

March 15, 2005  
 Vol. 179, No. 11

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**Most ministers continue study despite time, budget limits**

**Phoenix (BP)**—Most Protestant clergy are continuing their education through classes or seminars, according to a study released in the March/April edition of Facts & Trends magazine published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

While slightly under half of Protestant clergy say they are encouraged by their church's leaders to continue their education using church time and/or funds, most feel their budget for additional education is insufficient, according to the study of 860 Protestant ministers nationwide by Ellison Research of Phoenix.

Only 9 percent of all senior pastors had not attended any classes, conferences or seminars in the last two years. On average, ministers had received continuing education on three or more topics during the past two years.

The study showed that church growth and leadership or management skills development are less common among pastors in small churches than among those in churches with 100 or more in regular attendance.

Younger ministers are more likely to have focused on leadership or management skills as well as marriage and family ministry. Fifteen percent of pastors age 60 or older had not completed any continuing education courses in the last two years, compared to 8 percent of those under 60.

**Sticky fingers**



**Millions stolen from unsuspecting churches**

**By Bob Smietana**  
*Religion News Service*

**Chicago (RNS)**—When Priest Brian Lisowski was caught with an alleged prostitute last summer, parishioners at St. Bede the Venerable Catholic Church began to suspect their pastor had been keeping secrets from them.

They were right—he had a million of them.

When the Roman Catholic priest resigned in July 2004, the Archdiocese of Chicago said it discovered Lisowski had systematically skimmed more than \$1 million

from the parish in his five years as pastor. The theft was discovered when collections went up dramatically after Lisowski left.

While corporate scandals at Enron and Tyco have made headlines in recent years, churches like St. Bede and other nonprofits also have been victims of embezzlement.

Churches and ministries can be particularly vulnerable, experts say, because of the level of trust given to employees and volunteers. The organizations often lack sophisticated financial controls and oversight, they add.

The embezzlement at St. Bede is one of dozens of high-profile cases involving churches in 2004.

■ In New York, Pastor Charles Betts of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has been accused by prosecutors, along with the bookkeeper and her husband, of stealing \$494,000.

■ In Rockford, Ill., Jannine McKee was sentenced to 18 months in prison for taking \$140,000 from the Second Congregational Church, where she was the volunteer financial secretary.

□ See *Safeguards can ... Page 9*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 16

**Bryant outlines keys to evangelism in a bivocational church**

**By Tannis Henderson**  
*Editor*

**Louisville**—When Todd Bryant was called in 2000 as bivocational pastor of Grace Union Baptist Church in Burkesville, average weekly attendance was down to 10 to 15 people.

Five years later, church attendance has increased more than sixfold and the church has built a 250-seat sanctuary.

Leading a workshop on "Evangelism in a Bivocational Church," Bryant recounted the church's growth during the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

"We are in a rural setting," Bryant said. "Most rural communities don't have plenty of workers. We needed God to work inside the church so the people could see God at work."

Noting that "our church was in



**MINISTRY IMPACT** Todd Bryant, pastor of Grace Union Baptist Church in Burkesville, said the key to effective evangelism in a bivocational church is to "keep your eyes on Jesus."

survival mode," Bryant said church leaders agreed to hold revival services. After seeing several people make professions of faith in Christ and get baptized, church members "got excited and came expecting God to

do something in the church."

As church attendance grew and a major building project got under way, Bryant acknowledged that "it's not easy being bivocational" and trying to balance the responsibilities of secular work and a growing church.

Rather than carrying the full load himself, Bryant said, "Our people got involved and started asking people to come" to church.

"I get excited when I start talking about church and about Jesus," he noted. "Your people will be as excited about church as the pastor is."

"There's a passion and an excitement about the gospel," he added. "Pastors have got to get some enthusiasm."

Emphasizing that "there's two kinds of people in this world—they're either lost or they're saved,"

Bryant declared, "I don't care where they used to go to church, if they're not attending church anywhere, they're on our hit list."

"How do we do evangelism in a bivocational church?" he asked. "We share Jesus. Keep your eyes on Jesus, no matter what the hierarchy of the church wants to say or do."

Citing one of his pet peeves, Bryant told workshop participants, "The worst thing that's ever been put in any church is a clock. Our motto at church is, 'We come and we quit when God says it's time to quit.' Don't let your church get in the mentality that God stops working at 12 o'clock."

"God will supply everything you need in the church," he said. "Everything will work when God intends for it to work."

BAPTIST  
DIGEST

**EveryoneCan.net**, a Web site to support the "Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge" evangelism blitz June 17-19 in Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, is now online. The site includes a schedule for the June 18 Crossover Nashville Door-to-Door emphasis. Churches that plan to participate also can explore several evangelism training resources online. Information also is available toll-free at (877) 324-8498.

**Gustavo Suarez**, leader of the Baptist Convencio of New Mexico's missions division since 1997, has been named executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention. He succeeds Jeff Iorg who resigned last year to become president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. The Northwest Convention includes 440 congregations in Washington, Oregon and northern Idaho.

**Ties between the Baptist General Association of Virginia and Averett University**, already strained from a dispute last year over homosexuality, suffered another setback when one of the school's student organizations hosted a gay pride week on campus Feb. 21-26. The series of events were sponsored by Averett's Gay/Straight Alliance, not the school, said Richard Pfau, president of the Baptist-affiliated university in Danville, Va. But he added that the alliance, which was formed last fall, is a recognized student organization whose administrative advisor is the dean of students, Bob Perkins. Members of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board's executive committee issued a statement March 8 that they "will investigate and see what the proper response should be."

## Baptist volunteers detained for 2 weeks

**Nashville (BP)**—Two Southern Baptist volunteers have been released from custody after being detained in the United Arab Emirates for distributing Christian materials.

Vivian Gilmer of Myrtle Beach S.C., and Marie Bush of Waxahachie, Texas, were nearing the end of a four-week mission trip with Tom Cox World Ministries when they were charged with illegal activity Feb. 19. The women were held in a Dubai police station for several hours and detained in the country until March 2.

Gilmer, a 72-year-old grandmother and member of First Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach, said she had distributed Christian materials as gifts to shopkeepers and fellow shoppers in the capital, Dubai.

"As we shopped, we made friends with shopkeepers and other shoppers, (and) we simply offered them a gift, which most accepted," Gilmer said in a statement. "Later we were approached and questioned as to our activity. We were detained until

the officials reviewed the situation and eventually cleared us to leave."

Gilmer expressed appreciation to everyone who prayed for her during her detention.

"I am so glad to be home and want to thank all my friends and relatives for their concerns and prayers during our delay," she said. "I am very appreciative that we were treated fairly and with respect by the government of (the United Arab) Emirates."

## Workers give away Bibles, CDs

Gilmer, Bush and 11 other team members had completed a mission trip to India and decided to spend a week of vacation in Dubai, according to the statement from the Cox ministry. During an evening of shopping at the Dubai Shopping Festival, the women gave Bibles and CDs to people with whom they had interacted during the week.

Distributing Bibles "in itself, was not illegal," said Kay Cox, one of the organizers of the trip. But authori-

ties thought the distribution of CDs "violated their law of not distributing Bibles with other materials."

"That certainly wasn't the intent," Cox added.

Gilmer and Bush were released from police custody after several hours, but their passports were confiscated and they were instructed not to leave the country.

Based upon the counsel of officials at the U.S. embassy in Dubai, the rest of the group returned to the United States immediately. Gilmer and Bush stayed with a local pastor during the 12 days they were detained.

Despite their experience, both Gilmer and Bush intend to participate in future foreign missions projects, according to the statement by Tom Cox World Ministries.

"Kay Cox talked with both of them this morning and they are in excellent spirits," the statement said. "And both of them say this experience won't keep them from participating in future mission trips."

## Texas, Virginia groups seek BWA membership

**Falls Church, Va. (ABP)**—The Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Baptist General Convention of Texas will be recommended for full membership in the Baptist World Alliance, the group's membership committee reported March 9.

British Baptist Alistair Brown, a member of the membership committee, said it is "the committee's unanimous view that both be recommended" to the BWA General Council to become full member bodies of the worldwide umbrella group for Baptists. Brown's report came during the BWA's semi-annual Executive Committee meeting.

Both state groups relate to the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other nationwide missions organizations.

The BGAV and BGCT already are major financial contributors to BWA and both already joined the North American Baptist Fellowship, one of BWA's six regional groups. But the

recommendation, if approved by the BWA's General Council during its meeting in July, means they would be the first U.S. state conventions to join BWA. The two state conventions would become members on the same level as CBF, the American Baptist Churches or any of the 200-plus other national or regional Baptist groups that make up BWA's membership.

The moves by the two conventions come after the SBC voted last year to leave the global fellowship.

"Both bodies express sadness at the withdrawal from membership from the BWA of the Southern Baptist Convention," Brown told BWA leaders. "And they said that the withdrawal from the BWA had removed from them a means of fellowship with Baptists from around the world."

BWA rules require that member bodies not be an integral part of any other Baptist denomination in their countries. However, Brown said the

committee felt both BGAV and BGCT meet that requirement. "In each case, they were founded before the establishing of the SBC," he said. "Both grant freedom to churches to apporion giving to a variety of causes for missions work overseas."

According to Virginia Baptist executive director John Upton, "We see ourselves as a partner of the SBC and always have seen ourselves as a partner of the SBC. ... But we're an autonomous body. We're very excited about being a part of BWA and we value our partnership with the SBC, and we don't see a conflict between the two."

Texas Baptist executive director Charles Wade also sought to clarify that group's relationship to the SBC. "While it is true that every state convention is free and autonomous—as is every Baptist entity—we have had and continue to have a relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention," Wade said in a written statement.

## Humorous videos available for '05 Annie emphasis



**MISSIONS WITH A SMILE** A touch of humor using cardboard cut-outs of missionaries is featured in five promotional videos for this year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

**Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)**—Newly released promotional video spots are using humor to illustrate the importance of funding the work of Southern Baptist North American missionaries.

Missionaries depicted as life-size "cardboard cut-outs" are featured in five video segments—produced much like television commercials—for use by churches throughout the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions emphasis.

The "Making Missions Come Alive" spots—free for download at [www.AnnieArmstrong.com](http://www.AnnieArmstrong.com)—are designed to be used during worship services, announcements and Sunday school to reinforce the need to support missions.

"The spots vividly illustrate, in a humorous manner, what mission work could be like if Southern Baptists didn't have the funds for real, live missionaries, but substituted life-size cardboard cut-outs," said

Martin King, NAMB's director of convention relations.

The "Making Missions Come Alive—Church Invitation" spot features a cut-out of missionary Dwight Huffman at the front of a congregation. As a couple walks toward the front, their confusion is obvious as they hear a recorded voice say, "To make a decision for Christ, press one. To be baptized press two. To become a member of the church, press three."

King said the intended message for all of the "Making Missions Come Alive" segments is to encourage Southern Baptists to give to, pray for and commit to missions involvement.

The 2005 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions is \$55 million. The offering will be promoted in most Southern Baptist churches in March.

For more information visit [www.AnnieArmstrong.com](http://www.AnnieArmstrong.com).

Southern hires  
contractor, lays  
off 94 workers

By Peter Smith  
Louisville Courier-Journal

**Louisville**—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has dismissed all 94 of its maintenance workers and has contracted its maintenance to a company that may hire some but not all of the workers.

Seminary officials told workers last week that as of March 31, they would no longer be school employees and could reapply for their jobs with Sodexo, an international facilities-management company. Sodexo will use fewer employees than the seminary to maintain the Louisville campus.

Seminary spokesman Lawrence Smith said the move probably would save the school money in the long run. But he said the seminary's finances are solid and that the motivation was not financial.

"We are very good at theological education," he said. "We want to put as many resources as possible into theological education. Our job is not facilities management."

He said the employees "have done a great job" but that the seminary would do better to hire a firm that is experienced in facilities.

The 94 employees, who include 26 part-time workers, have done such work as cleaning, groundskeeping, painting, plumbing and carpentry. Some have been there as long as 20 years, he said.

Employees were upset by the news.

"I don't know if they're trying to save money or what, but they're really injuring a lot of people," said Rosalie Anderson, a groundskeeper.

Some co-workers "were the only support (their families had), and now they don't even have that," she said. "We have married couples working there, so there goes their whole livelihood. When I start to think about them, it really hurts."

Sodexo, based in Gaithersburg, Md., had \$6 billion in sales in 2004, according to the company Web site. It has more than 120,000 employees and supervises an additional 60,000 employees of clients.

Sodexo will provide Southern Seminary such things as a new computerized maintenance system, a study of energy conservation and the development of a plan for future repairs and replacements.

Four of the employees losing their jobs are international students, whose employment options are limited because they are here on student visas. Smith said the seminary and Sodexo are investigating legal questions about whether and where they can work.

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# Back from Baghdad

*Reserve chaplain has returned home to Frankfort, but still serving troops*

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Frankfort (BP)**—Capt. Jay Padgett has been back from Iraq for nine months, but the Army National Guard chaplain hasn't abandoned pastoral care for Iowa's 234th Signal Battalion.

