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Gallup poll: Most teens think God directed creation or evolution

Nashville (BP)—Schools might be teaching evolution, but many teens aren't buying it, according to a new Gallup poll.

The survey of 1,028 teenagers ages 13-17 found that 38 percent of respondents don't believe in evolution, believing instead that "God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so."

Another 43 percent believe that humans "developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided" the process. All total, 81 percent believe that God was somehow involved.

Only 18 percent believe that evolution took place without God playing a role.

The Gallup poll also asked teens their opinion about the evidence behind Darwin's theory of evolution. Only 37 percent said they thought Darwin's theory was "well supported by evidence." Thirty percent said it was "just one of many theories" and one that "has not been well supported by evidence." Thirty-three percent said they did not yet know enough about Darwin's theory to answer the question.

Adults actually are somewhat more likely not to believe in evolution. In a Gallup poll of adults last November, 45 percent said they believed in creationism; 38 percent believed that God guided the process of evolution. Only 13 percent of adults said they believed that evolution occurred without God's guidance.

Modeling missions



CARVING OUT A LIVING Missionary Terrell O'Brien supports his family as a commercial sculptor, which allows him to serve as pastor of Warm Valley Baptist Church in Wyoming without a salary. His sculptures, which often are larger than life-size, can be found in homes, businesses and cities throughout the country. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

'Tentmaker' sculpts churches in barren regions

By Joe Westbury
SBC North American Mission Board

Pavillion, Wyo.—With the deft skill of a trained artisan, Terrell O'Brien selects a sculpting tool and places it on the subject. As he cuts here, smooths there, adds clay or takes it away, the design he has in mind begins to take shape.



When he has completed the sculpture in this small version, he is ready to begin work on what will become a larger-than-life version.

O'Brien is an artist who produces monumental sculptures for clients across North America. His subjects may include historical figures, children, West-

ern themes, biblical characters or wildlife—his favorite.

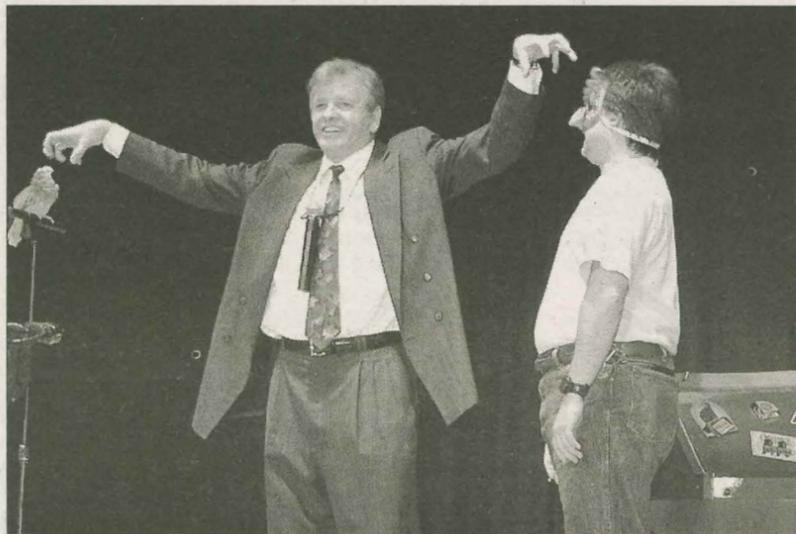
"After completing the clay models, I make the molds which a foundry will use to cast these works in bronze," he says.

When the phone rings and he starts talking with one of his church members, however, his real love comes into play.

□ See 'Tentmaker' sculpts ... *Page 8*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 30

Church outreach becomes laughing matter with comedy show



LAUGH FACTOR California comedian Dana Daniels (left) entertains a Lexington audience as part of an outreach project by Heritage Baptist Church.

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lexington—It isn't customary to hire a renowned comedian to let the public know about your church.

However, after a recent show drew a crowd of about 500 to an event sponsored by Heritage Baptist Church, Pastor Greg Waltermire said he believes the unusual outreach worked.

"We have more (prospects) out of one night than we got visitor cards all year," Waltermire said. "That's money well spent."

To spread awareness of its pending move to the Hamburg section of northeast Lexington, in late February the congregation hosted a comedy show featuring Dana Daniels at The Thoroughbred Center, a local

landmark.

About half the audience came from outside the church.

A comedy illusionist who has been featured on network television, Daniels is a member of Saddleback Church in Southern California. His pastor is Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose-Driven Life."

Daniels shared a brief testimony near the end of his hour-long performance. Afterward, Waltermire invited listeners to speak with him privately if they sensed a need for Good.

The pastor said Heritage purposely used a low-key evangelistic approach so visitors wouldn't feel like victims of a "bait and switch" tactic.

□ See Church outreach ... *Page 3*

Welch sets ambitious goals for Crossover

By Jennifer Davis Rash
Alabama Baptist

Nashville (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch's vision for this year's SBC annual meeting stretches from an anticipated record number of volunteers involved in the Crossover evangelistic outreach to baptism services during the convention sessions to a special segment honoring the life and work of Billy Graham.

The Florida pastor arrived in Nashville last month to begin an intensive two-month push into the June meeting. He and his wife, Maudellen, temporarily relocated to the convention city in order to focus efforts on the area.

"We moved to middle Tennessee because this is the place of action in June," said Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach for 30 years.

Full house for Crossover, SBC

As Welch enters the final quarter of his term as SBC president, his goal is to fill the 23,000-seat highway entertainment center in Nashville for the culmination of Crossover events June 18 and during the annual meeting June 21-22.

Beginning his year with a bus tour across the nation and Canada, Welch said he is now focusing his attention on an 80-mile radius

around Nashville.

Pushing the goal of baptizing 1 million people between Oct. 1, 2005, and Oct. 1, 2006, Welch plans to launch the challenge during the final session of the annual meeting.

"We are urging churches and associations (across the nation) to be a part of this," said Welch, who acknowledges setting high, possibly unobtainable goals. But he believes by setting the goals high Southern Baptists will achieve more than they would otherwise.

On the flip side, he realizes the results will be very telling of the health of the convention. "This effort is going to expose us," he said. "If we do not have a significant increase in baptisms after this effort, it will signal we have some extraordinary problems. We will have problems that should shake this convention" after having "wholeheartedly put forth a strong effort."

"If we baptize 1 million or at the very least have a significant increase," he added, "we will know that we have broken the code. We will know where to go ... and that is to stay focused on the main thing, which is the Great Commission."

Once the answer is known, Welch predicts convention leaders will face crucial decisions about

moving forward. "What will they do? Are they committed?" he asked. "This is a very telling time, and it deserves the very best effort."

Welch, founder of the FAITH/Sunday School Evangelism Strategy, believes Crossover—specifically Saturday's event—will make or break the baptism goal.

So far, he noted, about 4,000 people have signed up to do event evangelism in Nashville. Another 6,000 have signed up to do door-to-door witnessing.

Awakening "overdue"

At the SBC annual meeting, baptisms are being scheduled during the opening of each session. Martin King, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, said NAMB officials are helping organize the effort.

King said Nashville-area churches participating in Crossover will be the ones holding the baptisms. "It is certainly possible that people who accept Christ at Crossover could be among this group," he added.

Speaking March 21 at the Nashville Baptist Pastors' Conference, Welch told participants, "What if (Nashville) became the epicenter for the next Great Awakening—how many of you would be for that? I'm tellin' you boys, it could happen. We're overdue."

ERLC leaders oppose gay marriage, encourage ministry to homosexuals

Nashville (BP)—Christians should strongly resist the campaign to legitimize "same-sex marriage" while also ministering compassionately to homosexuals, a group of Southern Baptist ethics and theology leaders have urged in a new document.

The Research Institute of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission released the "Same-sex Marriage" March 9 in response to ongoing efforts to legalize same-sex marriage. The ERLC and other conservative organizations have endorsed a federal amendment to the U.S. Constitution to protect marriage.

The statement's signers, all fellows of the ERLC Research Institute, said they reject all efforts to legitimize same-sex marriage based on the "clear biblical teachings about homosexuality and marriage, and the serious social consequences that homosexuality and 'same-sex marriage' pose for our nation."

The document calls for:

- Stronger bonds within families so "children have a better chance to develop God-honoring, healthy, appropriate sexual orientation."

- More training by church leaders and understanding among Christians about the biblical view of homosexuality and marriage.

- Greater outreach to people "trapped in homosexuality to provide them the relationships that will help them abandon homosexual behavior."

- New ministries to homosexuals "that affirm their worth before God and that help them escape homosexuality."

- Efforts to influence Congress to pass a federal amendment defining

marriage as only between a man and a woman.

ERLC President Richard Land was joined by four Southern Baptist seminary presidents and 14 other Research Institute fellows in endorsing the statement. The seminary presidents signing on were Al Mohler of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Daniel Akin of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; Paige Patterson of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Phil Roberts of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

The signers endorsed four central points in the document:

- Marriage is a "lifetime union of one man and one woman," according to the Bible, and may not be redefined.

- Marriage has "essential defining personal and social characteristics" that prohibit a same-sex relationship from being its equivalent.

- Homosexual behavior "is sinful and contrary to God's design," according to Scripture, and homosexuality should not be considered an "acceptable or unchangeable alternative lifestyle."

- Every person, while made in the image of God and of equal value before Him, is sinful and needs God's forgiveness. Therefore, Christians should have "compassion for those trapped in homosexuality."

The signers "recognize that we must minister to homosexuals in a loving, compassionate way," said Barrett Duke, the ERLC's vice president of public policy and research, "and we commit ourselves, and call on all Christians, to befriend and minister to homosexuals."

New missionaries robbed at bush orientation camp

By Sue Sprenkle
Baptist Press

Limuru, Kenya (BP)—New missionaries attending a camp designed to teach them about life in Africa got an unscheduled—and frightening—lesson when they were robbed at machete-point.

Robbers entered a campsite early March 21 where new missionaries sent out by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and SIL International/Wycliffe were sleeping. They stormed into a tent housing a family of four, waving their machetes and demanding money. The missionaries handed over everything they had, which was less than \$5, before the robbers ran off into the night. No one was hurt in the incident.

