

May 3, 2005  
Vol. 179, No. 18**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**

NAMB taking steps to end radio ministry. Page 2.

**Western Recorder**

Paper's staff earns five national writing awards. Page 3.

**Financial Forum**

List offers practical ways to increase giving. Page 4.

**Editorial**

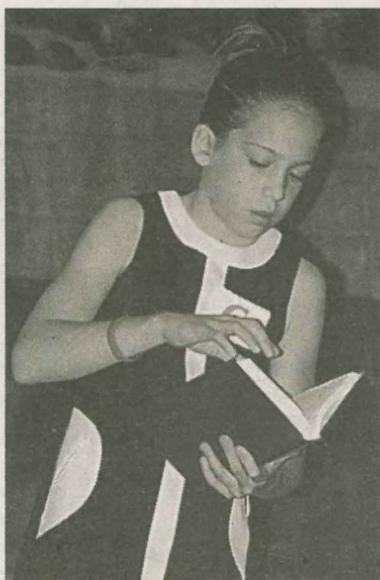
Is new Baptist Building worth the cost? Page 5.

**Teens**

True Love Waits leader questions sex study. Page 6.

**Books**

Reviews include report on teens' spirituality. Page 9.

**FAST FINGERS** Alyssa Robb, 11, a member of Hopewell Baptist Church in Louisville, searches for a passage during a state Bible drill April 29 at St. Matthew Baptist Church. More than 550 children are expected to take part in the seven state Bible drills. (Photo by David Winfrey)**Annual drills help children memorize Bible passages**By David Winfrey  
News Director

Louisville—Do you know exactly where the Ten Commandments are found in the Bible? How about the Sermon on the Mount?

Any idea which Psalm is the "Psalm of Praise?"

Can you find "The Faith Chapter?"

Children throughout Kentucky in grades four through six are learning this and more as they take part in state Bible drill competitions, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

At least 550 children will take part in state drills, which started last weekend, according to Alice Seymour, a KBC ministry assistant who coordinates the annual events.

"It just amazes me at state how well they do," she said. "It's exciting to see."

Children's workers laud the drills for helping children memorize verses that will stay with them throughout their lives.

"It's what Psalms says. It's hiding God's Word in their heart," said Wendy Dever, KBC director of children and preschool ministry. "It gets inside of them."

Kathy Kenimer, a member of Central Baptist Church in Paris, agreed.

Kenimer represented Kentucky nationally as state Bible drill champion, and all three of her sons also took part in Bible drills.

"When they get in the tough times of life, ... God can pull up those verses and use them," she said.

Many churches started practicing with youth last fall for the spring competitions.

□ See Annual drills help ... Page 8

**Start your engines****GETTING REVVED UP** Kentucky Raceway Ministries will organize volunteers to serve fans in five race weekends as well as special events at the Sparta track this year. (KBC photos by Larry Brannon)**Ministry resumes with new racing season**By Kelly Upchurch  
Kentucky Baptist Convention**Sparta**—When the green flag drops May 14 at Kentucky Speedway, it will signal more than the start of the racing season. It will signal the start to a summer of ministry for Kentucky Raceway Ministries.

Through the season, volunteers will distribute bottled water, homemade cookies and racing-themed Bibles to race fans and industry insiders alike.

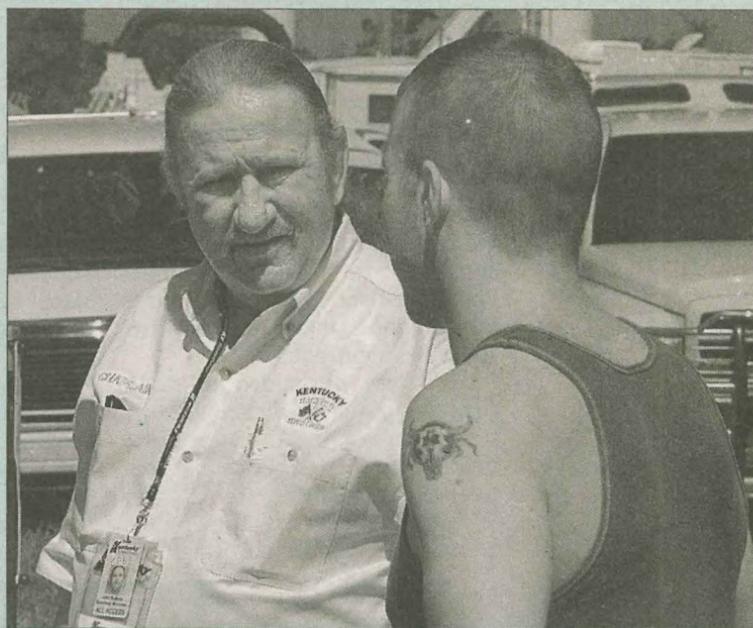
They also will conduct worship services, entertain children and listen to and pray with anyone who needs it.

"We try to build a relationship with the fans at first, then we take the gospel to them and present it in a way they can understand and in a way they will accept," said John Roberts, who helped establish Kentucky Raceway Ministries in 2000.

The practice reflects the ministry's theme: "We are here, we are available, we will listen, we will pray with you, we will leave the results in God's hands."

The results are evident. At least 30 people have professed faith in Jesus Christ. Hundreds of Bibles have been distributed. Volunteers have shared the gospel message with hundreds of fans.

Roberts began learning about such a ministry in 1997 when he personally benefited from another racing outreach in Bristol, Tenn.

**CO-FOUNDER** John Roberts (left) helped start Kentucky Raceway Ministries in 2000 after he was touched by a similar ministry in Tennessee.

The Bristol ministry welcomed Roberts, who was then a new Christian, and prayed with him about some of his struggles.

About a year later, news broke that Kentucky Speedway would be built in Northern Kentucky near Roberts' home. Roberts said God led him to begin a ministry similar to the one that had helped him in Bristol.

Kentucky Raceway Ministries started during the 2000 season with just two volunteers: Roberts and co-founder J.T. Marsh. Since then, it has grown steadily to in-

clude more than 200 volunteers. KRM is a member of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries, a nationwide network of similar ministries.

Kentucky Raceway Ministries has received support from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union through the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering. The offering, held each fall, funds missions efforts throughout Kentucky.

Three nearby associations also support the ministry: Whites Run, Ten Mile and Owen County.

□ See Raceway Outreach ... Page 3

**NAMB's five weekly radio programs currently air on 1,250 radio stations across the nation.**

## NAMB taking steps to end radio ministry

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

Alpharetta, Ga. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention might end 64 years of radio ministry, according to SBC North American Mission Board officials.

NAMB has laid off the two remaining members of its radio production staff as of the end of April, rehiring them for at least two months on a contract basis while a final decision is reached, according to a NAMB spokesman.

Based at NAMB's Media Production Group in Fort Worth, Texas, the radio staff is responsible for producing five weekly 30-minute programs, each broadcast free by up to 400 stations, mostly during non-peak or overnight hours.

### Shows' popularity declining

Once the mainstay of Southern Baptists' broadcast ministry, the radio programs produce no revenue and have dropped in popularity, NAMB says. "Strength for Living," the preaching show known as "The Baptist Hour" when it launched the SBC's radio ministry in 1941, is now available on about 400 radio stations, reaching 430,000 radio listeners.

"Over the course of several months and as part of a comprehensive communications study, NAMB has been taking a close look at radio operations to determine their effectiveness and the viability of continuing this area of ministry," NAMB said in a statement to Associated Baptist Press.

A decision is expected "sometime in the next few months," the April 28 statement said.

The two radio staff members recently were told their jobs were being eliminated at the end of April. But NAMB later moved them off the payroll and to contract status through June, while a final decision is reached.

"Even if changes are made in present programming," the NAMB statement said, "there are viable alternatives being considered which will help NAMB achieve its major objectives and ministry assignments."

Begun as the Radio Commission in 1941 by Baptist pioneer Samuel Lowe, the Fort Worth-based ministry later became the Radio and Television Commission when TV programming was added.

The RTVC was dissolved and combined into the new North

American Mission Board during the SBC's restructuring of its agencies in the 1990s.

The television ministry, still based in Fort Worth, was spun off as FamilyNet after a merger with Jerry Falwell's cable TV ministry. But the radio programs, which once numbered almost a dozen, remained separate and administered by NAMB, which is based in suburban Atlanta.

### Five shows being produced

The remaining five 30-minute radio programs, in addition to "Strength for Living," are "Master Control," a newsmagazine aired on about 350 stations; "Country Crossroads," a country-music show currently aired on more than 400 stations; "Powerline," adult contemporary music, about 400 stations; and "On Track," contemporary Christian music, about 225 stations.

About 1,250 total radio stations air NAMB programs, since many stations carry more than one. All except "On Track" are more than 35 years old.

The Media Technology Group also produces radio spots which also are distributed free.

## Congressmen urge Baptists to defend separation

Washington (ABP)—Baptists who believe in church-state separation must do a better job of defending that principle in the public arena, two members of Congress counseled at a recent conference on the First Amendment.

Speaking in Washington April 14, Reps. Chet Edwards (D-Texas) and David Price (D-N.C.) said Baptists need to defend the principle more aggressively. Price also counseled humility.

The comments came during the two-day First Freedoms Conference, which focused on religious freedom and freedom of the press as intertwined principles. The meeting was sponsored by Associated Baptist Press, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, and Baptists Today news journal.

"It's very misguided to think that the principle of church-state separation requires the total privatization of religion," Price told conference participants.

"We're called to the public arena, and what we advocate, and

what we fight for in politics will often have a strong relationship to what we believe in."

Price, a member of Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C., said Christians and other religious people who strongly support the First Amendment's establishment clause—which bars government establishment of religion—need to explain to the public why the principle is actually pro-religious.

### Separation support declining

Edwards, a Methodist who attends Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, said politicians who support the principle of church-state separation become fewer after every congressional election. He said opponents of church-state separation cast the debate as a battle between those who despise religious influence in public life and those who believe church-state separation is simply a myth.

Edwards counseled conference participants to take more specific

steps in defending church-state separation in the political realm.

He encouraged groups that support religious freedom to join in a concerted effort to defend church-state separation in the judicial, political and media realms.

Amid such challenges, Price counseled humility in dealing with those who disagree on church-state issues.

"There is, I think, at the heart of the Jewish and Christian traditions a kind of counsel of humility—a sense that our will and our program... (are) never to be confused with God's will," he said. "It's pervasive in the prophets, and it's pervasive in our religious tradition."

