

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Researchers to study connection between physical pain and faith

London (RNS)—Can religious faith affect the perception of pain? That's a question that a group of Oxford University researchers plans to investigate.

The project hopes to develop a better understanding of how the brain works, when people are thinking and when they are not.

"Very little is known about pain and how the brain copes with it," said the project's deputy director, Dr. Toby Collins.

Officials with the Oxford Centre for Science of the Mind said the study will bring together six university departments: anatomy, pharmacology, philosophy, physiology, theology and the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, which concentrates on medical ethics.

Collins said carefully controlled and monitored experiments will help them find out how subjects react to painful stimuli, either by applying a chili-based gel to the skin or by applying a heat pad that also produces a burning sensation.

Among other things, researchers will show volunteers religious symbols while subjecting them to the painful stimuli to see how they respond.

Collins told Associated Press that subjects will be asked to access a belief system, whether secular or religious, with results compared.

"Everyone, when they suffer pain, has a strategy for coping, and often they will turn to religious beliefs," Collins told AP.

The longest yards



Walking aisle stops some potential members

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Each Sunday, a group of worshippers scattered throughout various churches experience clammy hands, suddenly-sweaty brows and hearts hammering so hard their owners are certain everyone can hear.

These might resemble the symptoms of cardiac arrest, but for some people there is another cause for such discomfort: having to walk the aisle to join a local church.

While the tradition of walking

the aisle dates back only about 150 years, for most Kentucky Baptists it is as time-honored as vacation Bible school and potluck dinners.

Kevin Hamm, pastor of Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville, recently asked whether tradition had become a barrier for some of the shyer souls who wanted to join the church.

"If we had people write down their five greatest fears, for a lot of them, their first fear would be standing up in front of a large group of strangers," Hamm said.

Inside: Walking aisle linked to emphasis on "public profession" of faith. *Page 6.*

That "short trip" down the aisle might be a journey some guests are unwilling to take, not because of their spiritual condition, but because they fear feeling the eyes of an entire congregation on them.

"Just because someone is afraid to walk the aisle doesn't mean they are a closet Christian or not a sold-out believer," Hamm said.

□ See *The longest yards ... Page 6*

Author: False gospel leading churches to create nominal Christians

By John Hall
Baptist General Convention of Texas

Irving, Texas (ABP)—By teaching forgiveness without discipleship, many churches are distorting Christ's message and creating "nominal Christians," according to author and professor Dallas Willard.

Pastors are preaching alternative "gospels" that do not reflect the true meaning of Christ's message, Willard said.

Conservative ministers present Christ's work as one that provides forgiveness of sins. Liberals emphasize a "gospel of liberation." Other ministers present a "gospel of the church" that says the church will take care of believers if they take care of the church, he added.

Christ's work is liberating and enables the forgiveness of sins, but

the gospel is that salvation brings "life now in the Kingdom of God," where God's will is followed, said Willard, professor of philosophy at the University of Southern California.

Jesus called people to rethink their lives because they can now move into "God's effective will."

"The root of nominal Christianity is people have moved away from a gospel of life and replaced it with something else," Willard said during a missions and evangelism conference sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"If you're preaching the gospel as forgiveness of sins because Jesus died for you, what you will have is nominal Christians you will have to prod to get going."

The availability of the Kingdom is the only message that leads to

character transformation through discipleship, Willard said. The gospel encourages people to trust Jesus for life in God's will.

"I think there will be a lot of people who will be in heaven who believe that (Jesus died only for their sins)," Willard said. "I think they will have a lot of catching up to do because they are not all that different from those in the other place."

"Who He was is much bigger than that. What He offers and calls people to do is trust Jesus."

Trusting Jesus involves rethinking one's life, becoming humble and being born from above, Willard said. God will assist people in following His will and changing their lives through grace, a term the author described as God helping individuals accomplish what they could not do on their own.

Churches can correct the creation of nominal Christians by intentionally forming disciples, which Willard described as apprentices of Jesus.

This is done by depicting a clear picture of "new life" through trusting Jesus, including many of the disciplines—prayer, Scripture memorization, fasting and worship—that strengthen spiritual lives.

"As a disciple of Jesus, I am to lead my life in the Kingdom of heaven as He would lead my life if He was I," Willard said.

To accomplish this goal, many churches should rethink what they are doing and focus all efforts on following the Great Commission of sharing the gospel and creating disciples, he added.

"What we need is people who are more Christ-like."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 2

Welch: Baptists ready for 'elephant hunt'



"This convention will never do its best until we do it together."

SBC President Bobby Welch

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Recounting lessons from his 50-state bus tour to promote evangelism, Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch said people in the pews and pulpits are eager for a new challenge with eternal implications—one akin to "an elephant hunt" rather than "chasing squirrels and rabbits."

During stops in each state last fall, Welch typically asked the same questions of the Southern Baptists he encountered. One question was, "Why don't you and others like you come to more convention meetings at the state level and the SBC?"

"The answer was always this: 'There is no compelling reason to come to a Southern Baptist Convention,'" Welch told members of the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 21.

A second question he would ask was, "Why do you look outside the SBC for ideas and programs and that sort of thing?" The answer was, "There are many more challenging and exciting things beyond the SBC."

The third question was, "What do you think the SBC needs most to help it today?" Leaders responded, "A challenge and focus. We're asked to do too many things and we cannot do them all. We want to do something that works the best for the rest of our lives."

"Tired of chasing squirrels"

"I've come to the conclusion that what they're saying is, 'We want to go on an elephant hunt,'" Welch said. "They're tired of chasing squirrels and rabbits and birds. They've done that. They want to go on an elephant hunt."

Though some may say it's just the younger crowd who want such a challenge, Welch said he has discovered the same yearning among some of the older crowd.

"I've been on an elephant hunt. The gun is bigger, the bullets are bigger, the stories are bigger, the danger is bigger," Welch said. "And on an elephant hunt, it's exciting whether you ever see an elephant or not. It's a whole lot more fun than chasing rabbits, squirrels and birds. And it's worth the risk."

"I think our people are looking for a new challenge and for a focus," said Welch, who has called Southern Baptists to an "Everyone Can"

Chapman urges SBC cooperation

Nashville (BP)—Underscoring the urgency of winning a lost world to Christ, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee member Morris Chapman said Feb. 21 Southern Baptists must work together in a cooperative spirit to strengthen the SBC.

"I am more optimistic about the state of the convention and cooperation therein than I have been since coming to this office," Chapman told Executive Committee members.

"No day in our history has it become more important to stress the significance of working together in a cooperative spirit," he said. "We are today's leaders and few of the decade. It's now or never for us. The question is, 'What shall we do for the glory of God in this hour?' What is our responsibility?"

"Our responsibility is to spend no time thinking about what others owe us, and (instead) spend our time thinking about what we owe others. It's a difficult task. To do so is to resist our human impulses. We can't be perfect, but we can be much more Christ-like in living and leading."

But cooperation, Chapman said, must not come at the expense of abdicating biblical authority.

"Biblical integrity and doctrinal purity are matters about

which we must be forever vigilant," he said. "Adrian Rogers once said, 'Our zeal for missions will not surpass our zeal for the Bible.'"

A cooperative spirit, Chapman said, is necessary to strengthen the Cooperative Program. Pointing to a "dangerous trend," Chapman said that—as a percentage—churches are forwarding less of their offerings through the Cooperative Program than they were two decades ago. In 1984, he said, the average church forwarded 10.6 percent of its undesignated receipts through CP. In the 2003-04 fiscal year, that percentage fell to 6.99, he said.

Cooperation is vitally important to boost CP giving, Chapman said.

"The task will not be easy," he said, "because a large contingent of members in our local churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention have little or no knowledge about the huge significance of the Cooperative Program in supporting our missions efforts around the world."

"Shall we lead this convention from the foot of the cross?" he asked. "Shall we finish well? Or shall we fade into the sunset, having abdicated the leadership necessary to pave the way for an outpouring of God's Spirit upon this nation?"

emphasis on soul-winning.

Something else Welch learned while traveling across the nation is that the SBC is in the midst of a redefining stage. The redefinition is not something anyone can stop; it's just a fact, he said.

Entities exist to aid churches

"At this redefining stage, we must have pastors at those tables," he said, referring to sessions where issues are discussed and plans made. "It cannot just be theologians and people who work at entities. We must have pastors at those tables because you have to remember this convention birthed this committee."

... This convention birthed every entity we've got." He added that the entities "live and exist to assist the church and the pastor and the

people to do the work of the Great Commission at its full extent at the local level."

Welch said he has heard of too many churches that want to do their own thing, but in a time when reaching the masses for Christ is crucial, a common focus and a common challenge are necessary to rally the resources and complete the task.

"You cannot do your own thing. We must do a thing together to impact this world in which we live to the uttermost with the gospel. That's the unity of purpose," Welch declared. "This convention will never do its best until we do it together, and we've got to guard and take care of those things that do bring us together. All parties must move toward each other to get this done. Sooner is better."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Missouri Baptist Building sale falls through.

The Missouri Baptist Building is once again on the market after Cole County voters gave a resounding "no" to a sales tax increase that would have funded the county government's purchase of the property. Voters turned down the proposal by an almost 3-to-1 margin. In August, representatives of the county and the Missouri Baptist Convention inked a \$2.75 million contingency contract for the sale of the building, which has served as headquarters for the convention's ministry staff since 1970.

GuideStone distributes \$443M in benefits.

Retirement and relief benefits paid by GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention rose 9.5 percent in 2004, to reach more than \$443

million. GuideStone distributed more than \$437 million in retirement to 30,114 people and \$5.5 million to 2,472 individuals or couples receiving relief benefits. The bulk of relief benefits go to retired ministers or their widows who receive inadequate retirement benefits.

CBF names offering after Carters.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will dedicate an annual offering for religious liberty and human rights—named for Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter—and use a third of the proceeds to support the Baptist World Alliance. The recommendation came from a CBF/BWA Task Force, commissioned last year to increase financial support for and CBF participation in Baptist World Alliance, an umbrella group of 211 Baptist bodies around the world. The

division of offering funds—two-thirds to CBF causes and one-third for BWA causes—will remain in place for five years. All funds will be designated for religious liberty or human rights purposes.

Ridgecrest seeks testimonies.

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina will celebrate 100 years of ministry in 2007. To help tell the Ridgecrest story, LifeWay Christian Resources officials are seeking testimonials from people whose lives have been touched at the conference center. Selections will be included in a commemorative book. Stories and photos may be sent via e-mail to Ridgecrest100@lifeway.com or by mail to LifeWay Corporate Communications, Attn: Ridgecrest, 100 One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0192.

Seminary charter revision proposed; Louisville to host 2009 SBC meeting

Nashville (BP)—Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention will be asked to approve the corporate model known as sole membership for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. If approved, messengers also will be asked to approve sole membership for the SBC Executive Committee.

Executive Committee members also approved Louisville as the site for the 2009 SBC annual meeting.

Sole membership is a corporate model that seeks to clarify in legal language—within each entity's charter—that the SBC owns all of its entities.

The other five SBC seminaries previously adopted sole membership, as have the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and GuideStone Financial Resources.

New Orleans Seminary's trustees, in a meeting last October, approved sole membership but voted to express their reservations about the corporate model to SBC messengers. Seminary officials say they are committed to the Southern Baptist Convention but have concerns about sole membership and want to seek other ways to clarify that the SBC owns the school.

In other action, Executive Committee members:

■ Approved a 2005-06 Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$189,865,255 for recommendation to SBC messengers in June.

■ Selected Indianapolis as the site of the 2008 SBC annual meeting and Louisville for the 2009 annual meeting in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ Approved the establishment of four for-profit subsidiary corporations of LifeWay Christian Resources to develop and manage condominiums and townhouses at LifeWay conference centers at Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C.

■ Authorized the FamilyNet cable TV subsidiary of the North American Mission Board to solicit financial support from viewers of its on-air programming.

■ Authorized Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to incur \$1 million in additional indebtedness for construction of a multi-purpose facility.

■ Multi-purpose take action on a motion from the 2004 SBC annual meeting calling for responsibility for ministry on college and university campuses to be moved from LifeWay to the North American Mission Board.

Garrard blends magic with ministry to share gospel

By Kelly Upchurch
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—When David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, pulls a handkerchief out of his pocket, everyone stops to watch.

Garrard may just wipe his nose. Or he may make a bouquet of flowers suddenly appear.

Whatever he does, the 51-year-old magician keeps people on the edge of their seats, wondering what he will do next.

Garrard serves part-time as a children's minister and full-time entertaining, inspiring and educating people through music and magic.

The popular performer will be featured at two upcoming Kentucky Baptist Convention events: the Creative Ministries Festivals and the 50-plus Adult Living Celebrations.

Garrard has been blending music and magic to present a Christian message to audiences throughout the United States for more than 30 years.

Garrard credits his father with teaching him a few magic tricks as a young boy. He fell in love with the sleight of hand methods and has been learning tricks ever since, eventually joining the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

"I realized early on I could use magic to share my faith. (Magic) wasn't a vocational goal early on, but I realized people were paying attention," Garrard said. "Magic instantly makes you an interesting person."

Garrard began to see a way to use his skill as a magician to fulfill his call to ministry. Two role models inspired Garrard: Christian comedian Grady Nutt and Andre Kole, a magician with Campus Crusade for Christ.

"Both of these men were using their gifts and abilities to point people to God, and I decided that is what I wanted to do," Garrard said.

His act has grown to include stage magic, close-up tricks with cards and coins, and even large-scale illusions.

Letting music speak for him

Music is an important element to his routine. He finds music that speaks to him or expresses some truth then uses magic to express on stage what he feels when he hears the music.

"Sometimes it might be a spiritual truth or might be something fun or romantic, but the music and magic come when I link them together."

He said that when he is on stage he might not be able to speak freely, so instead he uses music to speak for him.

Garrard often prays to God for guidance as he develops ideas and routines to represent Him well. "Then I end up working on a routine and think, 'That was a really good idea, how did I come up with that?'"