A group of 45 missionaries and staff were in the final days of a special orientation program for new workers in central, eastern and southern Africa when the robbery occurred. The program, called "40 Days and 40 Nights," introduces missionaries to life in Africa. During the camp segment of their training, the missionaries were learning how to live and function in the bush—cooking over an open fire, fetching and purifying water, washing clothes by hand.

The intruders entered the camp around 1 a.m. One staff member heard her tent doorway unzipping in the dark. She thought it was a dog leaning against the doorway, so she reached out and zipped it back up. A few tents down, the intruders tried again. This time, they got the flap unzipped enough to reach in and grab a backpack and a pair of boots as missionaries slept inside.

Next the robbers went into the last tent, threatening a family and demanding money. The rest of the camp woke up when something that sounded like a gunshot went off. It was later determined that the lookout man for the intruders had pounded a stack of matches wrapped together against a rock to produce the sound.

Southern Baptist missionary Judi Sprayberry, who directs the orientation camp with her husband, Jack, said that God definitely watched over the new missionaries. During the first day of the bush camp part of orientation, the group prayer-walked around the campsite, asking for God's protection.

"God really answered those prayers," she said. "He protected this family and the rest of the camp. No one was hurt. He was watching over us."

The orientation continued despite the incident. After some debriefing, the participants decided to finish the last 10 days of training in the villages.



"This is a very telling time, and it deserves the very best effort."

SBC President Bobby Welch

BAPTIST DIGEST

Former Hawaii convention leader dies. Dan Kong, former executive director of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, died March 14 after a brief illness. He was 76. Kong, a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is a former pastor of Shakertown Baptist Church. He also was the first native Hawaiian to serve as pastor of a Southern Baptist church in Hawaii. Kong, a two-time president of the Hawaii convention, served as executive director in 1983-88 and then was president of Hawaii Baptist Academy from 1988 until his retirement in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Mary Eleanor, four daughters and three grandchildren.

National Baptist group promotes wellness. The Progressive National Baptist Convention has joined forces with the National Cancer Institute to encourage African-American church members to get involved in a wellness program that promotes healthy diets. "It is crucial that we talk about health whenever we gather, especially in the house of the Lord," said Major Jemison, president of the predominantly black denomination. The "Body and Soul" program includes a 50-page guide and training CD for churches.

LifeWay aids Portuguese-speaking churches. LifeWay Brazil, one of two partnerships in the world where LifeWay Christian Resources allows another company to use the LifeWay name, has translated 13 LifeWay books into Portuguese in the past four years. The other partnership is with LifeWay Canada, which distributes LifeWay books in Canada. A licensing agreement allows LifeWay Brazil to translate into Portuguese materials published by LifeWay for distribution in Latin America. The most popular book has been Henry Blackaby's "Experiencing God," which has sold more than 80,000 copies. Other popular titles include Beth Moore's "Breaking Free" and Gary Smalley's "Making Love Last Forever."

CBF offers sabbatical grants to 45 pastors. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will award 45 sabbatical grants for pastors in 2006. Made possible by a \$1.9 million Lilly Endowment grant, the Initiative for a Ministerial Excellence program awarded 20 grants in 2004 and an additional 35 this year, said Terry Hamrick, CBF's leadership development coordinator. CBF is receiving applications for the 2006 grants. The \$2,500 awards will be given to pastors who have been in the same ministry setting for at least seven years and have been approved for leave by their congregations.

Missionary finally finds setting to answer God's call

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Eleanor Bowers is living proof that a missionary calling can come at any time, even when it appears to be 30 years late.

As a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Bowers would have been an obvious missionary candidate for a Christian social ministry.

Instead, she went to work in the secular world. For 27 years, she worked at Central State Hospital in Louisville, first as a patient aid and eventually as a program director.

"Everyone knew I was a Christian," Bowers recalled, adding that she didn't do much witnessing beyond the testimony of her lifestyle.

Upon retirement, Bowers knew she wanted to express her Christian beliefs overtly through service, but she was unsure where to start.

A member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Bowers was encouraged by a friend to consider Mission Service Corps.

A ministry of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Mission Service Corps matches people with ministries throughout the country. MSC missionaries are self-funded, long-term workers who serve at least four months and up to two years. An MSC missionary's term of service can be renewed beyond two years.

"It's been a wonderful program for me," Bowers said. Three days each week, she works in the pantry of Walnut Street Baptist Church Christian Social Ministries in downtown Louisville.

Eric Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions department, is the ministry matchmaker who linked Bowers with a place to serve.

"It starts with a request from the field—a church, association or min-



MEETING NEEDS, SHARING JESUS Eleanor Bowers works in the pantry of Walnut Street Baptist Church Christian Social Ministries in Louisville.

istry affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention," he said. "Then we find those folks who are gifted in that area of need and connect them with that ministry."

After an MSC placement is made, "You never know how it's going to work out," Allen said, "but (with Bowers) it appears to have been a great match."

Angela Carpenter, director of Walnut Street's Christian Social Ministries, agrees. "Eleanor is a tremendously hard worker. She is willing to pitch in and do what is needed."

Sharing food, clothing

The Walnut Street program provides basic needs and emergency assistance to individuals and families mostly from the Old Louisville area. Clients may receive clothing, food, toiletries, household items and emergency financial and transportation assistance.

As she helps keep the pantry stocked and fills grocery bags with

a variety of foods for specific orders, Bowers chats and jokes with clients.

"Sometimes they just need someone to smile at them," Bowers said. "I've seen some sad faces here."

Bowers said she is confident she is in God's will as an MSC missionary.

"Service is one of my spiritual gifts," she said. "I want to be that cold drink of water on a hot summer day to these people."

As happy as she is in her service, Bowers said she also feels God's call to be more vulnerable and share the gospel verbally with the clients she serves. "I'm still learning how to share my testimony with non-Christians," she said. "This is a perfect opportunity." God, she said, "has been patient with me."

Mission Service Corps missionaries do not need formal education or seminary training, Allen said, but he is glad Bowers is in a place where her background in social work is helpful.

"God equipped Eleanor years and

years ago, and then she never had a chance to use that until now."

"Adopted" by teenage girls

Because MSC missionaries are self-funded, churches and missions groups can become key partners in ministry by "adopting" individual MSC workers.

The Girls in Action of Utica Baptist Church support Bowers' ministry. She also receives assistance from Prospect Missionary Baptist Church near Dawson Springs.

"The G.A.s come to see me," Bowers said. "They have been very supportive of me. They always remember me on my birthday and at Christmas."

In addition to personal support for Bowers, members of Prospect Missionary Baptist send funds so she can purchase items that are often in short supply for clients of the Walnut Street ministry.

"We are in constant need of personal care items," Bowers said. "Things like shampoo and soap are not donated on a regular basis."

Bowers said she is humbled and grateful for the support the two church groups have given her. "I just appreciate them so much," she said.

Currently, 143 MSC missionaries are serving in Kentucky and another five from Kentucky are serving in other North American locations.

Allen said when he began directing the KBC's Mission Service Corps program, there were only 35 to 40 people actively serving.

"The ministry has grown tremendously, and a lot of needs have been met by that growth," he noted.

To learn more about Mission Service Corps in Kentucky, contact Allen at (888) 263-5080, or visit www.kybaptist.org/msc. National information about Mission Service Corps is available at www.namb.net/msc.

"I want to be that cold drink of water on a hot summer day to these people."

MSC missionary
Eleanor Bowers

Church outreach becomes laughing matter with comedy show

Continued from page 1

"It's getting harder to do relational evangelism," Waltermire said. "Today we're building privacy fences and have no solicitation laws. But now people will associate us with Dana Daniels."

The comedian's fee and expenses weren't cheap at several thousand dollars, but the church covered most of the cost through special offerings.

Tickets were distributed to people outside the church. To encourage visitors to provide contact information on the back of tickets, they offered door prizes donated

by area merchants.

Waltermire and two staff members learned about Daniels at a conference in San Diego last November that spotlighted atypical methods of outreach.

The pastor said they decided to book him for a winter event because his rates were lower at that time of year.

Big show, not big budget

In addition, they saved money by sharing travel expenses with another group hosting a show in Indianapolis and by booking a hotel room through a hotel discount

Web site.

A modest publicity budget prompted low-cost advertising as well. To spread the word about the event, Heritage printed 1,200 tickets and 300 door hangers and used a free cable-access channel.

Because of Daniels' experience, they also persuaded a major Lexington radio station to interview him on air the afternoon of the event.

Heritage's only advertising expenditure was \$200 for an ad in a monthly newspaper distributed in the Hamburg area.

Waltermire recommended that

churches wanting to use creative methods to reach their community scan magazines and the Western Recorder for ideas they can adapt to their situation.

Involving members in publicizing the event is a key to success, the pastor said.

"When people take ownership, that's when they'll come through," Waltermire said.

"We have to do something non-traditional to reach the world where it is," he added. "We live in a different world today. We find if we fish in the world and use different bait, the fish are still biting."

"We have to do something non-traditional to reach the world where it is."

Greg Waltermire, pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Lexington.

Mid-Continent University offering program for 'fast-track' bachelor's degree

Mayfield (BP)—Mid-Continent University recently announced the launch for a fast-track degree program called "Honors Elite."

Honors Elite will allow students to earn a bachelor's degree with a double major in global business ethics (business administration) and English communications in two and a half years.

"This type of program will be of interest to students who are interested in getting to graduate school ahead of schedule or who want to

get into the job market and earn income as soon as possible," said Mid-Continent President Robert Imhoff.

The program also will significantly reduce the cost of a four-year accredited degree, he added.

Mid-Continent is a four-year liberal arts institution recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, though the school does not receive Cooperative Program funds or trust funds from the KBC.

Honors Elite will not be "for

the faint of heart," a school news release noted.

It will include a "Great Books" component, encompassing 50 books in a range of disciplines and oral comprehensive exams before a juried faculty.

"Each student must demonstrate knowledge using reasoned thought and language skills," Imhoff said. Additionally, two three-hour-credit courses will involve travel study in various locations for 10- to 12-day periods.

In addition to the academic courses, students will be expected to engage in travel study and to serve as "University Ambassadors," performing weekly community service.

Students will enter the program as a cohort group and go through each course together. A new cohort group will begin with each 25 students admitted to the program.

For more information, contact the school's admissions office at (270) 247-8521, ext. 238.

