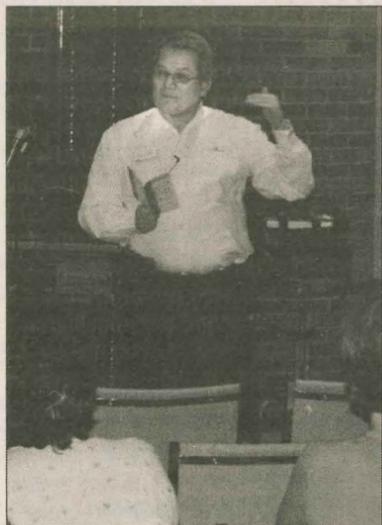
Lump-sum payments also create a false expectation of the minister, who might not have much understanding of financial issues. Some churches think a pastor's spiritual wisdom transfers to financial wisdom, but that is not necessarily true, Spencer said.

Lump sums also can create a higher tax liability, because some parts of the pay package cannot be treated as tax-free unless the employer properly sets them up.

And, a pastor who structures a pay package might omit or reduce amounts in some areas that leave the pastor, family and church open to substantial financial risk.

"The lump sum is common," Spencer said. "Better than half the churches are doing that. Too often, they aren't concerned with the various elements that make up the pay package."

In addition to putting the pastor at risk, he said lump sums tend to obscure the money required to fund a full-time pastor and staff.



**FINANCIAL ADVICE** Mike Ford, an adviser with GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, speaks at one of five workshops on church finance issues held last week. The Kentucky Baptist Convention and GuideStone cosponsored workshops in Bowling Green, Hazard, Lexington, Louisville and Owensboro.

For example, the bi-annual compensation survey found that the average full-time Kentucky Baptist pastor earned about \$44,500 last year for salary and housing.

Adding retirement, Social Security and insurance benefits brought that up to nearly \$54,900. Adjusting for inflation hikes the total package to nearly \$56,500 this year and approximately \$58,100 for 2006.

On the other hand, the average bivocational pastor, whose salary

and housing were just over \$14,000 last year, received a total compensation of just over \$16,500.

While some churches do a good job of keeping up with salary requirements, others are unrealistic about the amount needed to pay a full-time pastor, Spencer says.

Such churches might have to drop their reservations about allowing their pastors to be bivocational ministers, he noted.

"He may be a substantial part-time pastor and it may be his primary job, but in such cases, in order for the pastor to support his family, he needs to have the freedom to work another job," Spencer said.

### Social Security mistakes

Churches also must be aware of the strange situation in which pastors are considered employees for income tax purposes, but self-employed for purposes of Social Security. For the latter, ministers must make their own payments and at a higher rate than an employee.

This is a vital distinction, because churches cannot make Social Security payments for their pastor and expect those funds to be credited to the pastor's account, Spencer said.

He told the story of one pastor who applied for Social Security at retirement, only to learn that he had received no credit for the 15 years when his church submitted his payments. Another pastor who was audited learned he had to make self-employment payments in addition to those made by the church,

Spencer said.

"A lot of it is correctable," he said. "But when you get ready to retire you don't want to be dealing with that."

Churches have a variety of resources and guides available to them, Spencer said.

The KBC annuity department offers a host of fact sheets and other resources at its Web site, [www.kybaptist.org/annuity](http://www.kybaptist.org/annuity).

Among them is a checklist regarding pastoral compensation and guides on how to cover ministry-related expenses, how to structure pay for church employees and how to properly report to the Internal Revenue Service.

GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention also has resources available at [www.guidestone.org](http://www.guidestone.org). Spencer also recommends the Church and Clergy Tax Guide, which can be ordered at [www.churchlawtoday.com](http://www.churchlawtoday.com).

Spencer said congregations that are unsure how to handle compensation and tax issues should get help from experts who are well-versed in matters related to the church world.

One certified public accountant who attended a past workshop said afterward that he had learned he wasn't going to prepare any more ministers' tax returns, Spencer said.

"It needs to be somebody who understands the uniqueness of ministers," Spencer said. "Just having a tax professional doesn't guarantee that."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

### Two Creative Ministries

Festivals are expected to attract more than 2,000 Kentucky Baptists next month in Louisville and Bowling Green. The events, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be held March 4-5 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville and March 11-12 at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. The festivals, which are geared toward training youth and adults in puppetry, drama, clowning and other creative ministries, usually fill up, so registration is required. To register, visit [www.kybaptist.org/cmfestival](http://www.kybaptist.org/cmfestival) or call the KBC creative ministries office at (888) 254-5714.

### Korean evangelist Billy

Kim will speak at the March 2 Cumberland College convocation service at 10 a.m. in Gatliff Chapel. Kim, who retired in December after 45 years as senior pastor of the 15,000-member Central Baptist Church in Suwon, Korea, is also director of Youth for Christ in Korea and president of Baptist World Alliance. For more information about this free event, contact Rick Fleenor at (606) 539-4277.

## Missionary adoption project links churches with ministries

Continued from page 1

"It's valuable because many of the ministries are not directly sponsored by a particular church," Allen said. "Sometimes they can feel quite alone out there. The need for missionaries to have a church supporting them is tremendous."

Allen said he patterned the effort after a similar effort operated by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Adoption is a two-way street, Allen said. The process has resulted in some missionaries getting more involved in various church activities and increased congregational support for missions.

"Missionaries have gone to speak, and the churches have become stimulated and more aware of the need to be involved in missions," Allen said. "My goal was the churches would reap benefits from being involved."

### From Henderson to Hopkinsville

At Zion Baptist in Henderson, Sunday school teacher Debbie Heath said her eighth grade girls' class got involved after department leaders discussed ways to help raise their teens' awareness of missions.

Three months after notifying Miller of her adoption, the class sent a package to Hopkinsville filled with shirts and shorts for young boys.

Such items often are in short supply at the Christian County Baptist Association ministry, which operates from a house owned by Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.



**MINISTRY'S NEW HOME** Arlene Miller of Impact Ministry in Hopkinsville stands in a vacant building that soon will become the ministry's new home. Miller said the building's owner recently agreed to let Impact use the space for at least three years without paying rent. She noted that the agreement came shortly after her prayer request for new space appeared in the Western Recorder's prayer column. (Apex MediaWire photo by Billy Surratt)

In addition to praying for Miller and Impact Ministry's volunteers, every three months the Henderson teens send cards, donations or other expressions of support.

"I think it makes them more aware that we're trying to do other things," Heath said. "And, that the mission field is when they step out the door. When they collect money and do something (to help Impact), that's their mission work."

This kind of outreach is a major benefit, said Miller, who also oversees a ministry branch in Oak Grove.

"It's as encouraging as you can get," she said.

### Taylorsville links with Eubank

Some missionaries get adopted by more than one church, such as Becky Carnell of Eubank.

A part-time literacy consultant for the state convention, Carnell is also an MSC missionary. She lives in the parsonage at Eubank Baptist Church and recently became the church's missions coordinator.

In addition, last summer the Woman's Missionary Union at Little Mount Baptist Church in Tay-

### For more info

To learn more about the Adopt-a-Missionary initiative, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Service Corps office at (888) 263-5080 or e-mail [eric.allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:eric.allen@kybaptist.org)

lorsville adopted Carnell.

"I thought it was kind of neat, being adopted by two churches," Carnell said. "I send them my schedule so they'll know when I'm traveling. It's good to know people are praying for me."

Shelby Reynolds, pastor of Eubank Baptist, said the church benefits more from Carnell's participation than she does by living in their parsonage.

"We don't give her as much as she gives us in return," Reynolds said. "She's serving as an inspiration to our folks."

Reynolds said Carnell keeps the church informed of missions activities around the state and has helped them start English-as-a-second-language classes.

Carnell also is coordinating a nursing home ministry the church plans to start soon, the pastor said.

"If Becky wasn't here, we wouldn't be providing the ESL ministry," Reynolds said. "It's also good to have someone (who knows) what's going on in missions. Even though a lot of stuff comes across my desk, I don't always have time to do all the research and reading."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## The miracle of love and grace

By David Jeremiah

El Cajon, Calif. (BP)—Does God still perform miracles? Ask missionary Bertha Smith. During her early days in China, she settled in the only place she could find in the village of Tsining—an ox stall in a villager's barn.

The flies nearly drove her crazy—house flies, black, green. "Lord," she prayed, "I just can't eat with those flies all over my food. Please take them away or enable me not to mind them." From that moment, not a fly flew into the ox stall.

But that wasn't the greatest miracle. The villagers turned from idols to God because of her ministry. "If those people were born of the Spirit," she wrote in "Go Home and Tell," "that was the greatest miracle. ... Flies have no enmity against God; but when a human being realizes he is deserving of hell ... and willingly turns away from sin and chooses Christ, ... that is a miracle!"

Has God ever given you a miracle? Or do you wonder why not? Perhaps you're overlooking the greatest of His miracles—His love and grace. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in

that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

When we come to God through the shed blood of Jesus, we're raised (resurrected) from death to life—a miracle for us. "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).