The 650-member battalion, composed of personnel from several states, was stationed at Baghdad International Airport, with Padgett as the first Army National Guard chaplain from Kentucky to serve in Iraq.

Back in the States, Padgett has conducted a reunion briefing for military families about the emotional challenges of reuniting with loved ones returning from battle.

He has conducted the funeral of an 18-year-old National Guardsman in southeastern Kentucky whose death was unrelated to conflict with Iraqi insurgents.

He also has officiated at two weddings in Iowa.

The 41-year-old Padgett has been minister of music for nearly six years at Graefenberg Baptist Church in suburban Frankfort. Although he has completed 20 years of National Guard service, he has no plans to retire from the Guard.

"God has called me to this, and at this time I don't feel He wants me to quit," said Padgett, who spent 15 months away from home in training and wartime duty. "There's a shortage of chaplains and a ministry need."

Padgett is one of nearly 2,400 Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains, more than 1,000 of whom

serve in the U.S. Armed Services. He was endorsed by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in 1999 after graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Although stationed at the Baghdad airport, members of the battalion served at outposts stretching from Kuwait to Mosul.

## "Valley of the shadow of death"

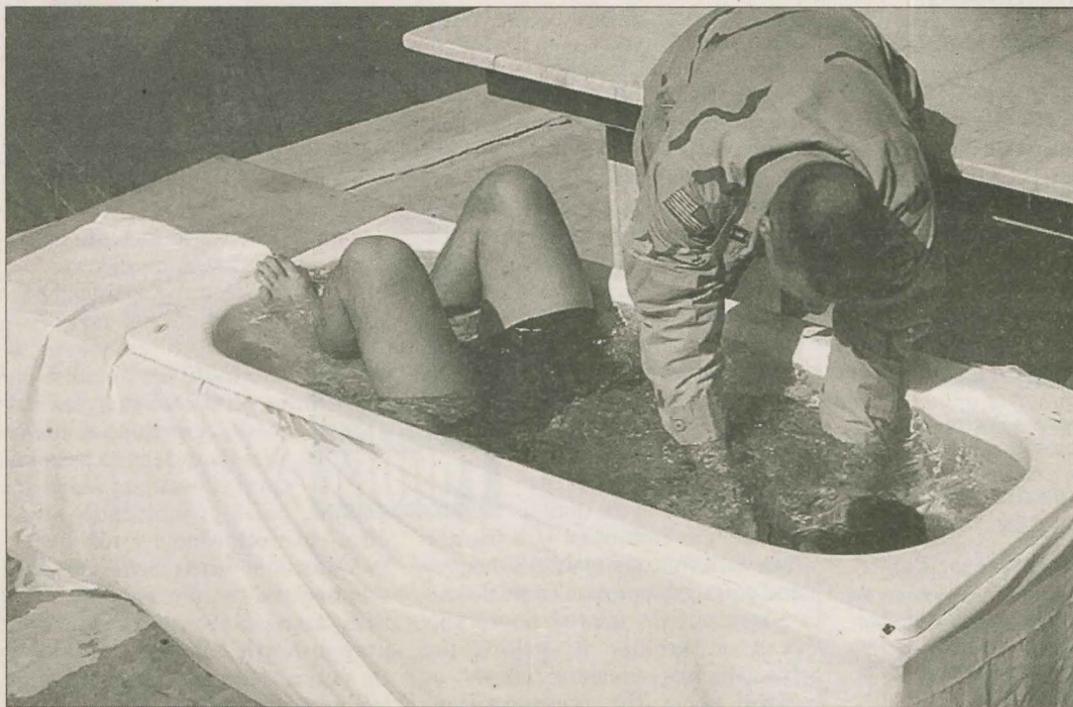
"Every time you got into a vehicle you couldn't help but be afraid because of road bombs," Padgett said. "It changed your prayer life."

"Over here, when you see litter or a dead animal on the side of the road you don't think a thing about it. Over there the enemy put bombs on dead carcasses on the side of the road or hung them from overpasses."

In such circumstances, he said, he often turned to his deployment Scripture—Psalm 23:4: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me"—in times of prayer and in visits with battalion members before convoys departed.

"When you're that far away from family and hear mortars landing and hear reports of soldiers getting killed every day, it makes you depend on God like never before," Padgett said.

With his unit installing Internet service and handling other support duties, nobody died in combat. But that didn't relieve him of counsel-



ing men and women through the stresses of marital problems, homesickness, financial issues and job duties.

Padgett also talked three soldiers out of committing suicide, convincing them to put down their weapons and taking them to meet with a combat stress team.

## Raising morale, distributing toys

Besides counseling, Padgett prepared weekly devotional newsletters for soldiers and their families. He organized three talent shows and a five-kilometer run to boost troop morale. And he led in the creation of a multi-city humanitarian outreach that distributed more than 500 boxes of clothing, toys and school supplies at Iraqi schools and orphanages.

The latter was cited when Padgett received the Bronze Star, awarded at his home church last October by the state's adjutant general.

But Padgett downplays the honor, saying it belongs as much to the residents of numerous states who shipped the supplies to Iraq and the soldiers who distributed them.

"The other night I was watching the news and they showed a soldier who got the Bronze Star for bravery and courage under fire," Padgett said. "I told my wife (Carrie) that compared to him, I didn't deserve one."

He does refer to the award as a highlight of his time in the Middle East, but Padgett adds that he's equally pleased about the eternal

results.

He performed two dozen baptisms, half of them during training at Fort Riley, Kan., and the other half on the battlefield. Padgett also led numerous soldiers in prayers rededicating their lives to Christ, in addition to weekly worship services and midweek Bible studies.

While Padgett met many Baptist troops, most soldiers who attended services came from other backgrounds. In such an environment, Padgett said, "It was all about asking, 'Lord, help me through this day.' I preached Jesus Christ and the hope we have in Him. It was a sweet and beautiful thing."

Nor did political disputes matter. Debates back home about the war were a moot point in the field, meaning the troops spent little time discussing or arguing about it, Padgett said.

Day-to-day survival became uppermost in his mind, particularly the time his convoy took a wrong turn in downtown Baghdad and found itself surrounded by hundreds of Iraqis.

In such situations, Padgett said, he would pray and often see immediate answers.

"All of a sudden a car would pass and a beautiful, brown-eyed girl would pass, smiling and waving," Padgett recalled. "Or an old man would smile, put thumbs up and wave at you, like 'Way to go.' That stuff would make fear melt away and make you feel like you were doing something worthwhile."

## BAPTISM IN BAGHDAD

Capt. Jay Padgett baptizes a soldier on Easter Sunday 2004 on the grounds of Baghdad International Airport. The Army National Guard chaplain baptized two dozen soldiers during active duty service in Fort Riley, Kan., and Iraq.



**PAUSING TO PRAY** Capt. Jay Padgett (right) said prayer was a vital, ongoing ministry during his deployment.

## Quinn, longtime KBC church music leader, dies one week after accident

**Louisville**—Eugene Quinn, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention church music department, died March 9 at age 84.

Quinn suffered a brain injury during a fall from the stage of the KBC Evangelism Conference March 1. He was leaving the stage of Valley View Church in Louisville after singing with the Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale. He died one week later at University of Louisville Hospital from complications related to the accident.

Quinn served more than 40 years as a denominational music leader,

including nine years as director of the Illinois Baptist State Association's church music department and then nearly 32 years as director of the KBC church music department. He retired in 1988.

Jim Cordell, director of the KBC's worship/music department, said Quinn "was among the first of the state music directors," launching many of the statewide music programs still conducted today.

Describing Quinn as "a very humble man," Cordell added, "He had a real heart for missions and evangelism. His lifestyle reflected

his beliefs."

"Gene was one of those people whose heart beat with ministry and missions," agreed Jim Holladay, Quinn's pastor at Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville. "Even in his music role, I think missions and evangelism were at the core of who he was."

Quinn was a charter member of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference and the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference. He also was the founding director of the Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale.

A graduate of Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Louisville and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Quinn was involved in volunteer missions in Japan, the Philippines and elsewhere.

He is survived by his wife, Phronsie; two daughters, Janice Quinn and Carla Quinn; two sons, Philip Quinn and Paul Quinn; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His funeral service was held March 12 at Lyndon Baptist Church. Memorial gifts may be made to Lyndon Church's mission fund.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## 'Dangerous' change

As a minister with two degrees from "the Oates Department," and as a former faculty member of that department, I was grieved to read about the announced changes in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's approach to Christian counseling.

I appreciate the seminary's desire to provide the thoroughly biblical training for the ministers being sent to the churches, and this is, in fact, what Southern has always done.

Of all the people who have ever ministered at that place where Scripture and psyche meet, none has been so thoroughly biblical as Wayne Oates. Leigh Conner, chair of the department for more than a decade, has continued that integration with thoroughgoing orthodoxy and with consummate clinical skill.

Your article quoted Southern's dean of theology as faulting the department's previous efforts as "naïve about the presuppositions behind secular psychologies." Yes, efforts at Christian counseling sometimes bow down before a psychotherapeutic "Caesar"—but I know Leigh Conner well enough to know that this has never happened at Southern. Southern's naiveté actually lies in another direction.

I well remember the day I decided to leave the faculty. I had participated in a group led by a professor from "the new regime" (not from the Oates Department), and I walked out of that room broken-hearted. I thought to myself, "These guys are producing spiritually arrogant and psychologically unaware pastors who are going to tear up churches faster than we can ever put them together again." When the reformers cried out "Sola Scriptura!" they did not mean what is meant by that today.

The announced change will not only silence one of the most creative and biblically faithful resources the churches have ever had for soul care,

but seems quite likely to be a danger to our churches as well. "Let the buyer beware."

David C. Stancil  
Bristol, Va.

## 'Great program' ends

I was saddened as I read the article, "Southern revamps Christian counseling department." A great program is eliminated.

Wayne Oates and Richard Young were professors and mentors of mine in my becoming a clinical pastoral counselor. These two men, both graduates of Southern, set a course in pastoral care that has led to the creation of many schools and thus a pastoral care education being secured by multitudes of individuals worldwide. I studied with Dr. Oates at Southern Seminary, and was inspired by him to study with Dick Young at Southeastern Seminary in North Carolina, and under Dr. Young at Bowman Gray School of Medicine received my CPE.

I entered private practice in Georgia as a licensed marriage and family therapist in 1977, and in 1978 was endorsed as a chaplain by the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

In my practice, I have been certain of my call to relate especially to individuals and families between the church and the psychiatric. As a pastoral counselor, I know that I minister like "a cup of cool water in Jesus' name," and never need to say so to my client or friend. It is all in the realm of faith—my faith in God, His faith in me and the faith I have in the people He sends to me.

The most difficult people to counsel are those harmed because of the church. A pastoral counselor, with faith as the major resource, uses the spiritual, mental and emotional bathed by God's Spirit.

Never has an age more needed what we as Southern Baptists could offer, but it will never be until there is a unity of spirit and acknowledge-

ment that God loves and calls us each in His own way. Sadly, I could not again study at Southern because I am a pastoral counselor.

Henry David  
Campbellsville

## Elliotts leave marks

One year ago on March 15, my sister, Jean Dover Elliott; brother-in-law, Larry Elliott; Karen Watson; and David McDonnell were killed in a brutal drive-by shooting in Mosul, Iraq. Not one day has gone by that I did not think about Jean and Larry.

Throughout the past year, I have filled a large plastic tote with memories of Jean and Larry, such as letters, photos, e-mails and newspaper articles. Through tears, I re-read many of Jean's letters, one in particular in which Jean had written a long note thanking us for everything during their visit with us, and how much she enjoyed the yard sale.

In the tote are two silver trays that Jean insisted I buy at a yard sale. "If you don't buy them, I'll buy them for you," she warned. So I bought them even though they had turned black.

When we returned to my home, Jean filled the sink with hot, sudsy water and began scrubbing the trays to make them shine. She left scratch marks, up and down, around and crisscross, on the trays. The trays still shine and those marks made by Jean's hands are so precious to me.

Matthew 23:11 says, "The greatest among you must be a servant." Servants are always seizing opportunities to help others. Jean and Larry were true servants.

The shiny silver trays remind me of how God can take our lives blackened by sin and scrub them clean so that we can shine for Him. Jean and Larry were God's servants who left their marks on the world, marks as vivid as those on the silver trays, which will forever shine in the lives of people whom they touched with the love of God.

Joyce Dover Whitten  
Rising Sun, Ind.

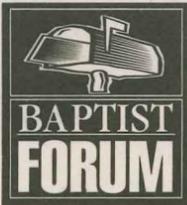
It is obvious that we have a great challenge in helping current and future generations to understand and live the Christian faith. This is a time of unprecedented opportunity to seek the Lord, obey His word and live out the Christian faith in loving service through the church.

The Kentucky Baptist Mission Board staff has been seeking the Lord for direction in developing strategies that can be used by God to strengthen local churches. Our conferences have had, and will continue to have, a strong focus on the objectives and goals of Kentucky Baptists Connect.

