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## Survey: Most 18- to 25-year-olds either 'godless' or 'undecided'

Washington (RNS)—Forty-six percent of 18- to 25-year-olds classified themselves as "undecided" about their faith, while 27 percent said they were "godly" or highly religious, according to a study released April 11 by Reboot, a national network of Jewish adults.

The remaining 27 percent in the national study defined themselves as "godless" or secular, said the survey of 1,385 young people.

The study referred to "Generation Y," those born between 1980 and 2000, as a "generation of individuals" who choose between faiths just as easily as they click to play their own songs on a digital music player.

But unlike the music industry, most churches do not hold focus groups to find out what might get them into the pews more often, said Reboot co-founder Roger Bennett.

Bennett said the motivations of young people are changing. "The question is whether major denominations will be able to tap into that."

The report found young adults are expressing religion in more casual ways than their parents did. Praying before meals (55 percent), chatting with friends (38 percent) and reading religious literature (33 percent) were seen as alternatives to attending religious services.

## Abducted

*Woman recounts every parent's nightmare to help victims & churches*

By Sherri Brown  
*The (Georgia) Christian Index*

LaGrange, Ga.—It was a cold November night; weather reports predicted the first frost of the season. The ride to the small Atlanta church wasn't long and the car was warm.

During the ride, 3-year-old Linda Foley recited for her parents the Bible verse she had been learning that week: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose."

At church the little girl decided she wanted to stay in the worship service with her parents instead of heading for the nursery. But about halfway through the service, Linda had to use the restroom. She asked her parents if she could go by herself. Her father said that would be fine. Her mother told her to return quickly.

Heading downstairs to the restroom, the toddler was surprised to see a man she didn't know standing in the stairwell. He spoke to her; she told him she had to go potty.

Returning up the stairs, she was startled to see the man still standing in the stairwell.

"I know you don't know me," he said. "But I've got some candy in my truck. And I've got a little girl at home just your age who would really like to play with you. Would you like to go see her?"

□ See Woman shares story ... *Page 8*



**RECOVERY** DeKalb County Detective C.A. Bone, left, carries Linda Foley from the Grady Hospital emergency room in 1967 after she was recovered. She had been kidnapped from her suburban Atlanta church. This United Press International photo, which also shows Atlanta Homicide Det. Lt. Marvin Moon, was distributed nationwide along with 3-year-old Foley's story.

## Nevada Baptist missionary helps start churches out on range

By Joe Westbury  
*SBC North American Mission Board*

Fallon, Nev.—After a week of driving, having put 900 miles on his car, Mitch Bryant watches the sunset as he pulls into the driveway of his home.

Driving between churches in Nevada is nothing like what he was used to back home in Arkansas when he would visit fellow pastors.

Now, as associational missionary for Lahontan Baptist Association, he thinks nothing of driving 175 miles to visit a church.

His association is one of only four in the state and covers an area of 45,000 square miles. It includes five counties in west central Nevada and boasts of 16 churches and six missions. He bases his ministry in the town of Fallon, 60 miles east of Reno.

Bryant battles a variety of prob-

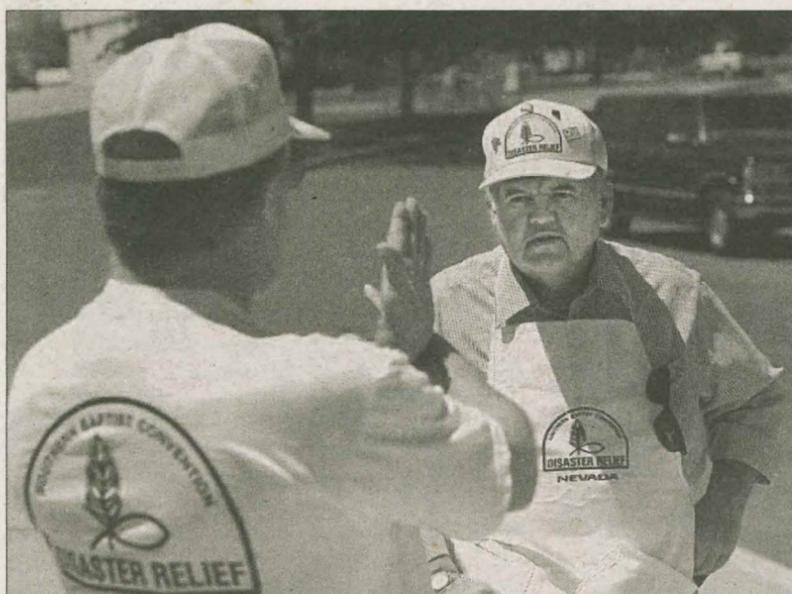
lems in trying to stitch the churches together into a Baptist quilt thrown over this part of the state. One of the biggest issues is the loneliness and isolation that permeates the lives of the pastors and their families.

"The population out here is really scattered. Most of our people live in population centers near a county seat, but once you get outside of the city limits you don't see many residents. There are some groups of people who live on cattle and dairy farms and ranches, but those are even more isolated than the towns are," he explains.

Bryant and his wife, Sandi, are among nearly 5,200 missionaries in the United States and Canada supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's national goal is \$55 million.

□ See Nevada missionary ... *Page 12*

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**DISASTER RELIEF** Mitch Bryant (right) wears many hats as associational missionary in west central Nevada, including that of disaster relief volunteer during training in Fallon. Bryant's association encompasses 45,000 square miles as one of only four associations in the state. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

## Long-term tsunami relief

*Texas Baptist group invited to lead foster-care efforts in Sri Lanka*

**"God continues to open new doors to help children and families."**

Kevin Dinnin, director of Children's Emergency Relief International

By Craig Bird  
Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—The government of Sri Lanka has invited a Texas Baptist agency to shape the country's first child protective services program as part of ongoing tsunami relief efforts.

David Beckett, who was instrumental in connecting both Texas Baptist Men and Baptist Child and Family Services to victims of the disaster, has been named Sri Lanka director for Children's Emergency Relief International, the overseas arm of the child-welfare agency. In that role, he already has started responding to requests from national and provincial administrators to shape a program to provide long-term care for children who lost one or both parents to the killer waves.

"Initial estimates of 10,000 orphans were significantly overstated, but there are still hundreds—maybe thousands—of children at risk," Beckett said. "And the Sri Lankan officials are to be commended not only for responding to the immediate pressing needs, but for being forward-looking enough to seek a permanent solution to the ongoing needs of children that will last long after the horror of Dec. 26 fades."

"Many of the orphans predate the tsunami," he added. "They are victims of a civil war that started 20 years ago."

### "Great relationships" formed

Since CERI was the only aid group in Sri Lanka with foster-care expertise, the San Antonio-based agency unexpectedly found itself sitting at the table with government officials and representatives of larger agencies such as UNICEF, Save the Children, the Red Cross and World Vision.

"There was an understandable fear by Sri Lankan officials, who



**TSUNAMI RELIEF** A family in Sri Lanka sits down to a hot meal provided by Southern Baptists in the aftermath of the Dec. 26 tsunami. Government officials have invited a Texas Baptist agency to shape a program to provide long-term care for Sri Lankan children. (IMB photo)

wanted to know who we were (and what we did, but we quickly formed some great relationships," Beckett said. "The Sri Lankan people love children, so we had that in common. When I had my first meeting with the provincial (commissioner), she told me that two days before she had told her co-workers, 'We have to set up some kind of foster program, but how can we do that since we don't have anyone who knows how?' We developed a solid friendship very quickly."

CERI will begin a pilot program this month with approximately 50 children in the area around the coastal city of Batticaloa. Both groups have concentrated their relief efforts in that hard-hit region.

"The government has already invited us to go into three other provinces, but we want to make sure we are doing the right things in the right way before we accept

that invitation," Beckett noted. "The urgency of the first weeks has been eased because all the children have been placed with extended family or friends. What we will be doing is organizing a system that will provide support for those children and their caregivers along with counseling services and a structure to insure the children are treated safely."

### Training social workers

CERI also has been asked to train government social workers who will staff the program.

Beckett projects building several "camp facilities" that can offer day care and summer programs—providing relief for the foster parents.

"The families who are caring for them need time to put their own lives back together and resume their jobs," he said. "This will free them to do that as well as offer the

children educational, recreational, and counseling programs."

Beckett and his wife, Kim, previously involved in independent ministry work, had moved to Sri Lanka one week before the tsunami hit.

As a member of Curry Creek Baptist Church in Boerne, Texas, Beckett had worked on disaster relief teams with Texas Baptist Men. After the tsunami killed and shattered hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses, he called the TBM to see if they could help. Then when the first reports of numerous orphans were broadcast, Beckett's wife reminded him of his trip to Moldova with CERI and how impressed he had been with CERI's work setting up that country's foster-care program.

When the government said they would welcome such help, Beckett called Kevin Dinnin, the director of BCFS/CERI and five days later a CERI team was on the ground assessing child-care needs.

The Beckett family flew back to Sri Lanka March 24 after a three-week crash course in child care in San Antonio.

Beckett and BCFS administrators crafted procedures and guidelines for the program that would maintain the ability to take care of the children while being culturally appropriate for the religiously diverse Asian country.

"God continues to open new doors to help children and families and to bring amazing people, like David and Kim, into our ministries," Dinnin noted.

"We're just going to try to be faithful to His leadership and to be good stewards of the resources Texas Baptists and our other friends have given us to invest in Sri Lanka," he added. "I can hardly wait to see what happens next."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**GuideStone plans wellness walk/run.** GuideStone Financial Resources will sponsor the third annual Living@YourBest Wellness Walk/Run during the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Nashville. SBC messengers and their families are invited to participate in the one-mile or 5K events June 21, 6:15 a.m., at Hilton Park across from the Country Music Hall of Fame. Registration is available online at [www.GuideStone.org](http://www.GuideStone.org) or by calling (800) 262-0511.

**Southeastern raises \$16.9 million.** Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's capital fundraising campaign "Scholarship on Fire!" has exceeded its first-phase goal, with more than \$16.9 million received in gifts and pledges. Seminary President Daniel Akin said a significant portion of the gifts will be used to fund the construction of the Patterson Campus Center, a 59,000-square-foot facility that will serve as the hub of campus life. Funds also will be used for Southeastern's endowment and student scholarships. "Scholarship on Fire!" is a 10-year, \$50-million investment campaign approved by the trustees in 2002. In other action, trustees elected Anthony Allen, 36, as Southeastern's vice president for institutional advancement. He will succeed Bart Neal, who will retire in the fall.

**LifeWay partnerships director to retire.** Bill Taylor, director of Resources partnerships for LifeWay Christian Resources, will retire July 1 after more than 10 years of service with LifeWay. He plans to launch a ministry focused on equipping, mobilizing and providing cutting-edge development for Christian educators around the world. Earlier this year, he helped plan and carry out LifeWay's first Ridgecrest Education Boot Camp at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. Bill Henry, LifeWay's managing director of network partnerships, will serve as acting director until a permanent director is named.

**Records author parenting resources.** "Launching Your Kids for Life," a new book by Bob Record, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, and his wife, Cheryl, focuses on preparing children for a successful life. The book, released in March by W Publishing Group, uses the analogy of a successful space shuttle launch. It seeks to help parents model being on mission where they are. "A successful journey to adulthood doesn't happen by accident," Record noted. He said parents "need to equip their children, prepare them for life's challenges, help them discover their life's mission and celebrate the milestones along the way."

## Corts to retire after 23 years as president of Samford University

Birmingham, Ala.—Samford University President Thomas Corts, who has led Alabama's largest private university for 22 years, will retire in May 2006, or earlier if his successor is named before then.

Corts, 63, announced his retirement plans April 14 to a joint meeting of the board of trustees and Samford board of overseers, and immediately afterward to a gathering of students, faculty and staff. He said he believes it's "time for fresh vision and new energy" in the president's office.

Corts, a graduate of Georgetown College and Indiana University, became Samford's 17th president after nine years as president of Wingate College in North Carolina. He is the longest tenured senior college president among member institutions of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Highlights of his Samford years include the growth in endowment from \$8 million in 1983 to \$258

million today, construction of more than 30 campus buildings and increases in enrollment.

"I consider myself a very blessed man because I have been privileged

to do what I wanted to do and what I felt was the work given me to do, and I have enjoyed it," Corts noted.

Joe Godfrey, immediate past president of the Alabama Baptist Convention, affirmed Corts' ability to strengthen Samford's spiritual ties to churches.

"I believe he's done an excellent job of building the school's reputation as a place where quality education can be received, and I feel he's done an excellent job of strengthening its Christian perspective," Godfrey told The Birmingham News.

Former Alabama Gov. Albert Brewer and Samford trustee Hobart Grooms will serve as co-chairs of a presidential search committee.

Compiled from reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press



Thomas Corts

## KBHC head urges Baptists to back resources for families, kids

By Julie Roberts

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Louisville—In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is calling on Kentuckians to fight for more resources for children and families.

More than 16,000 children are physically abused each year in Kentucky, and nearly 35,000 suffer from neglect, according to the most recent reports from Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and the Kentucky Department for Health and Human Services.

More than 5,000 of Kentucky's children and teens are sexually abused, and 1,700 suffer emotional abuse.

KBHC, one of the state's largest private child care providers, cares for more than 300 abused or neglected children each day through its residential services and private foster homes.

"It would be wonderful if services like ours were no longer needed because children were loved and nurtured instead of hurt," said KBHC President Bill Smithwick. "The reality, however, is that we need to be here to pick up the pieces for these children and help put their families back together if possible. The only way to accomplish that is to get more people involved."

