

July 26, 2005  
Vol. 179, No. 29**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**International Mission Board leaders update global ministry goals. *Page 2.***Family Forum**How can couples avoid vacation stress? *Page 5.***Editorial**Evangelist Billy Graham affirms "one purpose in life." *Page 5.***Resources**Specialists offer church leadership and discipleship ideas. *Page 6.***Supreme Court**Church-state debaters taking sides on nominee John Roberts. *Page 8.***Nation**Some children and teens left out of Sunday school, study finds. *Page 9.***Poll: Almost half of U.S. Hispanics say they attend church weekly**

Princeton, N.J. (RNS)—Close to half of American Hispanics say they attend worship services nearly every week, a percentage slightly higher than that of the general population, the Gallup Organization reports.

A look at the worship practices of the nation's Hispanics finds that 49 percent of those polled said they attend "once a week or almost every week," while 17 percent attend at least once a month and 32 percent say they seldom or never attend church.

Gallup said those figures compare to 2004 surveys that show a smaller percentage of Americans in general—44 percent—said they attend services once a week or almost every week, while 10 percent attend at least once a month and 41 percent say they never or seldom attend.

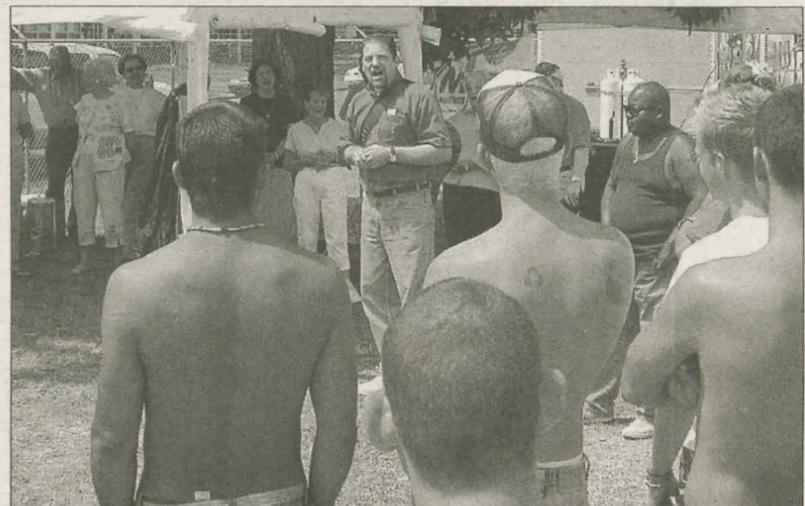
Pollsters found that 63 percent of Hispanics—or almost two-thirds—identified themselves as Catholics, while 16 percent said they are Protestant. An additional 10 percent said they are affiliated with other Christian faiths and 6 percent claimed no religious affiliation.

The nearly 90 percent of Hispanics who connected themselves with a Christian religion is a slightly higher percentage than the 84 percent of Americans in general.

The survey results are based on telephone surveys of 1,007 Hispanic adults in June. They have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

**Fair outreach**

Volunteers with Paducah's West Union Baptist Association recently ministered to carnival workers for the McCracken County Fair. ■ **Above:** Association volunteers distributed bags with toiletries and Christian reading materials. ■ **Right:** Randy Holt, minister of music at Lone Oak First Baptist Church, leads singing for a special worship service for about 100 carnival workers. About 35 of the workers were from South Africa touring with the carnival for six months. The carnival outreach is one of several recent ministries the association has coordinated among participating churches. See story on page 3. (Photos by Keith Todd)

**Youth specialist: Teens ready to step up and serve in church**

By Andrea Higgins  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Ridgecrest, N.C.—Churches that simply entertain young people instead of engaging them in ministry and service are losing a generation, according to Joel Carter.

"They are not the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today," said Carter, student ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources. "Teenagers today want depth and personal touch. They want relationships."

Carter recently led a new youth discipleship camp called Converge that he hopes becomes a model for youth ministries.

The camp focused on the small group experience, with an emphasis on specific ministry training and intense Bible studies, with plenty of

recreational opportunities as well.

Carter said many youth ministries suffer a void in the areas of discipleship and leadership.

Retreats and other special events often get kids excited about their Christian faith, he noted. "But then they get home and don't know what to do with it."

Carter said Converge focused on equipping youth to go home and be a part of other ministries.

Many participants said Converge was the first time they saw themselves as leaders.

"Our knowledge has just been stretched said Courtney Getkin, 18, of Columbus, Ga. "It's not that we're not on a spiritual high. We are. But it's that we've definitely learned a lot that we can apply at our church, in our youth group and

also in our lives."

Carter noted that today's youth are looking to be included in the life of the church, not segregated into separate activities to keep them busy without responsibilities. Too few adults, he said, put an arm around a teenager and say, "Man, I'm glad you're here."

Getkin and her friend Ashley Childs, 17, said they were struck by the genuineness and sincerity they observed during worship.

"It's so real here," Childs said. "We're in a simple room ... and there are no big lights or big musical production. There's just a keyboard, and God is here. God's presence is here."

"Our church is going through a lot of struggles right now," Childs noted. "A lot of our youth leaders have moved on, and a lot of us

aren't stepping up. I've gotten a lot of ideas about that."

Carter said many churches with larger youth groups are abandoning the large praise groups for a return to small group ministries. He attributed the shift to the lack of accountability in large group settings and the notion that youth sometimes attend larger concert-style events just to have the "experience."

"They're going back to the small group model because they grow faster and they grow deeper," Carter said. "This whole generation is craving God, and that's why you see such a rise in spiritual things."

"We as a church don't bother to let kids serve. They get entertained. They get. They get. They get," he said. "They need to serve and they want to serve."

## IMB trustees update global ministry goals

By Erich Bridges  
SBC International Mission Board

Rockville, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees updated the board's strategic goals and objectives during their July 18-20 meeting at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

The new strategy plan reflects major commitments the board has made to fulfill its primary ministry assignments from the Southern Baptist Convention. Key goals adopted by trustees include:

- Engage all unreached people groups (directly or through mission partners) with a population of more than 100,000 by the end of 2008.

- Provide access to the gospel among all people groups by the end of 2010.

- Increase the number of overseas baptisms—and the number of new believers and church members being disciplined—by 20 percent annually.

- Increase by 20 percent annually the number of churches started, nurturing church-planting movements.

- Send and support at least 1,000 new missionaries annually in anticipation of adequate giving by Southern Baptists.

- Facilitate a growing involvement of 10,000 Southern Baptist churches in the global missions task by the end of 2008.

- Challenge Southern Baptists to increase financial support to the IMB through the Cooperative Program by 5 percent annually and meet the goal of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering each year.

The revised goals and objectives will guide the board and its missionaries for the next five years.

Meeting the goals—particularly sending 1,000 new missionaries annually after budget strains forced a temporary freeze on new appointments a few years ago—depends upon Southern Baptists, IMB President Jerry Rankin emphasized.

"The missionary candidates are there, the need around the world is there, the opportunities around the world are there," he said. "It's all contingent on adequate giving of Southern Baptists."

Jon Sapp, regional leader for Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, noted 208 people groups in his area remain unreached.

"We can see the end in sight," Sapp said. The challenge, he added, will be mobilizing "the sleeping giant of the church in Africa" to take the lead in completing evangelization of the continent.

In Central and Eastern Europe, where 234 people groups and cities remain unreached, "we're engaging 60 people groups and hoping to engage 60 more in the next two years," reported regional leader Rodney Hammer.

Southern Baptist workers in northern Africa and the Middle East endured one of their most difficult years in 2004, as four of their own were killed and local believers faced many pressures and threats. Despite all that, they still saw a 14 percent increase in new churches in the area, said regional leader John Brady.

In his report, Rankin addressed recent charges from critics that some Southern Baptist missionaries working in the Muslim world believe the Allah of Islam and the God of Christianity are one and the same.

"I can assure you that no missionary believes the concept of God as known, taught and worshiped by Muslims is similar to the Jehovah God as revealed in the Bible," Rankin said. "I regret this distorted impression based simply on the use of the name Allah for God."

"Every language has its word for God, which is used in translation of Scripture and witnessing within each particular culture and language," Rankin said. "The fact is that 'Allah' is simply the Arabic word for 'God,' just as 'Dios' is the word for God in Spanish."

"It is practically impossible to witness to a Muslim in many native languages and not use the word 'Allah' for God without introducing a foreign word and concept," he added. "We must not confuse cultural and linguistic bridges of communication with theological concepts."

## Historian: Baptists can learn from 'generic' churches

By Ken Camp  
Texas Baptist Standard

Grapevine, Texas (ABP)—The popular "generic Christianity" represented by nondenominational churches holds promise for Baptists, according to church historian Bill Leonard.