Soon the Lord Jesus is in the clouds. And according to 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "the dead in Christ will rise first." The dust of dead and buried saints is reconstituted into glorified bodies—a miracle.

But the spiritual resurrection of our souls from death to life at the moment of conversion is equally miraculous. "But God ... because ... He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5).

We were utterly dead within (without God), separated from eternal life, wrapped in guilt and sin, helpless and hell-bound. But Jesus quickened us, crying, "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead!" (Ephesians 5:14). He made us alive who were dead in sin—a true miracle.

At conversion, your sin was forgiven, your guilt removed and your

soul set free—a miracle.

In coming to Christ, we also find the power to begin living a new kind of life. God brings in us both to will and to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

A Vietnam vet living on the streets, on crutches, was panhandling for money. After hearing Philippians 1:6, he gave his life to Christ. "The Lord moved in and ... put all my depression and hatred in a bottle and threw it away." Frank is now a mission director. Christ has changed millions of lives—a miracle.

In Christ we're given a new hope with the promises of God. Christians awake saying, "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Day by day, God meets our needs, answers our prayers and increases our optimism. We have an inner bedrock of hope that enables us to rejoice in the Lord. How do such peace, love and joy come into our hearts?—a miracle.

If you think you've never seen a miracle, think again. You haven't been passed over. All God's children have experienced miracles. In fact, all His children are miracles.

David Jeremiah, founder of Turning Point for God, is senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.

## COMMENTARY

## Stand for the truth

In a letter published Feb. 8, Tim Hobbs addressed the "SpongeBob controversy" which erupted over a recent statement supported by James Dobson. (For a first-person, factual recounting of this tale, go to [www.family.org](http://www.family.org) and peruse Dobson's January newsletter article, "Setting the Record Straight.")

Hobbs states, "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."

Nothing could be further from the truth. But don't take my word for it. Visit [www.wearefamily.org](http://www.wearefamily.org) and look at their

Tolerance Pledge. Follow the link there to [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org) and read the article by Jennifer Smith-Holladay titled, "Religion and Homosexuality: Tolerating Dr. Dobson." Clearly, the We Are Family Foundation supports

and promotes homosexuality as a normal, legitimate lifestyle worthy of acceptance by everyone.

Hobbs concludes his letter by writing, "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." It's too late. These virtues already have been redefined, but not by evangelical Christians. A liberal media and godless culture have modified these words to mean not just common kindness to those who differ from us, but unconditional affirmation of any and every lifestyle.

As long as Christians stand unwaveringly for the truth, even if it is done lovingly and respectfully, our culture will increasingly label us intolerant. So be it. In love, stand for the truth!

Matt Riley  
Flatwoods

## KBC events set attendance records

Several events conducted by Kentucky Baptist Mission Board staff in January and February had record attendance this year. All were excellent events and participants were blessed to experience the presence of God and great fellowship. I think all who attended left with much in the way of knowledge and resources to take home to their own churches.

The **Shepherding the Shepherd Conference**, coordinated by Richard Adams, director of the leadership development department, was a powerful spiritual experience for pastors and their wives. Many participants were blessed to get acquainted personally with Henry and Richard Blackaby whose books they had read.

Mike Whitson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Indian Trail, N.C., was outstanding in coaching pastors who had questions about practical ministry concerns. During the past 20 years, Mike has led his church to grow from 200 to more than 2,000 in attendance with a satellite church of 600 and a Christian school with 800

students.

Jay Wolf, pastor of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala., led the

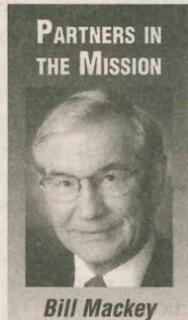
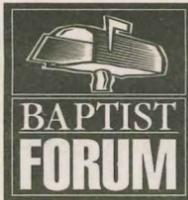
most powerful closing that we have ever experienced at Shepherding.

We are grateful for the financial support of Baptist Healthcare System, which helps make this event possible.

The **Pastors' Forum**, coordinated by Dan Garland, leader of the church development/evangelism team, also experienced record attendance. Pastors, staff and lay leaders each participated in one of 20 groups that enabled them to discuss best practices.

I attended an outstanding dialogue group on assimilating new people in the church, led by Kevin Hamm, pastor of Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville. This church does an excellent job of reaching and keeping people.

About 200 people attended the **annual Great Southern Prayer Conference** at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I attended a session led by Gregory Friz-



Bill Mackey

## CHURCH

## How can churches help members be better stewards?

By Doug Strader

The church has the responsibility of teaching its members to its members. Many churches do a good job of teaching such things as salvation, priesthood of believers, evangelism, missions and many others. In the area of stewardship of resources, however, many churches are not doing a very good job.

In his book, "The Stewardship of Life," Kirk Nowright points out several things most churches could use to teach members how to be better stewards of their resources.

**Remember to use things and love people (not vice versa).** It can allow money and possessions to become the purpose of our life. Jesus said watch out! Be on guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.

**Remember that little things can make a big difference.** A gospel song says, "Little is much when God is in it." That is true. Think about the small stone David used to slay Goliath. God can take the little that we have and make it grow.

**Remember that you can gain everything and still be a big loser.** Jesus asked the hard question, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" Our real gains are those things we have stored up in heaven.

**You can give all you have yet invest it as well.** Whatever we give away in Jesus' name produces a spiritual profit.

**Remember you will give an account to God.** We should live every day as though we will stand before God that evening and give an account of how we have been a steward of our resources.

**Be willing to give and willing to give up.** We always should be ready and willing to give to God, but we also should be willing to give up some of our resources for the benefit of serving the Lord instead of trusting in our "stuff."

**The way to multiply your trust is by trusting The Multiplier.** Each of us is given a trust, and we are responsible for building that trust. The primary way we build that trust is by faith. We must trust The Multiplier, not the stock market.

Why not take a step of faith and lead your church to be even better stewards of their resources?

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville



## God uses circumstances and discipline to help people grow

**Q: How can I teach my teenage son to be more disciplined in his approach to life?**

An old "Mutt and Jeff" cartoon found Jeff sleeping under an old oak tree. Mutt woke him up and asked, "Jeff, why don't you get up?" Jeff asked lazily, "Why?"

### PARENTING

"So you can get a job," Mutt replied. As Jeff continued to ask why, Mutt tried to convince him. "So you can make some money."

"Why?" asked Jeff. "So you can save it," replied Mutt.

"Why?" queried an unimpressed Jeff. "So you can retire someday," said Mutt.

"Why?" Jeff asked again. Mutt now had him. "So you can just lay around and do nothing."

Jeff perked up. "Why, Mutt, that is what I am doing now. Why go to all the trouble?"

Your son must see the importance of discipline before he will desire what Webster has defined as "orderly conduct" or "self-control." He must realize that discipline will enable him to accomplish something that cannot happen by sheer willpower or effort alone.

Encourage your son to think about what he wants from life. Where would he like to be in one, five or 10 years? Help him think about what it will take to accomplish this.

Remind him that God uses circumstances, people and discipline to help people grow. Suggest to him that disciples, like disciplined people, learn to orient their lives around the practices that will enable them to live a Christ-like life. According to John Ortberg in "The Life You've Always Wanted," such people learn "to do the right thing at the right time in the right way with the right spirit."—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: A friend of mine recently lost a loved one to death. What do I say? What do I do?**

When you see the friend, especially at the visitation but also at other times, the following might help:

- "I'm sorry" and "I love you" are universal expressions that are meaningful when true.

### GRIEF

- It's not nearly as helpful to talk as it is to listen.
- Give your friend the opportunity to talk about the loved one and share memories.

- Validate that grief is normal and OK. Be a "safe person" for your friend to be with when expressing his or her emotions.

- Ask how you can help. It might simply be to listen. It might be to run errands in a time of overwhelming sorrow.

When you write the friend a note, consider the following:

- Acknowledge the loss.
- Express your sincere sympathy.
- Let the person know you are praying for him or her.
- Offer to be there for the person whenever he or she needs you, even if it is just to listen.

Things you can do:

- Attend the visitation and the funeral service.
- Offer helpful reading materials on grief. (Check out the large number of writings by Harold Ivan Smith.)
- Check out referrals to local support groups and share that information.

- Offer to make phone calls, run errands, provide transportation.

- Be supportive of whatever way your friend chooses to honor the loved one.

- Make frequent and regular contacts during the coming months, acknowledging special days.

In all these ways you can fulfill the New Testament admonition to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12: 15).—*James Stillwell*

Family Forum writers are:

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



## Baptist editors refresh, refuel & refocus

How often do you take time to refresh, refuel and refocus physically, spiritually and professionally? Baptist editors from across the nation had the opportunity to do so last week during our Association of State Baptist Papers annual meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Established in 1895, ASBP provides professional development and fellowship for Baptist communicators. According to E.E. Folk, editor of the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector at the turn of the 20th century and one of the association's founding members, ASBP was designed "to promote a greater spirit of fraternity among the editors ... in the direction of building up our common Zion."

While we would phrase it somewhat differently today, Folk's perspective remains accurate 110 years later. Seeking to carry on that tradition, I had the privilege of serving for the past year as president of ASBP.

