



WESTERN RECORDER

June 21, 2005
Vol. 179, No. 25

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
Next year will define where Southern Baptists stand on evangelism, President Bobby Welch says. *Page 2.*

Family Forum
Involve kids in helping others this summer. *Page 4.*

Editorial
Pray for persecuted and grieving Christians. *Page 5.*



Tech Support
KBC conference gives technical resources for worship. *Page 7.*

Books
Publishers expand "Biblezine" offerings as sales increase. *Page 9.*

Luis Palau
Festivals could be new model for massive outreach. *Page 13.*

Poll finds more people claim evangelical label than hold beliefs

Princeton, N.J. (RNS)—Four in 10 Americans identify themselves as evangelical or born-again Christians, but a significantly smaller percentage of Americans actually subscribe to "core evangelical doctrine," the Gallup Organization has found.

In an April poll, 42 percent of respondents said they consider themselves to be born-again or evangelical.

But in a similar poll taken in early May, only 22 percent agreed with all three beliefs that Gallup said "most evangelical leaders would say are core evangelical doctrine."

The questions were about evangelism, the authority of the Bible and a turning point in one's life that related to Christian commitment.

The poll found:

■ 52 percent said they had encouraged someone to believe in Jesus Christ.

■ 32 percent said they believe the "Bible is the actual word of God."

■ 48 percent said they "have been born again or had a born-again experience."

The percentage of Americans who say they have had a born-again experience increased the most over the last few decades. In 1976, just 35 percent said they had had such an experience.

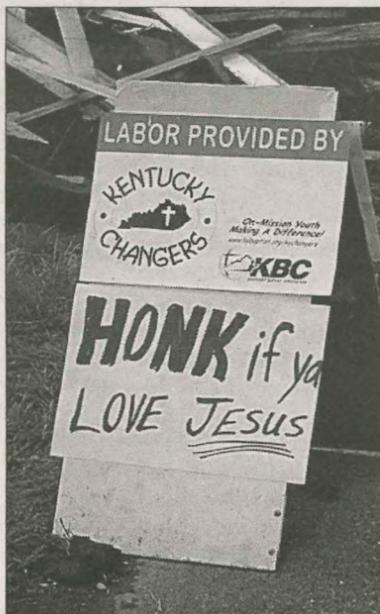
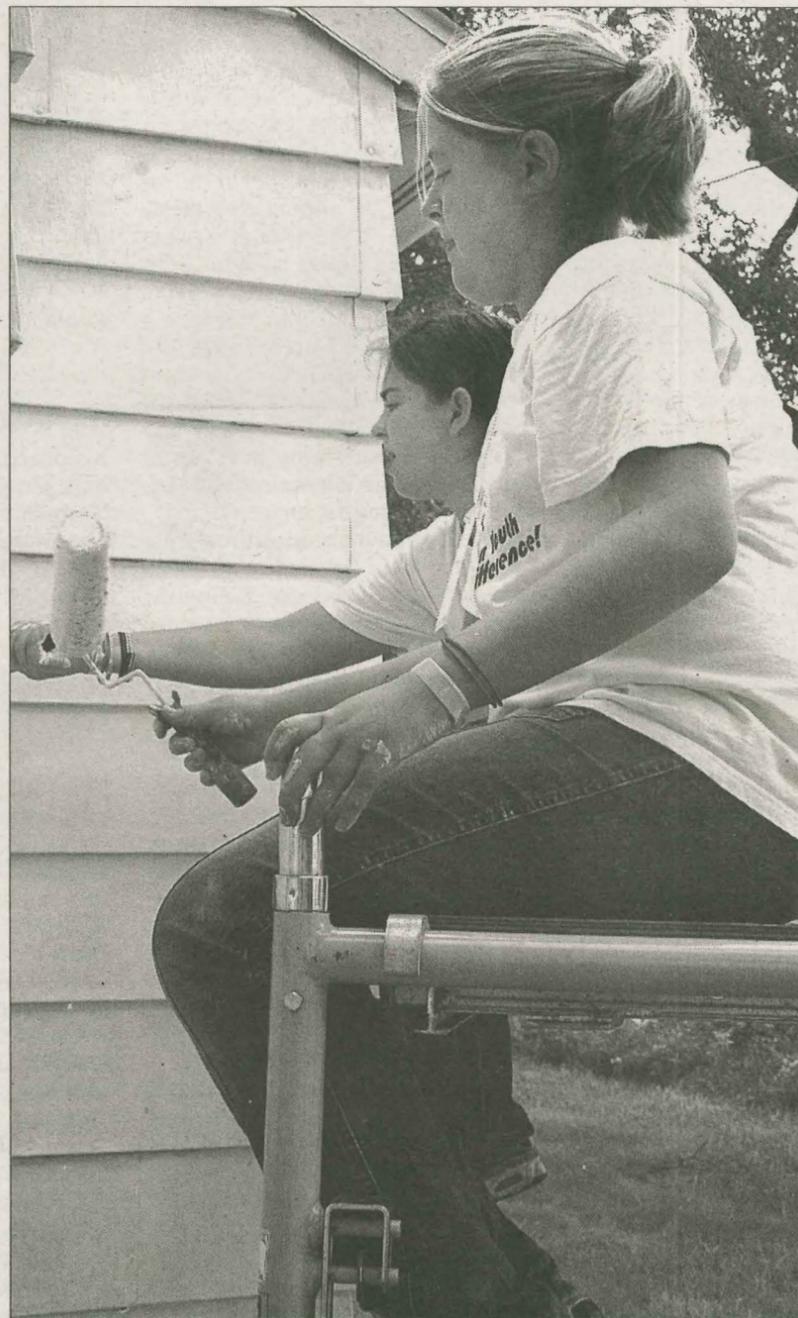
The new polls, each of about 1,000 U.S. adults, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Kentucky Changers

Construction volunteers invaded West Kentucky last week to help homeowners and share God's love. ■ **Right:** Kentucky Changers Danielle Rice, foreground, and Sara Wood apply yellow paint to a formerly gray house in Benton.

The pair, members of Fairview Baptist Church in Lincoln County, was among 320 volunteers serving June 11-18 in Marshall County.

■ **Below:** Kentucky Changers made their presence known throughout the Western Kentucky communities as they repaired, renovated and rejuvenated homes for people in need. They also worked on a church's mini golf course used as a community outreach. (Photos by Dannah Prather) **Story and more photos on page 3.**



Kentuckians help Nashville churches with pre-SBC outreach



WITNESSING Laura Minchey, a member of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, Tenn., shares the gospel with a girl during a block party in Chapel Hill, Tenn. Members of First Baptist Church of Tompkinsville provided music for the community-wide outreach during Crossover, the Southern Baptist Convention's evangelism blitz before the annual meeting.

By Trennis Henderson and David Winfrey
Editor and News Director

Nashville—Hundreds of Baptists from the Bluegrass State served as ministry volunteers in the Volunteer State last weekend.

Service, cooperation and outreach were the themes for Kentuckians taking part June 18 in Crossover, Southern Baptists' annual pre-convention evangelistic blitz.

According to preliminary reports compiled Saturday, more than 6,000 Crossover volunteers made more than 17,500 outreach visits. Those numbers are expected to increase significantly this week when final totals are released.

The turnout made Crossover Nashville the largest mass outreach in SBC history. The Saturday ministry emphasis included more than 1,500 door-to-door survey teams who witnessed 455 professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Mike Rust, director of missions for Little River Baptist Association, led a team of 35 volunteers who traveled 100 miles from Cadiz to partner with Bethel Baptist Church in Greenbrier, Tenn.

"This is mission work that is right here at home," Rust said. "We're seeing Jerusalem and Judea being actively worked in the mission field. ... People are finding out they too can be a missionary."

Little River and Bethel Church volunteers teamed up to make dozens of outreach visits in the area.

Bill Palmiter, pastor of Bethel Church, said Crossover was "an excellent opportunity to saturate the community and to make contacts for the Lord and for the church."

Affirming the Kentucky volunteers' role in helping motivate his congregation, Palmiter said, "The element of sacrifice encourages others □ See Kentuckians help ... Page 7

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 22

Evangelistic fervor

Yearlong emphasis will reveal SBC's health, Welch suggests

Bush scheduled to address SBC

Nashville (ABP)—President George W. Bush was scheduled to speak—by live video—to messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention this week in Nashville.

Speaking at the SBC for the fourth year in a row, Bush was expected to address the annual convention June 21, according to SBC President Bobby Welch.

Welch said he did not know the content of Bush's speech but anticipated it would cover social issues, such as stem-cell research, on which Southern Baptists have proven to be allies.

The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest player in the evangelical coalition that supported Bush in his two presidential elections. Last year, Bush thanked Southern Baptists for their support of the Iraq war and opposition to gay marriage, partial-birth abortion, federally funded stem-cell research and judicial activism.

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Nashville (ABP)—Sixteen months from now, Southern Baptists should know if they have been able to reverse their evangelistic decline—or if there is a deeper problem that will require a more drastic remedy—said Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch.

Welch, who concludes a one-year term as president this week, has focused his presidency almost full-time on the SBC's flagging evangelism. He is expected to be elected to a second year as president during this week's SBC annual meeting in Nashville.

At Welch's urging, the SBC soon will launch a 12-month, all-out effort to evangelize and baptize 1 million new Christians, called "Everyone Can." It will address the most critical need Welch sees among the nation's 16 million Southern Baptists—a five-year slump in baptisms that belies the denomination's legendary evangelistic image.

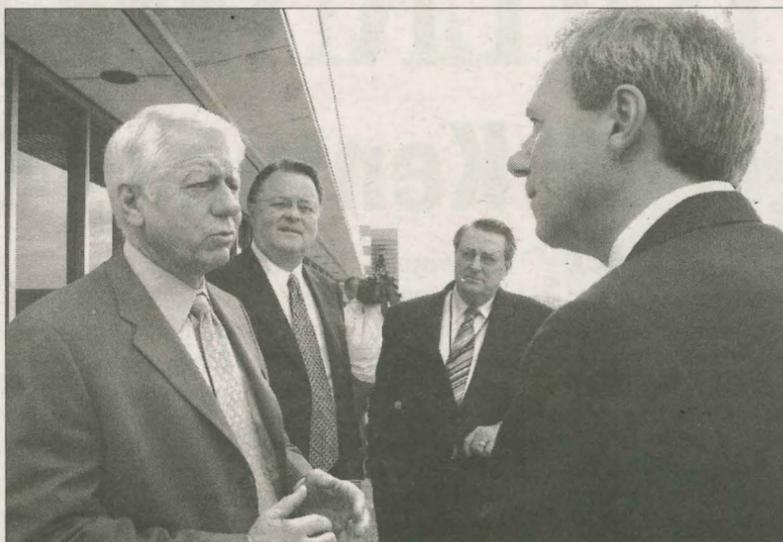
It's been a quarter century since conservatives, alarmed that liberal views of the Bible were dulling the SBC's fervor for evangelism, gained control of the SBC from moderates. But recent studies show evangelism statistics have continued to decline.

Welch's ambition is to see the SBC baptize 1 million people between October 2005 and September 2006—a statistical year for the SBC. That total would be almost three times the annual average. After a year promoting the need, and months of preparation, Welch said Southern Baptists now must prove they believe what they say about the urgency of salvation.

"Handwriting on the wall"

"After that year has passed, it will be as clear as the handwriting on the wall," Welch told Associated Baptist Press June 14 in a telephone interview. If Southern Baptists can't turn around the baptism decline after more than a year of "extraordinary effort," he said, "we are going to have to face some reality out here in the convention."

"When we get to the end of that



CONVENTION CONFAB Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell (right) visits with SBC leaders (from left) Bobby Welch, Morris Chapman and James Draper in preparation for this week's SBC annual meeting. (BP photo by Art Toalston)

year, if something significant hasn't happened in baptisms, we'll have to look ourselves in the face and say, 'Something is wrong.' If it does show improvement, it will demonstrate that, if the convention goes to the people with a message that's near and dear to their hearts, then you can expect the people to respond."

Either way, he said, "There will be a tale told."

The urgency of evangelism is expected to be the centerpiece of the June 21-22 annual meeting Nashville, home base for the SBC and several of its agencies. But, as with each annual SBC meeting, unexpected issues might steal the spotlight from what Welch might hope would be a single-minded convention.

Some messengers want the SBC to denounce public schools. One proposed resolution would decry the secularization of public schools and urge Southern Baptists to start Christian schools or home-school their children. Another proposed resolution urges churches to investigate their local school districts to determine if they promote homosexuality and calling for a wholesale withdrawal from such schools. A similar resolution failed last year. The SBC resolutions committee will decide which statement, if any, to

propose for adoption.

Welch said he doesn't agree with the proposal to withdraw from public schools, a popular premise among ultraconservative Christians but impractical and unaffordable for many Southern Baptists, he said. Ultimately, the SBC must trust parents to make those decisions, he said, since they have the biblical responsibility. Besides, he says, "the schools are North America's greatest mission field," given Southern Baptists' historic success with childhood converts. "We don't need to be withdrawing from the mission field."

Will Disney boycott end?

The SBC also could vote to end its eight-year boycott of the Disney Co. Anti-Disney activist Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association said recently Disney is now "one of the less egregious perpetrators of the homosexual agenda." And SBC ethics leader Richard Land said the SBC, as the largest boycott supporter, may vote to "declare victory in this matter and move on."

Although Welch said he is reluctant to assume he will be re-elected as president, he already is mulling plans for a second term.

While he has been the busiest president in memory—essentially

taking a leave from his Florida pastorate to work full-time for the SBC—he has a plan he says will make future presidents even more effective. Make the presidency an automatic two-year post, he advises, so future presidents can plan longer and think more strategically.

Welch is asking the SBC Executive Committee to study the change. Committee President Morris Chapman told ABP he has not had much time to weigh Welch's suggestion, but he added: "I did promise to try to determine if the idea would have any traction with the Executive Committee between now and (the committee's meeting in) September. On the surface, I can see certain advantages for the president, but also certain disadvantages for the convention. It's an idea that may ultimately fall under the category, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"

Noting that Welch's role as "a full-time president" is "a rarity that may never occur again in the convention," Chapman said. "We owe him and his church family our profound thanks."

Welch's urgency as president reflect the urgency he feels about the SBC's future—which is tied to recovering its urgency for evangelism. He said his year of meeting Baptists nationwide has convinced him of this: "We've got good people doing good things. But we haven't got enough people doing the main thing."

