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FOR THE RECORD



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Study: 1 of 7 people in rural U.S. in poverty

Washington (RNS)—As globalization and farm subsidies drive family farms out of business, people living in rural areas are more at risk for hunger, according to an annual report released March 15 by Bread for the World, an anti-poverty group.

One in seven rural Americans is poor, and almost one-third of those become "food insecure," during the year, according to the Washington-based Christian advocacy and research group.

Worldwide, 75 percent of the 852 million hungry people live in rural areas.

"America's rural communities and rural people around the world have one thing in common—they are more likely to be hungry and poor than other people in their country," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. "Our report shows that people in rural areas are cut off from opportunity. Governments regard them as a low priority."

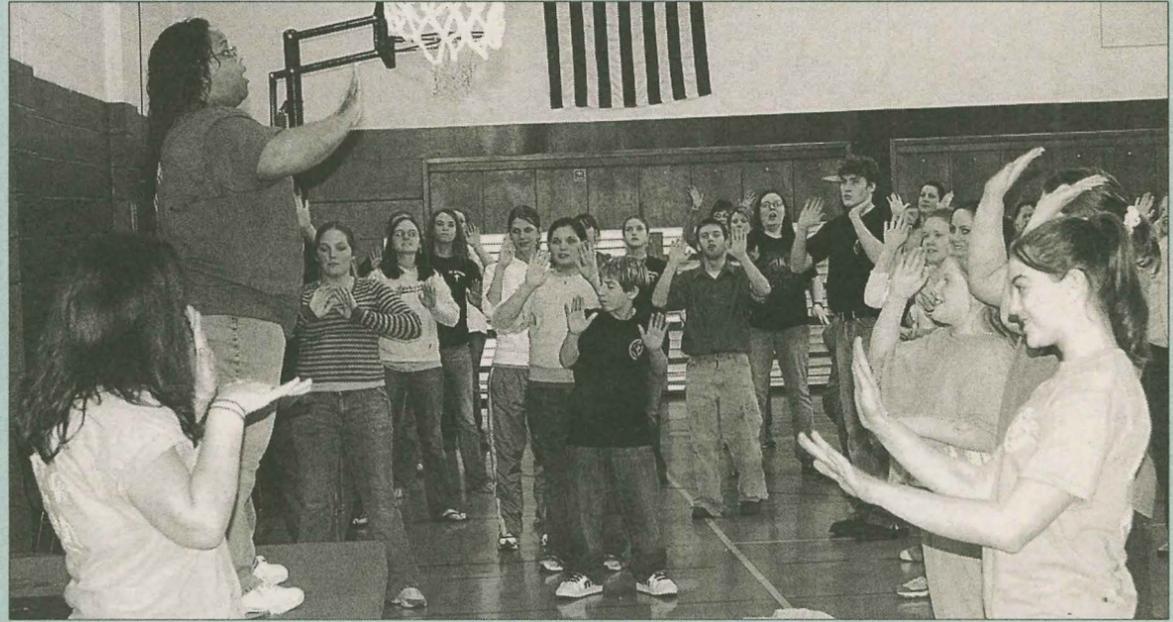
Bread for the World set a millennial goal of cutting hunger in half by 2010, and is urging Congress to better fund nutrition and food assistance programs.

The average cow in Europe receives \$2.50 per day in government subsidies, according to the report, while three-fourths of Africans live on less than \$2 per day.

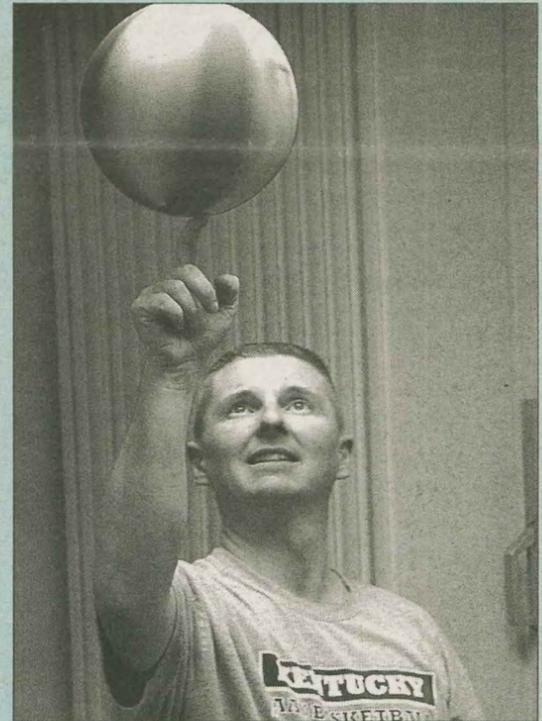
The 126-page report addresses questions about the world's poor, who they are and why they go hungry. It also outlines rural poverty and hunger in the United States.

Groups that helped sponsor the 15th annual report include the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Christian Children's Fund and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Program.

Showing the gospel



More than 2,400 people from almost 200 churches attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2005 Creative Ministries Festivals in Louisville and Bowling Green. The conferences are designed to help churches reach people with the gospel through visual forms of communication, according to Tom Smoot, director of the KBC's creative ministries group, which sponsors the annual events. Highlighting the emphasis, "Where Creative Arts and Ministry Meet," this year's workshops were held March 4-5 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville and March 11-12 at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. **Above:** Tyra Lokey (on stage), a sign arts minister and member of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg, leads a workshop on interpretive movement. **Right:** A workshop participant practices spinning a basketball on his fingertip in the Beginners Sports Ministry class, a new addition to this year's conferences. The group worked on a routine using synchronized dribbling and passing set to music. Sports routines can be used to capture the attention of an audience in order to share the gospel. (KBC photos by Robert Reeves) **Story and more photos on page 3.**



Pastors declare hard work, vision vital for growing churches



REACH & TEACH Billy Carpenter, pastor of Mountain Ash Baptist Church in Williamsburg, leads a workshop on "Using Sunday School to Do Evangelism" during the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. Emphasizing the importance of "reaching and teaching," he said many churches "forget the reaching."

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Billy Carpenter and Joe Brown may live and serve in different states, but their insights on evangelism and church growth are so similar they could have swapped lectures at the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Carpenter, pastor of Mountain Ash Baptist Church in Williamsburg, led the session, "Using Sunday School to Do Evangelism." Brown, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in North Carolina, shared his thoughts and experiences about "Growing the Evangelistic Church."

The two pastors returned repeatedly to a handful of foundational truths on creating churches that are effective and growing: hard

work, organization and vision.

"How do you grow an evangelistic church?" Brown asked rhetorically. He then told pastors and other conference participants that the late Homer Lindsey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., once responded to the same question by writing four letters on a chalkboard: W O R K.

"If I had a blackboard today," Brown told the group, "that's what I'd say."

"I've been doing visitation for 31 years," he said. "Every Tuesday night I knock on doors. Everybody who has grown a church has become a personal witness themselves and trained other people to be a personal witness. I don't know how else to do it."

□ See Pastors: Work, vision ... *Page 3*

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Disaster relief efforts set records in '04

By Lee Weeks
Baptist Press

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptist disaster relief responses in 2004 reached an all-time high, including record numbers for meals prepared, buildings repaired and cleanup and recovery projects.

More than 15,000 trained Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers responded to 193 natural disasters, which included hurricanes, an earthquake, floods, tornadoes and ice storms.

Southern Baptist workers prepared more than 3.5 million meals, repaired more than 2,600 buildings and completed nearly 11,000 cleanup and recovery projects.

"Building bridges to the world"

"The service accomplishments of 2004 are a shining example of how God allows us to be part of His great work when Christians come together to work in cooperation with each other," said Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "I'm especially grateful to our state convention disaster relief training and equipment and getting the people on site.

"I know of no better way Southern Baptists can build bridges to the world than to be there with desperately needed help during the darkest hours of disaster and I'm grateful to Southern Baptists for making it possible," he added.

2004 began with mobilizing volunteers for a seven-week response

after an earthquake in Iran in late December 2003. January ice storms in South Carolina, followed by May floods in Ohio, June tornadoes in Kentucky and flooding in West Virginia served as a prelude to a barrage of fall hurricanes that pummeled the Southeast.

Hurricane Charley was the first of four hurricanes to blast Florida within a six-week period, making landfall in the southwestern part of the state Aug. 13. Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne followed, crisscrossing the Sunshine State and then leaving a swath of destruction throughout the Gulf Coast region and along the Atlantic Seaboard as far north as West Virginia.

By late October, Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers had prepared more than 2.4 million meals in two and a half months. Southern Baptists prepare most of the meals distributed by the American Red Cross and are the third-largest disaster relief agency in the country behind the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

"What has become increasingly clear through the years is that God is allowing Southern Baptists to grow their presence during disasters, particularly in leadership relationships with the American Red Cross," said Jim Burton, director of NAMB's volunteer mobilization team.

"More and more, we see partners like the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army turning to Southern Baptists for assistance," Burton added. "For example, during the recent hurricane season in

the Southeast, our volunteers drove American Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles and operated mobile kitchens for both the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The lesson from the hurricanes was a reminder that our greatest asset is our people."

Major response to hurricanes

Southern Baptist disaster relief officials estimate the value of the labor provided by volunteers in a two-month period following the four hurricanes at \$6.9 million. Nearly \$700,000 was given through NAMB for disaster relief ministries by donors from August through December.

"The hurricane response was the largest in history," said Terry Henderson, NAMB's national director for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. "Before we finished adequately one response, we were into another response and that was extremely taxing on our volunteers and equipment. Yet, in spite of the challenges, our state Baptist convention partners across the country responded admirably."

So far this year, more than 120 Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers from 10 states have been helping prepare meals and serving in medical clinics in Indonesia following the tsunamis that hit the region in late December 2004.

Since 1995, the Southern Baptist disaster relief fleet has grown from 95 units and 3,000 trained volunteers to nearly 600 units and 31,000 trained volunteers.