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

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Seeking help is sign of strength

By Michael Blackwell

Thomasville, N.C. (BP)—They looked like the all-American family: Jim, the smiling, smartly dressed pastor of a loving church, and his wife, a short-order cook and concerned mother. The guidance and care they provided for their only son, Matt, shone through in his pleasant demeanor and above-average grades in school.

But this picture of happiness crumbled as he turned the corner from adolescence. Gradually, Matt's teenage behavior deteriorated. Not only did his grades drop with a thud, but he also became angry and violent, lashing out at his mother and other students.

Stressed out, Sandra felt relieved on occasions when Matt left the house, mumbling, "I'm going to see a friend." Of course, had she known that the friend happened to be her son's marijuana supplier, her peace would have flared into panic.

Despite Matt's efforts to hide the truth, it became too blatant to ignore. Afraid for their son's safety, concerned for what his future held and overcoming the fear of what their congregation might say, Jim and Sandra sought help. They took him to a boys' camp operated by the Baptist Children's Homes network in North Carolina.

There they learned that it was not just Matt who had a problem.

The whole family had to resolve the issues that had torn them apart.

Like other residents, Matt checked in with a load of emotional and behavioral baggage that was too heavy to lug around at home. He would spend the next two years releasing those feelings as he canoed hundreds of miles, backpacked to remote areas and swam in rivers, lakes and the ocean.

Soon after Matt checked in, a social worker discovered the source of his anger. When Matt was a toddler, his father had a drug problem, which caused a marital separation.

Although his father overcame his addiction, turned to God and reconciled his marriage, the scars remained. As Matt grew older, he also grew further apart from Jim. Like his father, he struggled to control his temper.

It took time coupled with intense personal effort and numerous counseling sessions to reconcile the family. Father and son learned how to agree and disagree.

Sandra saw her role in the situation, explaining, "We think as parents, 'Camp will fix the boys and send them home when they are finished.' But it doesn't work that way. We told Matt, 'It's not just you; we are all going to set goals.' We all had something to learn."

Though this story still is being written, it is headed in the right

FIRST PERSON

Re-examine lifestyles

Thanks to Bob Terry for the fine guest editorial—"Does your pastor have to live on 'beans'?"—in the March 15 issue of the Western Recorder. I personally know where he was coming from.

My father left a lucrative engineering position in the mid-1920s when I was a child to share in founding and leading a foreign mission society. He never received a salary from then until his death in 1978. We actually learned to pray for our "daily bread" because my family and my father's associates received

allowances only, determined by the totally unsolicited gifts mailed in by supporters of that mission society.

More than a few churches do not realize they have a bivocational ministry, made possible only by a full-time pastor and an employed wife who makes up the difference—perhaps.

I hope God uses Bob Terry's article to convict members of numerous churches to individually re-examine what they spend to support their lifestyles versus the amount their pastor's family receives for basic necessities—maybe.

I just as strongly hope that Terry's



God's Kingdom advancing in Kentucky, globally

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers" (Acts 16:5).

The purpose of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is to assist KBC churches and ministries and associations in connecting all people to Jesus Christ.

This is a time of unprecedented opportunity to seek the Lord, obey His Word, relate to people and communities, share our faith and live the Christian faith with passion and loving service through the local church.

In order to assist the churches, the KBC staff has incorporated the "Kentucky Baptists Connect" objectives and goals in all conferences since the launch of this initiative last November at the state convention. The KBC Committee on Order of Business will continue the emphasis at the 2005 state conven-

tion in Frankfort with a focus on "Strengthening Every Church."

By strengthening the local churches, the world mission of connecting "all" people to Jesus Christ has a strong foundation for long-term support. More than \$8.3 million in the proposed 2005-2006 budget will go to support national and international missions, including 10,000-plus missionaries and training 13,000 seminary students. When you combine the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings with the SBC Cooperative Program, 49 percent of the combined total for CP and offerings goes to missions work beyond Kentucky.

The entities of the Kentucky Baptist Convention are providing great support for Kentucky Baptists Connect by telling the story, building endowments, caring for children,

direction. Matt has returned home. He and his father enjoy fishing together, building model airplanes and working on the goals they set earlier.

But this improved state of affairs easily could have ended in disaster. His parents could have allowed fears of damaged pride, inconvenience or possible social reprisals to bottle up the truth. Sooner or later, ignoring brewing trouble is like lighting a stick of dynamite.

People often are reluctant to seek help for emotional, psychological, family or marital problems. Always trying to put on a happy face, they retreat into a state of denial. While denial can help one temporarily cope with harsh circumstances, it is foolish to pitch a tent in never-never land.

It reminds me of a cartoon I once saw showing a husband and wife sitting together at the breakfast table, sipping coffee. The wife is thinking, "Our marriage is in trouble. We better talk about it." The husband is thinking, "Our marriage is in trouble. I better keep my mouth shut."

No matter what the problem, take time to discuss it with a trusted friend, confidant, counselor or other adviser. Seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Adapted from the book, "Riches Beyond Measure" by Michael Blackwell with Ken Walker. Blackwell is the president of Baptist Children's Homes in North Carolina. Walker is a freelance writer in Louisville, and a state correspondent for Western Recorder.

article will send a message to church members who pay—and pastors who accept—high five-figure salaries. One pastor to my personal knowledge left a well-compensated short-term pastorate in our state for a \$92,000 salary elsewhere. I have often wondered how pastors, often prominent in denominational affairs, can look comfortably into the faces of fellow pastors who serve with a dedication without which some churches would close.

I have known pastors who could well part with a second tithe designated for the pastors for whom Terry wrote.

Donald MacDonald
Louisville

providing missions education, reaching people through camps and assemblies, providing medical care, providing a learning environment for older children and youth, and training great leaders for the future through Christian higher education.

Space does not permit me to tell the story of the extensive life-transforming ministries represented in the 2005-2006 budget, but you can be confident that the Kingdom of God is advancing in Kentucky and around the world. On behalf of all these ministries, I praise God for Kentucky Baptists who have a passion to sacrificially support Kingdom ministries and missions through the Cooperative Program.

The detail budget for 2005-2006 will be presented to the KBC Mission Board for approval at its May meeting. Please join me in praying for all of these Connect ministries.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Spring cleaning?
Don't forget your
financial records

By Jeremy White

With the first hints of spring, many of us are eager to tackle spring cleaning in our homes and garages. Out with the old, store away the winter items, open up and freshen up the house.

You might also need to do a spring cleaning with your financial records. What should you keep and what to throw out? Do you really need the bank statements from 10 years ago?

Let me offer two general guidelines. The first is to keep financial records that might have meaningful information. But never keep them just to keep them. If you wish to measure how much an investment has grown from the original amount, you might want to keep the original brokerage or confirmation statement, but discard the rest.

The second guideline is saving records for tax purposes. The IRS has a statute of limitations for three years from the date of filing. For example, your 2000 federal income tax return cannot be audited after April 15, 2004. Kentucky's statute is four years.

An exception is if the IRS finds that you understated your income by at least 25 percent, then they can go back six years and audit. If you have not filed a return, then no statute of limitations applies. This means the IRS could assess tax for any unfiled year.

Here are general guidelines for keeping financial records:

- Bank statements—seven years.
- Cancelled checks—four years.
- Charitable contribution receipts—seven years.
- Real estate deeds and purchase documents—permanently (while owned).
- Income tax returns—permanently.
- Supporting documentation for income tax returns—seven years.
- W-2s and 1099s—four years.
- Investments annual reports and prospectuses—one year.
- Insurance policies—permanently (while in force).
- Mortgages and loan documents—permanently (while outstanding).
- Utility bills—one year (unless supporting a tax deduction).
- Social Security earnings estimate benefit statements—one year.

Jeremy White, a certified public accountant in Paducah, has more record retention information on his Web site at www.consultcpa.com



Yahweh's 'marriage' to Israel reveals how to avoid divorce

Q: My husband and I have been married almost two years. When I was 12, my parents got a divorce. Because of what happened with my parents, I waited a long time to get married, afraid of ending up where my parents did. How can I make sure this doesn't happen to me?

The book of Hosea reveals the deep love and commitment Yahweh, the Lord God, has for Israel, the chosen people. The book compares this godly marriage to an earthly marriage.

MARRIAGE

Hosea 2:19-20 declares, "Israel, I will make you My wife; I will be true and faithful; I will show you constant love and mercy and make you Mine forever. I will keep My promise and make you Mine, and you will acknowledge Me as Lord."

There is no magic formula. These verses describe commitment, making a decision every day to belong to one another and no one else. These verses describe action, showing love regularly and repeatedly. It is clear in these verses that feelings of love and decisions of faithfulness are directed one way, toward the spouse.

In dating, individuals are willing to invest significant time, interest, thought, care and attention toward someone else. Marriages decay and fail because couples stop investing.

These verses in Hosea referring to marriage are describing what our culture does in dating. The investments happening in dating are not meant to end. Marriages that adhere to these verses and invest in one another as couples who are seriously dating are marriages that thrive. To know without a doubt your spouse's commitment to you and to witness daily your spouse actively loving you is the type of marriage God has for us.

If you bring unhealthy patterns of relating or harmful fears into your marriage relationship, take action. The narratives of Scripture demonstrate God consistently working on the relationship with Israel. If you think you can accomplish more than God without working on your marriage, think again. Follow in the footsteps of God.—Valerie Vincent

Q: What are "faith compromisers" and how do they affect my children?

In her excellent book, "Your Girl: Raising a Godly Daughter in an Ungodly World," Vicki Courtney lists 10 behaviors that she calls "faith compromisers." She explains that these issues involve whether parents' actions and attitudes are consistent with their expressed belief in Jesus.

PARENTING

Practiced consistently, Courtney warns, these "faith compromisers" will prevent you from passing on a vibrant, life-changing faith to your daughter or son.

1. Not attending church regularly.
2. Worshipping only on Sundays.
3. Worrying or failing to trust God in times of adversity.
4. Failing to put your money where your mouth is.
5. Being a whiner.
6. Not sharing your faith with others.
7. Molding your faith to fit your life instead of molding your life to fit your faith.
8. Failing to put your past in its place.
9. Being prideful and legalistic.
10. Failing to have a daily quiet time.