He said Baptists need to reclaim the importance of rituals, recapture the individual and communal aspects of church life, and respond to the challenges of secularism and religious establishmentarianism.

Leonard, dean of the Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C., led a workshop on the "nondenominationalizing" of American churches during the recent Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly.

Nondenominational Christianity "bubbled up out of reaction against denominationalism," he asserted. In part, it reflects a rejection of the corporate model of church life that became prominent in the U.S. after World War II.

"Scratch out 'IBM' and write in 'Jesus,'" Leonard said to describe the approach.

The younger generation's rejection of centralized authority in favor of local control has contributed to the growth of independent churches and the decline of denominational loyalty, he added.

"People think of themselves belonging to a local congregation rather than a national denomination," he said.

Megachurches that bill themselves as "full-service, one-stop-shopping" centers have contributed to the decline of denominations, he noted.

Postmodernism—with its emphasis on relationships and experience over reason—leads to a new church model that embraces diversity in practice and thought, he said.

Whereas many megachurches stripped their meeting places of religious images, emerging churches blend ancient and modern worship practices and revel in rituals and symbols.

The emerging church offers hope for Baptists, Leonard insisted. "I'd rather be Baptist in the postmodern period than anything else."

Baptists should reassert ritual, particularly the "danger and decisiveness" inherent in the ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper, Leonard said.

With their emphasis on religious liberty and a believer's church grounded in uncoerced faith, Baptists uniquely are positioned to respond to secularism, pluralism and religious establishmentarianism, he suggested.

"We should affirm and accept pluralism without running to syncretism," he added.

## IMB honors 39 retiring missionaries

Rockville, Va. (BP)—Serving in the Middle East, Southern Baptist workers Pat and Judy Hoaldrige faced persecution in the form of newspaper articles and fliers that called for throwing them out of their neighborhood—as well as threats against their lives—all during their first years on the field.

Yet as a result of the public attacks, people knew where to find the couple to ask about Jesus—and the Hoaldriged were able to help start churches throughout the area.

The Hoaldriged were among 39 retiring Southern Baptist missionaries honored for their ministries July 17 during a recognition service at the International Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. The missionaries represented a total of 1,215 years of sharing the gospel around the world.

IMB President Jerry Rankin praised the missionaries for their "faithfulness in service."

"You have been obedient to God's call," he said. "You went and labored in Latin America, entered those opened doors in the Middle East.

When doors opened in Eastern Europe, you seized that opportunity to share the good news there. You've gone and dared to penetrate the massive cities of Asia with the good news of Jesus Christ."

Evelyn Bullington, who served with her husband, Bill, in West Africa for 39 years, said some of "their greatest joy came from planting churches among peoples who had little or no knowledge of Jesus. That joy was multiplied through the lives of believers we had the privilege of training in evangelism and pastoral ministries."

Ken Milam, who served with his wife, Judy, in the Pacific Rim region for 34 years, said he prays God will continue to call more Baptist missionaries to serve the people they left behind. "If we could turn back the clock, we would return for another 34 years," Mrs. Milam added.

Gordon Fort, IMB vice president of overseas operations, applauded the missionaries and their "scars of ministry."

"Your life has already preached your message," he said. "And we want to say: Well done."

## CBF council to reconsider 'Jesus' language

Atlanta (ABP)—In a procedural about face, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will reconsider a recent change to its purpose statement that deleted language about Jesus Christ and evangelism.

The revised statement was part of several amendments to the Fellowship's constitution and by-laws proposed to the annual CBF meeting July 1. But the statement stirred strong reactions both within the Fellowship's constituency and beyond.

Joy Yee, incoming CBF national moderator, said July 20 the controversial change will be revisited by the Coordinating Council, the 69-member body that handles much of the Fellowship's business. The council, which approved the changes in February, meets again Oct. 13-14.

The first sentence of the revised statement says the CBF's purpose is "to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission." The previous statement said, in part, the Fellow-

ship's purpose is "to bring together Baptists who desire to call out God's gifts in each person in order that the gospel of Jesus Christ will be spread throughout the world in glad obedience to the Great Commission."

Fellowship leaders said the change was intended to make the language of the constitution consistent with other CBF documents adopted in recent years, particularly the group's mission statement—"to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission."

But some CBF members objected during debate July 1, saying deleting references to Jesus and evangelism would send the wrong message. The general assembly defeated two motions to send the documents or the section in question back to the committee proposing the changes.

"There was never intent in the changes to diminish our commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ or to the Great Commission," emphasized Fellowship Coordinator

Daniel Vestal. He added, however, that "I do understand the questions that have been raised."

Yee, senior pastor of New Covenant Baptist Church in San Francisco, said concerns about the action "have been heard and the Coordinating Council will be asked to address this issue at our October meeting."

But Kentucky Baptist pastor Jay Robison, who made the unsuccessful motion to refer the new language back to committee, was reticent about Yee's announcement.

"It depends on what they're going to do when they take another look at it," said Robison, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington. "I think we had a very strong statement previously, one I was very comfortable with. And that's why I wanted to see it remain. I think we had a strong statement that expressed not just a strong commitment to social action, but also a commitment to evangelism—and those two are not mutually exclusive."

# Paducah-area churches united through ministries

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Paducah**—As a former state president of Woman's Missionary Union, Delores Spears has long been active in missions.

But no outreach thrilled her more than a recent opportunity to give gift bags to 100 carnival workers at the McCracken County Fair.

"They had to be excited when they saw what all was in there," said Spears, a member of West End Baptist Church.

"Most of us don't ever have a chance to do something like this. It's always exciting to find a group we can minister to."

The bags, containing shampoo, shave cream, toothpaste and other items, were assembled from donations given by Paducah-area churches that are members of West Union Baptist Association.

About 35 volunteers also distributed free cups of cold water, Bibles and tracts each night of the fair, June 20-25.

While this was the second year for "Jacob's Well," it was the first carnival workers' outreach, which included a worship service.

The 50-church association already is considering adding ministries for 2006, such as providing a chaplain or transportation for carnival workers without vehicles.

"We saw the need last year and talked to the owner and some of the carnival folks," said Jim Bryant, director of missions. "People were elated with our ministry. They said they had never seen caring like they had from the churches in Paducah."

Showing love to carnival employ-

ees is just one of many activities in West Union Association, which encompasses McCracken and Ballard counties. Its ongoing projects include ministries involving:

■ **Toronto.** A partnership with a group of churches in a suburb of Toronto, Canada.

Last year a team participated in vacation Bible school, door-to-door canvassing, prayer walks and worship services. Six more teams are scheduled to go this year.

■ **Eastern Kentucky.** Churches regularly work with Haven of Rest in Inez. The Eastern Kentucky ministry provides free housing for families and friends of inmates at a nearby federal prison.

The first team of 13 people traveled to Inez last August for construction work. A second team went this spring and a third will visit this summer.

■ **Berea.** Churches have ongoing food collections for a warehouse in Berea that supplies needy families.

"Banana Boxes for Eastern Kentucky" started last fall, with churches filling 37 boxes with 60 pounds of food each. Bryant delivered another 37 boxes this spring.

While the warehouse requests canned goods, some people donate bread and other items that can't be packed. Those items are given to a non-denominational ministry to the needy in Paducah.

■ **Prayer.** Several churches have increased their participation in prayer ministries.

Several members attended the Great Commission Prayer Conference last February in Louisville and hosted the state convention's quarterly meeting in April.



Locally, the association is providing prayer support for two policemen who patrol a downtown area plagued by drug abuse and crime.

Bryant has challenged every church to enlist 10 members to pray for officers Matt Smith and Jody Higdon.

"We felt prayer was the undergirding force for everything," Bryant said. "We've had some churches say they have 17 people who promised to pray every day."

## Children's ministries offered

In addition, the association is encouraging churches to sponsor special worship services and get involved in a boys and girls club in the area. It also is looking at starting a special summer camp next year.

The next community activity planned is an Upward Basketball mission camp next week, which can accommodate 120 inner-city children in grades 1-5.

An awards banquet will be held July 30 at the Four River Center, an arts building downtown.

"The whole camp is about the awards banquet," said Billy Rodgers, youth pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in West Paducah, which is organizing the event. "This is a chance for unchurched parents to hear the gospel."

Although Mt. Zion is the sponsor, the association will give a Bible to every participant and is picking up the cost of breakfast, lunch and snacks for one day.

West Union plays an integral role in helping churches reach youth, said Rodgers, who chairs the association's youth council.

In addition to helping with the basketball league, the association has supported a community-wide "Disciple NOW" weekend.

Two years ago it sponsored a concert where 136 children and teens accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

"They have been tremendous the last two years to reach out to students and churches and be open to missions," Rodgers said, lauding Bryant's leadership. "Money and finances haven't seemed to be in the way when it comes to the youth council. The rewards are priceless when you see teens and youth accept Christ."