God 'shaking nations for His glory,' Baptist missionary tells IMB trustees

Charlotte, N.C. (BP)—The tsunamis in southern Asia shook people in the region to the core of their being—and God is helping them understand the depths of His love for them, a Southern Baptist missionary told International Mission Board trustees during their March 14-16 meeting in Charlotte, N.C.

Trustees also heard reports about how missions partnerships are multiplying global outreach. In conjunction with the trustee meeting, 38 missionaries were appointed during a March 15 service at First Baptist Church of Charlotte.

The mass death toll in the Dec. 26 tsunamis left Muslim survivors in particular with difficult questions, said the veteran missionary, who is unnamed for security reasons.

"Muslims believe that everything that happens is commanded by God and that He blesses those who are faithful," he said.

"They are asking, 'If we are beloved by God, why did this happen to us? If Christians are our enemies, why are they here helping us?'"

Aided by nearly \$13.9 million given so far by Southern Baptists for tsunami relief in the region, Christians have come alongside survivors, helping them clean up and rebuild, the missionary said. Christian workers are listening as people share their grief, with the result that bridges of understanding are being built between local Muslims and people they thought were their enemies.

"God declared that He would shake the nations for His glory," the missionary said. "May this be that moment."

Southern Baptists enjoy tremendous opportunities to partner with other conservative evangelicals who share God's heart for a lost world, IMB President Jerry Rankin told trustees.

One example of partnership multiplying missions outreach is the growing vision of Korean-American Southern Baptist churches for taking the gospel to all peoples, Rankin said.

Korean-American Southern Baptists are excited about a new level of partnership with the IMB, said David Gill, second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

More than 800 Korean-American Southern Baptists have made commitments to overseas service as a result of seven missions rallies held in their churches during the past two years, said Gill, pastor of Concord Baptist Church near San Francisco and president of the Southern Baptist Council of Korean-American Churches.

Rankin challenged the trustees to return immediately to sending out more than 1,000 new missionaries a year—a level from which the board drew back in 2003 because of a financial shortfall.

He also challenged them to increase the overseas missionary force from the current 5,220 to 8,000 during the next five years.

GuideStone seeks names of retirees in financial need

Dallas (BP)—GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has launched a concentrated effort to locate retired Southern Baptist workers, ministers or widows whose income is insufficient to meet their daily needs.

"We are seeking the help of laypersons, pastors and associational directors of missions to aid us in finding individuals or couples who may not be aware that assistance is available to them," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said in a March 15 news release.

For more than 80 years, GuideStone has provided financial relief to thousands of retired Southern Baptist workers, ministers or their widows.

"These dear people are often reluctant to ask for help," Hawkins noted. "Our hope is they will see this as a way for their Southern Baptist family to honor their years of devoted service."

Norma Friend, a widow currently receiving assistance from GuideStone's Adopt An Annuitant ministry, recently said, "Being approved for the Adopt An Annuitant program means so much more than receiving a check each month. It is a part of God's provision for taking care of me."

Through the Adopt An Annuitant ministry, Friend and thousands of others receive "the precious gift of dignity from their Southern Baptist family," Hawkins said. "We need for local church members to be sensitive to the living conditions of aged ministers or their widows, and then to act if a need is discovered."

Assistance from the program is not limited to retirees or their widows. Any retiree age 65 or older with 10 or more years of paid Southern Baptist service is eligible to apply. Other eligibility guidelines include an income of less than \$1,250 per month for single applicants and less than \$1,665 per month for married applicants. Applicants also must have less than \$30,000 in assets, excluding their home.

Recipients must meet the eligibility guidelines and receive the assistance every two years. A widow or widower, married at least 10 years to an individual who would have met the qualifications, also is eligible to apply.

Qualified individuals receive \$200 a month and qualified couples receive \$265 a month.

Anyone who knows an individual or couple who may qualify can call GuideStone toll-free at (800) 262-0511, or send an e-mail to adopt@GuideStone.org. Applications also are available on GuideStone's Web site, www.GuideStone.org.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Baptist theologian Stanley Grenz dies. Stanley Grenz, one of the world's best-known Baptist theologians, died unexpectedly March 12. Grenz, a professor at the evangelical Carey Theological College in Vancouver, British Columbia, died shortly after experiencing a "massive brain hemorrhage," according to a release on the school's Web site. He was 55. He previously served as a professor at neighboring Regent College and had been a visiting professor at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas. Many scholars considered Grenz one of the preeminent theologians of the modern Baptist world; he was a particular favorite among the postmodern "emerging church" movement.

Ethics center director diagnosed with leukemia. Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, has been diagnosed with acute leukemia, according to a spokesman for the Nashville-based organization. Bob Allen, managing editor for EthicsDaily.com, BCE's web portal, said March 15 that Parham was receiving chemotherapy treatments at Vanderbilt University Hospital. Parham was the founding director of the moderate Baptist ethics agency when it was established in 1991. He previously worked for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission (now the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission).

Georgia church affiliates with Virginia convention. A Georgia Baptist church has voted to leave its state convention and affiliate with another statewide body more in line with its theological stance—but headquartered nearly 600 miles away. On March 13, First Baptist Church of Rome voted 321-16 to disaffiliate with the Georgia Baptist Convention and join the Baptist General Association of Virginia. While conservatives in sympathy with the Southern Baptist Convention control the leadership of the Georgia convention, the Virginia convention is led by moderates and allows churches to relate to both the SBC and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The church, founded in 1835, historically has been affiliated with the Georgia convention and the SBC.

Visual impact

Creative Ministries Festivals equip participants for hands-on outreach



MIME TIME A mime group from Action Ministry based in Branson, Mo., re-enacts the crucifixion of Jesus during a performance at the Creative Ministries Festival.

Louisville—Hands-on training in clowning, mime, puppetry, interpretive movement and sports ministry were among scores of workshops offered during a pair of Creative Ministries Festivals this month.

More than 2,400 people attended the two-day workshops March 4-5 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville and March 11-12 at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green.

Tom Smoot, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's creative ministries group, has worked closely with the annual festivals since 1989.

Noting that attendance has increased almost every year, he said the event expanded to two sites last year to accommodate the crowds.

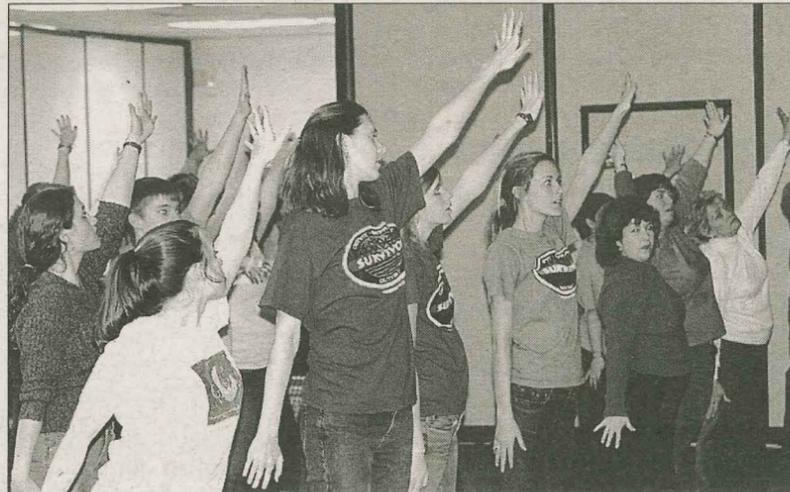
Smoot said a major reason for the

festivals' growing popularity is that "youth ministers and church leaders have seen creative arts as a tool to enlist young people to get involved in church."

"Creative arts is a ministry for the participants as well as for the observers," he added. "It's a two-way street."

The festivals are designed to provide practical resources for participants, Smoot noted. "We try to teach something they can take home and do on Sunday mornings. ... We also encourage them to do it outside the church" in such settings as camps and parks.

Creative ministries "is something that has not yet plateaued," he said. "We are such a visual society."



ON THE MOVE Participants practice an interpretive movement routine during the March 4-5 Creative Ministries Festival at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



PUPPET SHOW Puppetry workshops were among more than 80 breakout sessions offered during the state convention's recent Creative Ministries Festivals.

Pastors: Work, vision keys to church growth

Continued from page 1

"The gospel train is running on two tracks—reaching and teaching," Carpenter said. "Somehow we forget the reaching."

Making a profession of faith in Christ at age 17 in the church he now serves as pastor, Carpenter has seen Sunday school attendance grow from 50 to approximately 300. The congregation has outgrown two buildings.

"My mission is to grow Mountain Ash Baptist Church through Sunday school," Carpenter said. "Sunday school is the largest organization any of us have in our churches to reach people for God."

In the 1970s, Brown was a bivocational pastor in Cumberland. Today he is senior pastor of Hickory Grove, located in suburban Charlotte, N.C. He agreed with Carpenter that small-group Bible study, fellowship and ministry will grow a church.

"There's a dimension of Christianity that is social," he said. "The first churches were house churches."

Brown cautioned pastors not to try to force their churches into a mode or niche of ministry just because the model works elsewhere.

"You don't live in Southern California or Chicago," he said. "Most of you aren't going to wear a golf shirt next week when you preach. You're not going to have a drama team. You have to find something that works for you."

No matter the name—Sunday school, small-group Bible study or

Bible fellowship class—Brown said time has proved that "what works best is age-appropriate small groups that meet on campus just before or after worship. You can't beat Sunday school."

Carpenter noted that developing outreach opportunities and topical studies that appeal to the unchurched is important.

"People want to know, 'What's in it for me?'" he said. Churches should be prepared and confident enough to say to their communities: "We will help you keep your kids off drugs. We have a class that can help your family life."

He emphasized that Christians should not become so interested in church growth that they forget to be genuine with prospective members.

"Friendship evangelism" often is a long-term process, Carpenter said, but it also is rewarding. "Win someone to you before you win someone to Christ," he suggested.

Create new classes

Another tip: Churches must be prepared to create new classes as current ones grow larger.