The belief that all people are imperfect and "live under God's transcendent mercy and judgment... should encompass everything we do in public life," Price continued. "That kind of sense of humility and that sense of perspective is so often missing today from people whose theology should teach them better."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Baylor elects interim president.** Baylor University regents unanimously elected law professor Bill Underwood as interim president, according to chairman Will Davis, who predicted the university could have a permanent president by Sept. 1. The presidential search committee is ahead of schedule and ready to "start paring the field down" in looking at candidates, Davis said. Underwood, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Illinois College of Law, practiced civil trial law in Dallas before joining the Baylor faculty in 1990. Some Baylor faculty see him as a champion of academic freedom on the campus. Underwood will fill the post Robert Sloan vacates June 1 when he assumes the chancellor's role at the university.

**Illinois Baptist exec accepts pastorate.** After serving on the job a little more than two years, Wendell Lang has resigned as executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association. Lang was called April 24 as senior pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn. His resignation from IBSA is effective May 27. News of Lang's resignation stunned pastors and other Baptist leaders throughout the state. "I was totally shocked, to say the least," said convention president Don Sharp, a Chicago pastor. In a statement issued by IBSA, Lang said he and his wife, Pam, were "as surprised as anyone" by his resignation. "We would never have imagined our ministry here would be so brief. Our consolation is that God is not sur-

prised and furthermore we are confident He led us both in our coming to IBSA as well as in our leaving."

**CBF missions coordinator resigns.** Barbara Baldrige, coordinator of global missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, will resign effective May 31, citing unspecified personal reasons. Baldrige, 54, has served in the top CBF missions post since 1999, first jointly with her husband, Gary, and then as sole coordinator since February of this year. Gary Baldrige, 54, retired at the end of December 2004 to pursue a career in writing. CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal appointed Jack Snell, associate coordinator for missions field ministries, as acting global missions coordinator.

## Agreement between Averett University, Virginia Baptists not quite settled

Danville, Va. (ABP)—Averett University leaders apparently are seeking a compromise that would end its covenant agreement with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, as planned, but still elevate the school's relationship with the Baptist organization.

Meeting April 15, trustees of Averett acknowledged Virginia Baptists' approval of a statement—developed jointly by leaders of the university and the Baptist General Association of Virginia—which would dissolve ties between the school and the association. But trustees did not publicly endorse the agreement or signal the discussion is closed.

The statement was to be presented to the respective governing boards of the school and association. Averett trustees went into executive session to consider the statement, Averett President Richard Pfau said.

The joint statement was developed March 17 in an attempt to resolve longstanding disagreements between the BGAV and Averett over homosexuality—most recently students' observance of a gay pride week on campus. "Because of our current differences, we now resolve to walk separate paths... recognizing that these paths may join again at a future time," the statement reads.

The statement stipulates that the covenant between the BGAV and Averett will be dissolved and that the BGAV will end its longtime practice of nominating a portion of Averett's board of trustees.

The statement also gives sole ownership to the BGAV of a new theological training school in Roanoke, which previously was administered in cooperation with Averett and which was the only recipient of Virginia Baptist funding to Averett.

The Virginia Baptist Mission Board discussed the joint statement in open session April 6 and overwhelmingly approved it. However, Averett's trustees released a brief statement following their closed meeting April 15:

"We recognize and respect the decision of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board. Averett maintains its commitment to being an autonomous flagship Christian university. The board and the president will develop guidelines to insure that Averett continues to move in that direction. Our 146-year relationship with the Baptist General Association will continue to be enriched through the strong Baptist Student Union."

The statement implies that Averett agrees to end the 2004 covenant with the BGAV but hints at a desire to maintain some sort of relationship.

## Western Recorder staff earns five national awards

Denver—Western Recorder staff members earned five national awards in news, feature and editorial writing during the recent Baptist Communicators Association annual workshop in Denver.

BCA, a professional development organization for Southern Baptist communicators, hosts the annual Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition to recognize excellence in communications. The competition is named in honor of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's former vice president for communications.

BCA received 385 entries from 105 members and agencies. The Western Recorder, one of seven state Baptist papers honored, received more BCA awards than any other state Baptist paper. Awards include:

**David Winfrey**, news director, first place for newspaper feature article. Winfrey's article, "Former Kentucky prison escapee returns to share God's love," told the story of Leonard Adamson's transformation from prison inmate to ordained minister and prison chaplain.

**Trennis Henderson**, editor, second place for newspaper news series and honorable mention for editorial writing.

Henderson's second-place award was for a series of articles written with Greg Warner and Robert Marus of Associated Baptist Press about the SBC's withdrawal from Baptist World Alliance.

The honorable mention was for Henderson's editorial, "Should Baptists abandon public schools?," which stated public schools "need and deserve the positive influence of Christian teachers and students."

**Dannah Prather**, partnership editions editor, second place for newspaper feature series and honorable mention for newspaper feature article.

Prather's second-place award was for a series about literacy missions in Kentucky.

The honorable mention was for an article about end-of-life issues.



**RECOGNIZED** Dannah Prather's article about end-of-life issues received an honorable mention.

# Raceway Outreach begins new season

Continued from page 1

The associations provide funds to purchase the ministry's single most important resource, a New Testament designed by Motor Racing Outreach, a national racing ministry.

The Bibles feature testimonies of famous racers, insights about developing character and other Bible study tools.

The specialty Bibles are important to the ministry's outreach.

"Many people want to give us plain Bibles, but we can't give them away," Roberts explained.

"But if we put out Bibles that have race cars on them then we can't keep enough of them. They will fight over them."

Robert Young, director of Whites Run Association, paints a promising picture for the ministry's future.

"Racing is the second most popular sport among teenagers; 40 percent of NASCAR fans are women," Young said. "One billion people worldwide will attend a motor sport event this year, which is one out of every six people."

## Ministry all weekend

Throughout the country, racing ministries are developing strong relationships with fans and speedway employees. Most relationships begin off the track at the speedway campground sites.

For race fans, the actual race is only part of the weekend event. They also enjoy socializing and activities with other fans and campers.

The races are held on Friday and Saturday nights, but the campground opens on Thursdays. As soon as race fans begin arriving, KRM volunteers begin spreading the word about their Saturday morning worship service, which

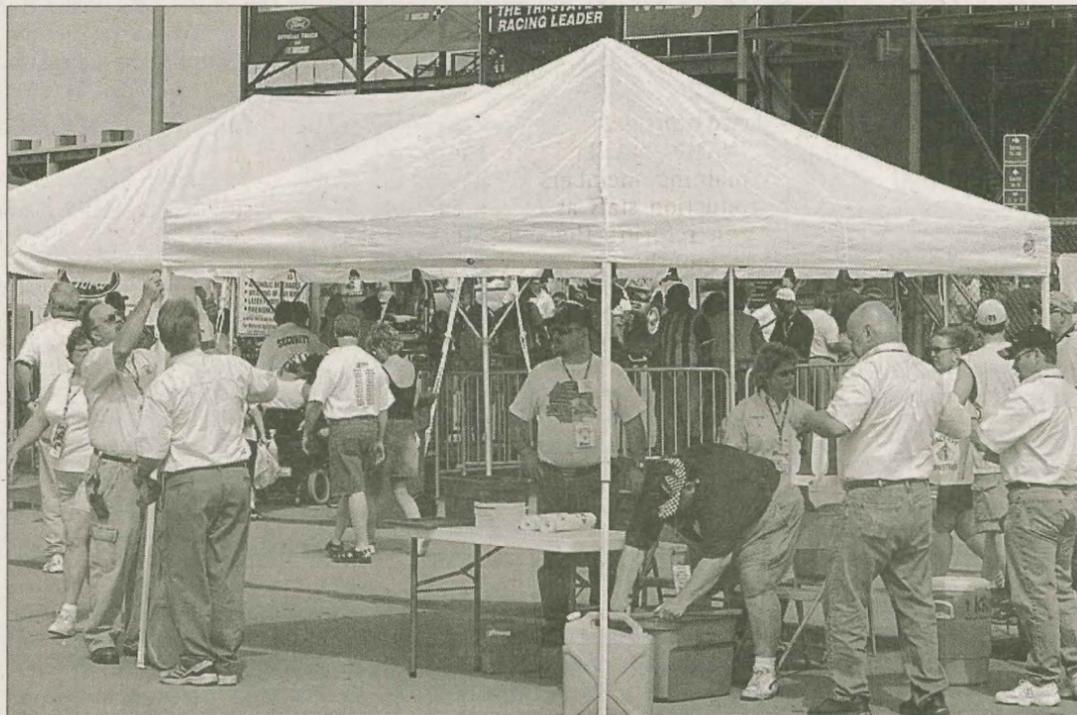
## WMU receptionist Thompson, wife of KBC assistant exec, dies

Louisville—Joyce Thompson, receptionist/data specialist for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and wife of KBC Assistant Executive Director Steve Thompson, died April 28 after a long battle with cancer. She was 56.

Thompson, the former Joyce Drennan, graduated from Fredonia High School in Western Kentucky in 1966 and later attended Murray State University and Henderson Community College.

Thompson joined the Kentucky WMU staff in February 2004, but her involvement with the organization stretched back many years. She served on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board from 1991-1993 as a member from the western region, and served again from 1993-1998 as recording secretary.

"Because of her experience with WMU as well as her work experi-



Robert Young



ence as a secretary, Joyce was a great person to have on our staff," said Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU Executive Director.

"Because of the cancer, Joyce never felt her best during her year of work on our staff, yet her sense of humor and kindness to others always came through," Bolton added. "Joyce wanted to work even when she really did not feel well. She was a wonderful team member who will be missed."

Thompson served alongside her husband, Steve, throughout his ministry. Together they served Guston Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of Brookport, Ill.; Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Utica; Southside Baptist Church in Louisville; First Baptist Church of Morganfield; and Green Valley Baptist Association. Joyce Thompson served in various positions, including pianist, organist, Sunday



Joyce Thompson

including puppets, face painting, Bible-based crafts and free racecar-shaped cameras.

"The kids have come to rely on us for activities. If they want something to do, they come to our tent," Roberts said.

Children also compete for prizes in their own "Hot Wheels Derby" played on a small toy-car track.

Young said the children's area is a great opportunity for creative arts ministries, teenagers and college-age people to get involved.

Volunteers also provide special care behind the scenes. When fans are injured, ministry volunteers are on hand to offer practical help as well as counsel or prayer.

By building a reputation for service among speedway staff and in the community, the ministry has received invitations from other campsites in the Carrolton area to expand their ministry.

For more information about Kentucky Raceway Ministries, contact John Roberts at (859) 567-8601 or John\_15933@msn.com or visit [www.go2krm.com](http://www.go2krm.com).

## MINISTRY TENT

Volunteers with Kentucky Raceway Ministries prepare a tent for handing out free water, race-themed Bibles and cookies and conducting kid-friendly activities. (KBC photo by Larry Brannon)

school teacher, and as church and associational WMU director.

"Joyce was a gracious lady who served the Lord faithfully with her husband in the local church and in association work," said Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "She was loved and appreciated by all who knew her and will be greatly missed."