Two other pastors say Bryant has made a major impact since he took office 18 months ago.

West Union's vice moderator, Kenneth Brown, said the missions director has helped Kentucky Baptists in the area get involved in a variety of mission efforts.

"There's a very harmonious spirit in our association," said Brown, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Paducah, "and the churches seem to be more focused on association goals than they have in some time."

Even though his church averages only about 60 on a Sunday, David McCall of Lovelaceville Baptist said his congregation has supported "Banana Boxes" and the county fair project.

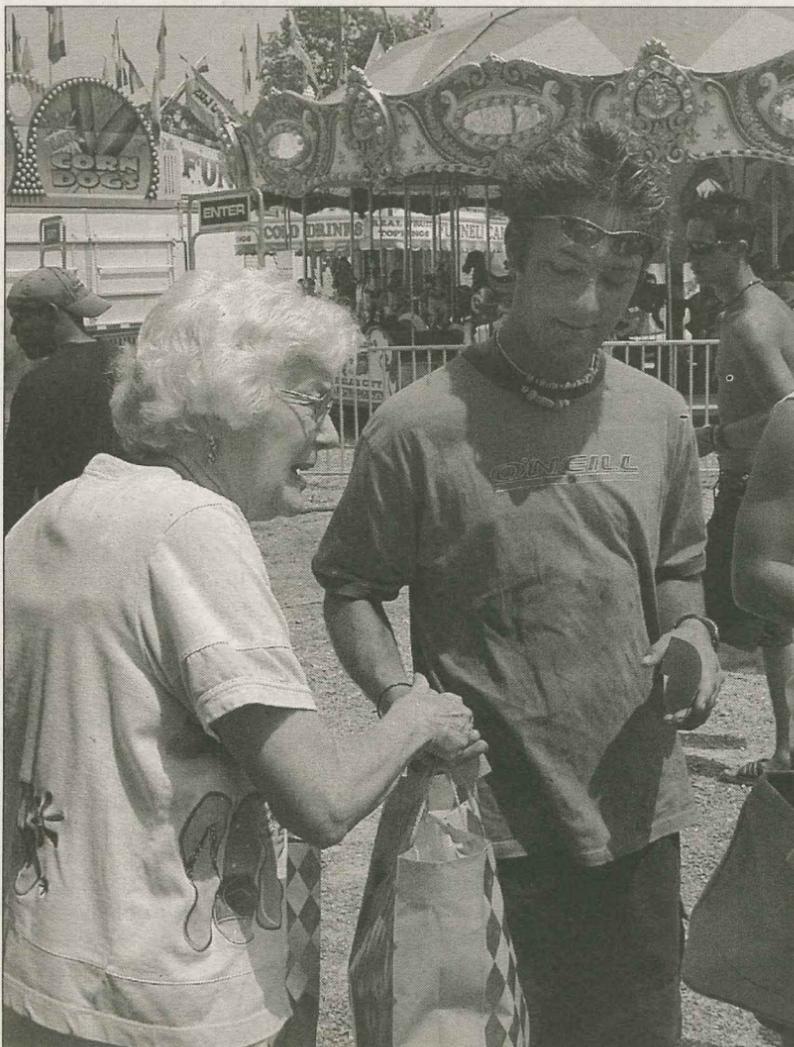
The Lovelaceville pastor, whose church is in Ballard County, credits Bryant with reaching out beyond Paducah.

"I think they have a good feeling about the association right now," McCall said of his congregation. "They hear about the work in Toronto and they know about Banana Boxes. All these things are easy for a church that is rural and predominantly older to plug into."

Bryant, who split 20 years between missionary stints overseas and in Missouri, said he and his wife have a desire to see West Union's churches fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

"The association does what no one church can do alone," Bryant said. "Coming together to do something, like being a mission team, is exciting. It's good to see them making new relationships."

**GIFT BAGS** Wilma Wallace (left), a volunteer from Paducah First Baptist Church, hands out goodie bags to carnival workers at the McCracken County Fair following a worship service sponsored by West Union Baptist Association. Because they constantly are on the move, "carnies" seldom get an opportunity to attend a worship service and have little time to interact with churches through the six-month carnival season. (Photos by Keith Todd)



**ANNUAL EVENT?** Delores Spears, a volunteer with West End Baptist Church of Paducah, said carnival workers asked the volunteers to hold a similar worship service next season.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Sharing truth with an ever-emerging culture

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—In ministry, some things must never change but others must change constantly.

Clearly, God's five purposes for His church are non-negotiable. If a church fails to balance the five purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism, then it's no longer a healthy church, and it's in danger of becoming simply a social club.

On the other hand, the way in which we fulfill these eternal purposes must be adjusted continually because human culture always is changing.

For instance, when I first started Saddleback Church, fresh out of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, personal computers were in their infancy, the Internet was just a crude academic network, and nobody had even heard of e-mail. Now I often sit in my pajamas and have e-mail conversations with people across the globe. The times, they are a-changing, and they'll keep right on a-changing whether we want them to or not.

## Reaching the Internet generation

Our culture has moved past the MTV generation into the Internet generation, and yet many of us are just now responding to the TV generation! Our message of transformation must never change, but our presentation should be continually transformed, adapting to the new languages of our culture. One of the strengths of Saddleback Church is that we're constantly adapting; we've changed styles of worship, programming and outreach many times in the last 25 years, and we'll continue to do so because the world keeps changing.

The only way to stay relevant is to anchor your ministry to unchanging truths and eternal purposes but be willing to adapt continually how you communicate those truths and

purposes.

As an example, let's look at evangelism, one of the five New Testament purposes of the church. In many traditional churches, evangelism remains confrontational rather than relational. There is planned visitation of this sort: "We'll all come Thursday night and go knock on doors."

Would it surprise you to know that in 25 years at Saddleback, we've never had a planned, organized visitation program? Yet we've baptized more than 1,000 people a year for the last decade. We reach them through relationship evangelism. Our members constantly are on mission to bring their friends and neighbors to our weekend services, where we reach out to non-believers—particularly those who have no real church background.

You might wonder if we attract these visitors by watering down the gospel, but we don't. We simply communicate it in ways that non-believers understand. Jesus drew enormous crowds (called multitudes) without compromising the message. He was clear, practical and loving, and He presented His timeless message in a contemporary fashion.

Lost people have a need for meaning, a need for purpose, a need for forgiveness and a need for love. They want to know how to make right decisions, how to protect their family, how to handle suffering and how to have hope in our world. These are all issues we have answers for, yet millions are ignoring the message of Christ because we insist on communicating in ways that don't connect with people any more.

In a sense, we've made the gospel too difficult for a changing culture to understand.

Imagine a missionary going overseas and saying, "I'm here to share the Good News, but first you have to learn to speak my language, learn my customs and sing my style

of music." You immediately can see why this strategy would fail. Yet we do that all the time in a culture that is in radical flux.

If we want to reach people in the 21st century, we must start thinking differently. The Apostle Paul said, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22b).

We Baby Boomers have tended to see the church as an organization, but the emerging generations are desperately looking for community. We need to present the church as a place where you belong.

## From information to transformation

Emerging generations also are focused on the experiential, and that means we must adjust the way we teach and preach. Rather than preaching simply for information, we also should preach for action. Our message is not meant just to inform, but to transform the lives of those in our congregation. In almost every sermon I preach every point has a verb in it—something to do: What are you going to do now that you know this godly truth?

Why do I do it this way? Because God says, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22), and our entire purpose-driven process at Saddleback is designed to move people not only into intimacy with God, but also into service for Him.

I've never seen more people so hungry to discover and develop the spiritual dimension of their lives. They are hungry for experiences and stories that reveal the greatness of God. Because seekers are changing constantly, we must be willing, like Jesus, to meet them on their own turf and speak to them in ways they understand.

Remember: The world changes but the Word doesn't. To be effective in ministry we must learn to live with the tension between those two.

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

## FIRST PERSON

## Effective ministry partnerships

Some partnerships in Baptist life are not as obvious as others, although they serve a vital role.

During a partnership missions trip to Tanzania through the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2000, Ken Holden, pastor of Georgetown Baptist Church, encountered an educational need for a young Tanzanian couple. Upon returning home, he visited with me and then with Bill Crouch, president of Georgetown College, to consider options.

International Mission Board missionaries Ralph and Vivian Boyle felt that Moses and Tunosye Mboya would benefit greatly from studies at Georgetown College. With the tuition and housing provided by Georgetown and travel expenses provided by a couple in Texas, Moses and Tunosye arrived for studies. Ken reports there were some challenging times, but God has been faithful.

From the beginning, Moses has felt led to start a Christian school in Tanzania when he returned. This dream is now coming true.