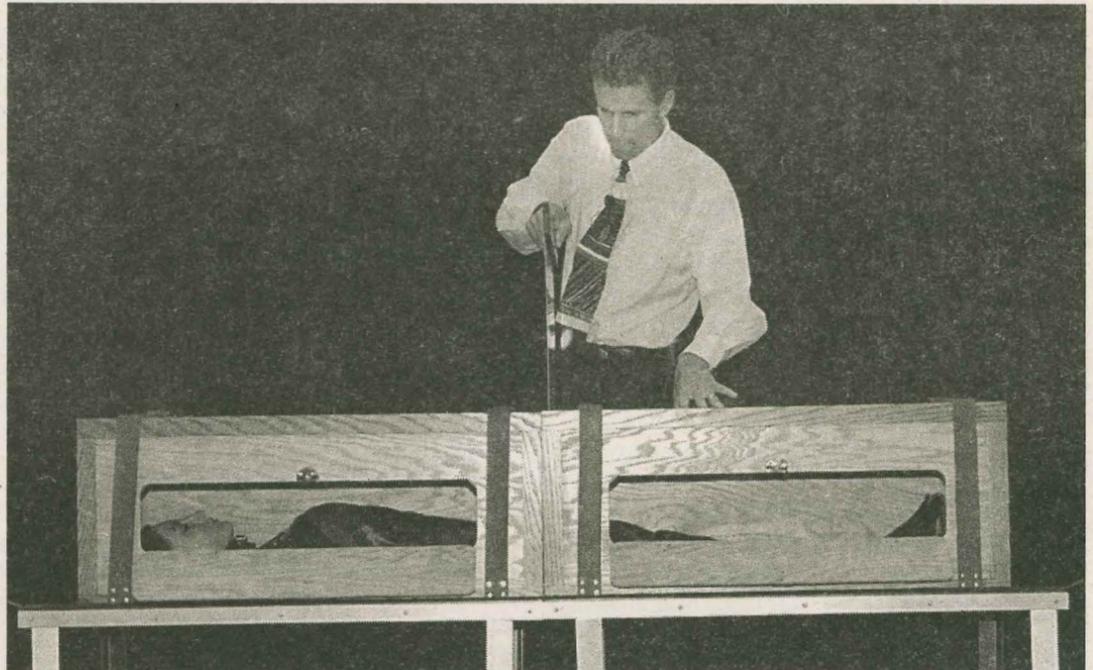
Despite the Christian message that infuses Garrard's act, he notes that some Christians are uncomfortable with his use of magic.

"There is nothing funny going on here, yet I recognize that magic means different things to different people," Garrard said.

He said that no matter where he is he tries to use some element of his act to gently point people toward God.

"That is easy to pick up on watching me," he said.

Through his unique ministry, Garrard has been able to share the truth of the gospel with people of all ages.



"St. Matthews Baptist Church has been great about giving me the freedom to explore my magic, but in doing so I have found another part of God's will for my life, which is working with children," he said.

Varied ministry messages

He doesn't use magic all the time, but often enough that it stays fresh and the kids are always looking forward to it.

"Sometimes I use it strictly as an attention getting device and sometimes just for fun. Other times, I use it with some trick and truth hooked together in a children's sermon or in speaking to a group for an illustration," explains Garrard.

He sometimes leads a "Keeping the Magic in Marriage" seminar and often performs in churches to help with stewardship and capital campaign programs.

"Money and magic go together,

and there are a lot of tricks that are money-themed. I really believe that part of trusting God with your life is trusting Him with your money," he said, "and I think I can help churches with this in a fun way."

Garrard will perform at the KBC Creative Ministries Festivals, March 4-5 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, and March 11-12 at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green.

The 50-plus Adult Living Celebrations are scheduled for April 5 at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, April 7 at Burlington Baptist Church, April 12 at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, and April 14 at Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg.

For more information about the events, visit www.kybaptist.org. To learn more about Garrard's magic ministry, visit www.davidgarrardmagic.com.

ILLUSIONIST David Garrard will be a guest performer at the upcoming KBC Creative Ministries Festival and the 50-Plus Adult Living Celebrations.

Cumberland students get lessons on hunger with food distribution

Williamsburg—Despite the chilly weather, more than 360 families from throughout southeastern Kentucky waited in line outside the Mountain Outreach warehouse recently to receive boxes of food and other needed supplies.

Feed the Children, a national Christian relief organization, teamed with the Mountain Outreach ministry of Cumberland College to distribute hundreds of boxes of food, personal care items and clothing.

"Where there is a need, we do what we can to help," said Larry Jones, president and founder of Feed the Children.

While Feed the Children is known for its work to provide food for families around the world, Jones said he never forgets that children in America also go hungry. The ministry also helped distribute food during Mountain Outreach's annual Holiday Gift Day in December.

Jones shared his excitement about returning to help the Mountain Outreach program.



Larry Jones



UNLOADING Cumberland College volunteers unload a semi-truck full of food and supplies from Feed the Children. The ministry coordinated a food distribution project recently with the on-campus ministry Mountain Outreach. (Cumberland College photo by Tim Branstetter)

"Not only are people here getting a 26-pound box of food from Feed the Children, but they are also getting a box of personal care items, a case of milk and a blanket. On top of that, Mountain Outreach is giving them clothing."

David Honeycutt, director of Mountain Outreach, shared Jones' enthusiasm about the cooperative project.

"Food is the key that gets me inside the door to find out what the other problems are," he noted.

While the Mountain Outreach program has been serving the people of Appalachia for many years through building homes and maintaining a warehouse full of clothing and personal items, Honeycutt remarked on the benefits from the joint effort.

"For Feed the Children to come into this area means that this area will get national attention.

"This will have a positive effect on this area for months to come," he commented. "This will highly improve our visibility and will improve our ability to serve the people of this area."

The Mountain Outreach program depends on volunteers to successfully run the organization, and this event was no exception. Forty-eight Cumberland College students helped unload a semi-truck full of supplies and distribute the items to the waiting families.

A native Kentuckian, Jones stressed the importance of families in need being able to maintain their dignity while receiving food and supplies.

"There is a lot of job loss in America. I've had more and more people saying to me, 'I never would have imagined I'd be in a line receiving a free box of food,'" Jones said. "What I try to do is educate Americans that people are not just looking for a handout. They are in dire straits. I think America is slowly waking up to what is taking place."

For more information about Mountain Outreach, call (606) 539-4346.

"Food is the key that gets me inside the door to find out what the other problems are."

David Honeycutt, director of Mountain Outreach

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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 century of democracy? Don't count on it

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va. (BP)—These are heady days for lovers of democracy. Millions of Iraqis defied the threat of death from terrorist murderers to go to the polls in January. It's the "biggest change since Babylon" for a land long accustomed to tyrants, declared one analyst.

The same thing happened in Afghanistan a few months ago. The Taliban and assorted thugs threatened to kill anyone who voted. Afghan voters lined up anyway for what is thought to be the first free election ever held in that land.

The Palestinians, weary of violence, have elected a new leader, Mahmoud Abbas, who seems committed (for now, at least) to peaceful coexistence with Israel.

In Ukraine, the citizen-backed "Orange Revolution" brought out masses of average Ukrainians to protest and occupy public squares until a rigged vote was overturned—and the rightful winner officially elected and sworn in as president.

In India, the world's largest democracy, upwards of half a billion voters, spoke loud and clear last year. Stunning result: The ruling Hindu nationalist government—confident of re-election—was turned out of office.

Bush: Democracy is chief task

In his second inaugural address, President Bush resoundingly reaffirmed the spread of liberty and democracy as America's chief task in the world. He took inspiration from courageous Russian dissident Natan Sharansky—a former prisoner of the Soviets, a current member of the Israeli government and the author of "The Case for Democracy," a clarion call for global liberty that Bush recommends as required reading.

Bush echoed America's exporters of freedom and human rights—from Woodrow Wilson, who wanted to make the world "safe for democracy," to John F. Kennedy, Jimmy

Carter and Ronald Reagan.

"The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands," he said. "The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world."

Those ideals, as Christians know, find their original source in Scripture. Moses told Pharaoh, "Let my people go." Jesus Christ proclaimed the blind and darkness and chains. Ever since, liberators have taken inspiration from their words.

American evangelicals have a proud history of fighting for freedom—particularly religious liberty—at home and around the globe. Many Christians, including Southern Baptists, are valiantly battling human slavery and abusers of human rights abroad. The National Association of Evangelicals is launching a campaign to end dictatorships worldwide by 2025.

It's a hopeful moment for human freedom. Democracy is on the move, a trend Christians should pray for and work for.

But don't hold your breath waiting for universal liberty to arrive. History has an "ebb and flow of justice," Bush believes, "but history also has a visible direction, set by liberty and the author of liberty." That is undoubtedly true in the spiritual realm. In the political realm, however, democracy as we know it has been around for only a few centuries.

Tyranny has a much longer track record—and shows few signs of disappearing. When the Cold War ended and the United States emerged as the sole superpower, some analysts declared democracy would soon prevail everywhere. We're still waiting.

China, which likely will match (or surpass) American power and influence within the next generation or two, shows little evidence of allowing real political freedom anytime soon. Zhao Ziyang, the one Chi-

nese leader who seriously embraced democratic ideas just before the Tiananmen student movement was brutally crushed in 1989, recently died after 15 years of house arrest.

Russia, so hopeful for freedom after the fall of the Soviet Union, appears to be sliding back into authoritarian rule under Vladimir Putin.

In the ever-violent Middle East, Israel remains the single truly democratic state. Iraq could become the second, but don't expect Jeffersonian democracy. The majority (and duly elected) Shiites might opt for strict Islamic law.

God isn't limited by politics

But these are no reasons for despair or cynicism. God is not bound by local politics. Consider China: Under degrees of communist persecution ranging from moderate to murderous, perhaps the biggest Christian movement in church history has emerged there over the last generation. The gospel is on the move throughout Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America. Often, the greater the tyranny, the faster the church expands.

Only the truth of Jesus Christ makes you truly free. Democracy isn't enough, as our own flawed nation illustrates.

That applies everywhere—even in the land where Jesus was born. As Jim Sibley, coordinator of Jewish ministries for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, told Baptist Press, "Ultimately, peace will not break out in the Middle East until the Prince of Peace reigns in the hearts of Jew and Arab alike."

"There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment, and expose the pretensions of tyrants, and reward the hopes of the decent and tolerant," President Bush contended in his inaugural speech. "And that is the force of human freedom."

Wrong. The only force that can effectively accomplish such change is the gospel.

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

ministries. This means that strong ongoing Cooperative Program giving is vital for the state convention to be able to secure matching funds for Kingdom work in Kentucky.

Last year Southern Baptists gave a record \$53,845,939 for North American missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, exceeding the previous year by 8.5 percent. Kentucky Baptists gave 10 percent more than the previous year. Praise God! The goal for 2005 is \$55 million.

Bob Reccord, president of NAMB, recently expressed appreciation to church leaders for promoting the offering.

"I want to especially thank the leadership and membership of Women's Missionary Union who tirelessly support all of our missions endeavors," he added. "Without them, Southern Baptists would not have the missionary enterprise we do." I strongly agree.

Please pray and give as God leads you. All NAMB and state convention efforts to reach North America benefit from this offering, making up 45 percent of NAMB's budget.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

COMMENTARY

Easter offering makes missions impact

Reaching North America for Jesus Christ is a joint mission of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, state conventions, associations and local churches. This is an important time for that mission as churches focus on the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

The partnership is strong in evangelism, as NAMB works closely with state staff to inspire and equip Baptists to share their faith, conduct evangelistic events, understand other faiths, pray for revival and spiritual awakening, and pray for the harvest.

NAMB recently selected Eastern Kentucky as a rural model for ministry evangelism. Currently, there are 27 Mission Service Corps missionaries approved by NAMB serving in Eastern Kentucky. Altogether there are more than 150 MSC missionaries serving in Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky also serves as a model for manpower training, which includes job and life skills,

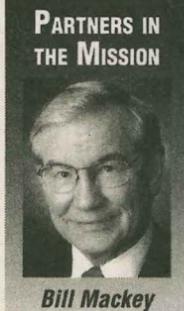
as well as spiritual life development. Five of these ministries currently are in operation, providing a variety of training opportunities.

In addition, NAMB has just received significant funding for the Appalachian Regional Ministries' coordinator, Bill Barker, who will become a part of the KBC staff April 1. Ten other states that cooperate in the ministry help provide operational funds for the ministry.

During the past four years, Barker has coordinated the enlistment of 50,000 volunteers in Appalachia and recorded thousands of professions of faith.

The partnership with NAMB continues to include church starts and language work. NAMB, KBC and local associations jointly fund Hispanic missionaries across Kentucky. They coordinate the work of 62 Hispanic ministries, which now have 30 pastor-type leaders being trained.

Our cooperative agreement with NAMB typically calls for KBC to provide 60 percent of funding for joint



Bill Mackey

FAMILY

Don't let material yearnings exceed financial earnings

By Jeremy White

An old saying states a surprising truth: "The quickest way to bankruptcy is an increase in pay."

As a 12-year-old baseball fan, I still remember hearing about

a player on my favorite team. He had signed a million-dollar contract. I couldn't imagine that someone was paid that much to play ball! That's small by today's standards where the average baseball player makes \$2.3 million per year.

But the next year the player filed for bankruptcy. How could that happen? Eight sports cars, three houses, a drinking habit and two wives—that's how it happened. Another confirmation of the truth of the opening quote.

Sports stars and entertainers earn outrageous sums in a surprisingly short time. Such high incomes do not always translate into financial security. Willie Mays, Mike Tyson, Johnny Unitas, Brooks Robinson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar have all filed bankruptcy.

London newspapers reported recently that singer Elton John, one of the highest paid entertainers, sought a \$40 million loan to pay off a few bills. Proving once again another anonymous saying, "Having money to burn is a good way to start a fire you can't put out."

The key point in managing your money is not how much you earn. It's what you keep. It's how much you spend in relation to what you earn. It's so easy for us to raise our lifestyles as fast—or faster—than our incomes.

If someone consistently earns \$200,000 per year and spends \$202,000, then he is behind the man consistently earning \$30,000 and spending \$29,000.

As usual, the Bible gives us excellent wisdom in this area. Proverbs 21:20, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."

Jesus points out the obvious common sense involved in planning in Luke when He says anyone could count the cost before starting a building.

The wisdom in Proverbs 27:23 reminds us, "Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever."

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



How can singles find 'right' kind of individuals to date?

Q: I am a young adult male who would like to date, but it seems that the females I meet only want to date "bad boys." I in no way resemble a bad boy. What should I do?

It might be that you only have been interacting with the wrong women. Try a new way of meeting females that is more conducive to finding the right women.

SINGLES Join a coeducational club that meets around a favorite hobby, such as reading, horseback riding or golf. Learning a new hobby also could help you develop into a more relationally attractive person.

Work on social skills. If you are meeting only women of limited social skills, it might be time to "raise the bar" on your own ability to talk with others. Your local public library should have several resources to help you learn how to network and connect better with others. Consider hiring a counselor or coach who can give you honest feedback.

Women want to be loved and cherished. They want to feel special. Do you know how to treat a woman with kindness, to speak her "love language"? Check out the book, "The Five Languages of Love" by Dr. Gary Chapman for information about various styles of giving and receiving love. Whether or not you are in a romantic relationship, the goal is to care for people in a way that is meaningful to them.

Seek God's guidance. Talk with a pastor about ways to put yourself in situations where you can connect with like-minded people. It generally is good for friendship to come first in a relationship. Take time to notice that other people need friends too.

One step at a time, God can lead you to people who can be good for you and you for them. Pray for God's help as you embark on this journey of friend-building. Don't buy into the lies of the culture about "bad boys" or "bad girls." Be all you can be for Christ, and put yourself into situations where the right people can make a good connection.—James Stillwell

Q: What do I need to teach my children about the value and use of money?