The KBC Committee on Order of Business focused on the Kentucky Baptists Connect launch last November at the state convention. They are continuing that approach this fall when the theme will be "Kentucky Baptists Connect: Strengthening Every Church." Exciting speakers already have been secured.

Please join me in prayer that God will be honored and glorified as more people are vitally connected to His Son, Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



## Connect: 'Strengthening Every Church'

Excitement is growing about Kentucky Baptists Connect, especially the objectives and goals that

focus on strengthening local churches for Kingdom advance in Kentucky and around the world. Recently, each pastor on the Kentucky Baptist Convention mailing list received a Kentucky Baptists Connect information packet.

The packet includes a letter from me, a DVD with testimonies and significant reports and research, a brochure on the emphasis, a Connect newsletter, two attractive posters, an order form for additional materials, and a church commitment form. (Pastor, if we missed you, please call us.)

Connect goals for the local church to consider relate to increasing baptisms, starting new units and ministries, and training new members and leaders.

It is my prayer that every KBC church will prayerfully consider commitment to Kentucky Baptists Connect. If you have questions,

please call us at (888) 254-5713 or (502) 254-4731.

Many churches already have embraced Kentucky Baptists Connect. In a recent telephone conversation, Jason Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, shared his excitement about this initiative. During the conversation about his vision for Living Hope and the vision for KBC, he stated his enthusiastic support for the objectives and goals.

This is an important initiative for all churches. The recent Barna Group report on the unchurched Kentuckian has served to challenge us about the state of discipleship.

It has been a shock to learn that 81 percent of the unchurched in Kentucky previously have attended church and that 42 percent of those formerly church are Baptists. It was encouraging to learn, however, that the unchurched pray, read the Bible and have a commitment to Christ—although only 30 percent claim to be born-again believers.



Bill Mackey

## GIVING

## Charitable gift of life insurance can make big impact

By Laurie Valentine

Using life insurance to fund a charitable gift provides the opportunity to make a larger ultimate gift for charity than you might ever have thought possible.

While you might not be able to make

a gift of thousands of dollars all at once, you might have the financial resources to make gifts of modest amounts on a regular basis to cover the cost of the premiums for a life insurance policy on your life. Or you might be in a position to give up ownership of a policy you purchased years earlier for a particular financial need that no longer exists.

The simplest way to set up a gift to charity using life insurance is to designate one or more charities as the beneficiary of a policy on your life. You can use an existing or new policy, and any type of policy. This option provides no current tax benefits to you, but sets up a plan to fund a potentially significant gift to the designated causes at your death for which your estate would get an estate tax deduction. You could designate the proceeds to be paid outright to the charitable beneficiaries or to an endowment fund benefiting one or more charitable causes.

Another option is to make an irrevocable transfer of the ownership of an existing policy to charity, or arrange for the charity to purchase a new policy on your life with funds you provide.

A gift of an existing policy will allow you to take a charitable income tax deduction equal to the lesser of the fair market value of the policy (the policy's cash surrender value) or the premiums you have paid prior to making the gift. If you continue to pay the premiums on the policy after the transfer of ownership, you will be entitled to additional deductions each year you pay the premiums directly or give the charity cash to pay the premiums.

At your death, the charity can collect the proceeds immediately; there is no waiting for the settlement of your estate. The charity typically will incur no expense to collect the death benefit. Best of all, the amount the charity receives usually is far larger than the total premiums paid during your lifetime.

A charitable gift of life insurance is a simple, but effective way to leave a legacy and make a lasting difference.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## Resources available to help establish marriage ministry

**Q: My husband and I have attended several marriage events and feel called to begin a marriage ministry program in our church. We have the support of our pastor, but are unsure how to begin. What are appropriate starting points?**

You have a good beginning with the support of your pastor and a passion for marriage education. There are some wonderful support resources available.

### MARRIAGE

First begin with a plan. Part of that plan is praying for discernment in how God wants to grow the marriages in your congregation. Talk with those who have created a solid ministry such as David and Penny Hudson at Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood. Gather ideas, strategies, tools and resources. The Kentucky Baptist Convention has some video resource kits available for checkout. Contact Karl Babb, leader of the KBC leadership development team, for information about available resources and potential mentor couples.

A marriage ministry has a number of components: marriage education and growth such as couple Bible studies, small groups and marriage retreats; pre-marital education including seminars, pre-marital counseling and mentoring; divorce ministry, and relationship skill-building with single adults and youth, all of which can be included under the umbrella of marriage ministry.

Be aware that a number of marriages in the church can be in serious trouble with one or both partners contemplating divorce. Part of your plan needs to include a list of qualified marriage counselors for referral as well as upcoming marriage events in your area where couples can begin to do some intensive work on their marriages.

Do your research, tap resources, build support and keep your pastor and staff informed. Pray for strength and guidance. Create a prayer network in your church to support this ministry and its leaders.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: Our teenage daughter has formed what seems to be an unhealthy friendship with another girl at school. How can we help her by contrasting this co-dependent relationship with a healthy one?**

“Co-dependent,” a term first used to describe the behavior of some people living in alcoholic families, was coined to describe a relationship that is one-sided, emotionally destructive or even abusive. The co-dependent individual often sacrifices his or her needs to take care of another person, taking much more responsibility than is healthy for either person. The payoff often is that the co-dependent person develops an unconscious sense of reward and satisfaction from “being needed” that leads him or her to measure self-worth in terms of the approval of another person instead of God.

### PARENTING

As important as a conversation with your daughter will be, the time you spend with her is crucial. Time and attention will help underscore the authenticity of your words and help her address the unmet needs and insecurities that may have led her into this unhealthy relationship.

Healthy friendships are marked by balanced give and take. While there are times when one person's needs will take precedence, each person typically “takes turns” talking, listening and showing care for the other. Healthy friendships reflect “responsibility to” while avoiding “taking responsibility for” the other person. Healthy friendships also “speak the truth in love” and are inclusive of others.

The best friendships call forth the highest in others as individuals walk in love, demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit that the Apostle Paul identified as: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (Galatians 5:22-23).—Scott Wigginton

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## Does your pastor have to live on ‘beans’?

Recently a speaker recalled growing up as the son of a pastor whose salary was determined by the Sunday night offering. The speaker recalled his father getting a paper bag each Sunday night from the church treasurer containing the evening offering and any designated money marked for pastor support contributed in the morning service.

Each Monday morning the pastor sat at his desk and carefully counted the bills and the loose change. Family members kept their distance during this weekly ritual, but all understood its significance. How they would eat for the coming week depended on the result of the pastor's count.

The speaker said more often than not, his father would push back from the desk, turn to his wife and say, “Well, Honey, it looks like it's beans again this week.” Everyone understood what that meant. The wife would go to the store and buy a ham the family could afford and a pack of dried beans. That was the family's diet until the next week when the ritual was repeated.

The speaker was not a Baptist, but one does not need a long memory to recall Baptist churches where the pastor's salary was the Sunday night offering. Doubtless the routine described by the speaker has been repeated over and over again in churches of various denominations all across the nation.

Doubtless, too, many Baptist pastors today repeat the old saying, “It's beans again this week.”

Recently I visited with a young couple eager for the husband to accept his first pastorate. The young man served as youth pastor of a good-size church while earning his seminary degree. He had a good ministry record in his church and association to go along with his college and seminary training.

He and his wife talked excitedly about their hopes of how the Lord would use them as pastor and wife in a local church.

Yet, there was a note of disappointment in their voices. They had just come from meeting with a pastor search committee. The visit had been positive, but when the conversation turned to financial compensation, the church had offered a salary lower than what the young man made as a youth pastor.

The couple was prepared to take a reduction in salary, if necessary, but the salary offered by the church, which did not have a parsonage, was so low that the end result would be financial disaster for them. The church wanted a full-time, seminary-

trained pastor and wanted to pay him about what one makes flipping hamburgers at McDonald's.

The couple was taken aback by the offer and by the attitude conveyed by search committee members that the church was doing the pastor a favor by offering such a salary. After much prayer and soul searching, the couple concluded, “We just cannot live on that.” The couple was right. After not too many months, they might not have been able to afford even dried beans.

The two experiences reminded me of another recent conversation about the number of Baptist churches that pay a livable wage. According to convention leaders, the number is surprisingly small. The vast majority of full-time pastors live from week to week and month to month, officials said. Most struggle to pay bills, and surprisingly few are able to build savings accounts or prepare for retirement.

One official explained that most pastors “have no financial margin.” It takes all they make to pay their current bills. It is not that the pastors and staff members live lavishly; it is that the financial support offered by their churches is less than a livable wage.

As a result, many pastors are pushed over the edge of financial solvency the first time a major unplanned expense hits. They stretch their dollars as far as they can by such things as “eating beans again this week,” but there comes a point when inadequate resources simply break.

The bottom line is that many churches do not appropriately appreciate the work of their pastors. There is little appreciation for their training, their skills, their effort, their leadership or their experience.

In some cases, there is little appreciation for the spiritual life. That is why churches want to pay their pastors like they were fast-food employees.

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus teaches that we should not fear those who can destroy the body but fear those who can destroy the soul. We seem to do just the opposite. We reward those who care for the body and starve those who nourish the soul. We have done this so long, we seem to think it's normal.

Appreciation for the work of the pastor is an important issue. Churches providing livable wages is an important issue. No church should force its pastor and family into a regular diet of “beans” just because that is all they can afford.

Bob Terry is editor of the Alabama Baptist

### GUEST EDITORIAL



Bob Terry

## Why God asks us to pray

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—It is a serious matter to ask, “Why does God ask us to pray?”

Jesus told His disciples that “men ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus was always urging His disciples to pray. But why? Surely, it was not merely for them to get their desired wishes!

Could the answer be found in what we call the Lord's Prayer? In the middle of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He gives a long and careful word on prayer (Matthew 6:5-15). The heart of it all is His “model prayer,” which begins: “Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Examining the text carefully,

we notice that the heart of prayer is God the Father. Thus, prayer must first focus on God rather than ourselves. Our prayer should be for God's name and full character to

be revealed clearly. We then pray for His will—not our will—to be done and that God express His will “on earth” in the arena of our lives. We should desire that heaven's will be done where we live.

When our prayer is God-centered, God reveals Himself and His heart for all to see. When we pray for God to work mightily for Himself alone, He does. God can then work through the prayer lives of His people to make Himself known to a watching world. And when He does He is glorified. That is, He is seen in His activity for who He is, and this will draw people to Himself. Not all will be “saved,” but all will know Him in one way or another. So we

must model Jesus' prayer faithfully before we make any request for God to “bless us” and meet our needs.

I have noticed that when people know that I am a child of God, they watch to see what God does when I pray. Therefore, I pray with Him in mind so that when He answers my prayer He is the focus of attention for everyone to see.

Our desire always should be that God is seen and loved and followed by others because of what He is doing when we pray. And this, of course, is especially true when we live out our lives and prayer in our families and in our workplaces.

Those around us every day, who should know us as Christians, will know when we pray and what God does when we pray. They will not be drawn to us, but to God—Whom we serve. And when they see God working, He will be honored and glorified.

Henry Blackaby is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta



Annie Armstrong

### Who was Baptist missions advocate Annie Armstrong?

Alpharetta, Ga.—The woman for whom the Annie Armstrong Easter offering for North American Missions was named lived from 1850 to 1938, but her boldness and commitment to missions during her lifetime continue to serve as a model for today.

Her strong commitment to taking the gospel to Native Americans and immigrants came as a result of listening to missionaries' stories about the needs of those groups. She personalized that commitment by serving her church and leading women to minister to immigrants arriving at the Baltimore pier.

She traveled to Indian territory to minister personally to Native Americans. While she could not be hands-on all the time, she encouraged women to collect boxes of supplies for missionaries so they could be better equipped to take the gospel to all people.

Armstrong also served as the first corresponding secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, which began in 1888. It was a job she performed wholeheartedly and without pay.

"I am more and more persuaded that all that is required of those who have the work in charge is faithful seed sowing. The harvest is bound to follow," she wrote about her work. "No matter how heavy the burden, daily strength is given, so I expect we need not give ourselves any concern as to what the outcome will be, but think, 'go forward.'"

Armstrong died in 1938. Her tombstone reads: "She has done what she could."

## A 'SAFE' place to change lives

*Mississippi native helping Northwest addicts find God and get clean*

By Joe Westbury  
SBC North American Mission Board

Portland, Ore.—Churches are built on relationships, and few workers in the Pacific Northwest are better at cultivating friends and building relationships than missionary Troy Smith.

A soft-spoken Mississippian by birth, Smith has become a master of understanding the human condition and how people develop lifestyles that are self-destructive to themselves and those they love.

Smith steps into those quagmires of defeatism characterized by drug, alcohol and other dependencies with a Bible in one hand and a tried-and-proven approach to spiritual rehabilitation through Christ in the other.