Highlighting the theme, "Refresh, Refuel, Refocus," we heard from speakers who encouraged us to refresh physically, refuel spiritually and refocus in our professional goals and growth.

Pat Terry, chair of the department of nutrition and dietetics at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., led practical sessions on healthy eating and healthy living—issues that don't always claim top priority in the hectic pace of day-to-day life.

Noting that healthy living "includes healthy eating, activity and rest," Terry said studies show more than half the U.S. population is either overweight or obese. Only 15 percent of American adults are active enough, she added, explaining that lack of physical activity increases the risk of such health problems as obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and strokes.

Citing the health benefits of a diet that includes whole grain foods, plant oils, fruits and vegetables and low-fat dairy products, Terry said, "Whole food makes common sense because that's the way God made it for us. The closer it is to harvest, the better it is for you."

"You literally are what you eat, do and think," she added. "Use common sense rather than common practice"—good advice for all of us.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., led a pair of sessions on spiritual renewal.

Encouraging participants to "live beyond your circumstances," Henry said, "All of us are in circumstances—some that we put ourselves in, some that other people put us in."

Affirming that "Jesus understands our circumstances," Henry urged editors to make time for "the ministry of leisure" and to find ways to balance the priorities of ministry and family.

"Plan your leisure time like you do a speaking engagement or anything else," he suggested. "There's a healing that happens in me when I get quiet and get away. It's also a time to prepare us to do a better job when we get back."

During a session on prayer, Henry emphasized the need to schedule prayer and to pray sincerely, persistently and continually.

"Power living comes through power praying," he said. "Pray, trust and watch God work in your life."

In the area of professional development, participants heard updates from communications leaders at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, GuideStone Financial Resources and Woman's Missionary Union. The workshop also included a panel discussion about editorial writing.

Even with members' shared focus on Christian journalism, ASBP is one of the most diverse groups in Southern Baptist life with editors from various states representing a range of philosophical perspectives across the spectrum of denominational life.

Acknowledging that diversity in my presidential address, I challenged participants to continue to find common ground in an effort to "build up our common Zion."

That same goal deserves priority attention in our families, churches and denomination. As we cooperate with fellow believers for the benefit of God's Kingdom, that's one sure way for each of us to refresh, refuel and refocus.

## The eternal impact of a quiet witness

By Ken Walker

One of the most meaningful stories I've ever written for the Western Recorder was an obituary about a relatively unknown church member who lived in a small community south of Lexington.

Although I don't remember his name, what caught my attention were the descriptions of his willingness to help anyone, down to giving away his last dollar.

At the funeral home, people lined up in the rain to pay their last respects. I could envision God smiling and saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

I had a similar experience recently at the visitation for our daughter, Cheryl, who died unexpectedly of a massive heart attack at age 46. (Actually, she was my stepdaughter, but after 26 years of marriage I never used "step.")

The outpouring of visitors reminded me of that quiet man. About 230 people signed the guest book; the funeral director said an average of one-third never sign it, which

yields more than 300 names.

Since those numbers include many couples, it's easy to estimate more than 400 people came. But as with church functions, the numbers are nothing compared to the spirit.

According to our son-in-law, seven teenagers who showed up accepted Christ as their Savior because of Cheryl's Sunday school teaching. Scores of extended family and old friends came to share condolences, with the line often spilling onto the sidewalk.

When I went to get a drink of water for our son-in-law and youngest daughter, she asked, "Where are all these people coming from? They just keep coming and coming."

A country housewife in West Virginia, Cheryl never worked outside the home. Yet her winsome manner, cheerful demeanor and helpful ways obviously touched hundreds.

At a gathering after the service, an extended family member told me what an impact all of us had made on him. Coming from a major city, he remarked that he had never

known a family that didn't drink.

That gave me an opportunity to explain that he didn't know us when we did drink—and the change that Christ had made in our lives.

When our son-in-law returned to work, he had the opportunity to tell a co-worker how on the night of Cheryl's death, he and their two sons held hands in her room and prayed, thanking God for all the years they had together. The co-worker, who said she would be angry over such a tragedy, was flabbergasted.

Naturally, I would give back all these memories to have our daughter still alive. At the moment, the promise of seeing her in heaven doesn't erase the pain of separation that makes tears well up in our eyes.

Still, we can be grateful for that promise and the impact of her quiet witness. For me, Cheryl symbolizes the preciousness of God's children. No matter how anonymous we may feel, each of us touches others through our faithfulness, encouragement and love.

Ken Walker, a free-lance writer, has served as a state correspondent for the Western Recorder since 1994.

NATIONAL  
NOTES

**Update: Felony charges** were dropped last week against four evangelical Christian men arrested for protesting at a homosexual pride event in Philadelphia. Their arrests had made them causes celebres for social conservatives, who portrayed the charges as an attack on religious free speech.

**Radio and TV broadcast indecency fines** could rise dramatically if a bill makes it to law. The U.S. House of Representatives already has passed the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act, which would increase the maximum fine from \$32,500 to \$500,000 per violation for radio and TV stations.

**The United Methodist Church** will seek to capitalize on a recent \$20 million campaign to raise its name recognition by spending another \$25 million to try to boost membership. The second phase of the "Igniting ministries" campaign will use TV ads pegged to Christmas, Easter and the start of the school year to target adults ages 25-54.

**Moody Bible Institute** has named Michael Easley, pastor of Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Va., as its new president. The institute includes undergraduate and graduate schools as well as Moody Publishers and Moody Broadcasting Network.

## Passion expected during Ten Commandments case

By Lauren Etter  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—The call "God save this honorable court" will echo throughout the chambers of the U.S. Supreme Court on March 2, just as it does every time the court's marshal convenes a session for the nine justices.

But this time those words will uniquely resonate because the court is scheduled to hear arguments about an issue addressing God, government and the display of God's instructions for humanity.

Two cases—McCreary County (Ky.) v. American Civil Liberties Union and Van Orden v. Perry—both ask essentially the same question: Can the Ten Commandments grace public property without overstepping the First Amendment boundary that prohibits government from endorsing religion?

More than 55 amicus briefs have been filed on both sides of the issue, highlighting the fact that this isn't just a technical legal battle but also a stark divide in American society.

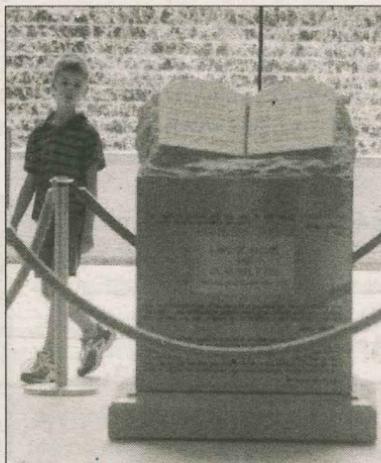
The cases come at a crucial time. Lower courts throughout the country have been swept by litigation pertaining to religious symbolism:

■ In Los Angeles, a cross was removed from the county seal.

■ In San Francisco, a federal court is being sued for depicting the Commandments on its seal.

■ In Washington, an atheist tried to prevent inaugural prayers.

■ And in Alabama, the former state chief justice was forced from



**HOT TOPIC** This Ten Commandments monument was removed from an Alabama public building in 2003. On March 2, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments regarding the constitutionality of other displays of the Ten Commandments in public places.

office after refusing to remove a Commandments monument in the state judicial building.

### Two cases, different decisions

Next week, the court will consider the decisions of lower courts that came to opposite conclusions about such public display of the Ten Commandments.

In McCreary, courts found that commandment displays violated the separation of church and state.

The issue was whether framed copies of the Ten Commandments displayed in county courthouses and schools in Kentucky violated the

Constitution.

Both the district court and the appeals court said the displays were an impermissible endorsement of religion.

In Van Orden, courts came to the opposite conclusion.

The plaintiff asked the state of Texas to remove from the grounds of the state Capitol a six-foot granite monument on which are etched the Ten Commandments. The legal question centers on whether the monument is of historical significance and therefore not violating the separation of church and state.

Thomas Van Orden argued that although the monument was accepted as a gift from a nonreligious organization—the Fraternal Order of Eagles—it was displayed "for the purpose of promoting the Commandments as a personal code of conduct for youths," which he said goes against the First Amendment.

Both the federal district court and the appeals court rejected the First Amendment claim, reasoning that neutrality "does not demand that the state be blind to the pervasive presence of strongly held views about religion with myriad faiths and doctrines."

### Arguments for and against

Perhaps the most common argument against displays of religious symbolism in public places is that it violates the First Amendment's prohibition against the federal government endorsing one religion over another.

In addition, opponents argue there is no legitimate secular purpose for displaying religious symbols like the Commandments. For members of non-Judeo-Christian religions, this principle is paramount.

"Certainly the Ten Commandments are part of the American history and the fact that the founding fathers were predominantly Christian," said Suhag Shukla, legal council for the Hindu American Foundation. "But I think the founding fathers were extremely careful when they framed the Constitution. They came to the United States fleeing religious persecution."

