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WMU Kentucky Notes



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Survey: Pastors often dissatisfied with prayer lives

By Ron Sellers
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Phoenix—Many Protestant ministers are dissatisfied with their personal prayer lives, according to a recent survey.

The study, conducted for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, surveyed a nationally representative sample of 860 Protestant church pastors.

The survey found just 16 percent of respondents said they were "very satisfied" with their personal prayer lives. Forty-seven percent are "somewhat satisfied," 30 percent "somewhat dissatisfied" and 7 percent "very dissatisfied."

Responses varied by age group. Just 9 percent of pastors under age 45 are "very satisfied," compared to 13 percent among ministers age 45 to 59 and 30 percent among pastors 60 or older. The youngest pastors surveyed were most likely to report being "very dissatisfied" with their prayer life.

Asked how long they pray, the median prayer time reported was 30 minutes per day. While younger ministers were less satisfied with their prayer life, they reported spending about as much time in prayer per day as do older ministers.

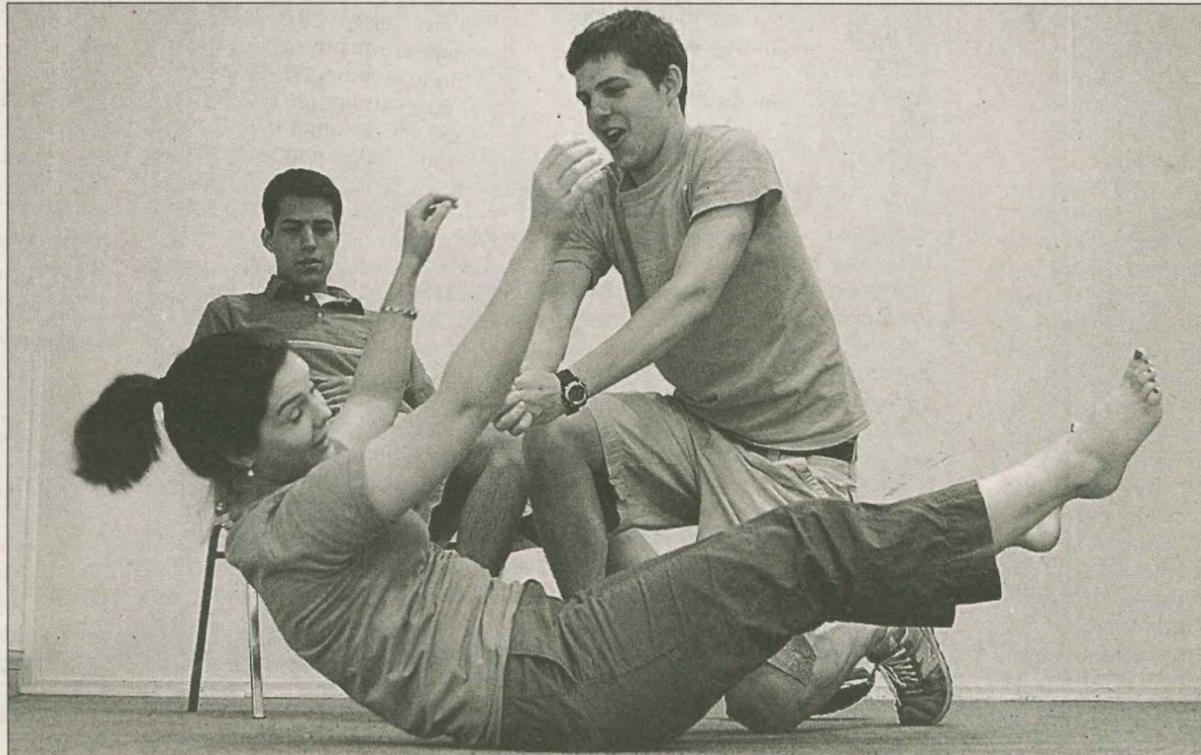
The survey found few differences by denomination, but Presbyterian ministers reported being less satisfied with their prayer lives than others.

Lutheran and Presbyterian ministers reported spending less time in prayer than those from other denominations; Pentecostals and Methodists reported spending more time than average.

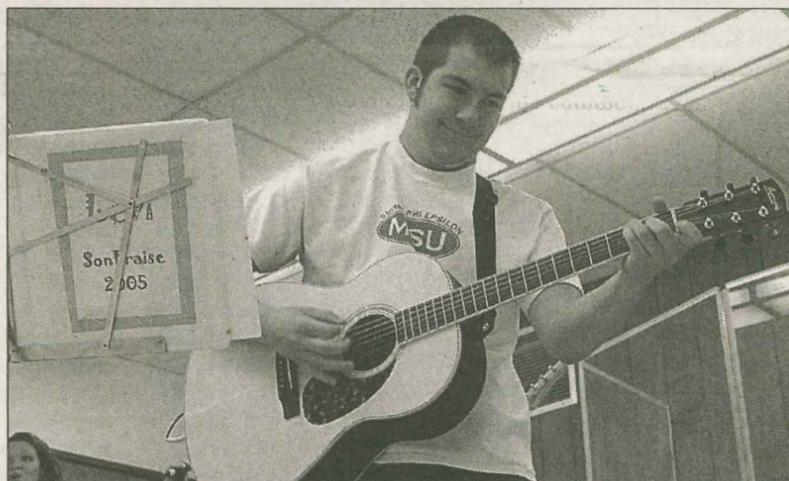
Asked what they prayed for, at least 90 percent reported having prayed during the last seven days for the needs of individual congregation members, the congregation's spiritual health, spiritual growth for their church and wisdom in leading their church.

The responses of Southern Baptist ministers were similar to those of other pastors on most topics. One of the biggest differences was that just 24 percent of Southern Baptist ministers said they had prayed for their denomination in the last week, compared to an average of 39 percent for other denominational churches, including 49 percent among Methodists, 61 percent among Presbyterians, and 67 percent among Lutherans.

Summer missions



Kentucky Baptist college students from throughout the commonwealth are preparing for a summer of creative ministry through Son Teams. The five teams will use sports, drama, music and other creative arts to connect with audiences at camps, churches and other settings and tell them about Jesus. **Above:** "David" played by Jeremy Shoulta, slays "Goliath" played by Kelly Kays in a presentation of the familiar Bible story. The two attend Georgetown College. **Right:** Levi Castle, a student at Morehead State University, "jams" with his Son Praise teammates. *Story on page 3.*



Baptist Fellowship Center targets at-risk teens

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—When it comes to diverting a troubled young person from a path of self-destruction to a path of hope, the window of opportunity is narrow and closes fast.

"We're staring down the barrel of a gun with these kids," said Dennis Mahan, administrator of the corrections program for the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice.

In Jefferson County alone, more than 2,200 juvenile arrests were made in 2003. According to a report issued by the Kentucky State Police, more than 1,000 of those arrests involved the worst of crimes: murder, rape, assault, arson and burglary.

At first glance, truancy, runaway behavior, petty theft or underage drinking might seem to be simply coming-of-age actions of "normal" kids.

But to Mahan and Matt Smyzer, those acts are symptoms of the oncoming disease of serious crime.

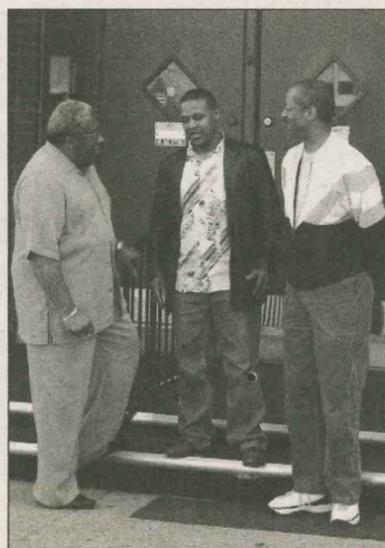
As director of the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville, Smyzer is ready to wage war to reclaim children for a hopeful future. His message to troubled youth: "If you're willing to stand up and fight, we'll help you fight."

In 2004, he contacted the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice with a vision to make the most of the small window of opportunity—a long-term mentoring program using local Baptists to encourage and support at-risk children.

The program matches Baptist volunteers from Central District and Long Run Baptist associations with children and youth identified by the juvenile justice department as on the brink of serious criminal activity.

"These are kids on the front end of the system with families who are not so burned out that they aren't willing to try," Mahan said. "These are the perfect kids to be mentored."

□ See Baptist Center launches ... *Page 3*



MENTORING TEAM Matt Smyzer (from left), Keith Brooks and Dennis White talk outside the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville. Smyzer has developed a mentoring plan for local at-risk youth. Brooks is a mentor. White is chairman of the Central District Baptist Laymen's Association.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 1

IMB missionary force down more than 200 workers

Midland, Texas (BP)—Southern Baptists' international missionary force experienced a net loss of 205 compared to the previous year, according to Clyde Meador, International Mission Board executive vice president.

Presenting a summary of the board's annual missionary personnel report to trustees, Meador said the number of international missionaries at the end of last year was 5,165. While 686 new missionaries were added during the year, 891 were subtracted due to retirement (48), completion of service by shorter-term missionaries (572) and attrition (271).

Attrition includes resignations, terminations of service, medical disability and deaths among active missionaries. The attrition rate for the year, 5 percent, is the lowest since 1998.

The IMB missionary count peaked at about 5,500 in early 2003, but began to fall with the budget cuts and temporary freeze on new appointments that year. With mission support among churches on the increase, Meador noted, "We expect to see the number start coming up."

IMB appoints 116, revises partner rules

By Erich Bridges

Midland, Texas (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board appointed 116 missionaries in board history—during their May 19-21 meeting in Midland, Texas.

They also adopted guidelines for cooperating with other Great Commission Christian partners overseas, received reports on the board's finances and missionary personnel and heard from IMB President Jerry Rankin about evangelical mission efforts in Roman Catholic countries.

About 1,000 people gathered May 20 at the Chaparral Center on the campus of Midland College for the missionary appointment service. They saw a group varied in age, experience and backgrounds—including 18 ethnic Asians—present themselves for service among cultures across the globe.

"It demonstrates that God has a heart for the whole world," Rankin said in his charge to the new missionaries.

IMB addresses overseas partners

In other business, trustees adopted revised goals and guidelines outlining five levels of "strategic relationships" with other Christian groups committed to international missions. Southern Baptist missionary mobilizers work with a variety of groups to gain access to people groups needing the gospel. The guidelines clarify for trustees, board staff and missionaries appropriate ways to partner with others—some of whom differ with Southern Baptists in theology and church practice.

"IMB missionaries do not enter into strategic relationships randomly" but with the intention of starting church-planting movements and "in accord with the biblical principles of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message," the guidelines state. "The deeper the level (of cooperation), the greater the significance" of being in accord on those principles.

The first two levels offer wide

latitude for networking with many types of groups, including secular organizations. In Level One, "Our aim is simply to gain a presence or access to a people group or population segment," the guidelines state. "The missionary may be trying to make inroads into what may be a hostile situation. Creativity and flexibility are essential in associating with cultural programs, education with cultural programs, business efforts or whatever can open the door to deeper levels of relationships."

Level Two centers on human needs projects, disaster response and mobilizing prayer in cooperation with many kinds of relief groups, Christians and Christian organizations.

Level Three focuses on specific presentation of the gospel, limiting potential partners to "those whose commitment is to New Testament evangelism and who present personal repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation." These include joint efforts with groups skilled in various aspects of outreach and discipleship, such as TransWorld Radio, Operation Mobilization and the Navigators.

Level Four, which moves into planting of New Testament churches, further narrows partners to those in alignment with the definition of a church found in the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as well as IMB guidelines on what constitutes a church.

Finally, Level Five "seeks to influence the ongoing shape of Baptist work and identity ... through theological education and ministerial training. Seldom, if ever, would we engage in strategic relationships, even with other Great Commission Christians, at this level," the guidelines state.

Rankin, in his president's report to trustees, noted the death of Pope John Paul II, a man beloved by millions of Protestants and evangelicals "for his zeal, his personal warmth and his unyielding stand for human dignity, the sanctity of life and many other moral convictions shared in

common."

Rankin added, however, that nearly 1,200 Southern Baptist missionaries continue to serve in 65 predominantly Roman Catholic countries where 852 million people live.

"Why would we invest such efforts in Catholic countries? The answer is quite simple: It is because they are lost," Rankin said. "The people may be identified as cultural Christians since that is their socio-religious profile, but most of them do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. ... They, too, deserve an opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the life-changing message of the gospel. They cannot be ignored in our commitment that all peoples would know our Lord Jesus Christ."

Contributions top \$245 million

David Steverson, IMB treasurer and vice president for finance, reported that contributions to IMB work in 2004 through the Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, hunger and relief giving and other gifts totaled more than \$245 million, up almost \$6 million over 2003 giving. Other income—from investments, additions to endowments and other sources—totaled \$41.6 million, bringing all income for the year to nearly \$287 million.

