

Newspage Edition

May 24, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 21

FOR THE RECORD

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Can Darth Vader help Christians spread gospel?

Cincinnati (BP)—As Americans watch the final "Star Wars" episode, a Cincinnati minister is using the story to share the gospel with younger Americans in a language they comprehend.

Jeffrey Perkins, 34, of Covenant-First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, leads "The Gospel According to Star Wars," speaking the movie language of a younger generation to explain biblical concepts like truth, beauty and goodness, according to a feature in *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

The 12-week study focuses on the original trilogy. Perkins said the entire story is essentially the redemption of Darth Vader.

Perkins said there are parallels between the cinematic classic's good vs. evil scenes and the obstacles Christians face in pursuing godly lives.

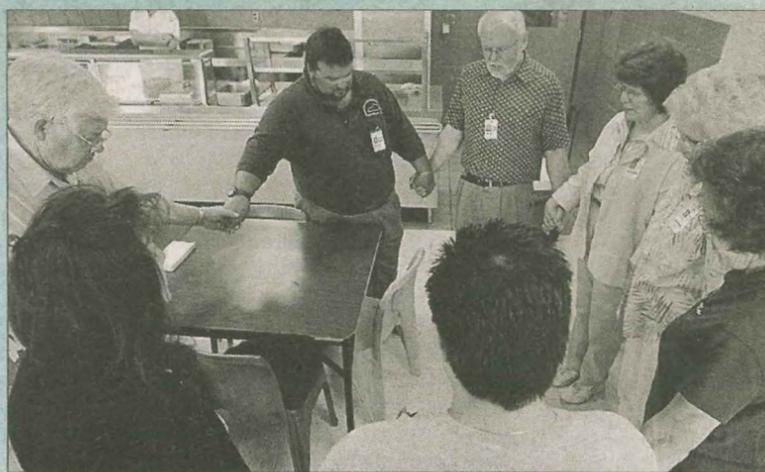
John Brolley, director of a religious studies program at the University of Cincinnati, said the Bible study represents an evangelism tool similar to what the Apostle Paul used in his day. As Paul visited communities, Brolley noted, he used concepts and images from the dominant culture to teach the gospel.

"Popular culture is something that many religions, Christianity in particular, either sets itself up against or tries to incorporate," Brolley said. "Churches try to make the principles of religion that may be too abstract or too dull to the average person more accessible."

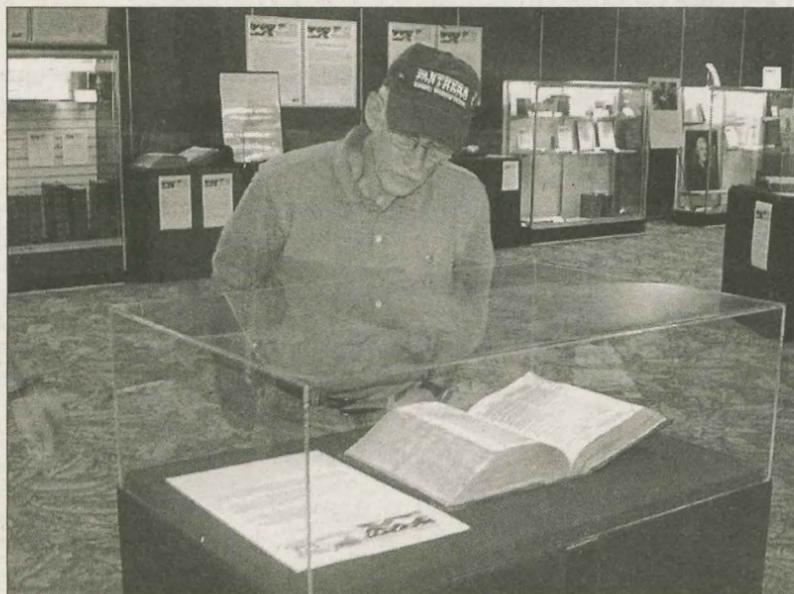
Guards' chaplain



For four years, prison chaplain Brian Crawford has focused his ministry on the guards who hold the keys rather than the inmates. Crawford is driven by a vision to change the culture for the guards at Green River Correctional Complex in Central City. He understands many of the issues they face because his mother worked in a prison before she was killed by an inmate. Above: Crawford (left) talks with a guard. Right: Crawford and other volunteers pray before serving an appreciation meal to the prison's staff. (© 2005 Apex MediaWire photos by Billy Suratt) Story on page 6.



Paducah exhibit traces Bible from Dead Sea Scrolls to America



BIBLE EXHIBIT A visitor looks at one of several Bibles featured at the "Dead Sea Scrolls to the Bible in America" exhibit in Paducah. The exhibit will be at the Executive Inn Convention Center until June 5. (Photo by Keith Todd)

By Keith Todd
State Correspondent

Paducah—It includes four fragments of a Greek Septuagint from the Book of Exodus on papyrus dated to about 350 A.D.

It includes the earliest witness to Paul's Epistle to the Colossians, on papyrus, in Coptic, dated to about 275 A.D.

You might expect to find materials of this quality only on display at a major national museum.

But, thanks to two antiquities collectors, these items are among dozens that trace the history of the Bible from its origins to its influence on America's Founding Fathers.

Until June 5, they are on display at the Executive Inn Convention Center in Paducah. This is the 10th stop on a nationwide tour.

"We have everything from some fragments of Exodus from the Dead Sea Scrolls to an excerpt from Paul's

letter to the Colossians," said curator Lee Biondi. "We have a letter from Thomas Jefferson that points to the Bible's place in the founding of this nation."

Biondi said he helped assemble the traveling exhibit to help people understand how the Bible we have today came to be.

He also wants to state the case that the United States was founded on Christian principles.

"For years the secular education system in this country has been misleading our children about the intent of our Founding Fathers," Biondi said. "In addition to tracking the origins of the Bible, this exhibit follows the Bible through history to America and clearly demonstrates this nation is a Christian nation. People didn't come to this country to look for gold, they came to look for religious freedom."

□ See Paducah Dead Sea ... *Page 7*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 25

NAMB's Hispanic study urges evangelism

By Martin King
SBC North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—A national Hispanic task force created by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has submitted a report recommending ways to help Southern Baptists share the gospel with one of the fastest-growing people groups in the United States and Canada.

The report includes recommendations for evangelizing Hispanics, starting Hispanic SBC churches, penetrating the Hispanic culture and identifying and training Hispanic church leaders.

The evangelism work group recommended setting a goal of increasing baptisms of Hispanics by 35 percent through a North America-wide Hispanic evangelistic and media effort, a consultation on Hispanic evangelism and production of new culturally relevant personal, public and ministry-based evangelism methods.

Church-starting goals

The church planting subgroup recommended a goal of starting 250 Hispanic SBC congregations each year through 2010. The report asks NAMB to serve as a catalyst for a North American consultation on Hispanic church planting, as well as help enlist more churches to sponsor Hispanic church starts, and discover and train pastors for the new churches.

The report also calls for enlisting and training more laypeople,

both Hispanic and non-Hispanic, to reach unchurched Hispanics in their communities and in the marketplace. The work group focused on penetrating the culture also recommended NAMB provide "Acts 1:8 Challenge" materials in Spanish and build a Spanish Web site.

Leadership development also was identified as a primary need in Hispanic communities. The report emphasized the urgent need to train more Hispanics in leadership skills that undergird evangelism and church planting efforts.

NAMB President Reccord announced creation of the 15-member task force last October to help NAMB "determine the needs, concerns and dreams of our Hispanic Baptist churches."

"I have never seen this kind of passion, dedication and excellence focused on such a huge project in so short a period of time," Reccord said after reviewing the task force report. "Only eternity will know the significance of their work as we study it carefully and implement it effectively."

The task force began its work last November, meeting three times over the winter. The final 36-page report was submitted to Reccord along with a 22-page report by task force chairman Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Sanchez' report, titled "21st Century Hispanic Realities," is based on recent governmental and academic

studies of the impact of the Hispanic population in North America. Sanchez said he calls the findings "realities" rather than trends, because "they are already in progress and not just factors that are projected to take place in the future."

The realities document the growth of Hispanics nationally and in Canada and analyze aspects of both first and second Hispanic generations, including their use of Spanish and English, receptiveness to the gospel, conservative social values and their diversity. The full realities report and a summary of the task force report are available at NAMB's Web site, www.namb.net.

Reaching millions of Hispanics

"I'm appreciative for the task force members who gave so much time and excellence to this work, and am proud and encouraged by the report we have produced," Sanchez said. "The task force is confident it will help Southern Baptists move forward quickly and in a mighty way to reach even more effectively the millions of Hispanics in the United States and Canada who do not have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ."

Reccord said an internal executive team led by Carlos Ferrer, NAMB's chief financial officer and a native of Cuba, already has begun implementing several of the recommendations and will provide periodic updates to the task force and Hispanic constituencies throughout the SBC.

Pre-SBC conference added for ministers' wives

Nashville (BP)—A Monday morning conference for ministers' wives will be held in conjunction with next month's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Nashville.

The June 20 conference will be held in Ryman Auditorium from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Donna Gaines of Gardendale, Ala., the wife of this year's Pastors' Conference President Steve Gaines, has enlisted the help of nine women to form a board that will offer a program for ministers' wives each year during the Pastors' Conference.

An annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon is offered

after the SBC's Tuesday morning session. National Woman's Missionary Union also has sessions from Sunday afternoon through Monday evening prior to the SBC annual meeting.

Gaines said the goal of the Monday morning session she is coordinating differs from the ministers' wives luncheon. "My desire is to have pastors' wives minister to other pastors' wives and provide inspiration, encouragement and a challenge."

This year's inaugural program will feature Susie Hawkins, wife of GuideStone Financial Resources

President O.S. Hawkins; longtime retreat leader Barbara O'Chester of Austin, Texas; International Mission Board consultant Paula Hemphill, whose husband, Ken, is the SBC's Empowering Kingdom Growth national strategist; and Joyce Rogers, whose husband, Adrian, recently retired as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn.

Gaines said speakers for the session are traveling at their own expense. Several Southern Baptist entities have agreed to underwrite the expense of renting the auditorium.

BAPTIST DIGEST

LifeWay cancels "Fast 50" seminars. LifeWay Christian Resources has canceled its "Fast 50" training seminars scheduled for June 23-24 after the SBC annual meeting in Nashville. LifeWay officials planned the event in response to Southern Baptists who requested training opportunities in conjunction with SBC annual meetings, but the event was cancelled due to lower-than-expected registration. LifeWay will contact registered participants with information about refunding registration fees.

Garlands honored with endowed chairs. David and Diana Garland each have had an academic chair endowed in their honor at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The endowments are a double rarity: Baylor never has established individual chairs for husband and wife faculty members. And only one current professor, Winfred Moore, has a chair named for him. David Garland

is associate dean and professor of Christian scriptures at Baylor's Truett Theological Seminary. Diana Garland will be the founding dean of Baylor's school of social work June 1. Prior to joining the Baylor faculty in 1997, the Garlands held endowed faculty chairs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Golden Gate names two directors. Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., has named directors of two major programs. Eddie Pate, associate professor of missions at Liberty Baptist Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., has been named director of Golden Gate's Southern California campus. He previously coordinated Southern Baptist International Mission Board work in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Rick Durst, Golden Gate's vice president for academic affairs, will become director of the school's master of divinity and master

of theological studies programs. He also is a professor of historical theology.

Mohler launches "blog" column. Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has launched a weblog to address current cultural, theological and ethical issues. Mohler already writes a daily commentary on similar issues, but said the "blog" provides an opportunity to respond to news as it breaks throughout each day. His columns are available at www.albertmohler.com.

Correction: Kentuckian nominated to LifeWay board. One Kentucky nominee's name was not included in last week's article about nominees to Southern Baptist Convention-related boards. Adam Greenway, senior pastor of The Baptist Church at Andover in Lexington, is being nominated to serve on the board of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Tennessee leaders prayerwalk prior to SBC, Crossover

Nashville (BP)—About 40 members of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Executive Board and TBC staff prayerwalked downtown Nashville in preparation for next month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting and the pre-convention Crossover evangelism efforts.

The prayerwalk was held in conjunction with the board's May 10 meeting in Brentwood.

The prayerwalkers formed three groups. One group prayed in the downtown area. The second prayerwalked the Downtown Ministry Center, a nonprofit ministry started by First Baptist Church of Nashville, which houses The Next Door, a ministry for women in need and Christian Women's Job Corps.

The third group prayerwalked Tennessee's legislative plaza, distributing personalized Bibles to legislators and praying for them. A group led by TBC President Roger Bredeesen and James Porch, TBC executive director, presented a personalized Bible to Gov. Phil Bredesen.

"One thing you can always count on from Baptists is that we will pray for you," Freeman told Bredeesen. "We are commanded by God to pray and support those in authority."

Bredeesen requested prayer for the TennCare healthcare plan which is facing a budget crisis that may cause thousands of people to lose their benefits.

Executive Board member Frank Crawford, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Kingsport, recommended the prayerwalk at a board meeting last year.