"Divide' is a dirty word," he joked. "A Sunday school class ought to birth another class. That ought to be what you're working for."

Keeping class sizes down will create a closer atmosphere in the church, Carpenter said. "How do you take a large church and keep the small church feel? You break it up into small groups."

Brown pointed out that vibrant churches actually are striving to experience difficulties with class sizes, parking and facility expansion.

"Understaffed and overpopulated," he said. "Those are characteristics of a growing church." The churches that handle those "problems" with creativity and commitment will rise to the top.

"You are the visionary," Brown told pastors. "Don't fall into this trap of being someone else. Let God be that someone else."

God's vision will not come outside prayer, he added. "I know fellows who have built evangelistic churches. Every one of them are men of prayer and their wives are women of prayer."

Whatever the vision, Brown said he believes it will contain one purpose: "When God gives you a vision, it's going to be about reaching people for Jesus Christ."

Carpenter said in addition to outreach and evangelism, churches must be concerned with retaining members.

"Shut the back door," he urged. "Hold someone accountable" for new members. Each small group should have a way to keep in touch with members and regular attendees outside of Sunday morning to make sure no one falls through the cracks, he added.

"Everybody has a connecting point—like a Lego set," Carpenter said. "You have to hook up on them and then hold onto them."

Carman Sharp, longtime pastor and peace activist, dies at 87

Louisville—Carman Sharp, longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor and peace activist, died March 14. He was 87.

Sharp, who retired in 1984 after 23 years as pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, previously was pastor of other churches in Kentucky and Tennessee.

A founder of the Baptist Peacemaker publication in 1979, Sharp served on the Council on Religion and Race and the Council on Peacemaking and Religion. He was a 1984 recipient of the Clarence Jordan Peace Award.

Describing peacemaking as "the only hope I have of my grandchildren reaching maturity," Sharp challenged fellow Christians in a 1984 interview to "pray every day, earnestly asking God to touch the hearts of leaders who move us toward peace."

Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and a former ethics professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, described Sharp as a "genuine saint" who was "caring, humble, unpretentious, genuine, with integrity through and through."

Stassen said Sharp showed "great integrity in supporting the Baptist Peacemaker newspaper, the Baptist Peacemaker group in his church, and in inviting Baptists North and South to come to Deer Park for the founding meeting of the Baptist Peace Fellowship."

Sharp also marched for open housing legislation, helped organize Highlands Community Ministries and was involved in establishing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He was a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Sharp was preceded in death by his first wife, Caroline, in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Betty, three daughters and a stepdaughter, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held March 18 at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. Memorial gifts may be made to the youth fund of Broadway Baptist Church or Highlands Community Ministries.

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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Reconnect to KBC

Thanks to the staff of our Kentucky Baptist Convention for another great State Evangelism Conference.

This is one of the best events for pastors, staff and church leaders all year. It is always inspirational, informational and challenging.

As a pastor, I was blessed and came away with many new ideas for my church. I desire to see this and other great KBC-planned events in the future better attended.

My challenge is for all pastors in Kentucky to reconnect to the KBC. As we lead lost people to connect to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and our churches to connect to the Great Commission, let's also have a fresh connect to each other in our joint mission effort of reaching Kentucky with the gospel of Jesus Christ!



Mike James
Lexington

'Regrettable' action

Your March 8 editorial comments, as they pertained to Brian McLaren's invitation to speak at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, were both cogent and on target.

It is regrettable that this invitation, once extended, was revoked. The continuing insistence that Baptists only hear the "acceptable" doctrine of nuanced Nashville interpretation is regrettable. Your points were well made and should serve as useful enlightenment to those who will think.

I cannot be defined by "Southern Baptist" labels. For that reason, my Baptist roots seek for sustenance in the ground of biblical truth, sans the narrow judgmental insistence that produces decisions that are designed to foster the politically correct views of faith onto those who will not think for themselves.

Revoking an invitation, couched

Eugene Quinn—a faithful servant of God

"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples.'" (Matthew 28:5-7).

"Jesus said to Martha, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'" (John 11:25-26).

I felt these verses very powerfully as I participated in the funeral service for Dr. Eugene Quinn recently. He had spent 40 years in state convention work pioneering the music ministry with the Illinois Baptist Convention and then 31 years with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Since his retirement in 1988, he had continued to serve the Lord through music ministry. Recently, Dr. Quinn spent months as a volunteer with a church who could not afford a minister of music.

in the "inappropriateness" of the messenger, shows once again that we do not trust the work of the Spirit among us and choose, in this instance, to demonstrate that we are, perhaps, more interested in the growing groundswell of national cloning of doctrine than anything else.

That sounds harsh, but stripped of the façade that features evangelism and its importance, we find at the core the refusal to hear a Christian brother's voice that walks in the world and not in the convention.

Thank you for your open and candid view of this matter.

Edward Clark
Danville

Speak up for workers

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:8-9).

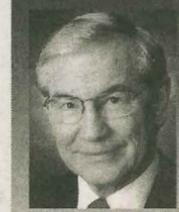
Recently, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary laid off 94 workers. The seminary offered them a small compensation, conditional upon signing a document promising not to defame the seminary. Southern took their jobs and then scared them into giving up their right to freedom of speech.

They also made the small compensation dependent on applying to work at Sodexo, contracted to outsource the jobs. As adults residing in the USA, should they not be allowed to decide for themselves where to apply for a job? Even if hired by Sodexo, their families will have to forego health insur-

What are you thinking?

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

He had also continued as a member of the Singing Churchmen. Dr. Quinn was injured when he stumbled and fell at the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference as he was leaving the stage after singing with this group. He died about eight days later.

When I thought about Dr. Quinn's life of minutes before his fall, I was reminded of Psalm 146:1-2, "Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."

The Singing Churchmen were wonderful at the Evangelism Conference and during the celebration service for Dr. Quinn. But I kept thinking about what he is experiencing in Lord through the throne of God.

During his ministry with Kentucky Baptists, he was an effective leader with 20,000 people partici-

ance for 90 days, or pay an expensive extension fee for their current coverage that they may not be able to afford.

In the Bible, when Christians were hurting, those who had gave to those who did not. Putting limits on costly renovations to the Honeycutt Center or cutting administrators' own comfortable salaries like a more biblical way to free up resources. Instead, Southern hurt the "bottom rung" on the corporate ladder. Should the Christian church be operating like the secular world?

In doing so, they eliminated a source of international students from developing countries to help them study to do ministry in their home countries. Some of those employed were refugees. Cutting their jobs hurts Baptists' witness, your witness, to the world. It also limits the control Southern has over whether its facilities are managed in a Christian manner.

I urge Southern Baptists to speak up on behalf of these workers. You can find the seminary's contact information at www.sbts.edu.

Laura M. Rector
Louisville

Thanks for support

The family of Eugene F. Quinn extends our love and thanks to Kentucky Baptists for their expressions of love during his recent accident and death.

So many visits, calls, cards and e-mails brought comfort and the assurance of God's love through you, our dear friends.

Phronsie Quinn and family
Louisville

pating in annual music training and events.

Dr. Quinn was also a strong advocate for taking music beyond the church in outreach and evangelism. He saw music as a "starting place" to help people hear "what their relationship to God should be."

He believed music could be effective in missions. Consequently, he participated in as many as 15 mission projects outside the United States.

At the time of his retirement, the Western Recorder reported that Dr. Quinn's most significant contribution had been the continual effort in "helping churches in their use of music to reach the lost and glorify God."

Please pray for Dr. Quinn's family and give thanks to God for a lifelong servant to the churches. May God bless all of us to be found faithful until God calls us home.

It is true, "whoever lives and believes in me (Jesus) will never die" (John 11:26).

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Good stewardship is integrity issue for local churches

By Doug Strader

Pastors, other staff members and church stewardship committees call upon church members to be faithful stewards with their resources, time and talents, and rightly so.

But does the church have a responsibility to be faithful in how it uses the members' financial gifts, time and talents? Absolutely. In fact, how the church uses the gifts and giftedness of its members goes a long way in the church maintaining integrity with its members.

First of all, the church should have a church-adopted annual budget. Church members have a right to know where their money is going to do ministry. The church treasurer or financial secretary also should provide members with a monthly financial statement, which includes among other things receipts, disbursements and a balance sheet showing the financial stability of the church.

Many churches list the church salaries in a lump sum for reporting purposes, which is acceptable, but every member has a right to know the salaries and benefits of all the staff. When only a few know the details of staff salaries and benefits, it can lead to distrust and an eroding of the church's financial integrity.

Church members are encouraged to give at least a tithe to the Lord's work, but what about the church? Should it be expected to be generous in supporting missions at home and around the world? The answer is unequivocally yes! A church that uses all of its financial resources on itself is missing a great blessing by not supporting local, North American and international missions.

Churches also should encourage every member to be involved in ministry. Many church members serve in several positions in the church, while many other members do not serve in any ministry. Every church has a responsibility to help its members discover, develop and use their spiritual giftedness in ministry. Churches that use this concept are growing and are helping their members live according to God's will and direction for their lives. They are becoming spiritually fulfilled servants of God.

Is your church being a faithful steward of all its resources?

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



Guidelines can help engaged couples save sex for marriage

Q: I recently became engaged and would like some guidelines on what is permissible and advisable in my physical relationship with my fiancé.

Louisville psychologist Dr. Paul Schmidt shares the following principles for having the best possible experience as a Christian moving toward the marriage altar:

SINGLES **Patience, forbearance and longsuffering.** Deliberately postponing an experience enhances its enjoyment and protects it from adverse conditions.

Moderation and temperance. Affectionate touch should not be encouraged if it causes either of you to lose control. Save "losing control" for the honeymoon.

Modesty and privacy. Save sexual expressions for private time in marriage when the relationship is appropriately mature. Remember, the costs of premarital sex outweigh the benefits.

Enter into nonsexual intimacy through honest sharing of opinions and feelings, always deferring to the other. Avoid intimate sexual expressions.

