



WESTERN RECORDER

April 26, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 17

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James Dobson (below) was among those speaking in a Louisville church Sunday against judicial filibusters. *Page 6.*



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Study suggests spirituality might slow Alzheimer's

Miami Beach, Fla. (ABP)—A rewarding spiritual life might help slow the devastation of Alzheimer's disease, according to a preliminary study.

"The data suggest there may be an association, meaning people with higher levels of spirituality and religiosity have a slower progression of Alzheimer's disease," Yakir Kaufman, director of neurology services at Sarah Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem, told the HealthDay medical-news agency.

Kaufman presented the findings to the April meeting of the American Academy of Neurology in Miami Beach, Fla.

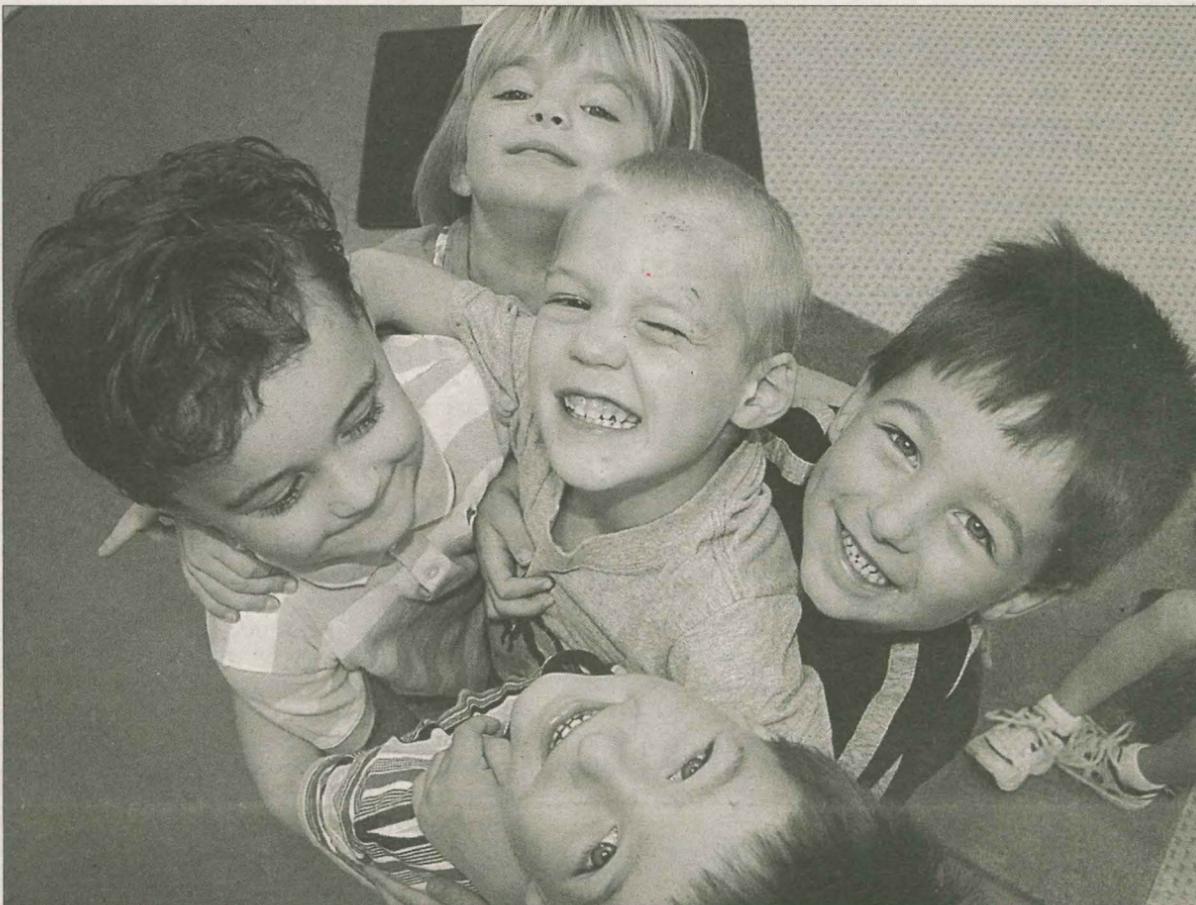
But Kaufman and his co-authors stressed caution when interpreting the results. "We did not specifically look into the mechanisms, and we certainly need to replicate these results and do a larger study."

For this study, researchers assessed 68 people with probable Alzheimer's, assessing their spiritual activities. Participants who had high levels of spirituality or religiosity seemed to have a slower progression of cognitive decline. The authors said the results could be related to a number of factors, including religiosity, feelings of well-being and stress.

Vincent Corso, a hospice worker in New York City, said he was not surprised by the findings, however preliminary.

"What's important to people is how much they're able to connect with the people around them," he said. "If that creates a feeling of well-being, then that aids in the healing process."

Reaching kids



Author shares 10 components of healthy ministries

By David Winfrey
News Director

Louisville—Parents are the missing element in too many children's ministries, an author and children's ministry consultant told a group of Kentucky Baptists last week.

"Parents are the missing element of children's ministry," Art Murphy told children's ministry workers during a conference in Louisville, April 23 at Westport Road Baptist Church.



Art Murphy

Too many churches are working off the 1970s model of recruiting a paid or volunteer worker to "baby sit" children while the adults hold their worship service, said Murphy, author of "The Faith of a Child."

"It's not the job of the 10 percent to do 90 percent of the work," he said. "That's called unhealthy."

But successful children's ministries today involve parents in the work with children and equip adults to be Christian parents and role models throughout

the week.

Parental involvement was one of 10 components Murphy said make up a strong children's ministry. He defined children's ministry as for those age infant to pre-teens.

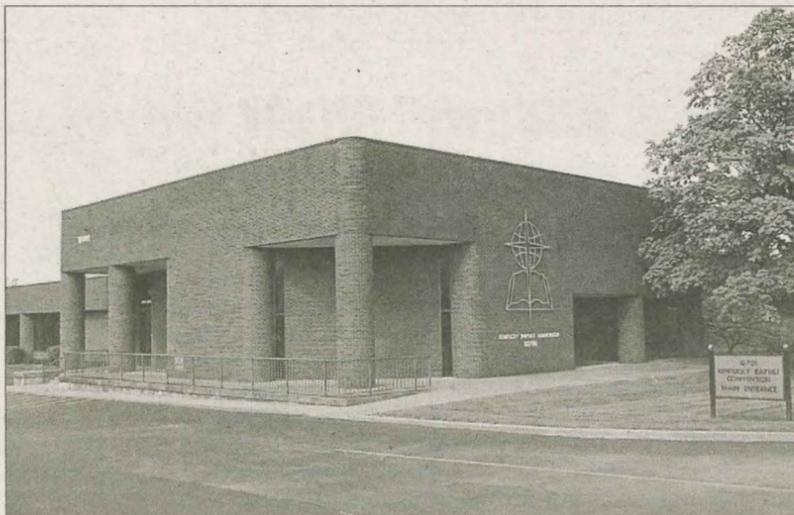
Other components of a healthy ministry, he said, are:

■ **Bible truth.** "This is our power source," he said, referring to both Bible facts and Christian doctrine. Children's ministries can reinforce such truth, he added, by teaching kids to memorize Bible verses and such lists as the fruit of the Spirit.

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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, April 27

Convention's property sale clears way for relocation of offices



SOLD The Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board sold its buildings and land on Shelbyville Road in Middletown to help finance relocation to a new building near Interstate 265. It will be the fourth location for KBC offices.

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Capping a two-year process to explore long-term facility options, Kentucky Baptist Convention officials closed on the sale of the KBC facilities in Middletown April 21 and closed on the purchase of new property the same day.

The KBC's 12-acre site on Shelbyville Road sold for \$4.2 million. It includes a 1957 office building, a 1979 addition and a separate facility built in 1996 that houses the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Western Recorder and Woman's Missionary Union.

KBC leaders sold the property to 10605 Real Estate Company, a limited liability company of New Equity Mortgage which will relocate to the former KBC facilities.

The KBC purchased a five-acre site for \$4.475 million that includes a new one-story building with an unfinished interior. Interior construction, scheduled to be completed in July or August, is expected to cost up to \$2.1 million.

KBC officials bought the property on Eastpoint Centre Drive from the Alter Group, a national business park developer. The 51,000-square-foot building is located in Eastpoint Centre, just off the LaGrange Road exit on the Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265) in eastern Jefferson County.

"Although there will be considerable sadness in leaving the place that has been home for Kentucky Baptists for 48 years, I am energized by the opportunities provided by the new building," said KBC Executive Director.

□ See Convention property ... *Page 8*

BAPTIST
DIGEST

Thom Meigs, a former chaplain and assistant professor of religion at Georgetown College, died April 16 in New Orleans of a heart attack. He was 65. Meigs, professor of pastoral care and psychology at Midwestern Baptist in Kansas City, Mo., from 1979-97, was a chaplain and minister at Memorial Medical Center-Baptist Campus in New Orleans. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, he also had served as pastoral care and counseling minister at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas and the ministerial relations staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Brazilian pastor Fausto de Vasconcelos has been nominated to lead the evangelism effort of the Baptist World Alliance, succeeding Australian Tony Cupit, who is retiring. Elected to the BWA's executive staff by its general council in July, he will direct two divisions—study and research, which coordinates the work of six commissions, and evangelism and education. Vasconcelos, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro, is a member of the BWA general council and chair of the executive committee for evangelism and education. He has been president of the Union of Baptists in Latin America and is serving for the eighth time as president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

Educators explore historic, current Baptist distinctives

Leonard: Dissent valued role of Baptist schools

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Waco, Texas (ABP)—The right to dissent—even about what makes a school religious—should be a key distinctive of Baptist higher education, suggested church historian Bill Leonard, dean of the divinity school at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Addressing a national conference on the future of Baptist higher education, sponsored by Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, Leonard said early Baptist dissent was grounded in freedom of conscience and a commitment to uncoerced faith.

"I would suggest that one Baptist way—no doubt there are many—for responding to the changing nature of campus life would be a reassertion of those early Baptist ideals of dissent, conscience and believers' church," he said.

"That is, Baptists should be at the forefront of the quest for 'voice' on college and university campus—not as a tepid, grudging response to because political correctness, but because voice is endemic to the nature of Baptist identity, perhaps even its most profound distinctive."

Leonard requests apology

Departing from his prepared manuscript, Leonard said he intended to exercise his own Baptist right to dissent and voice disapproval of what he considered an unfair characterization of his school. He cited a statement in the conference's program about the loss of religious identity at many Christian colleges and universities.

"Secularization has been so powerful that these once-Christian institutions now speak of themselves only as having a religious heritage, the substance of which is reflected in vague language about values in their institutional mission statements," the printed program read. "Although these reach back into Baptist history, with prominent examples being Brown University and the University of Chicago, in the last quarter century, the light has been extinguished in a growing number of venerable Baptist institutions in the South. The University of

Richmond, Wake Forest University, Stetson University, Furman University and Meredith College serve as examples."