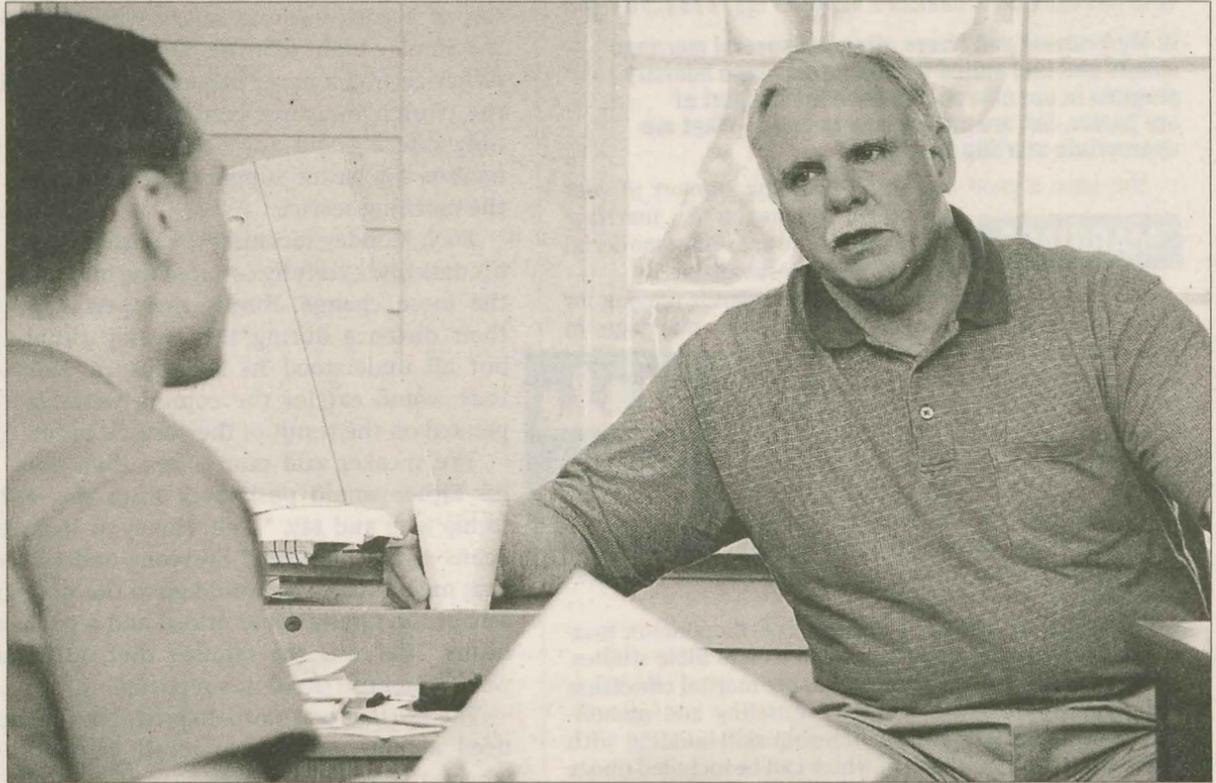
Smith and his wife, Jamae, are among nearly 5,200 missionaries in the United States and Canada supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Their work is featured during the 2005 Week of Prayer and North American Mission Study, which this year focuses on "Answer His Call."

Smith first came to Oregon as a church starter in 1978 after discussing his call with the director of missions for Interstate Baptist Association. His life had been fulfilling as a pastor in Mississippi and then as pastor of a new church in Oregon. But he was increasingly challenged by Portland's growing population of men and women who were looking for fulfillment through destructive behavior.

### Pursuing people in need

"I felt we should go to those people rather than abandoning them as I saw more and more churches move to the suburbs. Many of those churches left simply because they didn't know how to deal with the problems of the inner city," he says.

When he was told it was virtually impossible to start a church



**SAFE HOUSE** Troy Smith (right) counsels a client of SAFE (Setting Addicts Free Eternally), which helps drug and alcohol abusers become healthy Christians. He is among the missionaries whose work is highlighted during the season of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's offering goal is \$55 million. (NAMB photo by Sven Lundberg)

in downtown Portland that could become self-sustaining, he prayed again about it. He said he couldn't shake the conviction that God was leading him to start an in-town church. He had left the church to enter full-time evangelism but felt the pull to the inner city so strongly that he began a second church downtown.

"I wanted to start a church that was more than a rescue mission. Many told me that it would never be self-supporting, but I felt God knew better; I just had to find the way He wanted it to be done."

Under missionary appointment from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, he opened the Baptist Revival Center in downtown Portland. (The HMB was among three agencies to later be consolidated into the North American Mission Board.)

Smith said when he opened the center he recognized a pattern.

"Genuine commitments to Christ go sour when addicts aren't offered help with their drug problems. I found that my static

answers—"I can't help you but God can"—were not good enough. There was—were everywhere I turned in working with these people."

The problem was there was no Christian approach to dealing with substance abuse. Smith and a co-worker won more than a hundred individuals to Christ, but many took their own lives out of desperation.

Smith began questioning why God had sent him to a place of such desolation. He felt a strong call, he says, but wanted to leave—just like the other churches before him.

"I keep asking myself if those who I led to Christ were really saved, why did they keep slipping back into their old lifestyles? Then God gave me the objectives which became the foundation of what is now known as SAFE—Setting Addicts Free Eternally."

### Changing people from the inside

The goal of SAFE is not sobriety, Smith is quick to point out. The goal is for each person who completes the course to become a productive, healthy child of God.

"If you sober up a thief you still have a thief. But if you change him from the inside, you no longer have a thief," he says.

Smith's program is built on the importance of building and maintaining healthy friendships and relationships. When individuals understand the value of developing new friends and changing their thought processes through Scripture memorization and Bible study, they become changed from the inside out.

His three-year appointment has turned into 19 years, and he can still be found changing lives in downtown Portland. He regularly travels across the nation to share the concepts of SAFE with church and community-based ministries. It has been translated into Spanish, he said, and even found success in

### The big picture

■ Church and Community Ministries, a part of the Ministry Evangelism Team at NAMB, shares evangelism through ministry-based evangelism. Nearly 200 missionaries jointly appointed by NAMB and state conventions report more than 10,000 professions of faith each year.

■ The unit provides resources to lead churches to be involved in ministry evangelism throughout their community.

■ For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention at (800) 266-6477 or the North American Mission Board's Ministry Evangelism Unit at (770) 410-6324.

the Ukraine.

He quickly admits he could not do it without his wife's help.

"Jamae helps teach the national seminars as well as serves as a primary teacher on the Tuesday evening programs when we work with our clients.

"Anyone who has ever sat in one of our conferences will tell you she's the best instructor they could have. She understands the program on a level that anyone could understand."

Smith credits the success of the program to its Christ-centered approach. Many 12-step programs address a higher power, but that can be any power imaginable.

"I was determined to build a program that wouldn't work if you took Christ out of it," he explains.

"There's no quick fix to this kind of problem. ... It's a reconditioning of the subconscious mind," he adds. "When they come here, they're drug addicts or alcoholics. But when they leave here they're children of God, ready to serve, worship and honor Him."



**MISSIONS DUO** Jamae Smith (seated) teaches national seminars for SAFE (Setting Addicts Free Eternally) and is the primary teacher for the Portland, Ore., program's Tuesday evening program. (NAMB photo by Sven Lundberg)

## Ball: Seize opportunities to impact youth

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Louisville—Leaders developing an evangelistic youth ministry need to remember the "six-second rule," a workshop leader said at the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Valley View Church.

Joe Ball, youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said those working with teens must be prepared to seize limited opportunities to make an impact.

Ball cited a comment by famed football coach Lou Holtz who once said that in two quarters of play, a team is fortunate to run 35 plays averaging 6 seconds each, or 3.5 minutes of playing action.

"In youth ministry, that's what it's like," said Ball, formerly a Hopkinsville youth minister for 12 years. "There's going to be six seconds every now and then when a student opens up to you. You have to decide if you're going to move deeper with that opportunity."

Another key to effective outreach is maintaining a balance between an inward and outward focus, Ball said.

Many churches are one way or the other, when they should take a "both-and" stance, he added.

Ball acknowledged that reaching out to unchurched kids can pose

problems, such as what happened at a recent Super Bowl party in Hopkinsville.

While it attracted 300 youth from the community, three fights broke out, forcing organizers to divide the crowd into smaller groups.

"I told them this is the whole purpose," Ball said of those who objected to opening the church to conflict. He said the key is reaching out to young people to gain an opportunity to minister to them.

Youth ministry also should include a mix of external and internal events, Ball noted.

External events often are based on school campuses, where a variety of ministry organizations encourage Christians to share their faith.

This year about a dozen students in Hopkinsville have prayed to receive Jesus as their personal Savior in classrooms, Ball said, although he noted not all principals are open to allowing such activity.

One way to overcome resistance among those less open to Christian groups is forming support groups, he added.

Internally, such resources as "Got Life," "Four Spiritual Laws" and the Romans Road are available to train students how to witness, Ball said.

Youth pastors also should be aware of young people's receptivity

to the gospel, Ball said, displaying a chart known as Engle's Scale.

It moves from a minus 10 to a plus 10, gradually advancing from no knowledge of Christianity to conversion and discipleship.

If a student is still deciding whether he or she even wants to consider Christianity, that individual probably is not yet open to a gospel presentation, Ball said.

Pointing to a two-decade decrease in teenage baptisms in Kentucky, he noted that unless churches become more effective in reaching youth, the vast majority will never accept Christ.

"In a few years our churches will be empty," Ball warned. "We'll look a lot like Europe."

In an interview after the workshop, Ball said disintegrating family structures are part of the reason for teens' decreased church involvement.

That reality calls for adjusting attitudes, he said, so youth know their peers won't hound them if they have to miss church because of visits to non-custodial parents.

Churches also shouldn't expect single parents with multiple responsibilities to always be in church, he added.

"Try to train parents," Ball said. "(Many) don't understand why their kid has to be at church all the time. Be patient and at least know a parent's name when they show up."



Joe Ball

## Kentucky WMU annual meeting will focus on 'Christ Followers'

London—Highlighting the theme, "Christ Followers," the 2005 Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting will be April 8-9 at First Baptist Church of London.

Author Barbara Joiner from Columbiana, Ala., will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers include Bill and Linda Egbert, missionaries to Costa Rica, and Bill Barker, director of Appalachian Regional Ministries. Bruce and Gloria Carlton of Rapid Advance of South Asia also will bring a report on their work.

Kentucky WMU President Cathy Chinn will lead a panel presentation on Friday evening titled "A Patchwork of Ministries" with Eastern Kentucky missions workers who will share testimonies of their missions involvement.

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a missions project by bringing a pair of new shoes to be given to a ministry in Eastern Kentucky. To help carry out the Eastern Kentucky emphasis, participants also are invited to bring quilts to display during the annual meeting.

A retirement reception honoring Anna Mary Byrdwell, a WMU employee for more than 37 years, will be held after the Friday afternoon session.

The Saturday morning session will focus on the responsibility of being Christ followers around the world. WMU members who have been on mission trips to Greece and Brazil will share testimonies.

Saturday activities also will include a Saturday morning missions event for children in grades 1-6 and their leaders, a noon pizza party for Acteens and Youth on Mission members and leaders and a Baptist Nursing Fellowship noon luncheon.

Pre-registration is required for preschool child care, interpretation for the deaf, Friday box lunch and dinners for the WMU Executive Board, Acteens/Youth on Mission and Baptist Nursing Fellowship. There is a \$2 per person program fee for the children's event. For registration information, contact Kentucky WMU toll-free at (888) 254-5726.

## Meet Tim.

He's one of more than  
16,000 kids physically abused  
each year in Kentucky.

## That's not all.

Nearly 35,000 children suffer from neglect each year, according to the most recent reports. More than 5,000 of Kentucky's children are sexually abused, and 1,700 suffer emotional abuse, according to the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services.

At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, we talk a lot about child abuse, its effects and how we might prevent it. What we really do, though, is help kids overcome it.

Call us to find out how you can help.