The Youniverse ATM Machine, a high-tech piggy bank that receives and dispenses real cold cash, sold out across the land during Christmas. When the machine made its debut on QVC and the Home Shopping Network, it sold out in three minutes.

PARENTING Beth Taylor, president of the Center for the New American Dream, understands the appeal. "Kids are bombarded with messages that celebrate and glorify money at every turn. It's all about money," she says. Or is it?

From a spiritual standpoint, children need to know the wisdom of Proverbs 23:4-5, "Do not wear yourselves out trying to get rich. Cast but a glance at riches and they are gone." Children also need to be taught the truths found in 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Obsession with money can cause serious problems and unhappiness.

Financial guru Dave Ramsey emphasizes the importance of teaching children and grandchildren about money. Instead of giving an allowance, Ramsey encourages parents to teach children the value of work by giving them a "commission" for each task or chore completed. Follow up by teaching your children to spend wisely. Help them set a goal for a big purchase. Help them learn that they can buy without borrowing if they will learn to save.

Ramsey and the Bible agree: The best thing you can teach your kids about money is to give. Giving frees us from the tyranny of things, or "stuffitis" as Ramsey calls it. Giving reminds us that trusting God with your life also means trusting God with your money.—David Garrard

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.



Recorder helps link needs and resources

What does the Western Recorder have to do with expanded facilities for a food and clothing ministry in Hopkinsville or a group of mission volunteers from Greensburg planning to serve in Brazil this fall? Quite a bit, according to recent testimonies.

Impact Ministry, based in Christian County Baptist Association, was featured last week in a page one Western Recorder article. Arlene Miller, who directs the ministry, noted that the center soon will relocate to a larger facility that will be provided rent-free for three years. She said the agreement came soon after her prayer request for more space was included in the Western Recorder's "Prayer Partners" column.

In an e-mail to Western Recorder staff, Kentucky Baptist Convention missions department director Eric Allen wrote that Miller "called to let me know her prayer request was answered one week after it appeared in the Western Recorder."

Noting that Impact Ministry "provides food, clothing, household items, spiritual counseling and evening Bible studies for ladies," Allen added, "They have outgrown their present building and want to offer additional ministries like Christian Women's Job Corps, money management classes, job skill training and parenting classes, but don't have the space.

"The request ran on Dec. 14, 2004, and asked that God direct them to and provide resources for a larger building that will allow them to offer the additional ministries. They had been praying and looking for a long time, but found nothing.

"One week after their prayer request ran, a Christian man in the community called to offer them a building rent-free for three years," Allen explained. "It's twice the size of their current space and in a perfect location! Praise the Lord! Thanks for printing the requests in the Western Recorder."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

A few days later, I received a call from Ross Bauscher, director of the KBC's partnership missions department. Expressing appreciation for recent feature articles in the Recorder about Kentucky Baptists' mission partnerships in Poland and Brazil, Bauscher noted that the pastor of Greasy Creek Baptist Church in Greensburg had called after reading about mission opportunities in Brazil. As a result, a team from his church plans to travel to Teresina, Brazil, this fall to participate in evangelism and church-planting efforts.

Landon Hadley, pastor of Greasy Creek Baptist Church, told me in a phone interview, "We've been aware of so many needs through the Western Recorder for many, many years. The fact that the good article was written on the partnership in Brazil caused us to discuss interest in participating.

"Missions education is a vital link in missions support," Hadley added. "To be able to call people's attention to this through the Western Recorder has been a very effective means for me to communicate."

Noting that he told church members "the best opportunity to learn about missions is to go," Hadley said, "This seems made of the Lord for us to go. We're hoping to be able to plant churches. ... The area we think we will be going into has no churches of any kind."

As a Christian journalist for 20-plus years, it's those type of stories that challenge and encourage me to continue providing Kentucky Baptists "practical resources for Christian living" week in and week out.

Whether it's reporting about tsunami relief work, efforts to combat expanded gambling, partnership mission opportunities in Brazil or a local ministry that needs a larger facility, the Western Recorder is a vital link in helping Kentucky Baptists "connect all people to Jesus Christ."

Building community enhances ministry

Community. The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines it as: a. a unified body of individuals, b: the people with common interests living in a particular area; c: an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (as species) in a common location; d: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society.

So how does that pertain to youth ministry? I'm glad you asked. In the past month I have spent time with the guys from the Hopkinsville Youth Ministry Network in Panama City, Fla.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; and over coffee at the Way Cup Station in Hopkinsville. In these times I have come to understand community.

These guys, Bill, Steve, Nathan, Zach, Jimmy, Rodney and Tim, are more than fellow ministers; they are friends. They laugh at old jokes, share and create new ones and truly care for one another.

While we were in Florida, our wives had a ladies' night out to a Mexican restaurant back home—community at its best. While we were in Chattanooga, one of the minister's adult child was hospitalized and the wives who were not on the trip with us visited her and her mom—community at its best.

I also experienced it in Somerset as I sat around the table at Sonny's Bar-B-Q and the youth pastors there swapped stories of past events and

dreams for future events. They come together regularly to share a meal, build friendships and plan how they are going to reach the students in their community.

I also had the pleasure of meeting with the Frankfort Youth Ministry Association, a fairly new network of youth ministers that is trying to build community and trust and all the things that will help make them a strong community.

There are other youth minister communities like these across the state in such areas as Owensboro, Russellville, Paducah and Northern Kentucky. These ministers are coming together for one purpose—to reach students for Christ and to help them grow in their relationship with Christ.

What does all of this have to do with youth ministry? Community among our churches and especially our youth ministries is a vital tool to more effectively reach the secular communities in which we minister.

Picture the community in which your church serves. There is the poor section of town, the upper classes section, the business district, the rich church, the blue-collar church, the athletes, the techies, the Christians, the Goth students, the school band students, the garage band students and each of them are their own community.

Community is more than where you live. It is a group of individuals

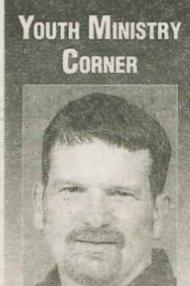
with common interests, common goals and common vision—whether it's a gang of youth roaming the streets or a group of women meeting for prayer.

Community is where you serve and who you serve with. Think of the communities in your town. There is little chance that you can reach every segment of that society by yourself. No one can be all things to all people. It stretches you too thin, straps your resources too heavily and taxes your volunteer base.

Community is needed to reach community. I have heard Roger Palmer, former youth pastor at First Baptist Church of Paducah, talk on several occasions about what happened in that area after the school shooting there in 1997. The youth pastors were able to minister in Heath High School because of relationships they already had formed as a community of youth pastors. They already had built a sense of community with the school administration.

Community is vital to survival in ministry. I can think of very few things that would better energize your ministry than finding fellow servants with a common heart and purpose to meet with for prayer, accountability and strategizing to reach your community. When we present a united front to school administrators, government, civic and church leaders, it shows them we are serious about reaching students.

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



Joe Ball

The longest yards: Some visitors won't walk aisle

"They said they would probably never join the church because their fear of walking down the aisle was so high."

Kevin Hamm, pastor of Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville

Continued from page 1

The extent of this fear was driven home, he said, while visiting a couple who frequently attended Valley View, but never had joined.

"They said they would probably never join the church because their fear of walking down the aisle was so high," Hamm recalled. Approximately 2,300 people attend the two services Valley View hosts each Sunday.

The couple's comments bothered Hamm enough that he wondered how visitors and regular attendees would respond if they could become church members without walking the aisle.

To answer the question, church leaders scheduled a Commitment Sunday in January. Using a detailed bulletin insert and follow-up strategy, Valley View offered people attending the worship services that day a chance to join "from the pew."

The bulletin insert directed people to indicate if they were joining through a statement of faith in Christ, a transfer of membership from another Baptist church, or if they wished to make a first-time profession of faith in Christ.

Hamm recalled that after the second morning service, he went to the church office to discover a small stack of inserts on his desk. Encouraged by the response, he said he was "amazed" when someone pointed to another desk with a large pile of inserts yet to be sorted.

Matching follow-up to response

In total, 152 people joined Valley View that Sunday. Of those, 96 new members already were Christians. The other 56 made first-time professions of faith, were enrolled in a new members' class and were counseled regarding baptism.

Hamm said every new member received follow-up visits. A few cards referenced people who couldn't be found, so they were not included as new members.

Two church growth specialists applauded the effort.

"They (Valley View) have tapped into an alternate response that our churches might do well to offer from time to time," said Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist



Convention's church development and evangelism team. "Having people immediately available to follow-up with these folks is imperative."

Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, agreed.

With appropriate follow-up, a from-the-pew opportunity does not circumvent a public confession of faith in Christ by a new believer, he said.

"The public profession is the time of baptism rather than aisle-walking or filling out a card," Rainer said.

"I'm not as concerned as to the mode of decision as the opportunity of decision," he added.

Through research and consulting with "hundreds" of churches, Rainer said he believes there is "anecdotal evidence" that points to a reduction in altar calls in Baptist churches.

"I have known some large churches that have commitment times

once a month or once a quarter," Rainer said. "I'm concerned about those people who have a sense of conviction other than at that time."

Response & declining baptisms

Noting there is "no hard data" at this time to support such a trend, Rainer said the decline in baptisms in Southern Baptist churches could be a result of providing fewer opportunities for worshipers to share spiritual decisions with others.

"I don't have an answer as to why we're moving away from a time of decision in a service," he said. "I believe that every message, every service, should lead toward a decision. There should be some opportunity for response."

But, in some cases, a reprieve from aisle-walking could provide an opportunity for a clearer understanding of salvation for some people, he said. Aisle-walking "serves a purpose very well that is often misused," Rainer said.

"On the one hand, it is a time of affirmation to see decisions that have been made. On the other hand, theologically, some of our church members equate walking the aisle with salvation."

A 2004 study by his Rainer Group research team asked a group of current church members "diagnostic" questions about the method and meaning of salvation.

Rainer said the results found many "unregenerate" members who did not have a biblical view of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

"We found that around 45 percent were probably unregenerate members," Rainer said. "I emphasize probably. We cannot know the true heart condition of a person. No kind of research can know with certainty matters of salvation."

Providing different methods of response could facilitate a better understanding of the gospel, he said.

Hamm said he is also concerned that visitors, regular attendees or even church members are misunderstanding basic facts of faith.

"(Baptists) have to be very strategic and thorough in our follow-up from the altar to the baptismal waters," he said.

"Seeker-friendly" approaches

Hamm, Garland and Rainer agree that aisle-walking is here to stay and that the tradition has many positive aspects.

"It's an encouragement to the church body to see how God is working in a service," Rainer said.

"I believe in walking the aisle," Hamm said, noting that on Valley View's Commitment Sunday, when worshipers had the option to join from the pew, a number of people still walked the aisle in response to the invitation.

He said the church might offer the bulletin-insert approach once or twice annually.

Garland said more churches should seek such "seeker-friendly" approaches.

"We have to meet people where they are. We think you have to get 'saved at church or at youth camp,'" he said. "The key is to find creative ways people can respond to Christ."

Advocates cite history and Scripture for 'public profession' of walking aisle

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—The act of walking the aisle of a church to convey publicly a spiritual decision is rooted in mid-19th century America, and, many say, by way of the Gospel of Matthew.

Biblical scholars point to several Scriptures they say support the "outward expression of an inward decision," but Matthew 10:32-33 is perhaps the most-often referenced:

"Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My Father in heaven."

Kentucky church growth experts Dan Garland and Thom Rainer agree that in Southern Baptist and other evangelical churches, baptism is considered by many as the ultimate act of public confession.

Nevertheless, aisle-walking remains a "first step" of faith for many new believers.

Charles Finney & D.L. Moody

If anyone could be dubbed the "father" of the altar call, it probably would be Charles Finney. The University of Virginia American Studies Program provides one of many summaries of Finney's background and ministry.

A Connecticut native and one-time lawyer, Finney was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1824.

By 1830, he was one of the major figures of the Second Great Awakening—a period of Christian revival with Kentucky as one of its epicenters.

Encouraging listeners to repent and accept Christ as "Savior," Finney would invite them to the "anxious seat," also known as the "mourner's bench," at the

front of a church or whatever gathering area was being used.

At the anxious seat, men, women and children would receive prayer and counsel from a pastor or other church leaders.

From the anxious seat came the "inquiry room," a method brought into prominence by evangelist D.L. Moody, according to Daniel Whitesell's book, "Great Personal Workers."

When a message came to a time of decision, people who felt under conviction were led to a room away from the larger crowd where they could be counseled personally.

Some biographers tell the story of a Sunday night service in Chicago in 1871 that led Moody to emphasize immediate public decisions.

Reportedly, he asked the crowd gathered that night to ponder their spiritual

condition and return the next week to further explore any decision they needed to make. But the infamous great Chicago fire broke out during the service, scattering the congregation and burning the church. There was no opportunity to regroup the following week.

Evangelist Billy Graham's stadium-sized altar calls testify to the acceptance and effectiveness of the method, but pastors and biblical scholars are quick to point out that the act of walking an aisle or repeating a collection of phrases cannot be equated with a heart-felt acceptance of God's grace through Christ.

"People can respond to Christ anywhere," Garland said. "I think the best venue of response is in the home—parents leading children to Christ, or children leading parents to Christ. Then, they come to church to have that decision affirmed."

What do malls have in common with most churches?

More similarities than most Baptists think, according to church leadership consultant

By Joe Westbury
Georgia Christian Index

Marietta, Ga.—David Suddath is used to seeing churches slip behind the times as communities grow and expand—or transition and die.

He's also noticed surprising similarities in the life cycle of shopping malls, and that's what he tries to impress on congregations as he helps them keep in tune with those in their communities.

"In the life of every church you have a life cycle that is clearly defined," said Suddath, a consultant for a Baptist association in north-west metro-Atlanta. "About 85 percent of our churches are on the downside of the Bell curve (declin-

ing) and about 15 percent are on the upside (growing). Each community has the same cycle.

"Churches are like shopping malls. Every 10 years a mall must update itself to reflect the needs of its community," he said.

Malls must ask themselves hard questions, such as:

■ Are we offering products that meet the needs of our customers?

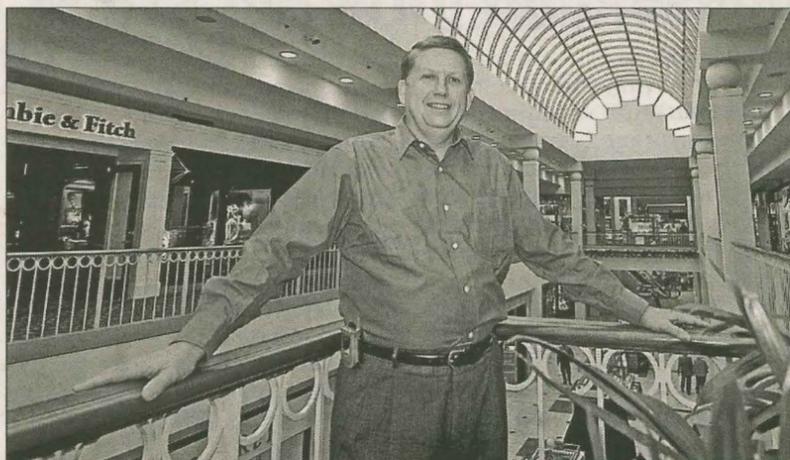
■ Does our general atmosphere have a contemporary look and feel, or do we look like we are living in 1950?