Leonard characterized the language as "incorrect, inhospitable and downright rude."

"If the light has gone out at Wake Forest University, then why invite me?" he asked. "If a public apology is not given, I will pack my bags and go home right now, and I'll return to Wake Forest where we are trying to keep the light burning."

Don Schmeltekopf, provost emeritus at conference host Baylor University, immediately stood and asked Leonard to accept his apology for any offense.

Schmeltekopf explained in an interview the language in the program was derived from a book by James Burtchaell, "The Dying of the Light: The Disengagement of Colleges and Universities from their Christian Churches." Burtchaell devoted a chapter in the book to Wake Forest University.

Sloan: "Lay aside agendas"

Baylor University President Robert Sloan told conference participants the future of Baptist colleges and universities depends on educators' willingness to "move on" beyond the political categories that have dominated denominational life for more than 20 years.

Before Baptist schools can make any progress, some "thick and often ugly underbrush" must be cleared away, Sloan said.

"I would like to declare in terms as strong as I can possibly muster: It is time to move on," said Sloan, who steps down as president to become Baylor's chancellor June 1.

Sloan resigned the presidency after two years of conflict that focused in part on his attempt to make Baylor's Christian identity more overt. Critics said his efforts to integrate Christian ideas into all areas of university life infringed on academic freedom.

Some other speakers at the conference insisted Sloan's admonition is premature. "The call to put the struggle behind us and move on sounds different in some ears than in others," said Dwight Moody, dean of the chapel at Georgetown College.

Sloan urged Baptist educators to quit "endlessly rehashing old battles" and to "lay aside the multiple agendas that have divided Baptists" in recent years.

Nettles defends 'coherent-truth' Baptist identity

By Jeff Robinson
Baptist Press

Louisville (BP)—What makes one a Baptist?

Are the defining Baptist attributes liberty of conscience and the competency of the human soul? Or are Baptists a confessional people with their identity tied to a set of objective biblical doctrines that they have believed and clearly articulated through the centuries?

Tom Nettles, professor of historical theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, affirms the latter in his new book, "The Baptists, Volume One: Beginnings in Britain" published by Christian Focus/Mentor.

Advocating what he calls a "coherent-truth" model of Baptist identity, Nettles begins by identifying two currents—and profoundly different—views of what constitutes a Baptist. The first says Baptist identity is defined by liberty of conscience and the doctrine of soul-competency. Defenders of this view—which Nettles calls "soul-liberty"—argue that Baptists are defined by individual autonomy and experience. Moderate Baptists typically define themselves in terms of the "soul-liberty" model, Nettles writes.

Ties to historic Christianity

Over against this view, Nettles posits a model—the "coherent-truth" view—for Baptist identity built on two irreducible foundations. First, he notes that Baptists cannot be defined apart from historic Christianity. While the soul-liberty view sees Baptists as holding to a distinctive set of beliefs that set them apart from the broader evangelical community, Nettles argues that Baptists always have held central doctrines in common with Christians of other evangelical denominations.

Second, Nettles writes that Baptists historically have built their worldview on objective, biblical truth.

"A clear picture of Baptists must involve a more historically comprehensive framework than the soul-liberty view," Nettles writes. "Soul-liberty has no context apart from a certain view of God, sin and the nature of redemption."

"(Baptists cannot be defined

apart from) a worldview committed to the objectivity and investigability of truth. ... The worldview question necessarily involves the issue of inerrancy. Specifically, truth exists and can be communicated clearly from one mind to another. The Bible is the deposit of this truth that tells clearly how God saves fallen, sinful creatures and what constitutes the nature, function and future of His church."

Four essential principles undergird Nettles' view of Baptist identity. He asserts that Baptists always have been:

Orthodox. One must first be a Christian before he can be a Baptist, Nettles writes. Baptists always have subscribed to the orthodox doctrines of God, man, the person and work of Christ and the Trinity, among others, he notes.

Evangelical. Baptists always have believed the doctrines central to the gospel, including justification by faith, the necessity of the work of Christ and the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation.

Theologically integrated in their view of the local church. "Baptists have always held to a view of the church that is developed in full awareness of its necessary connection with a network of other biblical truths," Nettles writes. "This involves such components as believers' baptism by immersion, regenerate church membership, liberty of conscience, separation of church and state, and the necessity of gospel proclamation to all persons in all nations."

Conscientiously confessional. Baptist churches always have made plain to their members and to the world the truths that are believed by the church as a whole, Nettles writes. They have done this by setting forth confessions of faith that have been used for teaching doctrine and in corrective church discipline, he notes.

After arguing for the coherent-truth understanding of Baptist identity, Nettles profiles 11 leaders and movements throughout Baptist history who typified the coherent-truth model, including John Smyth, Andrew Fuller and William Carey.

Nettles' book is the first volume in a planned three-volume set from Christian Focus. The two remaining volumes will include additional profiles on formative Baptist leaders and movements chronologically through the 20th century.

Widows undergird Baptist work through Widows' Might prayer ministry

Dallas (BP)—The death of a spouse is always difficult, but for a minister's wife who has served alongside her husband, often for decades, the loss of a spouse also can mean the loss of a ministry.

Hundreds of widows, however, have found an ongoing ministry outlet through a prayer ministry sponsored by GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Widows' Might prayer ministry involves widows who volunteer to pray daily for a variety of special needs related to

Southern Baptists' missions and ministries around the world.

"We often hear from widows who share how blessed they feel to be a part of the Widows' Might prayer ministry," said Susie Hawkins, who volunteers her time to lead the ministry. She is the wife of GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins.

"It is a wonderful way for these women to still feel connected to the work of God in the Southern Baptist Convention," Mrs. Hawkins added. "Despite age, illness, loneliness or eco-

nomie struggles, the women of the Widows' Might are eager to pray for God's power to be present in the work of our Southern Baptist Convention."

Widows' Might participant Lessie Cumbie of Seymour, Texas, wrote, "Words cannot be put on paper to express how much the Widows' Might prayer ministry has helped me. I am 82 years old. I moved to my new hometown after my husband went to be with our Lord. I didn't know what to do. I asked God, and His answer was, 'You can pray.'"

The Widows' Might ministry was named for the widow in Luke, who gave her last two mites to God's work.

Widows who participate receive a Quarterly Call to Prayer, as a means of staying informed about specific prayer needs. The publication lists prayer requests from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist seminaries and other SBC entities.

Margaret Mullins of Louisville

wrote, "At my age it seems there is not much I can do. Since I don't drive anymore, I can't attend church as I would love to. But I can pray. I realize the power of prayer. My heart is lifted as I pray for the brave missionaries and the souls being saved."

"There is so much trouble in the world," she added, "but our God is big enough to save everyone who would turn to Him."

For more information about Widows' Might, contact GuideStone Financial Resources at (800) 262-0511.

KBC's 2004 church statistics are mix of gains, losses

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2004 Annual Church Profile report is a roller coaster of statistical ups and downs.

While 11 of 12 major categories posted increases in 2003, only 5 of 12 recorded gains last year. The biggest gains in 2004 were in the number of baptisms and undesignated receipts while the largest declines were in Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood enrollment.

Baptisms reported by Kentucky Baptist churches last year increased 1,276 (7.7 percent) over the previous year to a total of 17,819. Baptism totals have averaged 17,315 over the past five years, with a high of 18,143 in 2000 and a low of 16,543 in both 2001 and 2003.

The KBC's "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis call for an average of 25,000 baptisms a year to reach a five-year goal of 125,000 baptisms by 2010.

"I'm encouraged by this ACP report, particularly because of a significant increase in baptisms," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "Hopefully, that is an indication of interest that will result in an upward trend."

"Statistically, it's nice to get a bump," agreed Dan Garland, leader of the KBC's church development and evangelism team. He cautioned, however, that "statistically, it's still flat. We've been at about 17,000 baptisms for the last four

years."

Noting that other studies indicate a decrease in youth baptisms, Garland added, "We're not reaching our own children. That's one of the alarming statistics."

On the positive side, Garland said, he recently compiled statistics of each KBC church's top baptismal year over the past 10 years. He said the study found that each church's best year in baptisms collectively totaled more than 40,000 baptisms.

"What churches have done in the last 10 years, that's still reality," he said. "If churches would just do their best, the 25,000 goal would be absolutely attainable."

Other growth areas last year included undesignated receipts, discipleship training, worship attendance and membership additions other than baptisms:

- Undesignated receipts to local churches topped \$284.7 million in 2004, an increase of more than \$12.7 million (4.7 percent) over the previous year.

- Discipleship training, another major focus of KBC's "Connect" emphasis, increased 1,431 (1.8 percent) to 79,086.

- Membership additions other than baptisms grew 320 (1.9 percent) for a total of 17,055 new members.

- Worship attendance recorded a slight increase of 528 (0.2 percent) to 260,163.

Despite the gains in baptisms and other additions, total membership

Kentucky Annual Church Profile statistics

| Category | 2004 | 2003 | Increase/Decrease | Percent Change |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Total membership | 780,802 | 786,168 | -5,366 | -0.7% |
| Resident membership | 560,692 | 566,323 | -5,631 | -1.0% |
| Total baptisms | 17,819 | 16,543 | 1,276 | 7.7% |
| Other additions | 17,055 | 16,735 | 320 | 1.9% |
| Sunday school enrollment | 325,638 | 327,258 | -1,620 | -0.5% |
| Sunday school attendance | 175,772 | 176,314 | -542 | -0.3% |
| Worship attendance | 260,163 | 259,635 | 528 | 0.2% |
| Discipleship training | 79,086 | 77,655 | 1,431 | 1.8% |
| Music enrollment | 68,756 | 69,533 | -777 | -1.1% |
| Woman's Missionary Union | 38,713 | 42,227 | -3,514 | -8.3% |
| Brotherhood enrollment | 15,920 | 16,684 | -764 | -4.6% |
| Undesignated receipts | \$284,714,208 | \$271,949,316 | \$12,764,892 | 4.7% |

and resident membership both decreased last year. Total membership fell 5,366 (0.7 percent) to 780,802 and resident membership declined 5,631 (1 percent) to 560,692.

Other categories that recorded decreases include:

- Sunday school enrollment down 1,620 (0.5%) to 325,638 and Sunday school attendance down 542 (0.3 percent) to 175,772.

- Music enrollment down 777 (1.1 percent) to 68,756.

- Brotherhood enrollment down 764 (4.6 percent) to 15,920. The decline came after Brotherhood had posted a 7.1 percent gain in 2003.

- Woman's Missionary Union down 3,514 (8.3 percent) to 38,713. WMU's decline followed a 12.5 percent increase in 2003.

Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton noted that the 2003 gain also came amid a major emphasis on Missions LINK, a WMU growth plan that included an emphasis on reporting statistical gains.

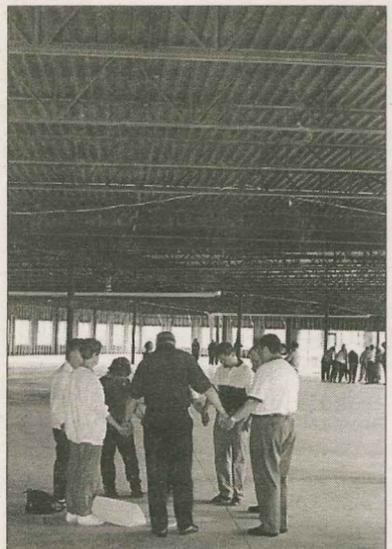
Bolton said the way WMU statistics are reported on ACP vary from year to year. "Yet at the same time we had our largest attendance at this year's WMU annual meeting. ACP is not the only indicator of health."

Convention property sale clears way for August relocation

Continued from page 1

Executive Director Bill Mackey. "Our work is about the mission, not location, but I do believe that a good location can enhance our ability to function more effectively."

The relocation plan follows a similar effort in 2001 that failed to materialize. The KBC's Mission Study Committee report approved by the Mission Board in May 2003 called for the board chairman to appoint a properties study committee "for the purpose of reviewing the work of previous building study committees, studying the occupancy needs of the Mission Board and the condition of KBC Building-East" and to present related recommendations to the board.



PRAYER WALK Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board and KBC agency staff pray in the new building.



In September 2003, then-KBC President Paul Badgett named Mike Melloan chairman of a 15-member committee to study facility options. Melloan, an auctioneer and real estate broker, is a member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro.

In December 2004, the committee presented its recommendation to the KBC Mission Board. Meeting in executive session, board members approved a proposal "to proceed with the sale of KBC's Shelbyville Road property and the purchase of new property for its relocation," Mackey reported.

Despite challenges to coordinating and finalizing the sale and purchase of the two properties, Melloan said, "We felt like this is what the Lord would have us to do. I think the Lord has blessed us in this process."

Melloan said the committee explored such options as renovating the current facilities, purchasing an existing building or buying land for construction.

Noting that renovation costs could have exceeded \$2 million, he added, "The fear we had was if you spend that amount of money, even

if you bring everything up to code, it's still an old building that had been fixed up."

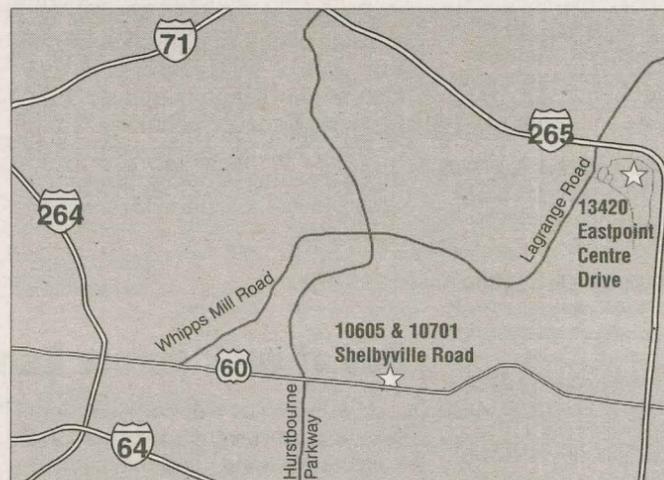
He said savings on annual maintenance costs as well as energy efficiency and technology upgrades helped the committee determine that "looking long-term, if you're going to spend this kind of money, let's get a more desirable location and a new building."

The day before the sale was finalized, Mackey told members of the KBC Mission Board staff and related entities that the new facilities would enhance TEAM (Teamwork, Effectiveness and efficiency, Accessibility and Maximizing resources) efforts.

The new building's open office concept "will fit the current staff organization and provide flexibility for current and future staff functions in areas such as technology and media productions," Mackey said.

The office design also is expected to "enhance communication and teamwork among staff," he noted. "A team leader will be able to walk 80 feet and see every team member."

Troy Fulkerson, director of the



KBC's information services department, said the move will provide the opportunity for a much-needed technology upgrade. He said streamlining the facility's telecommunications networks should result in a better integration of current systems and improved security.

After the sale of the property April 21, staff members held a prayerwalk and reception at the new facility.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team, said interior construction is scheduled to begin May 1, with the move to the new facilities expected to be in August.

"I am excited about the possibilities," Mackey said. "Our prayer has been that God would open and close doors. I am confident God has spoken and He is going to do a mighty work in the years ahead."

With additional reporting by Brenda Smith of the KBC communications department

WESTERNRECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
(USPS 679-380)

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one issue in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$12.19 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.75 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

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Protect separation

It was disturbing to read on the front page of the April 16 Courier-Journal about an April 24 event to rally support for doing away with the Senate rule which allows filibustering by a minority party. Such a result would be dangerous to the important separation of powers in our federal government and could lead to an erosion of the freedoms we cherish. What was particularly disturbing was that this event would be held at a Baptist church and one of the speakers was a Baptist seminary president.

It is time for someone to stand up for our Constitution and Bill of Rights. It is unlikely we would have had either without the determination and sacrifices made by early Baptists. Because of the persecution they suffered in England and early America, they were determined that freedom of religion and separation of church and state would be incorporated into the Constitution by the Bill of Rights.

Both freedom of religion and separation of church and state are basic Baptist beliefs. The history of how they came to be included in our Constitution is an exciting part of the history of our denomination and our country.

It seems that our denomination, once a persecuted minority, is now in the vanguard of groups who would deliberately chip away at this wall of separation between church and state. To what end do we deny our heritage? It seems that we are advocating messages and methods alien to the teachings of Jesus.

Perhaps we should rethink our attitude about and be thankful for this wall of separation which has allowed our denomination to grow far beyond the expectations of our founders and be very careful before we do anything to betray the sacrifices they made to insure our freedom of religion.

Mary J. Graves
Campbellsville

God at work across Kentucky

It always is gratifying to see how God is at work across Kentucky. On a recent weekend I had the opportunity to speak at an association meeting, participate in a partnership missions orientation, worship at a growing church, hear the Lord praised through song and teach at a Bible conference.

The association meeting was the semi-annual meeting of Bates Creek Baptist Association, which met at White Lick Baptist Church in Berea. Pastor Ed Hubbard has provided solid leadership at this church for 17 years.

Hamp Valentine is director of missions and has led the association in a partnership with Montana.

During the meeting, Rick Brown, pastor of Union City Baptist Church, reported on a successful mission trip to Botswana that included 88 professions of faith.

Also, Jon Barron, our campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University, brought students who led mu-

Wake-up call

The parallels between some fundamentalist Southern Baptists and the right wing of the Republican Party is, in my opinion, a wake-up call to all moderate Christians.

I have seen both groups use fear-mongering, "you are with us or against us" tactics and manipulation of the truth in order to convince loving, trusting Christians that those who do not think like fundamentalists or right-wing Republicans are not really Christians.

Christians who are Democrats are made to feel as if the term "Christian Democrat" is an oxymoron. Jesus was neither a Republican nor Democrat, but instead built relationships with people of all kinds.

Why are the fundamentalist Southern Baptists and right-wing Republicans so afraid of Christian Democrats and/or anyone who thinks moderately as a Southern Baptist? Having left the church I attended for 40 years because of an extreme doctrinal shift to the right combined with politics preached from the pulpit, I am left wondering: Must we all think the same?

I thought our main goal was leading others to Christ by building loving relationships. Can loving relationships really be built if we refuse to acknowledge the ideas and beliefs of others?

Being able to understand another's point of view, even if it causes disagreement, is important in a loving relationship. We must look upon the things we have in common instead of emphasizing our differences. If Christians can't appreciate our differences, how can we be a true witness to the lost?

Tracy L. Powell-McCoy
Richmond

Thanks for rebuttal

Thank you for running Hershael York's rebuttal of your April 5 editorial about Southern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary's contract with Sodexo. I hope his response puts an end to the nonsense about trying to live in the United States without having anything to do with sinful corporations.

It is impossible for me to e-mail the Western Recorder this message without using a top 50 publicly-traded pro-homosexual company. You choose to pay for Earthlink to provide your e-mail service. Their stance in support of the pro-homosexual agenda is well documented.

I believe it is in the best interest of the Christian work in our state for the Western Recorder to apologize for its part in disparaging the name of another great Christian institution.

Ricky Ray
Hazard

Helpful resources

On behalf of Westport Baptist Church and our staff, I want to share a word of affirmation for the Kentucky Baptist Convention leadership development department and to director Richard Adams for the servant attitude and resources they provide in helping our church and staff better minister in Christ's name. Richard spent a Sunday afternoon with our staff, personnel committee and deacons, providing counsel and direction with humor and a gentle spirit.

As a pastor, I'm always looking for ways our church can better serve our Lord. If we're going to "connect people to Christ," churches, ministry staff and congregations must be willing to see where we are and then listen to hear Christ's voice calling us to where He wants us to be.

I am grateful to the KBC for providing such excellent people and resources to churches, and I encourage all pastors and churches to take advantage of the continuing help and support through people like Richard Adams and the KBC leadership development department.

Lynn Traylor
Westport

■ More Baptist Forum on page 5

has forgiven me for taking these two great leaders as they recognize the great work God is doing through their ministries.

Hyland is on course to significantly increase its missions giving through the Cooperative Program.

Sunday night, I enjoyed gospel music at Highview Baptist Church in Paducah. Pastor Danny Cox provided special music. Highview is a smaller membership church but has a Monday night in missions.

Monday night, I had the privilege of speaking in a Bible conference focused on authentic Christianity at Broadway Baptist Church in Lexington. Pastor Shannon Back provides dynamic leadership for this growing congregation and even sings tenor in a quartet from his church.

Shannon has led the church to double in attendance during the past two years. A new minister of music, Chris Brown, has witnessed outstanding growth in the music ministry.

The church gives 10 percent of designated receipts to missions through the Cooperative Program. Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Parable teaches value of patience amid ups & downs

By Jeremy White

Successful investing requires patience. Like any area of our lives involving patience, we must battle with self-control. We must control emotions, avoid panicking, avoid greed, avoid a get-rich-quick attitude and think long-term.

I often tell clients to remain calm at the beginning of an investment. Don't get too excited if it goes up and don't get too depressed if it goes down quickly.

A Chinese parable tells a perceptive story about a rural family long ago. The family had a horse they used to plow the land and raise their food.

One day the horse ran away while the farmer's son was plowing in the field. Neighbors came and said to the old man and the boy, "We heard about your bad luck. It is so bad."

"How do you know it is bad?" answered the farmer. "It is not over yet."