Crawford said he suggested the activity for the TBC Executive Board because it should "do more than make decisions about policies. We need to lead by example." He said he also suggested the prayerwalk because he believes it is "a very effective pre-evangelistic tool."

TBC pre-evangelistic Don Pierson coordinated the prayerwalk. In a concluding prayer session, he asked the three groups to continue praying for the SBC annual meeting and for the 12,000-plus volunteers expected to participate in the Crossover evangelistic outreach across Nashville and the surrounding area.

TBC staff member William Maxwell, who participated at the Downtown Ministry Center prayerwalk, said he was reminded that "constant needs" exist in the city.

Rus Roach, minister of pastoral care at First Baptist, Nashville, asked the prayerwalkers to pray for the thousands of Baptists who will visit Nashville in a few weeks, for their witness and for those who will seek to continue the witness after they leave.

Speaker urges women's conference to thoughts on God

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—Setting one's mind on things above doesn't mean becoming a cock-eyed optimist, a radio host told those attending last week's Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference.

"God wants what's between your ears," Jennifer Keitt said during the Kentucky Baptist Convention sponsored event May 17 in Lexington. "Thoughts shape your behavior. You can't think mess and get power."

Keitt, producer and host of Today's Black Woman Radio Show, told the women gathered at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington that negative, fearful thoughts will "weigh you down (so) you can't get off the runway."

A mother of four, Keitt said that when her life becomes hectic and she does not take time to dwell on God, she can almost hear Him say, "Jennifer, I'm a jealous God and I miss you."

Humans experience 50,000 thoughts each day, she said, "but sometimes we can't even give God three good thoughts during the day."

Moving around the sanctuary almost constantly, Keitt looked directly into the eyes of many of the women, even as her remarks applied to all.

Veronica Brown of Winchester described Keitt's session as "very personal and very pointed. I felt like she was led by the Spirit. Every word she said was to me."

Developing a healthy mind

Before turning to the Bible for descriptions of a healthy mind, Keitt encouraged women to evaluate their current thought lives.

"Where we have kept our minds is where we currently are," she said,



KEYNOTE SPEAKER Radio host Jennifer Keitt encouraged women at the Women of Worth conference to shape their thoughts toward God. "Thoughts shape your behavior. You can't think mess and get power." (Photo by Dannah Prather)

noting that some of them might be stuck in 1973.

"Are you still thinking about what Mama did 15 years ago? Are you still on that divorce 20 years ago, or that incident on the playground that scarred you?" she asked. "God wants to talk to you about your future."

A healthy thought life is described as serious and sober, she said.

Keitt noted that 1 Samuel portrays Abigail as a woman who did not panic in the face of danger and she also took responsibility for her husband's foolishness.

Again asking women to take stock of themselves, Keitt reminded them that "the enemy of sobriety is indulgence." Dangerous indulgences that even the most faithful Christians should beware of include money, food and sex, she said.

The "big how-to" in a healthy thought life involves the principle of "setting" the mind, Keitt concluded.

Using the metaphor of a televi-

sion and remote, Keitt said believers have three options: on, off and change the channel.

Hand poised as if operating a remote control, Keitt asked the women if they were watching channels of "Woe is me," "I'm not pretty," "I'm not good enough" and "Life stinks."

Developing action plan

Referencing Philippians 4:8, Keitt encouraged women to "change the channel" to things that are honorable, true, just, pure and lovely.

"Our minds are an incredible machine," she said. "If you can harness that—how much more of Him would you have?"

Keitt encouraged women to make a plan of action. "It doesn't make sense to gather corporately if you're not going to engage in the process," she said.

Some of the women in the audience publicly shared aspects of their action plans including being more purposeful in their thought life, pausing to think before speaking or

acting, and turning off their real TV more often.

"I'm going to see women soaring who haven't been in the sky before," Keitt said.

Dianne Mason and Monica Henry, members of Consolidated Baptist Church, were attending their first WOW event. They singled out the worship time, led by Sara Renner, and Keitt's study as highlights.

Henry described the songs, hymns and choruses as "uplifting and inspirational. It brought back memories of worship in the Caribbean," said Henry, a native of the islands.

"She's very engaging," Mason said, describing Keitt, noting that the speaker's approach encouraged participation by everyone, but "in a non-threatening way."

The Lexington WOW conference was one of two sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week. The other was held May 16 at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset. Combined, they drew approximately 500 women.

This year's WOW events were the first to feature different speakers each night.

"Prayer was the common denominator," said Shelly Johns, womens/senior adult ministry associate for the KBC's leadership development team.

The Somerset event had a more suburban/rural tone than the Lexington session, she said.

"This (Consolidated) is an African-American church and I was sensitive to that fact, but it also needed to be inclusive," Johns said. "We wanted it to be inviting and to draw any audience."

Mason said she appreciated hearing from both Anglo and African American presenters. "I liked the diversity," she said.

Baptist Seminary of Kentucky holds inaugural commencement

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—Baptist Seminary of Kentucky held its inaugural commencement May 14, awarding master of divinity degrees to three graduates.

Urging the graduates to be "humble servants of God who follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ," Glenn Hinson, BSK's senior professor of church history and spirituality, expressed hope "that you will be lovers of God, of yourselves and of humankind."

The fledgling moderate seminary was incorporated in 1996 in response to the conservative shift at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and other denominational entities.

An independent board of Kentucky Baptist ministers and laypeople elected Greg Earwood seminary president in 2001 and classes began in the fall of 2002. Enrollment has grown from 15 students in 2002 to 51 students this year, including about one-third of that total who are full-time students.

The first three years of classes and the inaugural commencement were held at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington. The school will move to Lexington Theological Seminary

in August to begin fall classes.

Noting that the two schools will experience "shared space and shared grace," Earwood said BSK is not merging with the Disciples of Christ seminary. "Both seminaries believe this sharing of space is good Christian stewardship and a positive expression of community among scholars and students," he added.

Earwood said the seminary, which is not yet accredited, plans to pursue accreditation through the Association of Theological Schools as BSK's enrollment and financial resources increase.

First graduating class

The seminary's first three graduates are: Danny Adams, a member of First Christian Church in Paris; Lynn Bradley, an associate minister at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Lexington; and Tony Shouse, pastor of Dry Run Baptist Church in Georgetown.

During the May 14 commencement, Earwood described the event as "a highly significant 'first' in a series of 'firsts' for our new venture in theological education."

Hinson, who taught more than 30 years at Southern Seminary before moving to Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., in 1992,

has served as a senior professor as Baptist Seminary of Kentucky since classes begin there.

Contrasting BSK and Southern in repeated references during his commencement address, Hinson declared, "In recent months, Southern Seminary has taken two steps to throw down a gauntlet in the face of modern science.

"In an obvious repudiation of evolutionary theory which is at the heart of modern scientific research, it employed someone to create a Center for Intelligent Design, a euphemism for creationism," he said. "More recently, it dropped the psychological component from counseling to prepare ministers for 'biblical counseling,' thus scuttling the life work of Wayne Oates at Southern Seminary."

By contrast, he added, "You and I can recognize that there is a need for vigilance regarding developments in today's science and technology without going to the extreme of setting ourselves up as the supreme court for all of its conclusions based on increasingly sophisticated research and experimentation."

Warning graduates about such contemporary ministry models as the corporate executive model, the authoritarian church grower model

and the militant crusader model, Hinson said, "We dare not enter into Christian ministry today without consciousness that models other than the servant model Jesus set for us will try to seduce us."

Connected with the militant crusader model "is a vision for America," Hinson noted. He suggested that Southern Seminary President Al Mohler, Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell "and their cohorts in the Religious Right would like to return America to its Puritan days, establishing their values as the values of the entire country."

Grads face "numerous choices"

Emphasizing that "you have numerous choices," Hinson asked, "Will it be CEO, authoritarian church grower or crusader for a fundamentalist Christian America? Or will it be the model set for us by Jesus Christ?"

Hinson also urged the graduates to be individuals "who love the Bible and who spend hours listening to God through it, ... but who do not substitute it for the Living God."

The Bible "directs us to the one holy and living God Whom we have come to know in and through Jesus Christ and Who is present with us in the Holy Spirit."

Members named to Mission Board's CP study group

Members named to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board's 20-member Cooperative Program Study Committee are:

Region 1: Tim Perdue, pastor of First Baptist Church of Eddyville, and Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

Region 2: Cathy Chinn, member of Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford; Chairman Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville; and Tom Shelton, director of missions for Ohio County Baptist Association.

Region 3: Billy Compton, pastor of Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, and Scott Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Region 4: Charles Barnes, member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, and Chip Pendleton, pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville.

Region 5: Ginger Sanders, member of Big Bone Baptist Church in Union; Wayne Spivey, pastor of Cynthia Baptist Church; and Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church.

Region 6: Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, and Louanne Mathis, member of First Baptist Church of Danville.

Region 7: Skip Alexander, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, and Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

Region 8: Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville; Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association; Ken Felty, pastor of First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt; and Ric Frazier, pastor of First Baptist Church of Louisa.

The study committee is responsible for proposing "ways to increase CP giving in the future that would result in increased financial support" for KBC and Southern Baptist causes.

WESTERNRECORDER

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

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

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

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

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

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Two key questions

I would like to respond to Kevin Hash's letter in the May 10 Western Recorder. I am in a unique position to clarify some of the issues he addresses.

As pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, I am well acquainted with Georgetown College. Many of the school faculty are members of this congregation, and a good number of the students worship with us during the school year. More specifically, three of the five religion professors are members of Faith.

Contrary to Hash's anecdotal evidence, I know of many students who have left Georgetown and our church for seminary and ministry. The vast majority of students I know have found that their faith has strengthened and matured during their college experience, undoubtedly due to the faithful modeling of discipleship by their instructors.

I want to assure Hash and Kentucky Baptists that the three religion professors, whom I serve as pastor, are committed Christians and church members. They are people of grace, intelligence and deep faith. They and their families are extraordinarily committed to this local church.

In his list of questions about what the religion faculty believes, it strikes me that Hash fails to ask the two most important questions. First, do they love Jesus? The answer is an unshakable yes. Second, do they follow Jesus? As their pastor, I can tell you that the fruit of their lives show their commitment.

As best as I can tell from Scripture, these are the questions Jesus asks of those He encounters. Hash fears that the beliefs of the religion department at the college are out of the mainstream of Baptist life in Kentucky. If loving Jesus and following Jesus do not place you squarely in the mainstream, then the stream has gone seriously astray.

Bob Fox
Georgetown

Seek spiritual guidance

As a Georgetown College graduate, I am concerned by Kevin Hash's letter in the May 10 Western Recorder.

Having graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the religion department, my experiences are firsthand. One of the basic components of higher education is for students to develop critical thinking skills. These skills are necessary in every discipline from religion and history to chemistry and psychology. Georgetown and its religion department do an outstanding job developing these skills and preparing graduates for life after college.

Throughout my time at Georgetown, I was privileged to study under outstanding faculty in the religion department. Religion classes were not treated as children's Sunday school classes. When controversial issues were discussed, several views were outlined allowing students to study and pray for spiritual guidance as their faith was challenged.

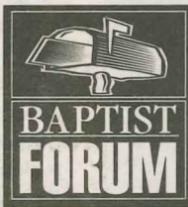
My beliefs were cultivated and developed through the process of prayerful study and critical thinking. At no point did any professor suggest that I adopt a specific theological position. While some Southern Baptist institutions require students and faculty to sign and state that they believe one specific doctrine, I am thankful that Georgetown College provided me with a healthy environment to grow in my faith without prejudice.

I do not have fears about the staff and education provided by the college as they continue to maintain an excellent staff. My fear is that the current leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will seek to destroy the relationship with Georgetown in order to further their political agenda.

My prayer is that political agendas will give way to spiritual guidance as we all join together to share Christ's love.

Lee Carter
Georgetown

Carolyn Allaby King
Louisville



Northwest missions

Sixty years ago, a young Baptist pastor, fresh out of the Royal Canadian Air Force, sat in a meeting in St. John, New Brunswick, with his wife, Marjorie, and heard a member of the Canadian Baptist Mission Board talk about a new, brash gold mining town in the Northwest Territories with no evangelical ministry. He challenged the listeners to pray that someone would hear God's call to start a church in Yellowknife, 200 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

The young pastor, Ken Allaby, and his wife felt the stirring of God to leave their well-established pastorate at Tabernacle Baptist Church to go to this far-off place. Allaby left his wife and 2-year-old son behind while he lived in a tent and built a simple wooden church. Marjorie and their young son, Bryan, soon joined him in the new ministry, living in the church building while he built a small house for the family.

The people of Yellowknife were at first outraged that a pastor was coming to town. The fortune seekers and miners felt a church would intrude on their hard-drinking, hard-living lifestyle, but they soon grew to respect the young couple. Calvary Baptist Church took hold and is there to this day, though now called Calvary Community Church.

Ken Allaby later left Yellowknife after three years and came to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to study. He then served as pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville for five years before returning to Canada.

I am his daughter. I live in Louisville and attend Highland Baptist Church. I was born in Yellowknife and was very interested in reading the story of David Hahn's call and ministry to the Mackenzie River Basin. I thought Western Recorder readers might enjoy learning about God's first call to bring Baptist missions to the Northwest Territories of Canada.