Courtney elaborates on the impact of each of these in a chapter titled, "A Heritage of Faith." Her thoughts remind parents who want to point their children to God that boys and girls are influenced more by what we do and who we are than by what we say. Children easily can tell what matters most to us, which in turn helps them evaluate and decide what will matter most to them.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

DOMs play key role in 'Connect' strategy

As Kentucky Baptists pursue "Kentucky Baptists Connect" goals through the end of the decade, grassroots Baptists in local churches will work closely with Kentucky Baptist Convention staff, agencies and institutions in an effort to transform the challenging goals into reality.

One other group that will play a key role in helping make "Connect" successful is associational directors of missions. The report of the KBC Mission Study Committee that launched the Connect emphasis notes that "the work of directors of missions and partnership with associations will be vital in carrying out the KBC mission, objectives and goals."

Taking a major step in that direction earlier this month, the KBC Mission Board staff hosted a two-day "KBC/DOM Connect" event at the Baptist Building in Louisville. Directors of missions from across the state interacted with Mission Board and entity staff members during listening sessions, prayer times, worship, fellowship and a KBC service fair.

The listening sessions were particularly significant as DOMs divided into small groups with convention staff members. The DOMs then shared information about what is happening in their associations, their dreams for the future and ways the KBC staff can become more effective partners with them.

During a pair of listening sessions I attended, I heard directors of missions share about such concerns in their regions as drug abuse, poverty, unemployment and lack of hope. They also expressed concerns about churches in conflict, churches without pastors and the many challenges small churches and bivocational pastors face.

On the positive side, the associational leaders talked about efforts to start churches, congregations offering counseling programs to address community needs and a growing focus on evangelism. They also highlighted ongoing ministry projects such as ministries to Hispanics, truckers, inmates and youth as well as disaster relief and covenant marriage emphases.

It was encouraging to sense their passion for ministry as they described the diverse ministry efforts under way in their various associations.

During an evening banquet at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, host pastor Les Hollon, a member of the KBC Mission Study Committee, reminded the DOMs and KBC staff, "We connect with each other in a common purpose: helping seekers become believers and helping believers become disciples."

Describing the KBC as "the healthiest state convention" in the nation, Hollon added, "We cannot afford to lose our unity in the midst of our diversity. ... What really holds us together are common experiences in Jesus Christ."

During a listening session the next morning, Gordon McDowell, director of missions for Lynn Baptist Association, summed up the essence of the Connect partnership: "We're all in the same business—sowing seeds to get people to know Jesus."

The practical application of that partnership involves pursuing such Connect goals as 250,000 new members—including 125,000 baptisms—in Kentucky Baptist churches by 2010, and seeking to keep at least 80 percent of new members involved in church.

Randy Jones, leader of the KBC missions growth team, said retaining new members will require an increased emphasis on discipleship. Noting that Kentucky Baptists historically have gained more converts than disciples, he added, "I feel like there is an emerging mandate for us corporately to focus on discipleship in Kentucky."

Affirming the directors of missions' shared perspective that "we're in this together to win people to Jesus Christ," Jones said, "There is a lot of wisdom, knowledge and experience out in the field. That is part of the Connect strategy—to find out what is working and why."

Participants on the church, associational and state convention levels all have crucial roles as Kentucky Baptists partner to "connect all people to Jesus Christ."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tannis Henderson

God's presence in the marketplace

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—In the Scriptures we find that the arena of God's constant activity is worked out primarily in and through the lives of those in the marketplace.

From Genesis to Revelation, we see the radical difference God made when He was present. He called Abraham, a successful businessman of his day. Joseph was called to rule over Egypt as governor. David was a shepherd and a king. Amos was a herdsman. Peter, James and John were fishermen. And in Mark 6:3 those in the synagogue said of Jesus: "Is this not the carpenter?"

Indeed, most of Jesus' ministry is not found in the synagogue. He was always at work with what the Father was doing in the marketplace. And He made a difference in the marketplace because when He was among them, the presence of God was among them. The blind could see. The deaf could hear. The lame could leap. Demons were cast out. When Jesus was present, all the fullness of God was present with Him.

When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, He was meeting her in her marketplace. There He brought the Kingdom of God to her life

and, in turn, God's great salvation impacted her entire city of Sychar. Then God touched the next city of Samaria and, ultimately, every town and village in her entire country (Acts 8:25; 9:31).

COMMENTARY

This remains God's strategy to reach a lost world today. God intends that every Christian live out His presence in their lives wherever He places them. His plan is for every local church to equip its members to function effectively and powerfully all week long in the marketplace. We are to be the light of Christ shining in a darkened world around us.

Why, then, do we not see a greater impact in our marketplaces? Why do we see such spiritual sickness in our culture? The answer is unbelief. When the disciples asked Jesus why they had failed to cure the demon-possessed son, Jesus said:

"Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

If there is a weeping in the heart of our Lord, it is the yearning for His people to truly believe what is pres-

ent in their marketplace when He is there in them. He's not looking for head knowledge; He's looking for a heart experience. For it is in our heart alone that we will recognize that Christ is present with us in our marketplace.

When we experience God and He has access to our lives, God can do anything He desires. But we must first be totally yielded to Him. There has to come a moment in our lives that we believe, know, trust and obey Him. Therefore, we cannot afford to have a quiet time and then go out into the secular world and invite Him in only periodically.

We must not only tell others about Christ, but we must die to self and let Christ live through us in our marketplace. We must show people the radical difference that God's power and provision can make in their lives.

I believe in these critical days God is marshalling His people to share, and be, His good news in the marketplaces of America. Many people are looking to know if there is a God, and God has chosen to reveal Himself through us. If we believe Him and release our lives to Him, we can save our nation—and the world will never be the same.

Henry Blackaby is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

Christian objectors unlikely to stop federal bankruptcy bill

"Supporters of this bill rail against irresponsible consumers. What about irresponsible lenders?"

U.S. Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.)

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—A group of Christian bankruptcy attorneys is protesting as unbiblical a bill headed for passage that would make it more difficult for many middle-income Americans to get out of debt.

The "Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005" was passed by the Senate earlier this month and is expected to be passed by the House and be signed by President Bush.

If the bill becomes law, many of those who now have their debts erased by filing for protection under Chapter 7 of the bankruptcy codes would instead have to file under Chapter 13, meaning they would be expected to repay many more of the debts they owe.

The credit-card and financial-services industries have pushed for

such legislation for almost eight years, but it has yet to make it out of Congress.

Senate vs. Old Testament?

A group of 70 Christians who are members of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys sent an open letter to religious leaders March 1 claiming the bill violates biblical principles.

"In the view of the creditors who have drafted and lobbied for the current Senate bill, it is the repayment of debt that is the most paramount duty of humans," the letter stated. "Under God's plan in the Old Testament, it was the creditor who was given the onerous commandment to lend and to give, not the debtor who was punished because he could not repay."

"Faced with declining real wages, job insecurity, long-term unemployment, out-sourcing of jobs to over-

seas markets and ever-rising health-care costs, American families have turned to increasingly expensive easy credit," the letter continued. "Yet, with the prime rate at its lowest level in more than 50 years, the credit-card banks have issued new cards to millions of American families at the highest of American interest rates in history. The current bill imposes no limitations on these exorbitant and usurious fees and charges."

But Christian economist James Sherk said it wasn't that simple a picture. The more strenuous Chapter 13 bankruptcy "still provides you with relief; it just requires you to repay your debts on a pre-determined schedule," said Sherk, an economics fellow with the Evangel Society journal. He said the bill still allows any bankruptcy filer making under the median income for his or her state to file under Chapter 7 rules.

Supporters of the bill insist it ad-

dresses a real problem. "A lot of people are using bankruptcy as a way to avoid paying their just debts," Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) said.

But legislators who oppose the bill said it would be immoral to pass it without amendments designed to ask for more accountability from credit-card companies.

"The bill is not a fair bill," said Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), noting that the credit-card industry made a record profit in 2003.

He told stories about friends whose toddler-aged children received credit-card offers in the mail.

"Supporters of this bill rail against irresponsible consumers. What about irresponsible lenders?" Durbin asked. "In the entire bill, there is nothing that tells the credit-card companies: 'If you are really worried about your losses, exercise better judgment about to whom you lend money.'"

Con artists preyed on faithful by promising to give 'miracle cars'

By Christopher Jensen
Cleveland Plain Dealer

Carson, Calif. (RNS)—Two con artists are serving time after scamming \$21 million from thousands of Christians by selling them cars that don't exist.

John Phillips III, an editor-at-large for Car and Driver magazine, wrote about this true and sad tale of predatory youth who steal money, faith and a belief in the goodness of others.

The scam-artists were Robert "Buddha" Gomez and James Randall Nichols.

Gomez, 19, was an outgoing, charming and sometimes volatile character from El Segundo, Calif. Nichols, 18, was a well-mannered youth who lived at home in Carson, Calif., where the family was involved in a Baptist church.

Late in 1997 Gomez told the Baptist congregation he had inherited an estate worth \$411 million, including thousands of late-model vehicles. Gomez said the vehicles came from John Bowers; a rich man who had adopted him long ago.

Bowers wanted to help troubled, needy "Christian men and women," Gomez said. The young man announced that he would give away "Miracle Cars," charging only \$1,000 for licensing and taxes.

Nichols recruited his reluctant mother, Rose, to take phone calls from eager members of the congregation, collect the money orders and hand them over. Word spread to other churches around the country. More buyers and local helpers were recruited. Those who paid were patient about delays getting the cars because they assumed a fellow Christian would act righteously.

When some buyers complained effectively enough, a few got refunds. Some of that money came from Rose Nichols, who took out a \$59,000 home equity loan to cover the losses.

"Apart from her kids, nothing in Rose's life was more important than her church," Phillips writes.

Federal investigators get involved

Before it was over, about 4,000 people—most of them already down on their luck and not really needing another kick in the teeth—would hand over money to the youths.

When the feds finally got involved, even some of them were shaken. A couple told veteran investigator Steve Hamilton that they so desperately needed a car they had prayed for help, and the Lord responded with a "miracle car."

"You'd finish an interview like that, and you'd get in your car and think you were going to cry," investigator Hamilton told Phillips. "It was so pitiful."

Late in 2003, Gomez was sentenced to 21 years, and Nichols got 24 years. Neither enjoys the possibility of parole.

Nichols left behind a young wife with three small children. Meanwhile, his mother, who so cherished her church and friends, went into seclusion.

But that doesn't quite end the story. Approximately \$8.7 million is still missing. Buddha told Phillips nobody will ever find the loot.