Sure enough, in a few days the horse came back leading a herd of wild horses. "We heard about your good luck and came to congratulate you," the neighbors said.

"How do you know it is good luck?" answered the farmer. "It is not over yet."

A few days later while the boy was trying to train one of the horses, it threw him and broke his leg. "Oh," said the neighbors, "we heard about your bad luck and came to sympathize."

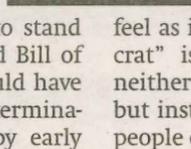
How do you know it is bad? It is not over yet."

A great war comes toward the end of the parable. All the able-bodied young men were taken off to fight. But the boy with the broken leg stayed at home and cared for his aging father for the rest of his days.

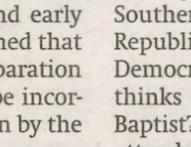
Many people get upset about a temporary decline in their investments—even though their goal, such as retirement, might be many years away. I understand. No one enjoys seeing the value of their investments decline.

But I remind clients, "When will you need the money from this investment?" Many times the answer is "Not for another 10 years or so." Then, as the wise Chinese farmer said, "It is not over yet."

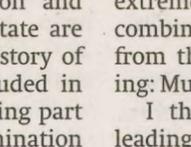
Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Web site at www.consultcpa.com.



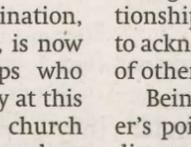
Bill Mackey



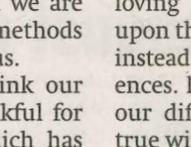
Mary J. Graves



Tracy L. Powell-McCoy



Lynn Traylor



Hershael York

How can parents help Christian teen pursue spiritual growth?

Q: Our 13-year-old son was baptized three years ago, and though he dutifully attends church and Sunday school, he shows little enthusiasm for spiritual things. What more can we do?

What does interest your son? What are his hobbies and primary areas of fascination? About what things does he demonstrate passion and curiosity?

PARENTING

Besides girls, teenage boys typically are interested in sports, music, outdoor activities, cars and video games. Spending time helping him explore his interests might help you discover ways to use those interests to help him relate more personally to spiritual things.

Suppose, for example, that your son is an avid basketball fan who followed the recent "March Madness" NCAA tournament. You might want to expose him to the testimony of Christian basketball players on his favorite team or introduce him to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddle in his school.

What if you drew a diagram of a basketball arena and asked him to think about the place on the diagram that would best represent his life with Christ. Would it be:

On the court—where the action is.

On the bench—on the team but not really involved or active.

In the bleachers—interested in watching those playing the game.

In the training room—preparing to get involved, but recovering from some problem.

In the showers—In a "cooling off" period from Christian activity.

The key is to start with the activities your son is interested in and creatively use those as windows to spark spiritual interest and growth. Also, remember that parental priorities are more contagious when fathers are willing to spend time with their sons.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: I'm dating someone who says she cannot trust any man because another man broke her trust. How do we get beyond this?

Through patience and right actions, you might be able to help her get beyond the mental habit of overgeneralization. It is a mistake to conclude that because one man treated her badly, all men treat all women badly all the time.

SINGLES

Do everything you can to make the relationship safe. Try to get her feedback on what behaviors, words and circumstances make her feel unsafe, and be as accommodating as is reasonably possible.

Build trust. By consistent, loving, gentle, courteous, kind words and actions over an extended period of time, you can help her overcome the pain of her past. Here is where patience comes in, but you also are building character within yourself as you do this.

Open your ears and your heart. Active listening can be hard work, but it is an important way to help someone feel cherished and cared for. Let her know what you're hearing and that it makes sense. Ask for more information if you don't understand.

Don't fight the battles of the past in the present. Realize you can either run from past hurt or learn from it and thus grow and move forward. This is also where forgiveness comes in. You cannot force her to forgive the person in her past, but you can model a life of forgiveness. If she's interested, you might recommend a good book on forgiveness such as "The Five Steps to Forgiveness" by Everette Worthington.

It might be that your friend could benefit from a few sessions of counseling. It takes courage to face the demons of the past in order to get beyond them, but it can free up a person to face the future. Ask your pastor for some referrals.—*James Stillwell*

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Don't forget about tsunami relief efforts

It has been four months since the Dec. 26 tsunami devastated large regions of the Pacific Rim and Southeast Asia, leaving tens of thousands of people dead and millions grieving and homeless.

In response, Southern Baptists have donated more than \$15.5 million to tsunami relief through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board as of mid-April. Others have channeled funds through the Baptist World Alliance, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Woman's Missionary Union and other ministry groups.

Since the tragedy, the Western Recorder has published more than 25 articles about tsunami relief efforts and related issues. While massive needs remain—and will for years to come—media coverage of tsunami relief gradually is declining as other news stories take precedence.

According to Baptist Press, more than 120 Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers from 10 states helped prepare meals and serve in medical clinics in Indonesia during the first few months after the tsunamis.

After the initial flurry of response, however, it's easy for concerned Christians to return to our normal routines and think we've done our part. Yet Baptists' heartfelt commitment to pray, give and go remains a vital part of long-term relief efforts.

Recent reminders of the vast needs and ministry opportunities include:

■ Nine Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief volunteers recently helped Koh Phi Phi survivors sweep away piles of debris left behind by the tsunami. As the volunteers worked alongside the islanders, they

began to form a bond as the residents recognized their motives for being there. "They saw our yellow shirts and knew we were Baptists. They seemed to be waiting to see if we were just there to hand out religious tracts," said team leader Dan Fuller, a member of First Baptist Church in Medicine Park, Okla. "Once we worked hard alongside them for a couple of days, they accepted us."

■ Amy McCutcheon, a senior at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., said her tsunami relief trip gave her a love for the Indonesian people she encountered. Despite the gloom and pessimism, villagers wanted to express their gratitude to McCutcheon and her team. "The last thing they wanted to do was cook dinner for us," she said. "Out of the food that we had just given to them, they wanted to feed us.

That blessed me. These people that had nothing wanted to give back to me."

■ A Buddhist monk watched local Christians helping any and all tsunami survivors, regardless of their religion. He told a pastor, "I used to turn my head the other way in hatred when I walked by your church, but now I see the real heart of the church." He went on to say he owned enough land on which to build 10 houses—and that he would give it to the pastor if Christians wanted to build houses for those who lost their homes in the tsunami.

As you consider the region's widespread relief needs, continue to pray, make a commitment to give even more and consider whether God would have you go to share His love and compassion with tsunami survivors.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

McLaren aids missions

Brian McLaren does us a service with his emphasis on being "apprentices of Jesus." In addition, from a missions perspective, he supports a strategy that can promise hope to reach the hundreds of millions of Hindus and Buddhists with the gospel.

The name "Christian" in Hindu or Buddhist minds often carries memories of past "Christian" colonial powers and modern perspectives they see in the current "Christian" world's TV and movie presentations. Of course, we decry their false perceptions, but still we face cultural clashes whether people's perceptions are true or not.

Phil Parshall, a Baptist and well-known author of books for reaching Islamic peoples, has written of the need to lead Muslims to become "followers of Isa (Jesus)" rather than to become Christians. In one small way we can illustrate the offense the Christian name brings when we find liquor stores just for Christians permitted in the Muslim nations of Malaysia and Iraq.

While attending Fuller Theological Seminary School of Missions years ago, we met missionaries who were "Messianic Jews"—Christians without the label. The founder of the U.S. Center for World Missions and renowned missionary strategist Ralph Winter has expressed the same concern as McLaren's. He wrote that the only real hope for millions of Indian Hindus to be reached for Christ requires that we call them to be followers of Christ,

not try to make them Christians. He recognized that we should not add cultural conflict to the spiritual barriers that prevent people coming to an authentic faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

McLaren's own words affirm that for which we hold our greatest concern. He says, "I believe Jesus is the only Savior. ... Is Jesus exclusively the Savior? Absolutely."

D. Leslie Hill
Lexington

Welcome differences

The writer of an April 5 letter to the editor is offended that speakers at the Georgetown College Pastors Conference had a "different worldview than most of our Baptist churches in Kentucky." This offense could be duly noted without response were it not for its dangerous implications.

Even if for the sake of discussion we assume the writer's assessment is correct, it begs the question: Is only one view allowed in the Kentucky Baptist family now? Regardless of who is in control, does the majority truly want to silence all minority points of view by demanding total conformity?

For more than 100 years, Kentucky Baptists of "different worldviews" have joined hands in the cause of Jesus Christ in Kentucky. We spanned the theological spectrum and were better together than we would have been apart.

Do Kentucky Baptists now believe that Christ's cause is better served by demonizing and dividing those who differ? I don't, and I hope others

who share my conviction will work to welcome the gifts and graces of all Kentucky Baptists.

Joe Phelps
Louisville

Ministry blessing

While many university students spend their spring break vacations languishing in the sun of West Palm Beach or Cancun, 35 energetic, ready-to-serve students from Georgetown College made a cross-country trek to the inner-city ministry of UrbanPromise in Camden, N.J. Recently voted the most dangerous city in America, Camden also has the highest child poverty rate in the country.

Watching these university students joyfully paint dilapidated churches, clean up abandoned lots, sleep on hardwood floors, sacrifice daily showers and tutor children was an impressive display of Christian character and a commitment to the poor.

UrbanPromise is a ministry that relies on the volunteer efforts of the larger body of Christ to fulfill its mission of empowering urban young people to work their way out of poverty and fully embrace their God-given gifts and talents.

The students from Georgetown, and their faculty who are mentoring these students and encouraging them to live out the gospel message outside of their campus, have been a tremendous blessing to our ministry team and to the children and teens of our city. Thank you for sending your young people our way.

Bruce Main, executive director
UrbanPromise Ministries Inc.

Some area pastors take issue with rally's premise

Louisville (ABP)— Baptist pastors from 17 Louisville-area churches held a press conference April 22 to oppose the April 24 "Justice Sunday" rally at Highview Baptist Church.

Highland Baptist Church Pastor Joe Phelps, who organized the press conference, challenged the Washington-based Family Research Council's claim that judicial filibusters are being used "against people of faith."

"Were the allegations true, we would stand beside them in opposition to a religious, even if we disagreed with the political or religious positions of these nominees," Phelps said in a statement. "But the FRC's strong allegation of religious persecution has not been substantiated."

Phelps added that he detects "the work of a political organization using Christian language to exploit Americans' desire to preserve religious values by framing their political strategy in terms of religious liberty. This is deceptive, manipulative and false."

While he affirms Highview's right to speak out on political issues, Phelps said, "Scripture causes him to believe truth must be spoken, and spoken in love. We do not believe Sunday's rally meets either test."

Kevin Ezell, Highview's pastor, dismissed Phelps and his criticism.