Associations and cooperation

May 22-29 is Associational Emphasis Week, an excellent time to focus on the work of the 72 active associations in Kentucky. I am so grateful for the ongoing, effective partnership the Kentucky Baptist Convention has with our associations.

Strong cooperation between the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board and Kentucky's associations has been especially evident recently as staff and directors of missions have worked to build relationships and develop guidelines for effective ministry.

The KBC staff and directors of missions recently spent time together in a two-day retreat at the Baptist Building. Several KBC staff members also made presentations about ministry opportunities and held discussions with DOMs at that group's recent annual retreat, held this year at Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center.

In addition, KBC leaders have met

with DOMs to develop guidelines for the work of the church development strategists who have responsibilities to assist associations and churches.

The value of cooperation has been demonstrated in many demonstrations including the KBC and local associations. These have included Hispanic work, new work, collegiate ministries, disaster relief, state missions, training for local church leaders, local church resources, language ministries, partnership missions and others.

An excellent example of cooperation recently has been the training of vacation Bible school leaders. Wendy Dever, director of the KBC's preschool and children's ministry group, enlisted state VBS leaders to receive training by LifeWay Christian Resources. The state leaders then conducted training for associational leaders.

Another good example of cooperation is in collegiate ministry. The

KBC provides the campus centers and salary and benefits for staff while the local associations provide program funds.

The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, the KBC and local associations also cooperatively support 63 Hispanic ministries through joint funding.

The opportunities for continued cooperation abound with the implementation of Kentucky Baptists Connect. Associations have a vital role in new work, leader development, strengthening churches, evangelism and missions, which are the major objectives of Connect.

There also are vital roles of cooperation in supporting evangelism and missions in Kentucky and around the world through Crossover, prayer, the Cooperative Program and various mission offerings.

Churches that support local associations through prayer, participation and giving make this partnership and cooperation possible. Please pray for the work going on in associations across Kentucky!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

FAMILY

Take basic steps to help reduce gasoline expenses

By Jeremy White



Recent high gasoline prices have forced many of us to watch our tongues after seeing the total for a fill-up. As the summer driving stewardship efforts might benefit from the following list:

Shop wisely

■ Use the lowest grade (octane) advisable for your car. Most owner's manuals recommend regular, not premium grade.

■ Use off-brand gas. Many outlets sell their gas from the same distributors.

■ Don't top off your tank. Why pay for filling the hose or sloshing out excess gas?

■ Use a gas credit card that gives a rebate and works at all stations. Several cards offer a rebate of 5 percent.

Drive wisely

■ Check your tire pressure at least monthly. Under-inflated tires can cost 5 to 10 percent in lost mileage.

■ Get rid of the extra weight. An extra 100 pounds will reduce your fuel economy by 1 to 2 percent, according to Edmunds.com.

■ Slow down. On the highway, every 5 miles per hour you drive over 65 mph produces a 7 percent decrease in fuel economy, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

■ Maintain your car with oil changes, tune-ups and regular filter changes.

■ Reduce drag. Some studies have shown a cleaned and waxed car is more aerodynamic on long trips and gets better mileage. Don't rest your left foot on the brake. The slightest pressure could cause a drag that will demand additional gas use—and wear out the brakes sooner.

Plan wisely

■ Combine trips for errands.

■ Share a ride. On any given Sunday, many families have more than one car in the church parking lot. Share rides with neighbors who attend the same church.

■ Check traffic on the radio or Internet before you leave.

■ Take the small car instead of the SUV on the errands.

What would Jesus do? I suppose He would have walked or taken a boat or ridden a donkey—all of which are pretty fuel-efficient, ecologically clean and even provide some exercise. Walking might not be such a bad idea.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah

Daily dialogue can strengthen spouses' marital relationship

Q: My husband and I want to incorporate time each day to focus more intentionally on our marriage. When I watch the news or some movies today, it can be scary to hope and believe there really are loving, committed husbands and wives who care about their marriage. Any suggestions?

When I do premarital counseling with couples, there is an exercise they are required to do each day. With the "Prepare" material, the couples are expected to spend five minutes every day in a dialogue and compliment

MARRIAGE

time. During this time each partner takes a turn giving a compliment and sharing what has been satisfactory and unsatisfactory about the relationship that day. This exchange keeps both partners informed and up-to-date about each other's perspective on the relationship.

As a married couple, you might consider incorporating a five-minute exchange that has similar features. On the weekend the time is extended to 15 minutes of dialogue.

Other areas of focus for you and your husband might include questions such as:

- What changes have I noticed in myself during the marriage?
- What changes have I noticed in my partner?
- How do I feel about these changes?
- What expectations do I have for our marriage?
- How are my expectations different now than when we first married?
- How has my faith impacted our marriage?
- What does intimacy mean to me?
- How do we create intimacy in our marriage?
- What are my dreams? What are our dreams?
- What have I discovered about God through my spouse?
- How have I revealed God to my spouse?
- What are our individual strengths?
- How can we use our strengths to grow our marriage?
- How can I build up my spouse?
- What do I like about our relationship?
- What things do I wish were different about our relationship?
- What fears do I have that hinder me?
- How might we use humor or play to enrich our relationship?

This activity is a method of showing daily interest in one another. The media often portrays relationships that have been neglected. Yours does not have to be one of those.—Valerie Vincent

Q: As summer approaches, how important is it for my child to be involved in vacation Bible school?

Vacation Bible school had its beginnings in 1898 and quickly became a regular part of summer programming for churches in various denominations. However, it wasn't until 1924 that VBS became a focus for Southern Baptists. Homer Grice became VBS department secretary for the former Baptist Sunday School Board and began developing materials and services to help churches with VBS.

The influence of Bible school and the impact it can have in the life of a child cannot be overstated. VBS has been a spiritual turning point for millions of people. In 2003, 3 million people were enrolled in VBS and more than 100,000 decisions to accept Christ were reported.

More people have come to know Jesus as Savior through VBS than through any other outreach event sponsored by churches. Research shows that the probability of a child committing his or her life to Christ remains highest between the ages of 5 to 12, but drops dramatically after age 12.

So find a Bible school near you and make sure your child attends.—David Garrard

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Record Crossover, quiet SBC anticipated

Southern Baptist Convention messengers will gather in four weeks for the SBC annual meeting in Nashville.

Indications are that the 2005 meeting generally will be quiet and positive. SBC President Bobby Welch is expected to be elected to a second one-year term with little or no opposition. No controversial resolutions have been announced so far like the anti-public school resolution that stirred concerns last year before failing to gain convention support.

One of the few business items expected to generate discussion is a proposal for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to incorporate "sole membership" language in its governing documents to clarify that the SBC owns the seminary. Other denominational entities already have adopted such language, but New Orleans Seminary officials have voiced reservations about the change due to legal and Baptist polity concerns.

Convention messengers voted 2-1 last year to request seminary trustees to make the change, and New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley has pledged to abide by the convention's final decision. Such issues are in-house business matters, however, and likely will prompt little notice beyond the convention floor.

Even plans to honor legendary Baptist evangelist Billy Graham during the SBC's closing session won't generate a huge buzz since Graham is not scheduled to be present. His grandson, William Franklin Graham IV, a pastor in North Carolina, will represent the Graham family.

With a light business schedule and little controversy anticipated, next month's SBC annual meeting primarily will focus on inspirational preaching and ministry reports. Welch's "Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge for Evangelism" will take center stage as SBC leaders kick off a campaign to baptize 1 million people in 12 months.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

"The purpose is to create a unity of purpose in the convention and to do so around evangelism," Welch explained. "It is my view that the convention has lost an overwhelming amount of its ability to create unity of purpose, and consequently, we have lost the ability to capitalize on one of our most valuable assets, and that is our diversity and our size."

In addition to four "Everyone Can" ministry challenges, the June 21-22 meeting will feature the president's address, convention sermon and mission board reports. Welch said he believes messengers "have the potential of having one of the most thrilling meetings we've had in a long, long time."

Even before the annual meeting gets under way, thousands of Southern Baptist volunteers plan to take part in the SBC's largest Crossover evangelistic emphasis.

The annual ministry effort, which began in 1989, has attracted up to 2,000 ministry volunteers the weekend before the annual meeting for door-to-door witnessing, Scripture distribution, block parties, servant evangelism projects and other outreach efforts.

Organizers are projecting more than 12,000 ministry volunteers this year to help implement the "Everyone Can" evangelism initiative. As momentum builds, Tennessee Baptist leaders recently prayerwalked in downtown Nashville in preparation for Crossover activities.

Other pre-convention meetings include the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration as well as events for ministers' wives, directors of missions, evangelists and other groups.

With the Nashville meeting a fairly short driving distance for many Kentucky Baptists, hundreds of Kentuckians have the opportunity to get involved in this year's Crossover, SBC meeting and related events.

Pastor's political misstep is just the start

By David Gushee

Jackson, Tenn. (RNS)—It seems the mixing of conservative politics and religion reached its breaking point in the person of 33-year-old Chan Chandler, the North Carolina Baptist pastor who resigned May 10 after apparently attempting to force out some members who voted Democratic in the last election.

The fact is that Chandler was inevitable. Given the growing convergence between religion and politics in the South, especially the identification by many conservative Christians of the GOP as God's Own Party, eventually somebody was going to come along and do exactly what Chandler did. It is heartening that his actions have been rejected by some mainstream Baptist leaders. But the forces that led him are not going away.

Three factors are leading to the increasingly polarized situation in which we now find ourselves.

First, conservative Christians, especially in the South, are now fully invested in the political arena. The Christian faith is inevitably political in its implications because the message of the Bible deals with the whole of life. Most of the leading social activists in American history have been committed Christians convinced that the Bible required their engagement. Issues have ranged from women's suffrage to temperance to urban poverty to working conditions to civil rights

to war. The current conservative concern over moral issues such as abortion and homosexuality is not unprecedented, though it is too narrow a moral agenda (often expressed in much too harsh a tone) to be viewed as fully biblical.

Second, the Republican Party knows it has a major asset in conservative Christians and is working that constituency for all it's worth. We Christians located in the red-state South and Midwest must understand that we are the objects of a whole lot of carefully calculated love and affection from the men and women who know how to win elections. One would hope thoughtful conservative Christians would resist being used by anyone, even political operatives whose agenda they largely like. The church is not a means to someone else's end. It is an end in itself; that is, it is to be an instrument only in God's hands.

Third, the Democratic Party has lost the language of religion and values. Its members know this, too. They know that in a religiously vital nation such as ours, no party will win elections if it cannot authentically speak about God and morality. The Democrats are hamstrung by a significant constituency of secularists within, and have in recent years essentially ceded the values field to the Republicans. Yet many thoughtful Democrats are committed Christians, whose politics are shaped by moral values. I fully expect the 2008

candidate will work to redress this values-gap problem.

So there's the formula that produces a Chan Chandler, and the broader environment in which we find ourselves:

■ Rightly recognize that the Christian faith has public implications. Wrongly reduce those implications to conservative concerns such as abortion and gay marriage.

■ Rightly urge people to vote their convictions. Wrongly assume that the only way a Christian could do so would be to vote Republican.

■ Rightly seek political impact. Wrongly allow ourselves to be manipulated by partisan political operatives.

■ Rightly see what is consistent with biblical principles in the Republican agenda and inconsistent with such principles in the Democratic agenda.

■ Wrongly fail to see what is inconsistent with biblical principles in the Republican agenda and consistent with such principles in the Democratic agenda.

■ Wrongly fail to see that God's agenda will never be fully realized by any political party; indeed, wrongly fail to see that it will never be fully realized until the final redemption of the world.

I counsel a bit of mercy toward Chandler, a young pastor who went too far and paid the price for it, and a whole lot of lesson-taking by the rest of us.

David Gushee is professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Forgotten badges

Central City prison chaplain focuses ministry on those holding keys rather than inmates

"The vision the Lord gave me was if I could turn 275 people into ministers 24-hours-a-day, there's bound to be a change."

Brian Crawford, a Mission Service Corps missionary.

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Central City—To gauge the importance of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's first prison staff chaplain, ask Warden Patti Webb what she thinks of Brian Crawford.

Because Crawford's mother once worked in prison, he offers not only a listening ear, but also an understanding of where staff members are coming from, said Webb, warden at the Green River Correctional Complex in Central City.

"If you take this job outside the facility, the only people you can talk to are those who work here," said Webb, warden since 1999. "With Brian, we can talk through what we're feeling, our fears and apprehensions. Then we don't have to go home and feel a need to take out anything on our family."

A member of Crossroads—the Church at Logan in Russellville, Crawford lives 45 minutes from the prison but often drives his 1995 Jeep Cherokee to Central City several times each week.

But there's more to Crawford's role than building relationships and comforting nearly 300 staff members. Crawford said he also hopes to reform the atmosphere.

Prisons are so harsh that if someone isn't a hardened criminal going into the system, without intervention he or she will be one by exit time, Crawford said.

"The vision the Lord gave me was if I could turn 275 people into ministers 24-hours-a-day, there's bound to be a change," said Crawford, a Mission Service Corps missionary.