For the first time in five years, Southern Baptists saw a slight upturn in their baptism count last year—from 377,357 in 2003 to 387,947 in 2004. That's not enough to signal a turnaround, but Welch said it could be a good harbinger.

Winning a million converts isn't a good enough goal, Welch says. Baptism is a better measurement of evangelism because it requires churches and converts to follow through on those decisions.

"No doubt about it, we've got a heightening of awareness for evangelism, of what we haven't done, what we should be doing," he said. "But the key ... is getting that interest to the local level and putting some feet to it."

Will this week's SBC help spark reverse in baptism decline?

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

Nashville (RNS)—Troubled by a decline in baptisms, Southern Baptist leaders say this week's annual meeting in Nashville could be a turning point for a denomination that claims evangelism as a hallmark.

In four of the last five years, Southern Baptists have seen a decline in baptisms. An influential report declares the denomination is in the midst of an "evangelistic crisis" after years of stagnation.

"This convention is going to expose where we are on the issue of reaching people," said Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, in an interview. "Are we in a position that can be corrected by connecting with the people or have we slid into a position that

may not ... be corrected?"

After a four-year decline, Baptist officials reported a total of 387,947 baptisms in 2004, an increase from 377,357 the previous year.

But a longer view reveals a plateau for the 16.2 million-member denomination.

In 1950, reports Thom Rainer, a church growth expert at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Southern Baptist churches baptized 376,085 people.

"Simply stated, the Southern Baptist Convention today is doing no more people than it did in 1950," he said in a report published this spring titled "A Resurgence Not Yet Realized: Evangelistic Effectiveness in the Southern Baptist Convention Since 1979."

"We have concluded that evangelisti-

cally the denomination is on a path of slow but discernible deterioration."

Rainer said many Southern Baptists apparently aren't sharing their faith with others or inviting them to their churches. Almost a third of Southern Baptist churches reported no baptisms in 2003. In that same year, one person was baptized for every 43 members.

Welch said much of the June 21-22 Nashville meeting will be "directly related" to Rainer's findings.

Recently converted Tennesseans were scheduled to be baptized during each of the convention sessions. "We want to model what we're going to call these conventioners to do when they get home," Welch explained. "We think it's a great visual encouragement."

Welch's "Everyone Can' Kingdom

Challenge," which he promoted last year during a cross-country bus tour, will be officially launched this week.

He said the new evangelistic effort—which aims to see 1 million baptisms—will run from October 2005 through September 2006. Welch said that will give churches a few months after the convention to prepare local evangelistic efforts and several months after next year's meeting in Greensboro, N.C., to "encourage and make extra efforts for any of those who have fallen behind."

"I think that we certainly are at an important juncture," said Jimmy Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Christian Resources.

"We're basically flat in reaching people," Draper said, adding that a "strong emphasis" on evangelism is warranted.

Changing hearts & homes

Kentucky Changers impacts volunteers, organizers as well as homeowners

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Benton—In its second decade, Kentucky Changers continues its ministry of transformation.

"It affects the lives of everyone involved," said Jerry Sublette, a Kentucky Changers crew chief and member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Sublette should know. The Marshall County trip June 11-18 was his 19th Kentucky Changers event.

Homeowners, volunteers and organizers all undergo a variety of changes:

■ Homeowners who carry heavy responsibilities, often silently, have some burdens lifted as eyesores and hazards are transformed into better, safer homes.

■ Adult crew chiefs such as Sublette become mentors, leading uncertain teenagers—perhaps some with relaxed work ethics—into lives as joyful, hardworking Christian servants.

■ Students who once were more interested in a week away from home with friends get to know their Savior better, or perhaps, for the first time.

■ Congregations struggling to make an eternal difference are energized by the presence of hundreds of volunteers in their communities.

Paula Malone of Briensburg was among 20 homeowners who benefited from the work of 320 Kentucky Changers volunteers last week in Western Kentucky.

The single mother lived in a lovely home with an ugly problem.

"There's no ventilation in the attic," she explained at the start of the project. Without a way to dissipate condensation, water collected in the attic and leaked through the ceiling.

"I like to do things myself," Malone said. "It's kind of hard asking for help." A co-worker, June Brasher—wife of Charles Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church—told Malone she would qualify for assis-



A FINER POINT Kelsey Fowler of Westport Baptist Church near LaGrange takes special care painting around a home's front door.

tance through Kentucky Changers.

"I said I'd do it as long as I could help," Malone said. She took vacation from her job to work alongside volunteers with her son, Hunter, 11.

In addition to repairing the roof, Kentucky Changers installed vents, cleaned and straightened gutters and power-washed the house.

"It's amazing what they can learn in a week," Sublette said. "You might have a kid go from they can't swing a hammer to putting on a roof."

Personal growth is not confined

to construction or painting skills, according to Ryan Speight, a student at Boyce Bible College of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

After each day of work, youth and adults gathered for worship at their home-away-from-home, Marshall County High School. One evening, Speight, a member of the Kentucky Changers ministry team, shared his testimony.

Speight held up an award he received as a high school senior that singled him out for his "Christian character."

"The funny thing was, when I got this award, I wasn't saved," he said.

Speight said he had been active in a local church and involved in its music and student ministries. But it wasn't until he went to Kentucky Changers a few years ago that he realized "the last three years had been a lie."

At a worship service similar to the one at which Speight was speaking, he said, he heard the gospel "plain and simple" for the first time and truly understood his loss.

Speight said he now understands the true meaning behind Christian service.

"Anybody can fix a roof out of the goodness of their heart," he said. "This is about the love of God. It's not about religion. It's about the restoration of the relationship between God and man."

Harlan Williams, director of missions for Blood River Baptist Association, said 18 local churches served meals and offered other support to Kentucky Changers during the week.

Noting that Christians often overlook the mission field nearest their front door, Williams said Kentucky Changers helps local churches see their communities from a different perspective.

"Churches want to get involved in the whole process," he said. After Kentucky Changers leave a community, the local church continues to minister to the homeowners and families served during the week.

Kentucky Changers volunteers "pay their own \$170 to sleep on the

floor and work in the hot sun and they love every minute of it," said Peggy Murphy, a ministry assistant with Baptist Men on Mission, the Kentucky Baptist Convention team that oversees Kentucky Changers.

Like Speight, Kelli McDowell of Friendship Baptist Church in Campbellsville served in Kentucky Changers as a youth and now is a member of the ministry team. "This is where my heart is," she said.

"It's not just about changing Marshall County. It's not just about changing Lawrenceburg. It's not just about changing Louisville," McDowell said. "Everyone who comes is going to be changed."

Crew Chief John McClure's heart has been with Kentucky Changers through 20 projects.

"My daughter's the one who got me hooked," said McClure, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. "I feel like I'm actually doing something with my Christianity besides sitting in a church pew."

Before the Marshall County event, a collegiate version of Kentucky Changers served during spring break with Habitat for Humanity in Frankfort.

Two more Kentucky Changers events are scheduled this summer, June 25-July 2 in Anderson and Franklin counties and July 9-16 in Louisville.

For more information on Kentucky Changers, contact Baptist Men on Mission at (888) 254-5720.

NEW FRIENDS Rachel Gibson of Westport Baptist Church and Ricky Marsteller of Briensburg Baptist Church work together to repaint the home of Bonnie Ross of Benton. (Photos by Dannah Prather)



A CUT ABOVE Hunter Malone (center), 11, cuts a shingle for his home while Jenny Alexander of Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville assists. Malone and his mother, Paula (right), worked alongside Kentucky Changers to reshingle their Briensburg home. Alexander's two sons also served on the Marshall County project.



PRAISE TIME Zach Kirby, Zach Wade and Paul Latham from Concord Baptist Church in Hopkinsville led Kentucky Changers in worship each evening at Marshall County High School.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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*

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

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

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

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

To give news tips: Call (888) 254-5729, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters from subscribers on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@earthlink.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors:
Chairman **Bill Thurman**, Lexington;
Vice Chairman **Linda Polley**, Elizabethtown;
Secretary **Mike Harmon**, Princeton;
Skip Alexander, Campbellsville;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville;
Ken James, London;
Don Mantooth, Morehead;
Bill Marshall, Louisville;
Floyd Price, Prestonsburg;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

Choosing a career the biblical way

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—What are you going to be when you grow up?

We are all familiar with that question. Remember when one of your aunts or uncles asked you? Hopefully, it was when you were a young person and not an adult.

Everyone needs a model to follow, and it's never too late to teach our children about the biblical principles of work and stewardship of talents. And, apparently, it's also never too early to plan for a career. Many schools often force teens to make key education and career decisions at increasingly earlier ages—sometimes as early as sixth or seventh grade.

But is that the best way to make a career decision? Are our youth learning a biblical model for education and career decision-making, or is it a method based on the convenience of the education system?

If someone asked you how to solve career issues from a biblical perspective, could you do so? Unfortunately, many of us would have no idea where to start; no clear process has ever been taught to most of us at home, school or in the church. What are the steps you can follow to dis-

cover how God has designed you and what His calling is for your life?

For the Christian, there always are two viewpoints from which to choose—the world's view and God's view:

FIRST PERSON

The world's perspective. According to a report from careerbuilder.com, in 2003 nearly one in four workers were dissatisfied with their jobs. That represented a 20 percent increase over the survey they had taken two years earlier. In addition, 60 percent of those surveyed said they planned to leave their job for other pursuits in the next two years.

There is no evidence that those statistics have improved. So that means there were a lot of men and women who went to work this morning feeling they're in the wrong field or occupation.

These statistics merely reflect the fact that, generally, people base their career decision-making on faulty foundations—the world's perspective of determining a career. Some of these viewpoints include choosing a job because of the amount of money it pays. Or maybe it's the first or easiest job that's offered, and maybe friends work for the company. Perhaps it would fulfill

Needed response

Thank you for printing the much-needed and well-written June 7 letter from Jammie Vance.

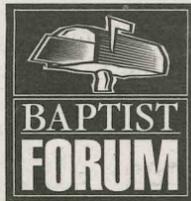
Whenever the questions he addressed come to my attention, I remember when over 60 years ago more than 500 pastors of churches in the Northern Baptist Convention (now American Baptist Churches, USA) made the following appeal to their Foreign Mission Board. They requested that all missionaries and missionary appointees be required to state whether or not they believed that—and this is verbatim—"the Mat-

thew-Luke record of the birth of our Lord was true and trustworthy."

The mission board refused, calling such a requirement "creedal." Scores and scores of churches withdrew their financial support from the mission board as a result, and the convention denied such churches the right to vote at the annual meetings of the convention, in effect ousting them. Others simply withdrew.

I am thankful that Southern Baptist churches have not had to make that choice.

Donald MacDonald
Louisville



Kentucky Baptists Connect update

Recently, I was asked how we are coming with the implementation of Kentucky Baptists Connect. My excitement grew as I shared how God is at work.

One exciting development is in the work of a task force to help churches effectively engage new members so that they become active in their new church family. This group, made up of pastors, church staff members and selected Kentucky Baptist Convention staff, is seeking God's direction in developing a process that can be customized to KBC churches. LifeWay Christian Resources has committed to help.

This work is in response to a recommendation in the Kentucky Baptists Connect report from the Mission Study Committee. The need also surfaced in the research on unchurched Kentuckians conducted by the Barna Research Group.

The KBC's church development and evangelism team also has been developing a strategy to increase the number of new believers baptized

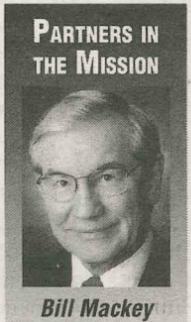
and disciplined by local churches.

Churches are being asked to set goals to do their best for God in baptisms. If each church simply matched its best year from the past 10, we would see more than 40,000 baptisms in a single year.

To celebrate the way God is working in churches, a celebration of baptism event has been planned for Oct. 18 at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

A group of pastors also is helping develop plans for implementing the Kentucky Baptists Connect objective on networking. The goal is to better connect pastors with pastors, church staff with church staff, and associations, so that all can be more effective. The KBC's church development strategists have conducted in-depth interviews with more than 100 pastors to learn what is working best in Kentucky today.

Eighteen associational Multiplying Leaders and Units conferences also have been held recently. Participants have committed to start more



Bill Mackey

a parent's unfulfilled dreams.

Do any of these career choice strategies sound familiar? Unfortunately, they are all too common and the results always are the same—stress, unhappiness, unfulfilled expectations and eventual burnout.

The biblical perspective. As Christians, we should understand that God has ordained each of us to fill a special role in His service. We have a calling for which He has uniquely designed each of us. And it is through this God-directed work that we are able to serve others, honor Him, impact the world around us and win others to Him.

It's never too soon to begin career planning, and it's certainly never too late to teach our children about the biblical principles of work and stewardship of talents. Everyone needs a model to follow. The question is: Will it be God's or the world's?

Our youth need to realize they are uniquely created by God and need to look prayerfully to Him for His will for their lives. It makes little difference whether they become doctors, business owners, editors, custodians, teachers, lawyers, public servants or preachers. What matters is whether they are following God's will for their lives.

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

'Children's Sunday'

What a wonderful worshipful experience we had with Stanford Baptist Church on "Children's Sunday" recently. The children planned and led the service with Bible reading, prayer, a story and music. Their spontaneity blessed our hearts.

How great to see a vital church, led by Pastor Max Hester, reaching out to a growing, diverse community. When he sang "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish, the children were impressed, as were we all, with his commitment. Other churches should try "Children's Sunday."

Bill and Charlotte Ellis
Richmond

than 300 Sunday school units.

We also are expecting the fifth high-impact church start to be proposed soon. High-impact churches are new works that receive special funding to help them achieve a target membership of at least 250 within five years. We have received more than 50 inquiries about starting new work since Jan. 1.

A new Hispanic Bible Institute also has been launched, with 27 people enrolled. The participants are desperately needed pastor-type leaders.

Recently, the presidents of Georgetown, Cumberland and Campbellsville have requested a formal commitment and signing ceremony to show their support for Kentucky Baptists Connect. The colleges also will be coordinating with the church development strategists to better acquaint them with resources that could assist the churches.

We are encouraging all churches to formally commit to reaching the goals of Kentucky Baptists Connect. To learn more and register your church, simply go online to kybaptist.org/kbc.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Reflections on Larry Burkett's life and ministry

By Jeremy White

Two years ago on July 4, the death of Larry Burkett resulted in a gain for heaven and a loss for earth.

Larry, a financial author and radio host for a daily show heard by more than a million people, challenged Christians to manage their money in an intentional and biblical way.