"I'm saddened that some of these pastors that really, evidently, don't have a lot to do spend time criticizing other churches," Ezell told Associated Baptist Press. He said he would encourage Phelps "to spend time reaching more people—his numbers would seem to indicate he needs it."

He also took issue with Phelps describing Highland and Highview as "sister churches" in an April 21 commentary in the Louisville Courier-Journal. "I would think we're more like distant cousins," Ezell responded.

Highview hosts national rally against judicial filibusters

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

Louisville—Conservative Christian leaders declared the war on judicial filibusters in the U.S. Senate during a rally Sunday night at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Dubbed "Justice Sunday" by organizers, the 90-minute rally was subtitled "Stopping the Filibuster Against People of Faith."

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, was among conservative evangelical leaders who headlined the event. The nationwide simulcast also featured brief videotaped addresses by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries.

The event sought to generate support for dropping a Senate rule that has allowed Democrats to block 10 of President Bush's judicial nominees. A filibuster occurs when a minority group of senators prevents a vote by prolonging debate.

The rally attracted both supporters and protestors. Event organizers even switched the event from being open to the general public to requiring tickets due to concerns about crowd size, security and protests. Several dozen protestors stood near the road in front of the church as the rally crowd gathered.

Rally targets "values voters"

According to event organizer Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, the goal of the simulcast was "to reach as many people as possible and to engage values voters in the all-important issue of reining in our out-of-control courts and putting a halt to the use of filibusters against people of faith." He repeatedly urged viewers to call the Senate switchboard or individual senators to encourage them to support the rule change.

Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, was among those who opposed the rally.

"This campaign, which they are calling 'Justice Sunday,' should properly be called 'Just-Us' Sunday," Edgar said in a statement. "It serves to further polarize our nation, and it disenfranchises and demonizes good people of faith who hold political views that differ from theirs."

During the rally, Dobson told the supportive crowd, "I can't imagine anything more significant than what we're about to do. We're talking about the unconstitutional, I think, inappropriate use of the filibuster to prevent these honorable men and women from serving on the court."

"It's not right. It's wrong," he declared. "I think this is one of the most significant issues we've ever faced as a nation because the future of democracy and ordered liberty actually depends on the outcome of this struggle."

"Why?" he asked. "Because the issues we care about and the values that are important to us are now threatened by the court system and especially the United States Supreme Court. There is a major-



RALLY Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, organized "Justice Sunday" at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. The capacity crowd heard such speakers as Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist; Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries; and Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

ity on the Supreme Court that is ... unaccountable and arrogant and imperious and determined to redesign the culture according to their own biases and values and they're out of control.

"What's the connection with the filibuster?" he continued. "Listen carefully, folks. The ballot box is our only means of affecting the court. It's the only way that we can influence the make-up of the court."

"A minority of members of the Senate, the Democrats essentially and about six or eight very squishy Republicans are determined to prevent that influence to be felt on the court," Dobson warned. "Judicial tyranny to people of faith ... has to stop."

Urging supporters to call their senators, he concluded, "Tell them you care and that you will remember how they vote. It's all on the line and it's time to stop the filibuster."

According to Sen. Frist, "Never in the history of the United States Senate had a judicial nominee with majority support been denied an up-or-down vote until two years ago."

"In the last Congress, however, a minority of senators denied 10 of the president's judicial nominees an up-or-down vote ... because they knew the nominees would be approved," he said. "Now we're in a new Congress and these same senators again threaten to obstruct the vote on judges."

"Either confirm the nominees or reject them, but don't leave them hanging, don't leave our courts hanging," Frist urged. "At least rejection is a vote. Give those nominees the courtesy and respect of a vote."

Colson told the audience he was "amused this week reading all of the static about this telecast that's taking place when liberal senators like Sen. (Ted) Kennedy and Sen. (Harry) Reid were saying, 'What are people of faith doing getting involved in this process?' We shouldn't be involved because

we're Christians? Of course we should be involved. We ought to be the best of citizens."

Calling the judicial filibusters "a travesty," Colson added, "We're not going to be intimidated by people telling us we're trying to impose our views. ... We are simply part of the democratic debate that's going to take place this week."

Other speakers included Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League; Bishop Harry Jackson, senior pastor of Hope Christian Church in College, Park, Md.; Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; and Judge Charles Pickering of Mississippi.

The Senate's filibuster showdown could come as early as April 25. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved two nominees last week to federal appeals courts—Texas judge Priscilla Owen and California judge Janice Rogers Brown—who Democrats filibustered during Bush's first term. Committee approval, on 10-8 party-line votes, clears the way for Frist to bring the nominations to the full Senate this week.

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Selling unused Cedarmore property

Sale is latest step in long process to renovate camp

You might remember that last week's Western Recorder reported the sale of a portion of unused property at Cedarmore. In case you did not see, we have sold approximately 800 acres. While this is a large amount of property, we still have about 550 acres remaining at Cedarmore that offer a tremendous amount of space for camp and retreat activities.

The process leading to the sale was rather long. In reality, it dates back to the early 1990s when the Kentucky Baptist Convention was evaluating Cedarmore's well-being from a financial perspective. This sale is simply one of many steps to come as we seek to overcome a 25-year challenge. We are continuing our research and study of Cedarmore and we will be prepared to offer a detailed plan by early fall.

Resolving the financial difficulties at Cedarmore is a process. The sale of land does not immediately compensate for the vast needs. Many items that have been deferred for nearly 20 years will need attention in the coming years. Some examples of need include

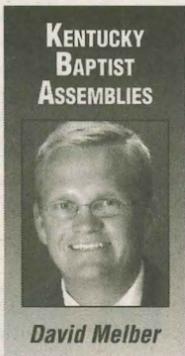
asphalt paving, roof repairs, room remodeling, conference space upgrades and housing to replace the motels and cottages. This adds up to more than \$2 million and does not even include major building additions such as worship space, pool replacement and dining space.

We are approaching this task in a methodical way. Cedarmore did not get into its present shape overnight, and it will not recover overnight.

I was reminded by Randy Fields this past week that many people across our state and beyond carry tremendous memories from Cedarmore. Randy certainly knows. His father, Calvin, invested his life, not just in Cedarmore, but in the people who came to Cedarmore expecting something fun and meaningful at a place where God seems to speak to so many.

I will do my best to offer as much information as possible about the ongoing plans at Cedarmore. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. As always, your prayers and support are appreciated.

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



KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES

David Melber

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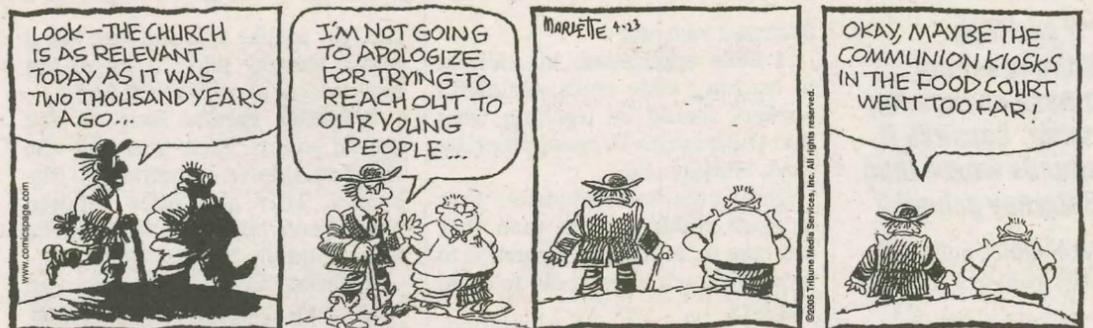
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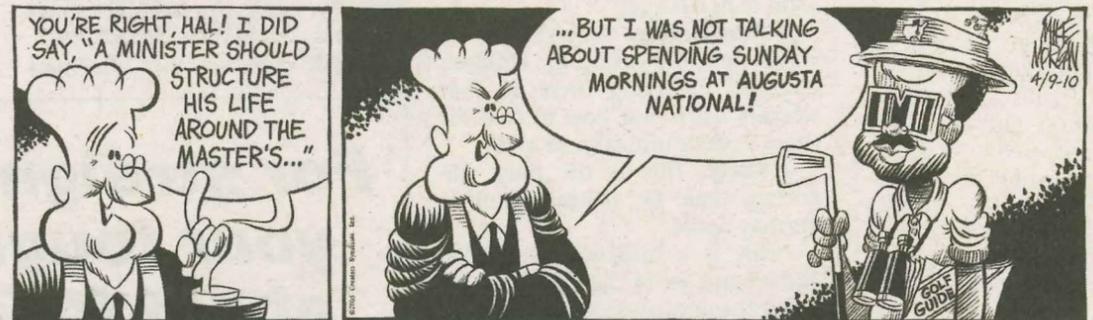
Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 Hand or season
- 4 "___ things are lawful for me ... but I will not be brought under the power" (1 Corinthians 6:12)
- 7 ___ the bill
- 11 Very (Fr.)
- 13 Medic's abbr.
- 14 King of Israel (1 Kings 16)
- 15 Bye-bye, to Brits
- 16 Canadian prov.
- 17 The act of (suffix)
- 18 Biblical measurement
- 19 "Redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a ___ people" (Titus 2:14)
- 21 Put on the feedbag
- 23 Pronoun
- 24 "They defile not their ___, in the midst whereof I dwell" (Numbers 5:3)
- 27 "For the ___ of this people cause them to err" (Isaiah 9:16)
- 32 To braid
- 33 "And the anger of the Lord was ___ against Israel" (Judges 2:20)
- 34 Great Lake
- 35 "Send me also cedar trees, fir trees ... out of ___" (2 Chronicles 2:8)
- 37 Land measure (pl.)
- 38 That hurts!
- 39 Boring tool?
- 40 "___ now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
- 45 "Neither do the ___ understand judgment" (Job 32:9)

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| 55 | | | | | | 56 | | | | | 57 | |

- 49 Great-grandfather of Lamech (Genesis 4:18)
- 50 Within (prefix)
- 51 Partner of rant
- 52 Virginia ___, first English child born in America
- 53 Possessive pronoun
- 54 Tied
- 55 Father of Ahira (Numbers 2:29)
- 56 Article
- 57 Golfer Ernie

- 22 Simile syntax
- 24 Army rank (abbr.)
- 25 ___ wife
- 26 Fairy queen of English folklore
- 27 Actor Chaney
- 28 "Sing praises to the Lord ... among the people his doings" (Psalm 9:11)
- 29 Mess up
- 30 Bible grain (Isaiah 28:25)
- 31 French possessive pronoun
- 33 Nevertheless (arch.)
- 36 ___ de plume
- 37 Exclamation of protest
- 39 Was resurrected, as Jesus Christ
- 40 To stay afloat, with "out"
- 41 One of the sons of Shuthelah (Numbers 26:36)
- 42 "Call me ___: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me" (Ruth 1:20)
- 43 Idyllic setting
- 44 O.T. book
- 46 Contributed
- 47 First name in "daredevilry"
- 48 Cubs' "cribs"?