■ Do we provide a friendly, welcoming environment where people want to come and spend their time, as well as their money?

"Those are the kinds of questions each mall must answer if it is going to continue to attract new customers and expand its influence in the community," Suddath explained.

Reflecting immediate community

If the mall stays the same but the community goes in a totally new di-



SHOPPING FOR SOULS More churches could take a lesson from shopping malls as they stay relevant in order to attract people, Baptist church consultant David Suddath (above) says. (Georgia Christian Index photo by Gibbs Frazier)

rection—upscale or downscale—the mall will die. It will not attract customers because it is out of step with their needs. Who wants to buy suits with wide lapels in 2005, he asked, even if they were the rage at one time?

Churches must do the same, he tells church leaders. The better the job the church does to mirror the community, the more healthy it will become.

"Most of our churches, like most shopping malls, are community-based and need to be sure they reflect the needs of their immediate community."

Suddath is quick to point out

that the gospel message is never comprised through such an updating of a congregation's relevance.

"The purpose and the mission of the church never changes, but the strategies to get people into the church should be constantly updated and evaluated. The outreach should be constantly fine-tuned to be sure it is meeting the needs of the moment," he explained.

"Christ was never complacent to preach the same message wherever He went, Suddath added. "We see from scripture that He would always tailor His message to those He was trying to reach and speak the gospel in terms they would understand."

"The purpose and the mission of the church never changes, but the strategies to get people into the church should be constantly updated and evaluated."

Church consultant
David Suddath



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Meet Kentucky missionary and Hispanic church planter Carlos De La Barra



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Tsunami work enters new phase; IMB gifts top \$10 M

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

Richmond, Va. (BP)—As ministry to Asian tsunami survivors begins the transition from emergency relief to long-term recovery, Southern Baptist gifts to the aid effort through the International Mission Board have topped \$10 million.

By Feb. 17, total contributions received from Southern Baptist churches and individuals for tsunami aid had surpassed \$10,209,000—an unprecedented outpouring of compassion over such a short period, according to IMB finance officials.

So far, about \$2.5 million has been disbursed for nearly 50 aid projects throughout South and Southeast Asia, ranging from food and water distribution, medical care, temporary shelter and sanitation to providing fishing nets and reconstruction materials for villagers struggling to rebuild their lives and communities.

Many more projects will be funded in the months to come, said Jim Brown, the mission board's specialist for world hunger and relief ministries. They will support ongoing relief as well as longer-term efforts to help ravaged communities recover and rebuild. Every penny given will go to tsunami-related ministry.

"The resources we're using have come through Southern Baptists, but they've come from God," Brown said.

"When it's all said and done, I'm sure we will have utilized all we've received—and then some," he added. "With a crisis of this magnitude, it may take a year. It may take two years or even longer. But it's going to give our people the opportunity for building long-term relationships" in many places once difficult to reach by outsiders.

Recovery projects after other natural disasters—such as Hurricane Mitch, which devastated parts of Honduras in 1998—often continue for years, Brown said. Mitch was bad, but the regional devastation wrought by the tsunami is almost incomprehensible.

From initial response to rebuilding

"So far we've been doing emergency disaster response," said Don Dent, IMB regional leader for mission work in the Pacific Rim. "We were there early, and we were there with people who knew the language and culture, supported by volunteers who have been meeting needs. We've done feeding. We've done a lot of medical work. We've dug mass graves for villages. We've cleaned out houses so people can move back in out of the weather. We've done some building projects already. We knew the funds were there because Southern Baptists were responding immediately and generously."

In the months ahead, Dent said, work should transition to more reconstruction and development of local economies, "which is great because there's a lot of relationship building we can do."

Dent acknowledged there must

be "10,000 volunteer teams that want to come build something." But he emphasized this is not a time to build churches—especially in majority Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist communities carefully watching what Christian volunteers do in their midst.

"It's a time to build community centers or schools or housing," he said. "We have teams booked for all the openings that we have for the next three months at least. We're hoping for long-term openings."

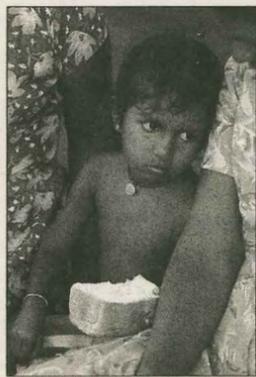
"Not everyone wants us there"

One key to long-term presence: governments in the region. Several national governments are showing clear indications they will soon limit access to tsunami-damaged areas—particularly Indonesia. Indonesia's Aceh province, where more than 120,000 people died in the earthquake and tsunami, was closed to foreigners before the disaster because of long-running conflict between the national government and separatist forces.

"By July or August, most of the groups now working in Aceh probably will not be there any longer," Dent said. "We're hoping and planning and working toward being there for the next year or two. But it's hard to project how open it's going to be and how many people we're going to be able to put in there."

"Not everyone is happy that foreigners are in these places. Not everyone wants us there. But Christians are having an impact. People are overwhelmed that foreigners are coming and helping them. We just ask people to keep praying that the long-term opportunity will be there."

"I'm asking people to pray that God will open a door that no man can shut."



BREAKFAST A young girl in a displacement camp in Sri Lanka leans on her mother's arm as she has a hot breakfast of bread and chicken. Southern Baptist workers continue to assist many such survivors of the tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka's coastline. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

How to help

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- Dan Garland, KBC Church Development and Evangelism Team leader



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Monday-Wednesday - April 4-6, 2005

INSPIRATION.....CONVERSATION.....RELAXATION

Robert Ellis: Tutor in Theology at Regent's Park College, Oxford University

Joel Gregory: Preacher extraordinaire and storytelling author, from TX

Andrew Lester: Author of widely acclaimed books on anger, Brite Divinity School in TX

Brian McLaren: Key spokesperson for the Emergent Church Movement, Baltimore

Haddon Robinson: Internationally known preacher and author, Gordon-Conwell in MA

Sarah Jackson Shelton: Pastor of Church of the Covenant in Birmingham



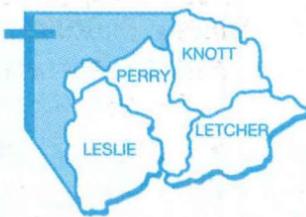
The cost is \$100 with special rates for students, retirees and first-time ministers. Please remit payment to: Pastors Conference, Georgetown College, 400 East College Street, Georgetown, KY 40324 contact Robbi Barber at (502) 863-7047 or robbi_barber@georgetowncollege.edu. Please make check payable to Georgetown College.

KENTUCKY CROSS OVER

June - October 2005

Lifting Up Jesus Christ

Purpose *Cross Over Kentucky* is an effort to reach Kentucky for Christ. This will be accomplished by mobilizing Kentucky Baptists from all over the state to be involved in mission and evangelism projects in the **Three Forks Baptist Association** from **June - October 2005**.



THREE FORKS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IN SOUTH EASTERN KENTUCKY

Overview of Projects:

Missions & Evangelism Project Requests*

June-October, 2005

- Conduct Vacation Bible School
- Back Yard Bible Clubs
- Prayer Walking
- Community/Prayer Needs surveys
- Door to Door witnessing
- Distribution of "Jesus" videos
- Speakers for revivals

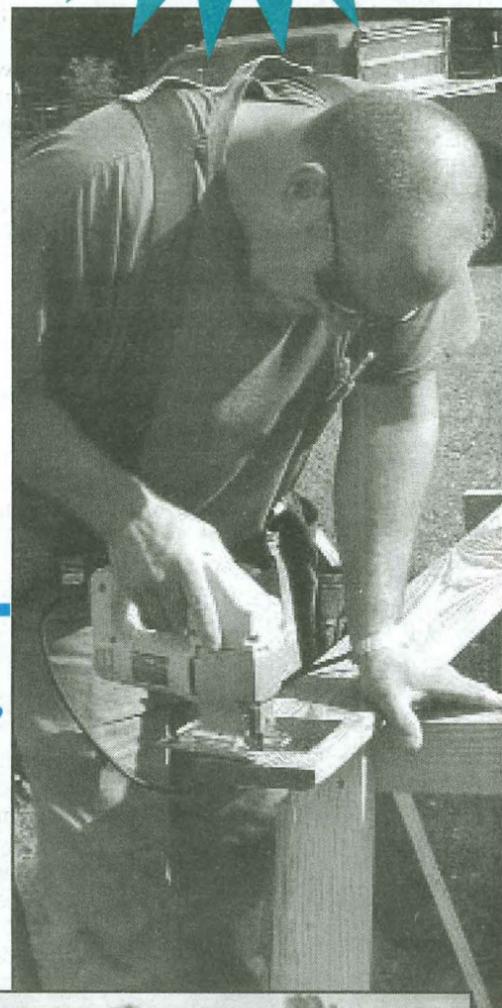
Please pray about coming to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky and helping Lift Up the Cross of Christ and connect people to Jesus Christ. Call Shaughanessy Morris at 606-436-6721 for details.



Construction/Repair Projects

1. Clean exterior brick on church building (high pressure water or sand blast)
2. Clean & paint church steeple
3. Expand church fellowship hall & kitchen (2 different churches)
4. Light construction & repair (some church buildings & private homes)
5. Cleaning & painting
6. Gut & replace nursery
7. Roof repair & new roofing installation

*Some similar types of projects have been requested by several churches; thus more than one team would be needed. Some items may be combined by some teams.



Common Questions

Who Can Participate in Cross Over Kentucky?

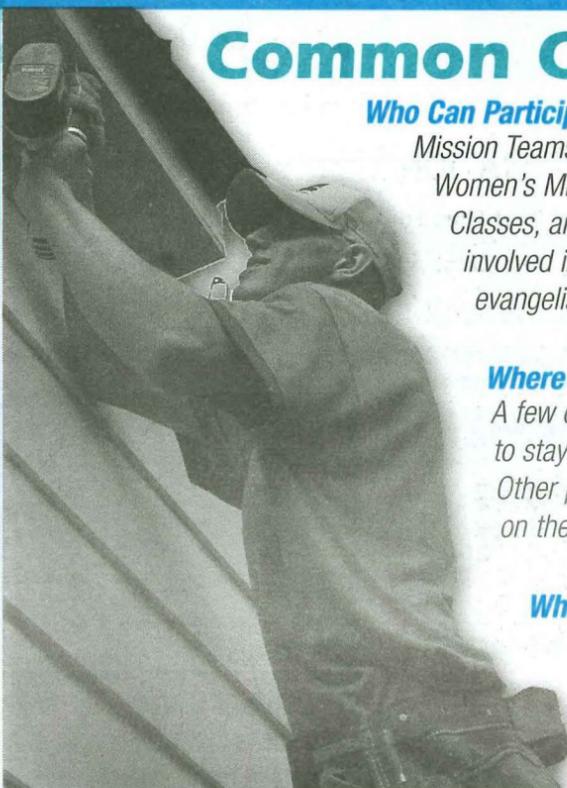
Mission Teams, Youth Groups, Men and Women's Ministry Teams, Bible Study Classes, any group interested in being involved in hands on mission and evangelism projects.

Where Will We Stay?

A few churches will offer a place to stay and have showers. Other places to stay are listed on the back page.

What is the Timeframe for the Projects?

The projects can be tailored to your timeframe. Most of the projects are multiple day projects but there are projects that could be done in one or two days.



Community/Prayer Needs Survey

A sample of the Community/Prayer Needs Survey is given below. The basic format is that teams of three people will be assigned specific areas to survey and be given packets of materials to use. As each team goes through the survey with residents, an opportunity is extended to share a witnessing booklet with interested individuals. Each team will be assigned approximately 30 homes to survey.

COMMUNITY/PRAYER NEEDS SURVEY

Not at home Busy Refused Survey Refused Materials

Names of Surveyors _____

Address of Home Surveyed _____ (First print the address and then knock on the door or ring the doorbell)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

At The Door Say:

Hello, I'm _____ and this is _____ and _____ (use first names only).

We are with _____ Baptist Church and we are trying to help our church effectively meet the needs of our community by conducting a brief community needs survey.

May we ask you a few questions?

1. What do you believe is the biggest need in our community?

2. How could our church best help our community and your family?

3. When you attend church, where do you attend?

4. Our church would like to pray for you and your family. Are there prayer concerns our church family can pray for at this time?

5. Can we call and make an appointment to share with you the ministries of our church? If yes, may we have your name and phone number?