Georgetown Baptist Church is to be commended for providing a home away from home for the Mboyas and for providing resources for Moses to start his ministry in Tanzania. There

were tears recently as the Mboya family said goodbye to the church family and prepared for their return flights to Tanzania.

Please pray for this family as they make adjustments and launch their ministry. Only eternity will know the tens of thousands of lives that will be transformed by Christ due to cooperation.

On another note about partnership, Central Baptist Association, where Oliver Hawkins serves as director missions, and the Kentucky Baptist Convention recently co-sponsored a dinner for 44 pastors and lay leaders to promote Kentucky Baptists Connect.

Bland Mason, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, hosted the dinner and introduced the Connect initiative to reach people, disciple Christians and develop leaders.

He displayed the banner and

explained the resource kit he had received when his church signed up. He stated, "The best part is that KBC has not only shared an opportunity, but plans to help us be more effective in reaching and discipling people."

Another special partnership exists between two Louisville churches—St. Matthews Baptist Church and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Following the Louisville Tony Evans Crusade in 2000, Lincoln Bingham, pastor of the predominantly African-American St. Paul Church, helped create Greater Louisville Christian Reconciliation Ministries based on reconciliation to God and to one another. Les Hollon, pastor of the predominantly Anglo St. Matthews church, has become a partner with Bingham in conducting an annual reconciliation emphasis.

I am grateful for the cooperation among Kentucky Baptists, and look forward to what God will do among those who are focused on His Kingdom purposes. It is this spirit of cooperation through Cooperative Program missions that ministries are able to function across Kentucky and around the world.

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## STEWARDSHIP

## Cutting expenses can help produce financial margin

By Jeremy White

The idea of "living on the edge" might sound attractive. It brings thoughts of adventure and excitement. But it's no way to manage your money.

Many families are living

on the edge financially. The end of the month and the end of the money are perilously close.

Advance paycheck-cashing stores are the biggest growth industry in many towns. Postal carriers hurt their backs carting around the mailbox-stuffing barrage of credit card offers. Americans' idea of exercise or "doing something" consists of going to the mall.

Dr. Richard Swenson wrote a book titled "Margin/The Overload Syndrome: Learning to Live Within Your Limits." Its key idea is to build in "margin" in your life. Find time to rest and space to heal when feeling tired, worn out or burned out. We can apply this same concept of margin to our financial lives.

An important key to successful financial management is having a surplus, or spending less than you earn. In other words, this surplus is a cash flow margin. (Margin has another specific financial meaning of borrowing to buy stock, but I mean for "margin" to be the extra space, the extra surplus.)

The Bible speaks of margin in Proverbs 21:20: "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."

To create or increase your margin, you really have only two choices: increase income or decrease expenses. To increase income, you or your spouse could take on another job, work overtime or start a business. But the extra time away from family and stress could make family life more difficult.

The other option, and usually the better one, is to reduce expenses. The daily tough choices of reducing your lifestyle expenses can help generate enough cash flow margin each year to meet your long-term goals. You have to make the long term a priority over the short term (delayed gratification).

The world, in the form of advertisers, friends, neighbors and even other Christians can lead you to believe you are owed or have a right to a lifestyle that might be beyond what you can afford. Avoid the ills of Wal-Martitis, affluenza and credit card fever. Build some margin in your life.

*Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah*



## How can couples keep fights from spoiling family vacation?

**Q: My family will be going on vacation soon. It seems my husband and I end up fighting most of the time we're gone. It wears me out to think about it. What can I do to avoid this other than just not go?**

Vacations can be stressful. There usually is much planning to be done. Many families fail to plan financially, and this can create tension between couples. Each family member has his or her own preferences for the vacation. These can conflict and create arguments. During travel, family members can get bored, tired and irritable. Here are some tips to consider when vacationing:

### MARRIAGE

**■ Before you travel, sit down as a family and discuss a budget.** Allow each member to choose an event or activity, but don't be afraid to set limits. A vacation should not be a free-for-all. Such thinking can create debt, guilt and resentment later. Pray as a family for the upcoming vacation.

**■ You and your husband need to talk.** Let him know your concern about fighting with him. Begin a dialogue that identifies vulnerable areas for potential conflict. Just as you set rules for your children, set some for yourselves. This is a great model for your children. Pray about these rules and pray for strength and courage to follow them.

**■ For many people, vacation is an escape from work and the daily routine.** It takes time to de-stress. De-stressing should not include attacking or tearing others down. Letting out your frustration on your family is not good for relationships. Find other ways to deal with your stress. Remember your family is not a personal punching bag.

**■ Be positive and caring.** Many scriptural narratives about Christ reveal His compassion even when He was tired, hungry or sad. Show compassion to each other as a family while vacationing. Pay attention to what you say and how you say it. Look for opportunities to bless each other. Blessing expresses gratitude, compliments others on their good qualities, acknowledges their value, comments on their uniqueness and invites others to share who they are with you.

As you prepare for vacation, remember to prepare your heart, mind, tongue and attitude.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: Our daughter has been asked by a boy in her middle school to "go out with him." She says that does not mean they will go out on a date. What does it mean and how might we handle it?**

"Going out" is an oft-used phrase among middle schoolers to indicate two people who are a "couple." Sometimes a boy will directly ask a girl if she will "go out." Other times he will ask a friend to pose the question. Either way, he is indicating his fondness for her and checking whether it is mutual. Once the two agree they are "going out," this news is informally spread among friends and they are viewed as a couple.

### PARENTING

Even through the two middle schoolers might never go on a date, I have two basic concerns:

First, research by Christian counselor Archibald Hart found that while women in their 60s indicated it was six or seven years between their first date and sexual intercourse, women in their 20s reported the interval had shrunk to only three years. Hart concluded that in this sexually charged culture, it makes sense for parents to lovingly and assertively set boundaries to delay dating, encouraging young teens to focus their energies elsewhere.

A second concern about "going out" has to do with the temptation for a young girl to base her identity on a relationship with a boy instead of with Jesus Christ. Parents need to remind their children about the truth of Psalm 90:14, "Satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love, so that I may sing for joy and be glad all of my days." Psalm 37:4 calls each of us to "delight yourself in the Lord."—Scott Wigginton

Family Forum writers are:

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



## Billy Graham affirms 'one purpose in life'

It was just a matter of time before the long-expected news became reality. Legendary evangelist Billy Graham recently announced that he would not accept an invitation to lead a crusade in London later this year.

Graham, 86, preached to an estimated 240,000 people last month in New York, with more than 10,000 people making public spiritual decisions. With he and his wife, Ruth, suffering declining health, Graham said in response to the London invitation, "After much prayerful consideration I determined that I should not be that far from home."

With no other crusades being planned and no current invitations being considered, Graham's New York crusade may indeed be the final mass evangelistic effort of his unparalleled ministry career.

The expectation that the aging evangelist was drawing to the close of his public ministry has been around for years. According to Graham staff member Art Bailey, "Our internal joke is that we've been doing the last crusade for 10 years."

But the latest announcement adds a sense of finality to Graham's ministry years. Graham spokesman Larry Ross said the famed evangelist "will continue his ministry of evangelism and resume work writing several books and contributing to other special projects he has begun in recent years." His son, Franklin, who became president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in 2002, will continue to lead crusades.

Here in Kentucky and the surrounding region, Graham's "final" crusades included his 2001 Greater Louisville Crusade which attracted more than 190,000 people and reaped 10,000-plus decisions for Christ and his 2002 Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Mission which topped 200,000 in attendance and resulted in more than 11,000 spiritual decisions.

In my role as a Christian journalist, I have had the privilege of hearing and reporting about

Graham's messages at area crusades, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance. An even greater privilege was serving as a decision counselor, along with my wife and older daughter, during Graham's Louisville crusade.

Whether or not Graham ever steps behind another crusade pulpit, his legacy as one of the most effective Christian ministers in history is secure for all time. Among the many accolades he has received over the years are:

■ Being named an unprecedented 48 times to the Gallup organization's "Ten Most Admired Men in the World." Ronald Reagan was second with 31, followed by Pope John Paul II with 27.

■ He and his wife receiving the 1996 Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can award individuals. Among previous recipients were George Washington, Thomas Edison and Winston Churchill.

■ Receiving an honorary knighthood in 2001 at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., in recognition of his worldwide influence on religious life.

■ Being named by Christian History magazine as one of the 10 most influential Christians of the 20th century. Among others on the list are C.S. Lewis, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King Jr. Graham also was named by Preaching magazine as one of the greatest preachers of the 20th century.

In Southern Baptist life, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary founded a school of missions, evangelism and church growth in 1994 named in honor of Graham. Just last month, SBC leaders unveiled a model of a statue of Graham that will be completed next year and displayed in Nashville.

For his part, Graham declares on his Web site, www.billygraham.org, "My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which, I believe, comes through knowing Christ."