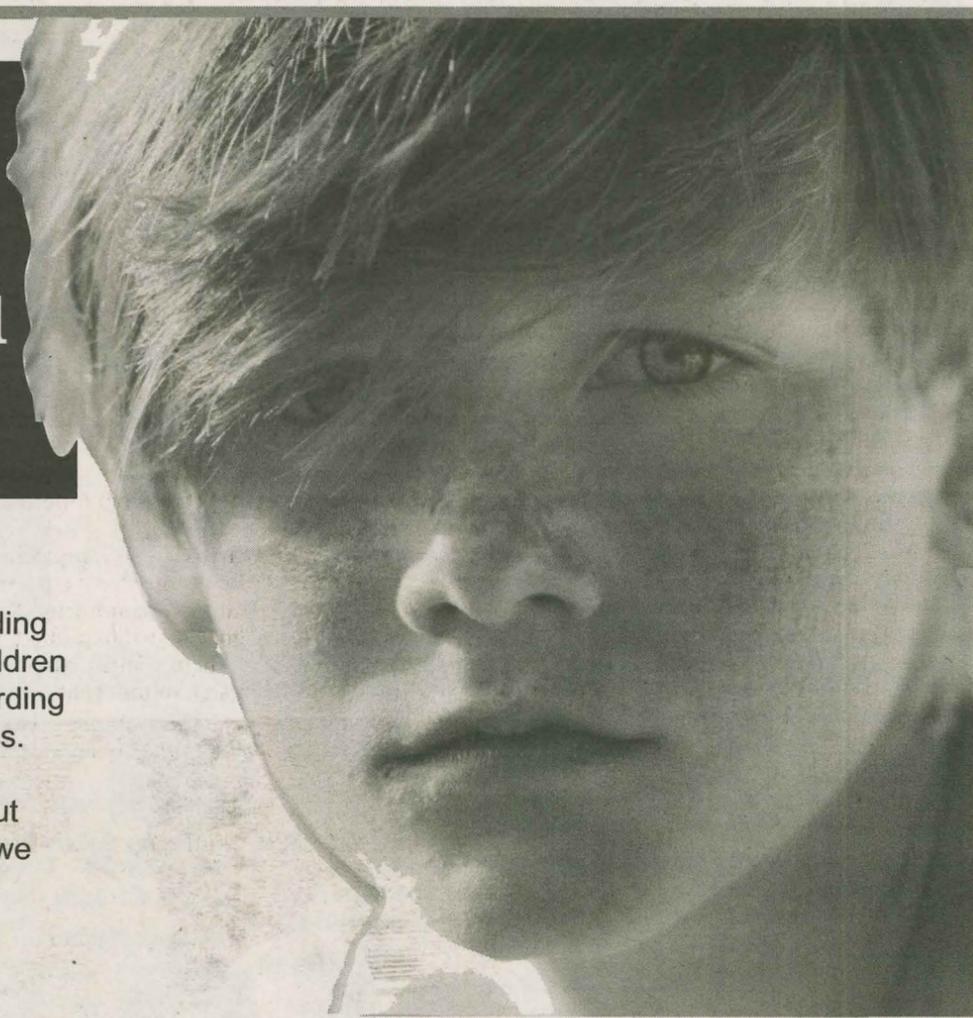


## Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

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Congratulations to the following Kentucky Baptist students upon being awarded \$1,000 scholarships to our Kentucky Baptist colleges!

K E N T U C K Y B A P T I S T

## Scholarship Recipients

### University of the Cumberlands

### Georgetown College



**Karen R. Ball**  
Hopkinsville  
Edgewood Baptist



**Laura F. Johnson**  
Baxter  
Liggett Baptist Church



**Joshua A. Rayborn**  
Frankfort  
Providence Baptist Church



**Melissa Binggeli**  
Shepherdsville  
First Baptist Church



**Sarah Columbia**  
Louisville  
Hillcrest Baptist Church



**Laura Elizabeth Ramsey**  
Glasgow  
Glasgow Baptist Church



**Bradley R. Bell**  
Monticello  
Steubenville Baptist



**Wesley R. Lanham**  
Corbin  
Providence Baptist Church



**Heather B. Rutherford**  
Belfry  
Belfry First Baptist Church



**Courtney Lauren Britt**  
Cynthiana  
Cynthiana Baptist Church



**Andrea Scott Durbin**  
Winchester  
Central Baptist Church



**Evan McDonald Rice**  
Danville  
Lexington Avenue Baptist Church



**Joshua R. Bowman**  
Williamsburg  
Emlyn Baptist Church



**Amanda G. McGee**  
London  
Swiss Colony Baptist Church



**Michelle L. Sheriff**  
Newport  
First Baptist of Highland Heights



**Jared Dustin Brown**  
Frankfort  
Crestwood Baptist Church



**Angela Renee Earwood**  
Georgetown  
Faith Baptist Church



**Katie Ann Stallard**  
Danville  
Calvary Baptist Church



**Bethany D. Branum**  
Highland Park  
Baptist Church



**James M. McKinney**  
Corbin  
Buffalo Missionary Baptist Church



**Shane A. Slattery**  
Frankfort  
Providence Baptist Church



**John William Brown**  
Frankfort  
Crestwood Baptist Church



**Sarah Nicole Egbers**  
Union  
Union Baptist Church



**Kristin Lea Stratton**  
Ft. Thomas  
Highland Hills Baptist Church



**Heather N. Burdine**  
Somerset  
Beacon Hill Baptist Church



**Jenny R. Money**  
Louisville  
1st Baptist Church of Middletown



**Thomas M. Smith**  
Covington  
Grace Baptist Church



**Tori Lee Brown**  
Frankfort  
Crestwood Baptist Church



**Abigail Lauren Gibson**  
Ft. Thomas  
Highland Hills Baptist Church



**Joshua Keith Taylor**  
Pikeville  
Meta Baptist Church



**Adam C. Cox**  
Corbin  
Central Baptist Church



**Andrew M. Morrison**  
Independence  
Hickory Grove Baptist Church



**Lee H.D. Speaks**  
Lancaster  
Calvary Hill Baptist Church



**Amanda Leigh Brungs**  
Edgewood  
Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church



**Katherine Anne Hough**  
Louisville  
St. Matthew's Baptist Church



**Bobbie Jo Whitaker**  
Cynthiana  
Cynthiana Baptist Church



**Allison L. Day**  
Whitesburg  
First Baptist Church of Whitesburg



**Katie T. Murphy**  
Mt. Sterling  
First Baptist



**Amy L. Todd**  
Wallins  
Harlan Baptist Church



**Ashley Brooke Caldwell**  
Williamstown  
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church



**Brittany Joyce Hunt**  
Mt. Sterling  
First Baptist Church



**Austin Curtis Willard**  
Shelbyville  
First Baptist Church Shelbyville



**Jeremiah T. Gibson**  
Pineville  
Moss Chapel Baptist



**Jordan E. Patton**  
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Bedford Baptist Church



**Brandi Nicole Cason**  
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Sparta  
Dallasburg Baptist Church



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May's Lick Baptist Church

### Campbellsville University

**Jared Vincent Able**  
Greenville  
2nd Baptist Church

**Jill Nichole Carter**  
Owensboro  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

**Clifford Paul Engels**  
Ft. Thomas  
Highland Hills Baptist Church

**Magan S. Newton**  
Leitchfield  
First Baptist Church

**Christina L. Rowland**  
Tompkinsville  
First Baptist Church

**Julie Anne Vespie**  
Hanson  
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**Karen Rhea Ball**  
Hopkinsville  
Edgewood Baptist Church

**Daniel Curry**  
Louisville  
Parkland Baptist Church

**Laura Freeman**  
Campbellsville  
Campbellsville Baptist Church

**Charlotte Ruth Noe**  
Madisonville  
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**Erika Joy Sellers**  
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First Baptist Church

**L. R. Watkins**  
Owenton  
Monterey Baptist Church

**Candice Renee Bennett**  
Horse Cave  
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

**Seth M. Barnell Jr.**  
Frankfort  
Crestwood Baptist Church

**Crystal Garrison Phillips**  
Frankfort  
East Frankfort Baptist Church

**Daniela Nicole Phillips**  
Grand Rivers  
Hopewell Baptist Church

**Breann Smith**  
Owenton  
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

**Matthew Ryan Webb**  
Monticello  
First Baptist Church

**Patrick Grady**  
Springfield  
River of Life

**Jacob Delph**  
Burlington  
Bellevue Baptist Church

**Ashley Hollis**  
Louisville  
Beechland Baptist Church

**David Anthony Rodgers**  
Owensboro  
Panther Creek Baptist Church

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Glasgow  
Immanuel Baptist Church

**Rachel White**  
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# Safeguards can prevent theft in trusting churches

Continued from page 1

■ A former bookkeeper at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Layton, Utah, was charged with stealing more than \$38,000.

■ Marie Wendel, business manager for Kolbe Catholic School in Cheektowaga, N.Y., stole \$332,000, while at Grace United Church in nearby Buffalo; the church's day care director, Bernadette Lucas, embezzled \$235,000. Both pleaded guilty. According to the Buffalo News, the local district attorney's office has prosecuted eight embezzlement cases at churches and nonprofits since 2003, totaling more than \$1 million.

## 1,800 theft claims per year

GuideOne Insurance, which insures about 45,000 churches in the United States, has paid out an average of \$2.9 million on about 1,800 theft claims in each of the last five years, according to Emily Abbas, a company spokeswoman. Those figures include theft by outsiders as well as embezzlement by people inside the church.

Most cases of church embezzling go unreported, said Kent Egging, pastor of Bethany Covenant Church in Mount Vernon, Wash. Egging, who has studied church embezzlement for his doctor of ministry degree program, says congregations are often embarrassed by what has happened, and are unwilling to go to the police.

"The biggest issue in a case like this is the violation of trust," he said. "It's not about the money so much. It's about the trust."

At one congregation, Egging said,

the church's treasurer stole more than \$45,000. The money was in an account separate from a building fund that had been put on hold.

That separate account gave the treasurer two things that an embezzler needs to succeed—access and no accountability, Egging said. "He could transfer funds into this separate account and then withdraw them," Egging said, "and absolutely nobody knew."

The treasurer created a false financial statement that covered up the transactions. Since he kept the books and reconciled the bank account, it was easy to avoid detection. The embezzling was finally discovered when the building project started up again and the funds were gone.

Egging says most churches want to make things easy on volunteers. At many churches, volunteer accountants work at home and keep bank statements there as well, for their convenience.

"I would bet that most churches in America have some or a significant number of financial records in a box at somebody's house or on somebody's home computer," he said. "A church wants to make it easy for a volunteer who's working on church finances."

## Steps toward protection

Lisa Curtis of the Denver District Attorney's Office economic crime unit says there are a number of steps churches can take to reduce the risk of embezzlement.

These include creating a system of checks and balances so no one person has complete control over



income, expenses and financial reports; having at least two people examine bank statements and returned checks each month; and paying for an annual audit by an accountant. She also suggests that churches require their treasurer or bookkeeper to take an annual vacation—because it's difficult to hide fraud during an absence. Curtis urges churches and nonprofits to report any embezzling immediately. "If you do not prosecute embezzlers," she said, "they will get away with stealing from charity—and they will continue their thefts at other organizations."

The unnamed congregation with the building fund did file a police report, Egging says, but they did not file charges. Instead, the former treasurer agreed to repay the funds. Unfortunately, he reneged on the

agreement and refused to pay.

Egging cautions against being too quick to offer forgiveness without consequences.

"It all sounds so loving at the time," he said, "but this guy was a criminal and he stole the money and wasn't intending to pay it back."

Even the best precautions fail if someone is determined enough to get around them, says Jim Dwyer, spokesman for the Chicago Archdiocese. That has happened in five cases since 1997 in the archdiocese.

## No perfect solutions

To prevent embezzling, the archdiocese publishes "best accounting practices" for its parishes, and also trains lay people to serve on parish financial councils. The parish books are audited when a pastor leaves or if the financial council notices something suspicious.

"If they see a spike in collections when someone—a pastor, an usher, a volunteer—is missing, they are trained to report it," Dwyer said. "Those kinds of red flags trigger an audit."

In the case of St. Bede, Dwyer says, the system eventually caught up with Father Lisowski. When confronted, he admitted what he had done and repaid more than \$1.2 million to the archdiocese. He faces up to 30 years in prison if convicted of money laundering and theft.

Dwyer said reporting Lisowski to the police was essential for maintaining "good stewardship" of the archdiocese's finances. "If you are going to be good stewards," he said, "you have to hold people accountable."

Still, he admits there is no perfect solution for preventing embezzlement at churches.

"I don't know if anyone can come up with a foolproof system, given the large amount of loose cash we deal with," Dwyer said. "When you deal with a church situation, you are dealing with people you hope are honest. Whether it's a church or a corporation, you are still relying on the basic honesty of the people you hire and the people who volunteer."



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# Love 101

## Bowling Green weekend conference outlines godly relationships

**"I would have probably crawled on broken glass if there was an event like this when I was a teenager."**

Speaker Rob Turner

By John Van Vleet  
Bowling Green Daily News

**Bowling Green**—A flurry of activity through the hallways of Living Hope Baptist Church Feb. 27 as the church held its annual Love 101 conference, hosting more than 1,200 middle and high school students from across the state.

The conference, started in 2001, focuses on helping teenagers build strong relationships not only with people they are dating, but also with God.

Parker Phillips, a program director, said the event seeks to instill a healthy appreciation for relationships, both physical and spiritual.

"We've just talked about the glory of God," she said. "That's what relationships are all about."

Two worship sessions, featuring music and guest speaker Rob Turner, began and ended the day. Two smaller group sessions sandwiched a lunch break.

The smaller sessions were topical and revolved around such issues as sexual abstinence, physical boundaries in dating and gender roles in relationships.

Phillips said the common theme was keeping God a huge part of every relationship.

"They all relate to love or relationships," she said.

Turner, lead pastor at Apex Community Church in Dayton, Ohio, said he was glad to be a part of the event because he wished for something like this when he was younger.

"I would have probably crawled on broken glass if there was an event like this when I was a teenager," he said. "I made a promise to the Lord when I was a senior in high school that I would always talk to teenagers."

### Keeping the big picture

Part of his message was that focusing on a broader view of things can help alleviate stress and avoid tense situations.