Name _____ Phone _____

6. Comments: _____

Conclusion - After each survey please complete the information below:

Shared witnessing booklet Profession of Faith Assurance of Salvation

This person is a prospect:

Name _____

Phone (optional) _____

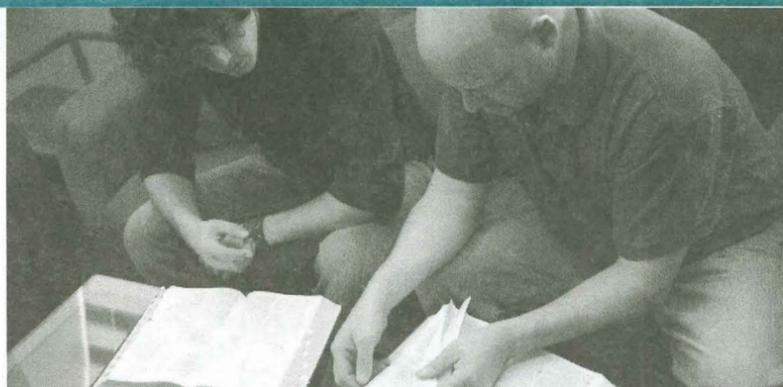
Comments _____

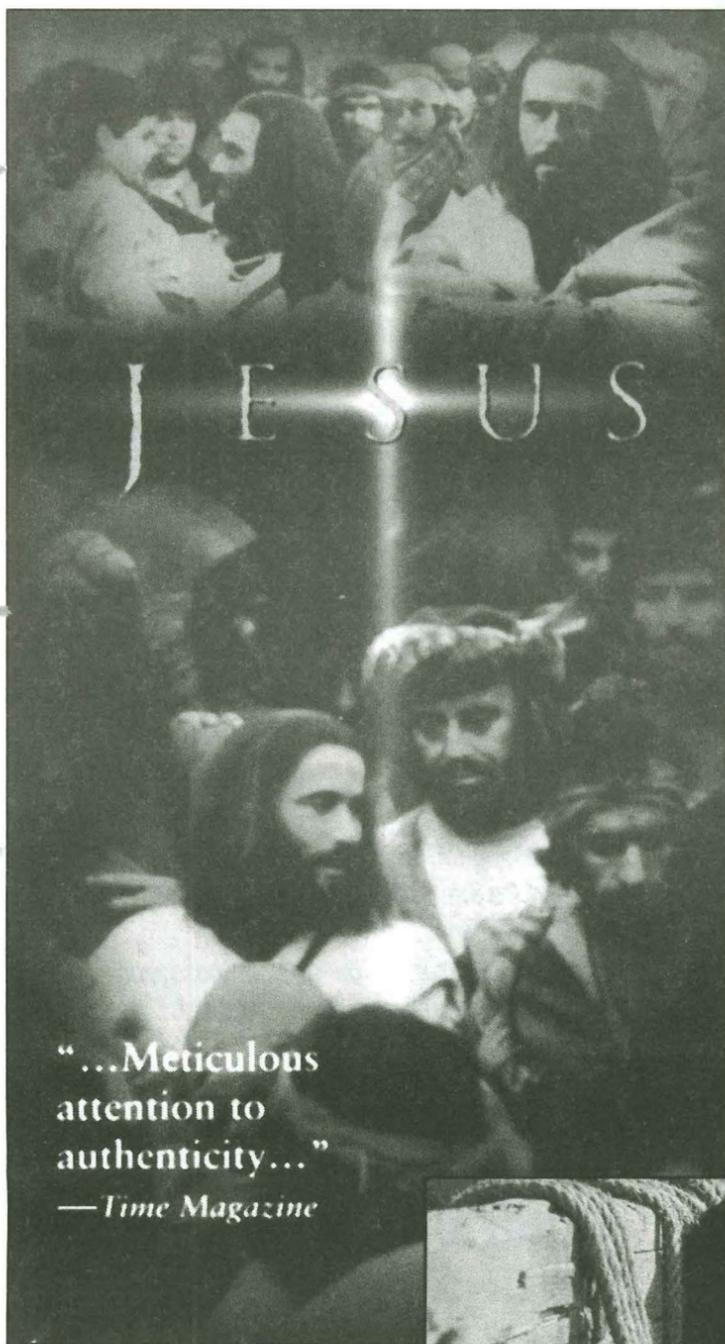
General Instructions for Community/Prayer Needs Survey

The following are general instructions for the **Community/Prayer Needs Survey** to be conducted in targeted areas.

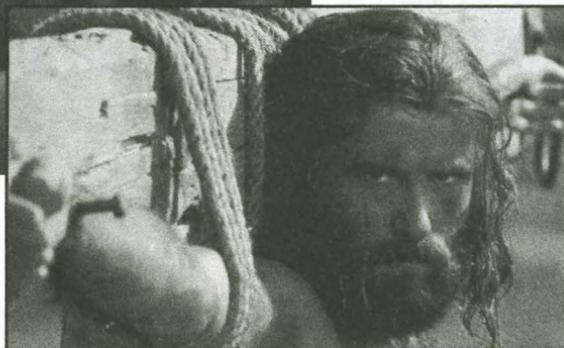
- ▶ You will be assigned to a team of three people with at least one person of the opposite sex on each team and one person from the church you are representing.
- ▶ You will be given a packet of material that contains a map that locates the area to be surveyed, the Community/Prayer Needs Survey cards and information about the church you are representing. Take time to pray together as a team for those homes you will visit and the people you will talk with.
- ▶ As you approach the residence to be surveyed, fill out the top portion of the survey including the address.
- ▶ A designated person in the group should introduce the team and share the purpose of the survey. One person on the team should record the responses while another person asks the questions. Go through the survey and if appropriate seek to share the gospel using the "Steps to Peace with God" witnessing booklet.
- ▶ If possible, obtain the name or names of the persons in the household and fill out the survey card before going to the next residence.
- ▶ Leave materials about the church and the witnessing booklet. If no one is home, mark this on the top portion of the survey card indicating the address and leave materials about the church.
- ▶ Do not enter the residence or go to the back door. If residents ask you to come in say that you have been requested not to enter homes so as not to inconvenience anyone.
- ▶ After completing the surveys of assigned areas, return to the church to turn in your report forms.

If you have not yet volunteered for **Cross Over KENTUCKY**, NOW is the time! For more information or to volunteer to participate in one of many events planned, call **Mrs. Shaughanessy Morris at 606-436-6721**. You can also register online at: **www.kybaptist.org/crossover**





“...Meticulous attention to authenticity...”
—Time Magazine



The Jesus Video Distribution

The Jesus film has touched more lives than any other evangelistic effort in human history.

It is the inspired Word of God brought into film and video. Hundreds of these videos will be distributed in homes all across the targeted area. No evangelism training is required to do this. A willingness to knock on doors and offer the video as a gift is all that is needed.

TRAINING GUIDE FOR THE CROSS OVER JESUS VIDEO DISTRIBUTION

1. Show the JESUS video in your church on a Sunday night during the discipleship time or during the evening worship service. (These are available through the Church Development and Evangelism Team office of the KBC.)
2. Promote the need to distribute the Jesus videos in your area.
3. Enlist volunteers from within your church who will help with the JESUS video distribution and encourage them to work with the other Kentucky Baptists who will be coming to participate in Cross Over events.
4. Select the areas you can reasonably expect to cover in about four hours. One team of three people can cover about 50 homes.
5. Order the Jesus videos from the Church Development and Evangelism Team office. The cost is \$3.00 each. Order 25 videos per team. A plastic doorhanger bag labeled FREE VIDEO INSIDE will be included with your order. Information about your church can be placed in this bag.
6. Follow-up. The ideal follow-up is to make a second visit to the homes about one month after the videos have been distributed. Ask if there are any questions about the video, ask for prayer concerns that can be shared with the church and give an invitation to Bible study and worship.
7. Provide lunch at the church for those participating in Cross Over Kentucky events.

Prayer Walks/Journeys

The Prayer Walking/Journeys will consist of walking or driving targeted areas beginning two weeks prior to the Cross Over effort and praying for the residents to be receptive to the Gospel.

INSTRUCTIONS

For The Churches Participating In The Prayer Walks/Journeys:

1. Prepare maps of the areas to be prayer walked or driven.
2. Designate a timeframe at least two weeks prior to Cross Over to do the Prayer Walks/Journeys.

The key to both calling out laborers for Cross Over and touching the unchurched with the Good News is prayer. It is our desire that every targeted area of Cross Over be prayed for through prayer walking or driving strategic areas. Those who want to participate in Cross Over prayer efforts are encouraged to:

1. Put Cross Over on their prayer list.
2. Sign up to be part of the prayer effort for Cross Over and choose a targeted area.

Weekend or One Day Revivals

Many of the churches in the targeted areas will be having WEEKEND OR ONE DAY REVIVALS. To prepare for these revivals, consider doing the following:

- Organize prayer teams to begin praying for the revival services.
- Secure a speaker. If you need help securing a speaker, please contact the **Church Development and Evangelism Team Office at 888-254-5722 or 502-254-4737.**
- Provide housing, expenses and an honorarium for the visiting speaker.
- Publicize the revival services in the church, the community and through the Cross Over efforts.
- Provide training for decision counselors using the **"Steps to Peace with God"** tract provided by the Evangelism Office.
- Prepare for necessary follow-up with those who make decisions during the revival services.



Vacation Bible School

VBS and Backyard Bible Clubs are wonderful ways to share the love of Jesus with children. Preparation for all the fun is essential. Begin with prayer about who will go and for God's blessings. Choose your curriculum early and then make sure that all of your team members get training so that everyone will be ready to let God use them this summer.

A great new VBS option for mission Bible Schools is Beach Blast. Everything comes in a box and you are ready for VBS with 50 children. You can get extra materials if you need them. For additional information or to order materials contact Wendy Dever at KBC's **Preschool/Children's Ministries Group at KBC, 888-254-5708 or e-mail at wendy.dever@kybaptist.org.**



Teams Can Stay at the Following:

Perry County

Days Inn: (606) 436-4777
Hampton Inn: (606) 439-0902
Super 8: (606) 436-8888
Hazard Hotel: (606) 436-4428

Letcher County

Calvary Campus: (606) 633-0065
Parkway Motel: (606) 633-4441
 (Whitesburg)

Knott County

Alice Lloyd College: (606) 368-2101
 (if reservations are made early enough)
Some church facilities with showers are available.

Cross Over KENTUCKY 2005 Leadership Team

Cross Over Coordinator

Mrs. John Morris (Shaughanessy) has agreed to be the coordinator. Shaughanessy has agreed also to have churches contact her directly with their request.

Her number is **606.436.6721.**

Her E-mail is mrs__morris@hotmail.com.

Director of Missions
James E. Castlen

Three Forks Baptist Association
606-439-4339

ALSO on the leadership team:

Rev. James Hamblin
Rev. Kenny Salmons
Mrs. Estella Brashear
Jack Hester



Church Development and Evangelism Team

P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

502-254-4737 or

Toll Free 888-254-5722



Please visit our Web site for "Up to the Minute" information:

www.kybaptist.org/crossover

This event helps achieve the evangelism and missions objective of the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis.



This publication is made possible by the Cooperative Program.

Pastor wants all Christians for 'black contract' on morals

Washington (RNS)—An African-American pastor who recently unveiled the "Black Contract with America on Moral Values" said he hopes to collect a million signatures of Christians from a variety of backgrounds by the end of the year.

Bishop Harry Jackson, senior pastor of Hope Christian Church in Lanham, Md., expanded upon the plans of his new High Impact Leadership Coalition at a news conference at a Washington hotel.

"We're not saying you have to be black to sign this contract," he said.

"Really what needs to happen is the black community and the Christian community—black, white, Hispanic and Asian—need to sign up," he continued. "These goals are consistent with the Bible, so I'm expecting to see Christians sign up."

Jackson told reporters that African-Americans have tended to concentrate on issues of justice while white evangelical Christians have tended to focus on matters of righteousness—opposing abortion and same-sex marriage.

"We're saying 'time out,'" he said. "We need to begin to bring these two things together."

The Maryland pastor said he hopes eventually to deliver the contract and its signatures to President Bush and members of Congress.

Israel wants U.S. travel warning lifted. American, Jewish and evangelical Christian leaders sent a joint petition to President Bush last month urging him to cancel the State Department's warning against travel to Israel. The warning was established at the start of the Palestinian uprising in September 2000. Last month the Israeli and Palestinian governments officially declared an end to armed attacks.

Toned-down 'Passion' coming. Mel Gibson has trimmed five to six minutes of violent scenes from his movie, "The Passion of the Christ." The new version will open on 500 to 750 screens beginning March 11. "There are no new scenes, and the cuts are limited to the more violent aspects of the film, if that's the right term," said Bruce Davey, Gibson's partner at Icon Productions which distributes the film. "The scourging scene in particular has been substantially adjusted."

Basketball star's mosque named in probe. A mosque founded and financed by former Houston Rockets star Hakeem Olajuwon donated more than \$80,000 to charity groups later determined to have ties to terrorist organizations Hamas and al-Qaida. Olajuwon is not being investigated, but tax returns of his Islamic Da'Wah Center, in Houston, revealed the gifts. Olajuwon participated in a fundraising event for the Holy Land Foundation in 1999, and the Islamic Da'Wah Center donated \$2,000 to the group in 2000. In 2001, the charity was shut down by the government amid accusations it sent money to Hamas.

NATIONAL NOTES

Connecticut takes step toward civil unions. Connecticut moved a step closer toward legalizing Vermont-style civil unions Feb. 23 when a civil unions bill was passed by a legislative judicial committee. If it passes the House and Senate and is signed by Republican Gov. Jodi Rell, it would become law. Connecticut would join Vermont as the only states to offer civil unions.

Falwell in hospital with pneumonia. Jerry Falwell, fighting pneumonia in a Virginia hospital, expects to be released this week, his son said. "They've been trying to get his lungs to clear out. The doctors said that he's doing better this morning," said Jonathan Falwell, executive pastor of his father's Thomas Road Baptist Church in an interview Feb. 25.

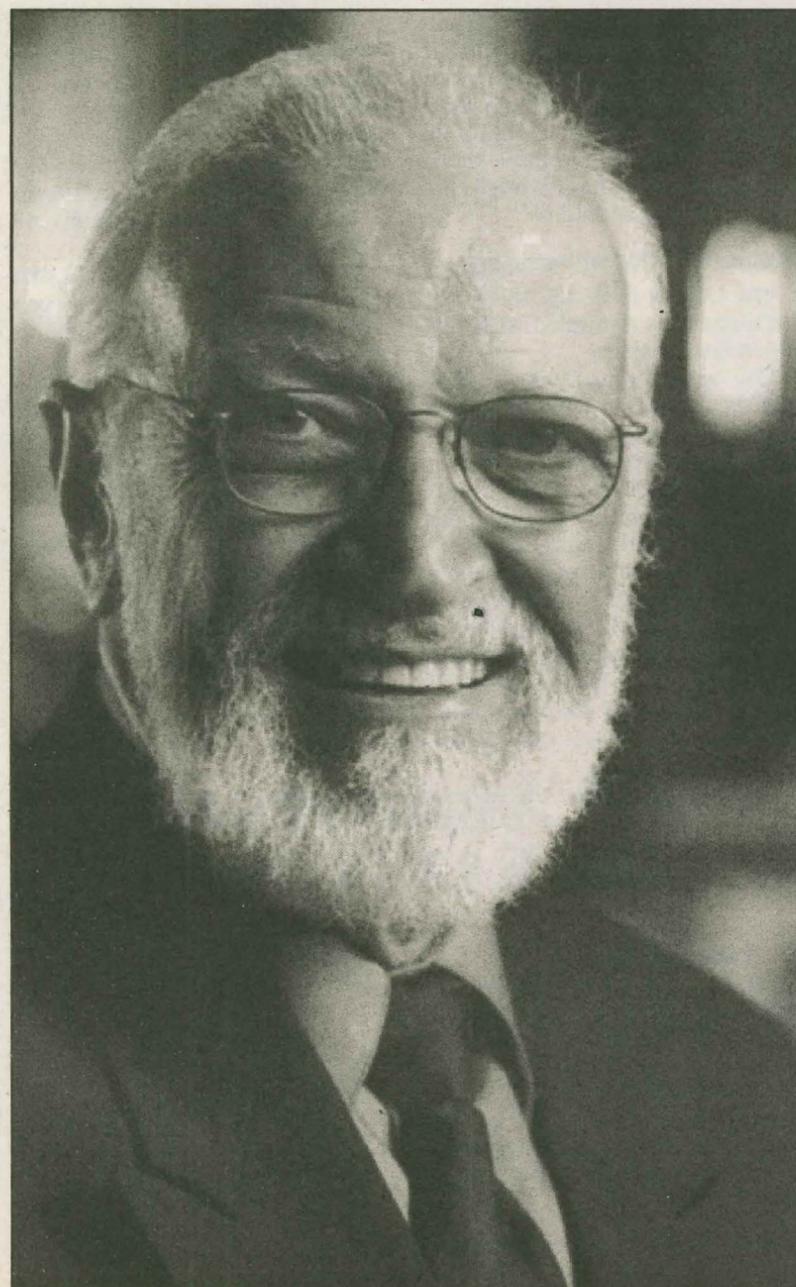
Presbyterians drop employee health plan. Citing rising costs for premiums, the Presbyterian Church in America has discontinued its health plan, which provides benefits for 858 of its employees. Unlike some denominations, the PCA did not require its ministers and church employees to be enrolled in its program. Officials said the number of participants dropped as premiums increased.