That single-minded focus, along with his trademark integrity, will remain Graham's ministry legacy for generations to come.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Living in a day of many fears

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—In this day of a great many fears, God reaches deep within our hearts and our minds and says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

He is really assuring each of us that the "I Am" of the universe is present among us, just as He was with Moses and the people of Israel. And His presence is sufficient for all occasions and all circumstances.

How do you respond in painful or fearful moments? When you know that God has assured you of His presence, do you worry anyway? Do you panic or turn instinctively to Him? Do you wait patiently for Him and let His peace rule in your heart? Do you believe Him?

Fear for many people is a common experience, even a habit, in real life. So, we should ask, "Where does fear come from? What gives rise to fear?"

I sense that fear comes from

several sources. It often comes from suddenly facing the unknown. When we do not know, we often fear the worst. The future is unknown. Therefore, we often assume it will be out of control and we get afraid.

Fear also can arise out of ignorance. This could be the type of ignorance from not knowing the answer to a question or the solution to one of life's problems. This is the fear of being wrong. Or, it could be the type of ignorance whereby one fears because that fear is based on a false premise. We simply do not understand our circumstances. And, of course, fear can arise when our circumstances seem out of control: a child's behavior, anger in a marriage, loss of a job or a sense of insecurity.

But as Christians we should learn how to release our fears—especially when we know of God's presence, His love and His provisions. In the words of the Apostle Paul:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35, 37-39).

God has assured us that He will always be present with us in our trials. Therefore, the ways in which we handle our difficult circumstances ultimately will determine what we believe about God and His promises. Those who believe little will respond in worry and fear.

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

And this is God's personal invitation to you today—in your home, in your workplace and in your life. Respond to Him with, "Thank You Lord!" Receive Him into all of your life, right now.

Henry Blackaby is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

## Speakers offer church leadership & discipleship ideas

**"Screaming at the culture hasn't changed it. It takes time."**

Dan Garland, leader of the KBC's church development and evangelism team

By Andrea Higgins  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Ridgecrest, N.C.—In sports terminology, the Christian faith is not a sprint, according to Daniel Akin.

"In terms of discipleship and leadership, (God) is calling us to a marathon—a long distance run," Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., told a recent conference audience.

The secret to staying in the race that God intends—and avoiding the urge to be a "winner" by earthly standards—is not to carry excess baggage, he said.

Such baggage regularly leads people to believe they need something more than God to get them to the finish line, he said.

Akin was among several Southern Baptist leaders offering insights during the recent week-long Discipleship/Leadership Week at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center.

In other workshops and conference sessions:

**Thom Rainer** shared from his research for his book "Breakout Churches" that nearly half of U.S. pastors surveyed had not shared their faith in the previous six months.

Along with such lackluster discipleship from church leaders, 80 percent of the nearly 400,000 churches in the United

States either are declining or at a plateau, said Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

### Low expectations in pews

He said low expectations for church membership may be partly to blame.

"I've been in civic organizations that have higher expectations than the local church," Rainer said. The book of Acts illustrates that membership should equal commitment, he said.

"We're bringing people in without giving them any information or any expectations," he said.

**Kenneth Hemphill**, a Southern Baptist Convention strategist and author of "Empowering Kingdom Growth," said lay leaders and pastors must have an "infectious passion" in order for their churches to grow.

"The church in North America is in serious trouble," Hemphill said, based on the stagnating number of baptisms throughout the convention in the past 20 years.

"Billy Graham made a lot of people angry a few years ago because he said 80 percent of the people in the church are lost," Hemphill said.

Rainer's research, he added, would indicate the figure is at least

50 percent.

"Many in the church think the church was designed to keep them comfortable until Jesus comes," he said. "The church never was designed to make you comfortable."

Yet, he said, people become proprietary about the church. "It's a spiritual problem, so it demands a biblical cure," Hemphill said.

Conference organizer **Mark Marshall** said church leaders must move from risk management toward what he termed "risk engagement" in order for extraordinary changes to happen in the church.

"Why do we not risk?" asked Marshall, LifeWay director of leadership training and enrichment events. "Fear of failure. We want to save face at all costs."

But he noted that biblical role models such as Joshua and Caleb teach Christians that playing it safe with one's faith does not grow the Kingdom.

**Ed Stetzer**, director of research and missiologist for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, said America's cultural shift into a post-modern mentality presents unique challenges for Christianity.

"I call it the 'Oprah-ization' of our culture. We have embraced as a culture a secular spirituality that is devoid of Scripture," Stetzer said. That secular spirituality has resulted in the isolation and even

nominalization of real evangelism, he added.

"We cannot then relate to the existing current culture," he said.

"The 'emperor' of today is tolerance," Stetzer said, adding that somehow the church must pay homage to it without compromising biblical truth.

The prevalence of tolerance also means people will tolerate Christianity as long as you keep it to yourself. "The problem is we have a missionary faith."

Kentuckian **Dan Garland** noted that the Kentucky Baptist Convention produced a video of "man on the street" interviews with University of Louisville students, asking why they left church and what it would take to bring them back.

The four most important issues cited by students were authenticity, understanding, relevancy and relationships, said Garland, leader of the KBC's church development and evangelism team.

"Screaming at the culture hasn't changed it," he said. "It takes time."

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Can you come help us?

As camp ministries grow, so does need for volunteer help

During the summer, literally hundreds of workers make camp happen. From pastors preaching to workers cutting grass and washing dishes, we have a great variety of tasks that must be completed daily, and each of these tasks are important to the camp experience.

One of our greatest challenges is finding people to help during these peak times of need, whether in the summer or in other months. Finances limit the number of employees we can afford to pay, so we lean heavily on volunteers. In particular at Cedarmore, the Guy King RV Park stays full with Campers on Mission from all over the southeastern United States. These wonderful people fill many tasks that otherwise would go unfinished. Cedarmore literally could not function in the summer without these faithful servants.

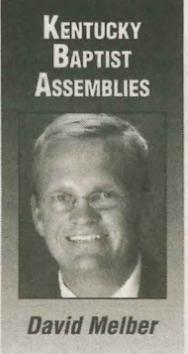
Jonathan Creek has used volunteers for various short projects, but now we are entering a time when volunteers will play a greater role in our whole ministry. We currently are evaluating how to communicate our many needs for co-laborers and the related bless-

ing of participating in what God does through this ministry.

To give you an idea, one week this summer we had 900 student campers at Jonathan Creek, a group of staff training to serve in our new mission camp at Northern Kentucky, a group serving in Moldova, and nearly 500 campers at Cedarmore. The significance of this is not the numbers of attendance, but the fact that more than 200 students came to faith in Christ during the same week.

The opportunities continue to grow beyond our thoughts, and our need for help continues to expand. Please pray about partnering with our ministry through volunteer service. You can be a part of a ministry that sees great numbers come to Christ every week. It is not just preaching, cutting grass or washing dishes. It is an opportunity to create an environment where guests come to know Jesus Christ and through Him help spread the gospel to their home towns, new areas such as Northern Kentucky and around the world in a place called Moldova.

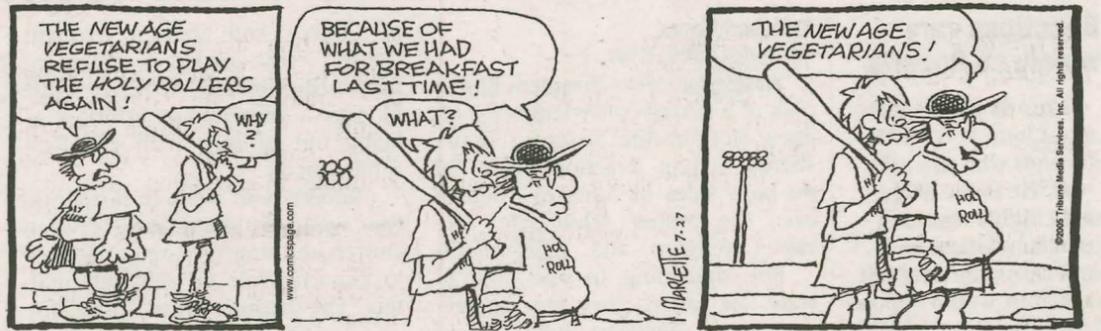
David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at 3043 Beal Road, Hardin, KY 42048; phone (270) 354-8355.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES