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CM:21

Children's Ministry in the Twenty First Century

For Leaders and Volunteers of Children's Ministry (birth-preteen)

Saturday, April 23, 2005 Westport Road Baptist Church, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville

8:30 am Registration

9:00 am Worship & Welcome

9:15 - 10:15am - Session One

How Children's Ministry Is Changing in the U.S.

Ten Ingredients for a Strong/Contemporary

Children's Ministry

10:15-10:30am - Break

10:30-11:30am - Session Two

Reaching and Shaping the Y2K Kid

What Every Child Needs Every Week

at Church

11:30-12:30pm - Lunch

12:30-1:30pm - Session Three

Child Evangelism from Infant to Preteen

1:30-1:45pm - Break

1:45-2:45pm - Session Four

Becoming a "Child-Friendly" Church

Marketing Tips for Your Ministry

Teacher: Art Murphy, author,
The Faith of a Child (Moody Press),

Founder/President of Arrow Ministries, Orlando, FL

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\$29 each, bargain rate for 10 or more advanced purchase

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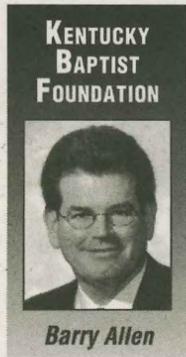
This service made possible by the Cooperative Program.



Living wills

Simple form can help families with difficult issue

Can you believe all the national attention the case of Terri Schiavo is getting? Schiavo, a Florida woman, suffered severe brain damage in 1990. She was 26 at the time. Court-appointed doctors have concluded she is in a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery. Her husband, who also is her legal guardian, has contended Terri would not want to be kept alive in that condition. Her parents, however, have insisted she could recover with treatment. This tragic family dispute has resulted in a bitter court battle that has been waged for more than seven years. And now, the U.S. Congress has become involved.



Barry Allen

a similar condition as Terri Schiavo, we can and should take control, while we are capable, and express our wishes concerning life-prolonging treatment.

Kentucky law recognizes your right to request or refuse treatment and to ask that life-prolonging treatment be stopped. If you have not already, let me encourage you prayerfully to consider what would be your wishes about the use of life support machines and medical treatment. Then put that decision in writing by using the living will directive. Your estate planning attorney can provide the form, or you can call us for a brochure produced

by Baptist Healthcare System that contains the Kentucky Revised Statutes form. Provide copies to all doctors who provide care on a regular basis, your hospital, family members, your attorney and close friends.

For more information about living wills and healthcare surrogate designations, call toll-free Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel.

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

Unfortunately, Terri Schiavo did not execute a living will prior to the incident that resulted in her severely brain-damaged condition. As a result, no one really knows for sure what would have been her wishes under these circumstances. It's her parents' word against her husband's.

Although you and I cannot control what other people might try to do should we find ourselves in

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 "He [Jesus] went into the synagogue ... and stood up for to ____" (Luke 4:16)
- 5 ____ Sea
- 8 Become wan
- 12 Inter ____
- 13 Mother lode
- 14 "For this ____ is mount Sinai in Arabia" (Galatians 4:25)
- 15 "Thou shalt lend unto ____ nations, and thou shalt not borrow" (Deuteronomy 28:12)
- 16 More, in Managua
- 17 Showy flower
- 18 Be quiet!
- 20 Where Esther lived, but not Mordecai
- 22 ____ Pan Alley
- 23 Belonging to a town near Bethel (Joshua 7)
- 24 Father of Jeroboam (1 Kings 16:3)
- 27 Drug prescription abbr.
- 28 Tore
- 31 Sixth month of the Jewish year
- 32 Mideast alliance (abbr.)
- 33 ____ it!
- 34 French possessive pronoun
- 35 Feminine name
- 36 "But let us watch and be ____" (1 Thessalonians 5:6)
- 37 Work unit
- 38 Summer home staple
- 39 Where Jesus delivered "The Olivet Discourse"
- 46 Goofs
- 47 Patriotic org.
- 48 Sacred vow

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39	40	41					42				43	44	45
46							47				48		
49							50				51		
					52						54		

- 49 Brand name in sauces
- 50 Pot adjunct
- 51 She sailed in 1492
- 52 Born (Fr.)
- 53 Parts of a century (abbr.)
- 54 Hidden obstacle

- 24 War zone, of the not too distant past (colloq.)
- 25 Netherlands city
- 26 ____ relief
- 27 Catch some rays
- 28 "To turn aside the needy ... that they may ____ the fatherless!" (Isaiah 10:2)
- 29 Fifth or Madison, e.g. (1 Samuel 14:50)
- 30 Uncle of Saul
- 32 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ____" (Psalm 1:1)
- 33 Parts of parliamentary procedure
- 35 Biblical verb
- 36 Costa del ____
- 37 "Let him seek peace, and ____ it" (1 Peter 3:11)
- 38 "He had made a scourge of small ____" (John 2:15)
- 39 Body of water, in Boulogne
- 40 Algerian seaport
- 41 Encourage
- 42 Not biased
- 43 "For ____ is the help of man" (Psalm 60:11)
- 44 Sicilian volcano
- 45 Carpet quality

Down

- 1 Candidates for offerings, as in burnt
- 2 King of Israel, while Asa reigned over Judah (1 Kings 16)
- 3 Indigenous, ethnic group of Japan
- 4 "Until the ... dawn, and the ____ arise in your hearts" (2 words, 2 Peter 1:19)
- 5 CD ____ (computer adjunct)
- 6 Historical time period
- 7 "We are perplexed, but not in ____" (2 Corinthians 4:8)
- 8 Old-fashioned fire fighters' needs
- 9 Site of the Taj Mahal
- 10 Describing nonclergy
- 11 Gaelic
- 19 Direct ____
- 21 First ____

Last week's solution

A	G	A	G	S	I	S	A	B	B	E			
M	I	L	A	H	A	P	L	A	E	L			
P	E	E	R	A	M	A	A	N	T	S			
R	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	C	E			
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E	B	E	R	E	L	D	R	E	T	S			

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SERIOUS CONCERNS

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

Isn't there something ...

... that can help folks get out of debt and handle their money better?

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Every week, our Financial Forum column offers practical ideas for applying biblical truths about handling money. Whether the topic is tithing, church budgets or personal debt, our experts have the experience and insights to help your members learn and apply sound financial concepts.

WESTERNRECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

'Tentmaker' sculpts churches in barren landscapes

In Wyoming, people are difficult to reach because they come from so many different backgrounds and share a common western independent mindset.

Continued from page 1

His calling to bivocational ministry is what drives his life, and his love of art is what provides his income.

Without O'Brien's studio it would be difficult to support his wife, Vickie, and family in a state where jobs are hard to come by.

The couple are Mission Service Corps missionaries with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Their work this year is among those highlighted during the Season of North American Missions, a period that includes the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's national goal is \$55 million.

The O'Briens were married in 1976 and participated in several mission trips as members of their Texas church. He began sculpting in the

early '80s and eventually decided to leave farming to see where his art career would go.

During the summer of 1995 the couple applied for Mission Service Corps status as they refined their calling through lay ministry. That's when they discovered the role "tentmakers" play in missions.

That term refers to those who provide their own funding in order to pursue their calling. It comes from the New Testament story of the Apostle Paul, who used his ability as a tentmaker to financially support his missions travels.

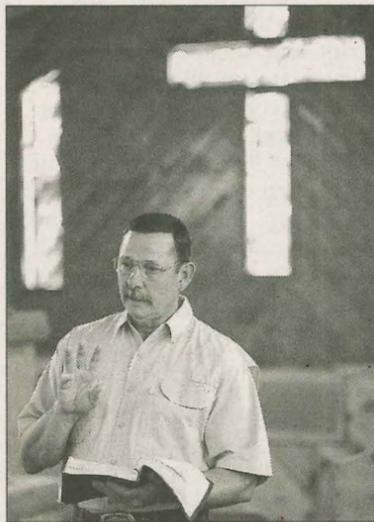
Moving to Wyoming

At first the O'Briens' four children were reluctant to consider such a move, but they trusted their parents as they, in turn, trusted God. That's how the family came to live and minister in the small town of Pavillion, Wyo., and opened O'Brien Studio in nearby Lander.

From that base, he has ministered in several churches as supply pastor, interim and full-time pastor—with the bulk of his income provided by his sculpting profession. Without that job, he notes, his ministry would be severely curtailed.

Wyoming is a beautiful, but harsh land, he says. It's a hard place to minister because it is big, wide-open country with a lot of distance between places. The people are difficult to reach because they come from so many different backgrounds and share a common western independent mindset.

"They feel that they don't need



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE Pastor, missionary and sculptor Terrell O'Brien leads a Bible study at Warm Valley Baptist Church in Pavillion, Wyo. The church is connecting with the community through a variety of outreach programs. (NAMB photos by John Swain)

anything or anyone—including God—to help them survive," he says.

The barrier between the Native American and Anglo cultures is also real and is complicated by the Native American religion. In addition, the welfare system in place on the reservation offers little in the way of motivation and often fosters an attitude of hopelessness.

The family joined a Native American congregation, the Wind River Baptist Church on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The couple served as MSC church strengtheners for two years before Terrell was called as interim pastor of Warm Valley Baptist Church, a struggling congregation

The Big Picture

■ Mission Service Corps exists to link self-funded missionaries and mission needs throughout North America.

■ MSC missionaries currently make up one-third of NAMB's total missionary count.

■ Last year MSC missionaries helped lead 17,043 people to accept Christ as Savior.

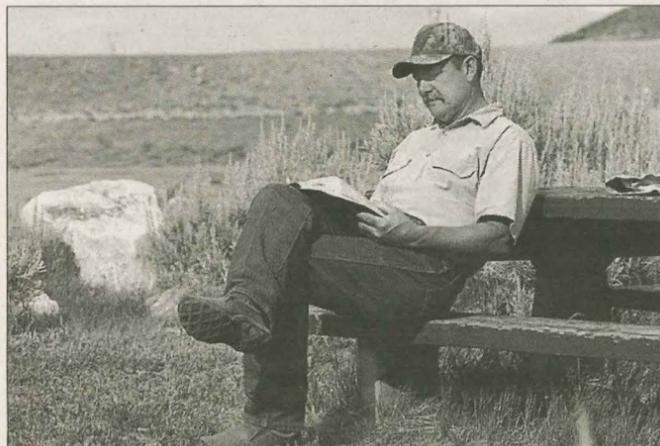
with only five members about 30 miles away in Pavillion.