Bible study developed for Native Americans. The Seventh-day Adventist Church says it will launch a first-of-its-kind Bible study course geared toward Native Americans. The course took 11 years to research and write, cost \$182,000 and incorporates American Indian traditions into the lessons.

Court takes case on assisted-suicide. The U.S. Supreme Court announced it will take a case examining Oregon's doctor-assisted suicide law. The court agreed to hear the federal government's appeal of a lower court ruling that prevented the Drug Enforcement Administration from punishing doctors who prescribe lethal doses of drugs to terminally ill patients under Oregon's Death With Dignity Act. It will hear the case in October.

Korn guitarist professes Christ. A founding member of the secular hard rock band Korn has announced he accepted Jesus as his Savior and is leaving the band. Brian "Head" Welch told a California radio station Feb. 20 that the aggressive tone of the music he made with Korn is at odds with his newfound happiness in Christ, according to CNN.com. "Anger is a good thing, and if kids want to listen to Korn, good, but there's happiness after the anger," he said. "I'm going to show it through my actions how much I love my fans."

Disciples: Church starting effort working. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) said a plan to start 1,000 churches by 2020 is going so well that the denomination might meet its goal in half the time. The Indianapolis-based church planted 102 new churches in 2004, for a total of 289 new churches since the initiative was launched in 2001. The new churches represent approximately 20,000 parishioners. If the Disciples maintain the current growth rate of 2.76 percent, church leaders say they will meet their goal by 2011 or 2012.



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part of University of the Cumberlands

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Franklin P. Owen Conference on Missions and the Church

featuring

Dr. Calvin Miller

April 4th in Williamsburg, Kentucky

April 5th in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky

April 6th in Louisville, Kentucky

(Sessions from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm)

Registration fee \$35.00

Participants receive breakfast and lunch, two teaching sessions, dialogue with Dr. Miller, and a copy of Dr. Miller's latest book

The Sermon Maker.

Send reservation and fee to Dr. Bob Dunston by Monday, March 28.

7989 College Station Drive, Williamsburg, KY 40769

(606) 539-4156 • ndunston@cumberlandcollege.edu

Supreme Court says no to Roe appeal effort

Washington (RNS)—The Supreme Court last week declined to reconsider its 1973 decision legalizing abortion, turning down Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" of Roe v. Wade, who petitioned the court to overturn the landmark ruling.

The Justice Foundation, a San Antonio, Texas-based nonprofit law firm, filed the petition on behalf of McCorvey in January.

It includes testimonies from 1,000 women who claim to regret their abortions.

"It is tragic and disappointing that the court is not willing to consider the aftermath of 32 years of abortion and its devastating effect on women, their families and our culture," said Allan Parker, Justice Foundation president.

The 5,000-page petition was based on three legal arguments:

- That the Supreme Court has a duty to monitor whether conditions have changed related to constitutional issues it has ruled on.

- That the legal conditions underlying Roe v. Wade have changed materially since the 1973 ruling, making further application of it unjust.

- That McCorvey was denied due process in the lower courts because she wasn't given a hearing based on the evidence.

In Moses' shadow

Justices ponder Ten Commandments case amid host of Christian symbolism

By Andrea James
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—When the Supreme Court justices consider this week whether the Ten Commandments should be displayed on government property, they will do so under the watchful eyes of Moses.

The Jewish lawgiver is depicted several times in the stone and marble edifice that is the Supreme Court building, and so are the Ten Commandments.

In sculpture, Moses sits as the prominent figure atop the building's east side, holding two tablets representing the Ten Commandments. And on the wall behind him the chief justice's chair, an allegorical "Majesty of Law" places his muscular left arm on a tablet depicting the Roman numerals I through X.

Believers are convinced those are the commandments given to Moses as described in the biblical Book of Exodus. Others say the 10 numbers represent the Bill of Rights.

The Supreme Court and other government buildings throughout the city feature both Moses and the Commandments.

"He's all over the state capitols," said Francis Manion, senior counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative legal advocacy group. "Until five years ago, it was not at all controversial to make the point that Moses and the Ten Commandments are the fundamental sources of our legal system."

Art or religious reference?

It will be plenty controversial on March 2, the day the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments challenging whether the Ten Commandments can be displayed on public property without violating the Constitution.

Groups that argue for the right to display such symbols have pointed out that the court's own architecture—along with other government buildings in the nation's capital—are festooned with religious imagery.

"They are more than just symbols, they are history," said Catherine Millard, founder of Christian Heritage Tours, which shows tour-

ists where they can find such government depictions of religion in Washington.

Religious symbols appear so often that it takes Christian Heritage Tours three days to show visitors all the biblical references on buildings ranging from the Library of Congress to the Capitol itself.

Advocates of church-state separation argue that such displays are just art, and are not to be taken religiously. But that's exactly how believers such as Millard, author of "The Rewriting of America's History," take them.

She notes that Moses appears eight times in carvings that ring the Supreme Court Great Hall ceiling.

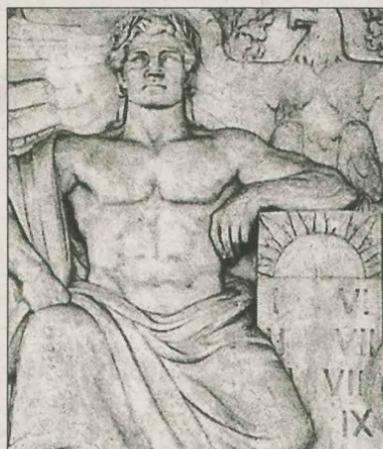
Commandments or amendments?

Perhaps the most controversial image is the one that sits directly above the chief justice's head. In the center of the 40-foot-long Spanish marble carving is a tablet displaying Roman numerals I through X.

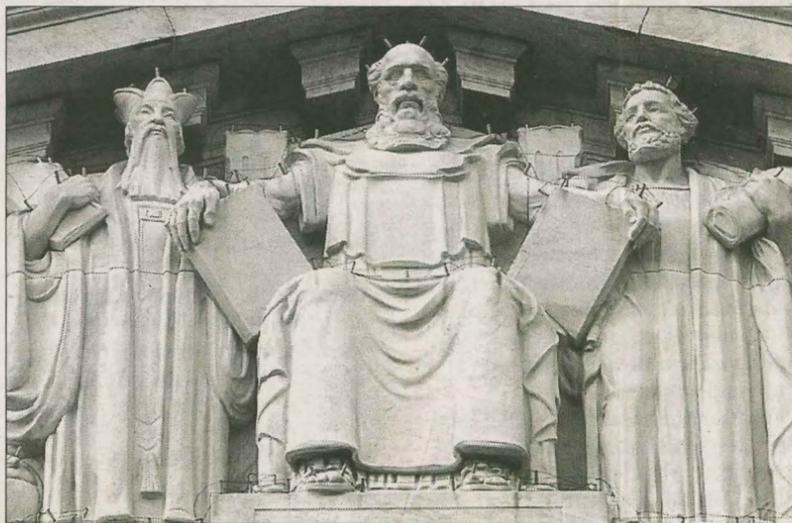
Millard, a Christian who grew up in South Africa and has spent 20 years researching Christianity's role in U.S. history, says the tablet represents the saved Commandments.

She saved a copy of a 1975 Supreme Court guidebook referring to the sculpture as the Ten Commandments.

However, a spokeswoman for



QUESTION OF CONTENT Sculpted in the 1930s, the east wall frieze behind and above the Supreme Court bench shows the allegorical "Majesty of Law" resting his arm on a tablet that is, depending on the source, either the Bill of Rights or the Ten Commandments. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Supreme Court)



SUPREME COURT SCULPTURE Moses appears on the Supreme Court building's east side holding tablets in a pediment designed by Cass Gilbert and Hermon MacNeil in 1932-34. (RNS photo by Chris Rossi)

the Supreme Court says the tablet represents the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, citing a letter from the original sculptor, Adolph Weinman.

"There is correspondence from the sculptor identifying it as the tablet of the 10 amendments," Supreme Court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said. "The letter is a part of the collection of the Archives of American Art."

But Weinman's letter, written in October 1932, is unsigned, and Millard says that makes it untrustworthy.

Another sculpture by Weinman appears in downtown Washington near the Ronald Reagan building, representing religious freedom. In the bronze statue, a woman is leaning on a tablet that looks similar to the one above the Supreme Court bench. That tablet has been referred to as the Commandments.

Washington filled with imagery

The Capitol building, the home of Congress, is also filled with religion-related displays.

The words "Jesus Christ" appear upside-down on an open Bible in a painting in the Capitol Rotunda. In that same painting, called "Embarkation of the Pilgrims," the words "God with us" appear in the upper left corner. Another rotunda painting depicts the baptism of Pocahontas and another contains a cross.

In the House of Representatives chamber, a bas relief sculpture of Moses faces the House speaker's chair. The other 22 bas relief faces

are profiles, looking toward Moses in the center. "In God We Trust" is inscribed above the door to the Senate and behind the Speaker of the House's chair.

Whether religious symbols are prohibited by the Constitution may hinge on the intent of the sculptors, and whether the sculptures promote religion or preserve history.

"We'd be ignorant fools to pretend that religion and specifically this religion has not had an enormous influence on the determinants of our culture and particularly our legal system," the ACLJ's Manion said.

But Barry Lynn, head of the Washington-based Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, said that the Supreme Court carvings are "wildly different" from the controversial 6-foot statue of the Ten Commandments in a Texas courthouse that the justices will consider March 2.

"There's a widespread myth that there's some kind of religious promotion of the Ten Commandments in the Supreme Court," said Lynn. "This is simply an art element in a presentation of the history of law."

Lynn, whose organization opposes religious symbols on public land, said he doesn't believe that the art is in danger.

"We're not going to have to sandblast the friezes off the Supreme Court if the Supreme Court decides that a judge in Kentucky or a community in Texas can't display in an overt fashion a specific version of the Ten Commandments," he said.

15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

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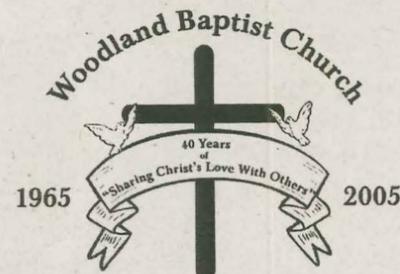
SERIOUS CONCERNS

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

40th Anniversary March 12-13, 2005

Saturday, March 12th
6:00 p.m. Anniversary Banquet
Christian Academy of Louisville
Please RSVP at (502) 245-5416

Sunday, March 13th
8:30 a.m. Celebration Service
9:45 a.m. Anniversary Brunch
11:00 a.m. Celebration Service



Friends, members and former members are invited to join us in celebrating.
809 N. Pope Lick Road • Louisville, KY 40243 • (502) 245-5416 • Mike Sharp, Pastor

After 60 years, our time has arrived

Foundation exists to help strengthen KBC entities

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation was formally conceived by a motion from the floor of the 1943 annual meeting of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, now the Kentucky Baptist Convention, meeting in Bowling Green.

It was created in 1944 when the GABK approved its charter. It was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky on March 8, 1945, 60 years ago. The first meeting of its board of directors was held June 19, 1945.

J.W. Black, the General Secretary of the GABK, convened the meeting and agreed to serve as the foundation's secretary-treasurer until other staff arrangements could be made.

The late A.M. Vollmer was elected the first full-time executive leader of the foundation effective July 1, 1946. Previously, he had served as the superintendent of the Louisville Orphans' Home. Vollmer retired Aug. 31, 1964. In his final report to the KBF board of directors, Dr. Vollmer said, "The foundation has been in the past and will continue to be in the future my first love among all of our

Kentucky Baptist projects. This is true because it lives to strengthen all the rest."

No one has said it any better than Dr. Vollmer. Today, the foundation still exists not for itself but for the rest of our larger and extended Kentucky Baptist family of individuals, families, churches, associations, educational institutions, children's homes, hospitals, camps and conference centers, mission boards and missions support organizations.

Although the foundation has been serving Kentucky Baptists for 60 years, its time has just arrived. Given the significant challenges of financing in the future the missions and ministries of every component of our Kentucky Baptist family, and given the demographic, economic, social, cultural, technological and denominational trends, and their collective impact on charitable giving, the role of the KBF will be ever more critical.

Give us the privilege of facilitating your desire to make a lasting difference for the cause of Christ through your estate plan.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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Gardenside Baptist Church

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- * Cast of more than 100
- * Exciting choral presentation

- * Mandatory childcare for children birth through 3
- * Doors open 90 minutes before presentation

Thursday, March 17 – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 – 7:30 p.m.
 Friday, March 18 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24 – 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, March 19 – 3:00 p.m. Friday, March 25 – 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, March 19 – 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26 – 3:00 p.m.
 Sunday, March 20 – 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 26 – 7:30 p.m.

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 or (859) 277-1541

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Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 Rascal
- 4 Le Cote ____ (W. Africa region)
- 7 Son of Enoch (Genesis 4:18)
- 11 Woman was made from ____ (2 words)
- 13 Her name means "life"
- 14 Spy (colloq.)
- 15 ____ de soie (rich, silken material)
- 16 Fall flower, for short
- 17 "A flattering mouth worketh ____" (Proverbs 26:28)
- 18 Of considerable size, as a drink
- 19 "And Israel dwelt in all the cities of the ____" (Numbers 21:25)
- 21 Used to be
- 23 WWII red-letter day (abbr.)
- 24 "A virtuous ____ is a crown to her husband" (Proverbs 12:4)
- 27 "And Saul smote the Amalekites from ____ until ... Shur" (1 Samuel 15:7)
- 32 "And Israel ... spread his tent beyond the tower of ____" (Genesis 35:21)
- 33 "Therefore God ... hath anointed thee with the ____ of gladness" (Psalm 45:7)
- 34 One conquered by Persia
- 35 Stringed instrument resembling a lyre, in the Bible
- 37 Aussie tennis great
- 38 And (Fr.)
- 39 ____ Harbor, NY
- 40 "Lest ... when I have preached to others, I ... should be a ____" (1 Corinthians 9:27)

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
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- 45 ____ the Terrible, Russian czar
- 49 Ancient Hebrew dry measure
- 50 Broadcast
- 51 Mount ____, in the land of Moab (Deuteronomy 32)
- 52 Bill of fare
- 53 Louis XV, par exemple
- 54 First name in murder mysteries (and Perry's creator)
- 55 ____bellum South (period following Civil War)
- 56 Gov't. drug prevention org.
- 57 Affirmative
- 12 Fortress
- 20 N.T. book (abbr.)
- 22 Article
- 24 NBA great Unseld
- 25 Harem room
- 26 Son of (Scot., prefix)
- 27 Used physical force
- 28 "How long will ye ____ mischief against a man?" (Psalm 62:3)
- 29 O.T. book (abbr.)
- 30 Summer drink
- 31 Pronoun
- 33 "For which cause we faint not; ... though our ____ man perish" (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Down

- 1 Like Queeg or Bligh (abbr.)
- 2 ____ code
- 3 Popular soap
- 4 "Luke, the beloved physician, and ____, greet you" (Colossians 4:14)
- 5 Mature female cell
- 6 Dismissal
- 7 Son of Bani (1 Chronicles 9:4)
- 8 Defeat utterly
- 9 "When he speaketh ____, he speaketh of his own" (2 words, John 8:44)
- 10 Cubs' "cribs"?