"My purpose of today was to talk to teenagers about the bigger pictures," he said. "That they were created for a specific purpose and that is to give all honor to the Lord."



**PRAISE & WORSHIP** Love 101 volunteer Christy Wood (bottom right) of Bowling Green sings during an assembly of the all-day conference on Saturday at Living Hope Baptist Church. (Bowling Green Daily News photos by Clinton Lewis)

Turner said adolescents always have faced loads of pressure in all facets of their lives, especially within committed relationships.

"The concern, in terms of sexuality, is really nothing new," he said. "There's a tremendous pressure to engage in (sexual activity)."

Elizabethtown teenager Susan Beard, 13, said she and her friends Beth Hazelwood, 13, and Morgan Floyd, 13, face this pressure every day.

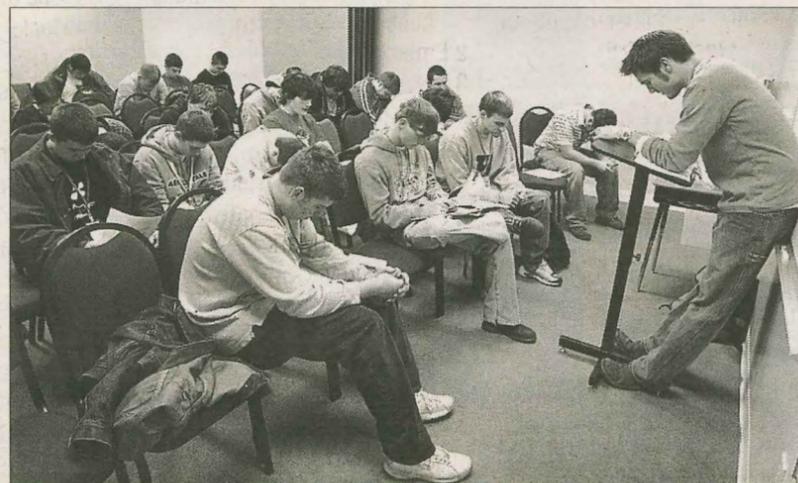
"A lot of guys at school are really bad," Susan said. "Very pushy." The girls attend White Mills Baptist Church and Susan said this experience hopefully will help them as they get older.

"They said we should always turn to the Lord," she said. "It gives us a better outlook."

Morgantown resident Colton Green, 13, said many of the discussions he took part in were about staying sexually pure.



Rob Turner



**DISCUSSION GROUPS** Students pray at a male-only small group discussion during the Love 101 conference. Approximately 1,200 teens attended the event, which started in 2001.

"They talked about how you should be patient in your relationships and not take different steps until you were ready," he said. "I think it'll help me in my life, to be as good as I can for worshipping God."

The Aberdeen Baptist Church member said he hopes to see the conference grow and continue benefiting area youth.

"I'm enjoying it," he said. "I think it'll be a real good thing for our community."

### Committed volunteers

Volunteer staff scurried around most of the day, trying to keep things organized as hundreds of kids poured in and out of the lobby after group sessions.

Nora Hubbard, one of the volunteers, said that although her two children are too old to attend the conference now, they both decided to come back as group leaders because of the impact it had on their lives.

"I think it strengthened their personal commitments and encouraged them to follow through with what they knew to be right and wrong," she said.

Hubbard added that her children's personal faith was improved by attending the conference and hearing the positive messages about purity, relationships and love and that they wanted to give the same experience to the next generation.

"They have a strong commitment to Jesus and want to share that faith with others," she said. "I'm just happy to be a part of Living Hope and a church that is active in sharing its faith."

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money, but it is achievable if each of us makes a gift at whatever level the Lord leads us to make. Remember, the Lord is the master of multiplication. So, let each of us do what we can do, and He will do what only He can do. My wife and I are going to participate, and we encourage you to do the same.

Call Alan Medders, development vice president, toll-free at (800) 264-6014 for specific information about how to make your gift or pledge.

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

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### Kudzu

Doug Marlette



### Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



### Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

#### Across

- 1 Singer Garfunkel
- 4 WWII fliers (abbr.)
- 7 Poet Teasdale
- 11 "Serve him with all your heart and with all your \_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 11:13)
- 13 Actress Gardner
- 14 Freshman at West Point (var.)
- 15 Father (Aramaic)
- 16 Not mentioned in another place (abbr.)
- 17 Opposite of windward
- 18 "For rebellion is as the sin of \_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 15:23)
- 21 Nineteenth U.S. president
- 23 Vowel trio
- 24 "\_\_\_\_ and friend hast thou put far from me" (Psalm 88:18)
- 25 Take a \_\_\_\_
- 26 Article
- 29 Ancient Hebrew dry measure
- 30 \_\_\_\_ ear
- 31 Win, place, or \_\_\_\_
- 32 \_\_\_\_ capita
- 33 Form a lap?
- 34 "The Lord make his face \_\_\_\_ upon thee" (Numbers 6:25)
- 35 Masculine nickname
- 36 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, \_\_\_\_ the dead" (Matthew 10:8)
- 37 "He smote his neighbour unwittingly, and hated him not \_\_\_\_" (Joshua 20:5)
- 41 Once more; again
- 42 Used to be
- 43 "Do good, and \_\_\_\_, hoping for nothing again" (Luke 6:35)

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50					51					52	

- 47 Animal shelter
- 48 Linking verb
- 49 "He being not a forgetful hearer, but a \_\_\_\_ of the work" (James 1:25)
- 50 Tribe of the prophetess Anna
- 51 \_\_\_\_ of man
- 52 Beans or sauce

#### Down

- 1 King of Judah, after his father Abijam (1 Kings 15)
- 2 Embezzle
- 3 Vat
- 4 Carries on
- 5 Opposite of sans
- 6 "They were all amazed, ... saying, We never saw it on this \_\_\_\_" (Mark 2:12)
- 7 Show mercy
- 8 \_\_\_\_ breve (music)
- 9 Sand bar
- 10 Be a party to mischief
- 12 One who's passed the bar?
- 19 Person concerned with (suffix)
- 20 Lea denizen
- 21 Base in baseball
- 22 State unequivocally

- 24 Cut off
- 25 Bridle part
- 26 Not that
- 27 Sharpen
- 28 "Hey, \_\_\_\_!" bleated the goat
- 30 "Now the \_\_\_\_ the time of the firstripe grapes" (2 words, Numbers 13:20)
- 31 "But thou, O Lord, art a \_\_\_\_ for me" (Psalm 3:3)
- 33 Title of respect
- 34 Uncle \_\_\_\_
- 35 Ivory \_\_\_\_ (where a prof resides, maybe)
- 36 "He is \_\_\_\_!" (Easter exultation)
- 37 "Who passing through the valley of \_\_\_\_ make it a well" (Psalm 84:6)
- 38 Son of Seth
- 39 Treat like the guest of honor
- 40 Poi source
- 44 Identified with the Roman Aurora (Gr. myth.)
- 45 Latest (comb. form)
- 46 "My flesh longeth for thee in a \_\_\_\_ and thirsty land" (Psalm 63:1)

#### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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## NATIONAL NOTES

**Boy Scouts to cut public school ties.** The Boy Scouts of America is removing the charters of thousands of scouting units from public schools after an American Civil Liberties Union threat to sue taxpayer-funded institutions that charter BSA units. The ACLU charged that scout sponsorship by public schools and other governmental agencies amounts to religious discrimination and violates the separation of church and state. BSA national spokesman Gregg Shields said instead of risking financially draining litigation, the BSA is pulling scout units from schools as a matter of stewardship. He said BSA is counting on churches and community organizations to take up the charters.

**Judge rules school board can't open with prayer.** In response to a lawsuit filed against the Tangipahoa (La.) Parish School Board, U.S. District Judge Ginger Berrigan ruled March 4 that First Amendment prohibitions against government-established religion mean prayers at public school board meetings are unconstitutional. Berrigan said school boards are different from other government bodies that traditionally have been allowed to open meetings with prayer. Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco has urged the school board to appeal the ruling.

**Director of faith-based initiative hails ruling.** Jim Towey, director of President Bush's faith-based initiative, hailed an appeals court decision as a victory for those who want federal AmeriCorps teachers to continue to work in religious schools. In a unanimous decision March 8, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the program's inclusion of grants for individuals, overturning a district court ruling. AmeriCorps, or the Corporation for National and Community Service, allows its teachers to lead religious lessons in sectarian schools. Towey called the decision a "key victory" that supports neutrality in faith-based programs that receive government funding.

**Habitat board reaffirms firing of founder.** The board of Habitat for Humanity has unanimously affirmed its decision to fire founder Millard Fuller. Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, board members made their second decision March 8 after Fuller and his supporters reportedly attempted to pressure them to change their minds. The board originally voted on Jan. 31 to terminate both Fuller and his wife, Linda, after months of differences between them and the board. A loose-knit group of volunteers called Habitat Partners had urged the Habitat board to reconsider its January action.

**Leaders mark anniversary of civil rights march.** Forty years after their historic voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., foot soldiers from that pivotal civil rights event returned to celebrate the anniversary and speak out about today's voting issues for African-Americans. On the steps of Brown Chapel AME Church March 6, politicians and civil rights leaders spoke to marchers before the re-enactment, as other leaders had done in 1965. "All forms of devious tricks are being used to prevent us from voting," said Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Today blacks face long voting lines, misinformation about voters' correct polling places, and inaccurate publicity of voting times, she said.

**Methodist offerings up despite fewer members.** Giving to the United Methodist Church in the United States was up nearly 4 percent in 2004 despite a membership decline of more than 69,000, church officials said. Methodists contributed \$116.8 million to the church's seven main budgets, up \$4.4 million from 2003. Combined with other funds, the church's members gave \$159.3 million to various church programs. The church counted just under 8.2 million members in the U.S., a drop of 69,141 from 2003. The church has an additional 1.9 million members in Europe, Africa and Asia, with the highest-reported growth in Africa.

## 'Becoming a responsible man'

**Student making significant progress toward academic and personal goals**

One of the most rewarding aspects of this ministry is working with young people who are trying to overcome difficult circumstances. We are not unlike public schools in that many of our students are struggling with identity issues, family conflicts and actions that seem unreasonable to those who may not know a child's background.

Our admissions office receives phone calls nearly every day from parents who desperately want to help their child. Some parents admit to having this child out of wedlock and are now dealing with issues of being a single parent, identity issues and the typical problems that result from not having a father in the home. While we understand the anxiety and frustration these parents are facing, we are equally understanding of the emotional issues the child is dealing with.

A very large percentage of our student body is made up of blended families. Having stepparents at any age can be difficult, but the older a child is when the stepparent becomes part of the blended family, the more challenging it can be. We also receive many phone calls from parents of adopted children. Often the problems facing parents of adopted children are not much different from those of any other parent.

Often during the interview, the prospective student will acknowledge some responsibility for family conflicts. He or she admits that much of the frustration is the result of not knowing why his or her parents divorced or why he or she was given up for adoption.

I recently interviewed a student who was deal-

ing with some of these issues. When I talked with "Eddie" (not his real name) about coming to Oneida, he was excited about attending a Christian school and trying to make some improvements in his life. Eddie is a little more sensitive than some students and admitted to over-reacting to negative comments made by a few of his classmates. Some of these conflicts resulted in pushing and shoving altercations at school and even a fight on one occasion. His grades were average, but he did have some failing grades and admitted he could do much better.

Recently one of his teachers told me about a student who had been "picking" on Eddie in class. The teacher was very pleased with the way Eddie avoided the conflict. Other teachers report that Eddie is a good student, respectful, cooperative and eager to please. Most also admitted that his biggest challenge was dealing with his peers who often perceive him to be a little lower on the

"pecking order." Eddie is learning to deal with these issues and has made much progress.

When I interviewed Eddie, he told me his two main goals while at OBI were to earn a Commonwealth Diploma, the state's most prestigious diploma, and to become a "responsible man." In all my years of interviewing students I have never had a student give either of these as his goal. I have been keeping an eye on Eddie and I think he is making progress toward reaching both goals. He has been on the honor roll all year and is learning to deal with daily frustrations in a positive way, which indicates he has taken a big step toward becoming a "responsible man."

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

## THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## A positive return from the Internet

**Student's mother discovers Clear Creek on the Web**

Doug Bridges is a second-semester student from Fulton, Miss. His first introduction to Clear Creek came when his mother located our Internet Web site: [www.ccbcc.edu](http://www.ccbcc.edu).

"You don't say, 'Here I am, Lord,' unless you mean it," Doug said. "Six months after my recommitment to Christ, I answered the call to ministry. At first I wasn't going to college; I decided I would just let the Holy Spirit lead me. He did; here we are." Doug had never met anyone who attended Clear Creek, but under God's conviction he applied.

The product of a pastor's home, Doug was saved at age 6; the family lived in North Carolina, Virginia, and since 1989 in Mississippi. "My parents were always loving and kind," Doug noted. "I knew I was saved but I got away from the Lord; as a teenager I thought I needed my freedom. I stopped praying and got out of fellowship. Things got really depressing until I recommitted my life to Christ."