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, also known as Blue Ribbon Month. The blue ribbon campaign was started in 1989 by a grandmother who wanted to honor her grandson—a 3-year-old killed by his mother's abusive boyfriend. The blue ribbon stands as a constant reminder of her grandchild's bruises.

In addition to calling for more volunteers working on behalf of children, Smithwick asked Kentuckians to lobby lawmakers for more family resource funding.

Regular legislative updates related to children and families are available from the Children's Alliance of Kentucky at [www.childrensallianceky.org](http://www.childrensallianceky.org). The Children's Alliance is a not-for-profit association representing private child care providers and family service agencies such as KBHC.

Smithwick also recommends that Kentuckians know how to recognize symptoms of child abuse and how to report it. Common symptoms of child abuse and neglect include signs of malnutrition, unattended physical or medical problems, broken bones or unexplained bruises, burns or welts or a child's fear to return home. Suspicions of child abuse or neglect can be reported to the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 752-6200 or local police.

## Unused property sale to help Cedarmore

### Assemblies gets \$1.3 million for 800 acres

By David Winfrey  
News Director

Cedarmore—Kentucky Baptist Assemblies President David Melber said the sale of 800 acres of undeveloped land from its Cedarmore Assembly campus April 5 should help the agency improve Cedarmore in order to attract more visitors.

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies sold 800 acres of its Shelby County property to Dawn Enterprises LLC for \$1,335,000, according to the Shelby County Clerk's Office. Dawn Enterprises intends to subdivide the land for large-tract housing development, Melber said.

The sale leaves Cedarmore with 560 acres, including a generous buffer between the camp's present facilities and any development that occurs, Melber said. Approximately 350 acres at Cedarmore are developed, he added.

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies operates two camp and conference facilities. One, Jonathan Creek in West Kentucky's Benton County, sits on Kentucky Lake and has seen growing attendance and revenues for its "Crossings at the Creek" summer camps.

The other, Cedarmore, has struggled with aging facilities and lower summer camp attendance.

"People who are coming know there are tremendous needs at Cedarmore," Melber said. "The reality at Cedarmore is that it has lost money for a number of years."

For the 2004-05 fiscal year, which ended March 31, Melber estimated that Cedarmore lost \$378,000, the smallest loss it has had since KBA took responsibility for the camps in 1997.

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies was established that year to develop the camps. A year earlier, messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting defeated a proposal to sell the camps.

#### KBA & Cedarmore

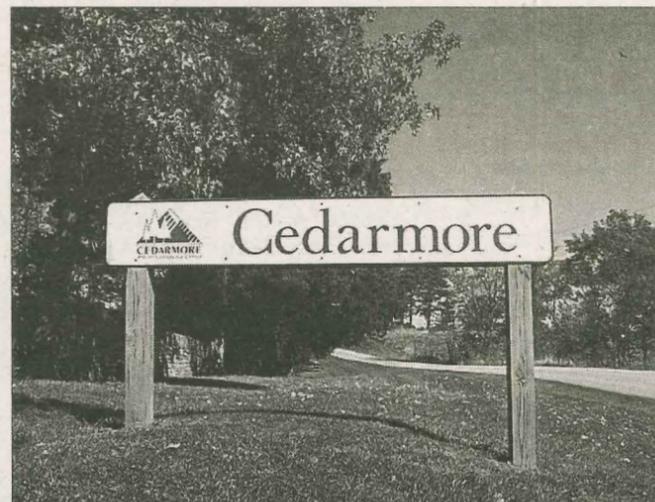
Under KBA leadership, Crossings at the Creek summer camp at Jonathan Creek has grown each year, with new facilities constructed and expanded activities to include water sports on Kentucky Lake.

But trustees and leaders have insisted that Cedarmore will require more work to make it profitable. "The answer is increased attendance, and increased attendance is not going to happen, in our opinion, in its present condition," Melber said.

Selling unused property, which KBA had no plans to develop, became the agency's best option for funding improvements at Cedarmore, Melber said.

He noted the land sold for above its appraised value of \$1.2 million. Of that, \$500,000 will be used to retire debt from the 2001 renovation of Cedarmore's Boone Lodge and Byrdwell conference hall.

KBA is in the process of com-



pleting a 12-month analysis of Cedarmore's infrastructure and buildings.

As part of its information gathering, Cedarmore invited comments from representatives of every church that sent a group to the camp within the past five years.

Melber estimated renovation costs for Cedarmore ultimately could reach \$4.5 million.

Making Cedarmore profitable again will require Kentucky Baptists embracing the campground with prayers and attendance, he said.

KBA already plans to alter the camping program for next year at Cedarmore, he added.

"We should have all the facts gathered that we need by the end of summer," Melber said, adding that he expects to have a renovation plan by this fall.

#### IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

The sale of Cedarmore's unused property will not include any of the camp's facilities, which will be improved from the sale's proceeds. (KBA photo)

## Churches seek to 'Connect' Owen County to Christ

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Owenton—If Sam Owens has his way, by the summer of 2006 every home in Owen County will be exposed to the good news of Jesus Christ.

"Connect Owen County to Christ" hopes to involve all 24 churches in Owen County Baptist Association in door-to-door distribution of evangelistic materials.

Leaders held a kickoff meeting in late February at Long Ridge Baptist Church, with about 85 people from 16 churches attending, including two churches from outside the association.

The event included a worship service, prayer and evangelism training led by Tony Watkins, pastor of Monterey Baptist Church.

"I hope this will be good for our church and our community as we get serious about witnessing for the gospel and not just taking care of the needs at church," said Owens, pastor of Long Ridge.

Owens had the idea for a door-to-door witnessing effort two years ago. But when he became the association's evangelism director this year, he linked it to the state convention's Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis.

#### Divide and greet

Dividing the county into 24 quadrants, Owens distributed assignments and supplies at the kickoff.

Participants will distribute bags that include a letter of greeting, a

survey about spiritual topics, space for prayer requests and a postage-paid return card. Churches are being encouraged to add such items as tracts, videos and Bibles.

David Marlow, director of missions for Owen County Baptist Association, said this will be the first attempt to conduct a countywide witnessing campaign.

Marlow said he expects the program to foster more cooperation among local churches. "I don't see how it could help but do that."

"But our goal is to touch every home," Marlow said. "I'm sure there are many homes that don't have a pastor to call on when they have trouble, so this will give them a point of contact."

Several pastors said they waited until April's warmer weather to start canvassing local neighborhoods.

Each expressed confidence that the campaign will inform unchurched people about Christ and increase awareness of evangelism.

Watkins said he was encouraged by the turnout at the kickoff, saying an intentional ministry effort will give members a reason to meet their neighbors.

"My hope is some relationships will be made that will build a bridge to allow us into people's lives," Watkins said.

"People come to church because a friend or somebody who cares asked them, not because of a church program," he added. "That's how we're going to win people to Christ."

Located about 20 miles north of

Frankfort, Owen County has a population of about 11,000 people.

#### Many with no church connection

Despite belief that most residents are connected with a church, Daven Watkins said recent data shows that 3,000 people within a 10-mile radius of Owenton aren't connected with a congregation.

In addition, only about 3,000 people attend church on an average Sunday, said Watkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owenton.

"Their name may be on a roll but their body is not in a pew," Watkins said. "Our primary goal is to see more people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Another would be to see members have a heightened awareness of evangelism in daily life."

Although still planning its strategy, Matt Dye of Dallasburg Baptist Church in Wheatley said his church has organized an e-mail network to offer daily prayer support.

"This is a great emphasis," Dye said. "This will really help shape our focus with being interested in reaching out into our community and doing our part to fulfill the Great Commission."

Owens said a key to the project is for association members to recognize they are building God's Kingdom, not their church.

"Hopefully, some of our churches God will bless and they'll get new members," said the pastor of Long Ridge. "But if they go to First Baptist instead of Long Ridge, (that is) fine."

"People come to church because a friend or somebody who cares asked them, not because of a church program."

Tony Watkins, pastor of Monterey Baptist Church

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Stand against sin

While reading the April 5 issue of the Western Recorder, I was alarmed at the very eye-opening letter by Brad Hall, "Disturbing worldview." In his letter he exposes the outright sin of the Kentucky Baptist Convention school, Georgetown College, and the KBC's need to hold them accountable.

You may say that I am casting stones. Nevertheless, God's Word holds us to a high standard—one that requires us to speak out about sin. If you, like myself, were appalled by the brushness of the sin of Georgetown, I recommend that you do something about it.

As a Southern Baptist Convention member, we believe in cooperating as one group and as such, we collectively send KBC money to this college. Therefore, they are accountable to us for where these funds are dispersed.

If Georgetown College supports heresy, more than one plan of salvation and if they support women in the pastoral role, we must in good faith stop their funding. We need to remember that it was not that many years ago that we SBC members had to take a stand concerning the authenticity of God's Word.

Our new KBC president, Hershael York, has a longstanding reputation of fighting for what is right and standing against sin. I thank God for his godly leadership. I am positive he will hold the KBC to a high standard of righteousness.

Our SBC heritage as KBC Baptists must be strengthened. While we stand together for the family unit, against same-sex marriage, we also must stand against schools that propagate sin.

Charles Burton  
Paint Lick

## Proud heritage

I'm writing in response to concerns expressed in a letter published in the April 5 issue of the Western

## Celebrating WMU, church dedication and CP

On a recent weekend I had the privilege of attending the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting and speaking in two churches where God is at work. It is exciting to hear about the many lives being changed through the ministries of Kentucky Baptists.

The WMU annual meeting was informative and inspirational. Planned by the WMU staff led by Executive Director Joy Bolton and WMU President Cathy Chin, the meeting featured a number of encouraging testimonies by people involved in missions and ministries.

The choir from Oneida Baptist Institute provided music. Jessica, an international student at Oneida, gave a powerful testimony. She was born in India but grew up in Saudi Arabia where she encountered Christians in house churches. She is so happy to be at Oneida where she can grow in her faith.

We were all disappointed that

Recorder, questioning whether Georgetown College is properly representing Kentucky Baptists.

Our primary business is undergraduate Christian higher education in the liberal arts, with a smaller role as an institutional support for pastors and churches. Thousands of our graduates have served as denominational and church leaders.

Five hundred and eighty five of our 1,300 undergraduate students are Baptists. The \$1.3 million we received this year from the Kentucky Baptist Convention was dispersed to them in the form of scholarships. The college facilitated another \$3 million for a total of \$4.35 million in financial aid for Baptist students alone.

Our partnership with Regents Park College, Oxford University, enables our students to study in that institution and opens sabbatical opportunities there for KBC pastors. In these roles, and others, we believe we serve Kentucky Baptists very well.

Regarding our Pastors Conference, Brian McClaren was invited to speak months before he was featured in Time magazine as one of "America's 25 Most Influential Evangelicals" and his subsequent censoring by Al Mohler.

Is it now required of all Kentucky Baptists to embrace Mohler's opinions and surrender their right to independent discernment and fraternal disagreement? Given the disparity of consensus regarding McClaren, it was both Christian and eminently fair to afford KBC pastors an opportunity to interact with him and form their own analyses.

While many find it offensive that a woman should be ordained a minister or deacon, others do not. Sarah Shelton's inclusion at the Pastors Conference does not constitute a "disturbing worldview" at the college, but rather reflects the diversity of opinion on this issue among KBC churches.

We are grateful for the support of Kentucky Baptists and are proud of

our heritage in KBC life.

Eric Fruge  
Director of Church Relations  
Georgetown College

## 'Unthinkable' action

Thank you so much for your recent article concerning Southern Seminary's hiring of a gay-friendly maintenance firm.

As the 66-year-old pastor of Ferguson Springs Baptist Church in Aurora, I couldn't agree with you more. I sometimes think that I have seen it all, and then something like this comes along.

"Unthinkable" is the only word I can come up with, for this action by Southern goes past all definitions of what one would expect and look for in the institution that many consider the flagship of Southern Baptist seminaries.

"Some irony, but no inconsistency"? Come on, Dr. Mohler! My opinion, for what it's worth, is that Al Mohler must go!

James Keeling  
Dexter

## 'Predestined' decision?

I'm surprised that the leaders of Southern Seminary did not justify their hiring of a company described as "gay-friendly" by stating their prevailing theology: "It was predestined to be done." Being consistent, they could have said, "It was meant to be."

Of course, true Calvinists, believing that they are the elect (and some others who disagree with them are not) and being persuaded that nothing can change their elite and favored status, also are able to rationalize any sinful act, such as defamation of character and high-jacking of institutions, by saying it was foreordained that they should do so.

In their mind, they are simply living out God's plan for building up the elect even while using the expertise of the non-chosen ones.

W. Robert DeFoor  
Harrodsburg

I was also privileged to attend the new building dedication for First Baptist Church of Dawson Springs. Pastor Randall Rogers and lay leaders have done an outstanding work in relocating the church in the wake of a fire that destroyed the church building two years ago.

The new church building has a large entrance area, elevated sanctuary floor, choir room, office suites and children's area with painted biblical scenes, classrooms and library. The church plans to build additional space in a few years.

The worship service was dynamic. It was encouraging to hear testimonies from lay leaders about how God has brought the church together in a special way.

Kent Dillingham, steering committee chairman, spoke about how the work is not about a building but about God and His mission. Members of Dawson Springs have discovered that God can bring new life out of ashes and burnt timbers!

Please continue to pray for every church as we work together in "Connecting All People to Jesus Christ." Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



## GIVING

## Naming a trustee is major decision in estate planning

By Laurie Valentine

Both revocable and irrevocable trusts can be helpful estate planning tools.

Whether you are using a revocable living trust as part of

your plan for management of assets in the event of incapacity or an irrevocable trust for tax planning, one of the most important decisions as you plan the trust is your choice for trustee.