Last week's solution

A	L	L		C	O	A	L		B	A	J	A
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			19	L	E	S	T		N	O	M	E
D	O	D	O	S		R	O	O	M			
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Evangelicals rebuke disclosure of secret Bush recordings

"I'm not going to kick gays, because I'm a sinner. How can I differentiate sin?"

George W. Bush, according to a newly taped story from secretly taped conversations between 1998 and 2000

Washington (RNS)—Doug Wead, an evangelical Christian and former confidant of President Bush, has become an outcast among some conservative Christian leaders after he shared tapes with The New York Times that recorded private conversations with Bush.

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, told the New York Times that he was "shocked" by Wead's "breach of trust." The tapes were made when Bush was governor of Texas.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the actions by Wead, who has written a book on the parents of presidents, weren't "all that great a career move if he wants to speak at evangelical events."

The New York Times reported Feb. 20 that Wead recorded numerous conversations with Bush and

shared some of the president's candid comments with a journalist.

In the tapes, Bush practices for a meeting with Dobson, and alludes to having smoked marijuana.

Wead, a former Assemblies of God minister, said the tapes were of telephone conversations between him and Bush, and dated from the period between 1998 and 2000.

Wead said he secretly taped the conversations for their historical value because he believed Bush would become president. Wead also used the tapes for a book he wrote on the lives of presidential children.

Bush: Won't "kick gays"

In the recordings, news sources report, Bush repeatedly expresses his desire to shelve up his support among evangelical Protestants.

But he also expresses reluctance

about leading publicly with evangelical leaders and "kicking gays."

In discussing a meeting he had with Texas evangelist and one-time Southern Baptist leader James Robison, for example, Bush reportedly confided in Wead, "I think he wants me to attack homosexuals."

But to the attack homosexuals, he told Robison: "Look, James, I got to tell you two things right off the bat. One, I'm not going to kick gays, because I'm a sinner. How can I differentiate sin?"

Bush also expresses concern over an aide's report from a Christian Coalition meeting, according to the Times article.

Reading from the report, he told Wead, "This crowd uses gays as the enemy. It's hard to distinguish between fear of the homosexual agenda and fear of homosexuality, however."

But the tapes reportedly also

reveal that Bush expressed opposition to same-sex marriage in 1998, long before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court legalized it in that state and made it a national issue.

After being roundly criticized, Wead, a graduate of Central Bible College in Springfield, Mo., and a former Amway distributor, expressed regret. He canceled an appearance on MSNBC's "Hardball."

"Contrary to a statement I made to The New York Times, I have come to realize that personal relationships are more important than history," Wead wrote in a letter to "Hardball" host Chris Matthews, according to Associated Press. "I am asking my attorney to direct any future proceeds from the book to charity and to find the best way to vet these tapes and get them back to the president to whom they belong. History can wait."

Religious groups weigh in on potential video store merger because of NC-17 movies

Salem, Ore. (RNS)—A coalition of religious groups is opposing Movie Gallery Inc.'s proposed buy-out of Oregon-based Hollywood Entertainment Corp., fearing that Movie Gallery would stock some of Hollywood's 2,000 movie-rental stores with adult videos.

The Campaign for Corporate Responsibility bought full-page ads recently in at least three newspapers—The Oregonian, USA Today and The Washington Post—urging Hollywood's board and its shareholders to reject Movie Gallery's \$13.25-a-share bid to buy Hollywood. Movie Gallery, based in Alabama, is the nation's No. 3

movie-rental chain by revenue. Hollywood is the nation's No. 2 chain.

The coalition includes Citizens for Community Values, based in Cincinnati, and American Family Association, based in Tupelo, Miss. Stronger Families of Oregon, based in Salem, also is a member of the coalition.

Many of Movie Gallery's movie-rental stores carry videos with an NC-17 rating or no rating. The coalition contends such movies are "very damaging," said Randy Sharp, director of special projects for American Family Association.

"It creates a very hostile envi-

ronment wherever this material is viewed, an aggression toward women and in many cases to children," Sharp said.

It is unclear whether Movie Gallery would seek to add adult titles to offerings at Hollywood Video stores, which do not carry adult and NC-17 movies.

The campaign comes as the country's No. 1 movie-rental chain, Blockbuster Inc., is making an offer directly to shareholders to buy Hollywood for \$14.50 a share in cash and stock. The Hollywood board has urged shareholders to reject that bid.

Although Blockbuster does

not carry NC-17 or adult videos, the coalition said its action is not meant to be an endorsement of the Blockbuster bid. It said it receives no funding from the Dallas-based chain.

A Blockbuster spokesman also denied any involvement in the campaign.

Hollywood founder Mark Wattles, who resigned as chairman and chief executive earlier this month, has for years said he would not stock adult titles. Wattles, who is a Mormon, said he opposes carrying such movies because of his religious, family and personal beliefs.

'Focused on Jesus'

God is at work in some unusual ways, even a student's talent show rap

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

Like many people of my generation, I don't really enjoy most of the music of today's teenagers. I like lots of different musical styles—country, classical, jazz, acoustic guitar of all kinds—but I definitely can be one of those people of whom it was said, "If it's too loud, you're too old."

As a school ministry specialist for three decades, I learned how to listen to and use contemporary music in sermons and Bible studies, all for the sake of communication. But that didn't mean I actually liked the stuff. Here at Oneida, we have students who enjoy all kinds of music, and I try to be fair-minded toward them all. But sometimes I just can't find a way to like it. That's certainly the case with today's popular rap music. At 48, it's out of my "appreciation zone."

Enter the Oneida Baptist Institute Talent Show, an annual event sponsored by the Student Government Association. It's always guaranteed to present me, as sponsor, with a few challenges. Our kids are talented, and their gifts are frequently amazing. I enjoy giving them a night to shine. It helps us appreciate what a special school we are and how God has gifted us with talented young people from many different cultures.

Of course, I have to read all those song lyrics before the show. The students always get them to me. They make any changes I ask them to make, which brings me to one of the talented

performers, a young rapper we will call "David," and the wonderful gift he gave me.

You see, I read and listen to what our students have to say about being at boarding school all the time. Rarely do I read much that celebrates the good things they are receiving. They are often homesick or going through growing pains. They can be positive, but they also can be very negative. Those of us who work closely with students hear more than our share of complaints. Like the children of Israel, understanding what God is doing in bringing them to Oneida often comes through a season of "grumbling."

So David gave me the lyrics to a rap that he wrote to perform at the talent show. The words included the lines, "I stay with a Bible ... that's my thesis. I chill at OBI, so I'm focused on Jesus."

Call me a semental old fool, but I actually got emotional when I read it. God reminded me that He is at work in some unusual ways, including reminding me in a rap that there is one

student who understands what God is doing. Understands that the Bible and Jesus Christ are what Oneida is all about. Understands that we are different, and that difference is a daily focus on Jesus Christ.

At a lot of Christian schools, David wouldn't be sharing his talent. We celebrate David, his talent and his discovery that OBI is a special place that's "focused on Jesus." By the way, he did a wonderful job and won second place. Even if I am too old, I applauded his creative work and talent.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Changed family results in ministry family

Grad witnesses to a 15-year-old, who becomes a student

About seventy-five percent of our students come because of a referral from a graduate. Few have had a more dramatic experience than Daniel Blair of Metamora, Ind.

"I didn't grow up in a Christian home," Daniel recalls.

"The church people came to our house and tried to minister to me and my father. My mother and sister were already going to church and thriving on Christ's importance. On April 22, 2000, Pastor Larry Parker (a 1998 graduate) preached, "What will it be like in Hell?" It opened my eyes, and I knew I didn't want to spend eternity in hell; I also knew it wouldn't be in heaven."

Daniel had observed changes in his dad's life. "He had lightened up a lot—only drinking two to three cases of beer," he said. "When Dad got saved and when I saw the change in him, I wanted it. We were baptized together. I was 15 years old."

Bro. Parker moved to a church in Harlan County; the next pastor was Randy Edwards, a native of Metamora and former music minister at Main Street Baptist in Wil-

liamsburg. I did a seven-month interim at the church before Randy became a pastor.

"When I got saved, I knew there was something else God wanted me to do," Daniel said. "I served as youth leader and Sunday school teacher. All the time I felt God pushing me. I fought with the decision to attend Clear

Creek for about two years. I was still running from the call when Mary and I married. She knew I was struggling with it and told me I needed to surrender. I heard about Clear Creek from Bro. Larry and Randy."

Majors ministries. Daniel preached his second sermon at the Metamora church. "I was nervous, but it went good," he said. "We have lots in common with other families here. My wife works at the family life center as a nursery worker. This is an awesome place. When we first arrived, we heard about things in other people's lives and thought it can't happen to us. But it has. I thank God for Clear Creek."

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

Faith & film



CONSTANTINE Many evangelical Christians are eager to see the film, "Constantine," which features demons, exorcisms and graphic depictions of hell. While noting its shaky theology, some Christians say the movie will cause non-Christians to think about such themes as evil and hell. (© Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures)

Drastically different movies spark spiritual talk by evangelicals

By Marshall Allen
Religion News Service

Hollywood (RNS)—Two newly released movies with drastically different themes are catching the attention of evangelical Christians.

One is the horror movie "Constantine," which features demons, exorcisms, readings from a Satanic bible, suicide, graphic depictions of hell and a gory scene involving an electric chair.

The other is "Because of Winn Dixie," a family- and faith-friendly movie about a young girl who adopts an orphaned dog. The movie's official Web site features a Bible study to connect moral themes in the story with passages in Scripture.

Some pastors, seminary students and youth leaders expect "Constantine" to provoke valuable discussions about such subjects as heaven and hell; angels and demons; and God and salvation. They cite the film as an example of God using unusual channels to communicate with people.

Meanwhile, Christians who want their entertainment to reflect their morals are excited about "Winn Dixie."

Neither movie is overtly religious, but both are cross-overs—mainstream movies that also appeal to people of faith. After religious filmgoers helped "The Passion of the Christ" reap more than \$611 million worldwide, some entertainment observers say the two films might be harbingers of films to come.

Jonathan Bock, a publicist who markets mainstream movies, including both "Constantine" and "Because of Winn Dixie," to religious audiences, said the number of films that take faith seriously is increasing.

Many are now in production or being considered for development, he said.

"To me, it's quite apparent a new trend in mainstream films are stories that resonate with people on a deeper spiritual level than we've seen in the past, films that strive to be divinely transcendent," Bock said.

A girl and her dog

"Because of Winn Dixie" is based on the award-winning novel of the same name by Kate DiCamillo. In the film, a lonely girl



BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE Anna Sophia Robb plays Opal in a family- and faith-friendly movie about a young girl who adopts an orphaned dog. The movie's Web site features a Bible study to connect moral themes in the story with passages in Scripture. (© Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox)

named Opal befriends a dog, and the two breathe new life into a small town.

Wayne Cordeiro, 52, pastor of New Hope Christian Fellowship, a church of 11,000 in Oahu, Hawaii, said he's been heavily promoting "Winn Dixie" in his church services. The congregation will purchase advance tickets for screenings of the movie, he said.

It's the first movie the church has promoted since "The Passion of the Christ," he said.

"This one has morals to it, character building, and it's done creatively," Cordeiro said. "And when you go away from it you feel awfully good."

Movie "takes evil seriously"

Viewers will likely not leave "Constantine" with the same warm feeling. The movie is the latest and perhaps most extreme example of the evangelical embrace of popular culture. Those who recommend the movie acknowledge the R-rated film's graphic nature and muddled theology.

In the film, Keanu Reeves plays a man who can see angels and demons, the latter which he hunts and destroys in an attempt to earn his way into heaven. It's violent, fast-paced and utterly appealing to the same type of evangelicals who enjoyed discussing the philosophical and religious beliefs that undergirded "The Matrix."

Bible study guides based on "Constantine" have been prepared at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and elsewhere to facilitate discussions about the film.

"What I love about the movie is that it takes evil seriously," said Craig Detweiler, a screenwriter and film professor at Fuller and Biola University in La Mirada.

"It treats the devil as a definable quantity, and yet suggests that God is much more powerful, creative and enduring."

For years, Fuller seminary has highlighted the confluence of faith and film. The seminary founded the Reel Spirituality Institute in 1998 to encourage

theological reflection on film, and the school's pop culture classes are some of its most popular.

Redeeming or ignoring pop culture?

Ken McCoy, 51, is also designing a Bible study based on "Constantine." McCoy runs a nonprofit organization in Escondido, Calif. called JumpStart, which offers youth leaders training and curriculum.

A generation ago, evangelicals would do more to separate themselves from mainstream culture, he said. But youth leaders now realize that they were kidding themselves back then—there never really was any separation, he said.

With the Bible study guides, youth leaders can now "arm themselves," so they can help redeem popular culture by talking about the issues raised in films, McCoy said.

But not every evangelical who's thinking about theology and film openly embraces "Constantine."

Eric Bryant, college pastor at Mosaic, a church that meets in Pasadena and at a Los Angeles nightclub, said about 20 leaders from his church attended advance screenings of "Constantine."

Bryant said he attended the screening so he could talk about the film, but it's not a movie he's recommending to others. He compared it to "The Exorcist."

"It's not for the faint of heart," said Bryant, who added that his wife left the theater after the first two minutes.

And John Hamilton, director of the Cinema and Broadcast Arts Department at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif., said just because a movie deals with the supernatural does not mean it's instructive.

Azusa Pacific was asked to publicize "Constantine" like it did "The Passion of the Christ," Hamilton said.

The school declined.

"Hollywood is trying to jump on the bandwagon to get Christians to come see anything that deals with the supernatural," he said. "There's a lot of interest in the spiritual now and the occult and it's not all good. We have to be careful not to be too star struck with things like this."

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Dan Francis

How do we participate in "March Madness" without losing our sense of "Holy Gladness"? Yes, it is that time of the year when fans of the round ball get "giddy" about their chances for the "Final Four." But, lest we forget, it also is that time of the year when we should get a little "dusty" in preparation for our journey to the "Final Days."

Now don't get me wrong. I am a huge college basketball fan. But I also am a huge fan of the faithful journey to the cross and that is where the "dust" and "final days" come in.