It would not be accurate to say he "pioneered" biblical stewardship. From Solomon to Jesus to preachers through the years, many voices have called God's people to wise stewardship. Larry, however, was used by God to awaken the current generation—from the 1970s to the present—to avoid the bondage of debt, seek ways to give more, have an emergency savings and so on.

Larry paved the way for other voices, such as Ron Blue and Dave Ramsey. Even this weekly column on finances likely can be traced to his work of highlighting the financial needs of the Body of Christ and pointing to the biblical answers.

On a personal level, Larry's writings assisted me in using my professional training and background to help people with their personal finances from a biblical perspective. Later, I had opportunities to meet with and work with Larry on several writing projects. He greatly impacted my professional life and the lives of many clients.

As I was reflecting on his life and ministry, I can still recall several of Larry's quotes:

"God will never use money in a Christian's life to build his ego."

"A Christian cannot experience peace in the area of finances until he has surrendered total control of his finances to God and accepted his position as a steward."

"If each of you is the same, then one of you is unnecessary" (on the value of your spouse's counsel in managing money).

"There is nothing wrong with retirement planning. But there is something wrong with living for retirement."

"Many Christians spend far more on interest than what they give to God's Kingdom. Many major denominations spend more on interest payments than on foreign missions."

"Determine you will not make a decision under pressure. You may miss a few 'good deals,' but you will also miss a great many bad ones."

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah



Seek creative ways to make ministry impact this summer

Q: What are some things our family can do this summer to help others?

Teaching children to think of other people and to look for ways to help them might be one of the greatest challenges facing today's parents. With that thought in mind, parents might consider making missions and service a focus for family activities this summer. Needs abound all around, and there are many things children can do to help someone else, such as:

PARENTING

Homebound visits. Many churches have homebound members. Consider stopping by for a visit. Almost everyone enjoys special treats, so take some homemade goodies and maybe a favorite game to play or book to read.

Operation Brightside. Volunteer to pick up trash with Operation Brightside, a civic beautification program. Better yet, choose a stretch of road or a public place that needs picking up, grab some trash bags and go to it!

Dare to Care. Dare to Care is a nonprofit food bank that helps hungry people in Kentucky. Click on their Web site and find out how you can help feed hungry families. You also might want to visit a u-pick farm and pick fruits or vegetables that can be given to Dare to Care or another agency in your area that helps feed the hungry.

Humane Society. Humane societies often need help bathing and grooming animals that are being put up for adoption.

Make this a summer of service to others. As you do, keep a notebook or diary of your adventures. As you learn about helping others, remind your child that Jesus was a servant. Teach your child to ask this question at the end of every day: "What did I do today to help someone else?"

(Click on idealist.org for additional volunteer ideas and opportunities.)—David Garrard

Q: I'm a single guy in my mid-30s, and I feel life is passing me by. I spend most of my time watching movies and TV shows. How can I move toward worthwhile goals?

First of all, do you know what your goals are? What makes your face light up? What breaks your heart? It might help to talk these through with a trusted friend or counselor. Rank the goals that are most important to you. You might find that one goal depends on another, so it will suggest a logical order to help you know where to start.

SINGLES

Determine to do one thing each day to move yourself toward your primary goal. Set up intermediate goals as "bite-size chunks." If you concentrate on doing the right things day by day, you will move toward good results.

Stephen Covey, author of "First Things First," divides life into four quadrants:

1. Important and urgent. These are necessary for survival.

2. Important but not urgent. These are things no one else is going to press you to do, but will move you forward mentally, physically, spiritually or relationally. Dedicate some "quadrant 2" time every day and some significant quadrant 2 time every week.

3. Urgent but not important. These are things that push for your attention but do not help you toward your goals. Learn to delegate these. Have the courage to say "no" to the many issues that are not really all that important.

4. Not urgent and not important. These are complete time wasters. Much television watching and other trivial pursuits can eat away at your time.

This is not to say you should not have recreation. You should take time to refresh. What activities do you find truly refreshing and a creative force in your life? Schedule them in. They're really quadrant 2, not 3 or 4.

Do things and make choices each day that help you fulfill God's purpose in your life.—James Stillwell

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.



Pray for persecuted, grieving Christians

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me" (Matthew 5:11).

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me'" (Luke 9:23).

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

What does Christian persecution look like in our 21st century world? What does it mean on a practical level to take up your cross daily and follow Christ?

Here in the United States, Christians tend to water down such hard-hitting passages. We typically describe persecution as feeling uncomfortable in a social setting with non-Christians or not quite fitting in at work or school because of our "churchy" label.

For much of the world, however, religious persecution remains a literal life-and-death struggle. Consider a few of the articles the Western Recorder has published in the past several months:

May 24: "A Baptist lay pastor has been beheaded in Bangladesh, the second Christian leader to lose his life in that country in a year. ... Dulal Sarkar, 35, was attacked as he returned home from discussing his faith with local villagers, reported Compass Direct, which tracks incidents of religious persecution."

May 17: The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recently listed 11 nations "of particular concern." Examples include Burma where some "children of Christians and Muslims are taken from parents and forcibly converted to Buddhism" and Iran where the government engages in "detention, torture and execution ... based primarily or entirely upon the religion of the accused."

Feb. 22: "Providing a personal example of Chinese persecution of Christians, a 34-year-old Chinese woman told a Washington audience recently that she was

beaten, shocked, tortured and sexually abused as punishment for professing her faith. Liu Xianzhi said she spent six years in prisons and labor camps in China on charges of 'illegal evangelism' for her church leadership and writing for the South China Church Magazine."

Jan. 18: "After decades of living in relative harmony with the country's Muslim majority, Iraq's Christian minority says it is under threat as never before, with increasing violence directed at its places of worship and a growing exodus of its 800,000 or so members. Already an estimated one of every 10 Iraqi Christians has fled the country. ... Five Baghdad churches were attacked last October. In August, similar attacks killed at least 10 and wounded nearly 50 Iraqi Christians."

Kentucky Baptists also are familiar with the tragic murders of eight Southern Baptist mission workers since December 2002 in Yemen, the Philippines and Iraq.

I realize this is not a very comfortable editorial to read. Nor was it comfortable to research and write. But it's important for American Christians to be reminded of the incredible hardships and heartaches endured by many of our brothers and sisters for the sake of the gospel.

Scott Elliott, the son of slain mission workers Larry and Jean Elliott, noted recently that "I feel no anger toward those who took my parents' lives. Instead, I long for their salvation."

"God completed His mission in my parents' lives," he added. "Only through God's grace and His power were their lives able to be such a testament to Him."

Pray earnestly for persecuted and grieving believers around the world—and for the people they are seeking to reach with the gospel. As you pray, renew your commitment to take up your cross daily and follow Christ.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Persuasion has become neglected art

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va. (BP)—"Is persuasion dead?"

Columnist Matt Miller asked that question in a recent New York Times piece. Like many political pundits, Miller is fighting despair over the sad state of public discourse. People seem to have made up their minds about the major issues of the day, he laments, if they bother to think about issues at all. They divide right and left, red state and blue state, traditional and progressive—and hurl sound bites at each other while huddling "with like-minded souls in opinion cocoons."

Politicians can win elections by pandering to their base (preaching to the choir, in other words) and peeling off a few swing votes from the middle. Actually winning over people who disagree with you seems fruitless, pointless, a waste of breath. And those who do try to do so end up getting shouted down or ridiculed by the media, which "showcase(s) a clash of caricatures, believing this is the only way to make 'debate' entertaining," he says.

"Is it possible in America today to convince anyone of anything he doesn't already believe?" Miller inquires. "Marshaling a case to persuade those who start from a different position is a lost art."

It's not a lost art—just a neglected one.

Neglect infects religious discourse, too. In a hostile, polarized culture, it's much easier for Chris-

tians to hunker down and lob rhetorical missiles—or fall into sullen silence—than to do the hard work of convincing scoffers and unbelievers of the truth of the gospel.

Yet there's never been a greater opportunity to persuade truth seekers—not just in America, but anywhere. The marketplace of ideas stretches across the globe. It's loud, chaotic and fragmented, but essentially available to all voices. You can reach almost any spot on earth in three flights or less. You can get there electronically in seconds.

In China, 100 million people surf the Web. The government monitors e-mail and chatrooms, but traffic is far too heavy to control it all. "Death by a thousand blogs" might be the ultimate fate of Chinese communism, writes journalist Nicholas Kristof. New ideas might come from abroad, he says, "but it's the Chinese leadership itself that is ... giving the Chinese people broadband."

There's no turning back, because China's continued growth as a global player depends on technological advance and rapid communications. The same applies to other formerly closed societies.

Access to people's eyes and ears, however, doesn't guarantee they will hear and understand the gospel—or any other message. The Apostle Paul learned that in Athens, a city filled with idols, where he was ridiculed as a "babbler" by the city's philosophers. But he wouldn't have preached to them if he didn't believe

someone would listen. He reasoned not only in the synagogue with the city's Jews and God-fearing Gentiles, but in the marketplace "every day with those who happened to be present" (Acts 17:17).

Like any good preacher or missionary, Paul shaped the unchanging truth for his changing audience. That's more important than ever in today's world of countless cultures and subcultures. People hunger for the truth, but they need it delivered in a form they can understand and embrace. They might use a trade language for business, or interaction with outsiders, but they want to hear the Word of God in the languages closest to their hearts.

On a recent visit to India I met a Bengali Christian leader with a bold vision to reach millions of Hindus, Muslims, simple villagers and sophisticated urbanites with the gospel. But he intends to do it in their forms of understanding, not the West's.

"You open a Bengali hymnal and what do you find? Translations," he explains. "We want rice and dal, brother. If you give us pizza, we can't eat it."

The good news: God knows all about rice and dal. He knows Bengali cultures and languages better than the Bengalis. He is inspiring Bengali believers to write songs and stories and messages that touch the depths of Bengali hearts. With our help, He wants to do the same in every culture.

He is the Great Persuader. Erich Bridges is a senior writer for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

Book recounts stories of Baptist martyrs



Richmond, Va. (BP)—Eight Southern Baptist workers have given their lives over the last three years to follow the call of God to reach the lost peoples of the world.

A just-released book, "Lives Given, Not Taken: 21st Century Southern Baptist Martyrs" by Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and IMB senior writer Eric Bridges, tells the story of the martyrs.

"Their lives were not taken from them, for they had already given them," Rankin said of the missionaries.

Bill Koehn, Kathy Gariety and Martha Myers, medical missionaries, were killed Dec. 30, 2002, at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen by a Muslim militant. Bill Hyde died in a terrorist bombing in the Philippines on March 4, 2003. David McDonnell, Larry and Jean Elliott and Karen Watson—a team of humanitarian

relief workers—were killed by insurgents on March 15, 2004, while driving in Iraq.

The book describes the impact the martyrs had on those around them, not just through their deaths but also during their lives.

Bridges said they were not "super-saints" but regular people—a bookstore manager, high school music teacher, newspaper reporter, sheriff's deputy, grocery store manager and a doctor. The eight workers were various ages and were called to service at different times in their lives.

"Martha (Myers) wanted to be a missionary since she was a little girl," Bridges said. "Bill Koehn and his wife were well into their lives before they answered God's call."

"They share a common death, but they also have in common their servant spirit," Bridges said. "That is where the title of the book came

from. It is something I had heard many times when talking to the families."

Through the book, Rankin and Bridges also wanted to remind Southern Baptists that martyrdom is still part of the life of the church, particularly among people groups where following Christ often means paying with one's life.

"I want to challenge pastors, youth workers and church leaders to put this book in the hands of Christian young people," Bridges said. "The book will make an impact if a new generation follows in their footsteps of being obedient to the calling of God."

Violence in Mexican city halts Baptist mission trips

Nuevo Laredo, Mexico (ABP)—Escalating violence in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, prompted the Texas Baptist River Ministry office to issue a safety advisory for the border city and led some volunteer church groups to cancel their planned trips.

At least 50 people have been killed in Nuevo Laredo this year. That includes Police Chief Alejandro Dominguez, who was gunned

down just hours after he took office—reportedly by drug traffickers who wanted to send a message that they controlled the city. The Mexican government dispatched 1,000 federal troops and special forces to Nuevo Laredo to restore order.

"Nuevo Laredo is under martial law, for all intents and purposes," said Ruben Harrison, River Ministry coordinator for the Laredo/Nuevo

Laredo area.

A group from North Point Baptist Church in Hurst, Texas, decided to cancel their mission trip to Nuevo Laredo after repeated conversations with a Southern Baptist missionary in the border city. The missionary team instead traveled to San Antonio to help lead an inner-city sports camp and backyard Bible clubs.

Rogers, former SBC president, begins chemo

Memphis, Tenn. (BP)—Three-time Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers, diagnosed recently with colon cancer, said he is "doing well"



Adrian Rogers

for someone "in my category" of battling cancer.

"I am optimistic about full remission," Rogers said after spending three days at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in

Houston and returning June 16 to his Memphis-area home.

Rogers said he is grateful for the prayers of Southern Baptists for his recovery from colon cancer that has metastasized onto his liver. Cancerous polyps were found in a routine colonoscopy that prompted surgery to remove part of his colon May 16.

Rogers, who retired earlier this year after 32 years as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., noted that "I am in good spirits and confident in God's grace and power."

Rogers therapy will undergo chemotherapy twice a month "for the foreseeable future."

YOU can help your church grow!

70% of your community and congregation are living paycheck to paycheck

your community needs...

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace University



- 30-60% of participants are unchurched
- Biblically-based, powerful & entertaining curriculum
- Taught by Dave Ramsey via video
- Small group discussions
- Equips individuals & families to:
 - Pay off debt and save for the future
 - Give like never before

To receive a FREE Video and Information

Call us today
877.378.2667

daveramsey.com/fpu/church

Mention this Ad and save \$50 on your Video Leaders Kit!

Kentuckians help Nashville churches with Crossover

Continued from page 1

to make sacrifices as well. It gives our church a greater vision of our God-given responsibilities to minister to and serve this community."

Missy Fyke, a member of Bethel Church, said Crossover's spiritual impact "gives me cold chill bumps."

"There are so many people out there who are lost," she noted. "It would tickle me to death to lead more people to Christ. ... I think it's the beginning of an explosion for our church."

Elisabeth Bursztynski, a 17-year-old senior from Wallonia Baptist Church, was among several young people serving on the Little River Association team.

Downplaying any personal sacrifice involved, she noted, "This is a pretty cheap price to pay—to give up a Saturday to tell people about Jesus."