Those arguing in favor of retaining the Commandments on public buildings are just as forceful.

They say the founding fathers never intended to completely bar religion from public places.

"Our country is built on the idea that all ideas are welcome," said Kelly Shackelford, attorney with the Liberty Legal Institute, a religious freedom organization that filed an amicus brief for the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

"(We can't have) the religious KGB sniffing around, trying to figure out which monuments in our history have religious elements and bulldozing those that do. Under this sort of approach, what's next? Will they go to the National Museum of Art and rip down all of the Renaissance paintings? Or will they prevent the symphony halls from (performing) Handel's Messiah?"

## Ex-White House official says Bush failed to deliver for nation's poor

Washington (RNS)—A former deputy director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives says President Bush has failed to support the program as he had promised.

David Kuo, who left the position in December 2003, said the White House didn't push hard enough for Congress to deliver the \$8 billion Bush promised to faith-based initiatives during his first year in office.

"From tax cuts to Medicare, the White House gets what the White House really wants," Kuo wrote in a Beliefnet editorial. "It never really wanted the 'poor people stuff.'"

When Bush ran for president, he pitched \$6 billion in charity tax incentives; \$1.7 billion for groups that cared for drug addicts, at-risk youth and teen moms; and \$200 million for a "Compassion Capital Fund," Kuo wrote.

"When he became the president, there was every reason to believe he'd be not only pro-life and pro-family, as conservatives tended to be, but also pro-poor, which was daringly radical," Kuo's editorial said.

But in June 2001, the tax incentives were dropped from Bush's tax cut to "make room for the estate-tax repeal that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy," Kuo claimed. The White House

allocated \$600 million to other programs, which is billions of dollars short of what was promised, he said.

"Who was going to hold them accountable? Drug addicts, alcoholics, poor moms, struggling urban social service organizations and pastors aren't quite the (National Rifle Association)," Kuo said. "Charities haven't quite figured out the lobbying thing yet."

Kuo said writing the editorial was difficult because of his "respect, appreciation and affection for the president." He urged the president to push for supplemental funding for faith-based projects, and added, "No one ever said faith was easy or cheap."

In response to a request for reaction to Kuo's comments, Maria Tamburri, a spokeswoman for the White House, defended the work of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

"The president has mentioned the initiative in every State of the Union and has fought for funding for its important programs. The faith-based and community initiative has transformed the regulation landscape to enable faith-based and community organizations to compete fairly for federal funding to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable citizens in communities across America."



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### Celebrating Youth Weeks' impact

#### KBC's Cedarmore camps have helped change lives

This summer will be full of excitement as we get to host students representing approximately 250 churches at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. I personally enjoy summer for many reasons, and the present cold and rainy weather reminds me why I like summer more with each passing year.

The summer of 2005 is especially different, as the Kentucky Baptist Convention Youth Weeks will be celebrating their final year of camp at the main campus of Cedarmore. Perhaps many of you know a student who attended one of these camps and was changed spiritually. Many people have made professions of faith, and decisions often resulted in students surrendering to ministry in some way.

Youth Weeks, no doubt, have produced hundreds of students through the years who now serve in ministry in our state or beyond. Many of our collegiate staff began by serving with the Son Teams at Cedarmore. As with any ministry that impacts large groups, it is certainly impossible to measure

the full results of the ministry of these camps.

If you have not registered for camp yet, I encourage you to do so, as we currently have space in all four weeks the KBC is sponsoring this summer. These weeks will be unique, as the past will be reflected upon and the future will be hoped for as students are encouraged to spend time with God while being removed from their normal daily routines.

In reflecting upon the past, I want to thank Tom Smoot for his commitment to this ministry for many years and I want to thank our campus ministers who year after year helped recruit and train the Son Teams. I am sure there are many who have

supported this ministry in some way in the past and the results of their labor will live on in the fruit of the many people who have been changed by God while at camp.

Let me once again encourage you to be a part of the celebration that is to come in June at Cedarmore. Your life may be changed for all eternity.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



David Melber

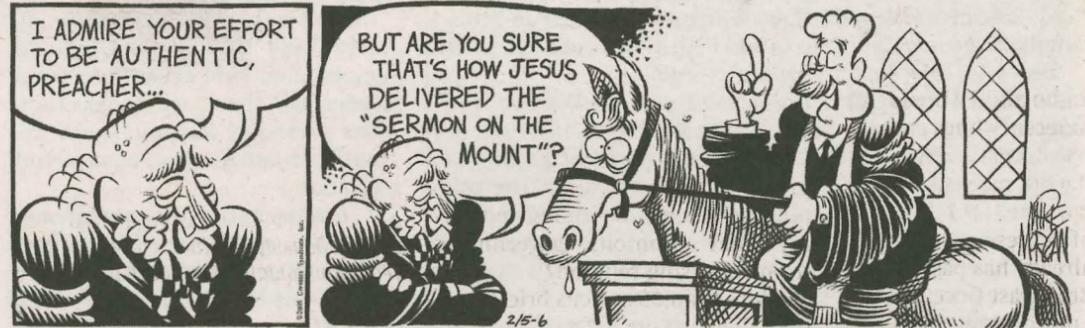
### Kudzu

Doug Marlette



### For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



### Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

#### Across

- 1 "For \_\_\_ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)
- 4 \_\_\_ Miner's Daughter (Loretta Lynn film biography)
- 8 \_\_\_ California
- 12 Misery
- 13 "He died unto sin \_\_\_; but in that he liveth" (Romans 6:10)
- 14 Son of Shobal (Genesis 36:23)
- 15 "Angels which kept not their first \_\_\_" (Jude 6)
- 17 In close proximity
- 19 "Kiss the Son, \_\_\_ he be angry, and ye perish" (Psalm 2:12)
- 21 Alaskan outpost
- 22 Extinct creatures
- 25 Upper \_\_\_
- 27 Calm; tranquil
- 28 Where Stephanie keeps his savings
- 29 Young man
- 32 "Thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt \_\_\_ unto me" (2 words, Genesis 45:10)
- 34 "Thy \_\_\_, O God, is for ever and ever" (Psalm 45:6)
- 36 What old colleges do?
- 37 Hand (Sp.)
- 39 The Thin Man's (of moviedom) best friend?
- 40 Simon \_\_\_
- 41 "\_\_\_ ye in at the strait gate" (Matthew 7:13)
- 42 Son of Eliphaz (Genesis 36:11)
- 45 What crowed thrice (Matthew 26)
- 47 "The governor under \_\_\_ the king kept the city of the Damascenes" (2 Corinthians 11:32)
- 49 One like Mr. Dithers (of the comics), and others

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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			19			20	21			
22	23	24			25	26				
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			40				41			
42	43	44			45	46				
47				48		49		50	51	52
53				54	55			56		
57				58				59		

- 53 With 20 Down, singing syllables
- 54 First murder victim
- 56 Retirement acct.
- 57 Printer's measure
- 58 Darius the \_\_\_, ruler of Babylon
- 59 See \_\_\_

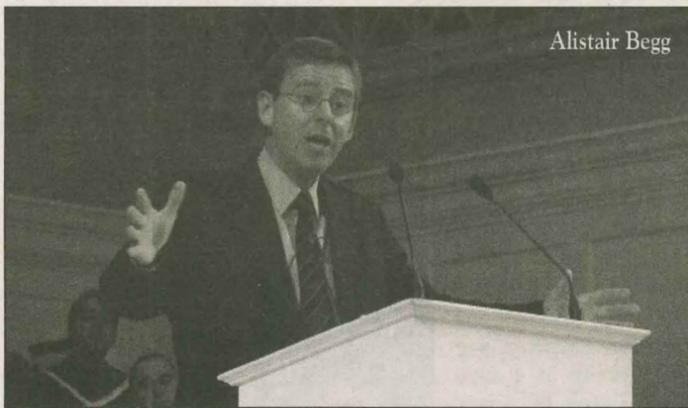
#### Down

- 1 "Stand in \_\_\_, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 2 \_\_\_ Alamos
- 3 "\_\_\_ all the earth fear the Lord" (Psalm 33:8)
- 4 Shelters for farm animals
- 5 Individuals
- 6 Dog days demand (abbr.)
- 7 Where the cedars were acclaimed (abbr.)
- 8 "\_\_\_ Buddies" (short-lived 80s TV sit-com)
- 9 City in southern Judah (Joshua 15:50)
- 10 Color of green
- 11 Church denomination (abbr.)
- 16 "He sitteth \_\_\_ and keepeth silence" (Lamentations 3:28)
- 18 He "walked with God"
- 20 With 53 Across, singing syllable
- 22 "Him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of \_\_\_" (Romans 4:4)
- 23 Preposition
- 24 "If any man will come after me, let him \_\_\_ himself" (Matthew 16:24)
- 26 Aware of what's really happening (colloq.)
- 28 "Doth the wild ass \_\_\_ when he hath grass?" (Job 6:5)
- 29 "For the Son of man is come to save that which was \_\_\_" (Matthew 18:11)
- 30 To pay one's share (colloq.)
- 31 "Neither count I my life \_\_\_ unto myself" (Acts 20:24)
- 33 \_\_\_ Colonies, Iowa historic communities
- 35 Holds a certain position
- 38 Group that advises the President (abbr.)
- 40 God allowed him to harm Job
- 41 School (Fr.)
- 42 "We spend our years as a \_\_\_ that is told" (Psalm 90:9)
- 43 Head of the Eranites (Numbers 26:36)
- 44 Honey, in the pure, clarified form
- 46 Father of Jesse
- 48 Masculine nickname
- 50 Title of respect
- 51 Poetic contraction
- 52 Got the blues
- 55 "\_\_\_ sober" (1 Peter 5:8)