Under Kentucky law, the trustee of a trust can be an individual, a bank, a trust company or any other entity that has trust powers. An individual serving as trustee does not have to be a resident of Kentucky nor does he or she have to be related to you.

As you select a trustee or successor trustee, think about the types of assets that are, or might be, in the trust. You will want to name a trustee who understands the management of those types of assets and who knows about taxes, investments and financial matters.

The trustee should be someone who is a self-starter. There is little supervision of the management of a trust. Your choice should be someone who will not neglect his or her responsibilities due to lack of time, interest or knowledge.

Don't just assume the person or entity you wish to name as trustee is willing to serve. Ask them before you complete your planning. If possible, allow them to review the trust agreement before it is signed to better assure that all necessary powers are granted and that they are clear on any special or unusual provisions.

Finally, make sure you have selected a trustee who can be objective. Trustees must make decisions that affect the interests of both the income beneficiaries and the remainder beneficiaries. While family members might be appropriate choices, in some cases you might need to consider a professional, corporate or institutional trustee. These trustees are accountable not only to the beneficiaries, but also to their own management, directors, auditors and other examiners.

The choice of trustee is a crucial decision in the establishment of a successful trust arrangement. Making the best choice requires thoughtful and careful consideration of many factors.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

## Provide safe environment to spark marital communication

**Q: My wife will not talk about our problems. Every time I try to bring up a subject, she either clams up or starts making excuses. We never seem to get anywhere. I am worried and getting tired of this. How can we begin dealing with the real issues?**

The situation you describe is like hitting a wall. That is why John Gottman, a marriage researcher, calls this "stonewalling."

### MARRIAGE

Explaining and defending become dead ends. When a spouse feels threatened, there is an increase in anxiety, and the fight-or-flight reaction is engaged. I am not suggesting you are threatening your wife. I am saying she might perceive a threat.

To help her let down her guard, be clear about why you want to talk about specific issues. Do you want a strong, loving marriage? Do you want the two of you to be open about your wants and needs? Do you want to feel emotionally and spiritually close to your wife? If these are some of your motives, let her know up front what your end goal is. Lay the groundwork for a safe, non-threatening dialogue. Keep your voice calm and even. Stay focused on your end goal. If your behavior is controlling through voice tone, vocabulary or physical gestures, then you are creating a threatening environment.

Sometimes feelings of fear, hurt and anger are not far below the surface. It might be helpful to invite your wife to tell you what scares her. Let her know you care about her feelings and listen to her concerns. Once these feelings are voiced, it is likely she will be able to discuss some of the problems you want addressed.

If you choose to discount or belittle her feelings, she likely will keep her wall up with you in order to feel safe and protected. Removing the wall will not happen by knocking it down. Your wife will choose to bring it down when she believes her feelings are respected and safe.

If your wife has experienced past trauma that causes her to struggle with trust and safety, the two of you might need a third party to help create a safe environment for a dialogue. Seek out a trusted friend, minister or counselor for help.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: I am going "bonkers" since our baby was born. It is causing stress and conflict in our marriage. Do you have any ideas for balancing the challenges of marriage and parenthood?**

The birth of the first child is one of the high-risk times for many married couples. There are important steps you can take to keep the marriage fires going and to ensure your survival.

### PARENTING

Consider the following suggestions from Dr. Bonnie Maslin, author of "Not Quite Paradise" and several other books on marriage and parenting:

**Mutual respect.** Regardless of which parent gets a paycheck, it is important for both to acknowledge the workload of parenting.

**Create intimate couple time.** Schedule times for sexual intimacy. Also practice affectionate non-sexual behaviors often.

**Balance parenting.** Find the right balance of father-time and mother-time with the child.

**Join a parents' support group.** Take advantage of a parents' morning out program.

**Protect mealtimes.** Several studies have shown this is key to the well-being of all family members.

**Understand child development.** Knowing what is age appropriate for your child will help prepare you for such things as an unusual sleeping schedule.

**Catch up on your sleep.** Try to get eight hours of sleep in every 24-hour day, regardless of how much sleep you get at night.

**Do something for yourself.** Have a "mental health day" or take "mini-Sabbaths" during the day.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

**David Garrard**, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

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



## What challenges are facing your church?

What are the most pressing challenges impacting your congregation?

LifeWay Christian Resources officials recently posed a similar question to more than 1,300 evangelical leaders from around the world. The results are highlighted in a report on the "Top 10 Issues Facing Today's Church" released last week by LifeWay.

In addition to identifying major challenges churches are facing, Gary McClure, LifeWay's e-business marketing manager, said the study can help leaders "propose effective biblical solutions to those issues."

Among the top 10 issues cited in the survey, the discipline of prayer was ranked as the primary challenge facing churches. Other issues in the top five also emphasized ministry-related topics, including discipleship, leadership, evangelism and doctrine/worldview. The next five issues focused more on moral and ethical concerns including marriage, homosexuality and abortion as well as apathy and relevance.

The top five findings in the study closely parallel major needs underscored in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis. Details of the top five challenges and related Connect priorities include:

**Prayer:** "The need for more ongoing, passionate prayer in both personal and church life." This concern corresponds to the Connect study's call for spiritual foundations to undergird the KBC's five-year ministry goals. The state convention effort calls on the KBC prayer consultant to "develop a statewide five-year prayer emphasis, in consultation with church and associational leaders."

**Discipleship:** "The need for involvement of every believer in being continually transformed into the im-

age of Christ." Discipleship also is a primary focus of Kentucky Baptists Connect. Urging churches to "train converts to reproduce themselves" and to "connect converts with mature followers in churches," Connect calls for churches to develop strategies to retain at least 80 percent of new members.

**Leadership:** "The need for clear, biblical vision and direction by church leaders." Connect's leader training effort will seek to "equip church leaders in spiritual life development and leader skills to enable churches to fulfill the Great Commission."

**Evangelism:** "The decline among Christians in personal sharing of the gospel." Citing the need to "introduce all people to God's grace through increasing conversion growth," the KBC's evangelism emphasis encourages "each church, as led by the Holy Spirit, to increase its baptisms by at least one each year" during the five-year effort.

**Doctrine/worldview:** "The growing pressure to compromise principles to make truths more palatable to an audience. The widening influence of explicitly anti-Christian culture and negative influences on the church." The Kentucky Baptists Connect report acknowledges that "the nature of the mission involves spiritual warfare." It seeks to strengthen local churches by helping them "realize their God-designed potential."

In addition to the LifeWay and KBC perspectives on these issues, it likely would be a valuable exercise for individual churches to examine similar concerns. Why not work with church leaders to compile a Top 10 issues list for your congregation and then seek God's guidance and wisdom to pursue appropriate responses and solutions?

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Editorial perspective 'ironically inconsistent'

**Editor's Note:** In the interest of fairness and balance, I granted Hershael York's request to publish a rebuttal of my April 5 editorial about Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's contract with Sodexo. York, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is an associate dean of Southern's school of theology and associate professor of Christian preaching.

By Hershael York

Trennis Henderson's editorial about Southern Seminary's maintenance contract with Sodexo not only disregarded many of the pertinent facts about Southern's agreement, but also simplistically denied the unfortunate reality of 2005 corporate America.

Upon reading Henderson's editorial, I called him and inquired where the Western Recorder bought its newspaper and what are that company's diversity policies regarding homosexuality. In a candid and calm conversation between two Christian brothers, Henderson acknowledged that until this issue with Southern arose, he did not analyze the personnel policies of the companies with which the Western Recorder does business. His inattention makes his own editorial about consistency ironically inconsistent.

Whatever company produced the paper on which his editorial was printed, I can almost guarantee that it enforces a policy similar to Sodexo's. Sadly, a silent revolution in corporate America has not only normalized that which God says is abnormal, but has enshrined it.

A Web search of the most gay-friendly corporations does not even mention Sodexo, but highlights familiar companies like Microsoft, Intel, Ford, American Express,

Kodak, Aetna, AOL-Time Warner, IBM, Xerox, Hewlett-Packard, Nike, Capital One, Bank One, Levi Strauss, Starbucks, Boeing and almost every cell phone company. In fact, a 2002 survey found that 92 percent of 319 companies which employ more than 500 people had written statements barring discrimination because of sexual orientation, and 69 percent offered health-insurance benefits for same-sex partners of employees. I challenge anyone to discover more than five Fortune 500 corporations without similar policies.

Henderson thinks Southern deserves the criticism because Mohler is an outspoken critic of the pro-homosexual agenda and the seminary had a choice and did not have to change the way the seminary is maintained.

Since when does my criticism of sin mean I cannot do business with sinners? If the Apostle Paul saw no contradiction between eating meat sacrificed to idols and preaching against idolatry, why should the Western Recorder? Monasticism has never worked and it won't now. Could Henderson explain why the seminary is inconsistent for giving its business to a maintenance company with such a policy, while he never was troubled about the companies that supply the school's printers or computers or vehicles?

Furthermore, Henderson made no attempt to ask the seminary for comment or clarification before writing the article. He relied on accounts from a biased, liberal Internet writer and the Louisville Courier-Journal. Had he bothered to call the seminary for firsthand information, he might have discovered what those other news outlets

refused to report, that Southern has an agreement in writing that all Sodexo employees must conform to Southern's behavioral standards. Southern is not changing principles for a pagan corporation but has, in fact, made the corporation adjust to Southern.

I have consistently announced that one of my primary goals as Kentucky Baptist Convention president is to connect our state convention with the resources of Southern Seminary for the purposes of Kentucky Baptists Connect and enlarging the Kingdom of God. The Western Recorder's myopic headline, "Southern officials hire gay-friendly maintenance firm" made my job more difficult. It would be no different than if I had written, "Western Recorder lines coffers of gay-friendly software giant" as the headline to this opinion piece. The news headline unfairly suggested that Sodexo's primary characterization and reputation is its policy about homosexuality.

We have to make a distinction between doing business with a company that is known primarily for its involvement in sin (like a casino) or whether it is an incidental reality. GuideStone and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation both struggle with this issue in their investments as well.

If Henderson is going to criticize Southern for being inconsistent, then he had better cancel his life insurance, uninstall Microsoft Windows and Intel processors from all company computers, refuse to drive most cars, and throw away his cell phone. A better alternative, however, is lovingly and graciously to speak the truth of God's Word in the marketplace, even when it brings us into direct conflict with the world system.

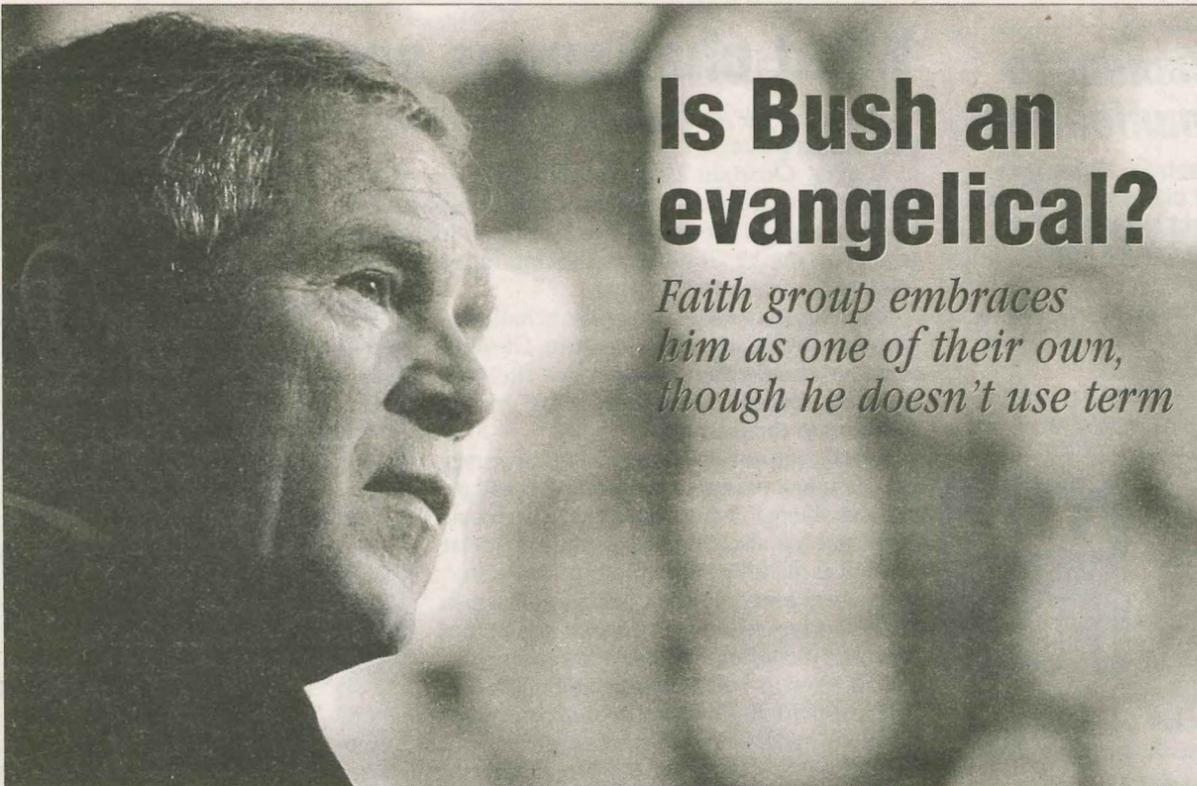
### COMMENTARY

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Oregon's Supreme Court** last week invalidated the marriages of 3,000 same-sex couples and refused to decide whether gays and lesbians should have the same rights and benefits as married couples. Gay rights advocates can file a new lawsuit to seek to obtain equal benefits, but the process could take several years. The day before the court decision, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and a bipartisan coalition of state senators introduced legislation to allow civil unions for same-sex couples and outlawing discrimination against gays.