Overseas expenses totaled \$242.1 million in 2004, with the bulk of the funds (nearly \$209 million) going to support more than 5,000 missionaries and their families. U.S. administration and promotion totaled \$40.2 million. Total overall expenses: \$282.3 million, a \$4 million increase over 2003.

"We experienced a couple of not-so-great years from a financial perspective in 2001 and 2002 and made a significant improvement in 2003," Steverson said. "2004 saw a continuation of that trend."

He added, however, that "the numbers are not growing at the rate we need them to grow in order to sustain a growing missionary force."

Ga. high court rules against Shorter College

Rome, Ga. (ABP)—The Georgia Supreme Court narrowly ruled May 23 against actions in 2003 by Shorter College trustees.

The court ruled the trustees acted improperly when they shifted ownership of the college to a new foundation with a self-perpetuating board and essentially broke ties with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The 4-3 decision upheld an earlier Georgia Court of Appeals ruling in favor of the convention, which has been affiliated with 132-year-old Shorter since 1959.

The GBC and the Baptist-related college in northwest Georgia have been at odds since 2001 over trustee selection and control. School officials claimed that undue influence by convention leaders was putting the college's accreditation at risk.

Shorter trustees voted in 2003 to formally dissolve the corporation, transfer all assets to an independent foundation and rename the new entity. The action was necessary to save the school's accreditation, Shorter officials claimed.

While acknowledging that the board acted in the "good-faith belief that it was responding to a threat to the accreditation of the college," the majority of justices said dissolving the corporation and transferring its \$50 million in assets violated state regulations.

The dissenting justices argued the majority ruling held the college to an incorrect standard.

"We are happy the Supreme Court vindicated our position," said Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention. "We have held from the very beginning that Shorter's actions violated its charter and the law. We intend to continue our historical and long-standing relationship and friendship with the college. Our desire is to see Shorter as a fully accredited, growing and financially stable educational institution of the Georgia Baptist Convention."

In a statement to the media, Shorter officials said the school "disagrees with the majority's opinion on the law and agrees completely with the dissent."

Shorter was given 10 days to ask the Georgia Supreme Court to rehear the case; otherwise, the decision will be final.

School officials said their priority is to preserve Shorter's accreditation. Bruce Brown, an attorney for the college, told Associated Press that the school's renewal of accreditation after the dissolution was contingent upon the reorganization plan that limited the convention's influence.

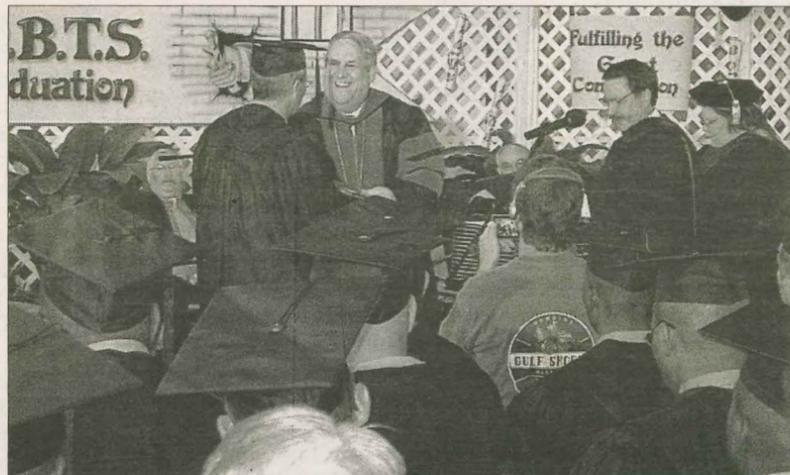
With additional reporting by Baptist Press

BAPTIST DIGEST

Southern Seminary adds Old Testament professors. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recently appointed Eugene Merrill and Kenneth Mathews as distinguished professors of Old Testament interpretation. Both will continue serving also in their current places of ministry, Dallas Theological Seminary and Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., respectively. Merrill is the author of numerous books, including "Kingdom of Priests: A History of the Old Testament Israel." Mathews has served since 1989 as professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Among the books he has authored are two commentaries on Genesis in the New American Commentary Series.

LifeWay's Draper joins weblog lineup. Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, launched a weblog May 22 in cooperation with Crosswalk.com. "This is new territory for me, but I definitely see the value in it," said Draper, who added that a primary reason for this effort was to communicate better with younger leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention. "Most of them are conservative and are passionate about ministry," Draper said. "They want relationships and desire to connect with the denomination. They appreciate the battle for the Bible but do not want to keep fighting a war that has already been won. They feel we're still itching for a fight rather than building on what has been gained."

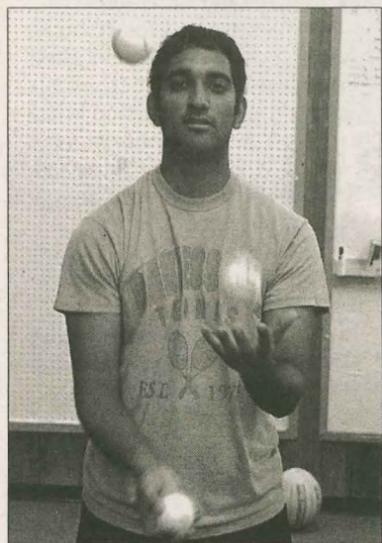
Graduation day in prison



New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary recently conferred degrees on 66 graduates inside the Louisiana State Penitentiary. The drab surroundings of the prison dining hall could not suppress the smiles of the graduates at the state's massive maximum security facility. The standing-room-only crowd included spouses and children of the inmates, some from as far away as Oregon. Many of the 66 graduates received both the associate in Christian ministry and the bachelor of arts in Christian ministry degrees, a total of 117 degrees from the seminary's Leavell College. "The hardest thing to describe about an Angola graduation is the sense of joy and love present in the room," seminary President Chuck Kelley said after the event. "It's not only in the excitement of those students who are graduating, but more than anything it is the excitement from the families." (BP photo)

Kentucky teens preparing for summer of ministry

Cedarmore—Five teams of college students are completing the second week of an intense two-week training session as they prepare to present the gospel in unique ways throughout the commonwealth and beyond this summer.



SPORTS MINISTRY Andrew Chacko, a student at the University of Louisville, practices juggling three tennis balls. Chacko will serve on Son Bound, a sports ministry team, this summer.

The summer missionaries serving on the Son Teams will be leading Discovery Youth Weeks and Discover Kids camps at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, as well as leading camps, vacation Bible schools and worship at churches throughout Kentucky.

This year the teams also will travel abroad as some of the teams will minister in Brazil, Poland, Switzerland, and possibly New York.

The 27 members of the five Son Teams were chosen by audition especially for their skills with puppets, drama, interpretive movement, music and sports.

Each year, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Collegiate/Young Adult Ministry Group and the Creative Ministries group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention audition dozens of prospects for each team.

Each team specializes in a different area of creative ministry:

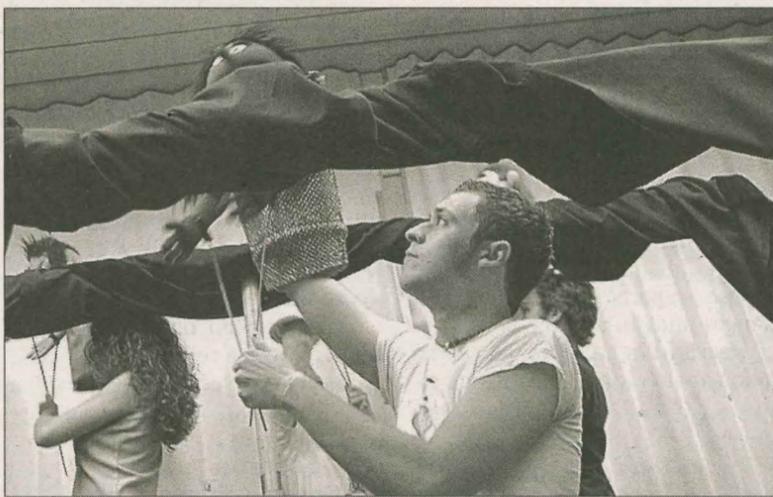
- Son Bound focuses on sports ministry.

- Son Burst on puppetry, drama and creative movement.

- Son Reach on children's ministry.

- Son Share on drama.

- Son Praise on leading worship.



PUPPET PRACTICE Adam Kilchenman, student at the University of the Cumberlands, rehearses a puppet routine with his Son Burst teammates. Son Burst is one of five Kentucky Baptist Son Teams that travel throughout Kentucky and beyond sharing the gospel in creative ways. (KBC photos by Jonnathan Johnston)

The Son Teams began in 1976 with the Son Share Players under the direction of Tom Smoot, who then served as a campus minister for the western Kentucky region. Nearly 30 years later, the Son Teams have become one of many summer ministry choices for college students.

"I saw the impact that the min-

istry had on the kids," said Adam Kilchenman, a second-year member of Son Burst and a student at University of the Cumberlands. "I saw lives changed. I saw kids come to know the Lord for the first time and that's something I want to be a part of. There is nowhere else I would rather be than here."

"I saw kids come to know the Lord for the first time."

Son Burst team member Adam Kilchenman

Baptist center launches mentoring program for at-risk teens

Continued from page 1

Judge Deborah DeWeese of the 13th judicial district in Jefferson County said 200 to 300 children come through district court each week. "(Some) may not have offended yet, but they have all the risk factors."

In fact, most of the youths already have committed an offense but have not been formally charged. Instead, they come to court as candidates for various support services and intervention programs.

Each child is unique, but DeWeese can recite the signs of trouble by rote.

"They move a lot, have school truancy issues, ... they might be struggling in a living situation that isn't real stable," she said. "They might have a parent who is unable to focus on that child because of economic hardship."

The impact of influence

Many at-risk adolescents and teenagers are living in single-parent homes. An additional responsible, caring adult in a child's life, such as a mentor, can be the single-most important factor of change, DeWeese said.

"It's astounding how many times that has allowed a kid to dodge the bullet of delinquency," she said.

Mentors in the Baptist Fellowship Center program are trained, undergo a criminal background check and agree to mentor a child for at least one year.

The 12-month mentoring cycle in Smyzer's plan is attractive, according to Mahan, because it provides "a support system for another six months," beyond an official Department of Juvenile Justice intervention that might last up to six months.

Smyzer developed a training curriculum using aspects of successful mentoring programs in other metropolitan areas. DJJ approved the

plan and provided criminal background checks of volunteers.

Earlier this year, the first class of mentors was trained. Responding to the greatest need in Jefferson County, Smyzer said, all volunteers were African-American men.

Subsequent classes have included Anglos and women. Smyzer said he hopes to have a class of Hispanic mentors in the future.

The program, still in its infancy, currently is tracking the progress of five mentoring matches.

One of those matches is between Keith Brooks, a Louisville native and member of Shiloh Baptist Church, and a 17-year-old boy named "Greg." (For reasons of confidentiality regarding juveniles, the boy's real name is not being used.)

Learning from success, mistakes

As a father, longtime employee of a local company and church leader, Brooks could say a great deal to Greg about his successes, but Brooks said it is his failures that teach the real lessons.

"I'm 42," Brooks said. "And I was hanging in the streets 36 years of my life." The youngest of nine children in a single-parent home, Brooks said he was left to make his own decisions early in life.

Substance abuse led Brooks to the Salvation Army in 1998. When he completed the 30-day program, Brooks said his new life began.

"I started studying the Bible," he said. "I know no man on earth could help me. I had to look to Jesus." He is now a laypreacher involved in prison ministry.

He describes Greg as a "polite young man" who wants to do good, but has a "Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde" personality that compels him to be part of the crowd, even if the crowd is involved in unhealthy, and perhaps criminal, activities.

Greg's single mother "is a God-fearing woman," Brooks said. But

the absence of a positive male role model creates a unique void in a boy's life, one that Brooks knows all too well.

Seeing examples of godly men

"My older brothers weren't really there for me as far as guidance is concerned," he recalls.

Brooks said he strives to be an example to Greg of a godly man, husband and father.

"A man cannot be a man if he doesn't see a man," he noted.

Greg and his mother are churchgoers, Brooks said, so he seizes the opportunity to point Greg toward Jesus as the answer to life's problems.

"I can only be there to encourage and motivate him and let him know there's a better way," Brooks said.

His time with Greg is spent "sitting around talking" and "maybe getting a bite to eat." Brooks calls Greg on the phone about three times each week, checking up on everything from homework assignments to counseling appointments and relationships at school.

"I don't want it to end in a year," Brooks said. "I plan on knowing (Greg) for the rest of my life. I really want him to know that there's someone who cares about him."

The Baptist Fellowship Center provides after-school programs, tutoring, individual and family counseling, practical assistance and other services to needy children and families in Louisville.

Supported by the Central District Baptist Association, Long Run Baptist Association, Kentucky Baptist Convention and many individuals and congregations, the center marks 91 years of ministry in 2005.

In addition to mentors, the Baptist Fellowship Center needs help to convert an area of the center's basement into an expanded counseling area. To learn more about the mentoring program and other volunteer opportunities, call (502) 774-2734.