One religious image that still gets some attention showed up on people's foreheads recently. Many religious traditions participate in putting gray crosses of ash smudged above the brow to signal the beginning of Lent. Lent is the 40 days preceding Easter and is a time of prayer and penitence. So it starts with dust and ashes.

I know what you are thinking. Once again the preacher has crashed our party with penitence. Not really. What I want to do is remind you that spiritually speaking, there is no fire without ashes, no resurrection without a tomb, no Easter without Lent and no hope without Jesus!

As you make your way through March Madness, also celebrate "Holy Gladness" that is born of a personal relationship with Christ. Simply know that God has an incredible love for you (John 3:16), we have all fallen victim to our sin (Romans 3:23) and God has provided a way out of this predicament through a personal relationship with Christ (John 1:12). The final promise of this process is made clear in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

I hope you find your way to this "Holy Gladness!"

Dan Francis is pastor of Erlanger Baptist Church

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church called **Jennifer Collie** as minister of children effective Feb. 14.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold revival services March 6, 11 a.m., and March 7-9, 6:30 p.m. with **Bob Stitts** as evangelist. **J.T. Kirkpatrick** is pastor.

■ **ELKTON**—Elkton Church will host a "Week of Discipleship" March 13-18, 6:30 p.m., led by **Tim Miller** of Disciple the Nations. **Jerry Tracy** is pastor.

■ **HARLAN**—Harlan Church recently called **Jon Dickenson** as children's minister. **John Ditty** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church will host a free concert by the **Campbell University Concert Choir** March 6, 6 p.m. The choir is directed by former minister of music **Phil Morrow**.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—Correction: First Church will present its Easter musical, "Eyes of Faith," March 18-19, 6:30 p.m., and March 20, 3 p.m.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will host a one-day prayer conference, "In Everyday Moments ... He Restores My Soul," led by author **Jennifer Kennedy Dean** March 12, 9 a.m. For more information, call (502) 538-7361.

■ **ONEIDA**—**Steve Crumpler** recently resigned as pastor of Oneida Church.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Sandy Rogers**, pastor of Park Avenue Church, died Dec. 31. He was 62. He previously was pastor of Highview Church, also in Paducah, and was a teacher in the Hickman County School System. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and one daughter. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Salem Church ordained **Michael Black, Brad Jennings, Doug Patton, Eric Phillips** and **David White** as deacons Jan. 30. **James Hill** is pastor.

Kentuckians named IMB missionaries

Richmond, Va.—Kentuckians **Patrick** and **Janet Goodman** are among 54 missionaries recently appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

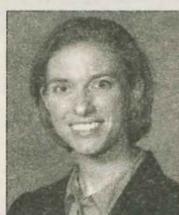
The Goodmans will serve as missionary apprentices in Central and Eastern Europe. He will serve as a strategy coordinator and she will work in community and home outreach.

Goodman, a native of Elizabethtown, is a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He has worked since 2000 as an engineering technician in Louisville.

Mrs. Goodman, a native of Bowling Green, also is a graduate of West-



Patrick Goodman



Janet Goodman

ern Kentucky University. She has served as a minister to college students at Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green as well as working as a preschool teacher, counselor and fitness instructor.

The Goodmans are members of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood. They have one daughter, Talitha Elizabeth.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

5 VBS Clinic, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

11-12 Creative Ministries Festival 2005, Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

11-12 Mission Service Corps Basic Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.

12 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

12 RA Congress Region 1, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

12 RA Congress Region 3, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Shepherdsville.

12 RA Congress Region 7, Stanford Baptist Church.

12 Ring & Share—West, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

12 VBS Clinic, First Baptist Church, Owensboro.

18-19 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Cedarmore.

19 RA Congress Region 2, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

19 RA Congress Region 6, Red House Baptist Church, Richmond.

19 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Jonathan Creek.

26 RA Congress Region 4, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.

26 RA Congress Region 8B, Camp Howard, Wallins.

April

5 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, Southside Baptist Church, Princeton.

7 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, Burlington Baptist Church.

8-9 WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, London.

9 GA/Children in Action Missions Event, First Baptist Church, London.

12 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, First Baptist Church, Brandenburg.

14 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

14 Preparing the Church for Future Trends, Crestwood Baptist Church.

15-16 EXALT (State Acteens Conference), Georgetown College.

15-16 State Youth Choir Festival, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

16 Regional Keyboard Festival, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

21-22 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, West Union Assoc. Office, Paducah.

22-24 All-State Children's Choir, East, Cedarmore.

23 CM:21 (Children's Ministry in the 21st Century), Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

25-26 "Coaching Leader" Training, Cedarmore.

29 Children's Bible Drill, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

30 Children's Bible Drill, Unity Baptist Church, Ashland.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOOKS: We buy quality used Christian books. Narrow Path Bookstore, 1829 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Ky. (502) 459-4001.

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

SEEKING: A loving pastor for Grayling Baptist Church in Grayling, Mich. Please send resumé to: Grayling Baptist Church, 705 Madsen St., Grayling, MI 49738, Attn: Pulpit Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Hebron Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. Medium-sized church in brand-new facility located 15 minutes from Cincinnati in a rapidly growing community with tremendous outreach opportunities. Worship style is currently traditional. Resumés accepted through May 15, 2005; please submit to: Pastoral Search Committee, Hebron Baptist Church, PO Box 92, Hebron, KY 41048, or e-mail to tonywood@fuse.net.

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

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 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.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/outreach. Responsible for comprehensive music program as well as leadership and involvement in the church's outreach program. Send resumés to: Search Committee, Grant's Lick Baptist Church, 941 Clay Ridge Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

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

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

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

TOUR: Hawaii, April 25-May 3. Join Christian Life Tours for a fabulous escorted tour to Hawaii. Only \$1,795 plus air including all hotels, 12 meals, sightseeing and an authentic luau. With 30 years experi-

ence, Christian Life Tours is still the best. Call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free) for more information.

TOUR: Join Christian Life Tours for an unforgettable Alaska Cruise. A wonderful 7-day northbound inside passage glacier cruise on a Celebrity ship departing June 17 with an optional land tour extension. The best ship, the best itinerary and an escort with 30 years experience. Call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free) for more information.

TOUR: Enjoy a Mediterranean & Greek Isles cruise with Christian Life Tours departing Sept. 8 for 12 nights. Roundtrip air is included to Barcelona, Spain. Learn from a great Bible scholar the biblical and historical significance of Rome, Athens, Patmos and other unique ports of call. Your escort with 30 years experience will help make this cruise unforgettable. Call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free) for more information.

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Henry: Ministers should be serious about leisure time

By Tony Cartledge
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (ABP)—To be healthy, ministers should plan their leisure time like they do other aspects of their ministry, according to former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry.

Jesus practiced the ministry of leisure, said Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla. While leisure time must be earned, he said, learning to get away refreshes people to do their job better when they return.

Henry spoke to the Association of State Baptist Papers, the organization of official state convention newsjournals, during the group's annual meeting at a Fort Lauderdale beach resort. Citing Jesus' "feeding of the 5,000" in Mark 6, Henry talked about "living beyond your circumstances."

Jesus knew His disciples were tired and needed a break, Henry said, and He "is aware of our circumstances." We get tired and need to come apart, especially as we get older, and learn to enter a "ministry of leisure," he said.

"Nobody in seminary ever taught me, and no pastor ever mentored me," to take time away, Henry said. His wife finally persuaded him that it is important. Henry said he "hit the wall" in 1983, due to excessive job demands, and recognized the need for a sabbatical.

It took a month just to wind down and relax, he said. Finally, a day came when he sat on the porch of a mountain cabin and spent an entire afternoon watching ants disassemble a wasp's carcass. "I realized I had never taken the time to watch God at work," he said.

Henry now tells younger staff members to plan their leisure just like they plan anything else.

When thousands of people sought Jesus, He realized they were hungry, Henry said. "Jesus cares about our circumstances" and wants to help us, he said. But Jesus also puts us in circumstances in which we need to help ourselves, Henry continued.

The disciples thought there was no way to feed the crowds. But Jesus used the opportunity as an object lesson to teach the disciples that, just as God fed the Israelites in the wilderness, He can provide nourishment in the present.

Jesus often works through other people, Henry said, such as the little boy who contributed the loaves and fish. "There will be times when God will use other people in our circumstance to assist us in it and through it," he said.

"If it matters to you, it matters to Him," Henry said.

Serving together

Southern Baptist missionaries are not going alone to mission field

By Martin King
SBC North American Mission Board

Miami (BP)—Fifty-four new missionaries were urged to depend on God, one another and Southern Baptists as they go to their part of the North American mission field.

The North American Mission Board commissioned 18 husband and wife couples and 18 individuals Feb. 20 to serve as church planters, evangelism specialists and associational missionaries.

The commissioning service was held at the morning worship service of Wayside Baptist Church in Miami. The new missionaries, 17 of whom are US/C 2 student missionaries, will serve in 18 states, Washington, D.C., and three Canadian provinces.

The international context for the commissioning service in Miami was underscored during the commissioning prayer in Spanish by Wayside member Rebecca Spam.

"He understands our prayers no matter what language we pray in," Spam said. "He understands every language and every heart."

Wayside pastor Gary Johnson noted Miami's multi-cultural nature in comments to missionaries, their families and other guests.

"All you have to do to experience other cultures here in Miami is go outside your home," he said. "If you just go out to pick up your newspa-



per, you'll see that your neighbors speak other languages and are from other cultures. And we're called to share Christ with every one of them."

During the commissioning service each missionary couple and individual gave his or her name, ministry focus and place of service, and each closed by asking the congregation to remember them in prayer.

Allen: Missionaries need support

Chuck Allen, NAMB's executive vice president, encouraged the new missionaries as well as Wayside members to minister together, like Peter and John the apostles in Acts 3.

"Today, we are to do our work, our ministries, together," Allen said. "He doesn't expect you (missionaries) to do all the work by yourself. God's not counting on you to reach Montana or New York City or Canada by yourself any more than He's expect-

ing you church members to reach your school or place of business or neighborhood by yourself. He tells us we are to work together."

Speaking to Wayside's members, Allen said, "These missionaries don't have a chance of making a difference without you, your church, and every church and member in the Southern Baptist Convention supporting them."

"Peter and John didn't tell the lame man in Acts 3, 'We have people in our church who minister to people like you' or 'We have special people who are called missionaries who will minister to you,'" Allen said. "Instead, they said, 'Look at us. Get up and walk.' Then, they didn't send him to church, they took him to church so the people would see evidence of God's power."

"People are sitting by the gate everywhere we turn today," Allen said, "and nothing matters unless together we stop and say, 'In the name of Jesus Christ, get up' so that the Lord will be glorified."

REFLECTING THE CALL

A parade of state flags helped symbolize the span of North American missions during a Feb. 20 missionary commissioning service at Miami's Wayside Baptist Church.



NEW MISSIONARIES 54 new Southern Baptist missionaries were commissioned.

Cleric offers book of funeral do's and don't's

By Robert Nowell
Religion News Service

London (RNS)—How does a minister cope when conducting the funeral of a bigamist and both the dead man's wives turn up?

That's just one of the dilemmas Welsh vicar Hugh James addresses in "A Fitting End: Making the Most of a Funeral."

James said his book aims to help priests and ministers find their way successfully through a variety of pitfalls—including avoiding falling into the grave, a fate that recently befell a Welsh funeral director.

One of James' key concerns is that funerals often draw those who otherwise never would darken a church door.

Funerals form "a shop window for the Christian faith" seen by far more people than almost anything else the clergy do, James wrote.

"Only a small number of people come to the church for baptisms and weddings, but the vast majority still do for funerals. And we

meet them at a time when they are at their most vulnerable," he writes. "The potential for a positive and helpful ministry is huge, and clergy meet the challenge with a high degree of professionalism and pastoral skill."

"Nevertheless, the possibility of disaster is equally huge."

Touchy situations

Death can bring into the open things that families have preferred not to notice, or provide a focus for differences that already divide a family.

At one of his first funerals, James wrote, he found himself amid a jostling crowd in the chapel.

The dead man's brother had overseen the funeral arrangements but made no mention of the man's paramour of 40 years, who read about the funeral in the newspaper. She was forced to barge her way in.

Another priest conducting a funeral was asked to invite the

congregation to refreshments afterward—but he was asked by two different family members naming two different venues.

James also counseled a fellow curate on how to respond to a widow's request for "Happy Days Are Here Again" to be played at her husband's funeral because "it was his favorite song." He did not, however, reveal how the priest coped with the request.

He also cited the family that was "indignant" when a priest declined to hold a non-religious funeral in his church, even though he offered to let them use the church hall for a secular ceremony and to find a suitable person to lead it.

James sums up the questions a minister has to answer when dealing with the family's requests for how the funeral should be conducted as: "What is legally permissible? What is morally right? What is practically possible?"

"Sometimes the answers to all three may be very different."

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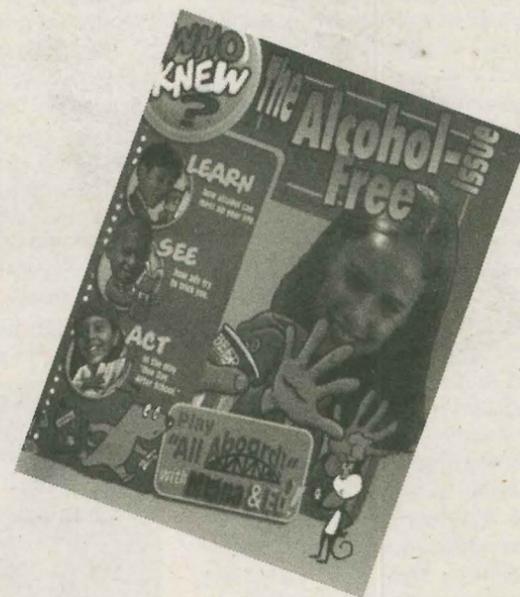
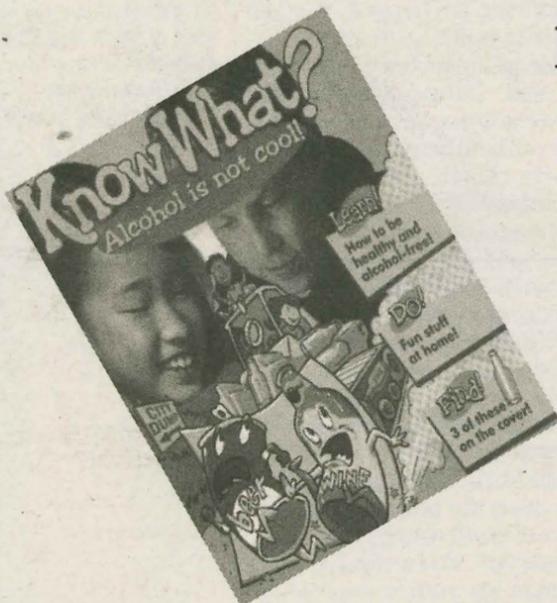
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