New Light Baptist Church, a small Kentucky congregation in Cadiz, teamed up with First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, Tenn.—a church that averages 3,500 people on Sunday mornings.

Despite the huge membership difference, volunteers from New Light Church helped Hendersonville members make dozens of follow-up visits with unchurched parents of youngsters who recently attended vacation Bible school.

"Our VBS brings in about 1,700 children each year," explained Aaron Schwartz, Hendersonville's minister of evangelism. "We have a lot of lost families that send their kids to VBS."

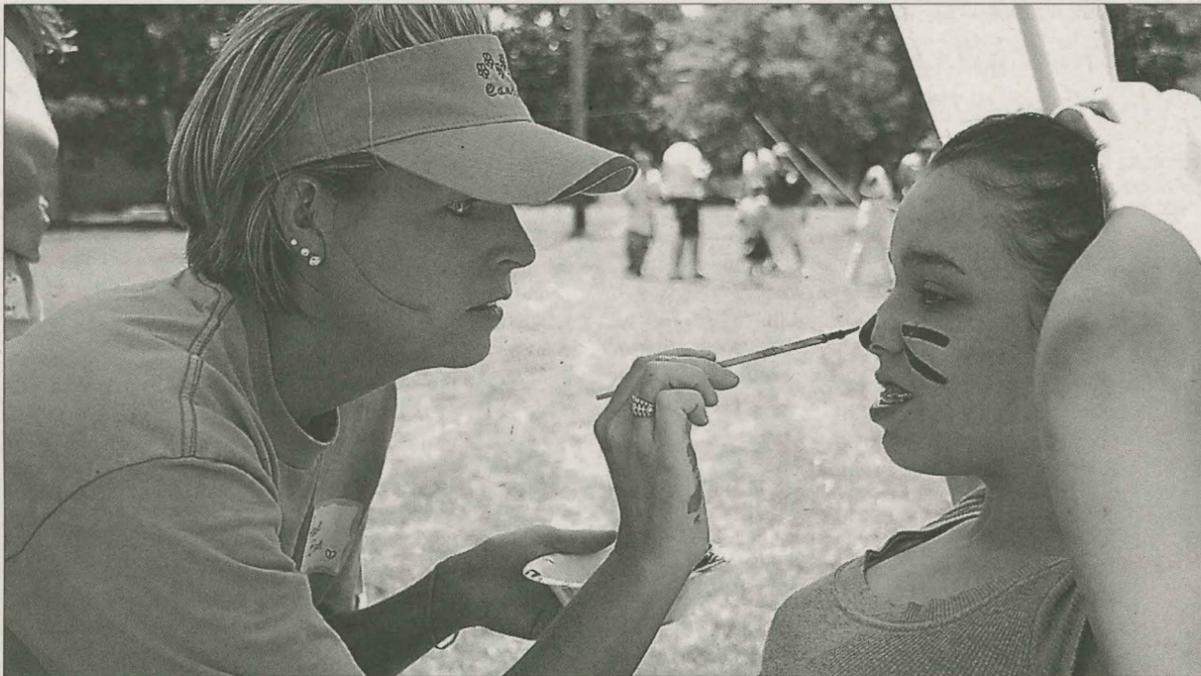
Crossover volunteers delivered a loaf of bread to each family they visited and shared information about First, Hendersonville. "It's a personal touch to say, 'We care about you and about your children,'" Schwartz pointed out.

Terry Mitcheson, pastor of New Light Church, led a team of 26 volunteers from his church.

Noting that many of the families they visited live in large, upscale houses, he acknowledged his church often bypasses more affluent homes during outreach efforts.

"When we visited today, they have the same needs we have," he said. "When we do our own visitation from now on, we need to remember to minister to everybody."

"There were a lot of needs that we prayed for," said Linda Reason, a member of New Light Church. "For me personally, it moved me closer



FACE PAINTING Annie Blan, a member of Lewisport Baptist Church, paints a face during a block party in Smyrna, southeast of Nashville. "We were able to meet some kids and build some relationships with them," she said.

into an evangelism arena I hadn't been in before. I want to do more."

Talking football & Jesus

In Spring Hill, south of Nashville, Scott Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Church in Bowling Green, talked with a father whose son was taking part in a football clinic featuring Craig Johnson, the quarterbacks' coach for the Tennessee Titans professional football team.

"The great thing is you can talk football with anyone," he said later.

Kilgore said he talked with the father about the importance of a good coach in sports and then he talked about the importance of having the right coach for life.

"Your football skills are going to wane," Kilgore said. "But the thing about a new life in Christ is it only gets deeper and sweeter."

Living Hope Church has had a continuing relationship with The Bridge. The Nashville church start meets for worship in a school and has an attendance ranging from 80 to 100 each Sunday.

Rick Howerton, pastor of The Bridge, was formerly on staff at Living Hope before moving to Nashville to work for LifeWay Christian Resources and later launching The Bridge.

"It gets real lonely starting a church," Howerton said. "We could not survive without the encouragement of a church like Living Hope."



SOUTHERN GOSPEL Members of First Baptist Church of Tompkinsville sing Southern Gospel music for a community-wide party sponsored by Baptist churches in Chapel Hill, Tenn.

Renewing friendships

David Frahme revived old friendships when he helped organize the group from his church to attend Crossover.

Frahme, pastor of missions for Lewisport Baptist Church, recruited seven other adults to help with construction and a block party at a public housing community in Smyrna, southeast of Nashville.

Frahme, a former member of First Baptist Church of Smyrna, saw several friends during the trip back.

But he was more excited about the impact the trip could have on the members of Lewisport.

"I hope they catch the vision for missions," he said. "When you're serving other people, that's when you feel the blessings."

Lewisport Pastor Curtis Barnes said he hopes members will catch the vision for sponsoring more outreach ministries in their own community.

"It helps to cast that vision for doing it at home, not just doing it three hours away," he said.

Barnes said he would know whether the trip was a success by what the volunteers said on the ride back home.

Even before leaving the block party, at least one volunteer already was on board. "It's a great thing," volunteer Johnnie Blan said. "I wish we could do something like this in Lewisport."

Farther south of Nashville, more than 25 volunteers from First Baptist



FOOTBALL CLINIC Craig Johnson, quarterbacks' coach for the Tennessee Titans, holds a football clinic for The Bridge church in Spring Hill, Tenn.

Church of Tompkinsville provided music for a community-wide block party in Chapel Hill.

Musicians and singers formed four groups to play rock-and-roll, country, praise and worship, and gospel. "We hope to encourage the local people," said Tompkinsville organizer Mark Caffee. "Don't give up the fight."

Georgia Holmes said the party atmosphere allowed Christians to interact with others who might never attend church.

"This has opened the whole town up," she said. "We've been praying for God to expand our territory, and He did. ... This is an opportunity to reach people you might never see" otherwise.

"This is an opportunity to reach people you might never see."

Georgia Holmes, Crossover block party organizer



PARTNERS Scott Kilgore (left), executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, talks with Rick Howerton, pastor of The Bridge in Spring Hill, Tenn. Living Hope is a sponsor for The Bridge.

Powerful PowerPoint

Worship leader has tips and tricks for better presentations

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Crestwood—When used correctly, presentation software can go a long way toward enhancing worship, according to a Kentucky Baptist worship leader.

Mike Arvin, worship leader for contemporary worship services at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County, recently shared principles, tips and tricks for creating effective presentations with approximately 80 technical ministry volunteers.

Arvin's workshop was part of TechConnect, a technical ministries conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

According to a 2004 study by Ellison Research, 30 percent of Southern Baptist churches use presentation software, such as PowerPoint, MediaShout or Sunday Plus as part of their worship services.

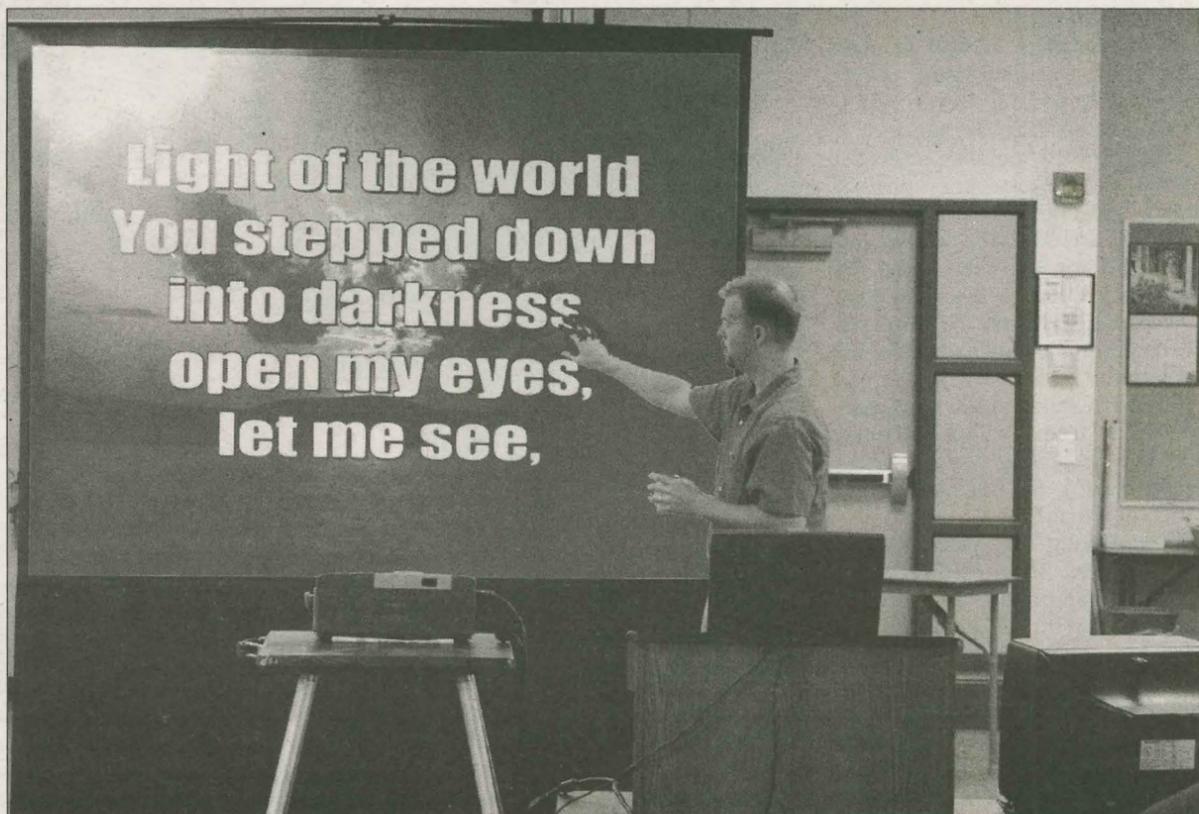
The software can be used to project song lyrics, announcements, sermon notes and more onto a large screen for worshippers to follow along.

Arvin encouraged church tech ministry volunteers to focus on excellence and creativity as they create their presentations for worship. They should keep in mind that guests will expect high quality, and might not be too forgiving of amateurish presentations.

Arvin said he asks the same question before using any presentation at Crestwood: "Does it look like we are doing 'Fisher Price: My

"Does it look like we are doing 'Fisher Price: My First PowerPoint' or does it look all right?"

Mike Arvin, worship leader at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County



VIDEO PRESENTATIONS Mike Arvin, worship leader at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County, teaches participants how to create meaningful messages in worship using presentation software. (KBC photos by Brenda Smith)

First PowerPoint' or does it look all right?"

Arvin said he spends hours each week creating elaborate PowerPoint presentations for worship services at Crestwood. His presentations often include moving images, video clips and more.

"It's my offering to God. I don't want to just slap something together, I want it to be my best," explained Arvin. "It's sort of like bringing my first fruits to God."

Some of Arvin's principles for presentation creators:

Be creative. Appropriate images can help convey the meaning of a song, Arvin said. For example, when singing "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever," Arvin includes background images of mountains and seas, both of which are mentioned in the song.

"Images can be used to enhance worship," he explained. "We are a culture that uses a lot of images."

Good sources for images include powerpointart.com, and heartlight.org.

Be legal. Arvin recommends that churches "double and triple check" with sources to make certain their use of images is legal.

"Make sure you are not violating copyright laws," he counseled.

Be consistent. Arvin works to maintain consistent size and placement of text on the screen. That way, as the presentation is advanced from slide to slide, the images don't "jump" around on the screen. He keeps the number of lines of text consistent from slide to slide.

Arvin also is careful in selecting font, type size and effects to be the most readable. PowerPoint's Word-Art feature can help promote maximum readability, he added.

Check for spelling and grammar errors. Don't rely on the program's Spell Check feature to catch errors, Arvin cautioned. Spell Check won't catch words spelled correctly but

used improperly.

Arvin had his own embarrassing moment when the PowerPoint lyrics for "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" included the phrase "sacred thong" instead of "sacred throng."

Practice. Arvin always tests the presentation in his office, playing through the worship service on his guitar and checking transitions and timing.

He also plays through the presentation during band rehearsal, once again checking to make sure that transitions are smooth and timing is perfect.

Arvin also recommends building and testing the presentation on the actual machine it will run on. Differences in machine power and speed can affect how presentations appear.

Communicate and coordinate. Arvin also makes sure that the member of the technical crew who will be responsible for running the show has a printout of the entire show, including Arvin's special notes.

He walks through the presentation with the presentation operator to reduce the possibility of miscommunication. The presentation operator also attends band rehearsal, and reviews the presentation with the band.

"Operators need good instructions," Arvin explained. "They need to know what to expect."



TECHNICAL ADVICE Aaron Shipp (left), technical team leader at Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia and owner of AP Audio, shows audio systems.

Fall Kentucky Baptist Convention conference to provide worship leadership resources

Louisville—Music and worship resources will be explored this fall during the "Journey into Worship" conference, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, "Journey into Worship 2" is a response to requests from Kentucky Baptist church leaders for assistance with corporate worship in their churches.

The goal is to equip 500 church leaders to provide authentic wor-

ship experiences that will connect with emerging generations.

The event also is designed to refresh participants in their own worship, said Jim Cordell, director of the KBC worship/music department.

"They are likely to experience personal renewal in their relationship with God," he said. "They will develop relationships with others who share the same journey. They will be encouraged."

The conference will include corporate worship experiences as

well as panel dialogue sessions on current worship issues and smaller workshop sessions.