Does it really matter?

Louisville—Who are at-risk kids and how does mentoring help them?

The term "at-risk" can be defined several ways, but officials at the Centers for Disease Control state that at-risk behavior teeters between carelessness and the downright criminal.

Using data compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics from a survey of Kentucky children and young people ranging from age 10 to 24, the CDC reported:

- 45 percent of the youth surveyed drank alcohol in the last 30 days.

- 33 percent reported episodes of heavy drinking during that same time.

- 26 percent said they had been in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking.

- 39 percent said they had sexual intercourse during the past three months.

- 15 percent said they already had four or more sexual partners in their lifetime.

- 26 percent were in a fight during the past year.

- 10 percent attempted suicide during that same time.

- 33 percent smoked during the past month.

"The data just jumps out at you," said Dennis White, a retired administrator for Jefferson County Public Schools who was one of the first volunteers in the Baptist Fellowship Center's mentoring program.

Previously, White coordinated a dropout prevention program for the Jefferson County school district that used mentoring. Information collected from 1988 to 2001 gives solid support to the effectiveness of mentoring.

Students were identified as at-risk if they met one of four criteria:

- They failed math or English.

- They missed 25 or more days during the school year.

- They were suspended at least once.

- They participated in the free lunch program.

White said students with mentors improved more in key areas than students without mentors who received other support services.

"They were more likely to graduate and had a higher GPA in math and English" (than students without mentors), White said.

Students with mentors showed a higher increase in school attendance and were also more likely to pursue higher education, he added.

"There's that passion that some adults have to encourage and be a support system to kids who don't have that role model in their lives," White said. "You think you give so much as a mentor, but you receive back so much more."

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P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET McINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

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Maintaining moral integrity in ministry

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—Integrity is the foundation of leadership. You only lead people if they trust you. That's why the right to lead is earned, and it's earned by being trustworthy. I think the most damaging sin a leader can commit is to betray the trust of his people.

Because Satan is on the attack, I want to share some biblical strategies for maintaining moral integrity in the ministry. In 2 Corinthians 1:12, Paul says, "This is our boast. Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God." What I like about this verse is that Paul says, "I have ministered with a clear conscience. Nobody can point a finger at me. Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves with integrity." I think this is a mark of a leader.

Titus 2:6 says that a leader must be blameless. That is the very first qualification. This is talking about integrity. Ephesians 5:3 says, "But among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality or any impurity or greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." I am jealous for the integrity of God.

How can you maintain that moral integrity as a minister? Here are a few suggestions:

Never consider yourself above temptation. Don't kid yourself. People say, "It couldn't happen to me." That's a bunch of baloney. I think we must be aware of how vulnerable all of us are. 1 Corinthians 10:12 says, "So be careful if you think, 'I'd never behave like that.' Let this be a warning to you, for you too may fall into sin. Let him who stands take heed lest he fall."

None of us are immune. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can know it?" That means every person has his or her price. I think we should have a holy fear of ever thinking we're beyond temptation.

Historic ministry celebrations

My wife, Kay, and I recently had the privilege of participating in two historic celebrations involving ministries connected with Kentucky Baptist churches and organizations.

On May 11, Friendship International celebrated its 30th anniversary during its regular meeting at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Volunteers with this ministry provide food, childcare and ministry to internationals in the Louisville metro area. Leadership is shared jointly with members of the international community.

The organization is explicitly Christian with many internationals from other religious backgrounds. Participants include about 40 local volunteers and about 150 internationals.

It is a wonderful experience to see people from so many different backgrounds working together. More than 30 years ago a group of

Keep a close watch on your spiritual posture. Be aware of your own level of commitment on a daily basis. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else guard your heart for it is the well spring of life." Maintaining that daily walk with the Lord is absolutely imperative. The devil always says, "No one will ever know."

If God is always with me and He sees everything, then that is a motivation for me to practice His presence.

If you're married, maintain your own marriage. The greatest happiness for marriage is a happy home life. I think it's important that if we're married, we make sure that our marriage is growing and developing. Like the old saying, "The grass is not greener on that side of the fence and the grass is not greener on this side of the fence. The grass is greener where you water it."

There's a danger in ministry of spending more time repairing everybody else's marriage and neglecting your own. I pray at this very hard in my family. Kay and I read books together, listen to tapes together. We go to seminars together. It's important in the ministry, if you're married, that you do not develop separate lives.

Guard your mind. The Bible is very specific about this. The battle for sin always begins in the mind. Always. If you lose the battle in your mind—your thoughts—you've lost the battle. James 1:14-15 says, "Sin begins with the desire, and then when it has conceived it brings forth sin, and when that is finished it brings forth death." It always starts there.

Remind yourself regularly of the damaging consequences of moral failure. Sit down and watch the confession of Jimmy Swaggart. It's high drama. You see how sin destroys a congregation.

What do you do? Minimize the pleasure of sin and maximize the consequences. Hebrews 11:25 says, "There is pleasure in sin for a season." There is no doubt about it. Sin is fun. Nobody would do it if it were

not fun. Even God says there is pleasure in sin, but it's just for a season. You have your kicks, then you have your kickbacks.

What are the kickbacks? James 1:15 says, "Sin when it is finished brings forth death." I think a good idea is to make a list of consequences and read it often.

Take the necessary precautions to protect yourself. As precautions and as damaging as this issue can be, we ought to go the second mile. In Matthew 26:41 Jesus says, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the body is weak." In other words, don't even put yourself in a situation where you can be tempted.

It's not an issue of, "Are you going to give in or not," but, "If you don't want to get stung, stay away from the bees." 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be careful, watch out for the attacks from Satan your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion looking for some victim to tear apart." We have to be careful. We've got to take precautions.

Because of that, let me say that most sexual temptation in the ministry will come from people you love and who mean a lot to you. It's not going to be from some city slicker prostitute, but from people you really care about.

Ephesians 5:3 says, "Among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality." Paul says, "I am jealous for the integrity of this ministry. There is nothing more important than what we're talking about."

The bottom line is James 1:12: "Blessed is the man who perseveres under temptation, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the victor's crown—the life God has promised to those who love Him."

When I get to heaven, I want one of those crowns. I want to be able to look the Lord in the eye and say, "Lord, you know that I was pure through all my years of ministry and that there was never even a hint of impurity in my life."

Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose-Driven Life," is pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton, Long Run Baptist Association Executive Director Wesley Pitts and I also spoke briefly. The Friendship International Choir provided special music.

Kay and I also had the opportunity to participate in the graduation ceremony for Rose Hill Christian School in Ashland. It was the 20th high school graduation for the school, which is sponsored by Rose Hill Baptist Church, and has about 350 students.

There were 12 outstanding graduates with one making a perfect score on the ACT and another only two points short. Each student received a college scholarship and all plan to attend college.

As part of the commencement, a portrait of the school founder, Charles Stewart, was unveiled. Dr. Stewart is a former pastor of the church and still teaches a Sunday school class. Current Pastor Ronnie Mayes and Dr. Stewart visit together in the community every Monday night.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Consider steps to aid stewardship education, giving

By Doug Strader

In my previous article, I shared some ways to increase giving in your church. This column offers additional ways to increase giving among church members:

■ Invite a guest speaker to deliver a special financial stewardship message.

■ Interview pastors who have demonstrated good financial stewardship in their church.

■ When you adopt your church budget, provide a high-quality budget promotion. Build a sense of "We can do it!"

■ Be positive. People generally do not give to support a sinking ship. Guilt and negativism rarely are effective motivators to increase giving.

■ Provide offering envelopes for church members. Most churches that have an envelope service mail envelopes to their members monthly or quarterly see an increase in giving.

■ Always challenge church members to give their tithes and offerings to God rather than to the church.

■ As a church, practice good stewardship with all the money given by members. Do not waste God's money.

■ The person who writes checks on the church funds should not help count the money. Churches always should have a division of responsibilities in handling church funds.

■ Churches should have an audit committee comprised of church members to audit the church financial practices each year. People who serve on the audit committee should not serve on the counting committee or write checks.

■ Send quarterly giving statements to church members. Have members of the finance committee include the thank you notes.

■ Invite a qualified speaker to lead an estate planning seminar at least every other year.

■ Open a charitable gifts account in the church's name to be able to receive gifts of appreciated stocks and bonds.

■ Conduct well-planned, year-round financial stewardship promotions.

■ Call qualified staff members and provide an adequate compensation package. Quality staff members will more than pay for themselves.

■ Practice good stewardship as a church by giving adequately to associational missions and through the Cooperative Program.

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

FIRST PERSON

If you're married, maintain your own marriage. The greatest happiness for marriage is a happy home life. I think it's important that if we're married, we make sure that our marriage is growing and developing. Like the old saying, "The grass is not greener on that side of the fence and the grass is not greener on this side of the fence. The grass is greener where you water it."

There's a danger in ministry of spending more time repairing everybody else's marriage and neglecting your own. I pray at this very hard in my family. Kay and I read books together, listen to tapes together. We go to seminars together. It's important in the ministry, if you're married, that you do not develop separate lives.

Guard your mind. The Bible is very specific about this. The battle for sin always begins in the mind. Always. If you lose the battle in your mind—your thoughts—you've lost the battle. James 1:14-15 says, "Sin begins with the desire, and then when it has conceived it brings forth sin, and when that is finished it brings forth death." It always starts there.

Remind yourself regularly of the damaging consequences of moral failure. Sit down and watch the confession of Jimmy Swaggart. It's high drama. You see how sin destroys a congregation.

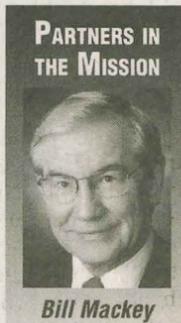
What do you do? Minimize the pleasure of sin and maximize the consequences. Hebrews 11:25 says, "There is pleasure in sin for a season." There is no doubt about it. Sin is fun. Nobody would do it if it were

five women visited a similar program in Lexington, and then started the ministry in Louisville.

Phronsis Quinn, wife of former Kentucky Baptist Convention State Music Director Eugene Quinn, has been involved as a volunteer for more than 30 years. Edna Keeling and Peggy Hicks, along with others too numerous to list, are very involved with this ministry.

We praise God for all those who have supported this ministry, especially Long Run Baptist Association through the Fred Tucker mission offering and the association's Woman's Missionary Union; the Kentucky WMU and its Eliza Broadus state missions offering; and Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Madeline Abramson, the wife of the mayor of Louisville, brought greetings from her husband and recognized the significant ministry of Friendship International. Retired U.S. Rep. Ron Mazzoli, Kentucky



Bill Mackey

Help protect children from inappropriate sexual content

Q: I recently heard a reference to children being "sexualized early." What does that term mean?

According to author and speaker Stephen Arterburn, early sexualization happens when children are exposed to sexual content and situations that communicate inappropriate ideas and messages and that stir up passions and feelings of desire long before a child possesses the ability to understand and manage them responsibly. In his excellent book, "Preparing Your Son for Every Man's Battle," Arterburn offers the following suggestions for protecting children from early sexualization:

Do not allow your child to see movies with explicit sexual content. Your standards probably are very different from those of Hollywood, so be careful about trusting a ratings system that continues to grow more permissive. Many movies send messages about sex that are directly opposite to God's plan. Beyond that, "Kids who see this stuff when they are too young want to experience it too early," Arterburn says.

Help your child choose music wisely. Many parents often overlook the power of music as an influence on their child's thinking. Words heard and sung over and over work their way into our minds and become a permanent part of our thinking. Much of today's popular music carries sexual content, so pay attention to what your child listens to.

Train their eyes. Teach your child to value the emotional and spiritual aspects of a person as much as they do physical beauty. Remind them of the importance of what's on the inside.

Don't encourage romantic boy-girl relationships too early. Instead, make sure your son or daughter enjoys opposite sex friendships in groups and with other kids. There will be plenty of time for dating later.

Be an example of sexual integrity. Through your conversations and actions, model a balanced, healthy attitude toward sex and sexuality.—David Garrard

Q: It seems that teenagers today want more and more. How can parents help them be satisfied with what they have and not be so caught up in the materialistic world?

The apostle Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy that "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). Part of what made his words so powerful was the example he lived. This is the same man who wrote from a prison cell to the church at Philippi, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am" (Philippians 4:11).

What kind of example are you living before your teens? A popular PBS special that aired a few years ago suggested that a new disease has infected our society. "Affluenza" was defined as "a painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more." The special, later published as a book, offered some startling statistics about America:

■ Annual production of solid waste would fill a convoy of garbage trucks stretching halfway to the moon.

■ There are twice as many shopping malls as high schools.

■ Ninety-five percent of American workers say they wish they could spend more time with their families.

■ Americans spend more on shoes, jewelry and watches than on higher education.

■ Americans spend six hours a week shopping and 40 minutes playing with their children.

■ Total American credit card debt tripled in the 1990s.