"I had never pastored before, so it was a real step of faith. But our whole history in Wyoming has been about God showing us where to step and confirming those steps along the way. I have learned a great deal about hearing God speak to me in whatever way He wants, and then to follow that direction," he says.

He eventually served at Interim Valley Baptist Church as interim for 18 months before returning to Warm Valley on a full-time basis. The family celebrated its third anniversary with the church in January 2005. During these last few years the congregation has grown, added a small fellowship hall that doubles as Sunday school space, and many have come to faith in Christ.

Now, as nine-year residents in Wyoming, the family feels they are home and have put down roots. The church is averaging 40 people in attendance, and is reaching out into the community.

"I believe God is going to do a great work in this place," O'Brien says.



QUIET TIME Southern Baptist missionary Terrell O'Brien studies his Bible. He says Wyoming is a beautiful land, but a hard place to minister because of its size and wide-open country.



Meet some of the class of 2005, part 2

Graduating international student shares expectations and experiences at Oneida

Often, when guests come to our campus or when I am speaking in churches, people want to hear about Oneida Baptist Institute. I am not sure any two students hear about OBI in the same way. Many people think our international students are missionary kids, but most are not. While people around the world often do not like Americans or at least our government, it is the dream of many to come to the U.S. to go to school. If only our American children had the passion for learning that most of our international students have!

One of our international students is Mah, and yes, unlike most of the stories I write, that is her real name. Mah is from Zambia and Cameroon. She wanted to come to the U.S. because her brothers and sisters had been schooled in the States and she desired the same opportunity. She admits that her journey to the U.S. and eventually to Oneida was quite long. Like most of our international students, her arrival at OBI did not quite live up to her expectations. In her "My Oneida Experience" essay, she tells it this way: "I was anticipating to see the school with a shopping center, fast-food restaurants and many places where I could spend my free time. But Oneida turned out to be different from my expectations!"

Mah's first week at OBI was spent in the "sick room" in the girls' dormitory—not the most exciting place to be. Her mother also was ill from the trip and spent the week in our guest house. A trip or two to the doctor and the hospital were needed to cure their illnesses.

Like many of our students, Mah was an average student academically prior to enrolling at Oneida. She wrote, "On graduation day, I will be receiving the advanced diploma. In my sophomore year at Oneida I achieved being on the A and B honor roll for the first time, and I have remained on the honor roll ever since."

Many of our friends are surprised to discover that most of our international students are not Christians when they enroll. Jesus told His disciples that He came to "seek and to save those who were lost." OBI has a rich history of seeking and leading young people to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Mah was not a Christian when she came to our campus. In her essay she wrote, "The biggest change that has happened to me since I have been at Oneida is the acceptance of Christ in my life. One of the guys from a revival made me aware that just doing good things, like reading my Bible wouldn't get me salvation, but I needed to accept Jesus as my Savior, and understanding that Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for me. And so, I made the decision that I wanted to repent of my sins and I needed God to control my life. Accepting Christ changed the way I think about things and that affects the things I do."

Mah is just one of many international and American students who have made professions of faith in Christ Jesus while attending Oneida. We consider it a great joy that our many friends support this ministry at least in part because we welcome them and girls from around the world, whether they are Christians or not.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Handling the Lord's resources

Somerset couple weaves Christian values into lives

Somerset natives Charlie Bob and Margaret Ann Bowen have two former Southern Baptist conversion presidents, R.G. Lee and Wayne Dehoney, as part of their spiritual heritage.

"I was saved in a revival preached by R.G. Lee," Margaret Ann said. Wayne Dehoney preached the revival when Charlie was saved at First Baptist Church of Somerset, where he attended when he started dating Margaret Ann. They've shared 53 years of marriage. "The Lord has been really good to us," Charlie acknowledged.

At Somerset First Baptist, Margaret has served 40 years as children's division director. Charlie served many years as church trustee and clerk. "My mother was a Presbyterian but attended the Baptist church when her church did not have services," Margaret recalled. "I always cried at her church but never cried at the Baptist church; mother said I made a Baptist out of her." During grade school years, Margaret attended summer camp at Clear Creek Springs.

After two years in the Army, Charlie got his start in business selling Silver Mist flour. For 28 years he

operated Bowen's Office Outfitters in Somerset. He remembered his grandmother weaving when he was a child and made weaving a hobby. "I had a loom in our company warehouse," he stated. "When I got upset about something at work, I went to the warehouse and did some weaving. It is great therapy."

Their den contains a 26-inch, eight-harness loom; his latest project was a scarf for Margaret. If he needs a wooden shuttle, he can fashion it in his work-working shop, where he also has made beautiful furniture.

Last year Charlie and Margaret invested some funds in an annuity and made Clear Creek the beneficiary. Proceeds from the annuity will support our "workshop" program, providing campus jobs for 60-90 students.

"Everything we have is the Lord's," Charlie said. "He lets us handle it, and we're thankful to help support His work." We rejoice these two allowed Christian influences to be woven into the fabric of their lives; the design bears witness to Christ and will impact His Kingdom until Jesus comes.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Fuller seeking reinstatement at Habitat; forms parallel group

By John Pierce
Baptists Today

Americus, Ga. (ABP)—Habitat for Humanity International's full board of directors recently affirmed its executive committee's Jan. 31 decision to dismiss founding president Millard Fuller, but Fuller and many longtime supporters are not giving up.

"We are hoping and praying for some movement toward reconciliation and reinstatement," Fuller said, admitting that such action would be "a miracle."

Fuller, 70, said he and supporters from several Habitat affiliates launched a "parallel organization" Feb. 25 called Building Habitat, Inc.

"We are setting this up not to be in competition with Habitat for Humanity but to complement that ministry and to be supportive of various affiliates throughout the country and around the world," Fuller said.

Fuller and the Habitat board have clashed in recent years over leadership issues such as finances and expansion. The board's investigation into an accusation that Fuller inappropriately touched and made suggestive comments to a female employee in 2003 heightened the conflict.

In an Aug. 25, 2004, memo to employees, Habitat leaders stated there was "insufficient proof of inappropriate conduct."

But while Fuller's firing has brought an outpouring of sympathy and support, the Washington Post has reported that additional claims of sexual harassment have come also from some former Habitat employees and volunteers.

Repeated attempts last year to reconcile Habitat's founder with the board failed in January when Fuller was dismissed. Supporters called the firing an injustice toward a good and visionary man.

Board leaders said Fuller and his family violated an agreement not to make negative public comments about the board's actions.

Fuller said he and his supporters would like to merge their new organization into Habitat for Humanity if and when "reconciliation and reinstatement occur."

But board chairman Rey Ramsey has issued statements that Habitat is moving forward with its search for a new chief executive while interim leader Paul Leonard oversees the daily operation of the worldwide work now in 100 nations.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Habitat's best-known volunteer and a personal friend of Fuller, is honorary chair of the search committee seeking Fuller's successor.

Evangelicals working on broader agenda

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Global warming and other environmental problems have emerged as the most controversial issues within a national coalition trying to broaden the agenda of evangelical Christians.

At a Capitol Hill forum earlier this month, the National Association of Evangelicals formally unveiled a document, "For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility," that addresses a range of topics—from abortion and family issues to religious freedom, racial reconciliation and "care for God's earth."

The document was approved by the association's board in October and has been signed by more than 80 evangelical leaders. But some who embraced the overall plan now are raising questions about its environmental emphasis.

"There are great sentiments about broad issues, about bringing

evangelicals together, particularly whites and blacks," said Tom Minery—vice president of public policy for the conservative, Colorado-based Focus on the Family—in an interview. "The movement to preserve marriage characterizes evangelicalism. The issue of global warming does not characterize evangelicalism."

Mariam Bell, national director of public policy for Prison Fellowship's Wilberforce Forum, agreed, saying Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson, an influential conservative, questioned where the discussion is headed.

"He is concerned that this could possibly be co-opted, this whole wonderful initiative, by the environmental left," she said in an interview.

Ron Sider, one of the principal authors of the document, said association leaders have received mostly positive responses to the overall document and are addressing environmental issues along

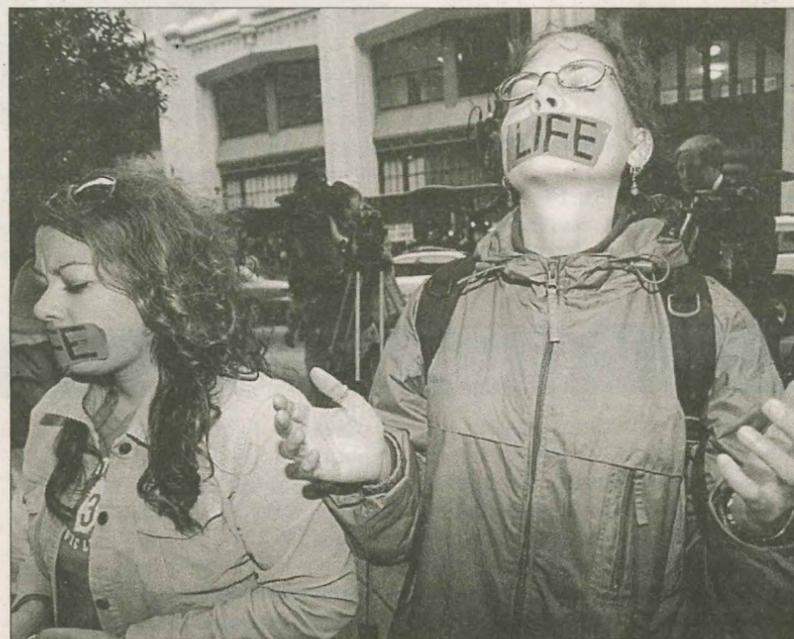
with other topics.

"They're not in any way making that their central crusade," said Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action, a more moderate group. "What's happening is you're getting a more biblically balanced agenda, which is exactly what the document calls for."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, a Jewish Democrat from Connecticut, addressed the crowd of more than 120 by urging their advocacy on reduction of global warming, a topic of legislation he has co-sponsored.

"I hope you will join us in this effort to not only cultivate but better protect the earth or once more we will lose the garden for ourselves and for generations to come," he said, referring to the Garden of Eden.