Journey into Worship 2 is open to everyone, but is focused on church leaders involved in planning and implementing corporate worship.

"Leaders will be excited about new things they can take back to their churches immediately, and they'll be introduced to a wealth of resources that will continue to offer resources for worship renewal," Cordell said.

Dave Bullock and Clay Smith will lead the conference. Bullock, from Elbrock Church in Brookfield, Wis., will lead the music. Smith, from Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, S.C., will deliver the worship service messages.

Registration costs \$50 per person or \$100 per church group. For more information or to register online visit www.kybaptist.org/journey2 or call the KBC worship/music department toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5707.

'Biblezines' taking off

Publishers expand successful model to kids, hip-hop generation

By Helena Andrews
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Beauty secrets, decoder rings and "Is this the guy for me?" quizzes aren't just the stuff of teen magazines.

Now they're in the New Testament as Bible publishers find success marketing the Good Book to the golden demographic.

Biblezines, or Biblesmags—biblical text in magazine format—for teenagers have become best-sellers all over the country—and not just at Christian bookstores. Wal-Mart, Borders, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.com have sold millions of the magazine-style books at an average price of \$17.

Banking on their success with teens, Thomas Nelson Bibles has expanded beyond Generation Y and begun marketing Biblezines to younger children and even the hip-

hop generation.

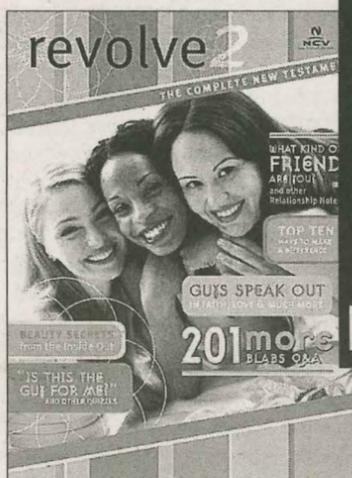
"Magnify," for kids ages 7-11, was released in March and a new version with the Old Testament will be released in September. "Real"—targeting urban youth—will hit bookstores in July; it features articles like "Jail Ain't No Joke—Testimonies from Ex-Convicts" and "How You Travelin'?"—How to Walk Out Your Life with the Lord.

Officials at the Nashville-based Thomas Nelson Bibles said they have found a great way to get the Good Book into young people's hands.

"It was obvious that we were missing the mark because we weren't speaking to them (teenagers) how they needed to be spoken to," said Wayne Hastings, vice president and publisher of Thomas Nelson Bibles, which publishes four Biblezines and plans on making more.

Candace Leutzinger, of Layton, Utah, spotted one of Nelson's 'zines, "Revolve," at a Barnes and Noble store a couple of years ago.

"I looked through it and realized it was a Bible," explained Leutzinger, now 22. After she shared the Biblezines with her friends, they got interested, too, and even starting



giving them as gifts.

Most Biblezines use text from the New Century Version translation first published in the 1980s and known for its easy-to-read language. Fans of the 'zines say this translation makes it much easier for teens to connect to Scripture.

Leutzinger agreed. "I think it's a really good concept because prior to seeing those (Biblezines) I was really turned off by the Bible." She described the Bible as "wordy, hard to follow and kind of confusing at times."

Mixing Scripture & articles

These hip versions of the New Testament feature articles like "Extras: Girls, Cash and Cars," "Top Ten Ways to Make a Difference" and "Radical Faith: How to Live What You Believe" along with devotional guides, beauty tips and music reviews.

Nelson's "Revolve," "Refuel," "Magnify" and "Becoming" are the most popular Biblezines geared toward teen girls, guys, children and young women, respectively. They have sold more than 1 million books so far—a staggering number for Bible sales among that age group, according to Hastings.

Its next project, "Real," will target urban youth.

"It is a culture that is permeating everything," said Hastings, who added that hip-hop, which made up 78 percent of Billboard's top 25 CDs, has gone untapped in the Bible

publishing world. Nelson wants to reach it first.

That aim might bring even more

young readers to the Bible because many think it's especially tough for teenagers to be religious and cool at the same time. Biblezines might be the answer, according to Todd Starowitz, a publicist with Tyndale House Publishers.

"They may be hesitant to carry a Bible on a bus," Starowitz said of Bible-reading teens. Tyndale published the sports-themed New Testament Biblezine "nt:sport" in 2004 and has sold 40,000 copies since September.

But despite bustling sales, not everyone is happy with trendy updates to a text many believe is sacred.

One Amazon.com reviewer wrote this about "Revolve2," the recently updated version of Nelson's Revolve: "Girls, please don't short-change yourself ever by thinking you are too stupid to understand something as complex as a book. There is more to you than makeup and boy angst."

Even Leutzinger thought the 'zines went a bit too far.

"It had some really sexist ideas in it," Leutzinger said, "like women aren't supposed to work and how girls-should not ask guys out."

Attracting youth to the Bible

Despite criticisms, many youth pastors say the benefit of getting Gen Y interested in the Bible far outweighs the criticisms.

"I think that any time we can get kids reading the Bible, it's going to be a plus," said Jeff Slack, pastor of student ministries at Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif.

Slack works with almost 100 junior high school students and has passed along "Refuel" and "Revolve" to about a third of his teens.

He said he gives them to "the kids that don't have a church background who are a little resistant to the traditional-looking Bible."

"Then I'll ... follow up and ask them some of the questions based on those articles," Slack said. "I think it's a great entry point."

With millions of Biblezines sold and "Becoming" ranking fifth on the Christian Booksellers Association's June 2005 best-seller list, the 'zines have clearly reached their target.

Hastings, of Nelson, said a 2002 meeting with a marketing company opened his eyes to the possibilities of grabbing younger readers.

"They walked in and threw "Seventeen" magazine and a Bible on the table and said, 'If you were a teenager, which one would you rather read?'"

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers of Lights and Baptistries
www.BUIchurch.com
1-800-446-7400
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, Virginia 24541

15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

LifeWay Church Buses has the solution—a 15-passenger mini-bus that meets Federal safety standards.



- 15 Passengers (No CDL)
- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- Raised Roof
- Longer Wheelbase
- Dual Rear Wheels
- Steel Construction
- Also Larger Buses - up to 46 Passengers!

Buses are provided for LifeWay by
Carpenter BUS SALES Since 1953
America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

SERIOUS CONCERNS

- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and ChildTransportation Businesses are at Risk!

For straight answers to your tough questions about long term care insurance*, contact:

CAROL JAMES

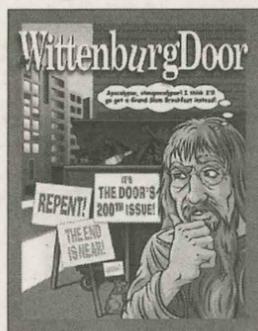
502-245-3966

1-866-582-2436, ext. 4203



*Long term care insurance products underwritten by GENERAL ELECTRIC CAPITAL ASSURANCE COMPANY. Not all policies available in all states.

Satirical mag Wittenburg Door names own editors 'Biggest Loser'



Dallas (RNS)—The Wittenburg Door, a religious satire magazine known for poking fun at the pious, has named its "Biggest Loser" just in time for its 200th issue in July.

In true Door fashion, it's the bi-monthly magazine's own editors.

Senior Editor Robert Darden said the editorial staff narrowly edged several contenders, including House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, for his "amoral exploitation of the tragic Terri Schiavo case on 'religious' grounds."

Also considered were Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, for his "creepy, unabashed pursuit of the papacy," and the "usual suspects: Jerry Falwell,

Pat Robertson, Benny Hinn."

"We examined liberals and conservatives, Catholics and Protestants, evangelicals and Calvinists," Darden wrote in a cover story for the July issue. "We took notes, tallied votes and scratched our throats over dark horse candidates like Al Mohler (president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville), Supreme (sic) Joseph Scalia, the pastors of a couple of megachurches, and SpongeBob himself."

But when all facts were considered, the editors realized that they had no choice but to award the Loser tag to themselves, he said.

"We've failed in virtually every-

thing we've attempted over the past 200 issues," Darden explains. "What's better now than it was when The Wittenburg Door started 200 issues ago? We haven't changed a thing."

The magazine began in California in 1971 as a forum for questioning and redressing problems in the church. The founders intended its namesake to be the Wittenburg Door, upon which Martin Luther sparked the Reformation by posting his 95 theses.

When Wittenburg was misspelled inadvertently in the magazine title, the founders decided it was God's way of telling them that humor and

satire would be their medium.

Twenty-five years later, Mike Yaconelli handed publishing duties to Trinity Foundation Inc. of Dallas and its president, Ole Anthony.

Since then, Anthony has led Trinity's work with the homeless in inner-city Dallas and the magazine, which regularly roasts televangelists and tries to evoke awareness of social issues.

"I suspect that down the road we'll be forced—for one faux pax or another—to name ourselves Losers again," the cover story says. "And with a little luck, and a whole lot of grace, we'll see you again in about 60 days or so."

Kenneth Taylor, Living Bible creator, 88, survived scorn from publishers, scholars

Wheaton, Ill. (RNS)—Kenneth Taylor, creator of the easy-to-read Living Bible, died of heart failure June 10. He was 88.

"We've lost a giant," said Eugene Habecker, president of the New York-based American Bible Society. "This was a gentleman who has made a massive impact on the church."

The Living Bible was a paraphrase of Scripture. With a master's degree in theology, Taylor began interpreting the Bible in the 1960s to his children, confused by the popular King

James translation, could read and

understand it. Unable to interest any publishing companies, he founded Tyndale House, which published the Living Bible in 1971.

For the next three years, Taylor's paraphrase was the best-selling book in the United States, and Tyndale House became one of the country's largest Christian publishers.

Born in Portland, Ore., in 1917, Taylor was the son of a Presbyterian pastor.

He received a doctorate of theology from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1944 and began to paraphrase the

Bible while commuting by train to his job at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

Evangelist Billy Graham gave Taylor a major boost early on by distributing "Living Letters," Taylor's version of books in the New Testament, to audiences at Graham's crusades.

Some scholars criticized Taylor's paraphrase for changing the original meaning of the Bible. Tyndale House published a revision of the Living Bible in 1966.

The newer version, called the New Living Translation, retained the successful "Left Behind" series. Taylor died in Wheaton and is survived by his wife and 10 children.

While Mary is "great with child" in the King James Version (Luke 2: 5), Joseph's "fiancée" is "obviously pregnant" in the New Living Translation.

The Living Bible sold more than 40 million copies and was translated into more than 100 languages. Taylor also founded the Christian Booksellers Association, the trade association of the Christian publishing industry, in 1950.

One of Taylor's sons, Mark, is now president of Tyndale House, based in Wheaton, Ill., best known in recent years for publishing the successful "Left Behind" series. Taylor died in Wheaton and is survived by his wife and 10 children.

Unable to interest any publishing companies, Taylor founded Tyndale House, which published the Living Bible in 1971



Kenneth Taylor

Meet Tim.

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

That's not all.

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

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

Call us to find out how you can help.

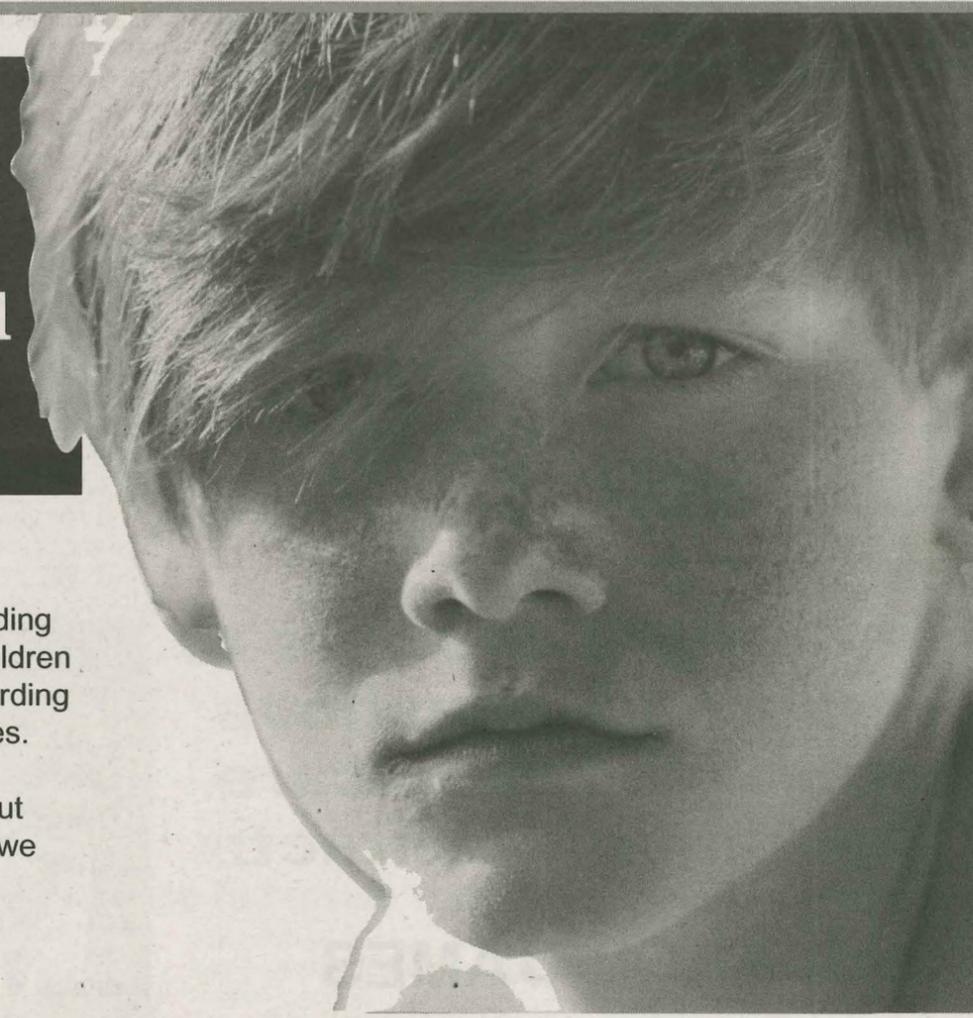


Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Life-Changing Ministries for Children & Families

1-800-456-1386

www.kbhc.org



Where is your treasure?

If you say you love the Lord, do your actions prove it?

From time to time, people will promote to me a particular business or investment opportunity. When I ask how much they have invested in the business or investment opportunity, sometimes the response is, "Well, I haven't invested anything yet." People like to talk about how much they believe in a business or investment, but their actions do not always support their talk.