Let others see "voluntary simplicity" lived out in your home. Consciously consider every purchase you make. Be aware of the cultural pressures to be overscheduled and underconnected. Consider attending a seminar like "Financial Peace University." Listen daily to the words of Scripture about what is truly important in life.—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

Valerie Vincent, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

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



Can God speak through a billboard? Yes

Millions of people have seen the signs, but few know where they originated—and that's intentional.

Known simply as "GodSpeaks," the ubiquitous billboards began appearing in south Florida in 1998. The pithy, straightforward messages, signed "God," include such statements as:

■ "Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game."

■ "What part of 'Thou shalt not...' didn't you understand?"

■ "We need to talk."

■ "Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage."

■ "That 'Love Thy Neighbor' thing ... I meant that."

According to the web page, www.GodSpeaks.com, the campaign began with an anonymous donor contacting an advertising agency about designing and displaying billboard messages "that would create a spiritual climate and get people to think about a daily relationship with a loving and relevant God." The campaign was scheduled to include nine billboards for three months.

After the brief campaign, the Outdoor Advertising Association of America volunteered to use the sayings in a national public service campaign in 1999. The result was that GodSpeaks messages were displayed on more than 10,000 billboards in 200 cities across the nation—at no cost. The donated billboard space was valued at \$15 million, according to GodSpeaks.com.

Describing the campaign as "a gift to the community," an OAAA statement explains, "It is a positive way to get people thinking about spirituality and increase the numbers of those who are going to church. It makes you believe in divine intervention."

Six years later, GodSpeaks and OAAA are team-

ing up for another series of billboards. The new campaign will feature such timely insights as:

■ "All I know ... is everything."

■ "As my apprentice, you're never fired."

■ "One nation under me."

■ "Life is short. Eternity isn't."

In addition to the nationwide billboard campaign, many local churches use their church signs to communicate similar messages. A recent feature article in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Witness, one of the Western Recorder's five partnership publications, highlighted the church marquee ministry of First Southern Baptist Church of Hurricane, Utah.

Posting such messages as "A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing" and "Prevent truth decay, brush up on your Bible," Pastor Curt Stackpole said the church seeks to use creative spiritual messages to touch the lives of people who drive by.

Not every church is as gifted or effective in posting inspirational signs, however. As I was writing this editorial, the topic became much more timely when news broke last week that a Southern Baptist church in North Carolina posted a message that reads: "The Koran needs to be flushed." In a word? Appalling.

Describing the pastor's action as "lamentable," Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Morris Chapman emphasized that most Southern Baptists "wish to relate to our Muslim neighbors in a respectful manner that allows mutual sharing of our beliefs."

Sharing our beliefs in a way that draws people to the gospel message should be a primary goal of every Christian, whether the communications tool is a church marquee, roadside billboard or personal conversation. In the words of God—and GodSpeaks—"Follow me."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tannis Henderson

Do Christians treat the Bible as holy?

By Dale Hanson Bourke

Washington (RNS)—The boys were about 10 years old as I recall, but youth was no excuse, according to my grandmother. During a skirmish after Sunday school, one boy hit the other over the head with his hard-bound Bible. The assailant

brought down the wrath of my godly grandmother, who moved him to tears with the words: "This is the holy Word of God. How dare you use it as a weapon!"

Even though I was just a child myself, I thought my grandmother was being a bit dramatic. We were Baptists, after all. The words were from God, but the book itself wasn't. We didn't even think the bread and grape juice were anything more than a reminder of Christ's body and blood. Just because it said "Holy Bible" on the cover didn't mean it was really holy.

Perhaps that is why many Christians, even those who, like me, were raised with respect for the Good Book, might have a hard time understanding why Muslims would be so concerned about the recent reports of alleged abuse of the Quran. We might never understand how Muslims view their holy book, but perhaps we should consider how we view our own. Perhaps the Bible has become too common to Christians.

Bibles are big business and best-sellers. They come in a wide variety of styles and sizes. My own childhood Bible was red, a color I considered fashionable at the time. My best friend had a blue Bible. I used mine to press flowers, hold open a door and even to sit on once when I

couldn't quite reach the table. It never occurred to me that "Holy" on the cover was more than a title.

These days I have a variety of Bibles, some with covers that seem designed to make them look like anything but a holy book. One doesn't even say Bible on the cover. I mark verses that are meaningful to me either by underlining or using a highlighter. I have never considered my marks to be defacing the holy.

I toss my Bible into my car pretty much like I toss other books. I set it on the floor during Bible studies and drop it occasionally off my lap without much guilt.

And yet when I open the cover, the book becomes something more. I read it almost every day because the words give me strength and meaning beyond anything I have experienced from any other book. I believe in the transcendence and inspiration of its words, even though I have worn down the cover and wrinkled some of the pages.

I have heard stories of people

who live in countries where a Bible is so hard to find that whole groups of people share just one copy. I have heard of political prisoners who have survived torture by repeating memorized verses of the Bible. And I remember seeing a man who had just survived a volcanic eruption in the Congo smiling broadly because he had managed to run from his burning house with his most treasured possession, his Bible.

I resonate with these stories because the Bible is deeply meaningful to me. But perhaps because I live in a land of plenty, I too often view the Bible as a commodity rather than a holy text. I can always buy another.

I would not want to see anyone deface a Bible, but it would make me angry because it would be such a waste, not because I would consider it an affront to my faith. And yet I have never been in a situation where a Bible is rare and another is not easily purchased in another new, improved version.

The Quran holds a different place for Muslims than the Bible holds for most Christians. There are theological reasons for this, but there also are cultural ones. Perhaps Christians should take this opportunity to examine our own views of our holy text and why we consider it so common.

Dale Hanson Bourke, a consultant to humanitarian organizations, is the author of "The Skeptics Guide to the Global AIDS Crisis"

Worshipping...

What Fellowship People Do

Make plans now to attend the 2005 General Assembly and join with other Fellowship Christians under one roof for the first time as we explore being the presence of Christ in all the world. Highlights of the event include multiple worship experiences, *Companions in Christ* training in both English and Spanish, and the Congregational Leadership Institute.



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

There is no charge to attend the General Assembly.

To view updates or to register and reserve your hotel room, visit www.thefellowship.info.

Being the Presence
of Christ



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.	<i>Companions in Christ</i> 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

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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Religious conservatives vow payback after filibuster deal

By Kevin Eckstrom & Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Richard Land, James Dobson and Paul Weyrich are angry.

They're angry at "activist" judges who they say are legislating from the bench, angry at Democrats who try to derail judicial nominations and angry at Republicans who are allowing the filibuster to survive.

But these leaders of the Christian right reserve a special anger for Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who helped broker a compromise on judicial nominees with seven Democrats and six other Republicans.

McCain can "forget about his presidential ambitions" in 2008, said Weyrich, co-founder of the now-defunct Moral Majority and president of the Washington-based Free Congress Foundation.

McCain, a longtime nemesis of religious conservatives, wasn't the only lawmaker threatened with retribution.

"Trust me," said Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "Conservatives know who to blame, and they will have an opportunity to express their feelings in the primaries of 2008."

Focus on the Family Action Chairman Dobson said he felt betrayed and abandoned by a "cabal of Republicans" who derailed what has been called the "nuclear option" or "constitutional option," which would have ensured a vote on each of Bush's judicial nominees by removing the filibuster as a weapon to avoid action.

Referring to upcoming elections, Dobson said, "I am certain that these voters will remember both Democrats and Republicans who betrayed their trust."

After outcry, pastor apologizes for sign advocating 'flushing' Koran

Forest City, N.C. (RNS)—After criticism by leaders in the Muslim-American community, a Southern Baptist pastor apologized for posting an anti-Muslim sign at his church.

Early last week, news reports found Creighton Lovelace defiant for the sign's message that read, "The Koran needs to be flushed."

The sign referred to a Newsweek article, since retracted, that alleged U.S. interrogators at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, had placed copies of Islam's holy book in washrooms and had flushed one down the toilet to get inmates to talk. The article incited deadly riots in Afghanistan and caused large protests in Muslim countries around the world.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations condemned the church sign and expressed a desire for discussion between Muslims and other religious leaders in communities throughout the country.

"I knew that whenever we decided to put that sign up that there would be people who wouldn't agree with it, and there would be some that would," Creighton originally told a local newspaper. "So we just

Almost from the beginning, religious conservatives had rejected any hint of compromise on the issue and said the only acceptable outcome would be an up-or-down vote on all Bush nominees, not just the three who were included in the last-minute deal May 23.

Targeted senators

McCain's role reopened old wounds. His 2000 presidential bid tanked in Virginia and South Carolina when he called religious broadcasters Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson "agents of intolerance" who exerted an "evil influence" on the Republican Party.

McCain seemed to take the latest retaliation threats in stride.

"We expect it to be denounced severely by both extremes," he told CNN's "American Morning." "They've spent a lot of time, a lot of money, a lot of effort trying to continue this polarization."

Other senators singled out include Mike DeWine of Ohio, John Warner of Virginia and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

Conservative religious groups said the compromise by the "Gang of 14" senators only ups the ante for the holy grail of judicial nominations—a possible open seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Conservatives are worried that the filibuster could be used by Democrats to block a Bush appointee for the high court.

Corwin Smidt, professor of political science at Calvin College, said conservatives scored a major symbolic victory by bringing the issue to a head in the first place. Without their prodding, Democrats might have succeeded in sinking all of the Bush nominations that had been blocked by the threat of a filibuster.

have to stand up for what's right."

Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, disavowed Lovelace's action.

"Southern Baptists wish to relate to our Muslim neighbors in a respectful manner that allows mutual sharing of our beliefs."

But later in the week, the pastor of Danieltown Baptist Church in Forest City, N.C., reversed himself.

He said he was unaware that the Koran was so highly valued and "that devoted Muslims view it more highly than many in the U.S. view the Bible."

Lovelace said he now realizes how "offensive" his actions were.

"I apologize for posting that message and deeply regret that it has offended so many in the Muslim community," he said. Lovelace said his intentions in posting the sign were merely to affirm the Bible.

"It was certainly not my intent to insult any people of faith, but instead to remind the people in this community of the pre-eminence of God's word."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press



KENTUCKY NOTES

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Supplement to Western Recorder

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2004-05
Eliza Broadus Offering
for Kentucky missions will
be received through 8/31/05

Offering Goal:
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\$848,153 received as of 4/18/05
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\$897,648 in 2003-04.
Will we do it again?

Summer 2005

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2005

WHAT?	Training Motivation Inspiration Fellowship
WHO?	Church WMU and Baptist Men on Missions leaders
WHY?	To create an excitement and develop expertise in missions education To lead others to impact their world for Christ and His mission To become the leader God wants you to be
HIGHLIGHTS?	Poverty Simulation Experience Anne Smith, Executive Director of Ministries United of South Central Louisville Mitzi Gibbs Eaker, Children's Ministry Consultant, WMU, SBC
WHEN & WHERE?	July 15-16, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown Friday, 6:00 p.m.-9:15 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
COST?	\$15 per person (if registered by June 24) \$20 per person (if registered by July 8) \$25 per person (if registered after July 8) Includes: Friday and Saturday workshops; Saturday lunch; WMU Year Book (for WMU participants—Baptist Men on Mission— participants will receive related resources)
QUESTIONS?	To request a registration brochure from Kentucky WMU, call 502-244-6485, 1-888-254-5726, or e-mail: Brenda.Price@kybaptist.org

A Personal Word

During Exalt, our Kentucky state Acteens conference, one quick exchange made the whole weekend for me. One of our state Acteens panelists laughingly told me that she wanted my job one day. Fantastic! A new generation of young women with dreams to make a difference in missions and missions education.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

As a young person, my heroes and heroines were missionaries and missions leaders. I read their stories and looked up to them in our meetings. I never dreamed that perhaps one day I would be someone that a teenager looked up to. I am thrilled to have that experience, yet recognize it as an awesome responsibility.

The next generation of leaders in WMU is in training right now. Perhaps you are teaching one of them in Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Children in Action, Acteens or Youth on Mission. Perhaps one of our emerging leaders is a young woman in your Women on Mission group. Be on the lookout for leadership potential. Encourage emerging leaders to take on new roles in the church and association. Pass on the Passion. Pray for them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.

George Barna has written a new book entitled *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*. Barna is known for his research and insight into church life. He says that teaching kids for kids sake is vital. Teaching children and youth should not be seen as simply a by-product of reaching adults, but rather as a top priority in our churches. Research demonstrates that the values we hold as adults are shaped by age thirteen. If we want our children and youth to care about a lost world, to desire to follow God's leadership in their lives, then we must start teaching those values at a young age.

WMU—and Baptist Men on Mission—sponsored missions education is vital for shaping a missions heart in the next generation. Our missions education materials not only help kids know the cooperative way Southern Baptists work together to do and support missions, but our materials include ideas for hands-on ministries that make learning come alive.