**A Gallup poll** recently found support for a marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution at an all-time high. The poll found that by a margin of 57-37 percent, adults favor amending the Constitution to restrict marriage to the union of one man and one woman. That's an increase from last July, when 48 percent said they favored a marriage amendment.

**A majority of doctors** told a recent survey that physician-assisted suicide is ethical, and a plurality said they believe it should be legal. Fifty-seven percent of the 1,000 physicians surveyed by the Louis Finkelstein Institute for Social and Religious Research and HCD Research said they support assisting a patient who has made the decision to die based on unbearable suffering. However, close to that same number—46 percent—said they personally would not participate in ending a patient's life for any reason.



## Is Bush an evangelical?

*Faith group embraces him as one of their own, though he doesn't use term*

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

**Washington (RNS)**—The influence of evangelicals is almost everywhere—from places of political power like Congress and the Supreme Court to cultural status markers like the New York Times' best-seller list, where titles such as "The Purpose Driven Life" reside.

But the person many evangelicals consider the most prominent member of their fold—President Bush—doesn't use that term to describe himself publicly and neither does the White House.

So, is he or isn't he?

Evangelical leaders generally concur that the president is one of them. But some observers of religion and politics say his outreach to Muslims and attendance at a mainstream Protestant church demonstrate that he might not neatly fit the definition.

Bob Wenz, vice president of National Association of Evangelicals, says he doesn't mind that Bush won't embrace that particular word.

"From an analysis of what the man does believe, I think we can categorize him in-house as an evangelical, but if he chooses not to use the term I don't think it's an affront to evangelicals," Wenz said.

Amy Sullivan, an editor of Washington Monthly, a political magazine, says Bush has positioned himself in a "nice set-up" that allows him to be accepted by evangelicals while not offending others taken aback by that label.

"He can be all things to all people by not explicitly defining himself as evangelical," said Sullivan, a former evangelical who sometimes attends the same Episcopal church Bush does.

### Why Bush looks evangelical

Bush—a baptized Episcopalian, former Presbyterian Sunday school teacher, and now a United Methodist—has several attributes that most evangelicals think put him in their fold. In interviews, evangelical and other experts on religion ticked off key evangelical characteristics that define Bush:

**He has had a "transformation."** Evangelicals cite Bush's cold-turkey



**RAMADAN** President Bush welcomed American Muslim guests to a Ramadan dinner last year at the White House. His outreach to Muslims make some question whether he meets the definition of an evangelical. (RNS photos)

end to his drinking habit, which occurred within a couple of years after he had key encounters with well-known evangelist Billy Graham and lesser known evangelist Arthur Blessitt.

**He talks like evangelicals.** The president speaks like evangelicals, but often in ways non-evangelicals might miss. He occasionally ends speeches with the abbreviated colloquialism "God bless." And he cited the "wonder-working power" of the American people in his 2003 State of the Union speech, an allusion to a hymn about the "wonder-working power in the precious blood of the Lamb."

**He spends time with evangelicals.** "His friends are evangelicals. He likes evangelical preachers. He started his faith in a community that was unquestionably evangelical, the Community Bible Study of Midland, Texas," said David Aikman, author of "A Man of Faith: The Spiritual Journey of George W. Bush."

**He has devotional time** like many evangelicals. The president says he prays "all the time," sometimes in the Oval Office. Authors speak of his regular Bible and devotional book reading, including Oswald Chambers' "My Utmost for His Highest."

Once or twice a month when he is in Washington, Bush attends St. John's Church, an Episcopal congregation across Lafayette Square from the White House. That affiliation raises some eyebrows because Episcopalians elected their first openly gay bishop in 2003, prompting opposition from evangelicals.

Others point to Bush's past church attendance as more telling. He called the "resolutely evangelical" Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas in the 1990s.

Further evidence of evangelicalism—such as belief in the authority of the Bible and the need to "accept" Jesus for one's salvation—are harder to find with Bush.

The White House declined to comment.

### White House uneasy with term?

Aikman said in an interview that administration officials have not been comfortable with calling the president an evangelical.

"Theologically, I think he believes some things that disqualify him as an evangelical," said Shaun Casey, an associate professor of Christian ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington.

Casey recalled how Bush ruffled some evangelicals when he declared in 2003 that Christians and Muslims "worship the same God." Some evangelicals, such as Southern Baptist executive Richard Land, flatly said he was in the wrong.

"The Bible is very clear about this," Land wrote in a column on Beliefnet.com. "There is only one true God and his name is Jehovah, not Allah."

Richard John Neuhaus, a Catholic priest whom the president credits for advising him on abortion and other issues, says he suspects there always will be debate about who fits the definition of an evangelical.

"Among some unapologetic fundamentalists, I'm sure you would find people who do not think that President Bush or a good many others are evangelicals," Neuhaus, editor in chief of the Catholic journal First Things, said in an interview. "But this has been going on for centuries and is likely to continue until our Lord returns in glory."

## Poll: Evangelical leaders rank prayer top issue facing churches

**Nashville (BP)**—Evangelical leaders from around the world told a recent survey that the need for prayer in church and personal life is the No. 1 issue facing today's churches.

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention surveyed more than 1,300 evangelical leaders from around the world to rank what they saw as the most important issues.

"This project was an opportunity for us to learn what challenges churches are facing," said Gary McClure, LifeWay's e-business marketing manager.

The resulting list of 10 issues includes abortion (no. 1) and evangelism (no. 4). But it was prayer that ministry leaders cited as the most pressing concern in their churches.

According to the survey's final results, the top 10 issues were:

1. **Prayer:** The need for more ongoing, passionate prayer in both personal and church life.

2. **Discipleship:** The need for involvement of every believer in being continually transformed into the image of Christ.

3. **Leadership:** The need for clear, biblical vision and direction by church leaders.

4. **Evangelism:** The decline among Christians in personal sharing of the gospel.

5. **Doctrine/worldview:** Respondents characterized this issue as a growing pressure to compromise principles to make truths more palatable to an audience.

6. **Apathy:** The seeming lack of personal interest, support and enthusiasm from the pews for the work of the church.

7. **Marriage:** The negative effects that result from divorce, adultery and other issues.

8. **Relevance:** The seeming inability of the church to answer questions one has living in the "real world."

9. **Homosexuality:** The rising social pressure to accept same-sex behavior and relationships.

10. **Abortion:** The church's lack of an effective response to 30-plus years of legalized abortion.

The survey's data will help LifeWay "propose effective biblical solutions to those issues," McClure said.

The LifeWay unit compiled information and multiple resources addressing each issue and has posted the materials online.

For the complete survey results and reports addressing all the ranked issues, visit [www.lifeway.com/top10](http://www.lifeway.com/top10).

## Baptist quake relief continues on Indonesian island

By Manda Roten Gibson  
SBC International Mission Board

Gunungsitoli, Indonesia (BP)—Five days after a major earthquake rocked the Indonesian island of Nias, Singaporean relief workers recovered a survivor from the rubble in the capital, Gunungsitoli. They were using tools provided by Southern Baptists.

Generous giving is allowing Southern Baptists to minister on Nias with effective rescue and recovery tools, reported one worker in the capital city.

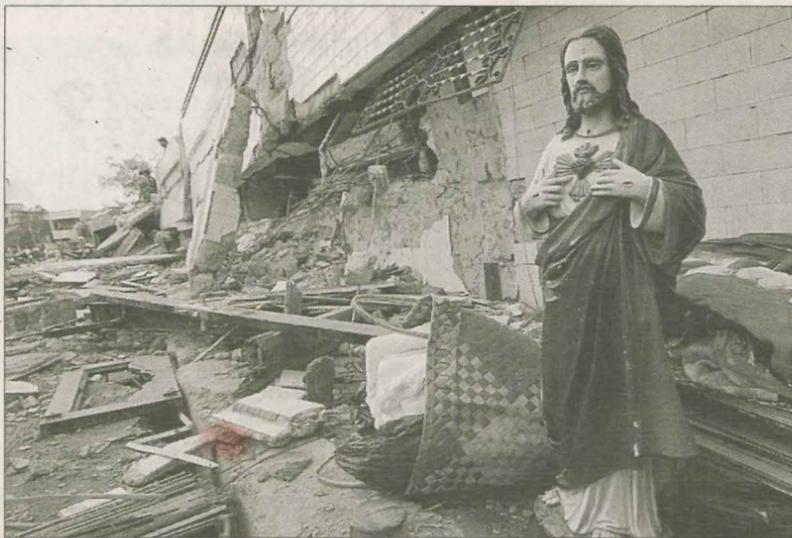
More than a week after the earthquake, workers in Gunung Sitoli were still removing bodies from the rubble and setting up a program to distribute food.

One of the greatest challenges survivors face is distributing rice throughout the island. After the earthquake, most business owners in Gunung Sitoli, Nias's economic center, either were killed or fled the island. No one remains to distribute rice or fuel to areas outside the city.

"They're getting very, very hungry," the worker said.

Southern Baptists provided one ton of food to be distributed through four churches outside Gunungsitoli. "The people were very grateful," the worker reported. "We're developing a good name in the areas where we're serving."

Workers recovered a boy's body



**QUAKE DAMAGE** A statue of Christ remains standing amid the rubble of a massive earthquake that hit the town of Gunungsitoli in Indonesia's Nias Island March 31. Baptist relief workers are among those seeking to provide help and hope to residents, who also endured the December tsunami. (RNS/Reuters photo by Crack Palinggi)

from one crumbled house. As they exited the house, the boy's family expressed appreciation. "No one else has come to help us," they said. "Thank you so much for coming."

Before they left, the workers visited with the family, prayed with them and provided counseling.

### People asking, "Why?"

On Nias, people are asking the same questions asked after the December tsunami, the worker said: "Why has God done this to us?"

Workers and volunteers are responding by sharing their own testimonies and faith. In addition, trained counselors—including Indonesian Christians—are counseling survivors and sharing their faith.

The worker said he hopes the earthquake will lead to spiritual awakening for the people of Nias. "Although the people on Nias are traditionally Christian, there is very little evidence of Christianity in their lives," he said. "The one thing they're seeing in Southern

Baptist teams is that these people truly care and want to help."

Volunteers from the Baptist state convention disaster relief network have contributed significantly to the positive impact relief teams are having on Nias. Local workers praised their expertise and commitment. "They actually are what make our projects run," one worker said. "Without them we would not be able to do many of the things we are doing now."

When the March 31 earthquake hit, Baptist tsunami relief volunteers—mostly medical workers—from California were heading to Banda Aceh, Indonesia. They were diverted to Nias, where most of the team went by helicopter to the hardest-hit villages to treat survivors.

When survivors see disaster relief volunteers, they ask, "Why are you out here helping us?" the worker recounted. "That gives us a great opportunity to share with them our love for the people, which God has given us, and God's love for these people too."

Many Southern Baptist workers on the initial teams left within the past couple of weeks, but one worker is staying to oversee volunteer teams and other aspects of relief operations. In ongoing relief efforts, Southern Baptists hope to work through Baptist churches already on the island.

**Southern Baptists provided one ton of food to be distributed through four churches.**

## Meet Tim.

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

## That's not all.

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

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

Call us to find out how you can help.



## Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

*Life-Changing Ministries for Children & Families*

1-800-456-1386

www.kbhc.org

# Woman shares story of abduction to show God's healing

**The little girl recognized her parents and asked the dark haired man, "Why are my parents on TV?"**

Continued from page 1

The youngster thought that might be nice and walked out of the building with the tall, dark-haired man. The two got in his truck and he drove away.

He took the little girl to a motel where she was fascinated by the pink and green neon flashing light. Walking up to his room, Linda saw a scruffy looking old man sitting in a lawn chair next door.

The man told this neighbor that Linda was his daughter. When the youngster started to correct him, he hustled her into his room.

There was no other little girl for Linda to play with, but he did offer her milk and soda. The television blared all evening and sometime during the night the stranger sexually abused 3-year-old Linda.

**"Jesus loves me this I know ..."**

When Linda didn't return to the worship service, her parents weren't particularly concerned. They knew she was fond of the woman who worked in the nursery and assumed their daughter had decided to stay downstairs.

But when they went looking for her, they discovered there had been no one in the nursery that night. They didn't think she would have wandered outside, so church members began to search the building. When Linda wasn't found, they called the police.

The police organized a search of the area, including the woods behind the church building. They alerted television and radio stations and hundreds of people showed up to help search for the little girl.

After several hours, a police officer tried to prepare Charles and Carolyn Foley.

It was cold outside and Linda's coat was still in the church. If she had wandered off, she wouldn't make it through the night dressed



**CHRONICLING THE STORY** The Nov. 6, 1967, edition of *The Atlanta Journal* reported the abduction of 3-year-old Linda Foley from a suburban Atlanta church as well as her recovery.

only in a sweater and skirt. And if she had been kidnapped, it was most likely she would not be returned unharmed.

**"... for the Bible tells me so ..."**

In the little motel room, the television was still on when the 11 p.m. news came on. The lead story told viewers about a 3-year-old girl who was missing from an Atlanta church.

Linda Foley's face flashed on the screen. Then her parents began to talk, pleading for the return of

their child. The little girl recognized her parents and asked the dark-haired man, "Why are my parents on TV?"

He immediately became agitated and the little girl knew something was wrong. After several minutes of pacing, the tall man pulled out a shotgun and began cleaning the long barrel with a white cloth.