Other forum speakers said the document highlights the need to move beyond a focus on political parties and to concentrate in a new way on issues such as race relations.



SCHIAVO PROTEST Aysha Rogers (right) and Sara Rodriguez with "The Cause USA" stand in front of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta March 22. Attorneys for Terri Schiavo filed a notice of appeal with the court. (RNS/Reuters photo)

Survey finds not all Christians agree with keeping Schiavo alive

Washington (RNS)—Despite intense lobbying by Christian conservatives on behalf of Terri Schiavo, a brain-damaged Florida woman whose feeding tube was removed March 18, a majority of churchgoing Americans told a recent Gallup poll they believe Schiavo should be removed from life support.

About half—51 percent—of people who attend church weekly supported the decision, joined by 55 percent who attend monthly and 60 percent who attend seldom or never, the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found.

Just 37 percent of weekly attendees opposed the decision, followed by 31 percent of monthly worshippers and 27 percent of occasional attendees. The poll did not detail which faith groups were asked the question.

Schiavo's parents have so far been unsuccessful in having the tube reinserted, despite support from Congress and President Bush. A federal judge ruled March 22

that Schiavo should be allowed to die; that ruling was upheld by a three-judge appellate panel March 23.

Overall, 56 percent of Americans supported the decision to remove the tube (31 percent opposed), suggesting that the fervor of religious conservatives to keep her alive is not shared by the general public.

Majorities of Republicans, independents and Democrats who were polled said they supported the decision. Just half—50 percent—of conservatives supported the decision (38 percent opposed), while majorities of moderates and liberals also supported it.

Fifty-six percent of Americans said they would make the same decision if their child were in the same position, and 61 percent agreed if it were their spouse. The poll of 909 adults, conducted March 18-20, had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

NATIONAL NOTES

Constitutional marriage amendment re-introduced in House.

Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.) introduced an amendment banning same-sex marriage March 17—three days after a judge in his home state issued a ruling legalizing gay marriage. Although Lungren once did not support a marriage amendment, he said he changed his mind in light of recent court rulings. The amendment would prevent state and federal courts from legalizing gay marriage. It would invalidate Massachusetts' same-sex marriages. A different version has been introduced in the Senate.

Church-politicking bill reintroduced.

Despite the death of similar bills the past two years, Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) again introduced a version of the "Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act." It would allow churches and other houses of worship to endorse political candidates and parties without losing their tax-exempt status. Since the 1950s, the federal tax codes have prohibited churches—and other non-profit groups organized under section 501(c)(3) of the code—from getting involved in partisan politics. The bill is House Resolution 235.

United Nations OKs nonbinding cloning ban.

The United Nations General Assembly passed a nonbinding resolution March 8 calling on its members to enact comprehensive bans on human cloning. The 191-member assembly voted 84-34 for the declaration, with 37 abstentions. The measure calls on countries to "prohibit all forms of human cloning inasmuch as they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life," thereby impacting cloning for both reproductive and research purposes.

Alabama, Tennessee voters to decide marriage amendment.

Alabama and Tennessee legislators voted earlier this month to send constitutional marriage amendments to voters. Alabama's vote will be at the next statewide election, June 2006. Tennessee's next statewide election is November 2006. They could be decided sooner if a special election is held. This year, Kansas and South Dakota legislatures also have sent amendments to citizens. A marriage amendment never has failed at the ballot box. Last year voters in Kentucky and 12 other states passed amendments.

Oregon reports 37 doctor-assisted suicides in 2004.

Thirty-seven Oregonians died by doctor-assisted suicide last year, a slight decrease from 42 the year before, according to a new state report. During the seven-year history of Oregon's Death With Dignity Act, assisted-suicide has accounted for 208 deaths—roughly one in 1,000 deaths in the state. In 2004, 40 doctors wrote a total of 60 prescriptions for lethal doses of barbiturates. The prescription total fell from 68 the year before—the first decrease in prescriptions since doctor-assisted suicide became legal in Oregon.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

West Kentucky Baptist Association's Columbus Park ministry. Director of Missions Ray Provow and associational leaders are developing a ministry to provide a Christian witness and an evangelistic emphasis to campers visiting Columbus Park. Leaders want to provide an on-site chaplain to coordinate evangelistic events, worship services and volunteer groups that will help with children's clubs, concerts and other activities. Pray that God will send a long-term missionary volunteer to serve as coordinator. Pray also that someone will provide a large camper trailer to place on the site to use as a "home base" for the ministry and missionary.

Mission Service Corps missionaries Lewis and Anne Faulkenberry of Hazel Green.

The Faulkenberrys will begin in April directing Red River Baptist Association's ministry at Hazel Green. In addition to helping with child development and mobilizing volunteer mission groups, the Faulkenberrys will begin a church plant in the Hazel Green Academy. This county is one of five in Kentucky that is more unchurched than many places in Africa. Pray that God will meet their needs and provide physical strength as they make the move and begin this new ministry. Pray also that the community will respond positively to the Faulkenberrys' leadership and the gospel of Christ as it is shared and lived out among them.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—Cannonsburg First Church recently ordained **R.D. Campbell, Fred Hatfield and Roger Hutchinson** as deacons. **Stan Williams** is pastor.

First Church will host the **Morehead State University Concert Choir** March 29, 7:30 p.m. **Edwin Talley** is pastor.

■ **BAGDAD**—Christiansburg Church recently called **Bill Rosette** as children and youth minister. **Doug Sturgeon** is pastor.

■ **BEREA**—Bethel Church will hold revival services April 3-6, 7 p.m., with **Chad Burdette** as evangelist.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—West Broadway Church will host a four-week workshop on grief April 5, 12, 19 and 26, 6 p.m. To register, call (502) 491-1920.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Grapevine Church will present the seminar, "Disability Ministries Information for Dummies," April 30, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For information, call (270) 821-5117 or visit www.grapevinebaptistchurch.org.

■ **MANCHESTER**—White Hall Church will hold revival services April 17 at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. and April 18-20, 7 p.m., with **Florin Muresan** of Romania as evangelist.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—**Raymond Bishop** will retire April 3 after 15 years as senior pastor of Crosswoods Church. The church will host a

reception in his honor April 2, 2-5 p.m. Bishop previously was minister of music and youth at Gardenside Church in Lexington and served other churches in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church recently honored **Cecil and Shirley Carner** on their 50th wedding anniversary. **Kevin McCallon** is pastor.

■ **PINSONFORK**—McVeigh Church recently called **Larry Davis** as interim pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Hays Fork Church will hold revival services April 6-10, 7 p.m., with **Keith McWhorter** as evangelist.

Kirkville Church will hold revival services April 17-20, 7 p.m., with **James Wedding** as evangelist.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Bethlehem Church recently honored **Denny and Norma Elaine Goode** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church will hold revival services April 10-14, 7 p.m.

Waco Church will hold revival services April 3-7, 6:45 p.m., with **Lester Caldwell** as evangelist.

■ **WADDY**—Graefenburg Church recently called **Alan Witham** as interim pastor.

■ **WEST POINT**—Stites Station Church will hold revival services April 10-17, 7 p.m. **Darrell Pool** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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



HEALTH FAIR Hall Street Baptist Church in Owensboro recently hosted a health and wellness fair that attracted approximately 250 participants. Pastor Joe Kitchens said the event was designed to help minister to senior adults' physical, mental and spiritual needs. Exhibits included health screenings for nutrition, bone density, diabetes and other tests as well as stretching demonstrations, financial planning, crime prevention and other activities.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CONVENTION: Nashville SBC package. Comfort Inn, \$50 per person, per night, double occupancy. Free parking, breakfast, shuttle, taxes included. Other hotels available. Christian Travelers, (800) 972-8952. www.christiantravelers.com.

FOR RENT: 2BR/2BA condo in Destin, Fla., across the street from beach. Available May, July, August. Phone: (502) 538-6769.

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

SEEKING: Secretary. First Baptist Church Shelbyville, 2803 Woodlawn Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065-9354, Attn: Personnel Chairman.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education/discipleship for First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky. Responsibilities include the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ through biblical teachings, facilitating ministry opportunities, and assisting with pastoral care. The position is responsible for developing, managing and evaluating a comprehensive program of Christian education for every age and level of Christian maturation, with special emphasis on adult education. Ability to build and maintain effective working relationships and rapport with members, prospects and staff is required. Compensation includes salary, vacation, insurance, SECA and retirement. Send cover letter, resumé, salary history and available starting date to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern ByPass, Richmond, KY 40475, or via e-mail to richard.landiers@firstbaptistnet.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Southern Baptist church between Mt. Vernon and Berea, Ky. Diverse membership with approximately 200 enrolled, 140 average SS attendance, 300 Bible school attendance and growing youth group. Missions oriented. Bible college or seminary preferable. Send resumé to: Fairview Baptist Church, Route 3, Box 347, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456.

SEEKING: Full-time, conservative Southern Baptist pastor for Fellowship First Baptist Church, High Ridge, Mo. Located in a rapidly growing area of Jefferson County. Accepting resúmes through 4-30-05. Please send to: Pulpit Search Committee, 2735 High Ridge Blvd. High Ridge, MO 63049. Fbchr@brick.net. www.fellowshipbaptisthr.org.

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: Pianist/organist for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Strong accompanying skills required. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee. Questions: call (502) 239-0316 (Linda Barnes Popham, pastor).

SEEKING: Part-time ministers in the areas of youth, children and recreation. Applicants must be spiritually mature, enthusiastic and creative. Send resúmes to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Graefenburg Baptist Church, Waddy, Ky. Please send resumé to 11288 Frankfort Road, Waddy, KY 40076.

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

SEEKING: Full-time 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 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: Children and education minister for First Baptist Church, Fernandina Beach, Fla., on Amelia Island. Located in a growing community with a deep history steeped in tradition, we are seeking a minister with a vision for the future and an appreciation of our past. Minimum requirement: seminary degree in education and/or children's ministry. Resúmes to: Children/Education Ministry Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 416 Alachua Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

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: latonia.baptist@insightbb.com. Web site: www.latoniabaptist.org.

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: 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 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.

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

Old-fashioned hymn sing



Approximately 1,000 people attended last week's "community hymn sing" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Alumni Chapel. The event featured three major musicians from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: choir director Cliff Barrows, organist Don Hustad and pianist John Innes. In addition to singing, the three musicians shared insights from their experiences through the years at Billy Graham crusades.