Be careful of inappropriate material on television and movies, jokes, dress, appearance, private access to bed, drugs and alcohol, time alone and long engagements.

Stay close to the Creator, connected to the Vine. He will give you the strength to wait for His timing. Be sensitive to the Spirit's voice within your conscience. Listen closely to the promptings of His Spirit and communicate those to one another. God is the source of all of the fruit of the Spirit, including self-control.

Practicing *agape* love as the basis of your engagement will help you to practice it as the basis of your marriage in the years and decades to come.—James Stillwell

Q: My husband has a problem with pornography. I hate that he does it. I am embarrassed to tell my friends or ask them what to do. Can you help me?

Addiction to pornography is a growing problem. Even Christian men and women struggle with sexual addictions.

MARRIAGE There is easier access to pornography via the Internet than ever before. Pornography use is a real problem for many marriages, including Christian marriages and ministers. A wife can feel hurt and betrayed in the same way as if her husband had an affair.

Exposure to pornography eventually will destroy the intimacy in a marriage because the addict will no longer know how to engage a real, living spouse.

Because this is an addiction, steps traditionally used for addicts must be taken: absolute sobriety (no more use); access to a computer removed and if not, the computer must be made public when used; the addict must seek therapeutic treatment and will need an accountability partner.

Dr. Mark Laaser, a Christian therapist, minister and recovering sexual addict, has a Web site and resources available, www.faithfulandtrueministries.com. For women who are addicted, Marnie Ferree has a Web site, www.bethesda workshops.org.

If your husband chooses not to seek help, pray that the Holy Spirit will convict him, and pray for courage to seek help for your own grief and pain. Addiction to pornography is not a problem that will suddenly disappear one day.

I have a male colleague who treats many men struggling with an addiction to pornography. Help is available. The embarrassment and shame are painful, but not getting help keeps you isolated, and that is destructive. Use godly wisdom to seek out confidants you can trust to ask for help. This could be the beginning of allowing God to transform your marriage.—Valerie Vincent

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Hostage honors Christ in midst of crisis

Ashley Smith went from relative obscurity to the national spotlight literally overnight just over a week ago.

Smith, a 26-year-old waitress who is widowed and has a 5-year-old daughter, was kidnapped and held hostage for seven hours by alleged quadruple murderer Brian Nichols. People across the nation are familiar with the charges against Nichols, who reportedly killed a judge, a court reporter, a deputy and a federal agent March 11.

Eluding a massive manhunt, Nichols abducted Smith in the early hours of March 12 in the parking lot of her apartment in Duluth, Ga. Despite being tied up by her captor and wondering if she would survive the ordeal, Smith was able to keep her wits about her.

As she talked calmly and gradually gained Nichols' trust, Smith said he eventually untied her. Asking permission to read, Smith picked up her Bible and a copy of Rick Warren's national bestseller, "The Purpose Driven Life."

"I turned it to the chapter that I was reading that day. It was chapter 33," Smith told reporters the next day. "And I started to read the first paragraph of it. After I read it, he said, 'Stop, will you read it again?'"

"I said, 'Yeah, I'll read it again.' So I read it to him again. It mentioned something about what you thought your purpose in life was."

The chapter, titled "How Real Servants Act," begins, "We serve God by serving others. The world defines greatness in terms of power, possessions, prestige and position. If you can demand service from others, you've arrived. In our self-serving culture with its me-first mentality, acting like a servant is not a popular concept."

"Jesus, however, measured greatness in terms of service, not status," Warren wrote. "God determines your greatness by how many people you serve, not how many people serve you."

As Smith and Nichols continued their conversation, she recalled, "I guess he saw my faith and what I really believed in. And I told him I was a child of God and that I wanted to do God's will. I guess he began to want to. That's what I think."

"Do you believe in miracles?" she asked Nichols. "You're here in my apartment for some reason. ...

You know, your miracle could be that you need to be caught for this. You need to go to prison and you need to share the Word of God with them, with all the prisoners there."

Later that morning, Nichols let Smith leave her apartment so she could pick up her daughter from a Saturday morning church AWANA program.

As soon as she drove away from the apartment building, Smith called 911. Nichols surrendered to authorities moments later without a shot being fired.

It's heartening to realize Smith spoke candidly from her personal faith experience while facing a potentially deadly encounter. Yet, like each of us, she hasn't always made the right choices in life.

Described in news accounts as "an angel with a troubled past," she was convicted of shoplifting and of possessing alcohol as a minor. At age 23, she was arrested twice for speeding—once while DUI and the second time while driving with a suspended license.

"Ashley is like other people who have a sordid past and found the Lord," her aunt told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "It's not what you've done, but what you do from now on."

Some people might assume Smith was not someone God would use to communicate His Word to a dangerous fugitive—and eventually to millions of people through the national and international media. But God still is in the business of using anyone who will turn to Him for forgiveness and seek a fresh start.

At the beginning of chapter 33 of "The Purpose Driven Life," Warren highlights two Scripture passages: "Whoever wants to be great must become a servant" (Mark 10:43). "You can tell what they are by what they do" (Matthew 7:16).

As we observe Good Friday and Easter during the next few days, we will be reminded once again of Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and victorious resurrection on our behalf.

Jesus clearly demonstrated what it means to truly be a servant for the sake of others. In response, may we join Ashley Smith in boldly honoring Christ with our words and deeds so that people "can tell what (and Whose) we are by what we do."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

'Passion Recut': Less violence, more love

By David Briggs

Cleveland (RNS)—"The Passion Recut" is not "The Passion Lite."

Viewers no longer see the nail going through Christ's hands as He is attached to the cross. And the excruciating torture scene in which Jesus is flogged nearly to death by Roman soldiers is shortened.

But Mel Gibson's less bloody director's cut of his blockbuster film "The Passion of the Christ" loses little of the visceral emotional power of the earlier release. This is still different from the scores of other Jesus films in its unflinching portrayal of Christ's last sufferings in the context of torture and crucifixion in a first-century Roman province.

On the contrary: Taking out six gory minutes removes the focus from what some considered over-the-top, almost desensitizing displays of violence.

Instead, it moves viewers toward a greater appreciation of the subtler treasures of the movie, such as the beautifully expressed relationship between Maia Morgenstern's Mary

and James Caviezel's Jesus.

Less (blood and torture) is more when one can better appreciate the enormity of Christ's suffering through the almost unbearable pain of a mother losing her son.

No longer numbed by the flogging scene preceding it, the tears will flow even more freely in the scene juxtaposing a younger Mary comforting Jesus as a child after He fell with the older Mary before a bloodied Jesus carrying His cross to the crucifixion.

The scene of Mary kissing her dying son on the cross, and then standing back with blood on her face, is far more affecting than the deleted moments of a nail tearing through flesh and thick wood.

What will be interesting to see is whether moviegoers are ready for a toned-down "Passion." This is America, after all, and less violence is generally not considered the way to woo ticket buyers from their couches to the big screen.

But that, in addition to the hope this could be an annual theatrical

release during the Lenten season, was what the film's producers were counting on.

"By softening some of its more wrenching aspects, I hope to make my film and its message of love available to a wider audience," Gibson says in an ad for the movie.

The cuts were not enough for the Motion Picture Association of America to drop the film's rating from R to PG-13. Newmarket Films decided to release the picture unrated, but several chains are enforcing the R rating, a sensible decision.

Even toned down, the torture and crucifixion scenes are powerful stuff.

This is a movie so dependent on the faith and sensitivities viewers bring to the theater that no critic can put a grade on it.

However, personally, as this "Passion" enters into the canon of religious films that are watched again and again, I would prefer that "The Passion Recut" become the standard version.

Less violence. More love. Nothing wrong with that picture.

David Briggs is the religion reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer

COMMENTARY

Bush signs bill that could save Schiavo's life

Washington (BP)—In an extraordinary action, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation March 21 that could save Terri Schiavo's life.

The bill provides Schiavo's parents the opportunity to appeal the case to a federal court. The narrowly tailored bill applies only to Schiavo's case.

The House passed the measure at 12:42 a.m. by a vote of 203-58 after the Senate approved it on a voice vote the previous afternoon. President Bush signed the bill less than an hour after it passed the House.

Supporters of the bill hope that a federal judge will order the reinsertion of Schiavo's feeding tube, which was removed last Friday. If the feeding tube is not put back in, she is expected to die of starvation and dehydration within a week or so.

While some doctors have said Schiavo, 41, is in a persistent vegetative state, others have said she is in a minimally conscious state.

"In cases like this one, where there are serious questions and substantial doubts, our society, our laws and our courts should have a presumption in favor of life," Bush said in a statement. "This presumption is especially critical for those like Terri Schiavo who live at the mercy of others."

Schiavo's case has captured the nation's attention in recent weeks. For years her parents and her husband have been in a legal struggle over whether she should live or die.

While her husband, Michael Schiavo, says she would not want to live in her present state, no written request exists. Her parents say she has the capacity to swallow and could learn to eat food orally.

Gibson releases less violent 'Passion Recut' for Easter

Hollywood, Calif. (RNS)—Easter is that time of year that stirs up images of colored eggs, spring flowers, sunrise services—and Mel Gibson?

The actor/director who unveiled his graphic vision of Jesus' last hours in "The Passion of the Christ" last year is back with a "softer" version that hit more than 50 theaters nationwide this month.

"The Passion Recut" is a re-release of a film that was snubbed by Hollywood despite heartland appeal and a global box office gross of \$611 million. Gibson promises to release his film each year at Easter—a prospect that could make the film a permanent part of the American Easter experience.

Gibson said he cut six minutes of "some of the more horrific aspects" from the film, in part to broaden its appeal for younger viewers. The original was rated "R"; the recut also would have been rated "R" but is being released without a rating.

In addition to the March 11 theatrical release, many churches are showing the original version as part of their Easter observances.

First Baptist Church of Paducah is among Kentucky Baptist churches screening the film this month.