I find this reality in the spiritual realm as well. People talk about how much they love the Lord and their church, but they contribute very little financially through their church in proportion to their income or their net worth.

Even within churches, members talk about their love for missions, evangelism and our Baptist cooperative missionary, educational and benevolent enterprises, and yet, they seem satisfied with a low level of giving by their church through these enterprises.

Jesus indicated you could tell a lot about what people valued most by where they put their money—their treasure. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus stated, "For where

your treasure is, there your heart will be also." It is interesting Jesus did not say your heart should or should not be where your treasure is; He stated plainly your heart will be wherever you find your treasure.

Your treasure itself is not of the greatest importance, but what it does to your heart is of the greatest importance. That is why Paul in 1 Timothy 6:10 referred to the love of money as a root of all kinds of evil. It can pull you down to a low level and change your life to a frustration of temporariness where your every desire, every move and every joy is directly related to the condition of your bank account and brokerage account. Invested in eternal things, however, it can anchor your soul and keep your heart in the condition God wants it to be to give you peace and happiness.

Eternal investments, treasures in heaven, are the wisest investments.

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



THE PRESIDENCY OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Samford University seeks a president to succeed Dr. Thomas E. Corts, who has announced his retirement at the end of the 2005-06 academic year. Samford provides an optimum context for leadership, having had only three presidents in the past 67 years. Samford values a close relationship with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

ABOUT THE NEXT PRESIDENT

As a serious academic institution equally serious about its Christian commitment, Samford's next president must be an individual who is committed to the Christian faith, and to the University's mission, vision and foundational statements. In keeping with its tradition of strong, visionary leadership, Samford University seeks a president of the highest quality—a leader more than a manager; someone who understands and demonstrates the balance between faith and academics that is important to an institution such as Samford; someone who has the capacity to speak about personal faith but mostly lives it; someone who understands and values the task of the teacher-scholar; and someone who prizes learning. Ideally, the president will be a strong communicator in both written and oral forms; a team player and team builder; a good listener; and a committed fund-raiser with financial knowledge, and eagerness to procure, plan and prioritize resources.

ABOUT SAMFORD

One of the 100 oldest colleges/universities in America, Samford is among the 200 best-endowed universities. It is ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the five best universities in its classification in the South and has been among the top 10 for the past 15 years. Samford enjoys a full enrollment of 4,400 students on its beautiful campus in the pleasant Birmingham suburban community of Homewood. Samford University is organized in eight academic units offering 23 degrees in more than 100 major fields of study. Samford is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Nominations and letters of interest may be sent in writing to the address below. All nominations and expressions of interest will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Dr. Sarah Latham, Secretary
Presidential Search Committee
Samford University
P. O. Box 590145
Birmingham, AL 35229

For more information about Samford University and the presidential search, go to www.samford.edu/presidentialsearch

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Insect indicated in Deuteronomy 1:44
- 4 Clothes
- 8 Book division
- 12 Son of Abijam and good king of Judah
- 13 Medicinal plant
- 14 One of David's valiant men: _____ the Ahohite (1 Chronicles 11:29)
- 15 Affirmative
- 16 Blue or White
- 17 Sets goals
- 18 "For he is Lord of lords, and _____ (Revelation 17:14; 3 words)
- 21 Members of conger family
- 22 "His bones are like bars of _____" (Job 40:18)
- 23 Debris
- 25 African antelope
- 26 Apiece (abbr.)
- 28 "The _____ are a people not strong" (Proverbs 30:25)
- 29 Child's play
- 30 Fine-feathered filler
- 32 Empire state (abbr.)
- 33 Reporter's question
- 34 Pulled along
- 35 "The day dawn, and the day _____ arise in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19)
- 37 Horse or brake
- 38 Powerful acclamation of Jesus (1 Timothy 6; 3 words)
- 41 Add to the payroll
- 42 Father of Amos (Luke 3:25)
- 43 Shanty
- 45 Before (prefix)
- 46 Priest who "brought the law" (Nehemiah 8)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
	18		19				20			
			21			22				
23	24				25				26	27
28				29				30	31	
32				33				34		
		35	36				37			
	38					39				40
41					42				43	44
45					46				47	
48					49				50	

- 47 Wrath
- 48 Postparty scene
- 49 Quadrant of D.C.
- 50 "Be strong, and quit yourselves like _____" (1 Samuel 4:9)
- 26 Nathan told David the story of the _____ lamb
- 27 Conjunction
- 29 "By him were all things created ... whether they be _____, or dominions" (Colossians 1:16)
- 30 "Behold, the judge standeth before the _____" (James 5:9)
- 31 "One was brought unto him, which _____ ten thousand talents" (Matthew 18:24; 2 words)
- 33 Lump sum
- 34 Doubting disciple
- 35 Sifts, like socks
- 36 Ash, and others
- 37 Disparaging remark
- 38 "Their _____ is gone out through all the earth" (Psalm 19:4)
- 39 Bother
- 40 "Be ye _____ of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you" (Luke 10:11)
- 41 Son of Noah
- 44 "Your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages _____ times" (Genesis 31:7)

Down

- 1 Hudson, for one
- 2 "He called the name of the well _____; because they strove with him" (Genesis 26:20)
- 3 Most direct, as a route
- 4 To make a knot
- 5 Medleys
- 6 Volkswagen vehicle
- 7 "I come _____ fruit on this fig tree, and find none" (Luke 13:7)
- 8 _____ forte
- 9 Straighten, as a column
- 10 Drives into
- 11 Poetic contraction
- 19 New Jersey pros
- 20 Son of Caleb (1 Chronicles 4:15)
- 23 Pale
- 24 "If _____ of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God" (James 1:5)
- 25 Ends

Last week's solution

A	R	E	S	E	E	R	S	M	A	N		
P	A	T	T	E	N	E	T	E	R	E		
T	H	E	L	O	R	D	L	I	V	E	T	H
H	A	N	G	S		A	R	I	S	E	S	
A	L	A	S	C	I	T	E	D		X	I	
M	I	L	O	I	L	E	D		S	I	N	
A	V	E	N	T	E	R		B	A	L	K	
N	E	A	T	L	Y			S	A	V	E	S
P	R	A	I	S	E	T	H	E	L	O	R	D
H	A	S	O	D	O	U	R		U	T	E	

WORLD VIEW

Christian university opposed in Moscow neighborhood. About 100 people picketed a district assembly building in Moscow last month, claiming plans for a Christian college in a local neighborhood is a threat to the Russian Orthodox Church. According to the Interfax news agency, the protest reflected anger among some members of the Orthodox Church over what they consider encroachment by other faiths. The protesters demanded that the project be stopped and that more Russian Orthodox churches be built in the neighborhood in northern Moscow, Interfax reported.

Hospital removes Bibles to fight germs. A Canadian hospital is being criticized for its decision to take Bibles out of its patients' rooms to stem the spread of germs. The Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton, New Brunswick, said the Bibles—along with phone books and hospital directories—were removed to stop the spread of germs, according to the National Post of Canada. Mayor Brad Woodside of Fredericton said the hospital was trying to do away with Christian symbols. Hospital chaplain Karl Csasz said a Bible is no greater threat to a hospital patient than other objects in the room.

Anglicans to consider Israeli divestment. Leaders of the worldwide Anglican Communion are scheduled to consider a proposal to follow the Presbyterian Church (USA) in divesting from companies doing business with Israelis who "support the occupation of Palestinian lands." The Anglican Consultative Council, a policy steering committee for the 77 million-member Anglican Communion, will consider the proposal when it meets in Nottingham, England, June 19-28. Jewish groups say divestment is unfair because it does not apply equal pressure against Palestinian terrorists. In the U.S., the United Church of Christ will consider a divestment proposal when it meets in Atlanta July 1-5.

Eight new nations cited for laxity on human trafficking. Saudi Arabia and seven other countries have been added to the U.S. State Department's list of nations whose governments do not meet minimum standards for addressing human trafficking and are not making significant attempts to address it. Joining Saudi Arabia on the list, according to the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, were Bolivia, Cambodia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Qatar, Togo and the United Arab Emirates. They join Burma, Cuba, Ecuador, North Korea, Sudan and Venezuela who were already on the list.

India missionary murder suspects freed

Orissa, India (RNS)—Seven people accused in the 1999 murder of a missionary in India, were released from jail last week, upsetting the country's Christian community.

On May 19, a court ruled there was insubstantial evidence to prosecute most of those accused of killing Graham Staines, an Australian who was burned to death along with his two sons. The court also commuted a death sentence against the main accused, Dara Singh, to life imprisonment.

The verdict, issued by the High Court in the state of Orissa, was seen as a blow to India's Christians, who make up 2.4 percent of the country's population.

"We don't see any logic in the judgment," Pran Paricha told Christianity Today magazine. Paricha is

Orissa chapter president of the All India Christian Council.

"If it is not these people who killed Staines, then the question is who killed them? Who is guilty? And why is justice not being done? It's a threatening development for the Christian minority."

Staines and his two sons, Philip and Timothy, were asleep in their station wagon when it was set ablaze by a mob in a village in Orissa. Singh was the alleged ringleader of the mob.

A missionary originally from Australia who had worked with lepers for decades, Staines had been conducting annual camps in religious and social discourse. The camps, like other activities conducted by Christian evangelicals, have come under attack from

Hindu groups, who contend that poor Hindus are easy prey for conversions.

The issue of conversions has taken on greater urgency in recent years, with some Hindu organizations re-converting people to Hinduism. It is in this environment that Christian groups say their members are being attacked with greater frequency.

According to the public prosecutor in the Staines murder case, few people were willing to come forward to testify against the accused, resulting in a "thinned" case.

India's Central Bureau of Investigation, which originally brought the case against Singh and the others, is considering whether to pursue the matter to the Supreme Court.

Watchdog group: Saudis crack down on Christians

Washington (BP)—Saudi Arabian police have made a wave of arrests of Christians since May 27, constituting the "largest crackdown" on followers of Christ in the Muslim-dominated country in the last decade, according to human rights organization.

International Christian Concern reported 46 arrests in the Middle Eastern country through June 1. The arrests included eight Indian nationals who were taken into custody May 28, according to ICC.

The human rights organization also confirmed reports of police ransacking the houses of Christians and destroying Bibles, ICC reported.

Regular Saudi police and Mut-

tawa religious police have carried out these actions, ICC reported.

Saudi Arabia is listed by the U.S. State Department as one of the world's most severe violators of religious freedom. Last year, the State Department placed Saudi Arabia on its list of "countries of particular concern" for the first time. The CPC designation is reserved for governments that have "engaged in or tolerated systemic and egregious violations of religious freedom."

The ICC and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom have both criticized the Bush administration for failing to take action as a follow-up to the designation of Saudi Arabia as a CPC. The president is required to take

specific actions—from diplomacy to economic sanctions—against governments designated as CPCs.

For years, the State Department has said religious freedom "does not exist" in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government prohibits all forms of public religious expression except Wahhabism, an extreme interpretation of Islam, and it finances activities overseas that express hatred and, in some cases, violence toward non-Muslims and out-of-favor Muslims, according to the USCIRF.

Saudi police confiscate hundreds of Bibles yearly at border crossings and in raids on Christians, then burn or desecrate them, the Saudi Institute reported May 20.

Being creative with His blessings, part 2

Be it Band-Aids or used furniture, God sends it and we use it at Oneida

By Missy Nichols

Oneida Baptist Institute Donations Coordinator

Last week I shared with you some of the amazing blessings God sends our way and our need sometimes to be highly creative in putting those blessings to use. This week I want to tell you of a few more interesting donations Oneida has been given.

A few years ago, we received several reels of car heater hose. We had little use for it for that purpose, but God sent it and with His inspiration we would use it. The farm crew took some of the hose and cut holes in it to use for irrigating our garden. With the right attachments on the ends, the work program uses it as water hoses.

Some time ago, we received 12 spools of "Batman" Band-Aids. Each spool was three feet in diameter and contained 10,000 Band-Aids. These bright yellow Band-Aids have an obvious use, and the savings to the school is tremendous. As long as time does not damage the adhesive, we have enough to last several more years. We currently are working on spool number six.

From time to time, we receive used furniture. We always can use these items in guest housing and as set pieces in our drama productions. In addition to individuals donating their furniture, banks and motels also have sent us their used office furniture. Our classrooms and offices are furnished with many desks and chairs from these generous businesses. The dormitory's offices and TV rooms are much more comfortable with the addition of 40 love seats and

chairs. While they were given to us as used furniture, they are new to us. They replaced much older items we used for years which came to us in the same manner.

For the last three to four years, a donor has given us powdered laundry detergent. Each pallet contains 1,400 pounds of detergent in bulk. We have many uses for laundry detergent on our campus. The farm now is equipped with washers and dryers in the agriculture center so students

working on the farm can launder their work clothes there and change into clean clothing for their return to campus. Our kitchen staff has a washer and dryer on site for laundering towels and dishcloths. The athletic department has to wash our many sports uniforms, and of course there are many uses for detergent in the dormitories. We use one and a half pallets—that's 2,100 pounds!—of donated laundry detergent per year. Within the last six months

we have received a pallet of 300 boxes of fabric softener as well.

The wonderful bounty God bestows on our school never ceases to amaze me. From barbecue sauce to Band-Aids, He continues to surprise us with an assortment of treasures. Although we don't know what blessings He has in mind, we are aware that those blessings never would come about if there weren't generous people in the world who think of Oneida and the work we do each day with the students God sends to us. We praise Him for His goodness, and we thank you for your friendship.

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

Some 'deviled nest eggs'

AARP tells only part of the story about annuities

In the June issue of AARP Bulletin a "ScamAlert" article titled, "Deviled Nest Eggs" told of a couple who invested \$43,000 in a tax-deferred insurance company annuity to later schedule the "payments weren't scheduled to begin until 2045, when John—who had endured several small strokes and was battling Alzheimer's—would have been 115 years old."

The article, written by Sid Kirchheimer, is a good warning for the buyer to beware of small print and pressure sells. The writer does state that the problem is with "some kinds of annuities" but concludes with this negative word about annuities: "Financial experts generally have one word of advice for people over 65 planning a long-term annuity: Don't!"

AARP tells only part of the story. Charitable gift annuities continue to be a good investment for individuals who have balanced assets and desire to help the work of Christ or a community charity. Some examples from my experience tell the rest of the story.

In 1998 Mildred Hunt Ribble

of Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., placed \$10,000 in a gift annuity. She received 8 percent annual income for 5 years before her death in 2004 at age 100. The balance in the account, \$7,965.08, came to Clear Creek as the first portion of a student "workshop" endowment.