Thompson's family includes her husband, Steve, of Louisville; son Rob and his wife, Debra, and their children, Katie, Alex and Isaac, of Kingsport, Tenn.; and son Chris and his wife, Tammie, and their two children, Riley and Madison, of Leitchfield.

The funeral was held April 30 at First Baptist Church of Morganfield, with burial at Rowland Cemetery in Fredonia.

Memorials can be made to the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Heritage Fund, in care of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, or to Gideons International.

## WESTERNRECORDER

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

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**Rodney Travis**, Hopkinsville.

## Don't end filibusters

I am a person of faith and values who believes the right to filibuster in the U.S. Senate should continue. Conservative Republicans backed by their religious right base control the executive and legislative branches of government. A Supreme Court majority of their choosing would complete their quest for total control of government and citizens' lives.

It is ironic we are trying to spread freedom and democracy around the world when both are on the verge of extinction in our own country. We are trying to make sure Iraq does not form a theocratic government at the same time President Bush and his religious backers try to move us toward becoming a plutocratic theocracy.

In their lust for political power, fundamentalists took over the Southern Baptist Convention and its institutions in the early 1980s. Now the religious right is trying to seize political control of our government. God is neither a Democrat nor a Republican and is not a political football to be kicked around for selfish gain.

Unchecked, unbalanced executive and legislative branches of government are detrimental to the health of democracy. The judiciary branch serves as the interpreter of the Constitution, provides needed checks and balances and makes sure the rights of the poor and powerless are not trampled on by those in power. No political party, when in the majority, should be allowed to ride roughshod over anyone.

I see the Republicans' call to discontinue the filibusters as an attack on the most vulnerable people in our society. Almost every policy the Bush administration espouses benefits the rich and powerful, often at the expense of the poor. That displeases the God I know and love Who loves everybody, but is especially concerned for the poor.

Paul L. Whiteley Sr.  
Louisville

## Rally commendations

I read with interest your April 26 coverage of the Justice Sunday rally in Louisville. Obviously, this provided the Western Recorder another opportunity to stroke the long-running conflict between liberal and conservative Kentucky Baptists.

I note in passing that the liberals always want to be known as "moderates" and usually call biblical conservatives "fundamentalists." The latter rarely resort to name calling but the former often do—apparently because they are unable to engage the debate on the real doctrinal issues at stake.

Justice Sunday rally supporters should be commended for their interest in stemming the tide of secular trends which have encouraged all manner of crime, immorality and ungodliness in this nation. These trends make life more dangerous for everyone.

It certainly is not wrong to oppose them. On the other hand, the rally critics seem not to find anything worthy of praise but, instead, resort to personal attacks on the rally's organizers or try to politicize the concerns of the rally participants.

The failure and corruption which pervades some elements of our federal judiciary are well known. Good citizens are rightly concerned. This matter is too important to be treated like an argument between the Justice Sunday speakers and their petty critics.

Robert Causey  
Smiths Grove

**Editor's Note:** The Western Recorder's articles about "Justice Sunday" were not an attempt to "stroke the long-running conflict between liberal and conservative Kentucky Baptists," but to provide our readers fair, balanced coverage of a newsworthy event and responses to it. That is what a state Baptist paper should do, and we will continue to do so.

## God's timing in facility relocation

If you read last week's issue of the Western Recorder, you know that the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board staff and three related entities will be moving into a new building in August after 48 years at our current location on Shelbyville Road in Louisville.

The new facility at Eastpoint Centre, also in Louisville, will provide an excellent place of service for Kentucky Baptists. Much prayer and hard work went into the decision-making process to relocate.

When you move as rarely as we do (this will be only our fourth location in the history of the KBC), you definitely desire confidence that God is at work in the process. It has been our prayer that God would open and close doors in such a way that we would know He has guided the process.

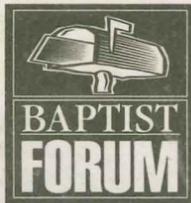
God does work through people and that has been the case with the Mission Board's Properties Committee, led by Chairperson Mike Melloan. The committee members'

expertise in real estate, building, finance and organizational process has been a great asset.

Lowell Ashby, KBC business manager and business services team leader, was the chief negotiator (working with the KBC's Realtor and attorney). Lowell's patience and persistence have been effective in this process.

There were so many important factors that had to come together at the right time. A possible transaction seemed imminent last December but there were negotiations and delays due to environmental concerns, financing for the buyer and other contingencies. All of these steps in the process needed parameters and guidelines to be approved by the Properties Committee, Business and Finance Committee, and Mission Board.

I believe God brought it all together on April 21 when the document signings took place. The KBC staff and entities conducted a visit and prayerwalk of the new building that same day.



## CHURCH

## Pursue practical ways to increase church giving

By Doug Strader

Many churches are looking for ways to increase giving among their members. Unfortunately, there are no magic formulas one can use.

However, there are some practices that churches can adopt that likely will increase giving among members. For the next few months I will list some practices that churches can implement for that purpose. Among those ideas are:

■ Pastors should have a systematic way of preaching and teaching about financial stewardship responsibilities of Christians.

■ Emphasize the benefits of increased financial resources to the church in fulfilling its mission and ministries.

■ Be intentional in making the offering time more worshipful. Look for creative ways to make the offering time an integral part of the worship.

■ Pastors, staff members, deacons and other church leaders should be role models for the members. Have some of the key leaders share their personal financial stewardship testimonies before the offering is received.

■ Create a positive attitude among the church members about financial stewardship.

■ Host personal money management workshops to help members know how to budget their finances, and how to get out and stay out of credit card debt. Consumer debt is a leading cause of decreased giving to God's work.

■ Involve as many people as possible in the church budget process. Endeavor to make it the church budget and not the budget of the staff or the budget committee.

■ Make the budget a reachable challenge for members.

■ Give opportunities for church members to discuss the budget in informal settings where questions are answered.

■ Conduct a high-quality budget process. Build a sense of "We can do it!"

■ Make sure the budget is voted on after sufficient notice has been given to the congregation and when the most people will be present.

■ As part of the budget process, invite stewardship testimonies from all segments of the church. Also have stewardship testimonies throughout the church year.

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

## 'Appalling' accusations

I am truly appalled at the recent outbreak of slander and insults hurled at Georgetown College, specifically by two letters published on April 5 and April 19.

I suggest that before anyone has the audacity to point out "the brashness of the sin of Georgetown," they first visit our institution and interact with our administration, faculty and students.

As a student at Georgetown College and being a firsthand witness of the diversity of the student body, I ask that no one attempt to fit the entire Georgetown community into a box. The students had little, if any, say in the organization of the Pastors Conference, the event which a few seem to now be against.

We must never place the opinions and decisions of a few people on an entire institution. Though I am in full support of the college's selection of personnel at the conference, I would never want to be associated with a place that "propagates sin," and I have a feeling that most of Georgetown College would not want to be either.

Even more ridiculous is the "heresy" for which we are accused. Before accusing our guest, author Brian McClaren, of believing in "more than one plan of salvation," I suggest reading his book in its entirety; you might have a different opinion about what he actually wrote.

Secondly, remember that someone else's interpretation of Scripture is not necessarily wrong. If one chooses to support a woman in a pastor's role, that is not heresy, it is diversity.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has made it possible for me to attend an academic institution such as Georgetown College. I thank God for the many blessings I have received through both of these establishments.

Jeremy Shoulta  
Louisville

■ More Baptist Forum on page 5

To me, the good reasons for the relocation can be clustered around the acronymic TEAM.

**Teamwork.** The open office concept will enhance the staff organization and teamwork.

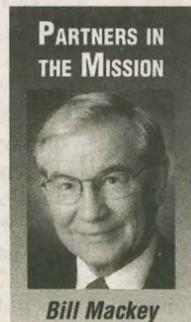
**Effective.** Each team will be located in the same area with conference rooms and workrooms. Copying, assembling, mailing and storage will be clustered for effectiveness. New systems will enhance technology, video production and communications.

**Access.** The building site will be accessible from the Gene Snyder Freeway at the Old Henry and LaGrange exits. Visitors will discover that the design of the building will be very user-friendly.

**Maximize resources.** The Properties Committee felt that savings on utilities and maintenance would be good stewardship, and that the property will increase in value in the growing northeast portion of Jefferson County.

Please pray for the successful completion of the building and for KBC and entities staff during these transitions.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

## Cremation or burial? Talk to loved ones about preferences

**Q: Upon my death, I think I would like to be cremated. Most of my family members and friends strongly object to this practice, believing it is a sin and not pleasing to God. Why is this subject never preached about in church? Could you recommend any helpful Bible passages or other books dealing with cremation?**

Most subjects preached about in church have to do with doctrinal concerns and the daily practice of one's faith.

### SENIOR ADULTS

It seems the word "cremation" is not used in the Bible. On one side of the discussion are advocates for burial who quote Scriptures describing the practice of burial. Some contend the act of burning a dead body is abhorrent because it is practiced in heathen religions. Another group declares there are no specific teachings about cremation and no commands against the practice.

In some countries cremation is encouraged by governments due to population and lack of available land for burial. In the United States it is more a personal preference.

It is clear in Scripture there are more narratives describing burial. For a Christian, the body after death is a shell. When God breathed life into Adam he became a living soul. The body after death still needs to be treated respectfully.

Much of what happens after death, such as burial, cremation, funeral services and wakes, are for the family, those who remain on earth who are grieving. Scripture describes ceremonies for births, blessings, callings, servanthood, marriage and death. Ceremony is important for the living to deal with their grief, say goodbye, receive comfort from their community and wrestle with their own mortality. For many people, there is a need to see a body in order to acknowledge the loss and accept the frailty of human existence as well as wrestle with the Creator of life and the Conqueror of death.

Even with differences in belief, this can be an opportunity to talk at a deeper level with family members. Help them share their fears with you about your death and no longer having you with them. This can be a gift to their grieving process and has the potential for creating greater intimacy in the present.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: What does a daughter need most from her dad?**

Dads and daughters share a special relationship. Little boys grow into big men who typically trade tenderness for toughness, but little girls never get too big to give their dad a hug and say, "I love you." Daughters have special needs that dads will want to meet.

### PARENTING

**She needs your time.** Invest your life in hers. Pay attention to her.

Make her feel special. Make memories together.

**She needs your prayers.** Ask God to protect and guide your daughter. Ask Him to help her make good choices. Choose a specific Bible verse that expresses your hopes for your daughter and pray it for her daily. Pray both for her and with her.

**She needs your example.** Model what it means to be a gentleman. Help your daughter set high standards for her future by setting the bar high. Treat her with respect and courtesy, and teach her to expect that kind of treatment from men.

**She needs your touch.** Hugging and holding often become harder when young ladies begin to mature physically, but dads need to set aside inhibitions. Appropriate touching meets an important emotional need in your daughter's life, making it less likely that she will seek satisfaction in the wrong ways from the wrong people.