■ **Above:** Barrows leads the congregation in a hymn. ■ **Right:** Barrows (right) shares a moment with Hustad, who also is a senior professor of music at Southern Seminary. "The Christian faith is a singing faith," Barrows said before the event. "And a good way to express it and share it with others is in community singing." (Southern Seminary photos by David Merrifield)



Warren ministering to kidnapping victim

Lake Forest, Calif.—Pastor Rick Warren last week told USA Today newspaper that he prays and reads the Bible with the woman who credits his book for saving her life.

Ashley Smith told reporters March 13 that she piqued her abductor's interest by reading from Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life."

"As soon as I heard about this, we were in touch by e-mail, and now we are in regular pastoral conversation," Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life," told the newspaper.

"We talk every day about verses of the Bible and pray together, and I encourage her."

Police say Brian Nichols shot his way out of an Atlanta courthouse and killed four people before taking Smith hostage in her apartment.

During her ordeal, Smith says she asked Nichols' permission to read and then read aloud from

chapter 33 of the book, which begins: "We serve God by serving others." She said Nichols stopped her after the first paragraph and asked her to read it again.

Smith suggested that Nichols' purpose might be to surrender, go to prison and tell others about God.

Smith "understands grace"

Warren said Smith is doing well. "This is a woman who understands grace," he told the paper. "She's gone through some tough times in her own life, and that's why she was able to be gracious to Brian. Ashley saw him as someone who was hurting."

Warren predicted he will try to contact Nichols after Easter. He was scheduled to lead 13 services at Saddleback Community Church, the Southern California church he and his wife founded 25 years ago.

Publicity surrounding Smith's

abduction and release have caused sales of "Purpose Driven Life" to spike again.

By March 14, the day after Smith's press conference, the book had jumped from No. 79 on the Amazon.com best-seller list to No. 2. Since its release in October 2002, "The Purpose Driven Life" has sold more than 21 million copies.

At amazon.com, the only book selling more quickly was pre-ordered copies of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," to be released in July.

Warren declined to take any credit for the incident or the book's success. "There's not a single new thought in 'Purpose Driven Life' that hasn't been said in historic Christianity or Judaism," he told USA Today. "I'm just a communicator for the 21st century."

With additional reporting by Religion News Service



EASTER LABYRINTH Parishioners at Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal in Augusta, Ga., take a walk through a labyrinth painted on the concrete floor of the church's parish hall. Some walkers carry strips of red fabric to leave at the center of the labyrinth—symbolic of spiritual and emotional burdens, such as sins, guilt, unforgiveness or past hurts.

Labyrinth walk growing popular with wide variety of Christians

By Marcia Davis
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—This Easter season, lines formed on church campuses and in parish halls to walk labyrinths in a metaphoric search for treasures of the spirit and the soul.

As churches incorporated the labyrinth in Lenten and Easter rituals, they drew a different crowd, more comfortable moving through a physical faith walk than sitting passively in church pews.

Labyrinth trekkers say they can move closer to God, peel away layers of hurt, or find solace from a stressful walking-on-eggshells lifestyle.

Labyrinths are pathways painted on canvas for portability, stained on concrete sanctuary floors, or, when outdoors, set in stone or terrazzo. They can be paved with brick, or planted in grass with pathways of mulch.

Labyrinth designs are not random, but follow the patterns of what is considered sacred geometry.

"Ancient tradition in the French Gothic Cathedrals at Easter was for clergy to walk the labyrinth singing hymns and tossing a golden ball back and forth in the name of the risen Christ," according to Lauren Artress, a San Francisco author on labyrinths and head of Veriditas, the World Wide Labyrinth Project.

Artress, widely credited with bringing the labyrinth into contemporary Christian churches, travels the country helping people understand and apply the labyrinth. "The trend has caught on so in churches of every denomination," she said, "because spiritual hunger is so great right now. People so want to connect deeply in a prayer life."

The labyrinth draws out the spiritual natures of children, youth and adults of all ages, Artress said.

Like many who walk "the L" regularly, she considers the walk a metaphor for one's life or spiritual journey.

"It's important that you understand there is no right way or wrong way to walk it," said Artress.

"Children love to run it ... then, wind down and uncoil to be very quiet in the center. ... It's not a maze. You can't get lost—there's only one way in to the center and the same way out."

Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church in Cary, N.C.; Faith Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, Ill.; and River Road Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., used labyrinth-painted canvases for Easter and Holy Week walks.

At Kessler Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, the newly dedicated outdoor terrazzo labyrinth was host to the youth's sunrise Easter service.

Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal in Augusta, Ga., hosted labyrinth walks each Friday during Lent, and on Easter weekend. The labyrinth, stained in brown and white on the parish hall floor, was set up with the 12 stations of the cross representing the walk that Jesus made between the time of His persecution and His Resurrection.

Parish nurse Karen Hill was instrumental in making the labyrinth part of the church's new building plans. She is helping teach the congregation about it.

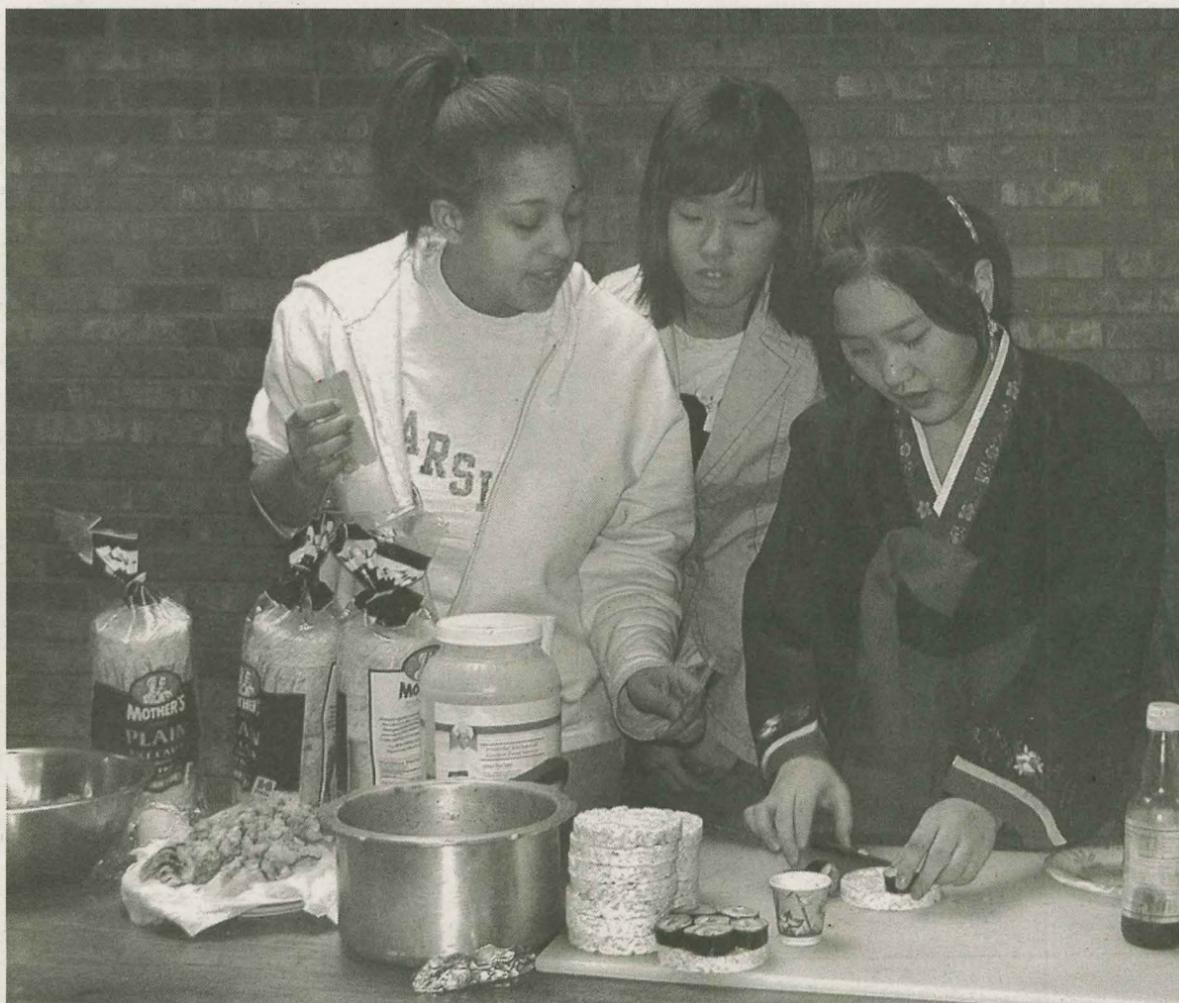
"People need to know it's not anything about magic, and it's not to be used or thought of as a Ouija board," Hill said earlier this month.

"On Easter, we will have a liturgy, then gather at the entrance of the labyrinth and invite the Holy Spirit to come. Each person can pray for whatever they are asking from the walk: forgiveness, self-reflection, self-examination, enlightenment, healing, guidance."

Oneida Baptist Institute: a place where cultures meet.

*"Dee Dee" Torbert helped
Ye-Ra Han and Hae-Jin Bae
put finishing touches
on their food in preparation
for the 2005 OBI Culture Fair.*

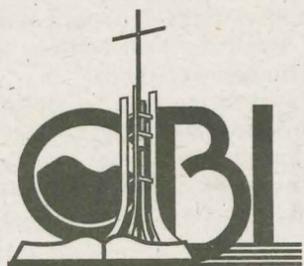
*The Korean students cooked
some of the most
exotic food at the fair,
including sushi and squid.*



One of the things that makes Oneida Baptist Institute unique is the diversity among our student body. This year we have 29 international students from 10 different countries. This diversity is a feature that many of our young people cite as one of the most memorable aspects of their OBI experiences.

Our international students come from a variety of religious backgrounds. Many are not Christians when they enroll. This gives us an opportunity to be involved in local, state, U.S. and international missions. At Oneida, teenagers from all around the world hear the Gospel message every school day in chapel. They attend Sunday worship services and are taught by Christian faculty. Those who accept Christ serve as His ambassadors when they return to their homelands.

Please pray for God's saving light to reach the nations . . . right here at OBI.



Education for Time and Eternity

Would you like to learn more about us?

Oneida Baptist Institute

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