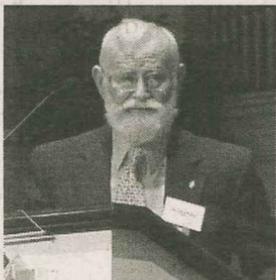
Summer camp is another investment in the next generation. In one week at Mission Adventure Camp, children and youth meet missionaries, have fun, and are challenged to respond to God's call on their lives. Pray for Mission Adventure Camp for Girls at Cedar Crest and Mission Adventure Camp for Boys at Campbellsville University. It's not too late to take a child to camp. Contact Kentucky WMU and/or Baptist Men on Mission for camp registration information. Camp is an investment in a child that will make a difference for years to come!

Tribute to Joyce Thompson



Joyce Thompson, Kentucky WMU Receptionist/ Data Specialist, passed away April 28, 2005. Kentucky WMU was blessed to have Joyce on our staff beginning February 1, 2004. Joyce served on the KY WMU Executive Board from 1991-1993 and as recording secretary from 1993-1998. We will miss Joyce's smile, faithfulness, and warm heart. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Steve Thompson and the rest of Joyce's family.

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting 2005



Using the theme *Christ Followers*, the Kentucky WMU 102nd Annual Meeting focused on the many ways we can follow Christ in ministry and missions. The Friday-Saturday event at First Baptist Church, London, included four sessions, an Eastern Kentucky Ministries Fair, a retirement reception honoring Anna Mary Byrdwell, the GA & Children in Action Missions Event, an Executive Board Reunion Dinner, a Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon, and the Acteens/Youth on Mission Pizza Party.



Photos from top left: Martha Lytle greeted Anna Mary Byrdwell during the reception; Acteens panelists used a skit to explain what they do as state panelists; David Aker led in a blessing of the shoes on Friday evening; Wiley-Faw, emeritus missionary to Nigeria, expressed thanks to WMU for the annual Christmas gift and other ministries to Kentucky missionaries.



Information for WMU Directors

So much to do, so little time! That seems to be the catch phrase for most of us these days. How true it is. However, be encouraged to *Pass on the Passion* for missions and missions education by becoming equipped to lead your association, church and age level organizations.

World Missions Unlimited offers opportunities for all leaders to receive the most current information and initiatives within Woman's Missionary Union. **REGISTER NOW!** Don't be caught having to spend more time on things later on and saying, "I sure wish I had gone and got what I needed when it was offered; now look at me scrambling around trying to figure it all out."

Adults in your church have two opportunities this summer: *Celebrating Adults on Mission* will offer a time for those involved in Adults on Mission, those who are thinking about starting an Adults on Mission group and curiosity seekers to worship, share experiences, brainstorm, fellowship and pray together.

Crafters on Mission will spend the day will be sent to Sally Womble and family in Niger. Scrapbook enthusiasts will put together a scrapbook highlighting their lives. Some craft projects include card embossing, completing quilt squares to form a baby quilt, general crafts, and prayer children dolls to send to our Kentucky missionary.

Ads for both these events with more information are in this issue of *Kentucky Notes*.

Discover the Joy of Missions WMU Conference, a national training opportunity to spark ideas for growing missions organizations and encourage church-wide participation is **Wednesday, September 28–Friday, September 30. World Bazaar**, involving new ways to become involved in missions through interactive experiences, will be **Friday, September 30, 1:30-5:00 p.m. Discover the Joy of Missions: Missions Weekender** will encourage you to seek a closer relationship with God in your mission efforts on **Friday, September 30–Sunday, October 2 at Ridgecrest Conference Center. For more information go to www.wmu.com.**

Association WMU directors: please take note—it is important that you send in your leadership information to the state WMU office. This is our mechanism to have the most current information for keeping in communication with you and your team. Church leaders also need to send us current information. It is virtually painless. Really! Thanks in advance!

—Wanda Walker

Adults

Your generosity is awesome. Baby Boot Camp received so many wonderful items for teens that participated. There was enough to support the next Baby Boot Camp for the western part of the state. Kentucky women are the best!



In this issue of *Kentucky Notes*, you will find information that is important for all adults involved in Women or Adults on Mission and their ministries.



Don't forget to send in the names of those you are developing relationships with as you *Pass on the Passion*. I want to pray for and with you as we all grow our passion for missions and missions education.

—Wanda Walker

Youth

More than 400 young ladies and their leaders made the "Road Trip" to Exalt 2005 at Georgetown College, April 15-16. Ashlee Wheeler did a great job applying the Bible to the road trip of life, and Wini Moran shared concrete examples of how we can look around the world to see where God is at work. Everlife was in concert on Friday night and lead music during worship throughout the event. We raised \$534 for the state Activator team to go to New York City. A fun, new twist to Exalt was the Exalt 500. Groups came with cars and raced from pit stop



to pit stop. Trophies were awarded to the fastest groups: First Place, Living Faith—Hartford; Second Place, and Third Place—Dunbar Baptist and Bethel Baptist tied for the best car contest. Put March 31- April 1, on your calendar and meet us in Bowling Green for Exalt 2006.

You also won't want to miss Acteens Splash, June 24-25 at Jonathan Creek. Young women in grades 7-12 will enjoy the opportunity to splash, worship and grow in their relationship with God. You can download the reservation form at www.kywmu.org.

Mission Adventure Camp for girls will be special this year. Girls in grades 6-10 will have their own week of camp at Cedar Crest June

27- July 1. Everyone will have the opportunity to go out into the community and do mission projects. You can also download the reservation form at www.kywmu.org.

Youth on Mission Night will be held October 21-22 at the Baptist Student Union building at WKU. The BSU during as great hosts last year. They will lead in music, games and small groups once again. Stay tuned for more information.



—LaRaine Dail



Acteens from First Baptist Georgetown welcomed everyone to Exalt and led in an interpretive movement during worship.



Everlife performing in concert.



Acteens from Central Baptist, Corbin competed in the Exalt 500. This summer, nine of them will go on a mission "road trip" to Ecuador.

Preschool and Children

"What you don't know won't hurt you" certainly does not apply to being the best teacher or leader you can be. Prepare to have an effective missions education program for preschoolers and children in your church by attending **World Missions Unlimited** this summer. There will be something to learn and share whether you are a new teacher or leader or an experienced one in Mission Friends, Girls in Action or Children in Action.

(See page 1 of this insert for details.)

In September, preschoolers and children in your church will want to participate in the **Week of Prayer and Offering for State Missions**. It would be a great way to start the new church year. The study and prayer material will focus on various ministries in Kentucky. Teaching guides are available



from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office. Launch the state mission emphasis by involving preschoolers and children in **Operation Missions LINK**, a simultaneous missions project day across Kentucky on Saturday, September 10. Choose a ministry in your community or association to give preschoolers and children a hands-on missions experience.

—Brenda Price



Children in Action Missions Day Camp

Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore)
Saturday, September 24
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Eastern time)
Cost – \$10.00 per person

For members of Children in Action (boys and girls, grades 1-6)

Meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, do crafts, play games and lots more!

Contact the Kentucky WMU office after July 1 for details.



President's Perspective

I am still praising God for our Annual Meeting at London. I hope you were as blessed as I was! Many thanks to all who had a part in planning, hosting, speaking, singing and just being there. Make your mind up to not miss next year's meeting in Harrodsburg. God will have much to teach us at that meeting as well.



Cathy Chinn
Kentucky WMU
president

The National WMU meeting will be in Nashville June 19-20. I hope to see many of you there. It is always an inspirational meeting, and this will be a very special one to attend since we will elect a new National WMU President.

Have you asked God to show you where He wants to use you in His work lately? There are countless opportunities

in your community that need your help and prayers. I pray you are watching where God is at work and are joining Him. He gives us that invitation on a regular basis. Are you listening for His voice to guide you to where He needs you to serve others?

I pray that you are involved in your community doing what God has shown you, but what about getting out of your comfort zone and going on a mission trip away from home? Get involved in a Kentucky Partnership Missions trip, a trip with your association, or organize a trip out of your local church. You could go on a trip planned by National WMU called MissionsFest or FamilyFest to one of many locations. Contact the KY WMU office, KBC Partnership office, KBC Missions Growth Team or me if you need an idea of somewhere to go serve. The blessings you will receive are unbelievable, and you will never be the same.

This year, I will be involved in several different mission experiences. In July, I will take an Acteen Activator team from my church, Living Faith, to the Wendell Belew Center to work with Mill Knob Mission doing a Bible School. Also, in July, George and I will work on a Native American reservation in Nebraska helping with an Experiencing God weekend and servant evangelism activities. In September, George and I will go to Sofia, Bulgaria to present the Experiencing God program three times. In November, I will be traveling with a group through National WMU to Moldova to teach women how to be Girls in Action and Acteens Leaders. We will also attend and speak at a women's conference in Moldova.

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve you as the President of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Your support and prayers are so important to me, and I thank you for them. Thank you for the invitations and opportunities you have given me to speak in your churches and share about missions. I hope to see you at our special events this summer. I pray you will allow God to use you as a missions leader in your church as well as wherever else He may call you to serve Him.

Heritage Fund Donors

Dec. 1, 2004 - Feb. 28, 2005

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the second quarter of the 2004-05 fiscal year.

In Honor Of

Anna Mary Byrdwell
Horace & Maribeth Hambrick
Kentucky WMU Staff
Anna Mary Byrdwell
Anna Mary Byrdwell

Donor

Maribeth Hambrick
Chuck & Frankie Johnson
Dudley & Pat Reaves
Salem Baptist WMU
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Hempridge Baptist WMU
Bonnie Cecil
Susan Bryant
Paducah FBC WMU
Joy Bolton

In Memory Of

Dan Connell
Ina Morris
Elsie Wacker
Virginia Camp
Dorothy Sallee
Frances Hood
Gayle Moss

Donor

Brenda Price
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Brenda Price
Grober-Parrish Baptist Women
Grober-Parrish Baptist Women
Crescent Hill Baptist WoM
Christian County Bapt. Assoc.
WMU Leadership Team

Special Gifts

Ted & Ginny Sisk
Cropper Baptist WMU
Dolores Gilliland
Barry Allen

Calendar

June

- 6-12 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls Staff Training, Cedar Crest
- 11 Celebrating Adults on Mission, First BC, Sonora
- 13-17 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 17-18 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 19-20 National WMU Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN
- 20-24 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 21-22 Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, TN
- 24-25 Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, Jonathan Creek
GA Overnight, grades 4-6, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Jonathan Creek
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 27/7-1 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 6-10, Cedar Crest

July

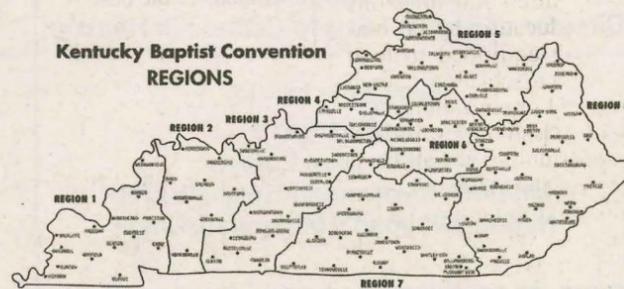
- 6-8 Mission Adventure Camp (Express) for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 8-9 Mother Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest
- 11-15 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest
- 15-16 World Missions Unlimited, WMU & Baptist Men on Mission Leaders, Severns Valley BC, Elizabethtown

August

- 6 Crafters on Mission, First BC, Mt. Washington
- 13 Super Saturday, Immanuel BC, Lexington
- 20 Super Saturday, Central BC, Corbin
- Super Saturday, Second BC, Hopkinsville
- 27 Super Saturday, Unity BC, Ashland
Super Saturday, First BC, Paducah

2005-06 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

President: Cathy Chinn
Vice-President: Pat Key
Recording Secretary: Susan Stinnett



- Region 1: Linda Alexander, Bettie Wright, Ada Brock
- Region 2: Sandra Duguid, Tina Nicely, Marilyn Seelig
- Region 3: Shirley Eastridge, Patty Renfrow, Tracye Johnson
- Region 4: Martha Lytle, Ruth Hinkle, Vicki Bierman
- Region 5: Loretta Simpson, Garnett Hutchison, Debbie Mullins
- Region 6: Anna White, Marcia Ballard, Peggy Craycraft
- Region 7: Corinne Rogers, Mae Dick, Barbara Cheek
- Region 8: Dorothy Crace, June Rice, Beth Wyatt

BNF President: Dianna Rowe
Development Specialist: Frankie Johnson

Project HELP: Poverty

Did you know that one out of eight Americans live in poverty? Think about your environment and those around you. One out of eight! That could be as many as two or three in your Women on Mission group. Poverty is closer to us than we may think.

During year one, through Project HELP: Poverty, lives were touched and the gospel message was shared through words and actions. Year two offers opportunity to continue reaching out. If you have a story to share with others, let us know about it. Send in your reports. If you have not had the opportunity to bless someone else and in turn be blessed, get involved.

For more information, contact the WMU office or visit www.wmu.com.

CRAFTERS ON MISSION

Saturday, August 6
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church Mt. Washington

\$6.00 per adult, includes lunch
Childcare available with reservation, \$2.00 per child

All crafts and projects will be sent to a Kentucky missionary family serving through the International Mission Board

- ◆ Prayer Children Dolls
- ◆ Quilts
- ◆ Cardmaking
- ◆ Scrapbooking
- ... and so much more!