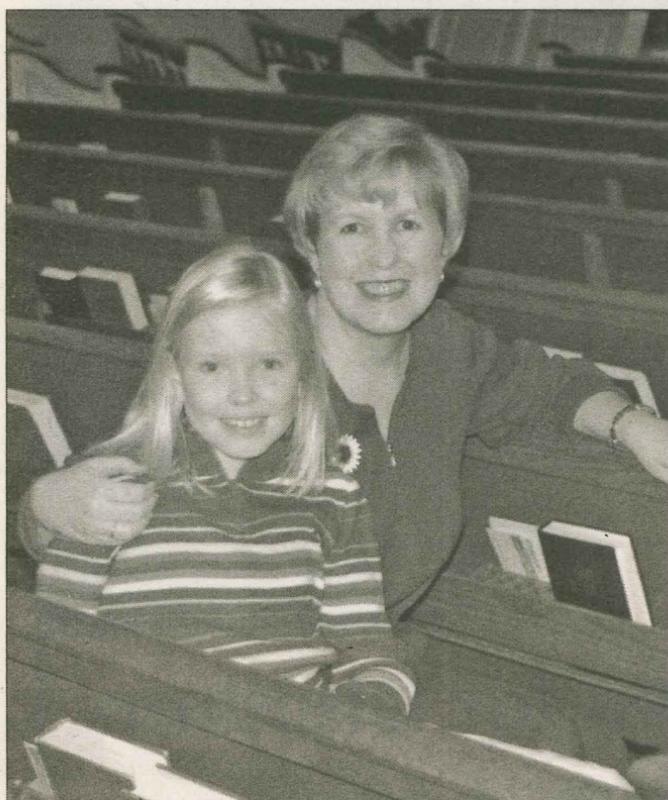
**"... little ones to Him belong ..."**

Charles and Carolyn Foley were

still at the church, which had become the headquarters for the search teams. As they waited for word of their daughter in the early morning hours, a retired pastor who knew the Foley family came to pray with them.

He took the couple into the sanctuary and began to pray. Charles Foley still remembers the pastor's specific requests to God: that whoever had Linda would not harm her; that she would be released; that whoever had her would not

Continued on page 9



**SHARING HER STORY** Linda Wooten, right, sits with her daughter, Beth, at Western Heights Baptist Church in LaGrange, Ga. Linda Wooten tells her story of being kidnapped from her suburban Atlanta church. Today she is an advocate for security systems and other safety measures in churches. (Christian Index photo by Sherri Brown)

## IN RECOGNITION

### of Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders

The 2005 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2005.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

**We Need Your Help to Gather the Following Information:**

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Date of death
4. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
5. Name of church where member, association and state
6. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

These obituary entries will be reported to the 2005 KBC annual meeting in Frankfort. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.



**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

**Executive Office**  
PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433  
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# Healing and churches' need for child safety guidelines

*Continued from page 8*

let her go in a secluded area, but on a city street where some person would find her quickly.

Then in his prayer, the old pastor quoted the Bible, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose."

As he prayed, the couple remembered their daughter's voice reciting that same scripture hours earlier.

**"... they are weak ..."**

Linda had fallen asleep on the motel bed. But while the night was still dark, her abductor woke her and told her they had to go.

They walked into the freezing darkness together—Linda wearing her church clothes, but without a coat, and the tall, dark-haired man carrying a shovel and the shotgun. He took her into the woods near the motel, laid down the shotgun and began digging a hole.

The 3-year-old didn't know what they were doing in the cold, dark woods and didn't much care. She was cold. She was tired. She was hungry. She wanted to go home.

So, as cold, tired, hungry 3-year-olds often do, she whined.

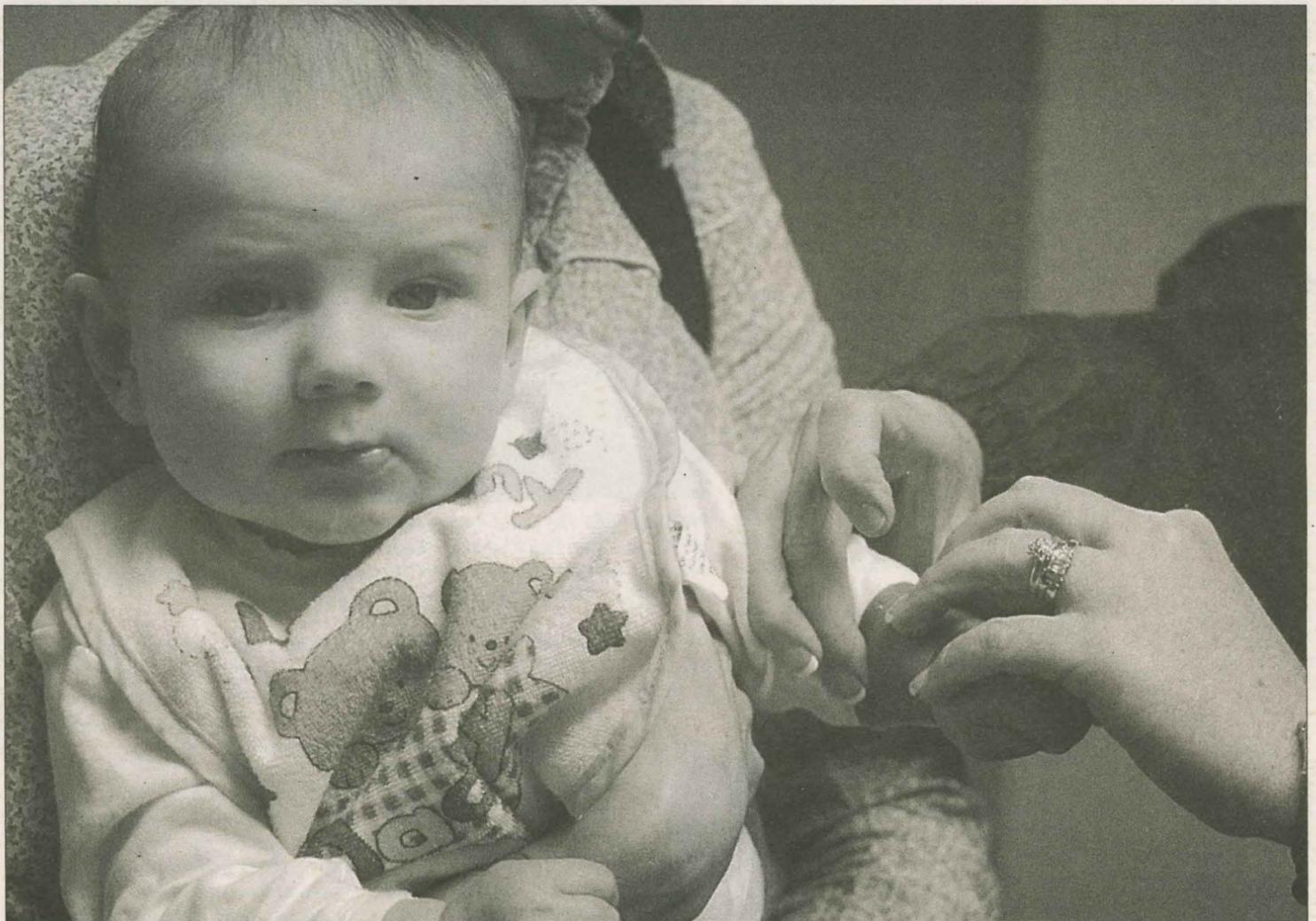
The man was silent but apparently got tired of listening to the little girl's pleas. In exasperation he told her, "Sing a song and then you won't be cold."

Linda began to sing the song her mother often sang to her when she was putting her to bed: "Jesus love me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong."

The man cut her off. "Don't sing that song. Sing something else."

So the little girl sang the other song her mother regularly sang at bed time to her: "Oh how I love Jesus, Oh how I love Jesus ..."

As her voice sang out through



the darkness, the man stood up, threw his shovel on the ground and took off his jacket. He wrapped the trembling girl in his jacket, took her hand and led her out of the woods. He put her in his green truck and began to drive through the darkness.

As the sun came up a while later, early morning traffic filled the Atlanta streets. Driving through a residential area not far from the governor's mansion, the man stopped his truck next to a park and told Linda to get out and play

on the swings.

Behind the truck a woman saw the little girl jump out and head for the park. She had just heard the radio reports of the missing girl and when the truck left, she got out and approached the youngster. She asked the child her name, and when she said, "Linda," she knew who she was.

She called the police and they came and took the girl to Grady Hospital where she was reunited with her parents.

It was Nov. 6, 1967.

**"... but He is strong ..."**

Today Linda Foley Wooten lives in LaGrange, Ga. She and her husband, Dan, have a daughter named Beth. Wooten tells her story because she wants people to hear a story of God's love and protection.

"God was present and active in my life even before He became my Savior. I know that without a doubt. I also know His healing, and I want other women to know that no matter what has happened, God's healing is there for you," she said.

But Wooten also tells her story to remind people to be alert and to care for the children.

"In 1967 it was unbelievable to think that a child could be abducted from a church. I share this story not to instill fear in those who hear it, but to remind us to wisely take care of the precious ones that God has entrusted to us," she said.

Wooten's church, Western Heights in LaGrange, has developed a comprehensive security system to protect its children that includes background checks on all volunteers.

"You want children to love coming to church," said Kevin Stringham, minister to children at the church.

"It's got to be a safe place in every way we can make it," he said. "When they come here it should be a haven. It should be safe from sexual abuse, physical abuse and even verbal abuse."

**SAFETY FIRST** A baby waits patiently while his mother puts a security bracelet on him before leaving him in the nursery. Color- or number-coded tags are among the security measures churches can take to make sure the person who picks up a child is the same one who dropped him or her off. (Christian Index photo by Sherri Brown)

## THEY'LL LEAVE FEELING UPLIFTED. (LITERALLY.)

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## Giglio: Churches shortsighted on college students

**"They're free agents, and they're looking for the gospel, for teaching, for truth, for worship and for cause."**

Worship leader Louie Giglio on college students and young adults

*See them as exports, not as 'freeloaders,' worship leader says*

Nashville—A home-base mentality that resents college students as "freeloaders" keeps too many churches from trying to reach and minister to them, a leading worship leader for young adults said last week.

"Honestly, all churches could take a big, huge swing at doing better at campus ministry," said Louie Giglio, director of "Passion" worship conferences, a series of worship events hosted throughout the country for young adults.

Giglio, who has spent more than two decades in collegiate ministry, said he understands why some churches shun college ministry, but he insists that those who are willing to focus on exporting the gospel and being exported with a new generation would find the journey worthwhile.

"I've been around college students and church-based ministries for a long time, and college students are notoriously cheap," he said.

"A lot of people who are running churches think, 'These guys don't tithe and they're freeloaders and they move around—they're here one semester and two semesters later they're at another church already and they migrate around town—so let's don't focus on them.'"

### Tapping energy, mobility

Instead, Giglio said, churches focused on young couples who have jobs, can give money, can keep running the church and who can work in the church.

"I get that, but I also think there's an untapped resource in college students," said Giglio, whose ministry is based in metropolitan Atlanta.

In fact, Giglio said, college students' mobility could be the strength for exporting the gospel to other areas.

"They are already going somewhere," Giglio said, noting students' entry into such fields as government, education, medicine or entrepreneurship.

"If I can invest for the sake of the Kingdom something in them, I get free exportation of our vision and message to the whole world because they're going to then carry it where they're going for free," he said.



**PASSION 2005** The David Crowder band leads 11,000 college students in a version of "Come Thou Fount" during "Passion '05" in Nashville earlier this year. The Passion movement, started in 1997, has targeted college students and young adults, promoting a vision of a generation living for God's glory.

"They're not going to charge me to carry whatever it is God deposits in their life," he noted.

"So it's kind of a tradeoff: 'OK, maybe you're not rich and you're not going to support the church, but you're going to carry free for us our message to the ends of the earth.'"

Church leaders should realize their church must be relevant in order to reach college students, Giglio added.

"I know that's kind of an overused word, but college students are living in a pretty real place and they want the gospel in a language they can understand," he said.

"They don't want form. They want substance. They want to be challenged with a cause that's greater than anything else they've ever seen before."

### What motivates college students

College students are not motivated by a religious service in which "everybody stands up and sits down and we do this and we do that and we call that church," he said. "They want something that's living and vibrant that sort of reaches into their heart and says, 'This is going to demand everything you've got, but it's going to be worth it.'"

Giglio said college students today are not denominationally biased and they don't care whether a church is Southern Baptist or Methodist or Lutheran as long as the church is challenging them with the gospel in a relevant manner.



Louie Giglio



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doesn't matter to them anymore. And I'm not sure it should, really, at the end of the day. It's the name of Jesus that we're all trying to lift up and all kinds of things are doing a great job of that.

"I know Southern Baptist churches that are doing a great job of reaching college students, and I know some that aren't doing a good job of reaching anybody," he said.

### Reasons for optimism

Giglio, who was in Nashville last week for Gospel Music Association Week, said he's encouraged by what he's seen in America and in other parts of the world.

"I came from England on Wednesday, and I was with 1,000 college students there from most all of the major universities in England and they had such a passion for God and such a passion for their campuses," he recalled.

"We had a prayer time the last morning and they prayed for a half-hour out loud—all of them at once," he recalled. "They were seeking God so earnestly for their campuses and crying out. When you see that happening, you can't help but be encouraged."

To learn more about the Passion movement, visit [www.268tgeneration.com](http://www.268tgeneration.com).