Down

- 1 King of Germany, and Holy Roman Emperor
- 2 Oil filter maker
- 3 Honor, as at a banquet
- 4 Use as one's own
- 5 Single
- 6 "Nor the ___ of their shoes be broken" (Isaiah 5:27)
- 7 Young farm animal
- 8 All, everywhere (comb. form)
- 9 Killer whale
- 10 Arena area
- 12 "Unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto ___, a city of Sidon" (Luke 4:26)
- 20 Vowel trio

Last week's solution

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Speaker offers 10 aspects of healthy children's ministry

"If you love Sunday school ... please change the name, because it sounds worse than Saturday school."

Art Murphy, author of "The Faith of a Child"

Continued from page 1

■ **Bible application.** In addition to teaching Bible truth, children's workers should be teaching what that truth means in age-appropriate ways, Murphy said.

Noting that some educators want to teach children more than they can take in, Murphy compared it to trying to teach a 6-year-old to avoid adultery.

The goal, he added, is not for children to know everything about the Old Testament's Daniel, "but they want to be a Daniel."

■ **Shepherding.** Shepherding involves not only caring for children but also observing them so that workers learn best how to care for those in their ministry, he said.

■ **Safety.** This is the most important topic for visiting families, Murphy noted.

"This is a different day, folks, and it's not about the members. It's about the ones outside," he said.

Children's ministries should be concerned about emotional safety as well as physical safety, he noted, including such issues as bullies, teasing, nicknames and labels.

■ **Trained and adequate staff.** Training includes children's evangelism as well as understanding how to treat a 4-year-old differently from a 4th grader, Murphy said. Adequate includes having the right ratio of adults to children. He said ministries should have one adult for every two babies; one adult for every four preschoolers; one adult for every five elementary school children; and one adult for every seven or eight preteens.

■ **Facilities.** Child-friendly facili-

ties "say we like kids and kids like it here," Murphy said. "A lot of our facilities could use a touch-up."

■ **Special events.** Four or five special events each year tell the children they're important to the church. They also offer children and parents opportunities to invite other children, Murphy said.

■ **Music.** Christian music can help equip children to face a non-Christian world, he said. "We want to give them some tools that work, and music is a powerful tool," he said. "It's easier to remember songs than it is a Bible verse, sometimes,"

■ **Play.** Churches that offer play

help children to interact and get exercise, Murphy said. "You'll have more discipline," he said. "They are never late anymore, and they bring their friends."

Murphy's workshop, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department, is the first of three appearances this year in the commonwealth. He is scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the KBC annual meeting in Frankfort in November, and he also is scheduled to lead a workshop for children's ministers this fall in Lexington.

Every church's children's ministry should aim to equip children to

have two thoughts throughout the week, Murphy said: "What would God want me to do in this situation," and "I can't wait until next Sunday."

One simple change any church can make is to change the name of their children's Sunday school.

"If you love Sunday school ... please change the name, because it sounds worse than Saturday school," he said, adding that he's finding approximately 45 percent of the churches he talks to are using such names as Kid's Zone. "It's time for us to have a name that's contemporary for us."

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GFA LTC 720, 8/03

Rev 8/04

Meet some of the class of 2005, part 6

Senior found 'second chance' to learn, grow and 'just be me' at Oneida

"I needed a second chance and for me, Oneida was it."

I don't know if there is anything that makes me feel better than to hear a student say he or she needs a second chance. High on the list of things that Oneida can do for young people is to give them a second chance. My own years as a teenager at home were certainly less than desirable, but as bad as it was, I don't think it compares with many of the situations today's youth face.

"Bart" (not his real name) is just weeks away from graduation. He was being raised by a single-parent mom in a large American city. Bart made the transition from junior high to high school without too much trouble. However, near the end of his freshman year his grades began to slip. He described his sophomore year as a "train wreck." In his senior essay, here is part of what he wrote: "I went to summer school before going to the 10th grade. My sophomore year started off rocky because I was introduced to everything that can take a male student from his studies. I joined the crowd, I hung out late, I disobeyed my mom and I cut school a lot. ... That year was a train wreck!"

"That was really the time when I needed a second chance, and for me, OBI was it. ... Things for me were not so good due to my disobedience and attitude. ... In my wildest dreams I never thought I would attend a boarding school, and not one so far away. ... My first impression of the Lexington airport was, 'Why was it so small?' This airport could fit in the park by my house."

Bart was right, he did have an attitude. His at-

titude and temper required a lot of patience from our faculty and staff and even from his classmates. Frankly, I think he was a little spoiled. As an only child, he received nearly all of his mother's attention. In spite of our "small airport," Bart said, "I was so excited about being here. ... There are nothing but distractions at home, so now I was completely focused. Since this was a Christian school, I would be able to grow more spiritually. ... I thank God for this place. ... God works mysterious ways because I was never on the honor roll in high school until my grades skyrocketed at OBI. I was beginning to be proud of myself, and I cared about my grades and my future."

"There are plenty of after-school activities to choose from. I am extremely active and love to be in everything. I worked in the grill, Silent Witness ministries, interpretive movements, Student Government Association, choir, Baptist Student Union, creative ministries, FFA,

pep band and drama. I built more character by being so involved and active.

"I have changed a lot mentally while being here. I look and think about things differently. Just by writing this essay I understand more about who I am, how much I have done and how much people like me. ... Oneida has been a great ride for me spiritually. As a Christian, even when I act worldly, I was still comforted by people at Oneida who care. ... The Oneida experience taught me that work is really not a dirty four-letter word. ... I began to appreciate the things in life that matter. ... Oneida has influenced me to take off my mask and just be me."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Fulfilling your trust

Trustees make tough decisions at spring session

Twenty trustees attended the spring meeting at Clear Creek on April 19. It was the first meeting for two new trustees: Denny Vincent of Bremen and Robert Williams of London. Don Mathis of Bowling Green and Richard Neal of Lexington returned to the board for an additional term.

Blessed with clear skies and beautiful spring foliage, the board wrestled with tough financial decisions. In response to a financial report that the college had received 68 percent of the budget with expenses at 70.8 percent, the board took measures to secure operating funds if a deficit continued. They approved the 2005-06 budget without the 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment for faculty and staff unless unforeseen income brings the college into the black before June 30. The board had a season of prayer asking the Lord of all resources to move hearts and meet our need.

Trustees increased student tuition 10 percent and eliminated a \$300 scholarship given to Southern Baptist students. With this change, a student still will pay only 24.3 percent of education costs, far below the average of other colleges.

Efforts to strengthen financial support came with ratification of an emphasis titled, "Affirming Our Values—Leaving a Legacy." Nearly half of the \$2.07 million goal is directed toward gifts supporting the student "workshop" program.

Trustee bylaw changes received final approval. The changes clarify the relationship of the president to

the board and the trustee function in policy-making. The Faculty/Staff Handbook received revisions. The major change was an expanded freedom with attention to appeal procedures related to whether a faculty member's teaching "falls within the parameters of institutional standards."

To provide more flexibility to address rising medical insurance costs, the board added a sentence to contracts that employee benefits cannot be guaranteed more than six months; benefits are subject to change by the trustees.

The board granted faculty rank of professor to New Testament teacher Bill Helton and to John Ditty who teaches Old Testament and preaching.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Habitat's founder launches new housing agency with similar name

Americus, Ga. (RNS)—As expected, Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller, who was fired in January from his house-building organization, has announced the formation of a new housing ministry.

"Building Habitat is not intended to compete with Habitat for Humanity. Rather, we seek to be a companion to it and to similar organizations that are working to eliminate poverty housing," Fuller said in a statement last week. "We will raise money to help local organizations build more houses, and we will raise awareness both about global housing needs and ways in which those needs can be met."

Fuller and his wife, Linda, were fired after "several months of differences" with the Habitat board. Some of those differences related to alleged inappropriate conduct by Millard Fuller with a now-former female employee. Fuller denied any wrongdoing.

Since the firing, the Fullers have sought a new way to continue their work to help needy people gain homes.

David Snell, co-founder of Habitat Partners, a group that formed to encourage the board to reconsider the firing, issued a statement of support for the new organization, to be based in Americus, Ga.

"While the Fullers and Habitat for Humanity might now be on different paths, both paths lead to the same place, the elimination of poverty housing," Snell, a Building Habitat board member, said in a statement. "It is good for Habitat for Humanity and good for the poor that Millard has a new platform from which to preach his message of hope."

Confusion feared

Habitat for Humanity officials, who affirmed their firing of the Fullers in early March, voiced concern that another organization with a similar name and mission would confuse donors and volunteers.

"Our brand, which is among the strongest and the most trusted in the country, is one that thousands of people have helped build over the last 29 years," said Chris Clarke, a spokesman for Habitat for Humanity, also based in Americus.

He said in an interview that the organization's lawyer had stated their concerns in a letter to Fuller and an officer of the new organization.

"We welcome his or anyone's involvement in trying to raise awareness of the issues of poverty housing and raising money for it," he said in an interview. "Our concern is the use of the Habitat name creates confusion."

Attacking 5 'giant problems'

Rick Warren outlines new purpose for Saddleback and other willing congregations

By Mark Kelly
Pastors.com

Anaheim, Calif. (BP)—Author and pastor Rick Warren presented a vision at his church's 25th anniversary celebration that calls for churches around the world to tackle five "giant problems" and spark spiritual revival.

"Billions of people suffer each day from problems so big no government can solve them," Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church, told an audience of 30,000 people attending a celebration at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, Calif., April 17.

"The only thing big enough to solve the problems of spiritual emptiness, selfish leadership, poverty, disease and ignorance is the network of millions of churches all around the world."

Saddleback Church celebrated its 25th anniversary by combining the congregation's usual six weekend services into a single gathering at the stadium south of Los Angeles.

Warren used the occasion to announce his vision of a spiritual awakening that would sweep the world as Christian churches tackle the problems that Jesus confronted during His ministry.

"The Scripture shows us that Jesus shared the Good News, trained leaders, helped the poor, cared for the sick and taught the children," Warren said. "Our P.E.A.C.E. plan will just do the five things Jesus did while He was here on earth."

2,600 groups targeting Rwanda

P.E.A.C.E. is an acronym that stands for "Plant churches, Equip servant leaders, Assist the poor, Care for the sick and Educate the next generation," Warren said. The emphasis calls for church-based small groups to adopt villages where spiritual emptiness, selfish leadership, poverty, disease and ig-

Group calls off boycott against Procter & Gamble

Tupelo, Miss. (RNS)—The American Family Association and other conservative Christian groups have dropped their boycott of Procter & Gamble, saying they believe the company is "backing off its support for the homosexual agenda."

The boycott began last fall and garnered almost 400,000 pledges to halt purchases of the Cincinnati manufacturer's products, especially Crest toothpaste and Tide laundry detergent.