Pastor Kevin McCallon said his church showed the film on Palm



THE PASSION Jesus, played by actor Jim Caviezel, is crucified in "The Passion of the Christ" directed by Mel Gibson. (RNS photo courtesy of Icon Distribution Inc.)

Sunday for the benefit of people who already are "thinking about the cross and the sacrifice Christ made for us" during this season.

McCallon said he thinks Gibson's film "encourages people to truly consider what the cost was for Christ."

"It's very easy to read about it and not truly have a sense of what it was for Christ to go to the cross for us," he added. "I hope people will come away from it realizing how much God loves us and what a sacrifice it was."

Some fans say the film reinforces what they see as the central message of Easter and at the heart of Christian faith: the immense suffering

that Jesus endured to save sinners.

"Prior to the movie, the depiction of Christ's crucifixion was stained glass windows," said Jim Buckman, whose Lutheran church in Springfield, Mo., will screen the film the night before Easter.

"Gibson set out to show everything. He wanted to show every blow, every strike. He didn't make it nearly what it could have been."

John Bartunek, a Catholic priest who was a consultant on the film, credited Gibson for putting "flesh and bones" back on Jesus.

"The meaning of Easter isn't bunnies and jelly beans," said Bartunek, author of the new book "Inside the Passion." "If (the film) becomes a fix-

ture, great, I say. Great. It reminds us of what Easter is all about."

While the edited version spares viewers some of the most graphic violence in the original film, Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, remains a vocal opponent of the film. He criticized Gibson for responding to the concerns about violence but not how the film portrays the Jews.

Calling the charges of anti-Semitism "understandable ... but unfounded," Bartunek responded, "If you look at things that could be taken as anti-Semitic, you can find them anywhere."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

Gay marriage ruling mobilizes opponents

San Francisco (RNS)—Conservative activists say a March 14 ruling by a San Francisco judge that overturned a statewide ban on gay marriage will ignite efforts to pass amendments to state and federal constitutions.

In his ruling, San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer said "no rational purpose exists" to exclude gays and lesbians from civil marriage. Kramer said a 2000 voter referendum that defined marriage between a man and a woman was unconstitutional.

The case was brought by San Francisco officials and a dozen same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses. The couples were turned away last year after the state Supreme Court ordered the city to stop issuing licenses to gay couples. That same court will now likely hear

an appeal of Kramer's ruling.

Conservatives denounced the decision as an example of "activist judges" attempting to legalize gay marriage from the bench. Only constitutional amendments can stop such rulings, they said.

"This ruling, which flies in the face of common sense and millennia of human history, will pour gasoline on the fire ignited by the pro-marriage movement," said Mat Staver, president of the Orlando, Fla.-based Liberty Counsel, which defended the California law.

At least a dozen states are considering state-level bans on gay marriage after 13 states passed constitutional bans last year. Courts in New York, New Jersey, Washington and Connecticut are considering legal challenges to allow gay marriage.



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'God works in mysterious ways'

Pray for new camp director & his wife as she battles cancer

The older I get, the more I realize that God works in mysterious ways that are far beyond my understanding. It seldom fails that right when we set our plans, something comes up that is unexpected.

As you might recall, several weeks ago I shared that Harold Belendir will begin serving April 1 as the director at Jonathan Creek. He and his wife, Pam, will be moving to the Hardin area later this month and all things were proceeding as planned. God has provided them a house in a very special and God-like way, and the timing affirmed their decision.

Here comes the issue. During the first week of March, Harold and Pam received the unexpected news that Pam has cancer. She will be undergoing surgery by the time you read this and then ongoing treatments after surgery.

Here is a perfect time for Harold and Pam to think, "God, what are you doing? This does not make sense. We have followed Your directions to leave a very lucrative business and a close-knit church family with many friends. God, this must

be the wrong timing, not now and certainly not cancer!"

As I have witnessed Harold and Pam deal with this shocking news, I must admit that God already has shown good to come from what the world would say no good can come from. They have confirmed that God is leading them to Jonathan Creek at this time and cancer or not, God has not changed His mind. What incredible examples they are in trusting our Father!

As believers, we are left in a world that is fallen and full of terrible news. We are left to be the representatives of Christ and to point people beyond this place.

Throughout history, the church always grew the most during persecution and trials. In our self-centered society today, the most powerful testimony to non-believers is not some "blessing" in abundance, but peace amid difficulty.

The world is watching how we respond when trials come our way. Please pray for Harold and Pam as they walk through this difficult time.

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

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Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 King of the Amalekites, whose life Saul spared
- 5 Sibling, familiarly
- 8 French cleric
- 12 ___ 18 (Uris novel about Warsaw Ghetto)
- 13 Unfortunate occurrence. (arch.)
- 14 Father of Eliasaph (Numbers 3:24)
- 15 Contemporary
- 16 When this org. meets, there are plenty of doctors in the house
- 17 "The ___ are a people not strong" (Proverbs 30:25)
- 18 "Give thanks at the ___ of his holiness" (Psalm 97:12)
- 21 Poetic contraction
- 22 "I will ___ you out of their bondage" (Exodus 6:6)
- 23 In a line
- 26 Preposition
- 27 Tell on (colloq.)
- 30 Soft fabric
- 31 "If any man be in Christ, he is a ___ creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- 32 San ___, CA
- 33 Masculine nickname
- 34 Work outside the home?
- 35 One of Japheth's sons (Genesis 10:2)
- 36 First name in Exodus, Uris novel
- 37 Mother ___
- 38 "Are they not all ___ spirits, sent forth ... for them who shall be heirs" (Hebrews 1:14)
- 43 "The Lord is my strength and ___" (Exodus 15:2)
- 44 Row
- 45 Yearn for

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47				48				49		
50				51				52		

Janet W. Adkins

- 47 Rabbit relative
- 48 Mine (Ital.)
- 49 Cowboy prayer Jack
- 50 Son of Salah (Genesis 10:24)
- 51 Church officer (abbr.)
- 52 Soaks flax

Down

- 1 Measure of electrical power
- 2 Inedible fowl (Leviticus 11:18)
- 3 Toward the sheltered side, nautically
- 4 "And when I heard this thing, I rent my ___" (Ezra 9:3)
- 5 "The nations have heard of thy ___, and thy cry hath filled the land" (Jeremiah 46:12)
- 6 Poetic foot
- 7 "Yea, the ___ hath found an house" (Psalm 84:3)
- 8 "___ flowing with milk and honey" (2 words, Exodus 3:8)
- 9 Where interest accrues, in France
- 10 ___ noire
- 11 They loop the Loop
- 19 Work unit
- 20 Broadcast on TV
- 23 Toward the stern of the ship
- 24 He surrendered at Appomattox
- 25 Not a spring chicken

- 26 "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are ___" (Luke 10:2)
- 27 "Will a man ___ God?" (Malachi 3:8)
- 28 "And ___ did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord" (1 Kings 15:11)
- 29 ___ Aviv
- 31 "There fell a ___ and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast" (Revelation 16:2)
- 32 "[Elijah] sat down under a ___ tree: and he requested ... that he might die" (1 Kings 19:4)
- 34 High-tech medical test (abbr.)
- 35 Province (abbr.)
- 36 "And the ___ of the Lord was kindled against Moses" (Exodus 4:14)
- 37 King of Judaea at Christ's birth
- 38 Ruth and Orpah's homeland
- 39 Concerning
- 40 Canine emotional barometer
- 41 River formed at Khartoum
- 42 Pesky insect
- 43 Pronoun
- 46 Printer's measures

Last week's solution

1	A	R	T	4	R	A	F	7	S	A	R	A
11	S	O	U	L	13	A	V	A	14	P	L	E
15	A	B	B	A	16	N	E	S	17	A	L	E
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37	B	E	F	O	R	E	40	R	A	I	S	E
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50	A	S	E	R	51	S	O	N	52	S	O	Y

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Indy campus minister measures success as obedience

The big picture

■ About 1,000 Southern Baptist ministers serve on nearly 1,000 college and university campuses across North America.

■ The collegiate mission field across North America includes 16 million students.

■ About 600,000 international students, including many of the world's future leaders, attend U.S. colleges and universities.

■ Most college students are interested in spiritual matters and open to discussing them.

By Lee Weeks
SBC North American Mission Board

Indianapolis—Jonathan Pettigrew doesn't remember anything about his 100-foot fall down a Colorado mountain in December 2002. He, instead, relies on the courage of friends who watched over his nearly lifeless body during the two-hour wait for rescue personnel.

Now, less than three years since his near-fatal descent on Cheyenne Canyon, near Colorado Springs, Pettigrew, the Baptist college ministry director at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, shares with college students many of the lessons he's learned throughout his miraculous recovery.

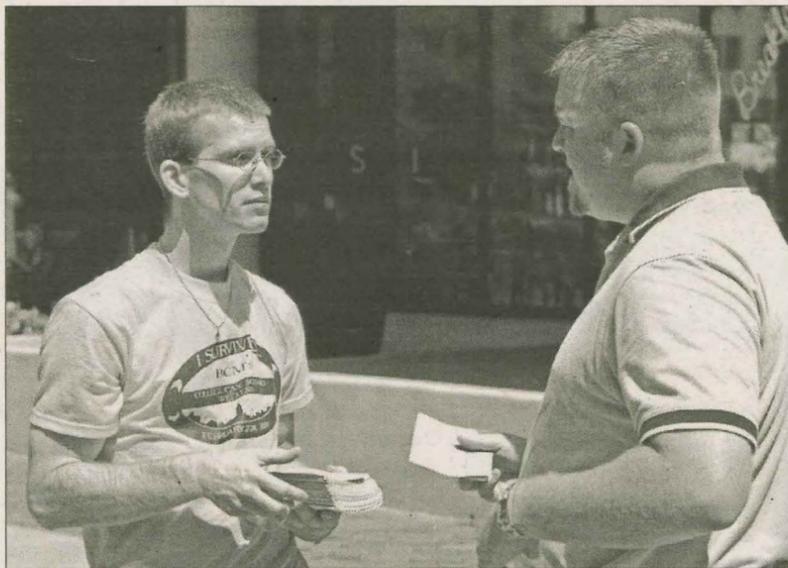
Pettigrew, a US/C-2 missionary with the North American Mission Board, is featured this year during the season of North American Missions.