David Melber

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 When a rooster rouses
- 5 Air (comb. form)
- 8 A. Hitchcock film classic
- 12 Operatic solo
- 13 Busy one
- 14 First garden
- 15 Tree house
- 16 Under the weather
- 17 Center
- 18 Was wary, with "away"
- 20 "When ye blow an \_\_\_\_\_, then the camps ... on the east shall go forward" (Numbers 10:5)
- 22 "But \_\_\_\_\_ thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen" (Luke 10:42)
- 23 Jesus likens the kingdom of God to \_\_\_\_\_ virgins (Matthew 25)
- 24 Makes payment for, as Jesus' sacrifice on the cross
- 27 "And as they were \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus took bread" (Matthew 26:26)
- 31 "A brother offended is harder to be \_\_\_\_\_ than a strong city" (Proverbs 18:19)
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ classical style
- 33 Let go
- 37 Saul's exit "vehicle" out of Damascus (Acts 9)
- 40 Body part of priest on which the ram's blood was sprinkled (Exodus 29:20)
- 41 Employ
- 42 Times to "catch the worm"
- 44 Experienced labored breathing
- 47 Experience ennui
- 48 Where the good Samaritan left the wounded man

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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				22			23					
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31										32		
33			34	35	36		37	38	39			
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	42	43					44			45	46	
47					48	49			50			51
52					53				54			
55					56				57			

Evelyn Boyington

- 50 Lions' den
- 52 Sheltered side, nautically
- 53 "Deliver thyself as a \_\_\_\_\_ from the hand of the hunter" (Proverbs 6:5)
- 54 Firstborn of Isaac
- 55 Held or kept in, with "up"
- 56 "Be sober, and hope to the \_\_\_\_\_ for the grace" (1 Peter 1:13)
- 57 Niece and nephew, e.g. (abbr.)
- 24 A piercing tool
- 25 "Is any thing \_\_\_\_\_ hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)
- 26 "The sons of ... Shamed, who built \_\_\_\_\_, and Lod" (1 Chronicles 8:12)
- 28 "He pronounced all these words ... and I wrote them with \_\_\_\_\_ in the book" (Jeremiah 36:18)
- 29 Born (Fr.)
- 30 Purchased
- 34 Mulberry, for one
- 35 Ages and ages
- 36 "I \_\_\_\_\_ to be present with you now" (Galatians 4:20)
- 37 "The bush \_\_\_\_\_ with fire, and the bush was not consumed" (Exodus 3:2)
- 38 Good king of Judah
- 39 Lydia was a \_\_\_\_\_ of purple
- 42 Burrowing mammal
- 43 "\_\_\_\_\_ me first" (former Kodak come-on)
- 45 "His soul shall dwell at \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 25:13)
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ tone
- 47 Cartographer's product
- 49 Forget it, to Philippe
- 51 Masculine nickname (var.)

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
J	A	R	E	R	I	S	E	S	H	A	S
M	A	D	U	R	K	E	L	A	B	E	
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Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Vice President of Development and Communications

The Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, Inc., a ministry of the churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, seeks a Vice President of Development and Communications who will serve Jesus Christ by raising funds for His ministry of caring for children in crisis.

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- ◆ Designing, developing, implementing and evaluating fund raising projects
- ◆ Understanding and implementing all forms of communications media
- ◆ Being a compassionate, empathetic listener
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## Church-state debaters taking sides on court nominee

### Reactions vary widely on Roberts

How do people feel about John Roberts? It depends who you ask:

■ "He is one of the most highly regarded judicial scholars in America. Only a far left extremist would oppose him." *Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson*

■ "Roberts will work to dismantle the wall of separation between church and state and open the door to majority rule on religious matters." *Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State*

■ "John Roberts' record raises serious concerns and questions about where he stands on crucial legal and constitutional issues." *Ralph Neas, president of People for the American Way, a liberal advocacy group*

■ "Judge Roberts is an unquestionably qualified attorney and judge with impressive experience in government and the private sector." *James Dobson, founder and chairman of Focus on the Family*

By Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

Washington (ABP)—President Bush's pick of a strong conservative for an open slot on the Supreme Court stirred strong reactions July 20 on both sides of America's debate over the proper relationship between religion and government.

But, according to one church-state law expert, they may be premature in deciding how he will rule on church-state issues.

Ending an intense three-week period of speculation that had preoccupied Washington, Bush announced late July 19 that he had tapped John Roberts to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the nation's highest court.

By midday July 20, some of the most vehement combatants in the church-state war had traded opening salvos over the federal appeals judge's fitness to rule on weighty matters involving the First Amendment's religion clauses.

"Judge Roberts has a brilliant legal mind and his qualifications are impeccable," said James Dobson, head of the Colorado-based Focus on the Family.

Alluding to his and other conservatives' complaints about the judiciary's role in the nation's most divisive cultural debates, Dobson continued: "Most importantly, we believe that Judge Roberts will interpret the Constitution and not try to legislate from the bench, which has been the pattern in recent years."

At about the same time, Americans United for Separation

of Church and State—a frequent Dobson critic—issued a statement lambasting Roberts' writings while he was a government attorney as being out of step with the First Amendment.

"Roberts will work to dismantle the wall of separation between church and state and open the door to majority rule on religious matters," the statement read. "In a game with such high stakes, this unwise crusade should disqualify him."



John Roberts

Roberts, while serving as a deputy solicitor general in the administration of President George H.W. Bush in 1991, signed off on a friend-of-the-court brief that Americans United claims urged the Supreme Court "to scrap decades of

settled church-state law and uphold school-sponsored prayer at public-school graduation ceremonies and other forms of government-endorsed religion."

Roberts, who since 2003 has been a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, said during his Senate confirmation hearing for that position that one shouldn't judge from his writings as a lawyer how he might rule as a jurist. "I do not believe that it is proper to infer a lawyer's personal views from the position that lawyer may advocate on behalf of a client in litigation," he said.

Chip Lupu, a church-state expert and professor at George Washington University Law School, said his research assistants had not found cases involving religious liberty issues on which Roberts had ruled

as a judge. Therefore, Lupu said, it's nearly impossible to tell if Roberts would rule as a judge in accordance with the views reflected in his previous work as a government attorney.

And, despite Dobson's assurances that Roberts would be in line with the court's most conservative justices, Lupu noted that sometimes they disagree among themselves on church-state issues.

"I really have trouble seeing him being all the way over there with (Justice) Clarence Thomas—but is he going to be more like (Justice Antonin) Scalia or more like (Chief Justice William) Rehnquist?" Lupu asked. "It's hard to tell."

Roberts would replace O'Connor, who often—though not always—sided with strong church-state separatists in many of her rulings.

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## Thank you

### Kentucky Baptists' generosity through Father's Day offering supports all we do

Father's Day has come and gone. Most of the churches that participated in the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering either have mailed their offering to us or to the Kentucky Baptist Convention to be recorded and forwarded to us. This is always an anxious time for us, as we have come to depend on the offering to help us through the summer slump.

This is the offering's 11th year, and even though the first two or three years were very encouraging, the past two or three have caused us some concern. We believe the slow economy, Sept. 11, 2001, the war in Iraq and other factors might have had a negative effect on the offering. A great deal of work goes into planning, printing, packaging and mailing the materials. From the very beginning in 1995, we have done all of the promotional work ourselves except printing the color brochures and posters. As a matter of stewardship, we decided not to use the services of a marketing or promotional agency. We felt no one knew us as well as we knew ourselves, to say nothing of the added expense.

Many organizations determine that even if professional promotional services cost 20 or 30 percent more, it is worth the additional expense. They might be right, but since good stewardship is at the center of all we do, we have chosen to do the work ourselves.

We do use the services of several volunteers in the early spring to count, bundle and package the materials. The busy and willing hands of those volunteers save us a huge amount of time and expense. When their work is completed, the final

job is putting address labels on each package. The whole process for the 2005 offering began in September 2004. Weekly meetings of our offering staff keep things moving along and help to work out various details.

Even with us doing virtually all the work, the cost involved is substantial. We feel the material's value to you is three-fold. First, we sincerely hope every pastor and church will consider making the informative materials available to their members.

The more people know about the ministry Oneida provides, the more opportunities we have to help a student who is appropriate for our school. Second, we hope the materials will help those who support missions to have an appreciation and understanding of where some of their Cooperative Program and missions dollars go. And last, we trust the materials will inspire churches to consider seriously the offering and use Father's Day as an opportunity to help us financially.

Nearly every child who comes to our school needs financial assistance. Oneida always has had a tender heart for boys and girls who need the benefits of a Christian education but do not have the financial resources to make that possible. The Father's Day Offering helps make scholarship funds available to those children.

We want to say a big "Thank you" for making this year's Father Day Offering one of our best ever! All of the offering money has not been received, but at this point the offering appears to be one of our very best! Please know how thankful we are for your generosity.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## 'Choose Life'

### May graduate launches sanctity of life ministry

Doug Cullen received his bachelor's degree in May. He and his wife, Joli, and their three children have launched Choose Life Ministries, focusing on the sanctity of life.