#### Last week's solution

1	G	S	A	4	S	T	A	7	P	A	I	N		
11	L	A	S	13	Y	E	N	14	A	B	L	E		
15	I	D	E	A	16	R	E	O	17	I	B	E	X	
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35	J	O	N	A	36	D	A	B	38	S	C	E	N	T
				39	O	T	P	O	T					
41	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	46	I	S	N	T	
48	A	L	I	A	50	P	I	51	O	K	E			
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56	C	O	R	E	57	S	E	E	58	W	O	E		

# POWER IN THE PULPIT



Alistair Begg

March 14, 2005

On the campus of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky

If you're looking to add power to your proclamation and passion to your preaching, Southern Seminary's Power in the Pulpit is just what you need. Spend the day with pastor Alistair Begg, R. Albert Mohler Jr. and Hershael York as they share their passion for the ministry of the Word.

Registration: Just \$25 covers registration, materials and lunch  
 Registration Deadline: March 1, 2005  
 For more information, call 1-800-626-5525, ext. 4890  
 or visit us online at www.sbts.edu.



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
 2825 Lexington Road · Louisville, Kentucky

## Poll: Most Kentuckians support expanded gambling at racetracks

Louisville—A survey released last week reports that most Kentuckians support letting horse racetracks operate slot machines.

The poll, sponsored by the Louisville Courier-Journal, found that 56 percent of respondents favor slots to allow the state's eight tracks to compete with casinos, raise money for the state and help the state's horse industry.

That was an increase compared to 49 percent who favored slot machines in a poll taken last winter.

Additionally, 61 percent of respondents said the Kentucky General Assembly should allow the machines if the state has to raise money to balance the budget.

Support for expanded gambling was strongest in Louisville and surrounding areas and in the state's northern and Bluegrass regions, the newspaper reported.

Support was below 50 percent only in Western and South Central Kentucky, the paper noted.

Opposition to slot machines grew among groups of respondents who attend church more regularly. The poll found 75 percent of respondents who never attend church favored expanding gambling. But among Kentuckians who attend religious services weekly or almost weekly, 56 percent oppose expanding gambling at the tracks.

Howard Beauman, executive director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, said the poll didn't surprise him.

The more people hear promises that gambling money will stay in the state and solve state government revenue woes, the more people believe it, he said.

"We just don't think it will, obviously," he said. "It sounds much better to allow gambling to come in than for someone to pay taxes."

Beauman said the league and other gambling opponents must work to inform citizens that the problems that come with expanded gambling far outweigh the promises made by lawmakers and the gambling industry.

"We have to be careful not to form public policy based on a public opinion poll," he added.

With a shorter legislative session this year, Beauman said he doesn't expect a strong push in the General Assembly for expanded gambling until next year.

"The racehorse industry is not behind any of these bills this year," he noted.

## KBC disinvites McLaren from conference

By Robert Reeves  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has withdrawn its invitation to pastor and author Brian McLaren to speak at the upcoming KBC-sponsored Evangelism Conference.

McLaren, pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in Spencerville, Md., was to have spoken at the annual conference, to be held Feb. 28-March 1 at Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.

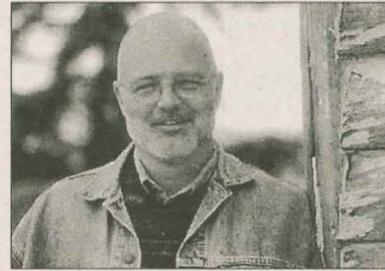
Bill Mackey, KBC executive director, and Dan Garland, church development and evangelism team leader, said they made the decision after reviewing McLaren's most recent book and his statements about salvation.

"I respect Dr. McLaren greatly and have appreciated his insights on reaching people in today's culture," Mackey said. "We try to bring dynamic speakers to the Evangelism Conference who will challenge and inspire their listeners. I felt that in this instance, however, Dr. McLaren's position diverges too greatly to be appropriate for this conference."

### Latest book caused concern

Garland, who had invited McLaren to speak more than a year ago, agreed, saying that reading McLaren's most recent book, "A Generous Orthodoxy," led him to reconsider.

In the book, McLaren writes that while there is no assurance that salvation can be found outside of Jesus, Christians should not jump to the conclusion that Jesus is the only way to salvation.



**BRIAN McLAREN** Bill Mackey said the Maryland pastor's position on evangelism "diverges too greatly to be appropriate for this conference." He was to have spoken at the KBC Evangelism Conference, Feb. 28-March 1 at Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.

"I must add, though, that I don't believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion. It may be advisable in many (not all!) circumstances to help people become followers of Jesus and remain within their Buddhist, Hindu or Jewish contexts," McLaren states in the book.

For his part, McLaren was gracious in the withdrawal and said he respected the decision.

"We need to keep our focus on what's most important," McLaren said in an e-mail response to Garland. "It would have been a shame if my presence distracted people from Christ and the Great Commission."

McLaren is considered an elder statesman for a group of "Emer-

gent" churches. The name describes a loose federation of congregations seeking to be more effective at connecting with people in the post-modern culture. Time Magazine recently included him in an article profiling the most influential evangelical leaders in America.

More information about McLaren is available at his Web site: [www.anewkindofchristian.com](http://www.anewkindofchristian.com).

Garland said that despite withdrawing the invitation to McLaren, he always will strive to bring the best and most thought-provoking speakers to the annual conference.

"All participants may not agree with every speaker, but they are going to go away with food for thought and prayer along with a wealth of ideas to help their churches reach out effectively in their communities," Garland said.

Speakers at the upcoming conference include Herb Reavis, senior pastor of North Jacksonville Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla.; Ken Hemphill, Empowering Kingdom Growth coordinator for the Southern Baptist Convention; and Alyn Walker, senior pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

For more information about the conference, visit [www.kybaptist.org/evangconf](http://www.kybaptist.org/evangconf).

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

## It can be hard to say goodbye

### Oneida Baptist Institute had a friend in former board chairman Dennis Rush

Since my earliest days at Oneida Baptist Institute as a student, I have known that this ministry has been blessed with many friends.

I noticed when friends would visit our campus. Sometimes I drove Mrs. Sparks, the wife of OBI President D. Chester Sparks, and later OBI President David Jackson to speaking engagements. I remember wondering as a student how all those people even knew about Oneida, since we were so far back in the mountains.

When I returned to Oneida as a middle-aged man with my family in the spring of 1984, it did not take me long to realize how blessed we were to have so many wonderful friends. Volunteers came every summer to help with the endless needs of our school. Visitors came to see President Barkley Moore and to be given a "presidential" campus tour. Every day it was obvious that we were blessed to have so many wonderful and faithful friends.

When I became president, the reality of our wonderful friends became even more obvious. As I became the primary contact person for the school, it was a humbling and rewarding experience to become personally aware of just how many friends we had.

One of those faithful friends was a man whom I had heard a lot about but did not have any personal contacts with until I became president. He was the chairman of our board of trustees at the time of Moore's death, Pastor Dennis Rush. He had served on our board off and on since the early 1960s. At the time of his death on

Feb. 7, he was serving his 26th year on our board, many of those years as chairman.

It was Bro. Rush who headed up a group of trustees who came to my house in the summer of 1994 and asked me if I would be willing to serve as Oneida's new president. He assured me that he and the board believed I was the person God wanted to lead Oneida after Moore's untimely and unexpected death.

During the next 11 years I had the opportunity to work very closely with Bro. Rush. It did not take me long to realize that he was a man who loved God, loved Oneida, loved boys and girls, loved missions, loved to preach and loved to help others. I also realized he was a man who was not bashful about telling you if you messed up.

Only God knows how much Bro. Rush has done for this ministry during the past 50-plus years. When he was pastor of a church here in Clay County for 37 years, that church was one of the greatest contributors to Oneida's work and ministry. For the past 14 years he has been the pastor of a much smaller church in Laurel County, but during that time he led those friends to be among the top 10 churches in giving to Oneida each year, over and above Cooperative Program giving.

Dennis Rush was a friend. We will miss him and his many visits to our campus. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Juanita, his daughter, Joyce, and the rest of his family. We will miss this exceptional friend.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

In next week's WESTERNRECORDER:  
**The longest yards: Some church visitors won't walk aisle to join**



## Family factor significant at Clear Creek

### N.C. native and family at home in Kentucky mountains

Recommended to Clear Creek by his pastor, 1985 alumnus Bobby Skeens, Greg Hurdle cites "the family factor" as a key part of their decision to attend Clear Creek. "This was the only family-oriented school I located and a good fit for us," he said.