"That's one thing about prisoners; they never had anybody to minister to them," Crawford said. "That's the point of making (staff members) ministers, where they're able to minister to inmates."

Crawford helps guards and other staff with various personal and job-related needs, often responding to late-night calls for help.

He has counseled families touched by death, marital strife, stressful working conditions and other challenges.



INSIDE "For the longest time, we've allowed Satan to take control of the prisons," Crawford said.

Last year, he helped locate furniture and other necessities for a single mother of three children after her mobile home burned down.

"I guess it's all the common things a pastor goes through at a church: going to the hospital, being there when a parent dies, all those things," Crawford said.

Crawford has been performing this ministry for approximately four years.

"I've got more time in than some of the lieutenants," he noted. "Most of the sergeants, I remember when they started."

Forgiving a murderer

The longtime Kentucky Baptist got involved in this unique ministry after visiting prison with a fellow minister who once served time at Eddyville State Prison.

But after the exposure, Crawford realized he wanted to work with staff members instead of inmates.

The reason lay in his background. Twenty years ago, his mother was killed by an inmate at Eddyville. Mrs. Crawford was teaching a food preparation class designed to give inmates a marketable skill.

To this day, Crawford has no idea why the man attacked his mother. Still, before pursuing required training to enter the prison, he had to face his need to make spiritual amends.

The question plagued him: How could he tell others about God's forgiveness when he never had forgiven the inmate who took his mother away when he was just 13?

"There was a lot of prayer around it all," Crawford said. He said he reached that sense of forgiveness in November of 2001.

Crawford sought to express this sense of forgiveness to the inmate who killed his mother, but authorities refused to allow any contact.

Instead, he relayed a message through inmates to the murderer, who since has transferred to another facility.



CHAPLAIN

Brian Crawford

said prison guards are different from other public servants, such as firemen or police.

"With corrections officers, people don't want to see them. They're scared. They don't know what goes on in prison." (© 2005 Apex MediaWire photos by Billy Suratt)

other facility.

"The prison system is pretty unique," Crawford said. "You can get a message to and from people without writing a letter."

Crawford does his prison ministry as a volunteer. He's endorsed through the Kentucky Baptist Convention, serving as a Mission Service Corps missionary. MSC workers raise their own financial resources but get training and prayer support from the KBC and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Crawford supports his ministry through his job as a fishing supplies salesman.

Connie White of Eddyville, an MSC consultant for Western Kentucky, admires Crawford's dedication.

During a recent statewide missionary retreat, she noted, Crawford first drove to Nashville to make a hospital visit.

"He's given up a lot to work at this because it's his passion and it's the thing he thinks the Lord has called him to," White said.

WMU support in Eddyville

To support him, the Woman's Missionary Union at Fredonia First Baptist in Eddyville recently adopted him as their missionary.

The 14 women pray for him at each meeting and throughout the month. They also send him birthday cards and other greetings.

In addition to counseling staff members and helping with their needs, Crawford oversees an annual officer appreciation dinner in May.

Serving meals to three shifts requires about 30 volunteers. During brief breaks between the next, Crawford rests in a missionary apartment at the nearby Muhlenberg Baptist Association office.

To his knowledge, Crawford is the only person going into prison to visit officers instead of inmates. But he said it's a task that other people should undertake as well.

"They're not like police officers or the fire department," Crawford said. "Everyone sees them out in the community. With corrections officers, they're scared. They don't know what goes on in prison."

Crawford said his regular visits to Green River have shown officers that someone cares, helping change how they look at others.

And, he said, Christians should exert more influence in the prison system. In the Old Testament, the refuge for those charged with manslaughter was the land given to the Levites, the priestly tribe, Crawford said.

"For the longest time, we've allowed Satan to take control of the prisons," Crawford said. "That's not his up there, it's supposed to be mine and my brothers' in ministry."

Paducah Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit traces Bible's history

Continued from page 1

Biondi and others have been collecting the tracking exhibit's items for more than 20 years. During the exhibit's stay, Biondi and co-curator Craig Lampe often can be found at a table in the middle of the display, chatting with visitors and answering questions one-on-one.

"This collection has been basically an endeavor of our entire adult lives," Biondi said.

"We asked the question, 'What did the Bible have to do with the founding of America?' We then worked back through history," he explained. "It is a dramatic story about how the Bible came into English.

"We just kept chasing it back and trying to get older and older material until some fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls became available. These are not reproductions, they are the real thing," Biondi said, pointing to the displays. "This is literally the earliest Scripture on the planet."

Biondi is a rare book dealer. Lampe runs a Bible museum near his home in Goodyear, Ariz. where some of the displays usually reside. Lampe owns most of the historic European and American Bibles on display.

When Biondi hasn't been able to buy an item, he's often convinced owners to loan artifacts from their private collections to round out the exhibit.

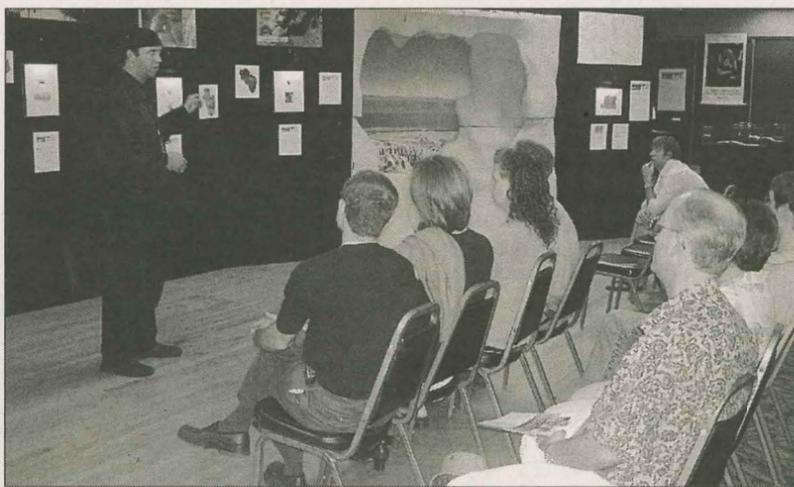


EXHIBIT LECTURE Joel Lampe, son of exhibit collector Craig Lampe, lectures at the "Dead Sea Scrolls to America" exhibit at the Executive Inn Convention Center in Paducah (Photo by Keith Todd)

Biondi's favorite artifact is the fragment of Paul's letter to the Colossians. He said gathering the material has had a profound impact on his life.

"I can see back through my life where I was being led to help gather this collection and share it with others," he said.

"We have a martyr's Bible. Just knowing that someone died to preserve that Bible gives you a sense of reverence knowing you're around it," he added.

Lampe said the whole goal of the exhibit is to show the influence of the Bible and of Christianity on

the Founding Fathers and how that threads through early American documents.

Making Hebrew come alive

For 10 days at the end of the exhibit, Hebrew studies scholar Frank Seekins will lecture at the convention center.

"What I do is make ancient Hebrew come alive," Seekins said. "It's an easy language because there are pictures built into the language. It's not an ancient dead language; it is a language that deals with your life today."

Seekins said it's gratifying to help

Exhibit information

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

Admission: \$10 for adults on weekdays, \$12 for adults on weekends. Discounts available for students, senior adults and school field trips.

Information: Call toll-free (866) 786-7261 or visit www.deadseascrollstoamerica.com.

"The Dead Sea Scrolls to the Bible in America" exhibit includes:

- Dead Sea Scroll fragments from books of the Old Testament.

- Early forms of human writing (5,000-year-old clay tablets from Mesopotamia).

- Examples of early Hebrew.

- Early New Testament manuscripts.

- Medieval biblical manuscripts.

- Historic printed Bibles, including a Gutenberg Bible (1455) and a first edition King James Bible (1611).

Hebrews scholar Frank Seekins will be in Paducah to lecture May 27-June 5.

people learn to read ancient Hebrew after a few minutes of instruction.

Biondi said seeing people make a quick connection to the ancient Hebrew is a rewarding part of the exhibit.

"Language is not my specialty. I'm just an expert in rare books and the manuscripts," Biondi said. "But, when you look at the letters of the ancient Hebrew rather than the modern Hebrew, it's uncanny how much they look like the English letters we use every day. It's so clear you just see it as the revelation it is."

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NATIONAL NOTES

Congressional bill aims to protect pledge. Two members of Congress have reintroduced a measure that would restrict courts from ruling on cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance. The goal of the Pledge Protection Act of 2005, introduced May 17, is to "protect the right of schoolchildren to say the phrase 'under God' while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance," according to a statement released by the bill's sponsor, Rep. Todd Akin, R-Mo. An earlier version passed the house in 2003 but did not get out of the Senate.

Survey: Americans value families & faith. Most adults in the United States consider family a top priority, according to a recent survey. Of the 1,003 adults questioned by Barna Research Group, 44 percent ranked having a satisfying family as most important. The second most popular priority was the understanding and carrying out of principles of faith; 18 percent of participants chose this response. The purpose of the survey was to find what Americans perceive to be their purpose in life, which came from the popularity of the spiritual guidance book "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

UCC mulling divestment from Israel. The United Church of Christ will vote in July on whether to pull church money from U.S. companies involved in constructing Israeli settlements and security measures in Palestinian territories. If approved, the 1.4 million-member church (with a \$3 billion investment portfolio) would become the second U.S. Protestant body to pull investments from Israel in protest of what they call Israel's harsh treatment of the Palestinians. The Presbyterian Church (USA) voted last year to begin divesting from U.S. companies profiting from Israeli construction in the West Bank and Gaza.

Rice: U.S. will defend sanctity of Quran. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States will not condone incivility to the Quran or any other sacred religious book after reports that the Muslim holy book was placed on toilets at a U.S. military base in Cuba. "Disrespect for the Holy Quran is not now, nor has it ever been, nor will it ever be, subordinate to the rights of the United States," Rice said before a Senate subcommittee May 12. Rice was reacting to a Newsweek article on abuse investigation at the Guantanamo Bay prison. Since then, Newsweek has retracted reports that the Muslim holy book was placed on toilets—and one was flushed down the toilet—by interrogators.

Best Buy to curb violent video games. Christian Brothers Investment Services announced May 19 that it has withdrawn a shareholder resolution on violent video games that it filed with Best Buy Co. Inc. because the retailer has established a policy to restrict the sales of such games to youths. The New York-based consulting company, which fosters responsible Catholic financial decisions, said it was encouraged by the developments by the Minneapolis-based company to address video sales. The Minneapolis-based sale of "mature" video and computer games with an M rating to customers younger than 17. Sue Busch, a Best Buy spokeswoman, said the policy has existed for at least a year but it was posted on the company's Web site earlier this month.

Court rules in favor of "In God We Trust." A federal appeals court has said an inscription of the national motto, "In God We Trust," on a North Carolina government building is constitutional. In a unanimous ruling May 14, a three-judge panel of the Virginia-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the phrase does not run afoul of the First Amendment's ban on government support for religion. "In this situation, the reasonable observer must be deemed aware of the patriotic uses, both historical and present, of the phrase 'In God We Trust,'" Judge Robert King wrote in the court's opinion. He noted that the phrase has appeared on American coinage since the mid-1800s, and was made the official national motto by Congress in 1856.

Abstinence program gets lawsuit. The American Civil Liberties Union has sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, saying it unconstitutionally funds an abstinence program that promotes evangelism. According to the suit, filed last week in Boston, the government has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to Silver Ring Thing in Moon Township, Pa. Court papers describe its activities as including presentations with skits, music and the option of attending a religious discussion that includes evangelism. Students attending the three-hour presentation feel pressured to attend the religious programming, the suit charges.

Gay marriage, one year later

Sides differ on impact of Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling

Boston (RNS)—A year after Massachusetts became the first—and so far only—state in the country to legalize gay marriage, conservative groups said marriage still "faces grave threats," while gay marriage advocates say their progress has been slow but steady.

Last week marked one year since the first gay couples in Massachusetts received civil marriage licenses after the state's Supreme Court ruled in 2003 that it was unconstitutional to allow civil marriage only for heterosexuals.

In the past year, approximately 6,000 gay couples in Massachusetts have been married. Another law prohibits non-resident gay couples from marrying in the Bay State.

A Gallup/CNN/USA poll says that a majority of Americans—56 percent—oppose gay marriage, although that number is down from a high of 68 percent in March. In the latest poll, 39 percent supported gay marriage.

"The message could not be any clearer—the people know that marriage is a union between one man and one woman," Glen Lavy, senior vice president of the Alliance Defense Fund, said in a statement.

"Despite the will of the people, against the opinion of the ballot box and in recent opinion polls, marriage still faces grave threats," Lavy said.

Groups to petition Congress on hunger issues

Washington (RNS)—Frustrated with what they decry as government inaction, religious leaders from many faiths plan to invade Capitol Hill in June to demand a commitment to end hunger in America.

Organized by Christian hunger relief group Bread for the World, "Hunger No More: An Interfaith Convocation" will unite dozens of religious leaders at the Washington National Cathedral on June 6, the eve of its all-day lobbying effort on the Hill.