**She needs security.** Set boundaries. Give grace. Constantly communicate unconditional love. Love her mother, and work together to make your home a happy place—a haven from the dysfunction your daughter might see all around her.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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



## Is new Baptist Building worth the cost?

A page one article in last week's Western Recorder noted that Kentucky Baptist Convention officials sold the facilities that have been home since 1957 to the KBC Mission Board and three other state Baptist entities.

The article also reported that KBC leaders purchased a new facility in eastern Jefferson County expected to be ready for occupancy by August.

The current facilities sold for \$4.2 million and the new property, a 51,000-square-foot building with an unfinished interior, was purchased for \$4.475 million. Interior construction is expected to cost up to \$2.1 million. Combined with the \$275,000 difference between the sale and purchase prices and anticipated moving expenses, the net cost of the new building likely will top \$2.5 million.

Among legitimate questions for grassroots Kentucky Baptists to pose are:

**Is the move necessary?** KBC leaders began exploring remodeling or relocation options four years ago. A 2001 proposal failed to be finalized, but the KBC Mission Study Committee's 2003 report called for a properties study committee to evaluate long-term facility needs. Both the committee and the Mission Board

agreed that relocation was the best option available. Committee members noted that even if a comparable amount of money was spent to renovate the existing facilities, it still would include a 1950s-era building with growing maintenance costs.

**Is it worth the cost?** A net cost of \$2.5 million is a major investment of KBC funds. While that amount might sound excessive to many smaller congregations, larger churches that have relocated in recent years are aware that a comparable move could reach several million dollars. Additionally, the \$2.5 million price tag will include offices for five KBC Mission Board staff teams, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Western Recorder and Woman's Missionary Union as well as conference rooms, mailroom facilities and other resources.

**What are the benefits of the move?** According to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, the one-story facility is expected to enhance effectiveness and accessibility. It also will provide opportunities to upgrade technology and reduce annual maintenance costs.

Kentucky Baptists can be confident that KBC leaders carefully counted the costs. Hopefully the new Baptist Building will serve state convention needs for decades to come.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

### No 'distant cousins'

I am appreciative of the Western Recorder's unbiased coverage of Highview Baptist Church's "Justice Sunday." However, I am unappreciative of the comments by Highview Pastor Kevin Ezell.

I was saddened to read Ezell's words in the article, "Some area pastors take issue with rally's premise." Instead of an article that showcased a difference of opinion among the Christian community, which is not unusual, I felt as if I was reading sabotage on anyone who disagreed with Ezell. I understand Ezell feels he is right and that his idea should prevail. However, Christians on the other side of the argument feel their idea is right too. Naturally, this should provoke debate and healthy tension, but not degradation of each other.

While reading the article and following the story from other media outlets, I have yet to hear Highland Baptist Church Pastor Joe Phelps say anything disrespectful toward Highview or Ezell. On the contrary, according to Associated Baptist Press, Ezell encouraged Phelps "to spend time teaching more people—his numbers would seem to indicate he needs it." Ezell did not speak the truth in love like Scripture commands. He threw another punch toward Phelps when he referred to Highland as a "distant cousin" rather than a sister church like Phelps called Highview.

I am saddened by these comments because Scripture tells us that when any part of the body is injured, the whole body feels the wound. Instead of fostering a division within the body of Christ, I would hope in the future Ezell would listen to concerns from the other side and offer truth in love.

My heart aches for our community and its injuries. However, I am assured by my faith that all Christians are sisters and brothers in Christ; there are no distant cousins in the Scriptures I read.

Ashley N. Hall  
Mount Eden.

### Double standard?

As the "biased liberal Internet writer" accused of fabricating the entire Southern Seminary/Sodexo controversy, I would like to respond to Hershail York's criticism of the Western Recorder editorial about the seminary's maintenance contract with a gay-friendly firm.

York accuses the Recorder editor of being inconsistent for not knowing the diversity policies of the companies that provide his newsprint and computer software. Isn't there a difference between buying software from a gay-friendly manufacturer and turning a large part of your operation over to a corporation that celebrates diversity by observing Gay Pride Month?

He also said a news headline "unfairly suggested that Sodexo's primary characterization and reputation is its policy about homosexuality."

According to the Sodexo Web site, a diverse workforce is a core value for the company.

"At Sodexo, diversity is at the heart of everything we do," says Richard Macedonia, president and CEO of Sodexo, North America. That includes, among other things, domestic-partner benefits; non-discrimination on basis of sexual orientation; recognition of an employee-network group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees; and including Gay and Lesbian Pride Month on its corporate calendar.

York called it "the unfortunate reality of 2005 corporate America" and challenged readers to come up with comparable companies that don't have similar policies. I suggest he go to the Web site of LifeWay Christian Resources, which offers facilities management services in partnership with FBG Service Corporation. According to a LifeWay spokesman, "FBG does not recognize alternative lifestyles, nor does the company provide benefits for same-sex partners."

I believe the Western Recorder editorial raises a valid question: Does Southern Seminary have one standard when it comes to telling others how they ought to conduct their business, and another when it comes to conducting their own?

Bob Allen, managing editor  
EthicsDaily.com  
Nashville, Tenn.



### 'Elitist mindset'

I found the April 19 letter titled "Predestined decision?" very interesting as it revealed a great deal about the writer and his lack of understanding about theology and Baptist life.

In regard to his attack on Calvinism, there is absolutely nothing elitist about being solely dependent on God's grace for salvation. Because each of us are sinners and unable by good works to save ourselves, it is very humbling to know that God would bestow His grace on those who are so unworthy. To me it is more of an elitist mindset to downplay the role of grace and God's sovereignty in salvation.

Also, how could someone logically make the argument that Southern Seminary was "hijacked?" I believe that all of us would acknowledge that Southern Seminary has indeed experienced many changes over the last decade or so. These changes are the result of the Southern Baptist Convention electing conservative leaders who in turn appointed conservative trustees who then influenced the direction of the seminaries. The process clearly reflects the will of the majority of messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meetings for the past 20-plus years. These changes came as a result of the process of our convention, not a "hijacking."

It would be wonderful if we could lay down bitterness about the past and focus more on fulfilling the Great Commission in the present.

Will Langford  
Independence

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Microsoft may reconsider gay rights stance.** Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates has said his company may reassess its position on a controversial homosexual rights bill in Washington State after accusations that a local pastor had caused the software giant to move away from supporting the bill. The bill would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing and insurance. Microsoft was one of the first companies to provide domestic partner benefits and to include sexual orientation in their anti-discrimination policy.

**Graham Association completes relocation.** The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has moved its international headquarters from Minneapolis to Graham's old hometown of Charlotte, N.C., where a \$27 million facility on 63 acres of land off Billy Graham Parkway was dedicated April 23. Plans for the Billy Graham Library, scheduled to open on the property in 2007 or 2008, also were presented at the ceremony.

**Senator, Focus on the Family in verbal fight.** A Colorado senator has apologized for comparing Focus on the Family to the Antichrist. Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., said he still thinks the ministry founded by James Dobson, is involved in un-Christian behavior after it targeted him in recent advertisements, according to The Gazette, a Colorado Springs newspaper. Focus questioned Salazar's job in the Senate, claiming he told voters he would favor up-or-down votes for judicial nominees, but now backs his party's filibusters.

**Ten Commandments monument finds home in church.** The 5,280-pound granite Ten Commandments monument that cost Roy Moore his job as Alabama's chief justice found a permanent home at his church in Gadsden, Ala. The monument was installed last weekend in the foyer of CrossPoint Community Church. Moore installed the monument in the rotunda of the state judicial building after being sworn in as state chief justice in 2000. A federal judge ordered it removed in 2003 and Moore was removed from office for defying the order.

**Faith-based groups advocate for pediatric AIDS help.** A coalition of faith-based organizations is urging pharmaceutical companies to make pediatric AIDS drugs more accessible. The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a New York City-based coalition of 275 religious institutional investors, is urging its members to file shareholder resolutions asking for more AIDS medications for children. The coalition wants resolutions to be voted on during upcoming annual shareholders' meetings of companies that produce and distribute AIDS drugs.

**Supreme Court declines abortion case.** The U.S. Supreme Court last month declined to consider a lower court ruling affirming a Massachusetts law that bars communication with people within a certain distance of abortion clinics. The law, enacted in 2000, establishes a six-foot, floating buffer zone around people approaching abortion clinics and prohibits the distribution of leaflets, display of signs or oral communication without permission within that restricted space. The floating zone must be within an 18-foot radius of a clinic entrance or driveway.

**Pat Robertson, P. Diddy in anti-poverty ad.** An unusual combination of stars, ranging from religious broadcaster Pat Robertson to hip-hop music mogul Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, is behind a new public service announcement trying to stop AIDS and poverty. "God calls us to lift up the poorest people of the world," said Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network. "We've come together with one voice through the ONE Campaign to do just that." The campaign seeks to recruit more than 1 million Americans to lobby the U.S. government to increase aid funds given to poor countries. Supporters wear white "ONE" wristbands as a show of solidarity.

**Court to hear case on religious hallucinogen.** The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether a small band of adherents of an obscure Brazilian sect living in the United States have a religious right to import hallucinogenic tea for sacramental use. The New Mexico congregation of the Uniao do Vegetal religion is a branch of a Brazilian group that blends elements of Christianity and native religions. The federal government attempted to prevent followers of the sect from importing the elements of hoasca, a tea made from a plant that contains chemicals the government considers "controlled substances."

## True Love Waits leader questions sex study

**Nashville (BP)**—A co-founder of the True Love Waits movement and a New York Times columnist both say a recent study could present a distorted view of teen sexual practices.

The study, released in the April edition of the journal *Pediatrics*, claimed one in five ninth-graders report having had oral sex and almost one-third intend to try it during the next six months.

The study, based on a survey of 580 ethnically diverse ninth-graders in two California public high schools, found that 20 percent said they had engaged in oral sex, compared to 14 percent who said they had engaged in sexual intercourse.

The study concluded the teens view oral sex as less risky, more common and more acceptable for their age group than intercourse.

The study's lead author, Bonnie Halpern-Felsher, a pediatrician at the University of California, San Francisco, wrote, "Given the suggestion that adolescents do not view oral sex as sex and see oral sex as a way of preserving their virginity while still gaining intimacy and sexual pleasure, they are likely to interpret sexual health messages as referring to vaginal sex."

But Richard Ross, co-founder of True Love Waits, said the movement has been clear about telling teens that sexual purity means abstaining from all sexual activity, including oral sex.

"Those of us helping to guide the True Love Waits movement never fell in the trap of focusing only on intercourse," said Ross, professor of student ministry at Southwestern

## House passes bill on teen abortions

**Washington (ABP)**—The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill April 27 designed to limit abortions performed on minors.

The Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act passed the chamber on a 270-157 vote. It would make it illegal for adults to transport a minor across state lines for an abortion without informing the girl's parents if the law in the girl's home state requires parental notification.

It also would force abortion providers to notify parents even in states that do not currently require it.

The bill requires parents of minors to be notified 24 hours ahead of time before any abortion. And it imposes fines, incarceration or both on the adults who transport the children and the abortion providers who perform the procedures if the required notification is not given.

Versions of the bill previously have passed the House, but it has never come up for a vote in the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) has labeled it a legislative priority for this session of Congress.

Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "All our support materials challenge teenagers to live Christ-like and pure in all ways in all relationships."

Church leaders and parents must avoid two extremes in dealing with teenagers' sexuality, Ross noted.

"Adults must not bury their heads in the sand and thus miss new and potentially destructive practices by young people," he said. "On the other hand, ... it would be very unwise to assume middle schoolers all across the U.S. are involved with oral sex based on the experiences of a handful in two California schools."

## Columnist finds good news

In fact, New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote April 20 that while teens are displaying public hedonism with their tight clothes, "acres of exposed pelvic

skin" and consumption of sexually provocative media, privately they are exercising more restraint than previous generations.

Teenage pregnancy rates, he noted, have declined by about a third over the past 15 years and teenage birth and abortion rates have dropped as much. The percentage of 15-year-olds who have had sex has dropped significantly, and among 13-year-olds, the percentage has dropped even more.

Little evidence exists to support claims that an epidemic of teenage oral sex is sweeping the nation, Brooks wrote, and there has been a distinct rise in the number of teenagers who say casual sex is wrong.

"American pop culture may look trashy, but America's social fabric is in the middle of an amazing moment of improvement and repair," he wrote.

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Attention PASTORS:  
ALL Messenger Cards for voting privileges at the SBC are distributed from the KBC Executive Office. They MUST be signed by your church clerk or moderator BEFORE being presented for registration.  
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DEADLINE: MAY 27, 2005

TRAVEL WITH OTHER BAPTISTS DEPARTING SEPT. 10, 2005  
"Autumn Leaves" Tour  
Visits Historical East  
Depart September 10th with other Baptists and combine a New England & East Coast historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motorcoach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); New York City; Milford, and New Haven. You'll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; tour Boston including the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. There's even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to historic Concord, Lexington, Gloucester, and "bewitching" Salem. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence Seaway in "upper NY" to Niagara Falls. YMT will also take you to Gettysburg, Amish Country, Valley Forge, Hershey World and other attractions before flying home. Prices, per person, double occpy. start at only \$1148 including all taxes. Add \$300 airfare from Covington. Add \$400 airfare from Lexington, Louisville, Evansville, Nashville or Knoxville. Space is limited to 46 on our motor coach. Family and friends are welcome. \$100 deposits are now due. For information, reservations and detailed itinerary call 7 Days a Week:  
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## Reasons so many don't have a will

### Excuses won't help your family after you're gone

From time to time I see lists of reasons people give for not having a will. The reasons basically are the same on every list. Here's the list of reasons I have pulled together:

1. I'm too busy and don't have time; I'll do it later.

2. I don't want to think about death and dying.

3. I'm too young; I'll do one when I'm older.

4. My estate is so small; I don't need a will.

5. I can't afford to have a will done.

6. I don't want to make any decisions that could cause family discord.

7. I don't need a will. My survivors can make all the decisions.

8. I don't have an attorney who can draft my will.

9. I don't know whom to name as executor of my estate.

10. I don't have a way to get to an attorney's office.

If any of these reasons has caused you not to have a will, please call our office toll-free for free information about wills and other estate planning documents you need to have in place.

The Apostle Paul advises us in 1 Timothy 5:8 to do some planning as it relates to provisions for one's family. Paul also states that one who does not do this has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. Those are some strong words from Paul.

On top of that, if you die without a will of your own, and you are a resident of the commonwealth of Kentucky, the commonwealth has written a will for you. I am confident neither you nor your heirs would be happy with the terms of the will the commonwealth has for you.

I encourage you prayerfully to consider today what God would have you do in the matter of a Christian will. Let your last will and testament be your "last witness and testimony."

If you would like to arrange a free private consultation session with Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, just call her toll-free; she will be happy to assist you.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

## Kudzu

Doug Marlette



## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 KJV verb
- 5 Mouthfuls of chewing gum
- 9 Linking verb
- 12 Tribe of Israel (var., N.T. spelling)
- 13 Son of Rehoboam (1 Chronicles 3:10)
- 14 Body of water, in Boulogne
- 15 "Can any understand the \_\_\_ of the clouds?" (Job 36:29)
- 18 Note on the diatonic scale
- 19 Parched
- 20 Diminutive ending (pl.)
- 22 "The Lord is thy \_\_\_ upon thy right hand" (Psalm 121:5)
- 25 Printer's measure
- 27 Of flying (prefix)
- 28 "The lot is cast into the \_\_\_" (Proverbs 16:33)
- 29 Misplace
- 31 Subject of Kilmer poem
- 33 "That through your mercy they also may \_\_\_ mercy" (Romans 11:31)
- 35 Boat ends
- 37 "The \_\_\_ of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23)
- 38 It can be cold and hard
- 40 When Columbus is feted (abbr.)
- 41 Stagger
- 43 "\_\_\_ with thine adversary quickly" (Matthew 5:25)
- 45 "They could not drink of the waters of \_\_\_" (Exodus 15:23)
- 46 "It is a \_\_\_ thing that the king requireth" (Daniel 2:11)
- 48 Workout zone (sing.)
- 49 The act of washing out or flushing

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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15				16					17		18	
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22	23	24			25	26		27				
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45						46	47					
48			49		50					51	52	53
54		55		56						57		
58				59						60		

- 54 Crafty
- 56 Roof edge
- 57 \_\_\_ Bator (Mongolian capital)
- 58 Three (comb. form)
- 59 Lea languishers
- 60 Part of la famille

### Down

- 1 Used to be
- 2 "The child shall play on the hole of the \_\_\_" (Isaiah 11:8)
- 3 Sunday speech (abbr.)
- 4 "I give unto you power to \_\_\_ on scorpions" (Luke 10:19)
- 5 Dry valley or ravine, except in the rainy season
- 6 "The one who says he \_\_\_ in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked" (1 John 2:6, nas)
- 7 Loud, continuous noise
- 8 Wise man
- 9 "I \_\_\_ he that liveth" (Revelation 1:18)
- 10 Adjunct to a resume
- 11 Historical periods
- 16 Son of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 17 Aver

- 21 "Thou shalt not be afraid for the \_\_\_ by night" (Psalm 91:5)
- 22 Trudge
- 23 In move-in condition
- 24 "All that were strong and \_\_\_ (2 words) war" (2 Kings 24:16)
- 26 Promontory; headland
- 30 Fairy-tale beginning
- 32 This (Sp.)
- 34 Grandson of Sheshan (1 Chronicles 2:35)
- 36 Father of Abraham (Luke 3:34)
- 39 Realize success
- 42 Number of months baby Moses was hidden before his mother put him in an ark (Exodus 2:2)
- 44 Elaborate dress
- 45 "Thou shalt be ... as he that lieth upon the top of a \_\_\_" (Proverbs 23:34)
- 47 Matures
- 50 Not polished
- 51 \_\_\_ de la Cite, in Paris
- 52 "All that handle the \_\_\_, the mariners" (Ezekiel 27:29)
- 53 Compass dir.
- 55 Part of a century (abbr.)

## Last week's solution

O	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	T	R	E	S	D	O	A	O	M	R	I	
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## To Celebrate the Baptist World Alliance's 100th Anniversary

You are invited to a luncheon with



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

Monday, May 9

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (EDT)

St. Matthews Baptist Church

3515 Grandview Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

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

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

Luncheon cost: \$6 per person

This event is organized by:



Dr. Leslie Hollon  
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Georgetown College, University of the Cumberlands

## Annual drills help children memorize Bible passages

**"It's exciting that in 2005 it's still going with all the other options kids have."**

Wendy Dever, KBC director of children and preschool ministry

**PROUD PARTICIPANT**  
Samantha Shea, 12, a member of First Baptist Church of Walton, shows off her participation certificate for the state Bible drill competition, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. (Photo by David Winfrey)



Continued from page 1

Children are asked six questions in four different types of drills. Those who get 12 correct in the church drill advance to their local Baptist association drill. Children must get 16 of 24 correct to advance to a state drill.

Children who get 20 correct answers are declared state winners.

"It's exciting that in 2005 it's still going with all the other options kids have," Dever added.

Bible drills date back at least as far as the 1940s, according to Vernon Cole, a KBC church growth consultant.

They originally were called "sword drills," a reference to Ephesians 6, which calls the Word of God a sword.

In earlier years, drills were much more competitive events. Judges began each search with, "Attention. Present swords. Charge." Today a more peaceful, "Ready. Present Bibles. Begin" is used.

The pressure of winning was great in the early years, Cole added.

"That created a lot of problems," he said, noting that children sometimes fainted.

In the early 1970s, the former Southern Baptist Sunday School Board attempted to do away with the drills, but churches and state conventions protested.

Cole served on a committee to study the drills. The committee developed the process used today in which anyone who gets enough correct answers is declared a winner. The goal, he said, was for kids to compete against a standard instead of against one another.

Another change was the selection of 25 verses and 10 key passages that children would study for the competition. Previously, children could be asked to find any passage when given just an introductory line.

With the change, "it would be demanding, but not extraordinarily demanding," Cole said.

Last weekend in Louisville, 107 children competed, with 100 being declared state winners. Other events were held last weekend and next in Ashland, Winchester, Paducah, Somerset, Bowling Green and Hopkinsville.

### Call for more biblical knowledge

The competitions began last week at the same time that a national study was released promoting greater biblical knowledge for children.

According to the nonprofit Bible Literacy Project, 98 percent of the country's "best" high school English teachers said students need to

### How well would you do?

Children in grades four through six study 25 Bible verses and 10 key passages to compete in four types of drills:

**Quotation drill.** A judge gives the verse reference, and the child has 10 seconds to step forward to indicate he or she knows the verse. The student must quote the verse if called upon.

**Completion drill.** A judge reads the introductory line from a verse, and the child must step forward if he or she can complete the verse.

**Book drill.** After a judge calls

out any book in the Bible, a child has 10 seconds to find the book and place a finger anywhere on it. If called upon, the child must state the books before and after that book.

**Key passage drill.** The judge states the key passage and the child has 10 seconds to find it and step forward. If called upon, the child will state the title of the key passage and the reference. The judge will then designate a verse from the passage for the child to read aloud.

know about the Bible to fully understand numerous religious references in Western literature.

"Leading English teachers reported students without Bible knowledge take more time to teach," said Marie Wachlin, the report's author. She called the Bible "the most important single source of all our literature."