"Judging by all we found in our research, it appears that our concerns have been addressed," said Donald Wildmon, chairman of the Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association, in a statement.

"Insofar as we can tell by our monitoring, P&G has stopped their sponsorship of TV programs pro-



Paul Kagame

norance keep people from experiencing the kind of life God wants them to have, he said.

"There are thousands of villages in the world that have no school, no clinic, no business, no government—but they have a church," Warren said. "What would happen if we could mobilize churches to address those five global giants?"

Saddleback's network of 2,600 small groups is starting the movement as each one adopts a village where it will seek to implement the P.E.A.C.E. plan. The congregation, based in Lake Forest, Calif., has been testing the plan over the past 18 months as 4,500 church members have been involved in pilot projects.

The official rollout of P.E.A.C.E. will focus on Rwanda in eastern Africa, where a million people were killed in 1994 during a 100-day genocide. Warren said a recent visit there convinced him that Rwanda had the right qualities for what he called "the first model of national cooperation" between churches and a country's leaders.

Warren said he was impressed with the spiritual depth of Rwandan church leaders who opposed the genocide and have led the people into a "spirit of hope and reconciliation." He also said he believes God

wants to begin something new in a small country the world ignores.

Rwanda leader, Colson praise plan

Warren then introduced President Paul Kagame as a "wonderful Christian leader" who has demonstrated his trustworthiness in rebuilding the country.

Kagame praised the P.E.A.C.E. plan as "a vision with a big goal ... but one that also is simple in the strategy it proposes." He announced that 16 leaders of Rwanda's key Christian groups would visit Saddleback in May to discuss the details of launching P.E.A.C.E. in the country.

Warren also introduced Charles Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship, who announced a new partnership that will introduce Warren's Celebrate Recovery programs into prison ministries in 108 countries. The new agreement, signed April 16, also will mobilize congregations for Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree ministry to the children of prisoners and promote Colson's Worldview Studies Program, which helps believers apply Christian values to a wide range of issues in daily life.

"For years, I have been pleading with churches to get out of their comfort zones and turn the world upside down for Christ," Colson said. "Rick Warren has got a plan to do it."

ucts," he said. "Our consumers come first at P&G and that's where we'll continue to focus our attention."

He declined to discuss the company's advertising practices.

Focus on the Family also has suspended the boycott, the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based organization announced.

"Procter & Gamble executives clearly have heard the message their customers sent them: 'We like your products, but not some of the political causes you have aligned yourself with,'" said Gary Schneeberger, director of media and constituent communications for Focus on the Family, in a statement in the ministry's e-newsletter Citizen Link.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

RWANDAN-STYLE

WORSHIP More than 30,000 people attended the 25th anniversary celebration of Saddleback Valley Community Church. Pastor and author Rick Warren outlined a plan to involve churches attacking five issues he said Jesus attacked during His earthly ministry. (Saddleback photo by Allison Cox)

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Mill Creek Baptist Church in Bardstown. Pastor Mark Stuart believes that one-third of what members do at church needs to be "practicing or doing" what they have learned through preaching and teaching. As a result, the church has a "Great Commission Service" on Wednesday nights that includes a meal, visitation, prayer and meditation, Bible study and a testimony time. The church has grown from 50 to 90 people attending Sunday school since December 2004. Pray that church leaders will effectively disciple those God has saved and placed in their care. Pray also that church members will remain faithful and be encouraged by the testimonies of what God is doing.

Mission Service Corps missionary Jeff Washburn of Louisville. Washburn is an industrial chaplain with contractors and trade unions in the Louisville area. He visits construction sites looking for opportunities to share the gospel while ministering to physical and emotional needs. He is available to workers, their families and job managers during the work day, and is on call for emergencies as needed. Pray that God will provide resources to meet the needs of this new and growing ministry. Pray that Washburn will be consistent and faithful in his witness and that doors of opportunity will open wider as he seeks to further develop this ministry.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDSTOWN**—First Cedar Creek Church and his pastor **Wally Manthouth** and his family April 3 on his 10th anniversary as pastor. Events included a potluck luncheon and a mini-concert by Heart of Kentucky Barbershop Chorus.

■ **ELKHORN CITY**—**Nell Elswick**, who served more than 40 years as organist and Sunday school teacher at Elkhorn City Church, died March 6. She was 89.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Carter Creek Church will hold revival services May 1, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and May 2-4, 7 p.m., with **Don Mathis** as evangelist.

■ **KUTTAWA**—Macedonia Church recently called **Bryan Grigg** as pastor. He previously was youth minister at Mill Creek Church in Bardstown.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Daniel Gilliam**, minister of music at Fern Creek Church, resigned effective May 22. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—New Liberty Church

will host "Ladies' Day" May 8, 10:45 a.m., with **Jessica Johnson** as guest speaker. **Aubert Rose** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church recently ordained **Sam Rainer** to the gospel ministry.

■ **MOUTH CARD**—Mouthcard Church recently called **Joe Tuttle** as pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Fairview Church recently called **Vestal Meece** as pastor.

■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church will hold revival services May 13-15 with **Pastor John Collett's** sons serving as evangelists. **Paul Collett** will preach May 13 and 15, 7 p.m., and **Johnny Collett** will preach May 14, 7 p.m., and May 15, 11 a.m.

■ **VANCEBURG**—Southern Manor Church will host its annual "Ladies' Day" April 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring speakers **Sue Brown**, **Boni Lester** and **Patty Toller**. For more information, call (606) 796-6613.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Faith Church will hold revival services May 8-13 with **Jack Studie** as evangelist.

Louisville teens spend spring break serving in Eastern Kentucky

Nada—Churches from three Louisville churches spent their spring break repairing houses, working in a food pantry and running a yard sale as part of a joint youth ministry project in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

Teens from Buechel Baptist, Crescent Hill and Highland Baptist churches worked on various ministry projects in the Eastern Kentucky community of Nada.

"Mission trips enable students to experience Christ in a different way," noted Mark Nethery, minister of youth at Buechel Park. "They encounter God in a myriad of ways by fulfilling the Great Commission."

Anna Schlenk, a 16-year-old student from Buechel Park Church, spent her week repairing flooring,

installing plumbing and building a porch.

"I got to know the people that live in the house we repaired," she said. "That made it personal for me."

Schlenk, who formed a friendship with one of the teenagers living in the house, said, "No matter where you live, teenagers are all the same." Recalling that she and her new friend climbed to the top of a nearby hill one afternoon and sat down to chat, she added, "It was just beautiful. God works in some weird ways."

Lyle Edwards, minister of youth at Highland Baptist, noted that "all of the work sites put our youth in direct contact with a way of life that is affected, if not defined, by poverty."

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 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.

- 21 Associational WMU Leadership Training, First Baptist Church, Princeton; First Baptist Church, Hazard; Graefenburg Baptist Church, Waddy.
- 21 Regional Keyboard Festival, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 23-24 Day Care Orientation, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 28-30 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

June

- 4 Church Weekday Education, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 4 Son Team Dinner Theatre, Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center.
- 6-10 Discovery Youth Camps, Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center.
- 11 Adults on Mission Rally, First Baptist Church, Sonora.
- 11 Church Library Ministry Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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



SPRING BREAK Anna Schlenk, a member of Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville, carries lumber for a spring break repair project in Nada.

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, www.magnifyquartet.com.

FOR SALE: 1983 MCI9 47-passenger charter bus. Looking for a great way to expand your youth, senior or music ministry? Very nice exterior and interior with lots of storage and luggage space. Comes with two TVs, VCR/DVD system, restroom and a kneeling bench for senior citizens. Asking \$21,500, but willing to negotiate. For more info, call (859) 312-9592.

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

SEEKING: A children's minister for part-time summer position. Salary determined by experience and training. If interested, please submit a resumé to Rev. Bruce Treon, Buena Vista Baptist Church, 119 West 24th St., Owensboro, KY 42303. Fax: (270) 683-6649. E-mail: bvstibruce@yahoo.com. If you have questions, call (270) 683-6234.

SEEKING: Full-time of education. Williamstown Baptist Church is a Southern Baptist purpose-driven church with a weekly attendance of 300+ located in a growing Northern Kentucky town near Lexington and Cincinnati. Candidate should be age 25-45, energetic, self-motivated, well-organized, and a creative team player who has an ability to relate to people of all ages on a personal and spiritual level. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's degree with related experience is a plus. Check us out at www.williamstownbaptist.com. Send or e-mail resumé by May 22 to: Stephen C. Rice, 214 North Main St., Williamstown, KY 41097. E-mail: srice@fuse.net. Telephone: (859) 824-4102.

SEEKING: Director of missions for South District Association. Resumes are being accepted; send to: DOM Search Committee, Rev. Dennis Hisle, 6610 Alum Springs Road, Danville, KY 40422, or e-mail to: pkpastor@praisinghim.com. (859) 238-2249.

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

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: 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.

SEEKING: Bivocational Southern Baptist pastor for rural church in Boone County, Ky. Send resumé to 10060 Beil Road, Union, KY 41091.

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

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

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

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

Evangelical leaders affirm moral views of new pope

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—The day before Roman Catholic Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI, he declared in a public Mass that a “dictatorship of relativism” threatens the absolute truth claims of the church.

That statement easily could have been made by conservative evangelical leaders in the United States.

Despite theological differences, they’re cheering the choice of a pontiff who seems to speak the same moral language they do.

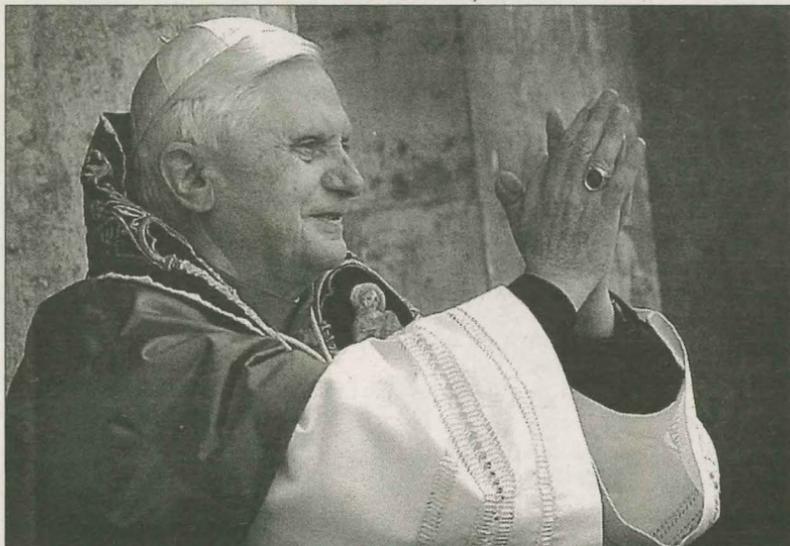
“Relativism, pluralism and naturalism are the three main foes of evangelicalism today and they’re the main foes of conservative Roman Catholics,” said Norman Geisler, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., and co-author of “Roman Catholics and Evangelicals: Agreements and Differences.”