He is among nearly 5,200 missionaries in the United States and Canada supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

"If you look at everything that happened, I should be dead, or I should be brain damaged, or I should be paralyzed," Pettigrew said. "Those are the three options that are common from these types of injuries and this type of trauma."

When Pettigrew landed face down in the canyon floor, he shattered his right hip and broke his neck, pelvis, right leg and left kneecap.

Doctors suspect the cold air after sundown lowered his body tempera-



LIFE LESSON Jonathan Pettigrew (left) shares a gospel tract with a student on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis. As a campus minister, Pettigrew shares many of the lessons he learned after a mountain climbing accident three years ago that nearly killed him. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

ture, likely preventing him from bleeding to death. At the same time, had rescuers arrived much later, Pettigrew likely would have died of hypothermia.

After the accident, doctors predicted it might take two years for Pettigrew to walk again under his own power. But five months later, including a 12-hour semester course load, he walked across a stage to receive his diploma from Angelo State University in Texas.

Still, the 23-year-old is hesitant to describe the perilous turn of events as "life changing." Instead, he prefers to explain his improbable

journey as "life shaping."

"My God is way too sovereign to have to change His plans for my life," Pettigrew said.

"I want people to rejoice and understand that we serve an all-powerful God who is sovereign over details, like medical things and circumstances, and I want that to motivate others to trust God, to trust Him explicitly in everything."

Fighting compartmentalized faith

It's that same conviction and mindset that shapes Pettigrew's ministry on the 28,000-student IU-PUI campus where he is establishing the school's first Southern Baptist student organization.

Pettigrew spends time establishing and leading small group Bible studies and sharing his faith with students.

Christian college students, like many believers, tend to compartmentalize their faith rendering it largely insignificant in their daily lives, Pettigrew said.

"My prayer since I've been here is for a (Christian) revolution. A revolution is a drastic change in thought that displays itself in total commitment radically affecting lifestyle patterns."

Pettigrew is quick to challenge anyone who assumes God's call on his life is more profound than any other Christian.

"There's just as much a reason that you're alive as I am," he said. "God has just as much of a plan, just as much of a call on your life as He does mine. He is just waiting for you to answer Him."

"When you look back on the day, the only way to measure if it's been a success or not is to say, 'Have I been obedient to what God has asked me to do today?'"

"The only thing that is required of us as believers is to obey God," Pettigrew equates. "That is love, and Christ equates the two. He says you love Me if you obey My commandments."

This year's national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$55 million.

"Everything I do is funded by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Cooperative Program," Pettigrew noted. "If it was not for that support, I would not be serving here."

Meet some of the class of 2005

Graduating senior reflects on growth, significant lessons learned at Oneida

Each spring I like to share the experiences of some of our graduating students. I ask the seniors to write an essay before they leave for spring break. The essay, titled "My Oneida Experience," is not written for a grade and is not even required. The purpose of the essay is to give each senior the opportunity to reflect on his or her days at Oneida. I believe it is good for them to think back to those days before Oneida Baptist Institute. I want to know of their thoughts about Oneida when they first arrived, what they have enjoyed most about being at OBI, who has had the most impact on them here, where they are in their spiritual journeys and what has been the most meaningful things they have gained by attending Oneida.

This information is useful to me as I prepare for graduation in May, and in all honesty, reading about their experiences gives me a renewed appreciation for the opportunities we provide to a special group of young people. I hope you will enjoy reading these "My Oneida Experience" essays in the next few weeks as well.

The first senior essay was written by "Tori" (her real nickname). Tori had moved around a lot prior to enrolling at Oneida. Born in Georgia, she also had lived in California, Kentucky and Tennessee. She said her life before Oneida was "nothing out of the ordinary. I was just a family kind of girl who stayed at home most of the time."

Tori first enrolled at OBI in the eighth grade as a day student. In other words, she lived in the community and commuted from home to our campus. Later Tori decided that she would

like to try living in our girls' dormitory. She and her family agreed to give it a try during summer school just before she was a sophomore.

She enjoyed living with her friends in the dorm, so she decided to live there during her sophomore year. Tori began to realize the value of attending a smaller school. Before coming to Oneida she said, "I didn't really like to go to school because there were so many people and it was so hard to get through the mob of people and get to class on time. ... The small atmosphere of Oneida and the smaller classes have helped me to get closer to the staff and students."

Even though Tori was a Christian, she admits to not being very excited about attending chapel every school day. However, during a short time away from Oneida when her family moved to Tennessee, she began to remember her chapel days at OBI. "As I was making friends (at her new school) some people asked me what I missed most about my old school (Oneida). I thought it was weird that I said praise and worship every Friday in chapel. I also missed the daily routine, and chapel was one of my favorite parts of my day at OBI. I know I will miss chapel and praise and worship after graduation."

In conclusion Tori wrote, "When I first came to OBI, I was very shy, quiet and a loner who kept to myself and did not have many friends. ... Now, I have changed in so many ways, I am outspoken, bold and I have real friends. ... I am grown up in an environment where people have given me responsibility."

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



W.F. Underwood

Mom Jeffries' Bible

Clear Creek receives Bible given to camp worker in 1941

Four months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a group of preachers presented a Bible to Elizabeth Jeffries in appreciation for 16 years as dietician at Clear Creek Springs.

"Mom Jeffries," as everyone called her, retired the next summer of 1942. One of her last assignments was to move kitchen supplies from Wahoo Dining Hall to the newly built Kelly Hall. She had worked at the summer camps since 1926, living in a cottage near the creek.

Mrs. Jeffries was dietician at Campbellsville College for many years and came to Clear Creek at the close of each spring semester. Helen Royalty, camp manager, wrote of her, "Her patience, her kindness, her willingness to serve at any and all times and her sense of humor endeared her to the hearts of all with whom she was associated. When things went wrong, as they sometimes did, she was always able to find a way out."

The Bible Mrs. Jeffries received was presented recently to Clear Creek by Helen Wright Shelton Kirtley. She lived in the dormitory at Campbellsville, and Mom Jeffries

recruited her as a worker at Clear Creek for June 1936. At Campbellsville, Helen met and married R.G. Shelton; their ministry included church pastorates and director of missions for two associations. Their son, Tom, is director of missions in Ohio County.

On July 23, 1941, 42 men and three women signed the Jeffries Bible. Most of the men probably attended the July preachers' school. Two names reflect the beginnings of Clear Creek: founder L. C. Kelly and R.P. Mahon, the first Bible teacher. Gladys McNeil, one of the women signers, taught English and married Dr. Kelly in 1943; his first wife died in April 1942. Likely one of

the oldest people present was R.C. Medaris, responsible for starting First Baptist Church of Pineville, and several other congregations in southeastern Kentucky. One person who signed, C. Penrose St. Amant, later taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Bible will be preserved in our campus archives. We are grateful for this reminder of our heritage and the faithfulness of past laborers.

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



Bill Whittaker

'Breakout Churches'

Rainer outlines six concepts that help churches go from good to great

By David Roach

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Louisville (BP)—Churches devoted to Jesus Christ must strive to break out of mediocrity and achieve unprecedented fruitfulness, seminary dean and researcher Thom Rainer states in his latest book.

In "Breakout Churches," Rainer and his research team studied 13 churches that experienced an extended period of health and growth after a period of decline or plateau.

Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, labels these churches "breakout churches" and identifies key patterns and trends common to breakout churches.

The research methodology and organizational structure are drawn largely from Jim Collins' book "Good to Great," which describes the characteristics of businesses that transitioned from mediocrity to greatness.

"The research team was motivated by much more than curiosity and intellectual stimulation," Rainer writes. "We wanted not only to find out what happens to churches that move to greatness, under the sovereignty of God, but also to apply what we learned for the benefit of the Kingdom and other churches."

The "chrysalis factor"

Using the term "chrysalis factor"—invoking the image of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly—Rainer identifies central elements contributing to a church's transformation from mediocrity to health and growth.

"I do not want to suggest that we have discovered some neat formulaic approach for leading churches to greatness," he writes. "A sovereign God and the Holy Spirit are not instruments subject to manipulation by humanity. Yet the components of the chrysalis factor may provide insight into how God is working in his churches."

Rainer identifies six key components of the chrysalis factor.

Leadership. Churches must develop leadership with qualities such as sensitivity to criticism, determination, kindness and visionary thinking, he writes. Rainer taps the Book of Acts to identify several tiers of leadership, culminating with what he named "Acts 6/7 leadership."

"Fewer than 1 percent of the senior pastors we studied have attained this level of leadership," he writes. "Yet we believe this type of leadership is needed for the long-term health of churches. Eight out of ten of the approximately 400,000 churches in the United States are declining or have plateaued. Acts 6/7 leadership is desperately needed."

Recognition. Second, leaders of breakout churches must experience a moment in which they become aware of the church's deficiencies, confront the facts and experience a personal crisis because of the deficiencies.

Commitment. After leaders experience the moment of crisis, Rainer writes, they develop the third component: a commitment to address issues of personnel and infrastructure simultaneously.

Vision. The church must discover its vision by noting where the passion of the leaders, the gifts of the congregation and the needs of the community intersect.

"Not all of the leader's passions are the same as the congregation's gifts and passions, but some are," Rainer writes. "Not all of the community's needs are the same as the intersection of the leader's and the congregation's passions, but some are. When all three points intersect, the church knows its vision."

Culture of excellence. Breakout churches develop a culture that demands excellence in all areas of church life.

"The breakout churches were not fanatical about excellence in the same way a Fortune 500 corporation might emphasize excellence," Rainer writes. "The church leaders all spoke about a drive to glorify God, to please the Savior, or to do their best in His power for His sake."

Innovation. Breakout churches complete their transformation by using innovations to accelerate growth in a manner consistent with the vision, Rainer writes, noting that if churches trust God and follow biblical principles, they have the potential to move from mediocrity to greatness.