The complete works of Shakespeare have more than 1,300 biblical references, says the report, released April 26. "Call me Ishmael," the introductory line of Herman Melville's nautical tale Moby Dick, according to the report, is lost on most students who do not know Ishmael was a famous castaway in the Bible.

The Fairfax, Va.-based Bible Literacy Project is dedicated to research and public education on the academic study of the Bible in public and private schools. In September 2005, it will launch a new textbook for academic study of the Bible in

public schools that is being billed as the first of its kind in nearly 30 years. The text will aim to respect the views of major faith groups, while endorsing none, organizers say.

The April report was conducted in two parts. The first interviewed 41 recommended English literature teachers from 10 states. The second analyzed a 2004 Gallup survey, revealing the confusion about Moses. The survey asked 1,002 teens ages 13-18 what they knew about the Bible.

Classic and modern literature is ripe with biblical references that the report calls the "common currency of our language," yet only 8 percent of the public school students surveyed said their schools offered elective courses on the Bible. Fifty-one percent of private school students said their schools had similar classes.

With additional reporting by Helena Andrews for Religion News Service

## Meet some of the class of 2005, part 7

### Senior learned ability to worship through work done for God's glory

Success often is measured by the amount in your checking account, the year and model of the car you drive, the attractiveness of your home and where it is located and many other material possessions. I don't know why we are like that, but few honestly say that those things don't influence our opinions about the success of others. There is nothing wrong with any of these things, but I would take serious exception with anyone who would try to convince me that these were the most reliable examples of success.

Often, one of the greatest challenges we face with the parents of our students is convincing them that a child's success should not always be measured by the letters on a report card. I think every honest parent would admit to being proud to see all A's. Over the years, I have seen many successful students who never earned an A on their report cards. In fact, I have known of a lot of successful students who worked hard and struggled to make mostly C's.

"Roy" (not his real name) could be such an example. I remember the very first time I met Roy. He was not a student at the time, but when Mrs. Underwood and I met him as a teenager, we were really impressed with his politeness and gentle demeanor.

It was not a real surprise a few years later when he enrolled at Oneida Baptist Institute, since he had family roots here. I always had felt he was mature beyond his years. He was a willing and hard worker and was very personable. He did not have to work to make people like him; it happened quite naturally. After Roy enrolled, he

left OBI for a short period of time. It was not his choice, but it happened. Several months later I received a phone call from him. He was desperate to return to Oneida. With the consent of his parents, Roy was allowed to return.

If you measure his success by the grades on his report card, I guess he would not be looked at very favorably. While his grades are average, his success by his own standards and respected young man cannot be measured by grades. Here

is part of what he wrote in his senior essay: "Mr. Jaspersen (our work program supervisor) has been the biggest influence on me. ... I have learned most of what I know about working by just watching 'Mr. J.' work. He gets things done when it comes to work; he does not play games. I would like to thank this man for teaching me not only how to work, but teaching me the importance of a job well done. Be it cleaning toilets, driving tractors or cleaning up

someone else's trash, he has shown me that nothing else matters except that you know you have completed a job by giving it your best!

"I have learned while being at OBI that worship is not confined to a room full of people singing and praying. I have learned that worship is something that you can do all the time ... by the way you work and deal with others. Anything you do that brings glory and honor to God is worship. ... The influences that I have had during my time at Oneida are many. Not only learning my A's and B's, but learning life-long lessons, and the people that God placed in my life during this learning process are what has influenced me the most."

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## 36 students to graduate May 6

### KBC President Hershael York to preach at commencement

The Kentucky Baptist family is invited to our commencement, Friday, May 6, at Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro at 6:30 p.m.

KBC President Hershael York will preach the message before 36 graduates supported by faculty, staff, family and guests. Some of our graduates shared special memories and appreciation:

"I'm thankful that I can better understand the doctrines in which I believe, and for the privilege of learning under Dr. Pfoff." Jason Baker, Tennessee.

"It was great to work with many other people in the children's ministry. It was difficult to leave family and friends to attend Clear Creek but I gained more friends." Hattie Carr, Morganfield, Ky.

"I gained a deeper, more developed faith in the Lord and saw my faith really put to the test. I treasure the memory of walks on the fat track and the trails, the close friendships and the genuine concern of teachers." Scott Hurt, Kentucky

"Leaving home for the first time was difficult for me, but I learned to be more independent. My plan now

is to attend seminary." Suzanne Robinson, Virginia.

"My father was a positive influence on my attending Clear Creek. I feel fully equipped to take the next step of obedience, and thank God for the life-long relationships/friendships built at Clear Creek." Steven Zapolski, Ohio. (Steven will enroll in the University of Cincinnati's MBA program.)

"Clear Creek has been a wonderful experience for my family and me. There were hard times and good times, but through it all God has taught us to trust Him. I will never forget the love and sacrifice the faculty gave to the students. After a training time in Pennsylvania we will go

to New York State to begin work with Children's Bible Ministries." Paul Schmucker, Tennessee.

"A missionary I met at a GA event told me about Clear Creek. I have increased in skills and confidence to use God-given gifts. I am thankful for the love, encouragement and support received, especially during difficult times." Jody Rorick, Alabama. (Jody is the mother of five children, ages 9, 12, 14, 16 and 17.)

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Graham Training Center Bible doesn't sidestep hot topics

By Michael Foust  
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—The Billy Graham Training Center Bible doesn't run from hot-button issues.

Abortion, cohabitation and homosexuality are all covered, along with more than 100 other topics covering less controversial issues such as depression, love and loneliness.

It is the first Bible project undertaken by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The dust jacket bills the Bible as providing "time-tested answers to your toughest questions."

Throughout the Bible text, topic notes explain and interpret various passages. Readers also are guided to other parts of Scripture where the same issue is tackled.

The Bible uses the New King James Version translation.

"It runs a pretty good spectrum—from abortion and homosexuality on one end to fear and bitterness on the other end. I think it's balanced," BGEA spokesperson Mark DeMoss said.

"It was not an attempt to be a news-making Bible. But of 100 or so topics, there are a number that would be considered controversial or delicate, and they're included."

A few examples:

**Homosexuality.** "The only cure for homosexuality, or any type of sinful behavior, is a personal, intimate, and continuous relationship with Jesus Christ," a note on the same page as 1 Corinthians 6 reads.

**Abortion.** "The Bible teaches that the unborn child is fully human," a note on Psalm 139 reads. Speaking to those considering an abortion, it states, "We urge you to consider having the child."

**Suicide.** "It is Satan who convinces people to take their own lives," a note on Job 6 reads. "Jesus does not want you take your own

life; He wants to give you abundant life."

The Training Center Bible also includes answers to 50 frequently asked questions on a variety of topics.

For instance: "Is there anything wrong with living with my boyfriend if we plan to be married someday?"

"Living together without being married is common in our culture, but this goes against God's will," the answer reads. "When you have this kind of relationship outside of marriage, you do not have a lasting commitment to each other and thus cannot have a full measure of trust and security."

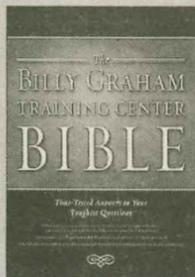
Some of the notes are taken from another BGEA publication, "The Billy Graham Christian Worker's Handbook." But while the handbook was aimed at Christian leaders, the Training Center Bible targets both Christians and non-believers.

### Graham based

Billy Graham himself didn't write the notes for this Bible, but his sermons and articles throughout the years provided the foundation.

"Theologically, it would mirror the theology of Mr. Graham and the Graham organization, which is certainly a conservative evangelical bent," DeMoss said. "Through 50-plus years of public ministry, he has in one way or another addressed most of these 100 or so topics in sermons or messages or talk show interviews. The Graham organization keeps all of that information as well, which helps them respond to people that write or call with questions."

The Billy Graham Training Center Bible also includes a topic index, a 195-page concordance and maps.



**Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers.** Christian Smith and Melinda Denton. Oxford Press, 2005. 339 pages. \$29.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Christian Smith and Melinda Denton have done one of the largest surveys ever of teenagers to find out what teens are thinking and talking about.

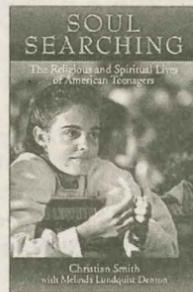
The book is filled with graphs, charts, stories, quotes from teens and insights discovered by the authors.

Teens share their interests about going to church, reading the Bible, prayer, church as it relates to their lives, how "religion" affects their daily life at school and in society as a whole. The teens talk frankly and straightforward, occasionally using words reserved more for a romance novel than a book about spirituality. But this is the world where the teens live.

The authors' findings are somewhat surprising when compared to what the media often reports about teenagers. Teens said they are concerned about religion and their faith. They add that the underlying basis for their faith comes from watching adults to see if their faith is real. Again and again, the authors state the need for parents to be a part of the lives of their teens, even when teens appear to be rebelling against what their parents tell them.

Unfortunately, the survey finds many professing Christian teens are mimicking many adults by compartmentalizing their lives and separating church, God and social lives from each other.

This book is an excellent reference for anyone working with teens and their parents. Better understanding teens' world will help everyone better minister to them. *Steve Coleman*



listens, probes, asks questions and touches the deepest places in their personhood as He draws them into the mystery that is God. Rather than trying to get people to adopt certain precepts, Jesus draws them into the sphere of the Kingdom of God and into relationship with the triune God. The content grows from the experience.

No doubt this paradigm will challenge many of our assumptions and firmly-held convictions. While he recognizes the reality, I wish McLaren had been clearer that the content of Christian faith grows not solely out of our personal, contemporary experience. As John Wesley noted, the experience of the church, reflected in Scripture, is of seminal importance in evaluating the authenticity of our experience. Nonetheless, "More Ready than You Realize" is an excellent overview of postmodern evangelistic theory. *Jim Holladay*

**From the Ground Up: New Testament Foundations for the 21st Century Church.** Scott Horrell. Kregel Publications, 2004. 106 pages. \$11.99

♦♦♦♦ This small book is packed with a much needed analysis of the concept of church.

Most books about the church in recent years have focused on programs and strategies for reaching people with new ministries, worship services and other elements. This book takes us back to the basics of what church (the Greek "ekklesia") is supposed to be.

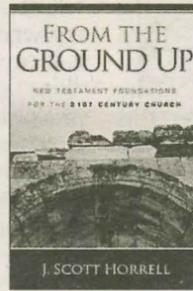
In particular, Scott Horrell forces us to consider what is truly important and unimportant in the church. Another way of looking at this is by asking, "What is appearance and what is substance?"

Horrell is especially equipped to help in this analysis because he brings a Third-World perspective to the discussion. He has seen the church function differently than it does in America. This has helped him, and provided his motivation, to get beyond cultural expressions to the New Testament foundations. In the model that Horrell proposes there can, and should be, many different expressions of church, while still maintaining commitment to the core of the gospel.