Call Wanda at Kentucky WMU for more information.



More Than You Can Ever Imagine

Kentucky WMU
Fall Retreats

September 16-17

Jonathan Creek

Guest: Ginger Smith

Director of Baptist Mission Centers in Houston

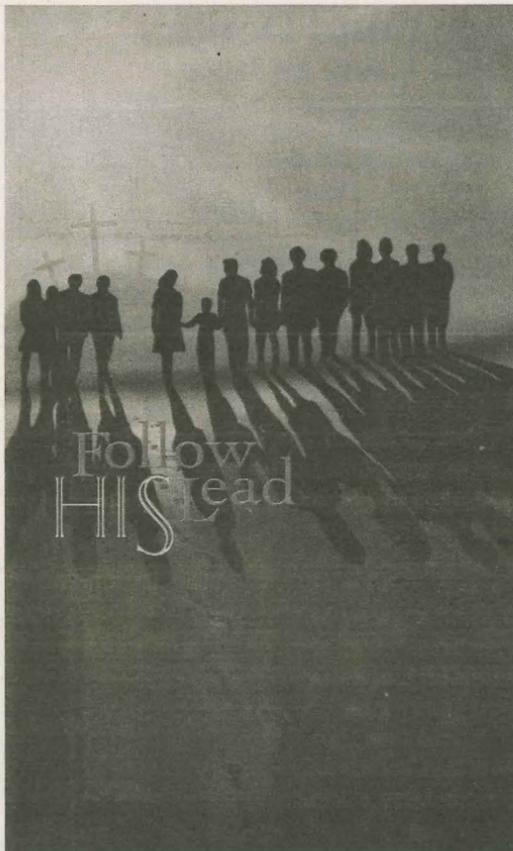
October 15-16

Cedarmore

Guest: Jean Cullen

Missions Involvement Specialist for
National Woman's Missionary Union

God can do anything you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us. —Ephesians 3:20



Follow His Lead

Season of State Missions
and
Eliza Broadus Offering

September 2005

Offering Goal: \$1,000,000

- ◆ A packet of state missions teaching materials, posters, offering envelope, and promotional ideas will be mailed to the WMU director or WMU contact person in every church in July.
- ◆ A new state missions DVD will included with the packet.
- ◆ Please return the order card for additional envelopes, prayer guides, and posters.
- ◆ All state missions materials are provided free of charge.
- ◆ This year's material is undated and may be used any time during September.
- ◆ Suggested date: September 18-25, 2005.

Celebrating Adults on Mission

First Annual Adults on Mission Day

Saturday, June 11, 2005

First Baptist Church of Sonora

10:00 - 2:30 p.m.

\$6.00 per adult, lunch included
\$2.00 childcare, reservations required
Please contact Kentucky WMU for a
registration form
or if you have any questions

Bible Study

Fellowship

Sharing

Praise and Worship

Missions

Youth on Mission Night

October 21-22, 2005

Baptist Student
Union Building
Western Kentucky
University

Summer Luncheon and
Continuing Education
Session



Health Ministry...Parish Nursing

June 25, 2005

Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital
Somerset, KY

- 2 continuing education units
- \$10.00 for BNF members
- \$15.00 for non-members
- Includes lunch

Reservations must be made by June 20,
2005 with the Kentucky WMU office

IT'S TIME FOR CAMP!

In just a few days, campers from across Kentucky will descend on Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek! Campers will learn how Last Frontier missionaries share the love of Christ in their part of the world.

MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP STAFF

At Cedar Crest

Director: Stacy Nall
Assistant Director: Catherine Partlow
Unit Leaders: Megan Kinkade (Murray State)
 Karen Ball (U of the Cumberlands)
Recreation Leader: Brigette Sowder
 (U of the Cumberlands)
Lifeguard: Emily Revels (UofL)
Kitchen Coordinator: Ashley Grayson
 (Spalding U)
Cabin Leaders: Amanda Ortt (UK)
 Beth Sutton (UK)
 Amber Brewer (Berea College)

Cabin Leaders: Brandy Leitner (U of the Cumberlands)
 (cont.) Kendal Taylor (Elizabethtown CC)
 Shauna Sams (Berea College)
 Jennifer Sears (Georgetown College)
 Myiesha Jackson (U of Alabama)
Assistant Cabin Leaders: Emily Holladay (Louisville)
 Aurelia Walker (Mt. Washington)
 Nicole Turner (Mt. Washington)
 Laura Burford (NKU)
 Jennifer Murphy (Elizabethtown)

2005 CAMP SCHEDULE

Mission Adventure Camp

June 13-17 Weeklong, grades 3-6
June 17-18 Mother/Daughter Overnight
June 20-24 Weeklong, grades 3-6
June 24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight
June 27-July 1 Weeklong, grades 6-10
July 6-8 Express Week, grades 3-6
July 8-9 Mother/Daughter Overnight
July 11-15 Weeklong, grades 3-6

Jonathan Creek

June 24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight
 GA Overnight
 Acteens Splash

Space may still be available. Please contact the
WMU office at 1-888-254-5726 for more in-
formation.

The First Tee

Georgetown College builds leaders with golf program

If you want to be involved in giving young people of all backgrounds an opportunity to develop life-enhancing values through the game of golf and Christian higher education, then Georgetown College's First Tee initiative of the World Golf Foundation deserves your serious consideration.

You don't have to play golf to participate, but if you love golf, you've got to get involved.

Through the visionary leadership of President Bill Crouch, Georgetown College was the first college in America to provide scholarships to young people who had completed the First Tee Life Skills program in their local communities. That became a model, and now 25 colleges are involved in this program.

There are several First Tee Life Skills Experience programs offered throughout the commonwealth. The program uses golf as a vehicle to teach young people goal-setting and decision-making skills, honesty, integrity and sportsmanship. More than half of the participants nationwide are racial minorities. Thanks to Georgetown College, this program now reaches beyond

high school. President Crouch has said, "I am passionate about the leadership training of young people ... and to do it playing golf makes my passion stronger."

So, parents, get your children involved in this life skills program, which focuses on what is right and prepares them to find their places in society. Who knows, after high school they might become First Tee Scholars at Georgetown College. Remember, First Tee is less about developing golfers and more about life skills. As one Georgetown participant said, "You become not only a better golfer, but a better person."

There are a variety of ways you can get involved. You can provide financial support for scholarships, and serve as a mentor in Georgetown's program related to academics and career objectives by showing students how to utilize golf in their business lives.

For more information about this life-changing initiative, contact President Crouch at (502) 863-8030, or e-mail TheFirstTee@georgetowncollege.edu.

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

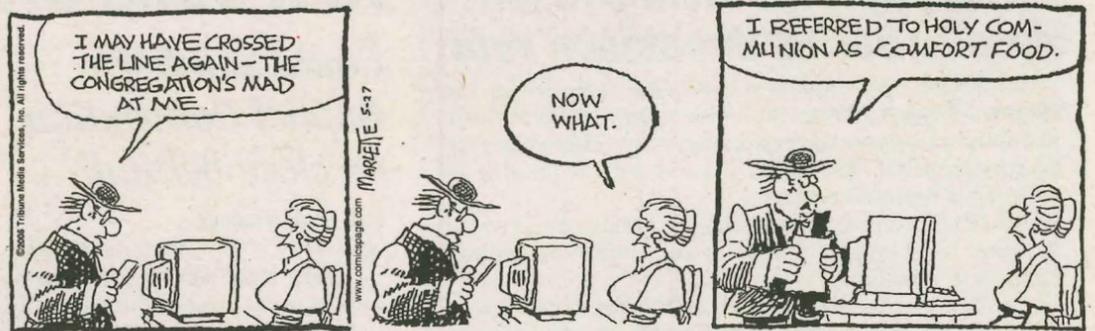
KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "But the very ____ of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30)
- 6 Throws a fit
- 11 Twilight
- 12 Changes the subject
- 14 California time (abbr.)
- 15 "Carry neither ____, nor scrip, nor shoes" (Luke 10:4)
- 17 A tree's blood
- 18 Buckeye bailiwick (abbr.)
- 19 "Prove me now ... if I will not ... ____ you out a blessing" (Malachi 3:10)
- 20 Note on the diatonic scale
- 21 "____ it, even to the foundation thereof" (Psalm 137:7)
- 24 "Go, sell the ____ and pay thy debt" (2 Kings 4:7)
- 25 One of Jezebel's gods
- 27 "The stone shall cry out ... and the beam out of the ____ shall answer it" (Habakkuk 2:11)
- 29 "And I was afraid, and went and hid thy ____ in the earth" (Matthew 25:25)
- 31 Long, long time
- 32 Thing, in legalese
- 33 Positions
- 36 Getaway destination
- 39 Adjective or adverb that is the equivalent of an exclamation mark
- 40 Take advantage of
- 42 Incite, with "on"
- 43 Printer's measure
- 44 A transparent body used to refract light

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14				15		16				17		
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27				28			29	30				
		31					32					
33	34				35		36				37	38
39					40	41			42			
43				44			45				46	
47	48			49							50	
51			52				53		54			
	55						56					

- 46 Quadrant in D.C.
- 47 Conjunction
- 49 Eagle abode
- 50 "There was no room for them in the ____" (Luke 2:7)
- 51 Escargots
- 53 "David ____ before the Lord with all his might" (2 Samuel 6:14)
- 55 Touching, as a gesture
- 56 Member of church hierarchy
- 22 Libel, slang
- 23 Pioneer African American periodical
- 25 "My soul may ____ thee before I die" (Genesis 27:4)
- 26 Fabled author
- 28 "Be sober, and hope to the ____ for the grace" (1 Peter 1:13)
- 30 Linking verb
- 33 In Sverige, you may meet more than a few

Down

- 1 Friend of David (2 Samuel 15:32)
- 2 "Go to the ____, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 3 Linking verb
- 4 Agent, slangily
- 5 Kin to comatose state
- 6 Outcome
- 7 To declare positively
- 8 Peachy place (abbr.)
- 9 Manuscript refiners (abbr.)
- 10 One who takes to the seas
- 11 "Be a ____!"
- 13 "We ... are as water ____ on the ground" (2 Samuel 14:14)
- 16 Like Louis XIV, par exemple
- 22 Libel, slang
- 23 Pioneer African American periodical
- 25 "My soul may ____ thee before I die" (Genesis 27:4)
- 26 Fabled author
- 28 "Be sober, and hope to the ____ for the grace" (1 Peter 1:13)
- 30 Linking verb
- 33 In Sverige, you may meet more than a few
- 34 "Two ____ shall there be in one board" (Exodus 26:17)
- 35 Most certain
- 36 Hang one's hat
- 37 Messenger
- 38 Fashion statement
- 41 Title of respect
- 44 "Behold a ____ horse: and his name ... was Death" (Revelation 6:8)
- 45 ____ ticket
- 48 Uncooked
- 50 Diamonds, slang
- 52 Oft-used abbr.
- 54 Bismarck bailiwick (abbr.)

Last week's solution

B	A	R	S	A	G	L	A	S	S	B	O	
E	H	A	I	L	D	I	E	X				
E	N	P	R	A	Y	R	E	A	P			
N	O	T	E	D	E	N	D	R	O	P		
S	O	S			L	E	D	E	R			
B	E	S	T		P	L	E	A	D	T	I	
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A	G	F	A	D		E	R	A	S	R		
W	Y	I	E	L	D		M	A	D	E		

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Wouldn't it be great ...

... if churches had a resource to help families with the challenges they're facing?

You're holding it.

Every week, the Western Recorder offers Family Forum, a faith-based column to help with the variety of issues families face today. Specialists on parenting, seniors, singles, teenagers and relationships can help equip your congregation to live out their Christianity where it matters most. Shouldn't your members be getting Family Forum?

FAMILY FORUM

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERNRECORDER

House approves stem-cell bill despite Bush's threatened veto

Washington (ABP)—A large, bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives last week defied President Bush, Republican leaders and some conservative interest groups by passing a bill that would expand federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

But Bush promised to veto the bill, citing concern that it would use taxpayer dollars to fund what he believes amount to abortions.

On May 24, the House passed the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act" by a vote of 238-194. The majority included 50 Republicans, including many who had strong anti-abortion voting records. Only 14 Democrats crossed the aisle to vote against the bill.

The vote came after a debate that lasted well into the evening, and was far more impassioned and personal than most in Congress.

Perhaps reflecting the complex ethical issues involved, it did not always break down along traditional party or ideological lines.

Opponents of the bill said embryonic stem-cell research is tantamount to the murder because the embryos used are destroyed in the process.

"This bill would take us across a critical ethical line by creating new incentives for the ongoing destruction of emerging human life," Bush said last week. "Crossing this line would be a great mistake."

The stem cells, harvested from five-day-old embryos, have the potential to grow into many different kinds of tissue. Scientists hope that continued study on the cells will enable the creation of replacement tissues that can be used to treat or even cure many debilitating and terminal conditions.