"There is little doubt that many American churches are sick," Rainer writes. "But there is no doubt that we serve a God of all possibilities. We must confront the reality of the struggles our churches face. And we must acknowledge a sovereign and omnipotent God Who is the source of any solutions to the plight of the church."

Thirst: God and the Alcoholic Experience. James Nelson. Westminster John Knox Press, 2004. 217 pages. \$19.95 ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Through the years, I have read a number of James Nelson's books on ethics and theology. He always has been a thoughtful and passionate spokesman for living life as a Christian in today's world.

With this book, he solidifies his place with me as one of the premier bio-ethicists writing today.

In "Thirst," Nelson continues his standard of speaking with clarity and insight. When I first saw the title of the book, I was glad to see Nelson turning his attention to this subject. I was excited at the prospect of reading his take on a problem that plagues families and the church.

Until I began reading the book, I had no idea Nelson is a recovering alcoholic and speaks willingly about his addiction. Nelson discusses all that you would expect a volume on alcoholism to address. What makes it different from others I have read is that Nelson speaks theologically and personally, not academically and clinically.

What makes this volume such a contribution to the literature on alcoholism (and addiction, in general) is the theological insights Nelson shares from his own experience as a Christian, seminary professor and alcoholic. Theologically, Nelson draws on liberation theology to bring forth a theology out of his addiction.

As the title might indicate, Nelson places the experience of the addict in the context of humanity's "thirst for God." What Nelson says would not have the same impact on the reader were it not for knowing that Nelson speaks from experience. Nelson is careful to not claim he speaks for other alcoholics. In reality, I am sure his experience mirrors millions of others.

Both the person in addiction and those who love them, whether family, ministers or church members, will find this a must read. Wayne Hager

The Book on Leadership. John MacArthur. Nelson Books, 2004. 240 pages. \$22.99 ♦♦♦♦

John MacArthur uses the life of the Apostle Paul to weave a book filled with Scripture illustrations of leadership.

MacArthur suggests it is time for churches to stop looking to the latest book about leadership from Wall Street or the media and attempting to adapt those to the church. The church has the best leader in the Lord Jesus Christ and the best principles from the Bible. Besides, he notes, many leadership principles needed are those that only God can create in the life of a follower.

Many ideas about leadership today are combined with such con-

cepts as ethics, honesty and character, he writes, and only the Word of God can give true definitions of what those are.

The book offers 26 leadership characteristics that every Christian should have, as MacArthur suggests that all Christians are to be leaders regardless of their walk in life.

As each characteristic is demonstrated in the book, it also is highlighted on that page for easy reference later on. All 26 leadership characteristics also are listed as an appendix for easy reference.

This book is a great read. It would be an asset for anyone entering a leadership position, be it secular or spiritual.

This book also would be excellent for graduating college seniors. Having the right idea about leadership and recognizing that those ideas are based on "The Book" will help any student enter the workforce or ministry from a proper perspective. Steve Coleman

See No Evil: The Existence of Sin in an Age of Relativism. Harry Poe. Kregel Publications, 2004. 201 pages. \$15.99 ♦♦♦

Opening disclaimer: Harry Poe and I attended Southern Seminary together and I consider him a friend.

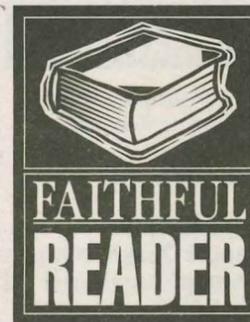
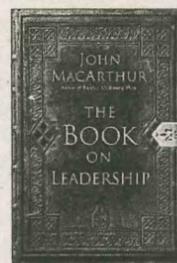
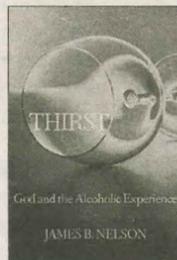
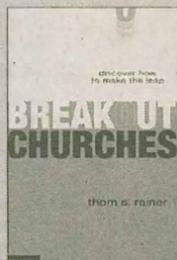
That being said, when I picked up this book, I did not (and still do not) envy the task that he had taken on: that is, writing a book on sin, evil and God's work to address it for a non-academic audience.

Doing so means writing in a way that those of us not intimately familiar with ongoing philosophical and theological debates can connect with what he is saying without falling into the trap of oversimplification and distortion.

In "See No Evil," Poe tries to help us see that sin is more than just breaking the rules or running afoul of some disembodied set of absolutes. Conversely, goodness is not an independent reality, but an adjective that describes "God's opinion about what He has done" or what He wants done through us. Consequently, any discussion about the nature of sin must be connected to one's relationship with God, because, ultimately salvation has to do with that relationship. "God is the only good."

I did not find this book a quick or an easy read. Poe tackles a difficult subject and asks us to reassess our understanding of classic Christian teachings on things such as forgiveness, atonement, grace, sin, etc. Not that he radically reinterprets them. Rather, he provokes us to look beyond our modernist desire for certainty and our postmodern relativism, to hear the gospel.

At times the writing is awkward and the illustrative material interferes more than it helps. Those who choose to dive into this book will find it necessary to read, put the book aside and reflect, and then read on. Jim Holladay



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



PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Highland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Thomas. The church has been working for more than a year to develop a ministry with residents of the Newport Housing Authority. Called the Isaiah Project, the effort involves church members going door to door in the neighborhood on Saturdays inviting residents to visit the "trailer on the parking lot" for food, clothing, Bible activities with the kids and community fellowship. Highland Hills hopes to eventually have a permanent facility from which to minister. Pray that God will provide a place that accomplishes His purpose. Pray also that God will continue to bless the church's work with new believers who are being discerned to serve others.

Mission Service Corps missionaries Mitch and Christie Schumacher of Lynch. The Schumachers direct High Mountain Equine Outreach, a ministry that uses horse therapy to benefit the physical and emotional needs of individuals. Healing the whole person is their goal as they seek to share Christ with their riders/patients. The ministry is new and grows out of a vision by Lonnie Riley of Meridzo Ministries. The Schumachers need dirt work done and are praying that God will provide heavy equipment and an operator to do that work. Pray that God also will provide strength for them as they seek to build this new ministry that will add eternal significance to many people's lives.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **AUBURN**—New Friendship Church's choir will present the Easter cantata, "One Holy Lamb," March 27, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

■ **BEECHMONT**—Beechmont Church recently called **Bryan Browning** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church recently honored **George and Dot Beorn** on their 60th wedding anniversary.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church's choir will present "The Living Promise" March 25-27, 7 p.m. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

Saloma Church's choir will present the Easter musical "Thank You for the Cross" March 27, 11 a.m. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church will present the Easter musical, "Who Do You Say I Am?," March 26-27, 7 p.m., at the Grant County High School auditorium.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church recently honored **Linda Polley** for 25 years of service as church secretary and then as church administrator. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church recently honored **Stanley Salchli** on his retirement and for serving 42 years as Sunday school director.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Deep Creek Church recently ordained **Jerry Best, John Logue** and **Clayton Tyler** as deacons. **Lewis Walter** is interim pastor.

■ **HULEN**—First Blakmont Church ordained **Casey Hampton** to the gospel ministry Feb. 27. **David Howard** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—**James Tharp**, retired pastor of High Point Church, died March 4 at age 84. Tharp, pastor of several churches in Kentucky and Tennessee, served High Point more than 32 years. A graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.,

he also was a former trustee chairman of Mid-Continent University in Mayfield. He is survived by his wife, Alvina, two daughters, one granddaughter and one great-grandson.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—First Church's sanctuary choir will present a Tenebrae service remembering the suffering and death of Christ through music, drama and Scripture March 25, 8 p.m.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Maretburg Church recently honored **Alta Berry Lakes** on her 80th birthday. **Wayne Harding** is pastor.

■ **PHILPOT**—Bethabara Church ordained **Keith McWhorter** to the gospel ministry Feb. 27. McWhorter, a student at Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, is interim pastor of Heritage Hill Church in Chrisney, Ind.

■ **PRINCETON**—**Clarence Cooper** recently resigned as pastor of Emmanuel Church.

Liberty Church recently called **Jason Randell** as pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Baptist Church's Voices of Unity will present a special cantata mix March 27, 10:45 a.m., organized by music director **ollie Jordan**. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—High Street Church ordained **Roger Colyer, Greg Haynes, Scott Mullins** and **Jim Paine** as deacons March 6. **Jammie Vance** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—New Hope Church called **Trey Reid** as youth pastor effective Feb. 1. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Mount Vernon Church recently called **Fred Moffatt** as interim pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Red Bird Church will host the South Union-Mount Zion Association youth rally March 19, 6:30 p.m.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

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

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

April

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

7 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, Burlington Baptist Church.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25-26 "Coaching Leader" Training, Cedarmore.

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

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

Campbellsville names dean of nursing

Campbellsville—Jo Ann Wever, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, has been named Campbellsville University's first dean of the School of Nursing.

Wever will be responsible for developing the curriculum and seeking program approval from the Kentucky Board of Nursing prior to admitting students. The school's anticipated start date is January or August 2006.

Wever, an instructor and associate professor at the University of Kentucky since 1977, was named Nurse Educator of the Year by the Kentucky League for Nursing in 1987. She was an Army Nurse Corps

officer from 1980 to 2003, serving as chief nurse of two medical units.

A registered nurse, Wever has served as president of the Kentucky League for Nursing since 1999. She also has served as a part-time instructor with Lexington Community College and Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. She is a graduate of Sandhills Community College in North Carolina, East Carolina University and the University of Kentucky.

For information about the nursing program at Campbellsville University, contact Wever at jawever@campbellsville.edu or (270) 789-5155.



Wever

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

LIFE INSURANCE: Get the amount you need at the price you want. Call (859) 313-LIFE (Lexington).