For 18 years as a maintenance superintendent for Purdue Farms, Greg Hurdle got up at 4 a.m. At Clear Creek he arises a little later but is thankful the old habit hasn't entirely gone.

"It gives me some quiet time before everyone else stirs," Greg said.

Greg was saved at age 8 but didn't live for the Lord until the traumatic events of August 1998 when his brother died.

"He told me not to worry about him, to get myself straight. That night I gave my life to Jesus and dedicated the rest of my life to his memory," Greg said.

"He was 18 months younger than me; it was tough to lose him. I knew he was going to heaven, and the Lord got me through it. It made me realize how short life is. You can live life for self and not fare well or live it for Jesus and do well."

Another major influence on Greg's life is his wife, Julie. "She lived the Christian life while I did not, and she was a great influence on my going to church," Greg said. "She also knew I was going to become a minister; she just didn't know how long it would take. We're very happy, and she's supportive and willing to go wherever the Lord sends us."

Moving from eastern North Carolina, the family includes, Austin, 8, and Landon, 6. The boys love to swim and play in the creek, and look forward to spring.

"In addition to the great Bible study, we also appreciate how everyone at Clear Creek is so sweet and kind. We have not needed anything more than 15 minutes. Someone is here to help," Greg said. "The presence of the Lord is real on the campus. We're excited to see how good it will get."

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## Author lists 31 habits for Christians to learn & follow

By Kelly Davis  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—Some habits are hard to break, but author Jay Dennis believes that through Jesus Christ, individuals have the power to overcome bad habits and begin new "Jesus habits."

Dennis' new book, "The Jesus Habits, Exercising the Spiritual Disciplines of Jesus," offers practical ways to implement the spiritual disciplines of Jesus into any Christian life.

"The idea for this book began when the Lord placed upon my heart to begin reading the Gospels and observe what Jesus did, not just what He taught," Dennis wrote in the introduction to the book.

"I went back and noticed how many times I had written the word 'habit' beside something Jesus did," said Dennis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lakeland, Fla. "Looking back, I found 31 identifiable habits of Jesus."

The 31 behaviors examined in the book are observable patterns in the life of Jesus, whom Dennis calls the consummate example of successful living.

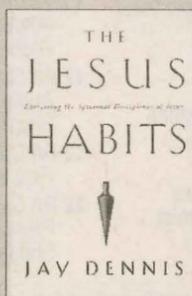
"The good news for you and me is that each of those habits can be copied; they can be put to practice in our daily lives," he said.

Dennis said he wrote the book for everyone from busy executives to stay-at-home parents and students. Each chapter offers Scripture-based suggestions on how to apply Jesus' habits to daily life. The book prompts readers to study the habits each day for 31 days.

"One will catch a glimpse of how Jesus exercised these disciplines, and practically each person can incorporate them at

work, school, home or anywhere," Dennis said. "Jesus told us that He had left an example and that we should follow in His steps."

People should study the spiritual disciplines of Jesus as laid out in Scripture, Dennis believes, rather than focus solely on secular leaders.



"I simply feel that the Jesus example in the practical disciplines of life should be held up as the standard of excellent living," Dennis said. "Even those who aren't Christians are fascinated with Jesus."

Dennis examines Jesus' spiritual disciplines such as prayer, worship, fasting, obedience and fellowship in the book. He also explores other habits in detail, such as confrontation, acting like a man, esteeming women and kindness.

Of the 31 habits, Dennis said he identified most with the habit of having fun.

"Often Jesus is pictured as solemn and sad," Dennis said. "There were certainly times when that was the case, but I believe He enjoyed life, not just endured it. He loved to laugh. Perhaps that's why He loved to be around children. Research has shown that children laugh approximately 400 times a day, and adults average 15 laughs a day."

The Jesus Habits explains that Jesus loved to go into people's homes and enjoy the fellowship of others.

"He performed His first miracle at a celebrative wedding," Dennis said. "Jesus also incorporated humor into His teachings. The world would be more attracted to Jesus if His followers would learn to lighten up a little, laugh at themselves, laugh with others and not take themselves so seriously."

## Faith plays prominent role at Grammys

Los Angeles (RNS)—Religion played a prominent role at the Grammy Awards on Feb. 13, with the late Ray Charles honored in the new gospel performance category and artist Kanye West winning in the top rap song category for "Jesus Walks."

The show also included a gospel segment featuring West, Mavis Staples, John Legend and the Blind Boys of Alabama. West appeared on the set of a church with stained-glass windows and ended the segment with the dramatic addition of white-feathered angel's wings on his back.

Charles posthumously won five awards, including one for gospel performance for "Heaven Help Us All," a track from the "Genius Loves Company" album that featured him in a duet with Gladys Knight.

West's winning single was featured on the album "The College Dropout." Last year that CD was pulled from consideration by the Stellar Gospel Music Awards because a nominating committee determined its overall selections—which

included lyrics containing profanity—"were not in the best interest and spirit of gospel music."

On the day before the ceremony, Staples accepted a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the Staples Singers, a gospel and blues group known for "I'll Take You There."

Other gospel category winners were:

**Best Rock Gospel Album:** "Wire" by Third Day.

**Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album:** "All Things New" by Steven Curtis Chapman.

**Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album:** "Worship & Faith" by Randy Travis.

**Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album:** "There Will Be a Light" by Ben Harper and the Blind Boys of Alabama.

**Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album:** "Nothing Without You" by Smokie Norful.

**Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album:** "Live ... This Is Your House" by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.

"Facedown" by Matt Redman. Regal Books, 2004. 108 pages. \$9.99.

◆◆◆◆ (out of five)

Once again musician and worship leader Matt Redman has written a book about the idea and function of what we call worship.

In 2001, he wrote "The Unquenchable Worshipper," which called Christians to focus on the One being worshipped, not the service leaders or music involved.

Worship to Redman is a lifestyle that includes God in every area of one's life.

In "Facedown," Redman notes that almost every time in Scripture when someone worshipped, there is a reference of being face down before God.

Redman uses Scripture after Scripture to define this attitude of worshipping the Almighty face down. He challenges the trend toward exciting, almost concert-like, worship experiences in some churches and asks, "But how much face-to-the-ground devotion do we see?" He's not talking about a physical manifestation as much as he is talking about the attitude of the heart.

"Facedown" has excellent soul-searching chapters for all readers. The titles make you think about your personal relationship and worship time with God.

The book is a challenge as each chapter, while it is easy to read, will spur reflection on one's own worship times with God, whether in church corporately or alone.

While everyone needs to worship, many people don't know if they have worshipped or even how they can worship. This book can help. *Steve Coleman*

**The People's New Testament Commentary.** Eugene Boring & Fred Craddock. Westminster John Knox, 2004. 823 pages. \$39.95 ◆◆◆◆

As a pastor, I get asked to recommend a one-volume commentary to Sunday school teachers, small group leaders or lay church members wanting to study the Scripture more seriously. From now on, one of my primary recommendations will be "The People's New Testament Commentary."

Two excellent scholars have combined their considerable abilities to produce this commentary on the New Testament. When looking at a one-volume commentary I first want to consider whether the authors write for the intended audience. Without question, Boring and Craddock never fail to keep in mind they are writing for the lay student of the Scripture.

Next, I want to consider the quality of the introductions to Scripture and to individual books. Boring and Craddock produced extremely readable and substantive introductions. The authors cover the core issues for study, distilling the discussion into language that informs but does not confuse. In one of the best brief introductions to the New Testament I have read, the authors set the study of the New Testament in the context of the church.

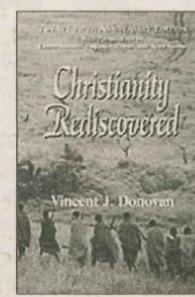
I next turn my attention to the

specific passages of scripture. I want to see how the authors will handle scholarly questions and issues that seldom make it into sermons and Sunday school lessons. Boring and Craddock do not skirt issues but rather hit them head on, yet always in the context of confidence in the authority of the New Testament for the church's life and practice.

The commentary includes a resource list, compiled by the authors, for further reading. The resource list is not the heavy scholarly tomes that appear on seminary lists, but excellent books that will help lay readers in their studies. After looking at this commentary, my hope is that Westminster John Knox has secured two equally competent scholars to produce a commentary on the Old Testament. *Wayne Hager*

**Christianity Rediscovered.** Vincent Donovan. Orbis Books, 2004. 169 pages. \$18. ◆◆◆◆

First released in 1979, "Christianity Rediscovered" offers Vincent Donovan's reflections on the character of Christianity



out of his 17-year experience as a Catholic missionary to the Masai in Tanzania.

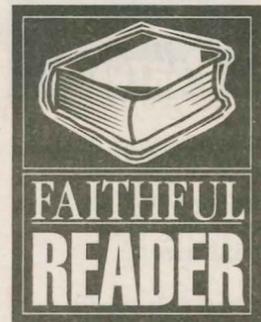
As he attempted to evangelize these isolated and proud people, he became convinced that the message and method

of Christian missionaries, whether Catholic or Protestant, not only worked against reaching them, but distorted the gospel.