But many researchers say the federal funding should be expanded because the stem-cell lines Bush limited it to have proven to be less-than-useful for research with human subjects.

The embryonic stem-cell bill also enjoys bipartisan support in the Senate.

The house vote, while overwhelming, would not provide a veto-proof majority.

The House version of the bill was H.R. 810. The Senate version is S. 471.

With additional reporting by Religion News Service

AFA calls off nine-year Disney boycott

Could Southern Baptist Convention be close behind?

By Dwayne Hastings
SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Tupelo, Miss. (BP)—The American Family Association, which led the charge against the Walt Disney conglomerate over moral values in the mid-1990s, is ending its Disney boycott.

"We feel after nine years of boycotting Disney we have made our point," AFA President Tim Wildmon said in an article in the ministry's June 2005 newsletter.

In a May 23 news release, Wildmon said boycotts are a "last resort" for the AFA. He said AFA is not shrinking back from the issues it had raised with Disney but is taking the opportunity to address the same issues more broadly "on a crowded cultural battlefield."

AFA, in launching its Disney boycott in 1996, criticized the entertainment conglomerate for what the AFA described as a decline in moral and family values from the days of founder Walt Disney. The American Family Association, based in Tupelo, Miss., primarily focuses its energies on the influence of television and other media on families.

The boycott shifted into high gear last week when messengers to the 1997 Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution, "On Moral Stewardship and the Disney Company," in which Southern Baptists were urged to "take the stew-

ardship of their time, money and resources so seriously that they refrain from patronizing The Disney Co. and any of its related entities." The resolution criticized Disney for "increasingly promoting immoral ideologies such as homosexuality, infidelity and adultery."

After the SBC's 1997 action, Focus on the Family, the Assemblies of God, Concerned Women for America and other religious groups joined in the boycott.

Wildmon said Disney now appears to be more aware of how much its reputation had been damaged among one of its primary constituencies—Christian families. He said it is harder than ever before to find "evidence of new missteps by Disney."

3 reasons cited

The article cited three hopeful signs that contributed to the lifting of the boycott: the pending departure of Disney chief Michael Eisner; the split between Disney and Miramax films; and Disney's involvement in the film production of the Christian classic "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis.

Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said American families are more sensitized than ever to the entertainment industry's ways.

Anyone who says the economic argument against Disney lacks punch isn't looking at the full picture, Land said. "The Southern Baptist Convention's resolution on moral stewardship may well have ushered in a whole new era of corporate

awareness and activism among evangelical Christians," he noted. "The resolution made the point—straight out of God's Word—that Christians have an obligation to take account of what enterprises they are supporting."

Any action by the SBC on the Disney boycott would have to be taken by Southern Baptists during their annual meeting.

"It may well be that the Southern Baptist Convention this June decides to declare victory in this matter and move on," Land said, "but I learned a long time ago not to predict what a Southern Baptist Convention meeting in session may or may not do." The next SBC annual meeting will be June 21-22 in Nashville.

The entertainment company is not out of the woods, Wildmon added, saying Disney is still on "probation" and that AFA will continue to monitor the company's productions. Wildmon also encouraged individuals to "continue boycotting if they believe that to be the right thing to do."

Come Celebrate 200 Years of Ministry with Us!

Buffalo Lick Baptist Church
2530 Elmburg Road
Shelbyville, KY

Saturday, June 11, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Meals provided

Great Music, Great Stories

Great Food

Great Thanks to a Great God

'Do I have to leave?

Some Oneida graduates, not eager to return home, ask to stay a little longer

You would think that by the time graduation comes around our students basically would have one thing on their minds: getting out of school and being on their own. And I must admit that is what's on the mind of most of our graduates. But nearly every year, usually about the middle of April, some pretty much just come by my office. Some pretty much just come right out and ask if they have to leave at graduation, while others are a little more reserved.

The bottom line is that nearly every year there are two or three students who ask if they either can stay a few months after graduation or if they can have a job working here. Most of these students either have little in the way of a home life or have a lot of friction at home and they do not want to be back in that environment. Sometimes these students just want a place to stay and work until they can go to college in the fall; others are seeking a more permanent position here on our campus.

Needless to say, I cannot provide jobs for every student who does not want to leave. I am sure you can understand that it is often difficult to make the transition from being a student one day and being a part of our staff the next. Normally I understand the reason the student is reluctant to leave Oneida, and I know that often there might be little support from the family as these seniors are now faced with having to leave our campus. Often, because of family conflicts over a period of years, parents might not be willing to allow the student to come home after graduation, even when he or she has done very well at Oneida.

I remember well the summer of 1963 when I was one of those graduates. My junior and senior years at Oneida Baptist Institute were two of the happiest years of my life. As a young Christian at OBI, I had been surrounded with loving and caring Christian faculty and staff. They had given me all the spiritual and emotional support I desperately needed. I was concerned about having to return home because my parents were not Christians and I would be facing in an environment of alcohol, profanity, poverty, fighting and many other things I had been so happy to be away from. I remember asking then-president Mr. Jackson if I could stay and work during the summer until I left for college in the fall. I cannot tell you how grateful I was when he told me I could stay and work during the summer. Frankly, there was no discussion of being paid, as I could not have cared less. I just did not want to return home. As the summer came to an end and it was time to leave

for college I cannot tell you how surprised I was to receive a check for \$200!

Each year I tell myself that I must hold the line and not allow students to stay, but I always remember the summer I graduated and how grateful I was to be allowed to stay for the summer.

This year was no exception as three students asked if there were any possibility of being allowed to stay and work. I tried to explain to each of these young men why it was not practical to have students stay after graduation. In spite of my concerns, I know that for these boys Oneida is still home. So at least for the summer they can help with the many chores that need to be done.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Not a conventional pastor

Indiana graduate discovers the world at Clear Creek

Indiana native Dwayne McDaniel received the bachelor of arts degree in pastoral ministry during our May commencement. Although unsure about his next place of service, it will involve Russia.

That's not surprising, because he's been involved with Russia since coming to Clear Creek in 2000.

"In a 'missions chapel' early in my first semester, I heard testimonies of men who had just returned from Russia," Dwayne recalled. "As they told of people waiting in line to get a Bible and then cry for joy once they received one, it broke my heart. I began to cry uncontrollably, the first time I had cried in years."

Dwayne discovered he had to complete a year of class work before he could join a mission team. He made the first trip in the summer of 2001.

"I have now been five times to Russia, and it's as if I have family there now," Dwayne said. "I have witnessed firsthand what I heard in chapel that day back in 2000. Dr. and Mrs. Pfoff have taught me many spiritual things, as well as

about life in general. He taught me that we are all called to go. All we need to do is move forward and allow God to work. I've seen many saved in Russia and here at home."

Chuck McMahon, a 1989 graduate, introduced Dwayne to Clear Creek. "It was tough trusting God to meet our needs. I left my business as a builder/contractor, and my wife, Sandra, operated a salon," Dwayne said. "The hardest part was moving our three children from friends and family; but God provided all we needed."

Dwayne understood early on he was not going to be a "conventional pastor." For three years he has worked with Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro, which supports work in Russia. Now he prays that relationship may develop into a "resident missionary" position that relates to missionaries around the world who have gone from the church.

He will lead a team to Novgorod, Russia, June 12-30, completing construction of a church, distributing Bibles, preaching in many churches and revisiting orphanages.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Christian rockers Petra announce plans to retire

Washington (RNS)—The Christian rock group Petra announced last week that they will retire in December after 33 years of performances.

John Schlitt, longtime lead singer, expressed gratitude for the opportunities that arose from being in the group.

"We've had a good long run. ... We've seen God's hand at work in our music on every continent and in every language," he said in a statement.

The decision to retire was made by all members, according to a news release from Inpop Records.

More than 25 years ago, the rock group's music was banned in some Christian bookstores. Decades later, the band was inducted into the Gospel Hall of Fame.

"The doubts about popular music mixing with Christian lyrics have mostly vanished due to their ... track record of proven ministry and changed lives. Petra was a true pioneer for our industry," Frank Breeden, former president of the Gospel Music Association, said during their 2000 Gospel Hall of Fame induction.

Petra's style has evolved through the years, featuring a rotating group of musicians as the band has become an influential force in the contemporary Christian music world.

Petra has produced more than 20 albums and has received four Grammy Awards and 10 Dove Awards.



PETRA *Calling it quits*

Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology. Eugene Peterson. Eerdmans Publishing, 2005. 368 pages. \$25. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

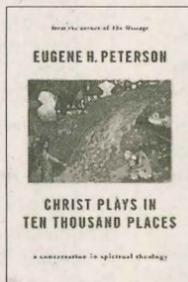
Though best known for his work on "The Message," Eugene Peterson has been writing about the spiritual life of the church and its leaders for years.

Those who have spent time enriching their lives through his writings will find "Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places" to be a challenge toward an even deeper and richer exploration of the richness of the gospel.

"Christ Plays" is the first in what Peterson hopes will be a five-volume work on spiritual theology. Even as he undertakes this task, he is cautious: "Writing about the Christian life ... is like trying to paint a picture of a bird in flight. ... Everything is always in motion and the context is constantly changing." He defines the end of the Christian life as "life, life and more life." Spiritual theology, therefore, "is the attention we give to the details of living life in this way." As such, it disputes any theology that turns into either "information about God" or "a program of strategic planning for God."

The image of Christ playing comes from a sonnet by Gerard Manly Hopkins. The image of play, for Peterson, pictures the "exuberance and freedom" of a life "lived beyond necessity." Bouncing off this image, Peterson describe how Christ plays in creation, in history and in community. Each section is organized around exploration of the neighborhood, proclamation, the major threat to the neighborhood, grounding texts from Scripture and the cultivation of life within the neighborhood.

Peterson is an engaging writer, but not simply because of his style. His grasp of biblical material and the depth of his own personal engagement with Christ pull the reader into the experience of paying attention to the details of our walk with Christ. *Jim Holladay*



So You're Thinking about Homeschooling: Fifteen Families Show How You Can Do It. Lisa Whelchel. Multnomah Publishing, 2003. 250 pages. \$12.99 ♦♦♦♦♦

The home school trend continues across the United States for many different reasons but what is one to do to start on this road? What are the issues, the time constraints, concerns and how do you go about it?

Former child and teen actress Lisa Whelchel answers these questions plus many more in "So You're Thinking about Homeschooling."

Whelchel, known for her work on television's 1980s sitcom "The Facts of Life," is also a pastor's wife and home school mother of three as well as the parent of a child diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

This is a practical book on homeschooling. The chapters read more like a novel, and the stories of what has happened are amusing at times and eye-opening at others.

Whelchel has a chapter about her own home schooling situation and the criticisms as well as the ill-conceived ideas about what being a home school student means.

Whelchel explains homeschooling through the stories of 15 families.

An appendix offers dozen of pages on where to get supplies, how to get information and what companies offer help. Whelchel recommends only materials she has used and that have worked for her, her family and others with whom she has worked. Another appendix features a roundtable discussion of all the families in the book and their recommendations on specific materials.

While the thought of teaching a youngster at home might be overwhelming to many parents, it is an option that others find appealing.

If you are interested in this subject, this book is a helpful read. *Steve Coleman*



The Kregel Pictorial Guide to Church History: Vol. 2; The Early Church, A.D. 33-500. John Hannah. 2004. 32 pages. \$9.99. ♦♦♦♦

For a number of years, Kregel has been publishing attractive pictorial guides on a variety of subjects. This latest contribution from John Hannah follows his earlier work, which covers all of church history.

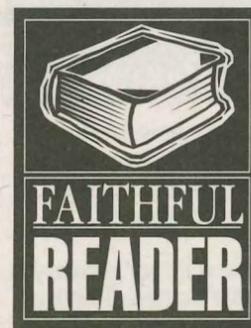
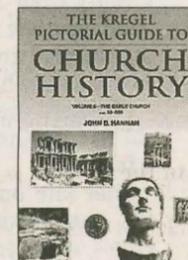
This guide takes the earlier work and adds more detail to the first 500 years. The next guide in the series, not yet published, will cover the medieval period.

Obviously Hannah cannot be very detailed about anything in such a short work. In reality, the guide can paint only with a wide brush when it comes to highlighting this period of church history. Hannah does a good job in selecting what he will cover and relays a lot of information in a few pages. For those who know the history already, there is nothing new here. The attractive maps and charts do add to the study experience.

I recently returned from a state Baptist meeting where we celebrated 175 years of Baptist ministry in North Carolina. It was unique in that the reciting of history is not something we do very much in Baptist life. But it was refreshing and rewarding to hear the highlights that were offered.

My interest was piqued and I will probably seek out some more detailed works to read. In much the same way, this guide can whet the appetite for more.