In 1999 a Clear Creek friend contributed \$70,000 for a charitable gift annuity and receives 8 percent guaranteed income until death. With bank certificates below 3 percent, the donor is very grateful.

An annuity isn't for everyone. Another friend of the college recently considered one and decided, "I think I can do better playing the stock market; but I'm placing the college in my will."

Clear Creek partners with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to provide financial advice related to annuities, wills and other deferred gifts. The result could allow your nest egg to do even more, including taking some delicious deviled eggs to the next senior adult fellowship.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Inviting Jesus to the party

Luis Palau festivals attracting unchurched with music, sports

By Judith Cebula
Religion News Service

Minneapolis, Minn. (RNS)—April Lundholm, 16, showed up for the bands. The skateboarders were great. And the best part?

"It didn't," she says, "feel like church."

The suburban Minneapolis teenager is describing a Luis Palau Festival, an evangelistic outreach that is attempting to recast the revival experience for a world in which music and sports are the currency of communication.

The 86-year-old Billy Graham has defined large-event Christian evangelism with a fabled career that presents the gospel in stadium crusades. Palau—a youthful 70—has reached more than 4.4 million people with a party approach to evangelism featuring a slogan of "Great Music. Good News."

It has been so successful in attracting young people that some see it defining evangelism in the early part of this century as Graham shaped it in the latter part of the last century.

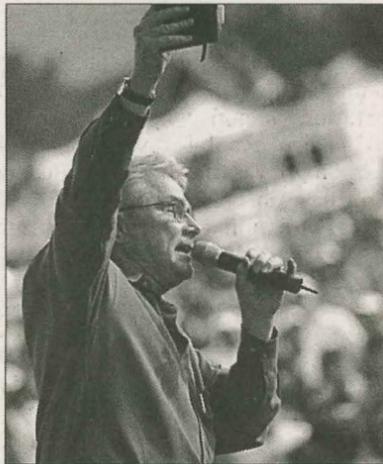
Gone is the term "crusade" and the series of testimonials leading to a single climax—an altar call from the featured evangelist. In fact, even though Palau, a native of Argentina, draws tens of thousands to revivals in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia, he's not at all troubled when teenagers like Lundholm don't picture him when they think of his festivals.

"I caught the end of him, I think," said Lundholm, who attended an August 2004 festival in the Twin Cities. "But I really came to hear (Christian band) Third Day."

Future festivals are scheduled for June 24-25 in Madrid, Spain; July 23 in Bend, Ore.; and Oct. 8-9 in Washington, on the National Mall.

The Luis Palau Evangelistic Association, based in Portland, Ore., doesn't rely on celebrity to carry the Christian message to people across the United States, says Kevin Palau, executive vice president of the organization and Palau's son.

"You know, a Billy Graham Crusade is an event. A happening. No



MESSENGER Luis Palau shares the gospel message with a Seattle "festival" crowd of 75,000 in August 2002. More than 4.4 million people have attended Palau's "Great Music. Good News" events since 1999, prompting some to conclude that he has discovered an updated method of mass evangelism that builds on the Billy Graham "crusade" model.

matter what the generation," Kevin Palau said. "We are not Billy Graham. But we do share the passion to reach the unchurched, so we had to change."

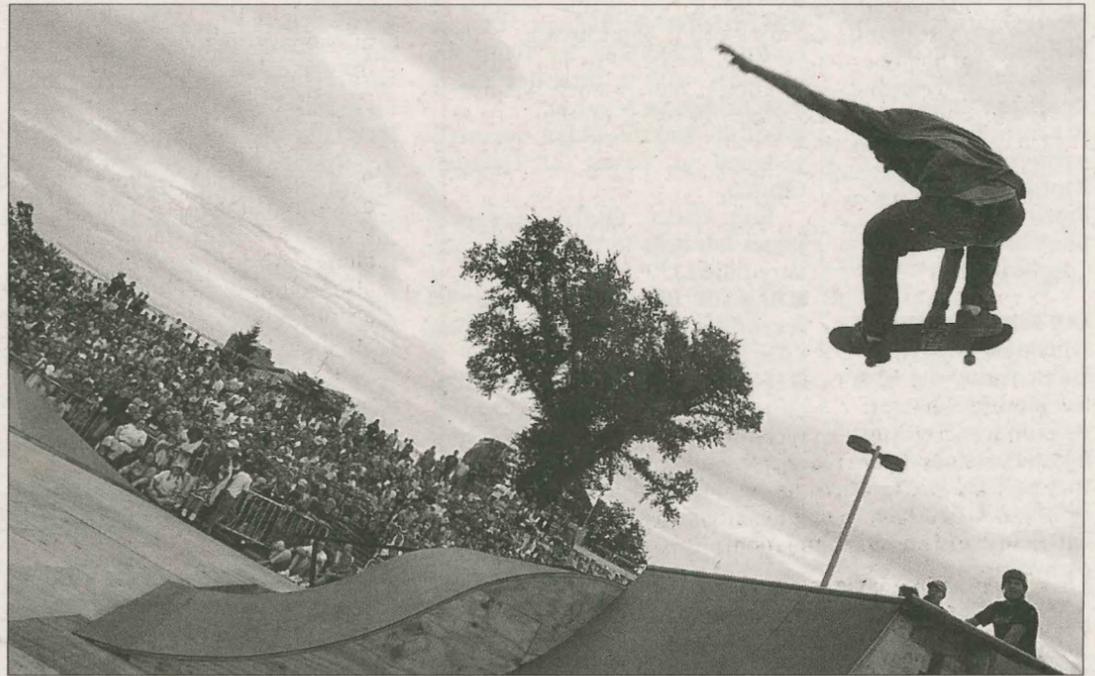
Food, fun & faith

A Palau Festival looks more like a fair or street party than a traditional revival. In a few blocks around the statehouse in St. Paul, Minn., organizers erected food booths, small venues for professional athletes and their sports franchises and a space for the family-oriented Veggie Tales characters. A main stage featured bands.

Festival bands have included Toby Mac, Third Day and Point of Grace.

Since 1999, when Kevin Palau first advocated for this festival approach, there has always been a professional-sized skate park, a place where national champions of the once grunge sport of skateboarding perform.

Four times each day—at the skate park, on the music stage, in the Veggie Tales area—Palau's people pitch the Christian message. It's not simply up to Palau to spread the word,



HANG TIME Professional skateboarder Jud Heald performs for a crowd at a Luis Palau festival in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in March 2003. In a new model of evangelism that seeks to attract young people, skateboarding is just one of several vehicles being used by Palau and his team to present the gospel. (Photos courtesy of Luis Palau Evangelistic Association)

though his preaching remains a highlight of the events.

"The festival is outside. People come for a few hours, check out what interests them. They bring their kids and, hopefully, some friends or neighbors who are unchurched," said Kevin Palau, 42. "It looks and smells like a totally normal weekend event for a city."

This is not your parents' crusade.

Compared with Graham's crusades

The contrast will be evident June 24-26 in New York, where Graham is scheduled to lead a crusade. A series of professional athletes, civic leaders and musicians will offer their own Christian testimonials before Graham takes the stage each night at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. His message comes down to a simple request—accept Jesus as your personal savior.

Essentially, it has been this way for nearly 50 years, ever since Graham made national headlines with an eight-week revival in 1957 in New York's Madison Square Garden. The arenas are bigger now. The musicians and other celebrities have changed with the currents of popular culture. And Graham, now frail, can no longer lead week-long revivals.

In truth, Palau festivals are rooted in an approach that builds on Graham's legacy. After all, Palau got his start in U.S. evangelism in the 1960s when he worked with Graham in California. A decade later, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association helped Palau start his own organization.

"Everything we do is based squarely on the Billy Graham model," Kevin Palau said. "And that means, too, that we're always looking for new and interesting ways to present the message of the Good News."

Palau's organization is now packaging its Christian message with a sports-themed DVD, "Livin' It." Released in March, the disc has its own national tour, which began May 5. Actor-turned-evangelist Stephen Baldwin stars in the film, but skateboarders Lance Mountain, Christian Hosoi and Ray Barbee are taking the message to mini-festivals in 25 cities across the U.S., including Atlanta,

Chicago, Little Rock, Dallas, Omaha and Las Vegas.

All of this innovation makes sense within the history of Christian outreach in America, according to Bill Leonard, dean of the divinity school at Wake Forest University. He's an expert on American evangelism.

"Out of church, into culture"

Palau is doing what preachers did in this country from the late 18th century well into the early 20th century, he said. "They're bringing the Christian message out of the church and into the culture."

Leonard is talking about George Whitefield, Charles Finney, D.L. Moody and Billy Sunday as well as Graham—evangelists who spanned three centuries, preaching in camp grounds and town squares. They invited people who were unable to attend church or uninterested in congregational life to become Christians.

"They all had a kind of ecumenism, where the boundaries of denominations that were once so strong just didn't matter to them, just as they don't matter to Graham and Palau," Leonard said.

"And as with these preachers today, there was a willingness to use popular media, including music, and in particular the drinking songs of the day that were transformed with Christian lyrics."

In a sense, Leonard contends, Palau's new-concept festivals are at their core rooted in 200 years of revival history in America. The trappings are different—sports, Christian pop music as outreach, and the street festival approach.

But because of Palau's willingness to change and embrace new ways to spread his faith beyond sanctuaries, he, like his mentor Graham, is in fact spreading a kind of old-time religion.

According to Lundholm, the teenager from the Twin Cities, it still works.

"It didn't feel like church and I liked that," she said.

"It felt more relaxed, and the music and sports stuff, it was relevant, which it has to be. You have to find ways to bring people in, or no one is going to hear the message."



LARGE CROWDS A crowd estimated at more than 850,000 filled the streets of downtown Buenos Aires for a January 2003 Luis Palau festival in Palau's native Argentina.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following churches, missionaries and ministries linked to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Baptists in Poland, Brazil and the International Baptist Convention:

Two Kentucky teams scheduled to go to Malta during the next few months. Pray for missionaries Earl and Robin Pinkston as they prepare for the teams and that they will develop the best plan for using each team's unique gifts and talents.

The 14 volunteer teams traveling from Kentucky to Brazil between now and October.

The need to recruit an International Service Corps couple to help coordinate the Piaui/Kentucky partnership.

Dewey Dick, who is undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer in California. He and his wife, Jerryline, have been the coordinators in Europe for Kentucky Baptists' partnership with the International Baptist Convention.

Campus minister Cindy Pelphrey at Kentucky Wesleyan and her team of college students leading vacation Bible school, a coffee house ministry, English language lessons and outreach work in Wroclaw, Poland, until July 30.

A Kentucky team serving in Glogow, Poland, until June 24.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BETHLEHEM**—Bethlehem Church recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with a three-day event. **Brad Bridgman** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—**Wayne Glass** recently resigned as pastor of Delmont Church.

East Cadiz Church ordained **James Edwards** to the gospel ministry June 12.

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—**Ova Murrill** recently resigned as pastor of Dunn Church.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—**Bob Hamilton**, pastor of Central Avenue Church, recently resigned to serve as pastor of Monument Baptist Church in Monument, N.M.

■ **FREDONIA**—Creswell Church honored interim pastor **Wallace York** with a plaque and a surprise dinner in honor of his 51st anniversary in ministry.

■ **GRAHAM**—Graham Church recently called **Ron Metheny** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Walnut Grove Church in Morgantown.

■ **HENDERSON**—**Glen Morris** recently resigned as pastor of Dupey Church.

■ **KENTON**—Kenton Church will hold revival services June 26-29 with **Henry Senina** as evangelist. **Steve Watkins** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Mexico Church will host a retirement reception for **Charlie and Gladis Orr** June 26, 2-4 p.m. Orr has served 24 years as minister of music.

■ **MIDDLESBORO**—First Church honored **Herman and Janet Matthews** June 5 for 50 years of service in the church's music ministry. Matthews is the church pianist and Mrs. Matthews is the organist. The church presented the couple with a plaque and other gifts.

■ **OWENSBORO**—**Brad Smith** recently resigned as children's minister of First Church.

■ **RICHMOND**—Stoney Run Church recently called **George Bryant** as pastor.

■ **SALEM**—Old Salem Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary June 26, 11 a.m., with **Bill Mackey**, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as guest speaker. Activities will include a noon fellowship meal.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

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.

25-27 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

NEEDED: Church plant looking for furniture donations: tables, children's furniture, cribs, etc. Contact Pastor Matthew: (502) 384-5496; matthew@bardstownncf.org.

SEEKING: Pastor for rural Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 529 Ada Drive, Harrodsburg, KY 40330-1011.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/education or administration for Marion Baptist Church in Southwest Virginia. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Marion Baptist Church, 1258 N Main St., Marion, VA 24354.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth at Bagdad Baptist Church in Shelby County. Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, able to lead by example, to relate to all ages on a spiritual and personal level and be willing to make a long-term commitment to our youth ministry. Please send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, PO Box 8, Bagdad, KY 40003.

SEEKING: Director of administrative support services for Southern Seminary, a Christian working environment. Scope of position includes purchasing, accounts payable, project planning and tracking. The successful candidate will have proven interpersonal, computer and critical thinking skills, along with a strong customer service orientation. Five years of appropriate experience and a bachelor's degree are preferred. Send resumé with salary history and requirements to: Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, or to personnel@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Burgin Baptist Church. Interested candidates: Please submit resumé to: Music Search Committee, Burgin Baptist Church, 433 East Main St., PO Box 266, Burgin, KY 40310; or send via e-mail to: burginbaptist@bellsouth.net. Telephone inquiries: (859) 748-5188.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister to lead growing youth group in south-central Kentucky. Interested applicants may send resumé to: Horse Cave Baptist Church, 301 East Main St., Horse Cave, KY 42749, Attn: Search Committee; or call (270) 786-2970.

SEEKING: Southeastern Kentucky church seeks pastor who loves the Lord, teaches God's Word, relates to all ages and has strong leadership/organizational skills to guide the church to be a glory to God. Small town church with the unique opportunity of ministering to community and Oneida Baptist Institute. Housing provided; insurance negotiable. Resumé to: Oneida Baptist Church, PO Box 98, Oneida, KY 40972, Attn: Pulpit Committee.