Doug became a Christian in 1968, but his views on life changed in 1993. "I thought people should have a choice; then I heard a testimony by Gianna Jensen who survived an abortion," Doug said. "She had no hard feelings toward her mother. She found the doctor and nurses and forgave them. God used that testimony and made me aware I needed to take a stand. The call has grown stronger since then. I've related to this whenever I had the opportunity at Clear Creek; in ethics class my research paper was on sanctity of life."

What's their ministry model? "We're sure about the calling, but I can't find any like what we envision," Doug stated. "God led and directed us. Without any prototypes we lean more on Him." They expect to hear soon about certification as volunteer missionaries with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

"We have the vision of traveling over the U.S. and giving the message in schools, churches, camps, any venue that is available," Doug said. "Some local churches have already scheduled us. We own no property, and have no family obligations. Our 16-year-old son, Clifton, uses a PowerPoint presentation for youth groups."

Joli will home school the children. "When our children were born, she already had the calling to do home schooling," Doug said. "I couldn't understand that at the time, but now it is exactly what we need for this ministry."

Mill Creek Baptist Church in Bell County has designated the family as church missionaries and encourages them with prayer and monthly support. "Mill Creek has been a blessing beyond anything we could imagine," Doug stated.

The Cullens' ministry web page is [www.chooselife-usa.com](http://www.chooselife-usa.com). You can contact them by email at [choose\\_life@netzero.com](mailto:choose_life@netzero.com).

"Sanctity of life is not just about abortion," Doug said. "Most of the critical issues we face in our nation relate to the sanctity of life."

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

## Study: Some children & teens left out of Sunday school

By Analiz González  
Associated Baptist Press

Ventura, Calif. (ABP)—Although Bible training for school-age children is still popular, preschoolers and adolescents are kept out of the Sunday school loop in a growing number of churches.

According to a study of 614 Protestant churches nationwide by the Barna Group of Ventura, Calif., the youngest and the oldest children in many churches are missing out on the Sunday school experience.

In 2004, churches were 6 percent less likely to offer Sunday school programs for children ages 2-5 than they were in 1997. Churches offering Sunday school to children under the age of 2 dropped from 79 percent in 1997 to 73 percent in 2004.

Sunday school for middle-school

children dropped from 93 percent in 1997 to 86 percent in 2004. Sunday school for high-school children dropped from 86 percent to 80 percent.

In all, about 20,000 fewer churches provided Sunday school for each of the mentioned age groups.

The fact that so many children are left without a Sunday school class might have something to do with the fact that only one of every seven pastors, or 15 percent, considers Sunday school the church's first priority.

The study did show, however, that Baptist churches are among the most likely to consider Sunday school their highest priority, with 23 percent of Baptist pastors calling it No. 1 on their list.

Based on the views of younger

pastors, however, Sunday school might be in trouble in the future. Twenty-one percent of pastors over 59 said it was their first priority, while only 10 percent under the age of 40 called it their first priority.

Dennis Parrott, director of Bible study and discipleship for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said he doesn't consider Sunday school to be in "serious peril."

"It just means we need to continue to focus on that and make it strong," Parrott said.

The amount of focus on Sunday school is down because enthusiasm for anything church-related is down, he said.

The Barna Group also found that, in 2004, 15 percent fewer churches offered vacation Bible school to children than in 1997. The study said

that equals a total of 38,000 fewer churches offering vacation Bible school than did eight years ago.

Most senior pastors who cancelled vacation Bible school in their churches blamed a teacher shortage.

Among other Barna findings:

■ The number of churches hosting midweek programming for children has dropped from 64 percent in 1997 to 58 percent in 2004.

■ Almost one of every five churches (18 percent) creates its own Sunday school curriculum for school-age children. Only 10 percent created their own curriculum in 2002.

■ Only 4 percent of Baptist churches create their own curriculum. They are among the least likely groups to do so.

## Fundraising for Graham's NY crusade at 60 percent

New York (RNS)—Fundraising for evangelist Billy Graham's recent New York crusade has reached about 60 percent of its projected budget, but a crusade official said he's confident donors will provide the necessary money to cover all costs.

Art Bailey, director of Graham's Greater New York Crusade, said the local crusade committee has raised about \$4.2 million, just more than 60 percent of a projected \$6.8 million budget.

"Most crusades we are further along," he said July 21 of past fundraising efforts. The New York crusade budget is the largest Graham's organization has had in North America.

Bailey said all bills received thus far have been paid and they are contacting donors about helping with anticipated additional bills.

"We stand, at this point, paid up to date, and we have money in the bank," he said.

Bailey cited several factors that could have contributed to the budget situation for the late June crusade. The final decision on the venue, Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, was made much later than for most crusades and the outside location required expenses not incurred with indoor arenas, including the rental of 70,000 chairs.

In addition, Graham's health might have prompted some donors to hold off on donating because they were not certain he would appear. He suffers from Parkinson's disease and other ailments.

"We've never had any city where we've left a bill not paid," Bailey said. "We still have donors that know of our need and are sending

money. We believe that through the sovereignty of God, we're going to see the money come in."

Bailey said the New York crusade office likely will close by Sept. 1 and the corporation developed for the crusade probably will dissolve sometime in September.

In the past, some crusades have been paid for before the event began or by the time it concluded, but in other cases the budget has not been met until later. The costs of crusades held in 2003 and 2004 have averaged about \$4 million, but Bailey, who's worked with Graham for about 20 years, recalls when they cost less than \$1.5 million.

Graham spokesman A. Larry Ross also said in an interview that he expected the New York crusade would meet its budget: "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming."

## Hurricane welcomes former Kentucky pastor to Pensacola

By Analiz González  
Associated Baptist Press

Pensacola, Fla. (ABP)—As the wind and rain of Hurricane Dennis bore down on First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla., Barry Howard preached his first sermon as the church's new pastor.

About 60 congregation members—and five dogs—took shelter in the church Saturday night, July 9. They were still on hand at 9 a.m. Sunday to hear Howard's sermon, "Listening for the Music in the Storm."

Howard, who had been in Pensacola less than a week, had no

trouble finding music in the midst of chaos. He said he bonded with the congregation's members right away.

"(My wife and I) feel like we've known them five or 10 years, and we've only known them a few days," Howard said July 11, one day after riding out the storm with the others in the church.

Howard was pastor of First Baptist Church of Corbin from 1995 to 2003. He was in Birmingham, Ala., before moving to Pensacola.

The historic Pensacola church was hit hard by Hurricane Ivan 10 months ago, suffering \$1.67 mil-

lion in damage.

Post-Ivan repairs to the exterior of the church were just completed when Dennis struck. This year, damage was less than expected, Howard said—mostly fallen trees and a few leaks.

Electricity stayed on halfway through the storm, allowing the huddled church members to watch Dennis on radar as it approached. They pitched in to clean up leaks with mops and towels.

Ironically, the church's previous pastor resigned the Sunday before Ivan hit. Now the start of Howard's tenure always will be linked to another hurricane.

Most churches in the region cancelled services July 10. Dennis rose to a Category 4 storm but was downgraded to Category 3 by the time it reached land—50 miles east of Ivan's path—Sunday afternoon. There was no reported loss of life and only modest structural damage in the region.

Insurance industry sources estimated the damage at \$3 billion to \$5 billion—manageable by comparison to last year's record storms.

The eye wall hit First Baptist at about 2:20 p.m. July 10 and lasted 50 minutes. People went home at about 4:30 p.m.

"We were well prepared," Howard said. "There was no major structural damage."

### NATIONAL NOTES

**Pastors urge attention to black family 'crisis'** A group of 25 pastors has issued an open letter to black church leaders, calling on them to speak out about the state of African-American families. "The black family is failing," states the letter spearheaded by Eugene Rivers, president of the Seymour Institute for Advanced Christian Studies in Boston. Updating 1965 research on black families, the letter states, "At the heart of the breakdown of the family has been the failure of black marriages." Other causes include a lack of sexual fidelity among African-Americans and a disproportionately high rate of incarceration for black males.

**Report: Air Force Academy problems real but unintentional.** A Pentagon report on the religious climate at the United States Air Force Academy concludes that an atmosphere of religious intolerance does not pervade the campus, but that there are problems nonetheless. A 16-person team investigated complaints that faculty and upper classmen were abusing their authority to promote evangelical forms of Christianity "(The Air Force Academy) is aggressively addressing a subject that continues to be widely debated in the public arena," the report reads. "The root of this problem is not overt religious discrimination, but a failure to fully accommodate all members' needs and a lack of awareness over where the line is drawn between permissible and impermissible expression of beliefs."

**Democrats launch new effort to attract faithful.** Concerned that Democrats are seen as a party that is hostile or ambivalent toward religion, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid last week unveiled a new Web site with "A Word to the Faithful." The site—<http://democrats.senate.gov/faith.html>—features photos of Reid meeting with mainline Protestant and Catholic leaders, as well as statements on the National Day of Prayer and Holocaust Memorial Day, among others.