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for growing church in north Mercer County. Interested applicants may send a resumé to: Salvisa Baptist Church, PO Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372, Attn: Personnel Comm.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth for Central Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., just north of Nashville. Send resumé to J. Mills, Central Baptist Church, 186 Sanders Ferry Road, Hendersonville, TN 37075; or e-mail: ccentral@bellsouth.net, RE: J.Mills.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. Bullittsburg Baptist Church is a contemporary and vibrant 200-member church in the rapidly growing Northern Kentucky tri-state area. Candidate must have at least 5 years of experience serving as a senior or associate pastor, be able to lead and work with a team-oriented staff, and have a heart and desire for discipleship and outreach. Please submit resumé by April 30 to: Bullittsburg Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, 2616 Bullittsburg Church Road, Petersburg, KY 41080.

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

SEEKING: A flexible musician and spiritual guide who is comfortable with a variety of musical styles and with a half-time position. Moderate CBF/SBC church near Cincinnati is committed to reaching its neighborhood and helping its members worship. E-mail: baptist@insightbb.com. Web site: www.latoniabaptist.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. Resúmes can be sent to: Search Committee, Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church, 2323 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017, or e-mail: Xavprof@fuse.net. Web site: www.fuse.net. Please call Pat Burkhardt at (859) 341-2372.

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

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.

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 Elkhorn Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718, or e-mail in Word format to: office@elkhornbc.org. For a job description, go to www.elkhornbc.org.

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 resúmes to: Waco Baptist Church, PO Box 560, Waco, KY 40385, Attn: Youth Dept.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Graefenburg Baptist Church, Waddy, Ky. Please see position description at KBC Web site.

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 resúmes to: Search Committee, Grant's Lick Baptist Church, 941 Clay Ridge Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

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. Resúmes 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.

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 of experience. Call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free) for more information or e-mail: ddale1950@aol.com.

Light amid darkness

Pastor ministers to small town in wake of 10-year-old's murder

By Jeff Robinson
Baptist Press

Crothersville, Ind. (BP)—For Jon Pearce, this was no ordinary funeral.

He scarcely knew the girl who had died—a 10-year-old whose funeral would be covered by reporters from ABC News, The New York Times and USA Today as hundreds of mourners gathered at Crothersville (Ind.) Community School to remember the girl who had been an energetic, bright-eyed fourth-grader there.

The body of Katie Collman, who had been involved in First Baptist Church's Wednesday evening AWANA youth program for only a few weeks, was found in a creek 20 miles outside of town on Jan. 30. The heartbreaking discovery ended a search that began after Katie had gone missing on Jan. 25. It was the first homicide in Crothersville, population 1,600, in 25 years.

Investigators believe Katie stumbled upon a lab where methamphetamine was being manufactured and sold in an apartment complex near her home. She apparently had entered one of the apartments to inform the occupants that their dog had been killed on the railroad tracks that stretch through town.

Pearce, First Baptist's pastor the past five years and a doctor of ministry student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was asked by the family to deliver the eulogy at Katie's funeral because of her recent involvement in the church's youth program. For Pearce, it was an opportunity to set before a hurting community both the sinful-

ness of fallen man and the goodness of a sovereign God.

"I was pleased that God chose me to do the funeral, but at the same time, I was scared about what to say because this wasn't any ordinary funeral," Pearce reflected. "I felt the community was looking for an answer as to why this happened. I wanted to make sure that I glorified God in it."

Crothersville is tucked in the woods just off Interstate 65, 40 miles north of Louisville. It is a place where neighbors have known each other for generations.

"It was one of those things that you never really think of happening in a small town," Pearce said. "It surprised a lot of people. But as Christians, we know that evil is everywhere, even in small towns."

One of Crothersville's own now stands accused of the crime. Three days after Katie's body was found, 20-year-old local resident Charles Hickman was charged with the murder. Police say Hickman has since confessed to Katie's slaying. Authorities are still seeking accomplices who might have driven the girl to the place where she died.

"Evil in the human heart"

Pearce said the shocking reality that a local resident is charged with such a heinous act has given him a platform to speak about the existence of evil in the human heart.

"For some it has been a time to blame God," he said. "For others, it has been a questioning of how God

could allow this to happen or asking the question, 'Is there evil in the world?'"

"It is a good opportunity to point out to people the problem of evil in the human heart, the need for a redeemer and the righteousness that is found only in Christ—that we will stand before God and that our sin nature can only be taken away and punished through Christ."

"It has also awakened people to the need for justice. The people are starting to get together and say, 'Hey, this is our town; we've got to take it back.' At the funeral I really focused on the quote of Edmund Burke that 'evil triumphs when good men do nothing.'"

Pearce, who has been interviewed by multiple national media outlets and appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" about the murder, hopes to help the town act on its desire for justice and to become a safer environment for children, all the while pointing them to Christ.

In the weeks since the funeral, Pearce already has helped the town consider a new community watch program through which neighbors protect each other and exert pressure through legal means against neighboring houses peddling drugs.

Pearce marched alongside 380 Crothersville citizens in a recent "Walk for Katie" as both a memorial to the slain youngster and a declaration of the town's war on drugs.

A group in Crothersville is lobbying to have the apartment complex

from which Katie was abducted razed and a memorial in her honor put in its place.

"This has awakened people to be responsible for not only their own children, but also the children of others," Pearce noted. "I have been able to point out that our children are precious, that they are made in God's image, and that one day we will give an account for them."

Ministry makes impact

First Baptist is the largest church in Crothersville, but Pearce said he is convinced Katie's family invited him to speak at the funeral not because of the church's prominence, but because of its ministry to children.

In addition to its youth group, First Baptist offers many activities for children and makes them one of the central aspects of its ministry, Pearce said.

Above all, Pearce added, he wants to see God's glory manifested in His people being light during Crothersville's dark days.

"Thom Rainer (dean of Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Missions and Church Growth) said more than 80 percent of all persons saved come to Christ before the age of 20," Pearce said. "We have a lot of youth programs at the church, and we really care about children. I think the community knows that. If not, we want them to know that."

"As Christians we've got to be light, and one thing light does is take away darkness. In this situation, as in all others, that is what we want to do."



Pearce

Templeton winner urges science, religion ties

By Chris Herlinger
Religion News Service

New York (RNS)—Charles Townes, a Nobel laureate who helped invent the laser and was an early pioneer in merging science and religion, has won the 2005 Templeton Prize and the more than \$1.5 million that comes with it.

"Charles Townes helped to create and sustain the dialogue between science and theology," said David Shi, president of Furman University, Townes' undergraduate alma mater, in nominating Townes for the honor.

The prize, which carries a cash award of 795,000 British pounds—more than \$1.5 million—was announced March 9 at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York.

In a prepared statement, Townes, a University of California, Berkeley, physics professor, said, "Science and religion have had a long history of interesting interaction. But when I was younger, that interaction did not seem like a very healthy one."

A South Carolina native who grew up as a progressive Baptist, the 89-year-old Townes said he would accept the award with humility. He described himself as a "minor figure" in an area that has grown increasingly prominent in recent years.

Others would disagree. For decades he has been among the most fervent advocates for dialogue between scientists and theologians.

Townes has done so from a position of major renown in 20th century science, having won the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics. His work studying the properties of microwaves had two practical results: the development of the maser, a device that amplifies electromagnetic waves, and later the laser, which amplifies and directs light waves into parallel direct beams.

That work resulted in the now-common use of lasers in the fields of medicine, telecommunications, electronics and computer science.

Groundbreaking article

In 1964, while a professor at Columbia University in New York City, Townes delivered a talk at the city's Riverside Church that became the basis for a groundbreaking article, "The Convergence of Science and Religion," which appeared in an IBM journal.

In the article, Townes said it was time for the seemingly irreconcilable fields of science and religion to find common ground, noting "their differences are largely superficial, and ... the two become almost indistinguishable if we look at the real nature of each."

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology magazine eventually published the article, too—prompting one alumnus to declare that "he would never have anything more to do with MIT" if an article on religion appeared again, Townes said in his prepared remarks.

That, Townes said, "reflected a common view at the time among many scientists that one could not be a scientist and religiously oriented. There was an antipathy towards discussion of spirituality."

But that was never his experience.

Townes said a sudden insight that led to the discovery of the maser—something that occurred on a Washington, D.C., park bench in 1951, he recalled—was akin to a religious revelation, and it is that kind of recognition of mystery at play that unites the two fields.

"Science and religion have so many similarities," Townes said in an interview prior to the award's announcement.

Townes said he will donate a major portion of his prize money to Furman in Greenville, S.C., and four institutions in Berkeley, Calif.: the Pacific School of Religion; the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences; the Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless; and First Congregational Church.

Mountie's father shares eternal hope during slain son's eulogy

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (BP)—At a national memorial service for four Royal Canadian Mounted Police killed in the line of duty, the father of the youngest slain officer fulfilled his son's wish for his death to bear witness to Jesus Christ.

Peter Schiemann, 25, and fellow mounties Brock Myrol, 29; Leo Johnston, 34; and Anthony Gordon, 28, were killed March 4 in a shootout while investigating a marijuana operation in rural Alberta. The wounded gunman then took his own life.

Thirteen thousand mourners, including 10,000 police officers and emergency workers from across North America, attended the four officers' March 10 memorial service at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Don Schiemann, a Lutheran pastor in Stony Plain, Alberta, in his eulogy for his son, said, "Today Canada mourns the loss of four of her sons who paid the supreme price. The RCMP has lost four of its members and our family has buried a wonderful son and brother."

"A three-minute eulogy for Tony, Brock, Leo or Peter will never be sufficient and we all know that," he said. "If you want to know my son, you'll need to come to our home and we'll put on a large pot of coffee and talk for hours."

Noting that "over and over again, people tell us that they could never begin to understand the depth of our loss," Schiemann added, "That is true. But we know of One Who does understand and feel our pain because He lost His Son, too."

"It happened when God gave the sinless life of His Son at the cross to redeem sinful lives and to purchase forgiveness for us all. Three days later He raised His Son from the dead and conquered death. It is through this event ... that we have hope."

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