SEEKING: Experienced payroll accountant for Southern Seminary, a Christian working environment. The successful candidate will have proven accounting, computer, critical thinking, interpersonal and time-management skills, along with a strong customer service orientation. Send resumé with pay history and pay requirements to: Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, or e-mail to personnel@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Full-time minister with youth for Broadway Baptist Church, an established, forward-looking congregation in Louisville, Ky., affiliated with CBF. A job description and other information are available at www.broadwaybaptist.org/position-MinisterWithYouth.html.

SEEKING: Pianist. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066. For more information: (270) 247-2992.

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister for Cloverleaf Baptist Church. Send resumé to the Personnel Committee, Cloverleaf Baptist Church, 4401 Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40216.

SEEKING: Full-time director of missions for Muhlenberg County Missionary Baptist Association. Send resumé to DOM Search Team, 1920 West Everly Brothers Blvd., Central City, KY 42330.

SEEKING: Pastor. Harrison Avenue Baptist Church, 1125 Harrison Ave., Harrison, OH 45030. Resumé accepted through Sept. 30, 2005. For information, call (513) 367-6020.

SEEKING: Secretary/public education assistant. Exploited Children's Help Organization. Help children, work with volunteers, multi-job, small office. Word, Excel, Quik books. Resumé/salary to: ECHO, 1500 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40217. No phone calls.

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

SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for Dunn Missionary Baptist Church. Candidate should be enthusiastic, self-motivated and able to relate to all ages. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Interested candidates should send their resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Dunn Missionary Baptist Church, PO Box 331, Dawson Springs, KY 42408.

SEEKING: Pastor. Send resumé to Piney Grove Baptist Church, c/o LaVetta Mahan, 3009 Mountain View Lane, Corbin, KY 40701.

SEEKING: Full-time and part-time ministers for youth, education, evangelism and children. Send resumé to Pastor Bob Swift, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Second Baptist Church, located in the Western region of Kentucky. College degree preferred, with some seminary training. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 633 Bishop St., Madisonville, KY 42431.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. First Baptist, Shepherdsville, is seeking a 20-hour-per-week minister of music. Primary responsibilities include Sunday worship, Wednesday choir rehearsals and creation of new music groups. Send resumé to: gary@shepfbcc.org, or Gary Hardin, 254 S. Buckman, Shepherdsville, KY 40165. See our Web site: www.shepfbcc.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, located in Middlesboro near the entrance to historic Cumberland Gap National Park in southeastern Kentucky. ECABC averages 125-150 in morning worship; we are a mission-minded church ready to grow. Send resumé and related information to: Pastor Search Committee, East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, PO Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Parkway Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Send resumé, belief statement and philosophy of ministry to: Search Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

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

Scholars chronicle lasting impact of Apostle Paul

By Greg Garrison
Religion News Service

Chicago (RNS)—John Dominic Crossan has a reputation as a liberal theologian for his role in the Jesus Seminar, a group of scholars that has voted on the authenticity of the sayings of Jesus and other portions of the Bible.

But Crossan sometimes sounds like a conservative when talk turns to the Apostle Paul.

"I do not agree that there's a discontinuity between Jesus and Paul, that Paul disagreed with Jesus, or that Paul started Christianity," said Crossan, professor emeritus of biblical studies at DePaul University and author of "In Search of Paul: How Jesus' Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom."

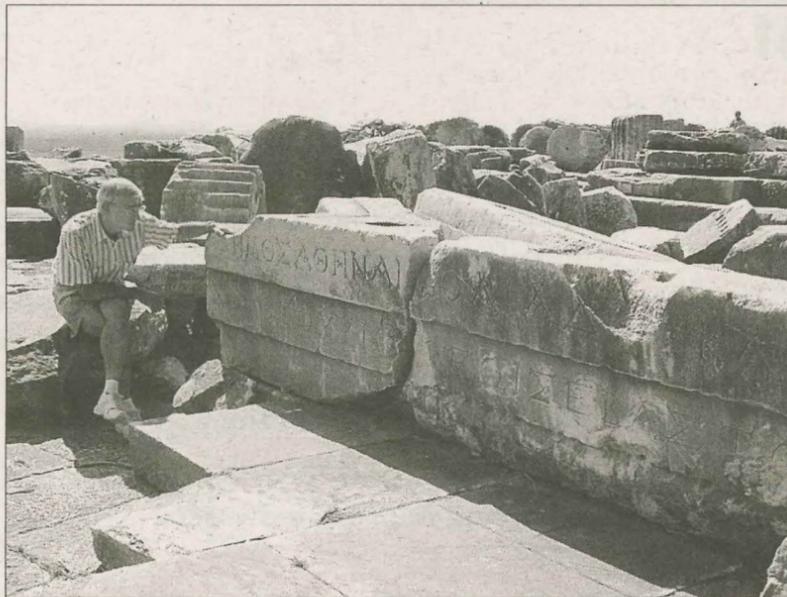
The Apostle Paul has been the subject of at least three major new scholarly books in the past year, all of which celebrate him as one of history's most important figures.

After Jesus, Christianity and consequently the history of western civilization was influenced more definitively by Paul than anyone who followed, the scholars seem to agree.

Paul set the stage for the spread of the faith and the conversion of the pagan Roman empire to Christianity within three centuries after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

While Jesus is the main subject of the New Testament, Paul's monumental effort to build the foundations for the new world religion are a close second. Of the 27 books of the New Testament 13 are attributed to Paul, and his story dominates The Acts of the Apostles.

Paul was in direct defiance of the Roman imperial theology that Caesar was a god, Crossan noted.



PAUL'S 'TREASONOUS' MESSAGE John Dominic Crossan examines a Greek inscription on the ruins of an ancient building south of Ephesus at modern-day Priene, Turkey, that refers to "the emperor Caesar, son of god, the god Augustus." For Paul to call Jesus Lord and Savior, "he is committing high treason." (RNS photo)

"Every coin said Caesar was god, the son of god, the redeemer," Crossan said. "It was all around people, like advertising is all around today. When Paul is using these terms to refer to Christ, he is committing high treason. He's directly saying Caesar is not the lord and savior, Jesus is."

From enemy to apostle

Before becoming its most crucial missionary, the former Saul of Tarsus had been an enemy of the new religion.

"He was persecuting Christians before he was an apostle," Crossan said. "He knew all about them, enough to be thoroughly mad at them. What made him so-mad was their saying that pagans can now be full members of God."

It took a dramatic experience

on the road to Damascus, the most famous religious vision in history, to turn him around.

"I have no doubt whatsoever he had a vision," Crossan said. "He's not just saying it for dramatic effect. Otherwise, you have no explanation of the change."

Although Luke refers to it as a blinding light, Crossan said that Paul clearly saw the risen Jesus.

"The vision was much more likely not of a blinding light, but of Christ himself," Crossan said. "My understanding would be that Paul as a Jew was probably an ecstatic, a mystic, an ascetic. He probably had visions long before he became a Christian."

Paul then picked up what Jesus had been saying and began to take it to a non-Jewish audience.

"Jesus insisted that the Kingdom of God had already begun," Crossan

Recent releases

There has been a flurry of recent scholarly analysis on the Apostle Paul.

Here is a summary of three books published within the past year:

"In Search of Paul: How Jesus' Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom" by John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed. Reed, an archaeologist, and Crossan delve heavily into the ancient geography of the lands that Paul visited and explore textual evidence for the customs and beliefs in the Roman empire at the time of Paul's missionary journeys. The authors compare America, as the greatest post-industrial civilization, to Rome, the greatest pre-industrial civilization.

"The Gospel According to Paul: The Creative Genius Who Brought Jesus to the World" by Robin Griffith-Jones. Griffith-Jones opens with maps of the journeys of Paul and takes an everyday tone in explaining the apostle. "His thought has shaped the western world," Griffith-Jones writes.

"Rabbi Paul" by Bruce Chilton. Chilton, a professor of religion at Bard College, provides an overview of the life of Paul that reads easily and gets to the point. "Paul did not invent the message he died for," Chilton writes. "Jesus remains the genius and founder of Christianity."

said. "People were called to participate in it. Paul is saying the same thing. Jesus was preaching among Jews. Paul was out there among the pagans in the Roman empire."

But there's no question about the importance of Paul's far-flung missionary journeys that began in the '40s and his letters written in the '50s, the earliest written testimonies to Jesus.

The new scholarly trend seems to give Paul a lot of credit for maintaining the theological consistency of Jesus' message, while making it appealing to a new audience and giving it the impetus that would take it to the world.

"If you ask me what Jesus would have said to Paul," Crossan said, "I think He would have said, 'Thank you.'"

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod critiques religious movements

St. Louis (RNS)—The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has recently issued a number of new, often-critical observations of a range of Christian and non-Christian movements.

The St. Louis-based denomination's Commission on Theology and Church Relations posted Web site statements on groups ranging from Christian Science to Wicca.

Among its comments:

Christian Science: "In response to Christian Science views of 'healing,' Lutherans respond by insisting that nowhere in the Scriptures is it

taught that healing occurs through some denial that an illness or a disease exists. Such a theory is itself illusory."

International Churches of Christ: "The ICOC view that there is no salvation outside of this organization is, at its core, contrary to the biblical doctrine of justification by grace through faith on account of Christ through whom alone one is saved."

New age movement: "The path to life with God is not through contacting spirit guides, realizing one's divine potential, consciousness-raising techniques or other

New Age practices or concepts. None other than Jesus Christ is the door to life."

The occult: "In the end, occultic practices are detestable because they seek God outside of His divinely revealed Word. Hence also, they are an idolatrous rejection of God Himself."

Unitarian Universalist Association: "The UUA's assumption that there is no definitive truth is contrary to the Lutheran conviction that the Scriptures are the very Word of God and thus contain divinely normative truth."

Wicca: "Those who practice witchcraft or Wiccan rituals would strongly disassociate themselves from any worship of Satan. However, according to the Scriptures we must conclude that this practice nevertheless serves the purpose of Satan by leading people away from the worship of the true God."

Although many of the statements were critical, the denomination's theologians offered a warmer response to Judaism: "Together with the Apostle Paul, Lutherans look upon the Jewish people with great appreciation and respect."

"The path to life with God is not through contacting spirit guides."

From Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Bill Clinton cautions both conservatives & liberals about using religious language

Washington (ABP)—Former President Bill Clinton cautioned both Democrats and Republicans on their use—or lack thereof—of religious language in a television appearance earlier this month.

Appearing on CNN's popular "Larry King Live" program, Clinton told conservatives that identifying evangelical Christianity too closely with one party's political agenda could backfire on them. Likewise, he told liberals they shouldn't let fears about breaching the separation of church and state force them to cede moral and religious language to

conservatives.

In a response to King's inquiry about whether the "religious conservative movement in America and their power" worried him, Clinton said religious conservatives are the ones who should be worried.

"I think whenever religious people try to exercise political power in God's name, and to say that they have the whole truth and they can impose it, ... that's always hazardous," he said, according to a transcript of the broadcast. "Our country has become the most religious big country on Earth, with more dif-

ferent faiths flourishing and more regular observance (of religious practice) because we haven't had a state religion. And we haven't had politics as religion. And we haven't had politicians claiming to be in possession of the whole truth. So I think they should worry about it."

Nonetheless, Clinton also admonished liberals and centrists. "I think you know, we Democrats, because we believe in the separation of church and state, have become sometimes too secular in our language, too uncomfortable with the language of faith, too uncomfort-

able with the honest discussions of the moral dilemmas that a lot of religious people feel," he said. "And so we have ceded the ground of too many voters to the religious right."

Clinton continued, "But that's our fault. We should engage in this debate. We should involve them. And we should share our feelings about what our values are. But I don't think that the American government or the government of any great country should become the exclusive province of a particular religious movement. And in the end, it's bad for the religious movement."

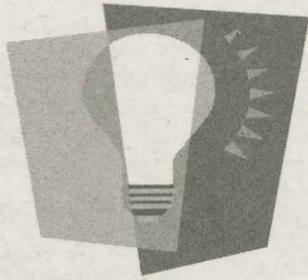


Appreciated Asset Giving Ideas



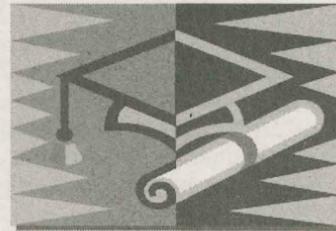
Using appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, or real estate to make gifts to your church and/or other Baptist causes provides a variety of benefits including a charitable income tax deduction based on the market value of the asset (if you've owned it for at least one year and one day) and avoidance of all or a portion of the capital gains taxes that would be incurred if you sold the asset.

Below are a few ideas on how you can reap the benefits of giving appreciated assets.



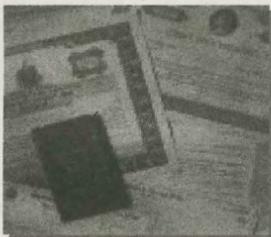
Creating A Scholarship Fund

Max Brown inherited \$15,000 of ABC Corp stock from his mother's estate 15 years ago. The stock is now worth \$25,000. Max has been considering how he might honor his mother's memory in a way that would support the value she placed on higher education. A college **scholarship endowment fund** for student members of his church, named for his mother and funded with the ABC Corp stock may be just the answer. His gift of the stock to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the scholarship fund entitles him to a \$25,000 charitable income tax deduction and he will not have to pay tax on the \$10,000 of capital gains. Max's gift will provide tax savings to him and vital financial assistance to those pursuing a college degree—something his mother believed was very important.



Diversifying A Portfolio

Sarah Martin owns stock with a current market value of \$15,000. She paid \$5,000 for it 15 years ago. Sarah thinks the stock has reached its peak value and it now represents too large a portion of her investment portfolio. She wants to sell the stock but doesn't want to pay \$1,500 of capital gains taxes. Sarah has also been considering how she might make a gift of \$6,500 to her church's capital campaign. She is in the 15% income tax bracket and hopes a gift to the campaign can provide some tax savings.



A **balanced sale** can accomplish both of Sarah's objectives—diversification and tax savings. If she gives her church \$6,500 of the stock and sells the remaining \$8,500 the \$900 of capital gains tax she'll incur on the sale will be offset by the \$975 of income tax savings from the charitable gift. Her tax liability on the sale portion of the transaction is "balanced" by the tax benefit from the charitable gift portion. This gift option allows Sarah to make changes in her investments *and* a significant gift to her church's building program, without increasing her tax liabilities, thanks to the incentives provided by our tax laws.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Barry G. Allen, President
Laurie W. Valentine, Trust Counsel

P O Box 436389
Louisville, Kentucky 40253-6389
(888) 254-5701 or (502) 244-6466

www.kybaptistfoundation.org