"What's the main thing needed to reduce hunger is stronger commitment, especially from our government," David Beckmann, a Lutheran minister who is president of Bread for the World, said in a telephone press conference. "We are all scandalized by the persistence of hunger."

Beckmann said the effort is

Evangelical profs protest Bush commencement address

Grand Rapids, Mich. (RNS)—More than one-third of the faculty at Calvin College joined students and alumni in protesting the choice of President Bush as the evangelical school's commencement speaker last Saturday.

About 100 of Calvin's 300 faculty members joined more than 750 alumni, students and staff in signing a letter of protest that appeared in a half-page ad in the Grand Rapids Press.

Members of the group admit they are in the minority at the



ANNIVERSARY PARTY Original plaintiff couples (right to left) Hillary and Julie Goodridge, their daughter Annie, 9, lawyer Mary Bonauto and an unidentified couple react as streamers are set off during a first year anniversary celebration of the legalization of gay marriage at Unitarian Universalist Association Headquarters in Boston last week. (RNS/Reuters photo by Jessica Rinaldi)

Five states currently are considering laws to legalize same-sex marriages or civil unions, and two others—Connecticut and Vermont—have approved civil unions for gay couples.

"There's disagreement about how to change and how fast to change, but there's at least, clearly, some emerging consensus that that's the path we are on," Mary Bonauto, of the Gay & Lesbian Advocates, Defenders USA Today.

But 18 states have enacted constitutional amendments banning gay marriage—14 of them within

the past year.

Four additional states have constitutional bans pending approval by voters, and 13 others have amendments pending or under consideration by legislatures, according to an analysis by USA Today.

In Nebraska, a federal judge recently overturned that state's constitutional amendment as too broad. In Massachusetts, an amendment that would ban gay marriage but create civil unions needs approval by the legislature, and then by voters in 2006.

needed because President Bush and Congress have shown they "have other priorities" than ending world hunger through their failure to maintain budget commitments to hunger and poverty programs.

Beckmann said more than 1,000 people would be participating in the lobbying effort on National Hunger Awareness Day, and that a request also had been made for a meeting with the White House.

"Elected officials have come together and basically have abdicated the clarion call that this indeed is a crisis for our country," said Eric Schockman, president of Mazon, a Jewish Response to Hunger. "It is a question of equity. ... Where do we set our federal spending priorities?"

At least 40 religious leaders are expected to take part, including Lt. Colonel Larry Bosh, national

chief secretary of the Salvation Army; Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid; and Ron Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action.

The convocation is part of the June 4-7 national Bread for the World conference, titled "One Table, Many Voices: A Mobilization to End Poverty and Hunger," and will feature a sermon by Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of Cape Town, South Africa, and songs and sacred texts from myriad faiths.

"Theology may separate us and yet we have a lot in common," said Georgetown University Muslim Chaplain Imam Yahya Hendi. "God wants all of us to take care of the poor and take care of the needy."

According to Bread for the World, one in 10 American households is living with or at risk of hunger.

liberal arts college and in a region that traditionally supports Bush and his policies. They maintain the president, who has been open about his Christian faith, has not governed in accordance with biblical principles.

"By their deeds ye shall know them," reads the paid advertisement, quoting the Bible. "Your deeds, Mr. President—neglecting the needy to coddle the rich, desecrating the environment, and misleading the country into war—do not exemplify the faith we live by.

"Moreover, many of your supporters are using religion as a weapon to divide our nation and advance a narrow partisan agenda. ... We urge you not to use Calvin College as a platform to advance policies that violate the school's religious principles."

Calvin professor Randall Bytwerk said Bush and his speechwriters know better than to turn a ceremony of occasion into a partisan political event. Bytwerk reviewed Bush's prior commencement talks and said none took a political tone.

Louisville missionary pair among NAMB appointees

By Sarah Schilling
Baptist Press

Broken Arrow, Okla. (BP)—A Louisville couple were among 55 North American missionaries appointed earlier this month during a service at First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Okla.

During the service, missionaries paraded into the church sanctuary, led by a high school student bearing the Christian flag.

The missionaries were commissioned as church planters, mission strategists and campus ministers to reach people of various nationalities and cultures in the United States and Canada.

Two missionaries shared passionate testimonies about God's call.

Sarah Lee, who serves as a church planter with her husband, Jason, in Louisville, spoke about their work among Muslim North African refugees.

After college, Lee worked as a nurse in Africa. Two years after returning home and marrying her husband, she was surprised to notice a group of North African women in their Louisville apartment complex.

The Lees contacted NAMB to send missionaries to reach the 2,500 Somali refugees in the Louisville area, she said, not knowing God would call them to the work.

"We already had jobs and other plans," Lee said, "but we learned that the plans for our life had to be the plans the Lord had made."

Jason Lee is the former evangelism director of Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville.

Deaf missions

Peter and Meeae Paik are natives of Korea who are seeking to establish a church for a very different culture in a community on the opposite side of the U.S.—the 40,000 unreached deaf people in the San Francisco Bay area.

In his animated testimony accompanied by American Sign Language, Paik described his dramatic life change when he found Christ at a church for the deaf in Korea. Paik then studied special education and moved to the United States, where he was exhorted by a fellow Korean Christian to start a church.

Though this request was not met with much confidence, Paik prayed and God answered, "I have trained you already." Led to research the San Francisco Bay area, Paik discovered a great need among the large deaf community there.



NEW MISSIONARY Korea native Peter Paik, addressing a May 15 commissioning service for new North American Mission Board missionaries, is working to establish a church for the deaf in the San Francisco Bay area. (BP photo)

"Now is the most amazing time because I applied to NAMB and now I get all your prayers for me," he said, enthusiastically gesturing to the congregation.

"If we trust God, we have benefit," he said. To demonstrate the great power and support in the family of God, Paik began to sing and sign, "Come and go with me to my Father's house, where there is love, love, love," and the entire congregation joined in.

Richard Harris, NAMB's vice president of church planting, brought a charge to the missionaries, challenging them to "preach the potent Word of God without watering it down to serve human purposes."

"How carefully would you handle a donated organ, or \$10,000 or a written message from George W. Bush?" Harris asked. "This is how carefully we should handle the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

"People are waiting, longing, looking for the truth and for you who will share it. God is sending you to them. Handle the message carefully and show them that the all-surpassing power is from God and not from you."

First Baptist pastor Nick Garland echoed Harris' charge to NAMB missionaries to his own congregation. "Dr. Harris' message was so clear, and though it was directed at these missionaries, whenever we leave these premises we are going out into the mission field of Broken Arrow."

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2005 General Assembly

June 29-July 2 • Gaylord Texan Resort • Grapevine, Texas



Daniel Vestal
FEATURED SPEAKER



Scot Cameron
vocal artist



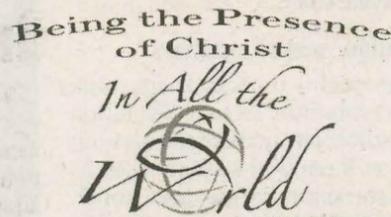
Carolyn Staley
guest speaker



Albert Reyes
guest speaker

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New Schedule!

Assembly runs Thursday and Friday with Auxiliary Events on Wednesday and Saturday.

Wednesday, June 29	Auxiliary Events
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Companions in Christ Training in English & Spanish
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Congregational Leadership Institute
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Baptist World Alliance Window on the World Banquet — Sponsored by The North American Baptist Fellowship
Thursday, June 30	Auxiliary Events
7:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Resource Fair Open
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Workshops
9:00 - 10:10 a.m.	Opening Session & Business I
10:30 - 11:40 a.m.	Lunch & Auxiliary Events
11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Workshops (includes Business Breakouts)
2:00 - 3:10 p.m.	State Meetings
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Dinner & Auxiliary Events
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Pre-worship Gathering
6:45 p.m.	Worship
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Resource Fair Event
8:30 p.m.	
Friday, July 1	Auxiliary Events
7:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Resource Fair Open
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Communion & Community & Business II
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.	Lunch & Auxiliary Events
11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Workshops (including 2 Hispanic ministry workshops)
2:00 - 3:10 p.m.	Workshops
3:30 - 4:40 p.m.	Dinner & Auxiliary Events
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Pre-worship Gathering
6:45 p.m.	Worship
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Resource Fair Event
8:30 p.m.	
Saturday, July 2	Auxiliary Events



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Christian fiction pioneer tackles evolution 'Monster'

"If (Bigfoot) was real, what would it really be like? What would it sound like, what would it smell like?"

Author Frank Peretti

By Greg Garrison
Religion News Service

Pelham, Ala. (RNS)—Frank Peretti sat in the Amen Corner, a banjo on his lap, playing the theme song from "The Beverly Hillbillies."

He was at the Christian bookstore here promoting his latest horror novel, "Monster." His first novel, "This Present Darkness," has sold more than 2.5 million copies since 1986.

"That was the book that broke the barrier for Christian fiction," Peretti said. "It certainly made my career."

Since the days when Peretti had difficulty attracting a publisher for his first novel, the Christian publishing industry has embraced Christian fiction and the market for spiritual-theme novels has exploded, led by the "Left Behind" series.

Peretti, in his 1995 novel, "The Oath," employed an allegorical dragon that feasts on a mining town's sinners and grows ever larger. In "Monster," he takes a different approach to his spiritual storytelling. "I didn't go into allegory," he said. "It's a real monster."

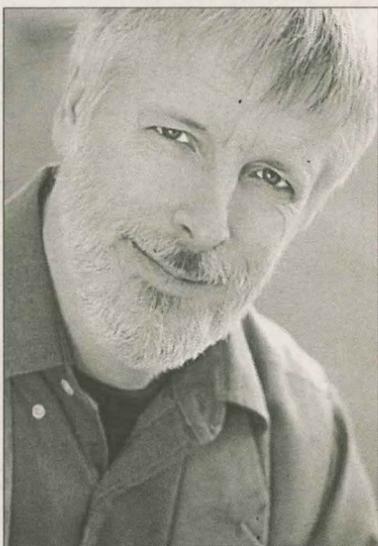
But he does explore a topic that generates controversy in evangelical Christian circles. As usual, Peretti's novel comes with a spiritual message for readers, woven into the adventure story.

Evolution "makes monsters"

"My goal is to make them think about evolution," he said. "Evolution as a philosophy makes monsters out of all us. It removes all that makes us human—morals, virtue, love, honor, self-sacrifice. All those become illusory. I'm trying to raise some questions. Who is the real monster here? I do it through a monster story."

In "Monster," the featured creature is a Sasquatch, or Bigfoot.

"Let's assume Bigfoot is a North American great ape," Peretti said. "If



WRITER'S TIME BLOCK Frank Peretti writes for five hours each day. "I set a kitchen timer." (RNS photo)

it was real, what would it really be like? What would it sound like, what would it smell like, what would be its feeding habits? Let's see how close we can get."

Peretti, 54, grew up in Seattle and had a difficult childhood because of

tumors in his jaw and tongue that forced him to talk with his tongue hanging out of his mouth. He wrote about that in a nonfiction book, "The Wounded Spirit."

From difficult childhood to fame

His only way of successfully relating to other kids was telling them monster stories, which he began writing down. By age 12, surgery and therapy helped him learn to speak normally.

At 19, he was playing bluegrass banjo in nightclubs and he joined a musical comedy act that played at Harrah's in Lake Tahoe.

He married his wife, Barbara, in 1972, had a Christian music ministry for a while, took English and screenwriting classes at UCLA and was an associate pastor, assisting his father, who was the minister of an Assembly of God church in Vashon Island, Wash.

Peretti had been working in a factory making snow skis for three years when "This Present Darkness" became so successful that he quit in order to write a sequel. Pastors urged their congregations to read

it, and Christian singer Amy Grant touted it at her concerts.

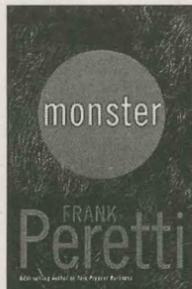
Today, he writes five hours a day. "I set a kitchen timer," he said. "I just put in my time." His wife is a painter who also teaches finances at a drug rehabilitation center for women.

When he's not writing on a laptop computer in his northern Idaho home amid 120 acres on the Coeur d'Alene River, the licensed pilot flies airplanes and plays banjo in a bluegrass band. He takes his banjo on the road and plays on occasion during his public appearances.

"I'm not a hermit," Peretti said. "I live back in the woods, but we go to church, we have a circle of friends. People in town know us."

His bluegrass band often travels with him when he does public speaking, and he turns lectures into concerts.

Picking up the banjo, Peretti strums and picks out a tune, expressing regret that he didn't play for a long time. "I put the banjo aside for 20 years," he said. "If I had been practicing all that time, I'd be really good by now."



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Equipping or robbing?

Preparing youth to make choices an important job

Have you ever thought about robbing someone? If so, you should not act on your thoughts. But in a very real sense, it is possible that we rob someone every day.

When you first hear the word "choice," I must admit I think of bumper stickers proclaiming that we have the right for certain choices; not a positive message.

When you interact with people today, will you allow them to make choices, or do you lead them to make the choice you want them to make? I am not advocating

choices that contradict clear biblical teaching, but I am encouraging each of us to think about our interactions with youth in our culture.