A helpful insight Horrell makes is that what we do as church goes a long way toward saying who we are. In order for us to say the right things to the world around us and to our own members, we must be clear about what characteristics the church should embody and communicate.

This book is helpful for those struggling with new expressions of worship, new outreach strategies and other issues. When these new expressions are measured according to the foundations that Horrell explores, we are liberated from the tendency to jump immediately to labeling anything new as not scriptural or anti-gospel.

The contribution this book can make to the life of a particular church is much greater than its size would indicate. *Wayne Hager*



**More Ready than You Realize: Evangelism as Dance in the Postmodern Matrix.** Brian McLaren. Zondervan, 2002. 188 pages. \$10.99

♦♦♦♦ Right off the bat, in the introduction, Brian McLaren throws down the gauntlet: "Evangelism as it is commonly practiced and understood is debased."

In the postmodern matrix, he contends, evangelism as commonly practiced is more of an impediment than an aid to conversion. For many of us, this assessment will be offensive, and we will be tempted to put this book aside. For many others of us, this assessment rings true and we will read on hoping to find some viable alternative to the propositional pattern we have grown up with. For those who stay with him, McLaren lays out that alternative.

"More Ready than You Realize" is based on McLaren's e-mail conversations with a young woman struggling with Christianity. In between these exchanges, he offers reflections on the postmodern mind, its questions and how to approach postmoderns with the gospel message.

Reflecting on Jesus' ministry, McLaren observes that Jesus rarely approached people with propositions and answers. Rather, Jesus engages them in dialogue; He

## Gospel singer Grant heading for reality TV

Nashville (RNS)—Gospel music veteran Amy Grant plans to enter the realm of reality television by starring in a new NBC show called "Three Wishes."

Grant, a five-time Grammy winner, will host the show, which aims to make dreams come true for people ranging from an unsung hero to a family facing a life-threatening medical crisis, NBC said in a recent announcement.

It will air as a special but also is considered a "backdoor pilot," the network said.

"When I heard about this show, I was extremely moved by NBC and the production company's concept to provide incredibly positive changes in the lives of different people," Grant said in a statement.

Executive producer Andrew

Glassman is known for his production work on the first four seasons of NBC's "Average Joe."

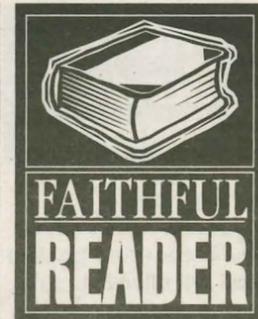
"There's an incredible diversity to the people we are going to meet and the heartwarming stories we are going to tell along the way," Glassman said in a statement. "While our team is there to help, ultimately this show will be about people helping people make their wishes and dreams come true."

Grant is scheduled to release her 20th album this week. She was the first con-

temporary Christian artist to have a gold album, a recording with sales of more than 500,000. Later albums had sales that far exceeded those numbers, with her "Heart in Motion" reaching quintuple platinum status, or more than 5 million sales.



Amy Grant



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

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Floyd Price

A year ago I went to the home of a man who had attended church regularly for more than 13 years.

As we sat in his den, I asked him, "Are you a Christian?"

His reply: "I have attended at your church for 13 years and you are the first person to ever ask me that question. No, I am not a Christian."

In the next few minutes I read from the Bible with him the passage of Romans 10:9-10 which told him that if we confess our sin and believe in Jesus Christ, we will be saved. Romans 10:13 adds, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

This man knew about God and he knew about Jesus. But in the next few minutes, I explained that sin—his sin—divided him from an eternal relationship with God. I told him that if he would confess that he had sinned and ask God to remove that sin, he not only would be forgiven but by grace he would be given that eternal relationship with his heavenly Father.

"Are we going to do anything about this tonight?" I asked him.

"Yes we are," he replied. He simply bowed his head, surrendered and asked God to forgive him, take his life and use it.

Becoming a Christian is more than asking forgiveness. It is surrendering. He did—and you can too.

Floyd Price is pastor of First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Pleasant Ridge Church recently ordained **Bob Holtz** as a deacon.

■ **BROWDER**—Browder Church recently called **Shane Garrett** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Rock Front Church recently called **Billy Hart** as pastor. He previously served as interim pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Palestine Church recently called **Tim Hooper** as minister of music. **Danny Pace** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Latoria Church will host the **Sanity Singers** in concert May 15, 7 p.m.

■ **GLENDAL**—Gilead Church will host the **Watoto Children's Choir** from Uganda May 8, 11 a.m.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will host the **Watoto Children's Choir** from Uganda May 7, 7 p.m.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Davids Fork Church recently called **Mickey Hyder** as minister of education and music. **Mack Craddock** is pastor.

**Phil Schultz** has resigned as pastor of South Elkhorn Church effective May 22. He has accepted a position as executive director of the Wyoming Valley Rescue Mission in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Ralph Avenue Church recently called **Wesley Pitts**, director of missions for Long Run Association, as interim pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Hall Street Church will host the **Imperials** in concert May 8, 6 p.m. For information, call (270) 683-1303.

■ **VERSAILLES**—New Hope Church ordained **Trey Reid** to the gospel ministry April 24. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

## Campbellsville gains Alpha Chi chapter

**Campbellsville**—Campbellsville University launched a campus chapter of the national Alpha Chi honors society April 12.

Ellen Millsaps, vice president of the National Council of Alpha Chi, led the inaugural installation of 19 juniors and seniors at Campbellsville. Members must rank in the top 10 percent of their class.

Offering congratulations "on the induction of the Kentucky Lambda university," Millsaps added, "Alpha Chi looks forward to joining this institution for many years to come in celebrating your most outstanding students."

"We are extremely honored that Alpha Chi selected Campbellsville University to receive a chapter," said

Campbellsville President Michael Carter, an Alpha Chi member. He noted that Alpha Chi "has long been recognized as one of the most highly respected academic honor societies."

According to chapter sponsor Kenneth McIntyre, assistant professor of political science and director of the Honors Program at Campbellsville, "Alpha Chi is a coeducational society whose purpose it to recognize and to promote of character and those elements of scholarship that promote scholarship." There are chapters on more than 300 colleges and universities across the nation.

Sarah Richey of Lawrenceburg was elected chapter president and Danielle Norris of Monticello was elected vice president.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.

11 Church Weekday Education Workshop, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

11 Technical Ministries Conference, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

11-18 Kentucky Changers, Benton.

13-17 Discovery Youth Camps, Cedarcrest Baptist Conference Center.

13-17 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Campbellsville University.

13-17 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.

17-18 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Father/Son Overnight, Campbellsville University.

17-18 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

18 Church Weekday Early Education Workshop, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

19-26 All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra Tour, Georgetown College.

20-24 Discovery Youth Camps, Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center.

20-24 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Campbellsville University.

20-24 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.

24-25 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek.

24-25 English as a Second Language Workshop, Bashford Manor Baptist Church, Louisville.

24-25 GA Overnight, Jonathan Creek.

24-25 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Father/Son Overnight, Campbellsville University.

24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

25-July 2 Kentucky Changers, Lawrenceburg.

27-29 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys Express Camp, Campbellsville University.

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

## 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. Call (859) 654-1706; or toll-free, (877) 409-3764. [davevaughan@juno.com](mailto:davevaughan@juno.com). [www.magnifyquartet.com](http://www.magnifyquartet.com).

**BOOKS:** We buy quality used Christian books. Narrow Path Bookstore, 1829 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Ky. (502) 459-4001.

**FOR RENT:** Sanibel Island, Fla. Two-bedroom, two-bath condo. Screened porch, large pool, tennis courts, canoe, kayaks, lovely secluded beach. [www.sanibelcondo.net](http://www.sanibelcondo.net).

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

**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:** Gospel piano CDs. Favorite gospel songs and hymns from yesteryear. Free brochure. Jacky Campbell CDs, 11 Glifford, Natchez, MS 39120.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor. Watson Lane Baptist Church, 233 Watson Lane, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (paid position; grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Also seeking a part-time music minister. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Brent Highfil, or call (270) 965-2149. [turnerchandler@hotmail.com](mailto:turnerchandler@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for growing church in Falls of Rough, Ky. Responsible for all aspects of ministry to elementary grades through teen years. Salary: \$150 per week. One week vacation per year. Send resumé to: Search Committee, 319 Morgantown Road, Caneyville, KY 42721, or contact Bill Franks, daytime: (270) 879-3079, or Phillip Crume, evenings: (270) 879-8011.

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

**SEEKING:** Director, Edgewood Baptist Center. African-American Community of Dayton, Ohio. Food/clothing distribution, tutoring, meet other needs, and pastor the chapel. Contact: Greater Dayton Association of Baptists, 2050 Brandt Pike, Dayton, OH 45404. [daytonbaptist@ameritech.net](mailto:daytonbaptist@ameritech.net). Fax: (937) 233-1581.

**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:** Full-time pastor 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](http://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](mailto:srice@fuse.net). Telephone: (859) 824-4102.

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

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

**SEEKING:** 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).

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

## House fire helps spark church's outreach effort

By Grace Thornton  
Alabama Baptist

Flomaton, Ala. (BP)—When Jeff Howard, pastor of Little Escambia Baptist Church, urged his congregation to “get fired up” for evangelism, he didn’t know one of the members was prepared to take him seriously.

But Howard was sharing his idea with the town’s fire chief, who also is a member of the Flomaton, Ala., congregation.

Stanton had been preparing his men for a “house burning”—the torching of a house for the dual purposes of demolishing it and training new firefighters.

“He envisioned the partnering of the fire department and the church to do an outreach event to reach both firefighters and the community,” Howard said. The idea quickly caught on.

“We were wanting to find something for the youth to do,” Stanton said. “I knew I had a house to burn, and I thought, ‘Why not give it a shot?’ Stanton’s brainchild became “Ablaze,” an all-day outreach event at an abandoned house in downtown Flomaton in late February.

The event centered around saving people, drawing quite a crowd of onlookers.

“We had our youth sign up to compete for prizes at the burning, and to sign up, they had to bring a lost friend,” Howard said. “We had 17 or 18 compete.”

In the competition, the youth raced individually in full firefighter’s gear into the home, which was filled with nontoxic artificial smoke, to “rescue” a dummy stranded in the home. The one who recorded the fastest time won a cash prize of \$100.

After finishing their training, more than 60 firefighters joined the youth back at the church building for a barbecue lunch and a message about Jesus.

“It was a perfect opportunity to introduce the gospel,” Howard said. “Firefighters are in the business of rescuing people.”

It was easy, the pastor said, to parallel saving the helpless from a fire with how all people are helpless to save themselves from a fiery eternity.