"Christianity Rediscovered" narrates Donovan's method and message as he moved among the various tribes of Masai. Frustrated with modern methodology, he studied the Apostle Paul's approach to sharing the gospel of Jesus in the gentile world. Unlike many missionaries, Donovan believed the best way to evangelize the Masai was not to take individuals out of Masai communities, bring them to mission compounds, convert them, and then send them back to the Masai.

Rather, he believed that since the Masai did everything as community, evangelizing them as communities was the best. Further, he believed that the missionary must resist becoming the priest or pastor to those he converts, because ultimately doing so diffuses missionary energy. His goal was to evangelize a community and then build on its incipient leadership structure to organize an ongoing Christian community. He might check in with them from time to time, but he sought to avoid building a sense of dependency on him and his resources.

This book is much more than a personal missionary narrative. Throughout the book, Donovan critiques the life and ministry of the church in our world. He is convinced that we must re-examine the life and methodology of the early church as it moved out into the world. Along the way, he offers stunning insight into the basic message of the gospel, prayer, the structure of the Christian community and more. Do not let its Catholic authorship deter you, "Christianity Rediscovered" is worthy of your attention. *Jim Holladay*



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

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist churches, missionaries and ministries:

■ **Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville**, which is one of three churches in Kentucky involved in a pilot project with "Upward Flag Football." The ministry to kids will begin this fall, but there is a lot of planning and training that must take place before then. Pastor Wilbur Powell requests prayer that many adults will step forward to volunteer in this sports evangelism ministry. Pray also that many opportunities will avail themselves as the volunteers seek to make Christ known to participating children and their families.

■ **Missionary Sandra Williams of Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington**, who is working with Calvary Baptist Church and other local leaders to begin an apartment ministry in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. The ministry will begin in March with food and clothing distribution and regular Bible studies. Pray for the volunteers who will be involved in the ministry as they establish this new mission point. Pray too that the residents will be receptive to the gospel and the witness of the ministry volunteers.

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](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org) or call (888) 263-5080.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI  
COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDWELL**—Bardwell Church recently called **Tysen Lindsey** as minister of youth and children.

■ **BEDFORD**—Bedford Church recently called **Scott Adams** as minister of music.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church ordained **Bill Mason, Marty Wilkins** and **Cris Young** as deacons Jan. 30.

■ **BREMEN**—Mount Pisgah Church recently called **Steve Hogard** as pastor.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church recently called **Matthew Crook** as minister of music. **J.T. Kirkpatrick** is pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—New Hope Church ordained **Jeff Cruse** to the gospel ministry Jan. 30. He has been called as pastor of Melber Church.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church recently called **Tony Hough** as interim pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church recently honored **Ray and Ruby Belt** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church is launching "Vertex," a monthly young adult worship, Bible study and fellowship for 20- and 30-somethings. The kickoff is Feb. 25, 8 p.m., with author **Dave Edwards** as speaker. For more information, call (502) 695-2088 or visit [www.vertexlive.net](http://www.vertexlive.net).

Immanuel Church ordained **Lisa Wood** to the gospel ministry Feb. 20. She serves as pastor to children and their families. **Charles Queen** is senior pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will host a DiscipleNow Weekend Feb. 25-27. **William Crouch**, president of Georgetown College, will speak during the Sunday morning service and the **Georgetown College Chorale** will provide special music. For more information, call (270) 886-1216. **Rodney Travis** is pastor.

■ **LaGRANGE**—DeHaven Church ordained **Doug Wolter** to the gospel ministry Jan. 23.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church ordained **Clay Hall** to the gospel ministry Feb. 6. **Derek Yelton** is pastor.

**Rhonda Hibdon**, minister to children and organist at Fern Creek

Church, has resigned effective March 28.

Green Acres Church will host a concert by **The McKameys** March 3, 7 p.m. **Jim Sheldon and the Victory Voices Quartet** will provide pre-concert music at 6:30 p.m. **Daniel Powell** is pastor.

Parkville Church will hold revival services Feb. 27 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 28-March 2, 7 p.m., with **Don Mathis** as evangelist.

St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center will present "At the Table: Themes and Images of Ritual, Healing and Hope in the Last Supper" Feb. 27, 12:15 p.m. at St. Matthews Baptist Church. The event will include lunch, an art auction and a 2 p.m. lecture by art professor **Amy Stewart**. For more information, call (502) 893-9831.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church recently called **Clay Jernigan** as minister of activities and outreach. **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.

■ **PHELPS**—First Church ordained Pastor **Bruce Hawkins** to the gospel ministry Feb. 6.

■ **PRINCETON**—First Church recently called **David Brown** as minister of youth.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church recently honored **Polly Sansom** with a reception on her retirement as church secretary after 27 years of service. **John Laida** is pastor.

■ **SMITHLAND**—Friendship Church recently called **Brent Lee** as pastor. He previously was pastor of West Hickman Church.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Springfield Church recently called **John Elam** as minister to students/worship minister.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Faith Church recently ordained **Mark Maxey, Greg Richards, Steve Rollins** and **Jim Skiles** as deacons.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Willisburg Church will host a course led by **Lee Thomas**, author of "Praying Effectively for the Lost," March 3, 7 p.m. For more information, contact **Jay Hatfield** at (859) 375-2247.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## February

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.

For more information, call (888) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)



**GEORGETOWN CHORALE TO TOUR** Paige Priest, a member of First Baptist Church of Henderson and an alto in the Georgetown College Chorale, conducts fellow students in Aaron Copland's "At the River" during a recent rehearsal. The chorale will visit six Western Kentucky cities this week. The group is scheduled to perform at First Baptist Church of Madisonville Feb. 23 at 6 p.m., First Baptist Church of Paducah Feb. 24 at 7 p.m., First Baptist Church of Henderson Feb. 25 at 7 p.m., Second Church of Hopkinsville Feb. 26 at 7 p.m., First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville Feb. 27 at 10:45 a.m., Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Glasgow Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. and First Baptist Church of Bowling Green Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. The chorale will wrap up its spring tour with a March 1 concert on campus at the John L. Hill Chapel.

## 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.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for First Baptist Church of Leitchfield, Ky. FBC is a growing, purpose-driven church with contemporary worship style. Send resumé to: Music Search Team, FBC, 106 E Walnut St., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

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

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor. Small, rural church in northern Kentucky, Pendleton County. Call: (859) 472-6821 after 5:00.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions. Search Committee will be receiving resumé through March. Send resumé to: Search Committee, PO Box 2973, Pikeville, KY 41502.

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

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time 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 resumé to: Mike Malone, Church Administrator, First Baptist Church, 401 W Union, Marion, IL 62959.

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## Christian woman recounts religious persecution she endured in China

Washington (RNS)—Providing a personal example of Chinese persecution of Christians, a 34-year-old Chinese woman told a Washington audience recently that she was beaten, shocked, tortured and sexually abused as punishment for professing her faith.

Liu Xianzhi, or "Sarah," said she spent six years in prisons and labor camps in China on charges of "illegal evangelism" for her church leadership and writing for the South China Church Magazine.

She escaped to the United States on Jan. 7 and spoke Feb. 10 at the National Press Club. She lives in Midland, Texas, as a refugee, assisted by the China Aid Association based there.

Approximately 20 million Christians live in China, but religious practice for them is restricted to the two Christian organizations sanctioned by the Chinese government, according to the U.S. State Department. Buddhism is the most practiced religion, but the country also has about 20 million Muslims.

About 9,000 members of the South China Church have been arrested, according to China Aid Association.

"We were slapped and beaten up," Liu said, recounting one of several occasions when she was arrested. "I was interrogated in a bedroom and seven male policemen surrounded me and made me stand in the center of the room. They started laughing at me and cursing me and started touching my body.

"Another man used a clothes hanger and beat up my toes and my feet," she said through a translator.

She said she felt like dying after she was tortured into falsely accusing South China Church Pastor Gong Shengliang of raping her, she said.

Gong is serving a life sentence on charges of rape, "organizing an evil religion" and other confessions "obtained through torture," according to the association. The association is fighting to get Gong released from prison.

China Aid Association President Bob Fu held up a 3-inch-thick document of torture testimonies recorded by Chinese Christians. He claimed the document represents less than 1 percent of the abuse cases that the organization suspects have occurred.

"The situation has been worsening year after year," Fu said. "What we simply want ... is to ask China to honor its own signature on the United Nations international covenant and other international laws of its obligation to protect each citizen's basic human right—the right of religious freedom."

# Dead Sea Scrolls



**BIBLICAL EXHIBIT** Mary Eloise Leake of Anniston, Ala., looks at a section of the Psalms scroll in "The Dead Sea Scrolls: An Exhibit of Biblical Proportions" at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center in Mobile. (RNS photo by Mike Kittrell)

## Exhibit has oldest copy of Ten Commandments

By Bruce Nolan  
Religion News Service

Mobile, Ala. (RNS)—Portions of the Dead Sea Scrolls have gone on display at a small science museum in Alabama, attracting sizable daily crowds eager to see the oldest biblical fragments ever unearthed.