In my own family, I must teach my children to be able to make decisions. While I can shape and influence their decisions when present with them, they will at some time be outside my influence, whether at school, at college one day, or simply playing in the yard. At that point, have I equipped them to choose in accordance with their personal beliefs, or do they simply choose based on surround-

ing peer pressure?

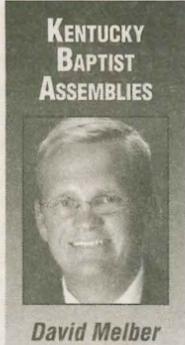
The scary part of encouraging my kids to make choices on their own is that sometimes they will choose poorly and fail. The reality for us as adults is that God has given us the ability to choose each day life or death (Deuteronomy 30:19).

The Bible is clear that we each will give personal accounts for our choices. As parents and those who work with youth, we are to teach them to grow in Christ. We are to teach them that they are responsible and accountable for their choices. We also are to teach them to evaluate, process and decide on their own. While we want

to protect them and guard their actions; we also are to prepare them as future adults, which means they must be equipped and resolved to make choices even when they are not popular.

Will you rob someone today, or will you choose to invest by training a young person to make choices? Some choices will fail, but if they never can choose on their own, failure is certain.

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



David Melber

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "I will ... cut in sunder the ___ of iron" (Isaiah 45:2)
- 4 "For now we see through a ___, darkly" (1 Corinthians 13:12)
- 8 Optometrist's degree (abbr.)
- 10 "There followed ___ and fire mingled with blood" (Revelation 8:7)
- 12 "It is appointed unto men once to ___" (Hebrews 9:27)
- 13 One of twenty-six
- 14 Printer's measure
- 16 "___ for them that despitefully use you" (Matthew 5:44)
- 18 "They that sow in tears shall ___ in joy" (Psalm 126:5)
- 20 Slangy negative reply
- 22 First garden
- 24 "The nations are as a ___ of a bucket" (Isaiah 40:15)
- 26 Relative of 911
- 28 Was a pathfinder
- 30 "It is a people that do ___ in their heart" (Psalm 95:10)
- 31 Cream of the crop
- 32 Courtroom verb
- 34 Note in diatonic scale
- 35 "The ___ of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 9:2)
- 37 "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with ___ garments?" (Isaiah 63:1)
- 39 Simile syntax
- 41 "Let them learn first to shew ___ at home" (1 Timothy 5:4)
- 43 "Father, glorify thy ___" (John 12:28)
- 45 Sault ___ Marie
- 47 Chafed, as skin
- 48 Feminine nickname
- 49 Tattled, with "on"
- 51 Become bored
- 54 Cave dweller

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	56			57		58			59		60	
61			62		63		64			65		
66			67						68			

- 56 Presumertime priority
- 58 Partner of dear
- 60 Dr. ___ (I. Fleming work)
- 61 Land-grant college department (abbr.)
- 62 Hula-Hoop, for one
- 64 Epochs
- 66 Western state (abbr.)
- 67 "___ yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead" (Romans 6:13)
- 68 Created

Down

- 1 "___ there, done that"
- 2 Blood factor
- 3 "The trees of the Lord are full of ___" (Psalm 104:16)
- 4 Bag or rags
- 5 Classified, for one
- 6 Title of address
- 7 "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious ___" (Psalm 126:6)
- 8 Send home
- 9 Beast of burden
- 11 Anger
- 15 Win by a ___
- 17 Give a holler
- 19 Linking verb
- 21 Coin ___
- 23 "Open thy hand wide unto ... thy ___" (Deuteronomy 15:11)
- 25 Conceit

- 27 "There is but a ___ between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3)
- 29 "A ___ in thy courts is better than a thousand" (Psalm 84:10)
- 31 "Every ___ of the forest is mine" (Psalm 50:10)
- 32 Fold
- 33 Cubs' coves
- 36 Tune, melody
- 38 To coat with slime and pitch, as Moses' mother did with his ark (Exodus 2:3)
- 40 Uninteresting
- 42 Jacob, to Esau
- 44 "A Jew of Tarsus ... a citizen of no ___ city" (Acts 21:39)
- 46 Father of Hophni and Phineas
- 50 "The Philistine said, I ___ the armies of Israel" (1 Samuel 17:10)
- 52 "A bruised ___ shall he not break" (Isaiah 42:3)
- 53 "Incline thine ___ unto me and hear my speech" (Psalm 17:6)
- 55 Sped like the wind
- 57 ___ chi, ancient Asian art of controlled exercise
- 59 What Abraham saw caught in a thicket (Genesis 22)
- 61 Exclamation of disappointment
- 63 Bethany Beach state (abbr.)
- 65 Continent (abbr.)

Last week's solution

L	I	T	E	R	I	C	D	R	O	P		
E	R	A	K	O	O	L	A	C	R	E		
T	A	B	R	E	T	A	R	M	G	A		
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Dr. Richard Ross
9:45 a.m.

Dr. Jimmy Draper
11:00 a.m.

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FBC, Mt. Juliet, TN is approximately 20 minutes east of downtown Nashville. Take I-40 east to exit 226-B (North Mt. Juliet Rd.) and go one half mile north of the interstate.

To register for the meal or for more information, please call the church at 615-754-2525 or email us at info@fbcnj.org.

Younger marriages struggle with children, studies say

By John Hall
Associated Baptist Press

Dallas (ABP)—Having a child often is called the most joyous event in one's life. But that joy might be fading.

According to studies, the latest generation of parents is less able than previous ones to cope with raising children while holding together "satisfying" marriages.

A San Diego State University report indicates marital satisfaction after a first baby's birth is 42 percent lower among younger parents than in preceding generations.

The National Marriage Project's 2004 annual report noted "children

seem to be a growing impediment for the happiness of marriage," citing several recent studies. Only 38 percent of mothers of infants report high marital satisfaction, compared to 62 percent of childless women.

Contributing to the difficulty of raising children, the researchers report, is the increase of "fragile families." More parents get divorced than in the past, and more children are raised by single parents. Fewer Americans are getting married, and those who do marry do so later in life. Fewer married couples are having children.

Views of parenting, marriage

Children no longer are the centerpiece of marriage, the researchers note. Fewer Americans believe marriage is necessary for raising children, and fewer Americans believe raising children is a good enough reason to keep a troubled marriage together. Almost 70 percent of Americans now believe that the purpose of marriage is something other than raising children—a higher percentage than almost any other industrialized nation.

Parenting is a multifaceted issue for young couples, said Christian counselor Dan McGee of Dallas. People generally learn their parenting skills from those who raised them, he said. It is an unconscious process that later guides them through their own parenting of children.

A problem arises because those methods are passed down from generation to generation without significant change, said McGee, director of Baptist General Conven-



the time to address their marriage intentionally because they are busy running across town with various activities for themselves and their children, he added.

Life, parenting more complex

Most parents are trying to raise children while retaining jobs, McGee said. They are trying to maintain a certain lifestyle where they feel comfortable. The San Diego State study shows more affluent adults struggle more with children because parents feel their freedom to act as they please is restricted.

"If you give every ounce of energy to every other person, when it comes to your marriage you have nothing left," Wood said.

Further complicating the issue seems to be a sense of role confusion, studies show. In a society where stay-at-home fathers and executive mothers routinely are accepted, men and women seem increasingly unsure of their roles with children.

"Life is more complex for adults in this world," McGee said. "It's reasonable to expect that complexity extends to a child growing up in this world."

Young people are having to figure out parenting on their own, McGee continued. Couples frequently do not live in the same town as other family members. Parents also are not as connected to their neighborhoods as they once were.

"You had a community and extended family who knew each other," he said. "If Johnny got in trouble, Momma knew it by nightfall. That doesn't exist anymore."

An idea for strengthening churches?

Fort Worth, Texas (ABP)—Churches can help strengthen marriages if they are willing to become relationship-oriented rather than remaining event focused, according to a former president of the Association of Couples in Marriage Enrichment.

Britton Wood, a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, said congregations can encourage strong unions if they will begin continuous marriage enrichment ministries.

This would be a drastic shift for many churches that emphasize marriage once a year, he said. A continual ministry would encourage evolving and deepening relationships between spouses and couples.

Churches can begin enrichment groups of five-to-six couples who come together to discuss their relationships and focus on strengthening their respective bonds, Wood said. Wood has been involved in his group for 23 years.

Strong marriages have a direct impact on a congregation's ministry, Wood said. Non-Christians will be attracted to Christian ministries when they see Christians having healthy relationships.

"If we could do that in the church, we couldn't keep people away from our churches," he said. —John Hall

Our 'bonus check'

Graduation a time for Oneida's staff to delight in senior students' gains

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

This year was my 12th Oneida Baptist Institute graduation, including one when I got to sit with the regular folks instead of the faculty and staff because my daughter was graduating. Every year, I marvel and rejoice at what I see in front of me on this special day in May.

Dr. Underwood often says graduation is one of our "bonus checks," and that is true for me. After a lifetime of working with students, I need to be reminded that my work does have an effect. While I long ago gave up telling God what must happen in a student's life, I haven't stopped asking the Lord to show me a few signs of His work in progress.

This class of 51 seniors represented much that is typical about Oneida. Some of the graduates had been with us for seven years. Others had been here for less than a year. There were local students who had enrolled at our school. Others were international students from various countries and cultures around the globe. Many of these young people were beginning again, as former Oneida President Barkley Moore envisioned. Some represented academic excellence, while others were just happy to get a diploma.

At every commencement, Dr. Underwood reads excerpts from essays our seniors have written titled, "My Oneida Experience." This gives faculty, staff, family members and guests an opportunity to hear what the graduates appreciate about OBI in their own words. Many of our students shared how they had come to Christ

while at Oneida. Daily worship in chapel and the preaching of the gospel was mentioned often. That is a great encouragement to our preachers. Other students honestly shared that they were not Christians, but they had come to appreciate and understand the Christian message better while at OBI. Considering where many of these students were when they came to us, this was a significant change, and God is still at work in their lives.

Most of our seniors mentioned one or more teachers or staff members who helped them overcome obstacles, grow as a person or come to know God's love. I was reminded that OBI is always a personal ministry, where God honors relationships and creates mentors and models for students who often have little adult guidance.

Work, sports, smaller classes, study hall, all of these were mentioned as our seniors shared how Oneida had become part of their lives. The core values of this ministry have proven to be dependable building blocks for helping young people grow and improve. When our students themselves can see how the program has worked for them, it's an indication that we are on the right path.

Graduation is always an encouragement. In a few days, it will be a memory and new students will arrive for summer school. There will be times of discouragement, but God is faithful. Through Oneida's ministry and your support, we will continue to create grateful Oneida graduates, who are our best recommendation to others.

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



W.F. Underwood

A college that cares

Curriculum is important, but people make a college

"I had been out of school for 25 years. My advisor, Dr. Lucas, saw how nervous I was, told me to calm down and prayed for me. I knew then the folks at Clear Creek cared for us. It gave me comfort and confidence to continue." Bo Sherrell, Kentucky.

"It was tough leaving family and a youth group at our church to attend college, but the Lord has given us wonderful friends. I have gained self-confidence. Nita Sherrell, Kentucky. (Nita received the Jeanette Robertson Award, exemplifying the ideal minister's wife.)

"At Clear Creek I realized the gifts God has given me, matured in my marriage relationship, and met my best friend, Tim Scott." Jeremy Lee, Ohio.

"God clarified a specific call to church planting; I will attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and hope God will use me to start a new church in Texas. While students we had our first baby, Emma." David Osborn, Texas.

"It was difficult to leave the pastorate of a church in Tennessee, but I'm thankful to be under the teachings of the Lord's anointed and not just taking notes." Nathan

Raines, Kentucky.

"I thought I knew it all and Dr. Hester showed me otherwise, teaching me respect, humility and helping me discover a love for scholarship." Travis Russell, Tennessee.

"I thank God for the entire five-year process of hammering out who I am in Christ and what I believe about the Bible and my biblical worldview. I'm a better preacher with more knowledge of Greek and Hebrew." Eric Snyder, Kentucky.

"My wife, Lisa, and I grew in Christ together, while raising our children in a stronger Christian environment. I was fortunate to have been mentored by great men

of God such as Dr. Bill Helton. However, the thing I may remember most vividly is Dr. Whittaker in red long johns at the 2004 Valentine banquet." Keith Williams, Kentucky.

"I'll always remember when my wife and I walked into the gymnasium for the first Shopping Spree and saw all the donated gifts. We knew our children would not be denied a special time." Jason Moore, pastor of Ferguson Baptist Church.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Fastballs & Jesus

Former Red Reitsma
'doing what God's
made me to do'

By Tim Ellsworth
Baptist Press

Orlando, Fla. (BP)—Chris Reitsma will acknowledge that baseball can be an all-consuming pursuit.

"You play 162 games in 180 days, and if you don't perform you're out the door," the Atlanta Braves relief pitcher said.

But despite its demands, baseball isn't the most important thing in the world to Reitsma. His faith in Christ takes that priority, and it's that belief that helps him deal with the rigors of the baseball season.