Compiled from reporting by Erin Curry for Baptist Press

## To Celebrate the Baptist World Alliance's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

You are invited to a luncheon with



**Dr. Denton Lotz,**  
BWA's General Secretary

Monday, May 9

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. (EDT)

**St. Matthews Baptist Church**

3515 Grandview Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

(located off I-64 Cannons Lane Exit between Cannons & Breckenridge Lane)

For reservations call 502-896-8882  
or e-mail [jwatts@smbclouisville.org](mailto:jwatts@smbclouisville.org)  
before May 5

Luncheon cost: \$6 per person

Join us for this opportunity to learn about BWA's global ministries — world evangelism, disaster relief, help for persecuted Christians, and world-wide Baptist fellowship.

This event is organized by Dr. Leslie Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church; Rev. Matthew Smyzer, Supt., Central District Baptist Assoc.; Dr. A. Russell Awkard, Moderator, Gen'l Assoc. of Baptists in Ky.

Sponsors include: Campbellsville University, Georgetown College, University of the Cumberlands

Taking hold of life that is truly life

Centenarian author's advice good for folks age 15 to 85

In her book, "Centenarians: The Bonus Years," Lynn Adler reported on her interviews of 250 people across America who were age 100 or older.

I was struck by one of her findings, which she reported in a chapter titled, "Legacy of Values and Beliefs." She wrote: "Centenarians urge younger generations to focus on living life with deeper meaning, living in the present and enjoying life each day, while de-emphasizing materialism, commercialism, greed and self-centeredness. From having seen it all, over the course of a century, centenarians advise us to turn toward simpler pleasures and traditional values, and to live with integrity and self-determination." That's good advice, isn't it?

By the way, any of us under the age of 85 would be considered the "younger generations" to which those centenarians were referring.

That advice from centenarians reminded me of the advice the Apostle Paul gives us in 1 Timothy 6:17-19: "Do not be arrogant nor put your hope in wealth, which is

so uncertain, but put your hope in God, Who richly provides you with everything for your enjoyment. ... Do good, be rich in good deeds and be generous and willing to share. In this way you will lay up treasures for yourselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that you may take hold of life that is truly life." That's good advice also, isn't it?

To the extent we in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can assist you in putting into place an estate and legacy gift plan that will help you "take hold of life that is truly life," please give us that privilege.

Laurie Valentine is our trust counsel. She is board certified in wills, trusts and estates. She is available to you at no cost or obligation for private consultation on planning for asset management in the event of incapacity, setting up a coordinated plan for distribution of assets at death that accomplishes God's purposes for the possessions He has entrusted to you, and making legacy gift plans.

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

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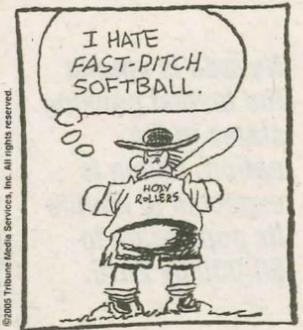
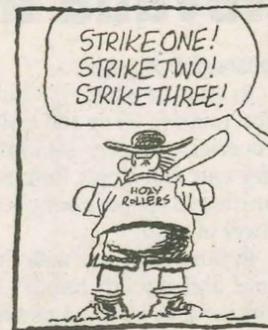


Barry Allen

Kudzu



MARLETTE 4-18



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 Dr. Zhivago heroine
- 5 Metric land measure (abbr.)
- 8 Bone or breaker
- 11 Ancient Hebrew dry measure
- 12 Feminine name
- 14 N.A. country
- 15 "Avenge not yourselves, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ unto wrath" (2 words, Romans 12:19)
- 17 Knight's form of address
- 18 Actress Ullmann
- 19 "\_\_\_\_\_ hath desired to have you, that he may sift you" (Luke 22:31)
- 21 "Shall seven years of \_\_\_\_\_ come unto ... thy land?" (2 Samuel 24:13)
- 24 Indian princess
- 25 Southern state (abbr.)
- 26 Turmoil
- 28 "Give not that which is holy unto the \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 7:6)
- 30 Shoe width
- 31 Bog
- 33 Provide the means
- 35 Compass dir.
- 36 Thing on a list
- 37 "And your children shall \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness forty years" (Numbers 14:33)
- 40 Like an ump
- 42 Circular \_\_\_\_\_ (junk mail repository?)
- 43 Formerly Clay
- 44 "Dearly beloved, \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves ... I will repay" (2 words, Romans 12:19)
- 49 "But as the days of \_\_\_\_\_ were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37)

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40	41						42					
43				44	45					46	47	48
49				50						51		
52					53						54	

- 50 Telephoned
- 51 "For a good man some would even \_\_\_\_\_ to die" (Romans 5:7)
- 52 Acted
- 53 At loose \_\_\_\_\_
- 54 "We have seen his \_\_\_\_\_ in the east" (Matthew 2:2)
- 21 Bell bottoms or hula-hoops
- 22 Healing plant
- 23 "And let thy name be \_\_\_\_\_ for ever" (2 Samuel 7:26)
- 24 Hwy.
- 26 "Stand still, and \_\_\_\_\_ the salvation of the Lord" (Exodus 14:13)
- 27 Sea eagle
- 29 Formed a lap
- 30 Small town street name
- 32 Poetic contraction
- 34 "Take heed, \_\_\_\_\_ of the leaven of the Pharisees" (Mark 8:15)
- 37 "Oh that I had \_\_\_\_\_ like a dove!" (Psalm 55:6)
- 38 Required H.S. math
- 39 Obligations
- 40 Author Ayn
- 41 "\_\_\_\_\_, lama sabachthani?" (Mark 15:34)
- 42 Ward off
- 45 Actor Johnson
- 46 Masculine nickname
- 47 Mouth (pl.)
- 48 Like a patio (abbr.)
- 9 Continent
- 10 Sound an alarm
- 13 Akin to a ringmaster (abbr.)
- 16 Individual number, for ATMs and credit cards
- 20 City in southern Judah (Joshua 15:50)

Last week's solution

1	D	A		C	L	A	P		S	T	S	
11	R	E	B		D	E	V	I	L		Y	E
14	A	R	I		U	N	I		E	A	R	L
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41	A	M	I	S		43	C	I	S		44	W
47	W	I	N		48	A	H	I	R	A		E
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## Nevada missionary supports churches out on range

**Nevada is among the fastest growing states in the nation. Fallon is expected to double its population to 50,000 by 2010.**

*Continued from page 1*

In an area where it's not uncommon to drive 60 or 100 miles to buy groceries, people socialize when they can, but don't look for opportunities to spend hours behind the wheel of a car.

Bryant calls his wife "my right hand and my left hand." Together, they serve as encouragers to pastors and their wives and help provide resources and leadership training to laity.

"The distances really take a toll on the wives," Sandi Bryant explains.

"They feel forgotten so much of the time so I send birthday cards, help plan wives retreats, and be a listening ear.

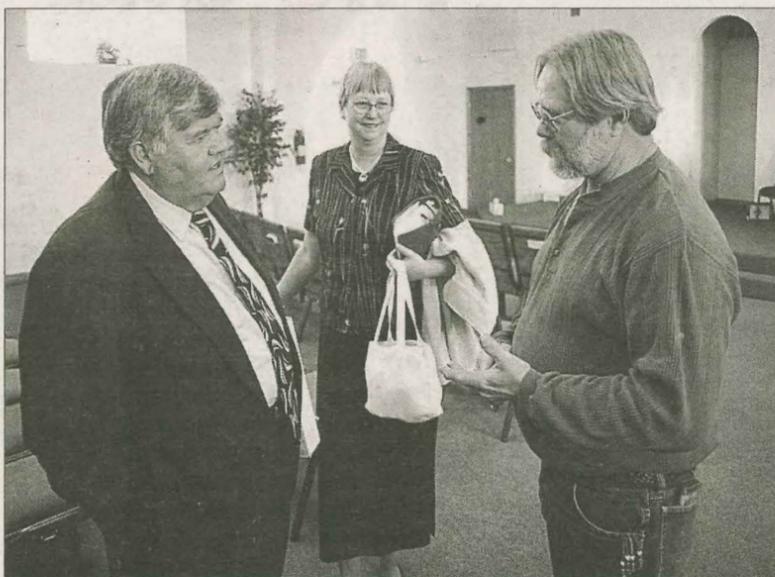
"In the South people talk about distances usually in terms of miles. They will say 'It's 20 miles to this location or 15 miles to that church.' But out here we talk in terms of time.

"But it's always worth the drive to be with the members of the church and the pastor and his family. We don't take fellowship for granted out here," she says.

That's not the way it's always been for the Bryants. The couple was satisfied with their ministry in Arkansas where he was in his fifth pastorate.

A seminary friend who was pastor of a church in Boulder City, Nev., asked him if he would lead a revival there, and that's how he was introduced to Nevada. It turned out to be a fateful meeting.

While there he met Neal Myers, who was serving as director of missions in Reno, and planted the idea



**SUNDAY SOCIAL** Mitch Bryant (left) and his wife, Sandy, talk with a church member at Imlay Baptist Church after the morning service. They keep in touch with his far-flung churches and missions by phone as much as possible, but the distance between ministry points requires them to spend hours in their car. "We don't take fellowship for granted out here," he says. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

of Bryant moving to the state to help struggling churches. He came as a pastor and within a few years stepped into his current position as associational missionary.

"It's hard for a church to have a full-time pastor out here because the congregations are so small—the average size is 40—and the sources of income are relatively scarce. By far, most of our churches are bivocational in nature."

In addition to working with pastors, the couple also works with churches that have no pastor.

They train the pastor search committees, help them secure resumes, and walk them through the pro-

cess. And when that is completed, they work with the new pastor and the congregation to develop leadership from within the congregation to take a larger role in the life of the church.

### The importance of lay leadership

Lay leadership is important because a bivocational pastor cannot be in every place needed.

Jolinda, a dealer in a casino which her family owned, is one such example. The Bryants met her through their children who both attended the same grade school.

"Jo," as we call her, was a Christian but was backslidden.

Through our relationship with her she began attending church and rededicated her life to the Lord. Within 12 months, she brought 30 of her friends and family to faith in Christ. I had the privilege of baptizing most of them."

Nevada is among the fastest growing states in the nation, and the need for lay leadership grows with each year. Fallon is expected to double its population to 50,000 by 2010. It has one of the Navy's largest pilot training bases since the Top Gun school was moved to the city from California.

Non-Anglos have moved to the western Nevada area and are having a strong presence in its towns and communities. The association has Native American, Hispanic and Korean congregations and will soon launch a Filipino church, and lay leaders will be needed to help those new works grow and reach others.

The couple say they are grateful for Baptists' support through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

"Those two are primary sources of income," Mrs. Bryant says. "We would not be here without stronger churches across the denomination supporting those offerings."

"Mitch and I feel we are answering God's call on our lives simply by remaining here to help these churches," she adds. "I would never have thought that we would still be in Nevada after 20 years but we have grown to love these people.

"They know they can rely on us and we will be here until He calls us somewhere else."

## Meet some of the class of 2005, part 5

### Student finds haven from conflict at Oneida leads to perspective on family

Everyone knows what it is like to go to the doctor in hopes of finding relief from pain and suffering. Likewise, Oneida often is the source of relief from frustration and failure. Many times young people are experiencing difficulties that seem to overwhelm them. Boys and girls who are adopted, who are being raised by grandparents

or other family members, or who have experienced the loss of one or both parents often are under tremendous emotional stress.

"Gina" (not her real name) had been experiencing major family conflicts for years. Even though she did not enroll until she was a freshman, she and her family visited our campus when she was in the sixth grade. By the time she enrolled, things at home were in a crisis. Here is part of how she described the situation: "My house had almost become a battleground. I would disobey, my parents would yell ... and the arguments would get worse and worse. Oneida is what I needed. ... Looking back, I see my faults and the things I could have done to make the situation better, but at that time I didn't really feel that I was in the wrong at all. But, I sure noticed everything my parents did wrong. I didn't take the time to realize how much I had actually hurt them.

"Coming to Oneida was a big culture shock for me. ... I remember that diversity was a hard thing for me to deal with at first. The school I had just come from had 2,000 students. About 1,995 of those students were suburban Caucasian kids. ... It was really weird here at first to me. So many different people, so many different backgrounds.

But I got used to it really quickly.

"My grades have sky-rocketed since I came to Oneida. ... I went from B's, C's and maybe D's to A's and B's. For the first time since the third grade I was on the honor roll. ... Not only did I take honors classes, but I also participated in Advanced Placement classes. A teacher who really helped me was Dr. Phoenix. He is a hard teacher, but he really challenged me.

"Drama! I love drama. I was so blessed to be a part of the drama program at Oneida. It gave me self-esteem, it taught me discipline, and it helped me to use my talents for Christ. Most of all, it made my parents proud. I would finish a production and see my mother's eyes tear up. It made everything worth it. ... I will be eternally grateful to God for blessing me with the talent of acting.

"Choir has been amazing for me as well. God gave me a voice, but Mr. Cochran truly showed me how to use it. ... Going to the various churches Sunday after Sunday, was an incredible thing. Churches truly love Oneida, and even when we sang poorly, they would still give us a standing ovation; those experiences have touched my heart.

"Now, my relationship with my parents has never been better and I've learned to truly appreciate them. ... The biggest change that has happened to me at Oneida is that I've become a loving, caring, Christian young lady, instead of the bratty, self-centered kid I was when I came here. ... I don't care what any other person says about Oneida. I love Oneida, and for four years Oneida was my home!"

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## The spring blessing of new life

### Commitment Week at Oneida Baptist Institute bears fruit

The view from my office window is a large cherry tree covered with pink blossoms; white and pink dogwoods are nearby. This is my favorite time in the mountains. The best blessing of this spring was seeing young people give their lives to Christ during Commitment Week at Oneida Baptist Institute.

Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister for 12 years, invited me to preach the four evening services. We renewed a connection made when he worked a year on the staff at First Baptist Church of Murray when I was pastor. "One thing I learned from Barclay Moore (former OBI president) was the realization we may have these young people only a short while," Mike said. "They don't need to leave without hearing the gospel."

Mike emphasized in planning and announcements that these four days focused on asking individuals to commit their life to Jesus Christ. The Kevin Rice Band from Clay County provided the music—very much enjoyed by the students. Kevin, a member of Lytleton Baptist Church, is a gifted and spiritually sensitive song writer/singer.

This was an intimidating, out-of-my-comfort-zone invitation. I first decided to decline and recommend a young preacher. Then I read Matthew 17, about a spiritually sick boy brought to Jesus for help because His disciples could not help. I realized again the need to be obedient to my calling and trust the Lord to handle the circumstances.

Thank you, Lord! It was thrilling to be with about 200 youth, attentive to God's message and respectful to His messenger. Monday through Wednesday they had the choice of attending chapel or study hall. I've always felt young people appreciate authenticity and telling it to them like it is.

The future looks brighter when I remember those smiling Christian teens on the front row, Anu, Jessica and Dede, from three different nations. I think of the potential in Jimmy and his three friends who asked for prayer that they be more consistent in living for Christ. I rejoice in the youth who committed their lives to Christ. I thank God for Oneida Baptist Institute, another voice for Christ in the mountains.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# The End

## Apocalypse bad for planet earth, but fantastic for selling fiction

By Cecile Holmes  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Tim LaHaye believes it is yet to come. Hank Hanegraaff thinks some of it might already have happened during Christianity's first century.

Their ongoing debate over the proper understanding of the fearsome prophecies in the biblical Book of Revelation is fueling interest in the end times at a moment when wars and disasters already have many people terrified.

And while Armageddon might be bad for life itself, it's proven good for the publishing industry.

Hanegraaff's and LaHaye's takes on Revelation couldn't be more different, but that's not hurting sales for either book. LaHaye's blockbuster "Left Behind" 12-book fiction series has sold 55 million copies. Hanegraaff's newer novel "The Last Disciple" is the first of a proposed four-part series and is doing well.

But it's about much more than selling books, scholars say.

The high-stakes publishing battle between the two men comes on the heels of the millennial fervor surrounding the year 2000, and feeds a stream of fear rippling just below the surface of public consciousness. The war in Iraq, the South Asia tsunami and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, are understood by some people to foreshadow the beginning of the end.

"The new millennium and 9/11 have undoubtedly helped to stoke today's wildly popular speculation about the end times," said Michael Guillen, a scientist, former ABC-TV science editor and author of "Can a Smart Person Believe in God?"

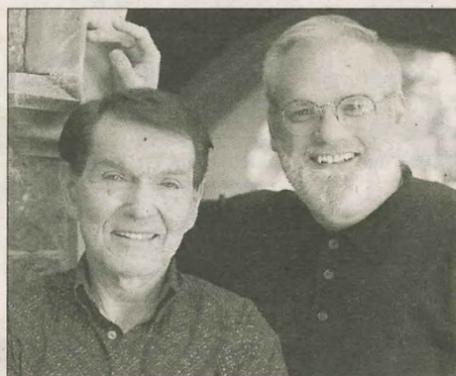
Like impatient children who can't wait to open gifts, Guillen said adults similarly can't wait to know the future. "In this respect, Christians are only human. They're just as eager as the average pagan to know what's going to become of us and our oh-so-troubled world," he said.

When it comes to the Bible, whether people interpret it literally or figuratively often depends on the specific prophecy, he said. Either way, prophecy sells in the world of Christian publishing.

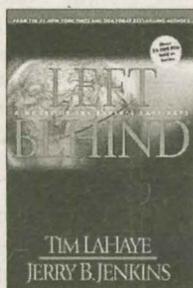
### Two books, two different visions

Both books were released by respected religious publisher Tyndale House. Ron Beers, the company's senior vice president and publisher, stressed that Tyndale encourages "spirited debate" over the opposing viewpoints.

Each book "presents a very different interpretation," Beers said. "Both of these



55 MILLION SERVED Tim LaHaye (left) and Jerry Jenkins have written 12 books in the "Left Behind" series.

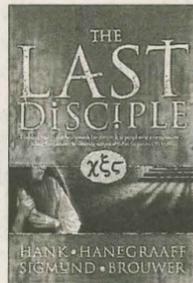


viewpoints are strongly supported by a large number of evangelical scholars."

In the "Left Behind" series, co-authored by LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, the end of the world is yet to come. The books follow a generally apocalyptic interpretation of Revelation beginning with the Rapture, in which millions of believers are snatched up to

heaven, and continuing through the seven-year Tribulation marked by the rule of the Antichrist. Jesus Christ returns at the end of that period and triumphs in the battle of Armageddon.

Hanegraaff's book—co-authored with writer Sigmund Brouwer—unfolds in first-century Jerusalem. The city begins to confront chaos prophesied by Christ as the beginning of the last days. Uncertainty grows as an evil adversary tries to find the disciple John's letter (the book of Revelation) and destroy it.



The book contends that Revelation actually might describe how early Christians were persecuted under the brutal Nero in the first century. To Hanegraaff,

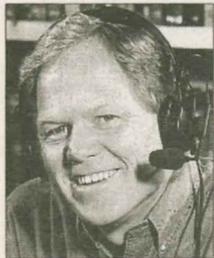
Revelation was written before the destruction of the Jerusalem temple to encourage persecuted Christians. He says the "end-time model presented in 'Left Behind' is hermeneutically false in that it attributes powers to the beast that belong only to God, but it is historically false because it places the beast in the 21st century."

To LaHaye, "The Last Disciple" promotes a "flawed theory," one which he has criticized in media interviews. A pastor and author, he perhaps was best known for his conservative politics before fiction brought him fame.

"Everyone wants to know about the future and there's a lot of discussion, but only the Bible gives concrete answers," LaHaye said last year. "What people don't realize is that 28 percent of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written."

Hanegraaff, president of the Christian Research Institute and host of CRI's popular daily radio show, "Bible Answer Man," minces no words describing how his views differ. "Fiction is a great truth-convening medium," he says.

"As 'Left Behind' has become the vehicle for indoctrinating millions of believers into an end-time theology invented in the 19th century, so we intend 'The Last Disciple' series to bring a biblical balance to the debate over which end-times perspective corresponds to reality."



OPPOSING VIEW Hank Hanegraaff (left), known for his "Bible Answer Man" radio show, and Sigmund Brouwer have written a novel based on a different view of Revelation from that described in "Left Behind."



REVELATIONS Natascha McElhone (right) as Sister Josepha Montafiore with Bill Pullman as Dr. Richard Massey in the NBC miniseries, which airs on Wednesdays. (©NBC photo)

## TV mini-series seeks to capitalize on public's end-times fascination

By Helena Andrews  
Religion News Service

Los Angeles (RNS)—"Omnium finis imminet." The end is here.

So warns NBC's miniseries "Revelations," based on the similarly named book of the Bible.

Critics are calling it Hollywood's latest attempt to hop on the religion bandwagon. But an influential professor of popular culture says putting the Bible in prime time is a rerun of an old TV strategy.

The six-part series chronicles the religious conflict between a man of science and a woman of God with the impending end of the world as backdrop.

In "Revelations," astrophysicist Dr. Richard Massey (played by Bill Pullman), whose daughter has been murdered by Satanists, and Sister Josepha Montafiore (Natascha McElhone), who is convinced Christ has been reborn, team up to save the world from apocalypse.

"All the signs and symbols are currently in place for the end of days," says Montafiore, who is trying desperately to convince Massey, a nonbeliever, that the Bible's prophecies are real.

With NBC keeping open the possibility of "Revelations" returning as a regular series, it seems religion is becoming more marketable than ever. Popular culture already has embraced movies like "The Passion of the Christ," other TV series such as "Joan of Arcadia" and books like the wildly successful "Left Behind" series.

### Bible not new to TV

But is this a voyage into a new spiritual frontier for TV programming or a return trip?

In the early days of television, networks hired vice presidents of religious pro-

gramming to oversee the development of multid denominational shows, notes Robert Thompson, professor of popular culture at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. Talk shows like "Life is Worth Living" hosted by Bishop Fulton Sheen competed successfully with other popular programs.

During the 1970s, Thompson said, "religion became verboten for a long time" because the networks decided to forego topics of politics and religion in order to retain larger viewing audiences.

"Prime time was completely unrelated to what was going on in the news at 11 p.m.," Thompson said, referring to the absence of political shows in popular programming during the Vietnam War.

But with the advent of cable in the 1980s, audience retention was less an issue and shows like "Highway to Heaven" and later "Touched by an Angel" found their way back to primetime.

Still, these weekly series were more "feel good" television than sophisticated theological analysis.

"So many Americans go to church on Christmas and Easter," Thompson said, "but they don't want to go for the rest of the year. I'm not sure they would want to watch a series that really dealt with religious issues."

Jerry Jenkins, co-author of the "Left Behind" book series that also deals with biblical end times, described "Revelations" as "a mishmash of myth, silliness and misrepresentations of scripture (that) seems to draw from everywhere and nowhere."

Thompson described the book of Revelation as "ripe fodder" for both the miniseries and books like "Left Behind" because "it's so hard to kind of get to the bottom of, which means you can really take a lot of liberties."

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries and requests related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Baptists in New England, Brazil and the International Baptist Convention:

**Kentucky volunteers** who are preparing for upcoming trips to Brazil and Europe in May and June.

**Jim Wideman**, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England, as he seeks to secure financial and human resources for churches and ministries.

**Ethnic congregations** in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

**Church planters** in New England, where it often is very expensive to live.

**Hope Fellowship** in Cambridge, Mass. This church is involved in a variety of servant evangelism projects, especially to college students from several local campuses. Pray that students will be receptive to the outreach projects and that the church will have the resources and volunteers it needs.

**Jose Flores**, pastor of a Hispanic church in Boston, who is seeking a Hispanic mission team this summer to help with outreach and children's work.

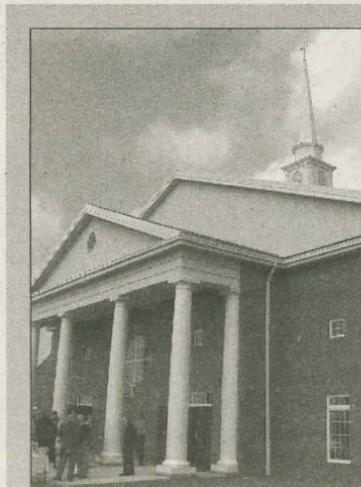
## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Fairlane Church will celebrate 40 years of ministry April 24. Activities include 11 a.m. worship, a catered noon meal and a 2:30 p.m. anniversary celebration.

■ **COVINGTON**—Decoursey Church will hold revival services April 24-27, 7 p.m., with different speakers each night. **Ashley Beagle** is pastor.

■ **COXS CREEK**—Coxs Creek Church will celebrate its 220th anniversary April 23, 1-4 p.m., with a dedication service for its restored educational facility which was damaged by fire last year. Former pastor **Bill Carter**, minister of senior adults at Immanuel Church in Lexington, will be guest speaker. **Matthew Johnson** is pastor.



**DEDICATION** First Baptist Church of Hodgenville dedicated its new facilities March 20. The \$3 million, 43,000-square-foot facility includes a sanctuary that seats more than 860 people, a family life center, educational space and church offices. **George Smith** is pastor.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Mount Pisgah Church will hold revival services April 17-20, 6:45 p.m., with **Wallace York** as evangelist.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge Church recently called **Jim Craigmyle** as interim pastor.

■ **GLASGOW**—Mount Tabor Church will hold revival services April 24, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and April 25-29, 7 p.m., with **Butch Pennington** as evangelist.

■ **HENDERSON**—Audubon Church recently called **Jerry Barron** as interim pastor. **D.T. Fulkerson Jr.**, recently resigned as pastor of Cash Creek Church.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church recently honored **Joel and Kitty Dixon** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Henderson Memorial Church will hold revival services April 24 at 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and April 25-28, 6:30 p.m., with **Bob Morrison**, director of missions for Little Bethel Association, as evangelist.

■ **LaGRANGE**—LaGrange Church recently called **Bill Cubine** as interim pastor.

■ **LEBANON JUNCTION**—Belmont Church recently ordained **Dondie Johnson** to the gospel ministry.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Chevy Chase Church recently called **Joe and Kimberly Collins** as ministers to children.

■ **LONDON**—Liberty Church will hold revival services April 24-27 with **Jason Hutchinson** as evangelist. **David Sargent** is pastor.

New Salem Church will hold revival services April 24, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and April 25-27, 7 p.m., with **LaVerne Butler** as evangelist. **Dennis**

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

### April

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

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

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

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

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

30-May 1 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave.

### May

6 Children's Bible Drill, Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah, and First Baptist Church, Somerset.

7 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

14 Associational WMU Leadership Training, Beaver Dam Baptist Church; Lowell Ave. Baptist Church, Campbellsville; First Baptist Church, Morehead.

17 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Consolidated Baptist Church, Lexington.

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

**Hammons** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church children's choir will present a musical-drama, "Joseph and the Dream Team Extreme" April 24, 6:30 p.m.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Baltimore Church recently called **Marshall Ivey** as pastor.

■ **MONTICELLO**—Elk Spring Valley Church will host **Lee Thomas**, author of the study book, "Praying Effectively for the Lost," April 28, 6 p.m.