Each day, visitors view the ancient manuscripts, whose discovery in 1947 is viewed by many as the archaeological find of the 20th century.

And each day, hundreds of visitors to the Gulf Coast Exploreum in Mobile linger at one clear plastic case in particular.

It is the world's oldest copy of the Ten Commandments, its tiny black text exquisitely inked onto the crinkled surface of a brown animal skin.

Nearby is a 3-foot-wide document whose six columns of precise text contain all or parts of Psalm 135 and three other psalms.

And just a few feet away are other scroll fragments: portions of the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Some of the fragments are barely larger than the palm of a hand: dark brown, inscribed with Hebrew text in words little bigger than a grain of rice.

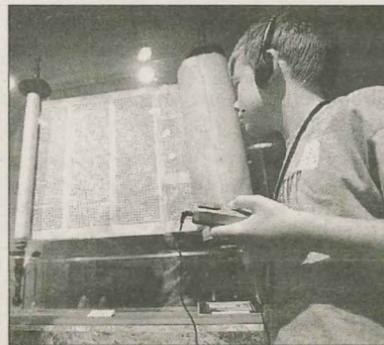
On larger manuscripts, such as the Psalm Scroll, a reader can easily pick out the distinctive four-letter Tetragrammaton—YHWH—the Hebrew symbol for Yahweh, or God.

Organizers of the exhibit, which ends in April, say it is the largest collection of biblical Dead Sea Scroll fragments ever assembled in the United States.

### The history of the scrolls

They were written about the time Jesus Christ lived on earth, and only about 100 miles from the Galilean landscape where He preached.

On display with them are pottery, coins and related artifacts that tell the story of the Essenes, a small community of ascetic Jews who lived apart on the scorched and arid



**TORAH** Colin Martin listens to information concerning the Torah Scroll. (RNS photo by Victor Calhoun)

northwest shore of the Dead Sea and who are widely believed to have created the scrolls.

The exhibit also displays a collection of rare Bibles, a page from a 15th century Gutenberg Bible and Roman glass.

The scrolls came to light in 1947, when a young Bedouin shepherd threw a stone into a dark cave above the Dead Sea and heard the distinctive clink of pottery breaking. He recovered the first of the scrolls.

Systematic exploration yielded more than 900 documents in 11 caves. Some had been stored in jars; others lay intact or in fragments on dusty cave floors, preserved by the arid climate.

The find dazzled scholars. The scrolls contained portions of all the books of the Bible except Esther. But mostly they consisted of nonbiblical apocalyptic literature and secular documents. Some explained the rules for living in the community that produced them.

### Branch Davidians of their day?

Although a few scholars dispute that the Essenes created the scrolls, the consensus attributing the manuscripts to the wilderness sect is a broad one. From about 130 B.C. to A.D. 68, the Essenes lived lives of severe discipline and ritual purity in a community called Qumran in the Judean wilderness. They studied Scripture and prepared for a world-shaking clash between the "sons of

darkness" and the "sons of light."

In a sense, they were the Branch Davidians of their day, not unlike the followers of David Koresh outside Waco, Texas, in the early 1990s, said James Bowley, a Dead Sea Scrolls scholar at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss.

Although the scrolls were written in about the same period that Jesus Christ lived nearby, scholars believe there is no reference to Him. Nor is there any indication that the Essenes in the last days of their community were aware of what must have been a small but growing band of Christ's followers, Bowley said.

### Exhibit aimed at Bible Belt

Although the Exploreum's marketers have accurately pitched the exhibit to their Bible Belt audience as "the oldest surviving texts of the Bible," the scrolls actually reflect the Bible's complicated, organic development, Bowley said. It is a story far removed from the image of a collection of books that appeared long ago and never varied from their original forms.

Indeed, the Christian Old Testament did not exist when the scrolls were produced. Not until about the second century would a consensus emerge on which books would be discarded and which should be included in an authoritative collection of this sacred literature, Bowley said.

Moreover, the scrolls deeply underscore a point scholars had already known: There was no standard version of biblical texts in play. Instead, individual biblical compositions and other Jewish writings developed through time and went through various stages and editions before arriving at the form we have today, Bowley said.

"People writing different versions of Jeremiah are Jews of the same period, with the same concept of God. While the versions might have some differences in terms of order or arrangement, does that change our basic concept of God? No. It doesn't change the theology."

## Swedish preacher who called gays 'cancerous' wins court appeal

Jonkoping, Sweden (RNS)—A Swedish preacher sentenced to a month in prison for referring to homosexuals as a "cancerous tumor" in society was acquitted Feb. 11 by an appeals court.

The court in Jonkoping, in southern Sweden, ruled that a sermon by Ake Green, 63, was not an attack on gays and lesbians because it was a personal interpretation of the Bible.

The court said it "strongly questioned" Green's comments but a stringent hate crime law under which the preacher was convicted last year should not be used to stifle discussion about homosexuality in churches and other public places.

"There is nothing that points to that fact that the pastor used the pulpit to attack homosexuals," the verdict read.

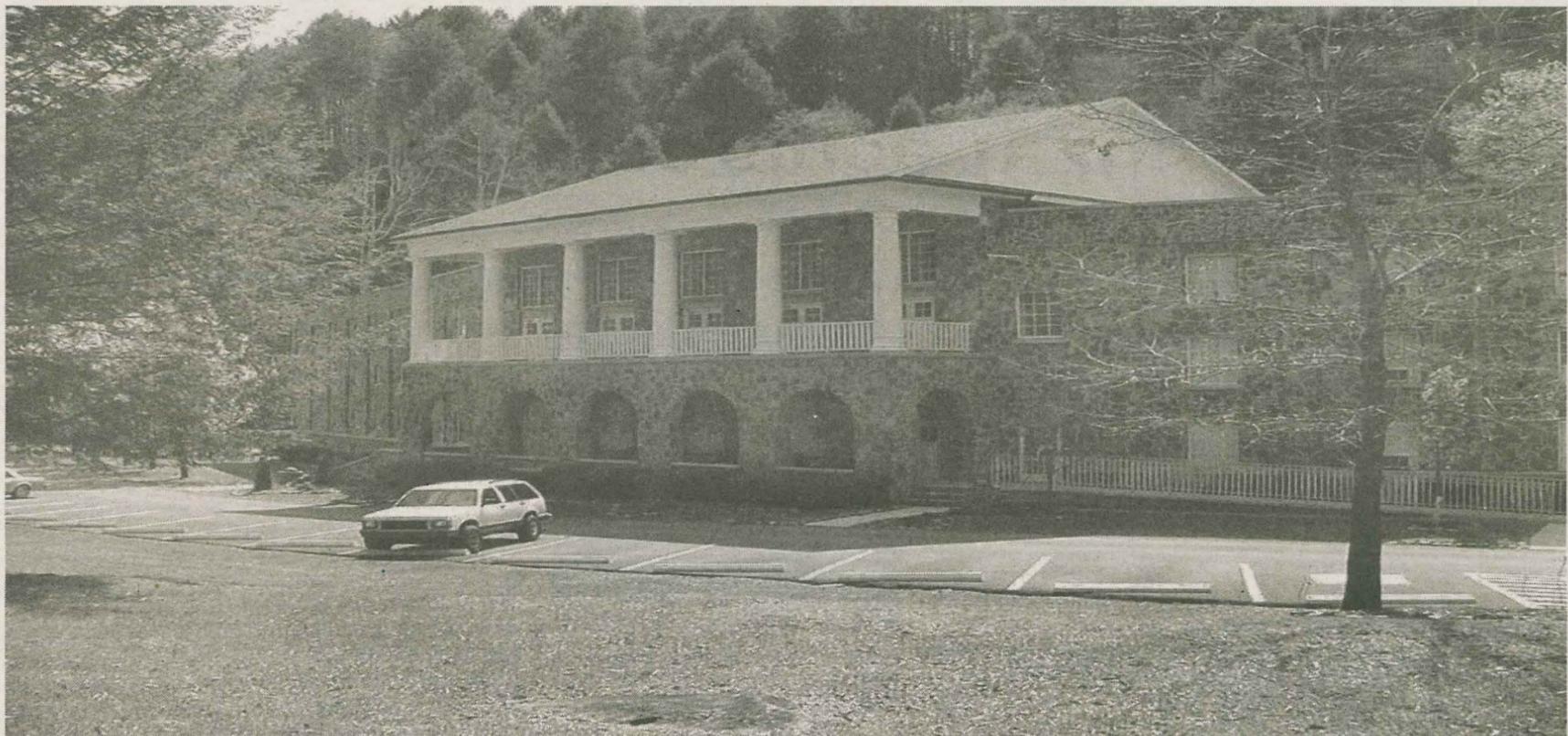
"This falls outside of punishment for violating the law against hate against a group."

The case, which has attracted international attention, could still move to the Supreme Court in Sweden. Some Christians in the United States have said they were worried that Green, the first preacher convicted under the hate crime law, could represent a trend in laws cracking down on people of faith expressing religious views about homosexuality.

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