"It helps, no question, knowing that this game is such a small aspect of life," Reitsma said. "I'm here for a reason. I'm going to try to touch as many people as I can with my story and my life and what Christ has done for me. With that being the perspective you can get a better hold on the ups and downs. You can really just lean on Him. He has to be your rock."

A native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Reitsma is in his second season with the Braves, after spending the first three years of his Major League career in Cincinnati.

Reitsma understands his role to be a witness to others, especially his teammates. He says questions about his faith and his beliefs will come up occasionally in the locker room.

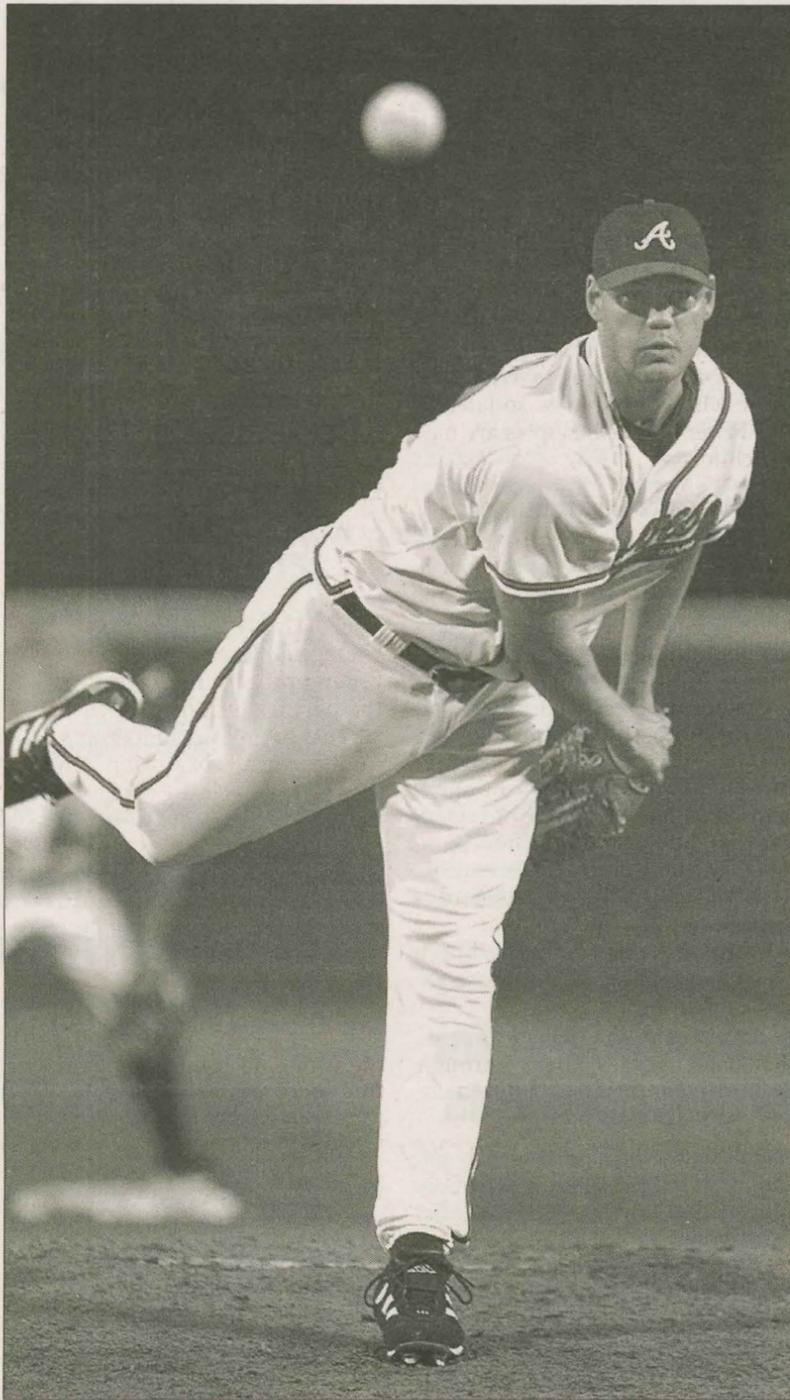
"You take every opportunity you can," he said. "They don't come along often. In this world people think they've got it figured out, and they obviously don't. I'm just trying to keep an ear to what's going on."

On the field, Reitsma might try to be tough on opposing batters, but away from the game he has a softer side when it comes to children—especially those with mental and physical handicaps.

"My heart's always gone out to them," Reitsma said. "I love helping them out and love being around them."

Ministry to children

Reitsma often spends time during the off season working with children with disabilities in Calgary. He's also starting a foundation in Atlanta to benefit children who are physically and mentally



RELIEF PITCHER Chris Reitsma says he talks to teammates about his faith. "I'm going to try to touch as many people as I can with my story and my life and what Christ has done for me." (Atlanta Braves National League Baseball Club photos)

handicapped.

"It adds perspective," he said about such work. "We all need that. No matter what you do or who you are, if you're healthy you need perspective in terms of being thankful every day for health and strength and mental capabilities and physical capabilities."

Reitsma is no stranger to physical

disability. His father, Mike, a retired pastor, has Parkinson's disease—a disorder that affects motor skills and muscular functions.

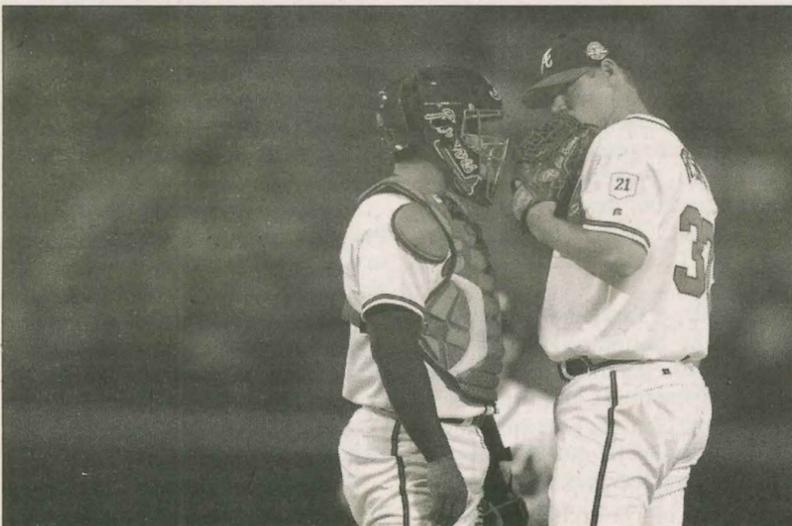
"It's been very hard to watch his body and the muscles just kind of give way," Reitsma said. "His mind's still good. You go away for eight months and come back and he's different again. It's very difficult to see."

Mike Reitsma retired as pastor of First Christian Reformed Church in Calgary because of his illness. Parkinson's disease especially affected his speech and made it difficult for him to preach.

"It's very frustrating for him because his mind is still right but he can't write very well and stuff like that," Reitsma said.

Experiences like these have reinforced to Reitsma that there's more to life than baseball. Still, the sport is where God has called him for now, and Reitsma wants to do his best.

"I'm competitive, I want to win as much as the next guy," he said. "But if I can give my all every single day then I can look myself in the mirror and know that I'm doing what God's made me to do."



MOUND APPEARANCE As of last Friday, right-hander Chris Reitsma has saved two games for the Atlanta Braves this season, registering 10 strikeouts in 19 innings.

Lawsuit fails to cover church cross for school graduations

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Melbourne, Fla. (ABP)—A Florida church has refused to cover the cross in its sanctuary to quiet critics who say holding four high-school graduation ceremonies in the building violates the Constitution.

"We don't mind having them use the facility, but we won't hide what we are or who we are by hiding the cross," said Melody Glover, spokeswoman for the central Florida church.

A state judge ruled May 18 that this past weekend's ceremonies likely violated the constitutional ban on government establishment of religion, but he said the complaint was filed too late for the schools to make other arrangements.

Judge Gregory Presnell of the Middle District of Florida denied a request for a temporary restraining order that would require the church to cover or remove religious symbols from the sanctuary, including a 25-foot cross, or force the school district to move the ceremonies.

"It's clear to me a secular facility without those icons should have been chosen in order to protect the interests of everyone, and to maintain the separation of church and state that has allowed religion in this country to flourish," Presnell said. But the May 18 hearing was too close to the ceremonies—one May 19, another May 20 and two May 21—to find an alternate site, the judge said.

The church can seat 3,500 people, including 700 in overflow rooms, which reportedly makes it the largest indoor facility in the county. Even that would not accommodate all the parents and friends who wanted to come to graduation, however. Several of the schools have held the ceremonies in outdoor stadiums, but Florida's heat and spring thunderstorms make them uncomfortable and unpredictable.

But those aren't good enough reasons to violate the constitution, Presnell said in the hearing.

Church-state specialists say the Melbourne case is in a gray area of the law. Schools have the right to rent space from churches, for instance for overflow classroom space, but the facilities should not have religious symbols that dominate the setting, since that would imply a religious intent.

The cross reportedly is the only Christian symbol in the Calvary Chapel sanctuary, but it is large and centrally located—a cross-shaped opening in the front wall that is back-lit for emphasis.

Government endorsement?

Brevard (County) Public Schools decided to hand out diplomas on one side of the stage, so the cross was not directly behind the students, and printed a disclaimer in the graduation programs, explaining the ceremony was intended as a secular event. And the church volunteered to turn off the light on the cross.

But is the remaining imagery prominent enough to imply a government endorsement?

"Moving the presentation of diplomas to the side and issuing the disclaimer makes it a constitutionally close question," said Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. "But I think the better, more sensitive, practice is to hold it in a religiously neutral setting."

Glover, Calvary's communications manager, said the church rented the sanctuary to three of the four high schools for last year's graduation. "We thought it would be a great service to the community," she said.

The 2004 ceremonies for Bayside, Eau Gallie and Palm Bay high schools passed without incident, although there was some grumbling from a few families about the use of a church, she said. Melbourne High decided to join them this year.

But this year one Palm Bay High student, her Buddhist father and another parent who is an atheist sued the school district to try to move the commencement or cover the cross.

The school district asked the church to cover the cross, Glover said, even though "they knew what our answer was going to be." While the church was glad to make other accommodations, such as turning off the back-light, she said, the cross is central to the congregation's identity.

Glover suggested the schools buy two simple projection lights to cast their own images on the front wall. "Class of 2005" appeared on either side of the cross in all four ceremonies.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Woodlawn Baptist Church in Lebanon.

Pastor Ed Amundson is leading the church to develop a Hispanic ministry that includes English-as-a-second-language classes, worship opportunities and Bible study. The congregation's long-range goal is to establish a Spanish-speaking church. Members already have begun identifying and meeting the needs of local Hispanics. Pray that God will send bilingual volunteers to assist and lead in the ministry. Pray also that God will open doors of opportunity for His message to penetrate the Hispanic community.

Missionaries Phillip and Marie Bruce, Pulaski Association.

The Bruces serve as ministers in a gated resort community on Lake Cumberland in Somerset. They lead Sunday worship services and minister daily to the emotional and spiritual needs of residents. Land has been donated to build a chapel and blueprints have been drawn. Pray that God will open the hearts of community residents to realize their need for Christ. Pray also that God will provide financial support to strengthen the ministry and resources as well as volunteers to construct the chapel.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BRANDENBURG**—Rock Haven Church recently called **William "Happy" Chandler** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church honored **James and Sue Mathis** on their 50th wedding anniversary May 15.

■ **EUBANK**—**Chris Blevins**, former pastor of Floyd Switch Church, has been called as senior pastor of Calvary Church in Clinton, S.C.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church called **Joseph Tricquet Jr.** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Temple in Henderson.

■ **GRAYSON**—First Church recently called **Terry Leap** as pastor. He previously was pastor of River View Church in Coxs Creek.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will host a seven-week women's Bible study on "Conversation Peace" by Mary Kassian beginning June 27, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 368-5806.

Lakeside Church will hold a Remembrance Day service May 29, 10:45 a.m., featuring the Jeffersontown High School Junior ROTC Color Guard. For more information, call (502) 267-4446 or e-mail **Craig Crowley** at craig@lakesidebaptist.us.

■ **MIDWAY**—Midway Church has called **Dwight Moody**, dean of the chapel at Georgetown College, as

interim pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—**Todd Claypool**, a member of Macedonia Church, was awarded a master of divinity degree May 6 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **PROVO**—Monticello Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary May 29. Events include a 10:30 a.m. worship service, noon lunch and a 2 p.m. service featuring music by **Glen Rice** and a historical presentation. For more information, call Pastor **Randy Burns** at (270) 934-2430.

■ **PURYEAR, TENN.**—Oak Grove Church in Blood River Association recently called **Jerry Drye** as pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—Center Church recently hosted a Disciple Now Jr. event attended by more than 150 children and leaders. Children participated in storytelling, music, crafts and a mission project in conjunction with the WELP's Poverty initiative.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Buffalo Lick Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary June 11, 4 to 7 p.m., and June 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call (502) 747-5000. **Josh Lansford** is pastor.