“It wasn’t that they (the people the dummies represented) didn’t want to be saved from a burning house, it was just that they weren’t able to do it for themselves,” Howard told the crowd. “That’s what Jesus did for us. He came to do what we couldn’t do ourselves.”

Though there were no voiced professions of faith that day, Howard said many of the firefighters were “really moved” and planned to follow up on what they had seen and heard.

## Empowering Kingdom Growth

Lexington church finds emphasis helps church unity during stressful relocation

By Andrea Higgins  
Baptist Press

Lexington (BP)—The logistical and financial stress of packing up the family and moving are enough to cause any pulse to race.

In the fall of 2004, with his congregation contemplating its impending move, Bill Henard prescribed some preventive medicine to quiet any troubled hearts—a collective EKG for the church family.

Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, was not suggesting everyone submit to a typical medical electrocardiogram. Rather, he invited them for a spiritual checkup.

“EKG” in this case refers to “Empowering Kingdom Growth,” an emphasis from the Southern Baptist Convention as well as a 40-day study from LifeWay Christian Resources designed to help Christians discern “the heartbeat of God.”

Ken Hemphill, the SBC’s national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth, developed the study which is a companion to his book of the same name.

### Renewed focus

Not only did EKG engage the Lexington congregation in a focused study, but attendance jumped 10 percent and has remained steady in the months since.

“It’s a study that our church needed. It was a godsend for us,” Henard said. “We needed something to help us unify toward Kingdom growth.”

He said it also resulted in a renewed focus for the church, what Henard describes as a motivation among church members to be a dynamic example of Kingdom growth.

Instead of continuing on its stewardship program of acquiring property in stages, the church unanimously voted to buy it all at once.

“We had already purchased 23 acres and had an option to buy the remaining 46,” Henard said. “We were about to lose that option.”

“The vote was unanimous. In a capital stewardship campaign, borrowing \$4.6 million is huge. You can feel the growing excitement about the relocation now, and it is part of the EKG message of having a Kingdom vision.”

Henard said the church family

## Influential evangelical Diane Knippers, 53, dies of cancer

Washington (RNS)—Diane Knippers, an intellectual heavyweight who rallied opposition to the liberal drift of mainline churches and was named by Time magazine as one of the country’s 25 Most Influential Evangelicals, died April 18. She was 53.

Knippers had battled colon cancer for more than a year and was admitted to intensive care at a Virginia hospital as the cancer spread to her lymph nodes.

Knippers was president of the Washington-based Institute for Religion and Democracy (IRD), a conservative think tank whose roots were in protecting Christian minori-

ties overseas but found its footing as a counter voice to liberal mainline Protestant churches.

On April 4, Knippers took a seven-month writing leave from IRD as her condition worsened.

In recent months, she worked with the National Association of Evangelicals as co-editor of “Toward an Evangelical Public Policy,” a political manifesto that urged conservative Christians to expand their policy agenda in Washington and beyond.

In February, she was ranked by Time magazine as one of the nation’s “25 most influential evangelicals,” alongside James Dobson



EKG A congregation-wide study using “Empowering Kingdom Growth” was “a godsend for us,” according to Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

prayer concerns during the study.

While a daily study was challenging, she said the devotional appealed to all age groups because it wasn’t too time-consuming and often carried a simple message.

The impact, however, was profound, Booth said.

“Everybody was thinking along the same lines and could see what God had already been talking to us about,” she said.

“All of us have a tendency to have a very self-centered lifestyle. ... But God used the study to shift the focus to what’s going on in the community and what He wants you to do,” Booth said. “Our purpose is to reach the lost in Lexington.”

Seeing that purpose in a clear focus is what gave the church the will to go forward with such a bold building plan, she said. It has inspired members to give more of their time and to be more willing to give financially.

“We need to be about His business instead of our own,” Booth said. “That study really encourages you to see why He is blessing us. He’s not just blessing us so we can be blessed.”

Hemphill preached at the church as the study concluded, inviting anyone who wanted to commit to being a Kingdom person to come forward.

“The front was flooded with people,” Henard said. “I don’t think we would have had that level of response without the study. It was also the largest offering we’ve ever had since I’ve been here. There has been such a sweet spirit within the church since we did the study.”

of Focus on the Family, Rick Warren of the “Purpose-Driven Life” book series and evangelists Billy and Franklin Graham.

Knippers was not, however, without controversy. When IRD published a scathing report last September about mainline churches’ policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the National Council of Churches accused Knippers of playing “partisan secular politics.”

Knippers and the IRD often accused the NCC and the Geneva-based World Council of Churches of leftist political activity, and urged member churches to yank funding to both bodies.

“Everybody was thinking along the same lines and could see what God had already been talking to us about.”

Linda Booth, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington

# Kentucky Baptist Heritage

## Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

May 3, 2005

### Rev. Wendell H. Rone "Mr. Kentucky Baptist"

by Ben Stratton, Pastor  
East Hickman Baptist Church



Historian, Preacher, Professor, Author. Each of these words describes the unique life and ministry of Wendell H. Rone. Rone was born on August 17, 1913 in Butler County, the only child of Jacob and Isa Taylor Rone. His family soon moved to McLean County where Rone was converted at age 12 and was baptized into the fellowship of the Livermore Baptist Church. As a youth Rone was greatly influenced by two pastors of the church, Roy Mason and E.E. Spickard, both strong Baptists. It was not a surprise when Wendell surrendered to preach in 1935, as his mother's

family had produced such famous Kentucky preachers as Alfred Taylor and H. Boyce Taylor.

Rone graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1939 and again in 1951, and from Murray State University in 1950. During this time he was pastor of eleven different Kentucky Baptist Churches including thirteen successful years as the first pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro. He later spent eight years teaching preacher boys at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, where he served as Dean of Graduate Studies and then as President.

Without a doubt, Rone's greatest influence was through his writings on Baptist history and doctrine. He authored 27 Kentucky Baptist church and association histories and numerous books on Baptist doctrine. He felt that Baptists were forgetting their past and needed to be reminded of their great heritage. Rone was also not ashamed of the old Baptist theology known as Landmarkism and many of his works show this influence. His "Believer's Immersion and the Lord's Supper" (1961) was written to stem the growing tide of alien immersion and open communion in Southern Baptist churches. In "Southern Baptist and the Concept of a Catholic Universal Church" (1959) and "What Is The Church" (1963) Rone sought to show the primacy of the local nature of the church. In his most famous work "The Baptist Faith and Roman Catholicism" (1952) Rone declared his belief in the perpetuity of Baptist churches. He also republished doctrinal works by famous Kentucky Baptist preachers of the nineteenth century, such as J.S. Coleman, J.J. Porter, and J.M. Dawson, that had been all but forgotten.

Though Wendell Rone died on July 29, 2003 his life is a shining testimony to 21<sup>st</sup> century Baptists. It shows us the importance of knowing our heritage as Kentucky Baptists. It shows us the necessity of reaffirming the distinct doctrines that Baptists believe. But most of all it shows us the blessedness of a long life lived in faithfulness and service to Jesus.

Did you ever want to know more about Texas Baptist genealogy? Did you ever want to know more about many of the individuals who made Texas such a great Baptist state? If you answered yes to either of these questions then *A Handbook of Texas Baptist Biography* and *A Texas Baptist History Sourcebook* are for you. Written by Dr. Joe Early Jr., these books leave no stone unturned and demonstrate why Texas Baptists have a lot to be proud of. *A Handbook of Texas Baptist Biography* has 250 biographies of the most influential Texas Baptists from the days of Austin's Colony to the present. *A Texas Baptist History Sourcebook* has more than 650 pages of primary source materials. Whatever you are interested in these books have it. These books are a great resource for church libraries. For more information go to <http://www.baptisthistorybooks.com>

### Kentucky Baptists: Early Leaders in Education Last of a Three Part Series

By Christopher Beckham  
"Denominational Colleges and State Universities:  
A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Controversy"

Controversies of different types have appeared in Baptist life in almost every generation, many of them theological in nature. Baptist educational institutions have not been exempted from controversy. Baptist colleges were largely spared from having to deal with theological disputes through the early 1900's, however. One notable but largely forgotten 19<sup>th</sup> century controversy in Baptist higher education is the rise of the public university at what many at the time believed was the expense of the denominational college.

Baptists and other denominations throughout the South resisted the rise of the large public university in the United States after the Civil War. Philosophically, many felt education was properly the task of churches and church-related institutions, and they felt that increased taxation for state colleges and universities meant eroding the financial base for denominational colleges. As more and more states passed taxes to support public higher education, religious leaders protested. Baptist college leaders generally viewed this taxation as deeply harmful to private colleges. They felt greater tax support meant that state universities would gain an unfair advantage over denominational colleges. In those days, only a small percentage of Americans were able to attend college, and it was the denominational colleges that drew students from the lower echelons of society. Moreover, before the Civil War, state universities tended to cater to a more elite clientele, and prior to the increased state funding, were much more expensive. Baptist college presidents argued that taxing citizens to support public higher education meant the elite would have a subsidized system at the expense of a majority who would never attend college. Also, they believed that education was properly a function of the church, not the state.<sup>1</sup>

Arguments for an expanded state role in higher education often alleged that better funded state universities were needed in those days because denominational colleges were "sectarian."<sup>2</sup> Some implied that denominational colleges did too much proselytizing and narrow-mindedness existed in the curriculum. However, these charges largely proved false. Many denominational college catalogs explained that while they were Christian in orientation, and in the case of Baptist colleges, Baptist in affiliation, there were no creedal enforcements made on any student. Others said denominational colleges were opposed to scientific inquiry, again, a demonstrably hollow charge when the college catalogs and other pertinent records are checked.<sup>3</sup>

In the end, churchmen lost their battles over state supported higher education. Some Baptist colleges weathered the expansion of the State into higher education, others folded. Some simply could not compete against the more heavily subsidized state universities, or else they could not compete against other Christian colleges for the available private funds. However, it is to the credit of many Baptist colleges that in the years which brought sweeping changes in higher education, they kept the faith and charted a course for growth in the future.

(Footnotes)<sup>1</sup> For examples of this, see the remarks of Richard Dudley in *Memorial Volume Containing the Papers and Addresses That Were Delivered At the Jubilee of the General Association in Kentucky*. Louisville: John P. Morton and Company, 1888. Also, a standard work that deals with the issue of how denominational colleges saw themselves in contrast with state universities, see Albea Godbold, *The Church College of the Old South* (North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1944). His book also contrasts the costs of attending state universities versus denominational colleges.<sup>2</sup> See Richard Hofstadter and Walter Metzger, *The Development of Academic Freedom in the United States* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1955). A more balanced view is found in Frederick Rudolph, *The American College and University: A History* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1990)<sup>3</sup> See the author's "Making Good Sons, Useful Citizens and Christian Scholars: Southern Baptist Higher Education in the Nineteenth Century" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Kentucky, 2002).