“We rejoice in the choice because he’s going to hold the line and he’s not going to allow the liberal element in the Catholic Church to reverse any of those things.”

Baptists and other evangelicals view the papacy and salvation differently from the traditional Catholic view, according to Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

“Evangelicals do not find any biblical warrant for the office of the papacy or the elaborate structure of the Roman Catholic Church,” Akin said.

“Further, the Catholic system’s emphasis on merit, works salvation and veneration of Mary and the saints are issues that those committed to ‘sola scriptura’ could never endorse or affirm,” Akin added. “While we can appreciate the moral stand on life and marriage of the papacy, we will resolutely maintain that our



POPE BENEDICT XVI Despite theological differences, some evangelical leaders are cheering the choice of a pontiff who seems to speak the same moral language they do. (RNS/Reuters photo by Kai Pfaffenbach)

High Priest is Jesus Christ in whom we have direct access to the true and living God.”

Still, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said Ratzinger will be an ally of U.S. religious conservatives on a litany of moral issues such as abortion, gay rights, cloning and physician-assisted suicide.

New pope is “known quantity”

“This is a reaffirmation of ... Pope John Paul II’s policies in all those areas,” said Land, who described Ratzinger as “a known quantity.”

But the April 19 election of Ratzinger—who took the papal moniker Pope Benedict XVI—may prove to be “good news and bad news for evangelicals,” said Baptist ethicist and Vatican observer David Gushee. In a 2000 doctrinal declaration, Ratzinger defended “the truthfulness of the Catholic faith ... in a way that is fairly stark,” Gushee said.

The document, “Declaration Do-

minus Iesus,” issued by the Ratzinger-led Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, said Protestant and evangelical traditions are “gravely deficient” and “not churches in the proper sense.” Catholics alone have the “fullness of the means of salvation,” the document said.

“So the prospect for evangelical dialogue looks a bit different if he retains that line,” Gushee said. “On the other hand, dialogue does not require the sacrifice of one’s tradition.”

Gushee, who participated with Ratzinger in a Vatican conference on moral theology in March, described the new pope as “a theologian of very keen intellect who is likely to maintain John Paul II’s emphasis on doctrinal fidelity and clarity in the Catholic tradition.”

Land said he isn’t bothered “in the least” by Ratzinger’s writing in the 2000 document “Declaration Dominus Iesus” that non-Catholic churches are “gravely deficient” and Catholics alone have the “fullness of

the means of salvation.”

“His views have no authority over us and I realize that it’s an official opinion in Catholicism, but for us, it’s just one guy’s idea,” Land said.

“I can disagree with that theological statement and I can at the same time work with them as I would with people of other denominations on issues where we find common cause, like fighting the culture of death and fighting for the culture of life.”

Prison Fellowship Founder Chuck Colson, an original participant in the 1994 “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” document, which aimed to foster cooperation between the two groups, hailed Ratzinger’s election as “a great choice.”

“The College of Cardinals has opted for orthodoxy over geopolitical considerations,” said Colson in a statement. “Cardinal Ratzinger is strong, solid, and will carry on the tradition of John Paul II. That is very good news indeed for Catholics, for all Christians and for the world.”

John Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., said the choice of the new pope is likely to hearten those still involved in the “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” movement as well as evangelical opponents to abortion and euthanasia. But he said his writings on Christ also will appeal to those outside the Catholic world.

“The vast majority of his writings are about the person and nature of Jesus, the beauty of God, and the nature of the church as source of healing and mission in the world,” he said in a statement. “Those, of course, are all topics that resonate not just with Catholics, but with Protestants as well.”

With additional reporting by Art Toalston for Baptist Press and Greg Warner for Associated Baptist Press

Religious persecution continuing for Vietnam’s Montagnards

By Alan Rappoport
Religion News Service

Kon Tum, Vietnam (RNS)—Once a month, Vietnamese police bang on the door of Nay Thit’s small wooden village house and force him to sign a declaration of happiness.

The declaration asserts that Nay Thit has no problems with the government and that he will not try to flee the country or encourage others to do so. If he does not comply, he could find himself in prison, for the fourth time.

Nay Thit is a Montagnard—an ethnic minority comprised of mostly Christian hill tribes in Vietnam’s Central Highlands region. Like many Montagnards, Nay Thit, 60, worked and fought alongside Americans during the Vietnam War. Nearly 30 years later, Montagnards say their struggle continues, with religion a key point of friction.

The Vietnamese government has made public gestures in recent months to show a new tone of religious tolerance, but life in the Central Highlands remains tense with potential for conflict.

“Everything is unfair between the Vietnamese and the Montagnards,” Nay Thit said in a hushed voice, as he

walked along a dusty road with his hat pulled down to shade his face. “We want to have our own government. We want autonomy. It is very difficult.”

The Central Highlands is comprised of four provinces about 150 miles north of Ho Chi Minh City and is home to one million Montagnards. The conflict between the Vietnamese and the Montagnards is rooted in resentment over the war, land ownership rights and religious repression. Nay Thit is Catholic and has been arrested in the past for resisting the government and fleeing to Cambodia.

Some Montagnards who successfully reach Cambodia are given asylum and brought to the United States. More than 4,000 Montagnards live in North Carolina.

After the Vietnam War, the Communist government took large chunks of Montagnard land in the Central Highlands that is now used for growing coffee and rubber. Many village churches were shut down or bulldozed, allowing for only government-sanctioned churches in cities. Those who practice Dega Christianity—the Montagnard equivalent of evangelicalism—were forced to

renounce or face arrest. The restrictions on religious practices left many upset and some in an uproar.

Reports of persecution

Despite the government’s claims of attempted appeasement, the situation seems to worsen for the Montagnards each year.

On Easter 2004, peaceful protests in the streets of Pleiku, a town just south of Kon Tum, drew a violent response from police who used tear gas and barbed wire to corral the crowds. More than 100 Montagnards were arrested and 10 were officially confirmed dead, according to a recent Human Rights Watch report.

While the most severe restrictions have been imposed on Protestants and Jarai villagers in the Central Highlands—who are seen as having the strongest historical connections with the United States—most Christians in the area feel the strain on their religious rights.

“It is very difficult for the Christians here,” John Ho, a Vietnamese Bible teacher at an orphanage in Kon Tum, said. “There are many limitations by the government.”

Police stopped Catholics who live in the surrounding villages from



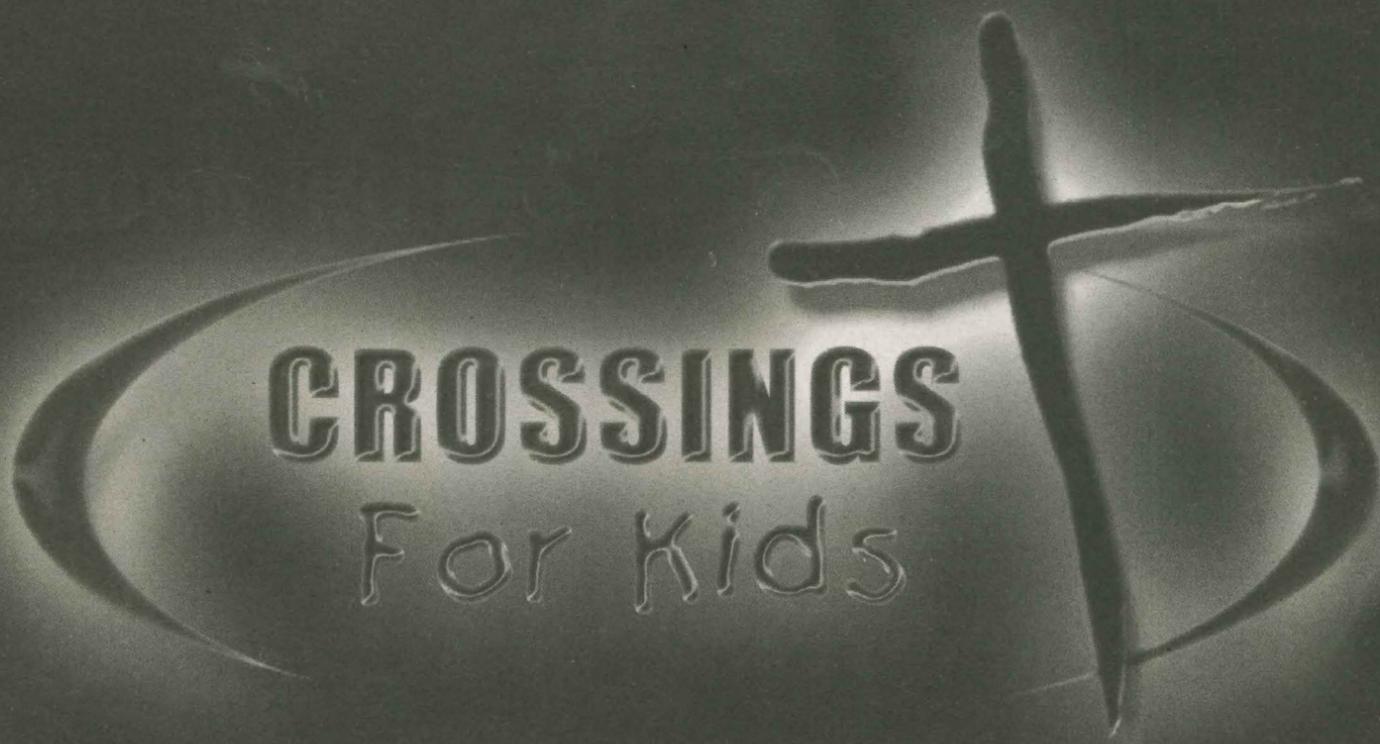
coming to pray at the Montagnard church last Christmas, Ho said.

All churches must be registered with the government and have a Vietnamese priest. Getting a permit to build a new church in the Central Highlands is considered a miracle.

“The last time someone tried to build a church without a permit, the government bulldozed four churches as punishment,” Ho, 55, said. “The Communist government is atheist. They don’t like the religion.”

VIETNAM Three Montagnards sit outside their church in Kon Tum, Vietnam. Analysts say the ethnic minority group’s ongoing conflict with the government is rooted in resentment over war, land ownership rights and religious repression. (RNS photo by Alan Rappoport)

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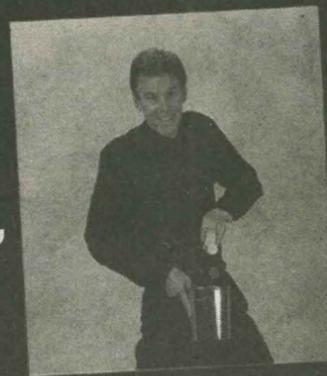
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