Doug and Libby married in 1996; their marriage had become difficult until they both surrendered to Christ. The call to preach

came six months later. "The real struggle with the call came when God said it was time to go," Doug recalled. "Libby had always lived within 10 miles of home, so it was really tough to move." The family includes 5-year-old Ramey, and Michaela, born Feb. 4, 2005.

The Irene Peterson Child Development Center employed Doug as custodian and assistant teacher. CDC Director Jackie Lefevers said, "Doug is very dependable and does a really good job. It's good for the children to have a man working in the center."

With the calling to be a pastor, Doug and his family are involved at East Cumberland Baptist Church in Middlesboro.

"Clear Creek is so comfortable. People have laid hands on us to comfort and pray for us like it ought to be in church. We've found great strength and encouragement here," Doug said. "I like the teachers; the work is hard but it takes that to prepare us. It is powerful the way a teacher stops a class to pray for a special need or a classmate's problem."

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

"The Christian faith is a singing faith, and a good way to express it and share it with others is in community singing."

— Cliff Barrows

## Community Hymn Sing led by Cliff Barrows

Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Alumni Chapel · Southern Seminary

The ninth annual Community Hymn Sing at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will be Tuesday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Chapel. This promises to be a very special time of worship, as we reunite three of the major musicians from the Billy Graham Crusade Team. Cliff Barrows will be leading the congregational singing, with Donald Hustad on the organ and John Innes playing piano.

Join Cliff Barrows and the Southern Seminary community as we celebrate God's goodness and proclaim His greatness. For more information call (502) 897-4115.



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# Baptist workers seek to aid tsunami victims long-term

By Craig Bird  
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—Tsunami disaster relief is not a race between the tortoise and the hare. It's more like a relay effort by the two.

According to Baptist workers who remain deeply involved in helping victims of the catastrophe, the sprint to keep people alive by providing them emergency food and shelter has given way to the marathon of restoring the communities and hope wiped away by the wall of water Dec. 26.

"This looks like it will be a long-term project, possibly lasting several years," said Gary Smith, director of Texas Baptist Men, which has had teams in Sri Lanka since early January. "Our first crews concentrated on feeding and water purification. But now we are shifting to home construction and even building schools and other permanent structures. I think we will be rotating volunteers in and out of Sri Lanka into 2006, if not beyond."

## "I'd go back in a minute"

Karolyn Southerland of Alice, Texas, recently went to Sri Lanka as a volunteer to feed tsunami victims. She ended up cleaning wells contaminated by sea water. Yet she is anxious to go back.

"I want to see if I can do more than I did the first time," she said. "I don't think a feeding unit will go, but maybe I can help build a house. Maybe I can help feed children. I'd go back in a minute."

Every volunteer who serves in Sri Lanka makes a difference, said Southerland, who went as a part of a Texas Baptist Men group. "Those children won't forget we were there. The parents of the children won't forget we were there."

"There's so much work that still needs to be done there," she added. "Where the tsunami hit, the homes were shattered. We're needed there

## Minister offers relief guidelines

Washington (ABP)—A Baptist minister who is a Sri Lanka native has issued a set of guidelines for Christians doing relief work in the wake of the Dec. 26 South Asian tsunamis.

Shanta Premawardhana, the director of interfaith relations for the National Council of Churches, released the document Feb. 26, the two-month anniversary of the massive waves that killed hundreds of thousands from India to Indonesia.

The 11-page document, titled "Listening to, Learning from and Living into Asia's Pain: Guidelines for U.S. Churches Seeking to Engage in Tsunami-Affected Areas," cautions evangelical groups against engaging "in aggressive and inappropriate evangelism" as something that could do more

harm than good for the Christian movement in many of the affected nations.

Premawardhana noted that the context of Asian Christianity is vastly different from that in the United States and other Western nations, and that American Christians should be sensitive to both the political plight of Christians in the nations in which they are working, as well as the interplay of the multiple faith groups in those communities.

"While evangelism is important and necessary, it is best left to local Christians," he wrote. "Our task is to partner with them, both to help them to be the best Christians they can be, particularly in the context of this disaster, and to learn for ourselves a new way of being Christian."

to share, to care. It doesn't matter if it's a few months later."

Some Sri Lankan families still rely on emergency food provided by Baptist aid workers, according to Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, the hunger and relief arm of the Baptist World Alliance.

Returning recently from the island nation off the southern coast of India, Montacute confirmed the need for more permanent housing for tsunami victims. The emergency tents provided for so many are proving to be too hot for the climate, he said.

Sri Lankan Baptists are planning to build temporary houses for about \$300 each. Montacute pledged \$60,000 to build 200. Hungarian Baptist Aid also is rebuilding homes, with the help of a \$40,000 grant from BWA.

A tsunami-aid summit of relief groups and indigenous Baptists is scheduled for Bangkok in May,

Montacute said, organized by Baptist World Aid and the Asian Baptist Fellowship, the BWA-related organization of 4.7 million indigenous Baptists in 55 Baptist bodies in Asia.

## Aiding indigenous groups

"By working together, Baptists are able to achieve so much more," Montacute noted. "We are all trying to support the work of our indigenous Baptist groups in the affected areas."

The challenge for many aid groups is to make the appropriate use of personnel while practicing the best stewardship of an unprecedented outpouring of contributions.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board reports tsunami-relief donations have passed \$10 million. The Baptist World Alliance has received \$1.5 million and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

\$1 million.

The task is overwhelming. The scope of the devastation stretches from Indonesia to the east African coast, with dead and missing numbering almost 300,000. Most of the money contributed to Baptist relief groups has yet to be disbursed, but eventually the funds will play out—likely before all the needs have been met, leaders say.

The money is both "a blessing and a responsibility to ensure that it is well used," Montacute noted. He said he hopes Baptists will resist "letting the media set our agenda" and won't forget the tsunami victims when they fall out of the headlines. "We need to get Baptists to see that needs exist throughout the years—seven days a week, 24 hours a day—and not just when something appears on television."

Baptist Child and Family Services, which is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has accepted what may be the longest of the long-term projects involving Baptists—partnering with the Sri Lankan government to organize and administer the country's first foster-care program.

"We have been asked by national and regional government leaders to set up a pilot program, initially involving approximately 50 children," said David Beckett, Sri Lanka director of BCFS's overseas arm. "The government leaders see the need but have such limited resources."

Although "initial estimates of 10,000 orphans proved to be extremely overstated," Beckett added, "The government wants to do the right thing and we want to help."

That sentiment is found among Baptist volunteers all across the tsunami area, whether they are doing medical exams, cleaning out wells or helping fishermen acquire new boats.

The tortoises and the hares are working together.

## 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](http://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](http://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.bwanet.org](http://www.bwanet.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](http://www.samaritanspurse.org).



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgetown College Pastors Conference

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](mailto:robbi_barber@georgetowncollege.edu). Please make check payable to Georgetown College.

## Activists: 2005 is crucial year for combating global poverty

Washington (RNS)—One-third of the way into the 15-year United Nations program aimed at cutting global poverty by 50 percent, church leaders and activists say progress so far has been abysmal and 2005 is a make-or-break year.

The eight-prong Millennium Development Goals will fail unless governments commit the resources to achieve them, Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of South Africa said last week.

"Globalization has accorded this world so much prosperity and progress, it is not only sinful but also morally wrong that there are people who go hungry every day," he said.

Supporters say unless efforts are refocused at three key meetings this year, the world will fail to keep promises made in 2000 to combat poverty, hunger, lack of education, child and maternal mortality rates and HIV/AIDS. The meetings include the annual summit of G-8 nations in Scotland; a UN summit on the millennium goals next fall; and a December World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong.

Sparked by the Jubilee campaign in 2000 that helped erase crushing debt loads owed by poor Third World countries, religious groups from across the spectrum have shown unprecedented unity in fighting global poverty.

Activists worry, however, that the world's attention span is fading. Last year, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the effort needs a "quantum leap" in order to meet its goals. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, said it's time for the United States and others to "get serious about getting the job done."

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following projects, need and congregations related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Baptists in Brazil and the International Baptist Convention in Europe.

**Praise for the purchase of a 16-passenger van** for the Kentucky/Brazil partnership. The Kentucky Baptist Convention provided the funds for the van that will serve as transportation for many of the Kentucky volunteer teams while they are in Piaui.

**A 10-member team** of Kentucky Baptist volunteers is working through March 19 in Teresina, Brazil, completing construction of a church sanctuary, doing evangelistic home visits and holding revival services. Pray for God to bring many souls to Him and also to encourage the members and new Christians.

**Two volunteer projects planned for April** still have not been filled. One is a medical team and the other is a simultaneous revival team in the second largest city in Piaui. If the teams are not filled immediately, it will be too late for the projects to be held. For more information, contact the KBC partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.

**The Casa de Metara** is a center for boys at risk of becoming street children. It is a Baptist-sponsored ministry conducted in partnership with the city government. Pray for the young men who are in need of so many things, but most of all Jesus. Also pray for Jorio, the director, and the other staff. Pray that more Piaui Baptists will become involved in this ministry.

**Campbellsville University** is sending a volunteer team during spring break to Wroclaw, Poland, to do student ministry through a coffee house outreach project.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—The churches of Little River Association have collected almost \$30,000 to provide spiritual and physical aid for tsunami victims. The funds were given through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Asia earthquake disaster relief fund. **Michael Rust** is director of missions.

■ **EARLINGTON**—Suthards Church recently called **Brad Tucker** as associate pastor/youth minister.

■ **EUBANK**—Oak Grove #2 Church recently called **Chris Powers** as pastor.

■ **FALMOUTH**—First Church will hold spring revival services April 3-6 with **Don Davidson** as evangelist. **Harry Crozier** is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Mount Gilead Church recently called **James Walker** as pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will present its Easter pageant March 25-26, 7 p.m., and March 27, 11 a.m. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Corinth Church's choir and drama team will present the Easter drama, "Behold the Lamb," March 24-27, 7 p.m. For more information, call (606) 864-5440. **James Blaylock** is pastor.

First Church will present the Passion Play March 20, 10 a.m., and March 21, 22 and 24, 7 p.m. Call (606) 864-4194 for free tickets. **Terry Lester** is pastor.

**Dennis Rush**, pastor of Providence Church, died Feb. 7 at age 85. Rush, a minister for 67 years, also was a former trustee chairman at Oneida Baptist Institute. He is survived by his wife, Juanita. Memorial gifts may be made to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College or Oneida Baptist Institute.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will host an Easter parade and egg hunt March 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call (502) 368-5806.

Carlisle Church, recently called **Jeff McCarty** as minister of youth and recreation.

Crescent Hill Church recently called **Gregory Pope** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Hendricks Avenue Church in Jacksonville, Fla.

Hurstbourne Church recently called **Michael O'Neal** as pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—New Harmony Church ordained **Michael Dale Suiter** to the gospel ministry March 6. He has been called as pastor of Wice Church.

■ **MORTONS GAP**—**Dean Herron** recently resigned as music minister at Second Church.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Bellevue Church's choir will present "The Promise of Easter" March 26, 5:30 p.m., and March 27 at 8, 9:20 and 10:45 a.m. For more information, call (270) 685-5103

■ **PADUCAH**—Four Rivers Church will provide free oil changes for single moms March 26. For more information, call (270) 898-7487.

Immanuel Church recently honored **Delbert and Betty Reeder** on their 50th wedding anniversary. **Jamie Broome** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant View Church will hold revival services March 27-April 1, 7 p.m., with **Jesse McCoy** as evangelist.

■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church will show the "Jesus" video March 13, 20 and 27 and host an Easter egg hunt after the March 27 morning service. For more information, call (859) 428-9396. **John Collett** is pastor.

■ **STANTON**—Emmanuel Church recently called **Gregg Webber** as pastor.

■ **UNION**—Union Church ordained



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

- 18-19 North 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.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

minister of music **Arnie Forman** to the gospel ministry Feb. 13. His uncle, **Ken Forman**, former director of missions for Franklin Association, preached the ordination service.

■ **VERONA**—New Bethel Church recently ordained **Mike Finn, Dennis**

- 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.
- 30 Children's Bible Drill, Central Baptist Church, Winchester.
- 30-May 1 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave.