■ **MORTONS GAP**—**Jeff Vaught** recently resigned as pastor of Second Church.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Brindle Ridge Church will hold revival services April 18-27, 7 p.m., with **Terry Brock** as evangelist. **Ron Roberts** is pastor.

Freedom Church will hold revival services April 24-27, 7 p.m., with **Harlan Avera** as evangelist. **Albert McKinney** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will host a sportsman's dinner April 22, 6 p.m., with **Chuck McAllister**

as guest speaker. For information, call (502) 538-7361. **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.

■ **NEBO**—Silent Run Church recently called **Chris Pendley** as music minister.

■ **PENDLETON**—Sligo Church recently ordained youth minister **Vance Viscusi** to the gospel ministry.

■ **PRINCETON**—Liberty Church recently called **Jason Randall** as pastor.

Pleasant Grove Church will hold revival services April 24-29, 7 p.m., with **Jack Studie** as evangelist. **Wayne Duncan** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—First Church will hold revival services April 24-28, 6:30 p.m., with **Al Dodson** as evangelist.

New Victory Church will hold revival services April 24-28, 6:30 p.m., with **Adam Dooley** as evangelist.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church recently honored **Bobby and Atta Tom Payton** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Southern Gospel quartet, Magnify, seeks to magnify the precious name of Jesus. Everywhere! The men of Magnify are active in the KBC. Please prayerfully consider inviting this group of committed Christian men (who all work "day" jobs) to sing praises to Jesus at your gathering. Love offerings are greatly appreciated. Contact David at (859) 654-1706, [ordavevaughan@juno.com](mailto:ordavevaughan@juno.com), [www.magnifyquartet.com](http://www.magnifyquartet.com).

**FOR SALE:** Books co-authored by Ken Walker (WR state correspondent): "Rich Beyond Measure" (\$10); and "God@Work" (\$12). Orders: [www.kenwalker.biz](http://www.kenwalker.biz) or send check to 1355 Bardstown Road, #217, Louisville, KY 40204.

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

**SEEKING:** Independent contractors to perform exterior residential property insurance inspections in a local territory. We need someone to start immediately. Earnings based on number of inspections you complete. Commitment to a local territory is required; direct or related experience required. You will need the following items to begin: dependable vehicle, digital camera, measuring wheel and PC with high-speed Internet access. E-mail resúmes to: [jhugel@millinco.com](mailto:jhugel@millinco.com). EOE.

**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 preferred. Send resumé to: Fairview Baptist Church, Route 3, Box 347, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456.

**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@firstbaptist.net](mailto:richard.landiers@firstbaptist.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Turner Ridge Baptist Church, a strong, mission-minded church in Northern Kentucky, affiliated with the Crittenden Baptist Association. Send resumé to Terry Sowder, 421 Straightshoot Road, Falmouth, KY 41040.

**SEEKING:** Receptionist/data specialist. Self-starter to greet visitors, handle phones, assist staff with desktop publishing (newsletters, flyers, brochures, programs, etc.), assist with accounting data entry and other clerical work. Temporary full-time position. Knowledge of Southern Baptist churches and work of Woman's Missionary Union helpful. Resumé and sample of publishing work required. Contact: Brenda Price, Ky. WMU, (502) 244-6485.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/worship for Sale Street Baptist Church. Send resumé, cover letter and demo/sampling of worship leading to: Music Search Committee, PO Box 5215, Lake Charles, LA 70606. Job requirements at [www.salestreet.org](http://www.salestreet.org).

**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:** Full-time student minister for Sale Street Baptist Church to focus on youth, grades 6-12 and college students. Send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, PO Box 5215, Lake Charles, LA 70606.

**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:** 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:** 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.

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

# No shirt, no shoes, no service

## Congregation buys former strip club for new house of worship

By Ron Csillag  
Religion News Service

Toronto (RNS)—One of the first questions Pastor Ken Davis has had to fend off, mainly from prurient reporters, is what his new church would do with the brass stripper's pole and the nine disco balls that came with the building.

Finally, he can answer.

"Well, I'm happy to say the brass pole was auctioned off for \$30 (\$24 U.S.), and we're keeping the disco balls," Davis says with a smile. "We'll use them for the kids."

In the meantime, renovations are coming along at the Olive Branch Community Church in Toronto, where member volunteers have joined contractors to gut the building, install pews and generally rid the place of the stench of sin.

When the congregation opened its doors earlier this month, it didn't bear much resemblance to Friction Gentleman's Club, a striptease joint that occupied the site for years.

The significance of a church taking over a sleazy strip club isn't lost on Davis and the 150 members of his evangelical congregation.

"God works in interesting ways," says Davis, a soft-spoken, 51-year-old minister. "He takes something that doesn't have a good reputation and turns it into something good."

"We have a chance to do something positive for this area."

The congregation met at the club for a one-time Sunday service in December. "People wanted to see it before renovations began," Davis says. "My sermon was about the eviction of Friction."

Olive Branch, part of the Congregational Christian Churches

of Canada, has met at a local golf club since its founding a year ago in Markham, a bedroom community northeast of Toronto. From the beginning, the church scouted more than 30 locations for a permanent home, with no luck.

When the congregation's real estate agent suggested the Friction property might be for sale, members thought it was a joke. "We decided to check it out anyway," Davis says.

The church's inquiries initially were ignored, but soon the club saw potential for a windfall. The initial asking price was \$7.8 million (\$6.4 million U.S.) for the land, building and business.

The last demand was quickly scotched. "The church is not in the stripper business," the pastor declares.

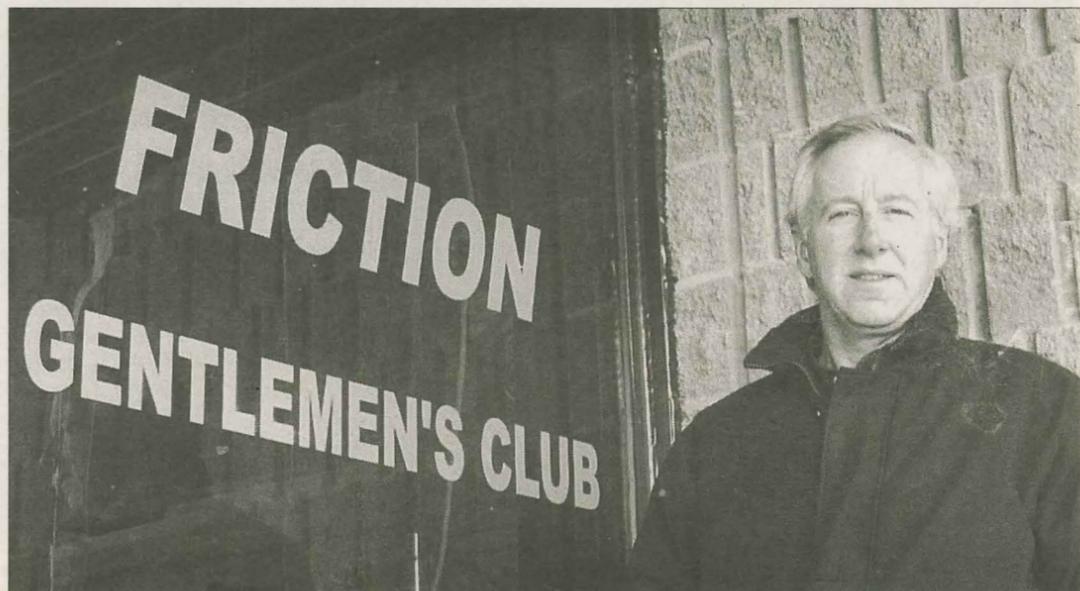
But then negotiations got serious, and the club agreed to sell for just under \$4 million (\$3.2 million U.S.). Questions, though, lingered.

"What happens to that money? Who gets it? We had to think about that from a theological perspective," he says.

### Lots of renovations

Meantime, renovations are expected to total another \$500,000 (\$411,000 U.S.). More than 100 volunteers have helped. Carpets were torn up in the 23,000-square-foot building. Fixtures were scrubbed to within inches of their lives. The new layout includes a day-care center, classrooms and movable pews.

Asked what the place looked like when board members first entered, Davis says: "We found our share of condoms. There were also these black lights. They illuminate only



**NEW PURPOSE** Pastor Ken Davis of the Olive Branch Community Church in Toronto, outside the former strip club that is now the church's home. (RNS photo by Ron Csillag)

whites. When we turned them off and turned on the regular lights, we saw the place was filthy. It wasn't pretty."

Indeed, local police say Friction has been plagued with trouble in recent years. Assaults, drug dealing, threats and damage to property were common. Last spring, undercover work resulted in nine prostitution charges against dancers.

The deal also hinged on securing the proper zoning.

"The property was rezoned quickly. The town has rolled out the red carpet for us," Davis says.

The new facility, located in an industrial area dotted with low-slung crackerbox buildings, will have a capacity of between 600 and 700 people. About 350 worshippers attend the church's Sunday services.

### Reaching out to former employees

While members are thrilled the strippers have moved out, Davis says he doesn't want them to go completely. Friction staff members have been invited to join the church

to have their souls' needs met.

"We sincerely hope they will take us up on the offer. There's not a man in the world who would want their 10-year-old daughter to grow up and dance for a bunch of leering guys," Davis says.

The pastor sees his church's move as a parable of new ownership and a "new interior" in people's lives.

"There was lots of sadness and brokenness there. We're great at shining up the exterior of our lives, but no one really knows what makes us sad and broken. We need a renovation too."

Anyway, he adds, the church is inheriting a great sound system as well as a giant fiberglass volcano. Whenever a particularly suggestive dancer performed at the club, the volcano would "erupt."

The contraption will be placed in the church's youth group area, which is called, appropriately, "Playing With Fire."

Davis explains: "They're called that so they will learn not to get burned by life."

## Switchfoot, Crabb Family big winners at gospel music's Dove Awards

Nashville (RNS)—Alternative rock band Switchfoot and Southern gospel's Crabb Family were among the big winners of the Gospel Music Association's annual awards last week in Nashville.

Switchfoot earned four Dove Awards as a group—including artist of the year—and an additional honor for lead songwriter Jonathan Foreman.

The Crabb Family won in several categories, including Southern gospel, traditional gospel and country, garnering four awards as a group and several others for individual family members.

"I love the fact that Switchfoot and the Crabb Family share top Dove Award honors this year because it powerfully reveals the variety of cultural expressions of the gospel through music," said John Styll, president of the Gospel Music Association, in a statement. "These two groups could not be more different culturally and musically, and yet the message of the gospel is evident in both of them."

The 36th annual awards ceremony, officially called "The Annual GMA Music Awards," was held at the Grand Ole Opry House. It will be



**SWITCHFOOT** The band won four Doves.

televised in June.

Nicole Mullen received her second Female Vocalist of the Year award, and Jeremy Camp won his second straight Male Vocalist honor.

Winners included:

**Song of the Year:** "Who Am I" by Mark Hall.

**Songwriter of the Year:** Mark Hall.

**Male Vocalist of the Year:** Jeremy Camp.

**Female Vocalist of the Year:** Nicole Mullen.

**Group of the Year:** Casting Crowns.

**Artist of the Year:** Switchfoot.

**New Artist of the Year:** Building 429.

**Producer of the Year:** Ed Cash.

**Rap/Hip Hop Song of the Year:** "Hit-tin' Curves" by Grits.

**Modern Rock Song of the Year:** "Control" by MuteMath.

**Rock Song of the Year:** "Stay" by Jeremy Camp.

**Rock/Contemporary Song of the Year:** "Dare You to Move" by Switchfoot.

**Pop/Contemporary Song of the Year:** "Who Am I" by Casting Crowns.

**Inspirational Song of the Year:** "Voice of Truth" by Casting Crowns.

**Southern Gospel Song of the Year:** "He Came Looking for Me" by The Crabb Family.

**Bluegrass Song of the Year:** "Heroes" by The Isaacs.

**Country Song of the Year:** "Forever" by The Crabb Family.

**Urban Song of the Year:** "You Don't Know" by Kierra Kiki Sheard.

**Traditional Gospel Song of the Year:** "Through the Fire" by The Crabb Family featuring Donnie McClurkin.

**Contemporary Gospel Song of the Year:** "Again I Say Rejoice" by Israel & New Breed.

**Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year:** "Welcome to Diverse City" featuring Toby McKeenan, Christopher Stevens, Paul Meany, Solomon Olds, Joe Baldrige, Jeff Savage, Robert Marvin, Josiah Bell, Max

Hsu and Michael Linney.

**Modern Rock Album of the Year:** "Fight the Tide" by Sanctus Real.

**Rock Album of the Year:** "Day of Fire" by Day of Fire.

**Rock/Contemporary Album of the Year:** Wire by Third Day.

**Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year:** "Undone" by MercyMe.

**Southern Gospel Album of the Year:** "Driven" by The Crabb Family.

**Bluegrass Album of the Year:** "Angels Gathering Flowers" by The Lewis Family.

**Country Album of the Year:** "Passing Through" by Randy Travis.

**Urban Album of the Year:** "Everyday People" by Nicole Mullen.

**Traditional Gospel Album of the Year:** "A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson" by Lynda Randle.

**Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year:** "Live From Another Level" by Israel & New Breed.

**Praise & Worship Album of the Year:** "Arriving" by Chris Tomlin.

**Instrumental Album of the Year:** "The Passion of the Christ Original Motion Picture Soundtrack."

**Children's Music Album of the Year:** "Angel Alert!" featuring various artists.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

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## **A STORY OF 63 CUMBERLAND COLLEGE STUDENTS COMING TOGETHER TO SERVE THE LORD.**

Acts 1:8

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