■ **WINGO**—Greater St. Paul Church recently called **Tony White** as pastor.

Owensboro couple recognized for commitment to literacy missions

Hopkinsville—Joyce and Tom Nation of Owensboro recently were recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention for their volunteer work teaching immigrants to read and write English.

The Nations, members of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, were named the 2005 D.M. and Kay Aldridge Literacy Volunteers of the Year. The award was presented at the KBC's recent Literacy Volunteers Conference at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

The Aldridge Award honors individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication and skill in teaching or leading English as a second language.

As a result of the Nations' involvement in the ESL ministry at Bellevue, a Hispanic mission will be

established next month in partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

The award is named in memory of D.M. and Kay Aldridge, longtime supporters and workers in literacy missions among Kentucky Baptists. Aldridge was president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College when Kentucky's first literacy training workshop was held there in 1959. Mrs. Aldridge was an ESL teacher and director at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

For more information about literacy missions, contact the KBC state missions department at (502) 244-6460 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5710. Information also is available at www.kybaptist.org/literacy.



LIFEWAY AWARDS Three Kentucky LifeWay Christian Store managers were honored during the chain's recent annual sales meeting in Nashville. LifeWay officials and recipients include (from left): Mark Scott, vice president of LifeWay Christian Stores; Walker Downs, regional director; Jeff Mayfield, manager of the LifeWay store at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who received the Premier Performance Award, Bronze Pacesetter Award and Customer Intimacy Award; Duane French, Lexington store manager, who received the Ten Talents Award; Stephanie Hodges, Paducah store manager, who received the National Manager of the Year Award, Premier Performance Award, Bronze Pacesetter Award and Customer Intimacy Award; Bob Fuller, regional director; and Bruce Munns, director of LifeWay Stores. (Photo by Michael Yarber)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

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 Library, 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, Cedarmore 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.

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

KBC-related institutions highlight Kentucky Private College Week

Frankfort—Campbellsville University, Georgetown College and the University of the Cumberlands are among 19 Kentucky schools participating in Kentucky Private College Week June 13-17.

The Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities encourages high school students and their families to visit Kentucky's private colleges and universities during the annual event.

During the weeklong emphasis, each campus will offer daily sessions at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. that include a campus tour and information on admission, financial aid, academics and student life. Students who participate will receive application fee waivers to the schools they visit.

Among academic and social factors the schools will highlight are small classes, strong academics, extracurricular activities, study abroad opportunities and internships.

To participate, students may register online at AIKCU's Web site, www.aikcu.org, or contact specific schools.

For more information about the Kentucky Baptist Convention-related schools, contact:

■ **Campbellsville University**, www.campbellsville.edu, (800) 264-6014.

■ **Georgetown College**, www.georgetowncollege.edu, (800) 788-9985.

■ **University of the Cumberlands**, Williamsburg, www.cumberlandcollege.edu, (800) 343-1609.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Magnify Quartet—men's 4-part harmony gospel music, live musicians—seeks to magnify the precious name of Jesus everywhere! Appearing June 9-10 at Fan Fair, Nashville. Call toll-free: (877) 409-3764. www.magnifyquartet.com.

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

SEEKING: Part-time (20 hours/week) preschool director for Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky. Contact church at (270) 765-6424.

SEEKING: Part-time secretary (M/WTh, 25 hours/week). Microsoft Office experience required. Mail resume to: Personnel Committee, Deer Park Baptist Church, 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205; or e-mail to: secretary@deerparkbaptist.org.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and education. We are seeking God's man to lead us in a blended style of worship. This individual also will be responsible for overseeing the education programs of the church such as Sunday school and small-group discipleship classes. Contact the church via e-mail: ganopastor@aol.com; or mail: Gano Baptist Church, 212 Bevins Lane, Georgetown, KY 40324. (502) 863-3454.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Polkville Baptist Church located in the western piedmont region of North Carolina. Church averages 200 in attendance. College degree preferred with some seminary training. Send resume to: Search Committee, Polkville Baptist Church, PO Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. New church in rapidly growing area. Send resume to: DeHaven Baptist Church, PO Box 349, LaGrange, KY 40031.

Africa's growing revival

Documentary filmmaker charts explosive expansion of Christianity through Africa

By Chris Meehan
Religion News Service

Kalamazoo, Mich. (RNS)—Christianity in many of its forms and denominational faces is exploding across the continent of Africa, according to documentary filmmaker James Ault.

In Ghana, for example, the number of churches is doubling every few years, he says.

In Zimbabwe, Christian ministers regularly are casting out demons and bringing healing, stability and comfort to people of all ages.

And meanwhile, Ault adds, Pentecostalism in Uganda has taken off and is given much of the credit for a miraculous stemming of the AIDS epidemic there.

"The power and vitality of the Christian movement in Africa is beginning to be seen on the world stage," said Ault, who spoke recently at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Mich.

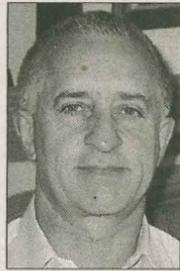
"Christianity can no longer be identified as a religion of the West, where in 1900, 83 percent of all Christians lived."

Ault, who owns a film-production company in Northampton, Mass., was in Kalamazoo to offer a look at his latest project—a work in progress that chronicles the spread of Christianity in Africa.

The documentary was shot during a three-year period. So far, Ault has edited 250 hours of filming down to 2 1/2 hours of rough cuts.

"Religion is like a skin"

Using the working title "Toward a New Christianity: Stories of African Christians in Ghana and Zimbabwe," the film features all-night prayer meetings, healing services, ceremonial dances and interviews with prominent African church leaders.



James Ault

About 60 people, including students, teachers and others, previewed the rough cuts on a recent night at Kalamazoo College.

"The religious sense is deep in Africa," Ault said in an interview after the screening. "Religion is like a skin. They wear it wherever they go."

Of great interest and concern to Ault is how religious fundamentalism and evangelicalism shape belief into a vehicle for personal transformation and social change.

His previous documentary, "Born Again," took an in-depth look at a fundamentalist church in Worcester, Mass. It was featured on PBS and won a Blue Ribbon award from the American Film Festival.

Educated as a sociologist at Harvard, Ault began his research for "Born Again" at the Baptist church basically as an atheist. But, he said, the venture became much more than a scientific exercise. Although he never accepted the call for salvation, the Methodist faith of his earlier years was bolstered.

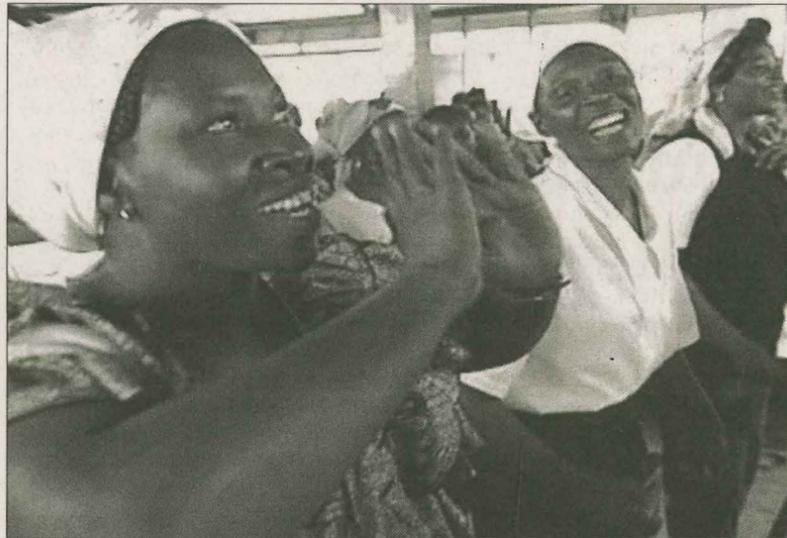
The making of "Born Again," he writes, helped him tap into talents he had lost and allowed him "to find a childhood faith revived, reuniting me with my parents around the ultimate things of life."

In his earlier work, Ault said, he tried to examine and explain a conservative religious movement that then and even now has been misunderstood by many.

With the film on Africa, he is expanding his focus and looking at how Christianity is profoundly influencing countries still escaping colonial influence.

He is also, by showing stories of personal transformation, trying to reveal some of the stability and moral order that Christianity provides.

Pentecostal churches in Uganda,



WORSHIP African women clap and smile during a lively worship service as seen in a new documentary film series about the growth of Christianity in Africa. Filmmaker James Ault's documentary series was filmed in Ghana and Zimbabwe. (RNS photo)

for example, have played a big role in educating people about AIDS as well as convincing them to curtail their sexual practices.

Ault did not film in Uganda, but he does see events there as examples of how "revival is becoming a means of establishing moral order. Christianity is adding to the continued development of society."

African expressions of faith

Among other things, he said, his new documentary explores the ways Christianity is becoming increasingly African, emphasizing healing, for instance, or dancing as a spiritual discipline.

Helping to shape African Christianity are traditional beliefs in demons and the reality of the spirit world.

Ault's new film, for instance, shows a young Methodist woman who believes that hateful relatives have placed a curse on her life.

In one scene, members of her church surrounded her in prayer, laying hands on her and demanding the curse be removed.

Afterward, the woman says she feels calm. In subsequent scenes it looks as though her terror, depression and guilt have been lifted.

Among church leaders who appear in the film is Bishop Peter Sarpong of the Catholic Church in Ghana. Sarpong, Ault said, has been a pioneer in introducing African culture into Christian worship.

Churches in the documentary range from those founded by Western missionaries to independent African churches to the "new Pentecostal churches who have brought charismatic Christianity to new heights among Africa's most urban people," Ault said.

In promotional material, Terence Ranger, a professor of African history at Oxford University, states that what he has viewed of the unfinished documentary is "the most penetrating and informative material I have ever seen on African Christianity."

Now that he has captured a look at Christianity in Africa, Ault said he hopes to film Africans who have come to this country and have set up churches that express much of the same energy he encountered in Africa.

"Could the Holy Spirit be at work here?" Ault asked of the growth of African-style Christianity. "I can't know as a social scientist if this is true. But we can't deny it."

Beheading of Christian leader in Bangladesh second in past year

Jalalpur, Bangladesh (ABP)—A Baptist lay pastor has been beheaded in Bangladesh, the second Christian leader to lose his life in that country in a year, according to a Christian news organization.

Dulal Sarkar, 35, was attacked as he returned home from discussing his faith with local villagers, reported Compass Direct, which tracks incidents of Christian persecution. One source later identified the assailants as a group of 10 local Muslim extremists. After reporting the incident, Sarkar's wife, mother and five children have been forced to move from place to place in fear

for their lives.

According to local Christians, three arrests have been made, but the remaining seven alleged attackers, who reportedly have ties to the Jamaat-e-Islami political party, are still at large. They fear the political influence of Jamaat-e-Islami may prevent the case from going to court, Compass Direct reported.

Meanwhile, Sarkar's widow has asked a Christian orphanage to take three of their five children because she cannot afford to support them.

The incident is the second beheading in a year, the news service

said. Abdul Gani, a prominent Christian and physician, reportedly was decapitated by a gang in the district of Jamalpur as he returned home from work in September 2004. Gani was a counsel member of the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship.

In 2003 another Christian leader was murdered by a group of eight men who attacked him in his home. Christian evangelist Hridoy Roy was stabbed repeatedly after being tied "crucifixion style" to his bed. Roy was known for showing the Jesus film and others about the life of Christ. Muslim neighbors re-

portedly had warned him to stop.

Bangladesh has suffered from religious disharmony since 1971, when the nation was split from Pakistan. The country is approximately 83 percent Muslim and 16 percent Hindu. Buddhists and Christians make up the remaining 1 percent. Islam was declared the official state religion in 1998.

The current government is a coalition of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and three other Islamic parties. The third largest party, Jamaat-e-Islami, reportedly wants to make Bangladesh an entirely Islamic nation.

Our newsletter plan can help you stretch this more than you ever imagined.

WESTERNRECORDER

GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

Campus Ministry Mission Trips

Alternative Spring Break 2005

Eighty students, faculty and staff gave time, effort, hearts, minds, prayers and muscles to benefit those less fortunate in four locales:

Thibidoux, Louisiana

A dozen students participated in the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home.

Ranquitte, Haiti

Working with Christian Flights International Ministry, eight students and faculty experienced third world conditions by visiting hospitals, delivering food to homes, playing with children in a Christian school, and doing school building maintenance.

Camden, New Jersey

Thirty-six Georgetownians worked with Urban Promise ministries assisting in grades K-12. Education majors actually taught some classes while others led after-school programs throughout the city and did maintenance work around school campuses.

Arlington, Texas

A group of 24 working with Mission Arlington led backyard Bible clubs in impoverished neighborhoods, worked in food pantries and clothing closets, and shared the gospel with children.

Record numbers of Georgetown College students annually participate in numerous mission projects. Coordinated through the Campus Ministry Program, these trips serve as springboards for a cross section of students to develop their Christian leadership skills and integrate service into their lives. We are proud of these outreach efforts by our students and the positive outcomes they produce in service to others.

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