**Rich and Dean Tolliver** as deacons. **George Naylor** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church ordained **Aaron Hornsby** to the gospel ministry Feb. 13. He is associate pastor/youth at North View Church in Lexington.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Steinway grand piano. Classic concert style with black satin finish. Beautiful condition. \$23,500. Call (270) 316-9850.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor. Send resumé to Ovesen Heights Baptist Church, PO Box 253, Hodgenville, KY 42748-0253.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth pastor for dynamic youth group in central Kentucky. Must be committed to loving and growing young men and women in their faith in a contemporary, non-traditional church with a youth group of 80-100. If interested, please send resumé to: Personnel Team, Elk Horn Baptist Church, 3145 Elk Horn Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718, or e-mail in Word format to: [office@elkhornbc.org](mailto:office@elkhornbc.org). For a job description, go to [www.elkhornbc.org](http://www.elkhornbc.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky. The church is located in one of the fastest growing areas of the state. The position requires minimally a master's degree. A blended style of worship is used. Excellent salary package including all major benefits. Resumés can be sent to: Search Committee, Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church, 2323 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017, or e-mail [Xavprof@fuse.net](mailto:Xavprof@fuse.net). For additional information, please call Pat Burkhardt at (859) 341-2372.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions. Christian County Baptists Association will receive resumés through April. Send resumés to: DOM Search Team, 20340 Buck Fork River Road, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

**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](mailto:tonywood@fuse.net).

**SEEKING:** Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., seeks a worship leader for contemporary worship services. Contemporary worship is an integral part of ministry at CBC, and we are seeking an individual in this part-time position to provide vision, coordination and leadership for our growing faith community. Resumés may be sent to: Contemporary Worship Leader Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 150 E High St., Lexington, KY 40507. Additional information found at [www.calvarybaptistchurch.com](http://www.calvarybaptistchurch.com).

**SEEKING:** Director of music for Southern Baptist church; bivocational will be considered. Please send resumé to PO Box 1917, Henderson, KY 42419-1917.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister for Farmdale Baptist Church starting June 2005. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 5610 U.S. 127 South, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister with youth for Broadway Baptist Church, an established, forward-looking, CBF-affiliated congregation in Louisville, Ky. A job description and other information are available at [www.broadwaybaptist.org/position-ministerwithyouth.html](http://www.broadwaybaptist.org/position-ministerwithyouth.html).

**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:** Enthusiastic full-time youth minister to lead all aspects of middle and high school youth programs. Preferred candidates will have college/seminary degree plus two years experience. Benefits include retirement, health insurance, etc. Send resumé to: Debbie Hicks, First Baptist Church, PO Box 324, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for church located eight miles from Cynthiana, Ky. Send resumé to: 207 Cladorborn Drive, Cynthiana, KY 41031.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister to serve youth of all ages. Minister must be called and led of the Lord to work in this capacity; he must be qualified, trained and a full-time member of the community. Salary and benefit package will be commensurate with experience and education. Please send resumés to: Waco Baptist Church, PO Box 560, Waco, KY 40385, Attn: Youth Dept.

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

**TOUR:** Join Christian Life Tours for an unforgettable inside passage Alaska cruise departing June 17. Also taking reservations for a Mediterranean & Greek Isles cruise departing Sept. 30. The best ship, the best itinerary and an escort with 30 years experience. Call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free) for more information or e-mail: [ddale1950@aol.com](mailto:ddale1950@aol.com).

## A missionary's story

Nashville exhibit shares details of early Southern Baptist missionary to China

By Don Kirkland  
South Carolina Baptist Courier

**Nashville (BP)**—An exhibit honoring the life and ministry of Bertha Smith, missionary to China and Taiwan, recently opened for a two-year run at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in the Southern Baptist Convention building.

The Spartanburg County (S.C.) Baptist Network, an association of 92 churches, donated the Olive Bertha Smith Collection to the Southern Baptist Convention a year ago.

The exhibit includes many artifacts collected by the missionary, known affectionately as "Miss Bertha," though not her official correspondence with the former Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) during her years of active service in China (1917-48) and Taiwan (1948-58).

The Spartanburg organization acquired the collection when it purchased the Peniel Prayer Center in Cowpens, S.C., and its contents from the center's trustees.

The exhibit covers her entire life, from her years as a student at Rock Hill's Winthrop College and her later years when, after retiring at the age of 70, she traveled and spoke extensively to promote missions and in 1973 established the Peniel Prayer Center in her home-

town. The center, which survived her death by only two years, hosted prayer retreats for Christians throughout the nation.

The exhibit, which is housed on the fourth floor of the convention building in downtown Nashville, is expected to draw visitors during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville June 21-22.

Smith's collection included several hundred copies of her self-published book, "Miss Bertha Smith's Bible Notes," which are available free to visitors as long as the supply lasts, according to archivist Taffey Hall, who set up the exhibit.

Smith, born in 1888, died in 1988, five months short of the 100th birthday she had hoped to reach.

A high point of her career was her involvement in the famous revival that broke out in 1927 in the northern Chinese province of Shantung, where Smith labored with her missionary partners and prayed for a spiritual awakening among the Chinese.

As told by Smith's biographer, the late Lewis Drummond in his book, "Miss Bertha: Woman of Revival," the prayers had their effect and on "one glorious day God rent the heavens, and what is now called the Shantung Revival burst upon them."



The revival, with its emphasis on confessed sin and reconciliation with God, continued for years and reached beyond the Shantung province.

Smith was the author of three books, including "How the Spirit Filled My Life." At the time of Smith's retirement from active missionary service, the number of believers in China was approximately

5 million. At the time of her death, that number had grown to between 50 and 70 million, and the Shantung Revival has been credited for sparking much of the increase.

"Bertha Smith exemplifies what all of us feel a Southern Baptist missionary ought to be," former SBC President Adrian Rogers said in 1977. "She has been a blessing to countless thousands."

**A LIFE IN MISSIONS**  
Bertha Smith, longtime Southern Baptist missionary to China and, later, Taiwan, is being remembered in a new exhibit at the Southern Baptist Historical Archives and Library in Nashville. (BP photo by Bill Sumners)

## With 'Godcasting,' churches connect with tech-savvy believers

By Kathleen Murphy  
Religion News Service

**Washington (RNS)**—The radio preacher is finding new life in cyberspace.

"Godcasting" is the latest advancement in online religion, in which preachers convert their sermons to audio to be heard on portable digital audio devices.

Using iPods or any portable MP3 player, "podcasting" lets people download audio programs that can be listened to whenever they like.

It's a form of audio syndication that musicians, businessmen, tech talk show hosts and political commentators already have adopted.

There's lots more God on iPod than jazz, theater or movie reviews. Pod preachers are among the most prolific users of the new technology.

Just as sermons were among the first type of broadcasts when radio caught on in America in the 1920s, podcasting is creating a new form of wireless parson.

To get the audio feeds, listeners connect an MP3 player to a computer, go online and sign up for podcasting feeds. Audio content is then pushed from the original source and makes its way through

an aggregator to a subscriber who can listen to it anytime—in the same way VCRs time-shifted TV and services like TiVo have provided television programs on demand.

"Based on the number of religious-themed programs being distributed, though, it looks like Godcasting may be the podcast's first killer app," said Podcasting News, a Web site that features a directory of podcasts.

### High tech, low cost

Kevin Seger, minister of youth and education at Pitts Baptist Church in Concord, N.C., one of the first churches to podcast weekly sermons, said, "You don't normally see the churches on the cutting edge of technology. If we can utilize tools and technology to get the gospel out, the better we are. It's portable. It's compact. People can listen in the car or when they're working out. It fits like a beeper on the side of your belt."

Recently launched podcasts include "Catholic Answers Live," an hourlong daily call-in radio program run by a San Diego-based lay group. The show also airs on AM and FM stations.

Not all religious podcasts are

Christian. One called "Teachings for the New Age" offers thoughts on following your inner self and achieving true perfection.

Meanwhile, the "RevTim Podcast" with host Tim Hohm, and "Lifespring" with Steve Webb devoted recent podcasts to discussing how God could allow a devastating tsunami to happen in South Asia.

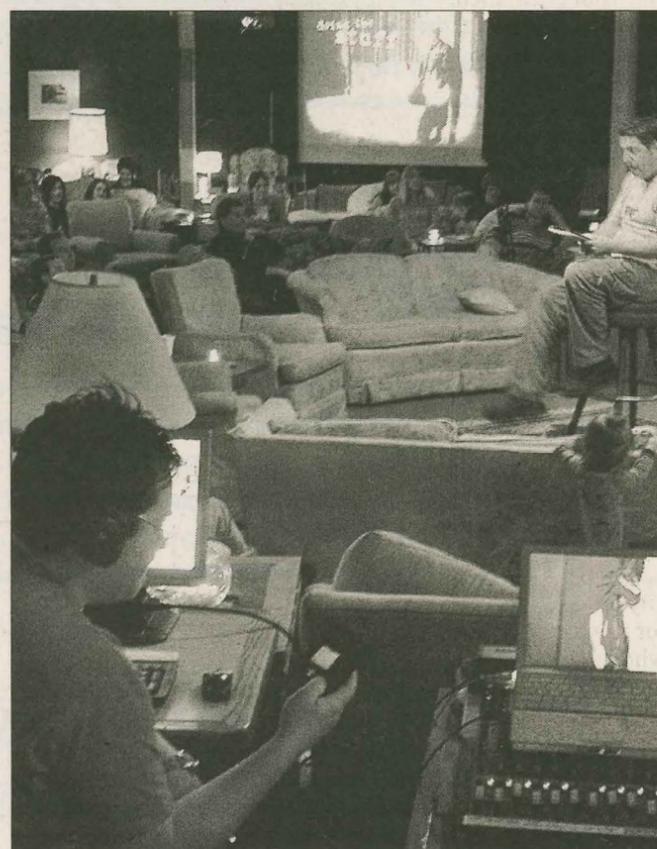
"Psalmcast," produced by John Owen Butler, pastor of Beal Heights Presbyterian Church in Lawton, Okla., airs selections of musical settings of the Book of Psalms.

Religious podcasters said they like the medium because it's an inexpensive way to reach the masses.

Nick Ciske, media coordinator for Minneapolis Vineyard Church, also called Bluer church, said, "It takes a lot of money to run a TV show, it takes millions of dollars, and it seems a lot of the focus is on money. Podcasting is basically free. There is never a mention of asking for money. There's no need."

Podcasting also can connect a dispersed flock—snowbirds, in particular. Part-time members of Mount Pleasant Christian Church in Greenwood, Ind., listen to podcasts of sermons as they spend the winter in Florida, said Bill Todd, network administrator for the 2,400-member church just south of Indianapolis.

Despite its mass-market promise, listening to podcasts is, for now, the pastime of an elite, gadget-oriented group, said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet & American Life Project, a nonprofit



group that analyzes the real-life impact of the Internet through national surveys.

But as the price of MP3 players—ranging from around \$100 to \$600—continues to drop, it will make podcasting more accessible, Rainie said.

"You can get your dose of your worship service when you want it," Rainie said, "not necessarily when it's taking place."

**MP3 PREACHING** Nick Ciske, foreground, records a sermon by Pastor John Musick at Bluer, a Minneapolis-based congregation. Godcasting is the latest advancement in online religion, in which preachers convert their sermons to audio to be heard on portable digital audio devices.

# Are You Forgetting Something?

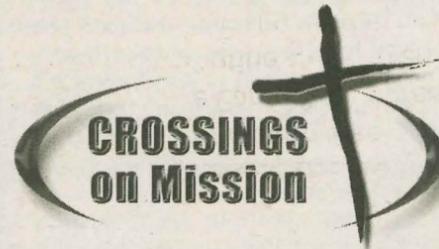
If you are looking for Summer Camping options, we've got them.

Crossings at the Creek  
[www.CrossingsMinistries.org](http://www.CrossingsMinistries.org)



If you are looking for a camping experience that has both high impact recreation and presents the Gospel message in a relevant and powerful way, then Crossings at the Creek is for you. This experience takes place at Jonathan Creek Camp & Conference Center, which has a mile of shoreline on Kentucky Lake. In just five years, it has grown to serve well over 3,000 students during the summer.

Crossings on Mission  
[www.CrossingsMinistries.org](http://www.CrossingsMinistries.org)



If you are looking for an opportunity to stretch you and your students, this camp is for you. This experience takes place in the Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati area. It will provide your group with three full days of relational evangelism opportunities, including: homeless shelters, food pantries, clothing closets, backyard Bible clubs, block parties, assisted living communities, sports camps and more! Includes all-day passes to King's Island.

Mission Adventure Camp for Girls  
[www.KYBaptist.org](http://www.KYBaptist.org)

This is the Kentucky WMU's summer camping opportunity for girls. The Mission Adventure Camps offer a wide range of experiences, including Week-long Camps, 3-Day Express Camps and Mother Daughter Weekends at Cedarmore as well as a fun packed weekend for all ages at Jonathan Creek, located on Kentucky Lake. Early Bird discounts are still available for this summer, but you better hurry up!

Discovery Youth Camp  
[www.KYBaptist.org](http://www.KYBaptist.org)

Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministry Department organizes the Discovery Youth Weeks. Youth Weeks have been a solid summer camping option for 30 years. Taking place at Cedarmore Camp & Conference Center makes it a perfect opportunity for your students to get away from their everyday routine and into an environment where they can come to know Christ or more fully experience Him. Act soon for Early Bird discounts!

Do Your Own Thing  
[www.Cedarmore.org](http://www.Cedarmore.org)

Cedarmore Camp & Conference Center has space left for you to do your own camp this summer. With rates under \$36 a day, it is an inexpensive way to pull off a summer camping experience with your group. If you like having control of what happens with your students at a week of camp, this option puts you in the driver's seat. \$36 gets one camper one night's lodging, 3 meals and a load of recreation options. Discounts available for large groups.

Call 502-747-8911 for more information on any of these Summer Camping Opportunities