It would be hard to get the average church member to pick up and read a book of church history. This guide, however, offers the possibility that someone will see how varied and exciting is the history of the church, and then begin a new venture of reading more detailed works. Even if investigation ends with this guide, the reader will have a greater appreciation for historical factors that have and continue to shape the church. *Wayne Hager*



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

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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

The military ministry at First Baptist Church of Oak Grove. The church building is next to Fort Campbell and members have a ministry to military personnel and their families. There is a need for a "soldiers outreach center" where soldiers could gather off the base for teaching, support and Christian fellowship. Pastor Todd Gray and missionary Roy Callahan request prayers for this ministry center. Pray that God will provide the finances and resources for them to remodel and furnish an existing building on their property. Pray also that God would open doors of opportunity for His message to infiltrate the military community.

Missionary Service Corps Smith in McDowell. Smith is the youth services director for God's Appalachian Partnership and ministers to students in several counties through evangelistic events, Bible studies, mission projects and special activities. He has started a ministry called D:CELL, a reference to discipleship cells, or small groups of students meeting in homes to grow their faith in Christ. Pray that God would lead additional youth workers to assist with D:CELL. Pray also that young lives would experience Christ and be changed for eternity.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CORBIN**—First Church ordained youth minister **Andrew Mahans** to the gospel ministry May 22.

Twentieth Street Church recently called **Raymond Hampton** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Level Green Church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Cornerstone Church will host a concert of prayer June 27, 7 p.m. **Lee Thomas**, author of "Praying Effectively for the Lost," will lead the seminar. For more information, call (859) 293-2828 or visit www.cornerstonelex.org. **Foy Back** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church recently honored **Winfrey Simpson** and **Hiram Taylor** as deacon emeriti. Rockford Lane Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 5.

■ **RICHMOND**—**Eddie Mosley**, LifeWay Church Resources consultant in Kentucky, has been called as minister of spiritual development at First Baptist Church, Smyrna, Tenn.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Poplar Grove Church recently called **Steve Bennett** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—New Mount Zion Church recently called **Darrell Bargo** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Piney Grove Church.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.

Retired widow earns degree from Campbellsville University at age 70

Campbellsville—Helen Franklin was among more than 360 graduates at Campbellsville University's recent spring commencement. But her path to earning an associate of science degree was far from typical.

Franklin, a retired 70-year-old widow, graduated from Taylor County High School more than 50 years ago. She wanted to attend college at that time, but family finances prevented her from doing so.

Instead, she went to work in a local factory, got married and raised a family.

Her late husband, Sonny Franklin, began working on Campbellsville's maintenance staff in 1987. His connection to the university rekindled his wife's desire to attend college, and she enrolled in her first class at Campbellsville at age 57.

Recalling that she was both nervous and excited about going back to school, Franklin said, "I felt like I would be out of place with the young people, but they made me feel so welcome."

After her husband's death in 2000 and her retirement in 2002, Franklin increased her class load

from an occasional night class to two classes per semester.

In addition to pursuing a degree, Franklin has served as clerk of both Saloma Baptist Church and Taylor County Baptist Association. She also is a Sunday school teacher and secretary of Campbellsville's Church Relations Council.

"Her warmth and positive attitude are inspiring to others," noted her pastor, John Chowning, who also is Campbellsville's vice president of church and external relations. "She has taken care of her family, served her community and improved herself, while retaining a very strong faith in God."

Reflecting on her motivation to complete a degree in her retirement years, Franklin said, "Basically, it was just for me. ... I feel that I'm more secure about myself than I was, that I'm more confident in my judgment."

Describing her recent graduation as "an end in a way," she added, "It's exciting. ... I'm glad I've gotten here. I've made a lot of friends."

Based on reporting by the Central Kentucky News-Journal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 4 Church Weekday Education, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 4 Cedar Team Dinner Theatre, Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center.
- 6-10 Discovery Youth Camps, Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center.
- 11 Adults on Mission Rally, First Baptist Church, Sonora.
- 11 Church Library Ministry Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 11 Church Weekday Education Workshop, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 11 Technical Ministries Conference, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.
- 11-18 Kentucky Changers, Benton.
- 13-17 Discovery Youth Camps, 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.

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

24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.

25-July 2 Kentucky Changers, Lawrenceburg.

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

27-July 1 Discovery Youth Camps, Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center.

27-July 1 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.

July

- 1-4 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.
- 4-8 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Campbellsville University.
- 6-8 Mission Adventure Camp (Express) for Girls, Cedar Crest.
- 8-9 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys Father/Son Overnight, Campbellsville University.
- 8-9 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest.
- 9-16 Kentucky Changers, Louisville.
- 11-15 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys, Campbellsville University.
- 11-15 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, Cedar Crest.
- 15-16 World Missions Unlimited, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 18-20 Mission Adventure Camp for Boys Express Camp, Campbellsville University.
- 20-23 Kentucky Secretaries Retreat, Campbellsville University.
- 21-22 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Columbia Baptist Church.

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



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

SEEKING: Campbellsville University is currently seeking both male and female resident hall directors. These are full-time, live-in positions with benefits and many opportunities for ministry. If interested, contact Mary Clark at (800) 264-6014, or send resumé to: Mary Clark, UPO 1302, Campbellsville University, 1 University Drive, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

SEEKING: MSC consultant. Do you have a heart for missions? Do you have an interest in connecting individuals with mission opportunities and encouraging missionaries already serving? The Kentucky Baptist Convention, in partnership with the North American Mission Board, is seeking a Mission Service Corps consultant. This missions-minded individual will enlist and place MSC missionaries, identify needs and promote MSC in the Central Region which includes the following associations: Long Run, Shelby, Oldham/Trimble, Blackford, Breckenridge, Henry County, Anderson, Nelson and Severns Valley. This volunteer position offers great opportunities and all expenses are paid. Interested individuals should contact Mission Service Corps, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253; (888) 263-5080; or Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor, New Salem Baptist Church. Send resumé to New Salem Baptist Church, 632 New Salem Church Road, Vine Grove, KY 40175-9611.

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 resumé to: Search Committee, Polkville Baptist Church, PO Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor. Ministry with emphasis on children, youth and young adults. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Interested candidates may e-mail resumé to fbcmorehead@hotmail.com, or mail them to: First Baptist Church of Morehead, 123 East Main St., Morehead, KY 40351, Attn: Chair, Personnel Committee.

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. Beautiful small town setting near Cumberland College. Diverse membership with an average Sunday attendance of 140 and an active youth group. Must be able to work with both SBC and CBF. Parsonage optional. Seeking individual with MDiv. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 230 S 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769.

Missionary says Zambian leader baptized after public profession

Lusaka, Zambia (BP)—The president of Zambia, in acknowledging his faith in Jesus Christ, recently was baptized in a public service, Southern Baptist missionaries report.

A crowd clapped and cheered as President Levy Mwanawasa (mwah-nah-WAH-sah) rose from the water in an outdoor baptistery behind a Baptist seminary chapel in Lusaka, Zambia's capital. The event drew hundreds of people, including public officials, leaders and pastors from the area and neighboring countries.

"This baptism was an incredible occasion for the Baptist witness to many people who we have not had in church before," said Troy Lewis, a Southern Baptist missionary in the southern African nation of more than 10 million people. "They heard the gospel of Jesus Christ."

On the day of his baptism, Mwanawasa shared his spiritual journey before a packed chapel service. He told listeners he had been "struck" by Jesus.

Mwanawasa, a successful lawyer and former vice president, took office in 2002. Respected for his reputation for honesty, he was known as "Mr. Integrity" even by his political opponents before his election.

Mwanawasa said he remembers attending a Baptist school as a boy, but his relationship with Christ began to transform when he started attending Twin Palm Baptist Church in Lusaka in 2003. The small church meets at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia in Lusaka.

"Our excitement and prayers increased when he returned to church again and kept coming whenever he was in the country," Lewis said.

The president began asking questions about the Christian faith and how he could join the church. Church members answered his questions and ministered to him during difficult times. As he attended church, Mwanawasa's mother died from injuries caused by a fire. He also lost his two brothers.

Mwanawasa soon shared how Christ had moved in his life—and that he wanted to be baptized. Franklin Kilpatrick, missionary in Zambia for 35 years, helped disciple Mwanawasa. Kilpatrick and his wife, Paula, are members of Twin Palm Baptist Church.

Kilpatrick said he believes Mwanawasa's decision is real. Others have commented on how the president's life has changed, Kilpatrick noted. Mwanawasa already has invited friends and leaders from around the world to attend church with him.

Blessed are the peacemakers

Christian groups helping Palestinians accused of taking sides against Israel

By Michele Chabin
Religion News Service

Jerusalem (RNS)—Sally Hunsberger, a Washington-based statistician, doesn't spend much of her precious vacation time with her husband and two children.

That's because Hunsberger, 41, has made a three-year commitment to be a "Christian Peacemaker," a voluntary role that requires travel to the Middle East as often as possible to assist beleaguered Palestinians.

Critics say Hunsberger's religious organization, and others like it, have taken sides in the thorny Arab-Israeli conflict.

But Hunsberger says she is merely living out biblical values.

"As Christians, we believe in nonviolent peacemaking, that we need to act out of love and not violence," Hunsberger said, explaining why she decided to become a Peacemaker.

Christian Peacemaker Teams is one of a handful of Christian activist organizations that maintain a full-time presence in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. Some are also active in hot spots like Iraq.

In the Holy Land, volunteers live among Palestinians, accompany them on their way to school or through Israeli military checkpoints, stand in front of Palestinian homes slated for demolition, and report what they perceive to be human rights abuses.

Religious or political?

Many of these volunteers took part in an April 13 demonstration against the U.S.-based Caterpillar machinery company, saying the bulldozers it sells to the Israeli military enable Israel to commit what they consider war crimes against Palestinians.

Those who run the organizations, which include the Italian Catholic group Operation Dove and the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestinian and Israel, insist their motives are purely religious, not political.

The organizations require volunteers to pay their own way, often with the help of sponsors, and to attend an intensive course in nonviolent resistance where they learn how to intervene between adversaries, such as civilians and soldiers engaged in face-to-face conflict.



HAIRCUT Dianne Roe (far right), a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, cuts off her hair to protest the destruction of Palestinian olive groves.



A joint project of the Brethren, Quaker and Mennonite churches, Christian Peacemaker Teams has sent Christians of various denominations to the often-violent West Bank city of Hebron since the mid-1990s. Its stated goals are to "protect through nonviolent presence, engage in public policy advocacy" and "show solidarity with the churches and all those struggling against the occupation."

Critics say that focus is one-sided.

"I've found that the organizers of these groups intentionally limit the volunteers' understanding of this complicated situation. As a result they buy into the image of Israel as the evil occupier that must be challenged like Don Quixote and his windmills," said Clarence Wagner, the international chairman of Bridges for Peace, an evangelical Christian organization that brings 300 volunteers to Israel every year.

Even some supporters of the Christian peace groups see a problem.

Rabbi Arik Ascherman, executive director of Rabbis for Human Rights, a group of Israeli rabbis working for social justice, works with Christian Peacemaker Teams and groups like it.

Ascherman, who recently was convicted by an Israeli court for interfering with a military bulldozer sent to destroy an illegally built Palestinian house (he was sentenced to community service), said the "ecumenical accompaniers" he knows try to view the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from both perspectives.

But, he said, "I think there is still an imbalance" in favor of the Palestinians.

Whatever the motivation, promoting nonviolence in this region takes courage.

During an incident in February, for example, Hunsberger and other Christian activists were attacked by two men while accompanying a group of Palestinian shepherds and their flocks in the southern West Bank.

Palestinian shepherds, as well as schoolchildren, "were often harassed by settlers," Hunsberger said, explaining why the activists often accompany them.

The attackers, one concealed by a black knitted mask and one by a scarf, "came at us," Hunsberger said. "We told them that we had come in peace and wanted to talk with them."

The report the activists filed with the U.S. consulate and the Israeli police stated that the men broke the jaw of one volunteer and lightly injured another. Hunsberger was not hurt.

"It was frightening, but I feel Christians must stand with the oppressed," Hunsberger said.

Moving to the Middle East

Larry Fata, communications officer for the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestinian and Israel, said Christian beliefs also motivated him to move to the Middle East.

"Our Christian faith compels us to follow a nonviolent approach to ending the (Israeli) occupation since the occupation is the cause of the suffering on both sides," Fata said.

EAPPI was established in 2001 by the World Council of Churches (WCC)—which has angered Jews by calling on its Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox member churches around the world to divest themselves of investments in companies that participate in Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Fata said his program "aims to find a just solution for people of both faiths. By ending the occupation, we're working to end the suffering of Israelis as well."

When asked whether EAPPI does any volunteer work on behalf of Jewish Israeli civilians such as terror victims or the poor, Fata replied, "That isn't our mandate. Yes, there are people suffering on both sides; however the occupation is impacting on the Palestinian population more than the Israeli population."

ESCORTS FOR PEACE
Christian Peacemaker Teams member Diana Zimmerman (right) and others escort Palestinian children on their way to school. Christian Peacemaker Teams volunteers live among Palestinians and report what they perceive to be human-rights abuses. Critics say the religious organization, and others like it, have taken sides in the thorny Arab-Israeli conflict, but volunteers say they are merely living out biblical principles of non-violence. (RNS photo courtesy of CPT)



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