**Conservatives, liberals urge reconsideration of Patriot Act.** If some of the Patriot Act's provisions aren't allowed to expire, groups like pro-life demonstrators, defenders of traditional marriage and evangelicals who disagree with the administration's foreign policy might find themselves under investigation as terrorists, members of an unusual left-right coalition said last week. A group calling itself Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances, members of both liberal and conservative civil-liberties groups, are asking Congress to review and debate the merits of the Patriot Act, which is due to expire soon.

**Election-related complaint against Falwell dismissed.** The Federal Election Commission has dismissed a complaint filed against Jerry Falwell Ministries concerning an e-mail he sent during the 2004 election season. The unanimous decision dismissed allegations by the Campaign Legal Center that Jerry Falwell Ministries and Liberty Alliance, a lobbying organization that supports Falwell's Web site, had violated election laws by circulating a "Falwell Confidential" e-mail during the summer of 2004. In the 2004, e-mail, Falwell stated: "For conservative people of faith, voting for principle this year means voting for the re-election of George W. Bush. The alternative, in my mind, is simply unthinkable."

### 15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

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#### 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 Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Corbin.** The church has launched a visitation ministry to reach its community for Christ. Verna Lee Bruce said church members are seeking to reach out and want to see more people come to know Christ and get involved in the local church. Pray for church leaders as they assess community needs and determine the most effective way to reach the unchurched. Pray that believers will have compassion for the lost and see them as Christ sees them, "as sheep without a shepherd."

### Mission Service Corps Missionary Eleanor Bowers of Louisville.

Bowers serves as a food pantry worker, preparing and distributing food through a Christian ministry in the inner city. Bowers shares Christ with the needy families she serves. Pray that she will show the love of Jesus to every client she assists. Pray that clients who are searching for employment will find work.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Kentucky Baptist pastor **Gene Crowder** died June 24 after a nine-year battle with cancer. He was 63. Crowder, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, served as pastor of Sparta Church, Muldraugh Church, Benton Church in Harrodsburg, Elkhorn City Church, Columbia Church and First Church of Maysville. He is survived by his wife, Mabel, three daughters and one granddaughter. His funeral service was June 27 at Robards Church. Memorial gifts may be made to the missions fund of Wickland Church in Bardstow.

Shively Heights Church ordained Minister of Youth **John Mark Hutcherson** to the gospel ministry July 3.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Wing Avenue Church ordained **Randy Ford** and **John Ruth** as deacons June 12.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church honored **William and Peggy Sawyer** on their 50th wedding anniversary July 2.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—Center Church will hold revival services July 28-30, 7 p.m., and July 31, 10:45 a.m., with **David Miller** of Heber Springs, Ark., as evangelist.

■ **SALEM**—Old Salem Church will hold homecoming activities Aug. 21 as part of the church's 200th anniversary celebration. Activities will include worship at 11 a.m., and a potluck meal followed by fellowship, music and a historical presentation.

■ **SIMPSONVILLE**—Simpsonville Church will host **Jeff and Sheri Easter** and **Soul Real** in concert Aug. 21, 4 p.m., as part of the church's celebration of 175 years of ministry. For ticket information, call (502) 722-5246, ext. 18.

■ **VANCEBURG**—Southern Manor Church will host a Summer Hymn Sing July 31, 1:30 p.m., featuring **The Barkleys** from Stamping Ground. Activities also will include a potluck dinner after the morning worship service. For more information call (606) 796-0175. **Al Owens** is pastor.

■ **WESTPORT**—Covington Church will hold revival services Aug 4-7, 7 p.m., with **Kevin Whitt**, pastor of Harvest Community Church in Eminence, as evangelist. The church also will celebrate its 160th anniversary with homecoming activities Aug. 7 at 10 a.m. Activities will include dinner on the grounds, special music and dedication of a new building addition. For more information, contact Pastor **Tommy Rucker** at (502) 338-9348 or [trucker@juno.com](mailto:trucker@juno.com).

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Bethlehem Church recently called **Ian Carrico** as pastor.

### What's going on?

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

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

13 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

20 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg; Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

27 Super Saturday, Central Baptist Church, Corbin; First Baptist Church, Paducah.

### September

2-5 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

9 Super Saturday, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

16-17 Keyboard Retreat, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

16-17 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.

24 Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Cedarmore.

24 Minister's Wives Celebration, Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington.

30-Oct. 1 Focus 2005, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville.

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

## Campbellsville University to offer master's degree in counseling

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University's primary accrediting agency has approved the school's master of science in counseling degree program, according to university officials.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited the program, which will begin this fall. It will offer concentrations in generalist counseling, marriage and family counseling and clinical counseling.

The program, which will be housed in Campbellsville's Carver School of Social Work, will be directed by social work professor Darlene Eastridge, director of the master's program as well as the school's un-

dergraduate social work program.

Eastridge said the generalist counseling degree is a 36 credit-hour program.

The marriage and family counseling and the clinical counseling tracks provide coursework suggested by the Kentucky Board of Licensure, she added.

The marriage and family concentration is a 42 credit-hour program and the clinical counseling track is a 60 credit-hour program.

For more information, contact Karla Deaton, coordinator for graduate and extended programs in the office of admissions, at (270) 789-5078 or [krdeaton@campbellsville.edu](mailto:krdeaton@campbellsville.edu).

## 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](http://www.magnifyquartet.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor—Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Job requirements at [www.lifewaylink.com/8592776147](http://www.lifewaylink.com/8592776147). Send resumé: Search Committee, Rosemont Baptist Church, 556 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503.

**SEEKING:** Part-time food minister. Successful experience in restaurant management and cooking is desired. Individuals interested in making application may pick one up at the church or by calling the church office at (502) 241-8534. Applications will be received until Aug. 8.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Blackhawk Baptist Association to guide the cooperative ministry of Southern Baptist churches located near Rockford, Ill. Candidates need to have a strong willingness to relate to pastors, a significant ability to train leaders and a substantial aptitude for developing mission strategy. Excellent communication skills are a must. The calling to ministry will include an approval process involving Illinois Baptist State Association and the North American Mission Board. Interested parties should send a cover letter and resumé by Aug. 15, 2005 to: Search Committee, Blackhawk Baptist Association, c/o Gail Miller, 10338 Knights Armor Lane, Roscoe, IL 61073.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Farmdale Baptist Church, 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, KY 40213. E-mail: [fbclou@bellsouth.net](mailto:fbclou@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Church pianist, Southminster BC. Praise band, choir and much more. Energetic blended service. \$100-\$125/week with experience. Contact church office for appointment: (502) 933-2761.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister to youth (grades 6-12) for conservative Southern Baptist church. Golden opportunity for an energetic married couple or single person who shares our doctrinal belief and practice, and who is willing to join us in this ministry building on our existing program. Send resumé to: Youth Committee, Smithfield Baptist Church, 5303 Smithside Road, Smithfield, KY 40068.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Waddy Baptist Church, located 40 miles east of Louisville in Shelby County. Church averages 75-85 in worship attendance. Candidate should be able to relate to all ages and enjoy being involved in the community. Housing provided. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Waddy Baptist Church, PO Box 48, Waddy, KY 40076.

**SEEKING:** Part-time church secretary. Handle the day-to-day needs of the church office (bulletins, newsletters and church finances). Some Microsoft Office experience required. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. \$9-\$10/hour, depending on experience. Contact Southminster BC church office for appointment: (502) 933-2761.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for Calvary Baptist Church. Send resumé to Search Committee, 121 Kentucky Ave., Princeton, KY 42445.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister to build youth program in a small rural church in Shelby County. Candidate should be energetic, able to relate to all ages and be willing to be involved in community activities. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, Waddy Baptist Church, PO Box 48, Waddy, KY 40076.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor to lead New Hope Community Baptist Church in Jackson, Ky. (an interim pastor is currently filling the pulpit). If you believe God might be leading you to fulfill the pastoral responsibilities of this position, please submit your resumé and cover letter by July 31 to: New Hope Community Baptist Church, 484 Robinson Road, Jackson, KY 41339, Attn: James Fugate, deacon.

**SEEKING:** Custodian. Send resumé to: Property & Space Committee, Central Ave. Baptist Church, 401 Central Ave., Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Brooksville Baptist Church (Bracken County). Send resumé to BBC, PO Box 126, Brooksville, KY 41004. Phone: (606) 735-2455.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Centerfield Church, a contemporary Baptist church in fast-growing Oldham County, Ky. Please reply to: Centerfield Church, 4200 S Highway 393, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** Pastor of students & discipleship for fast-growing, 650-member congregation in Lexington, Ky. The ideal candidate will have a passion for students, be self-motivated and have excellent organizational skills. College degree and seminary training preferred. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Vmstrong Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515, or e-mail [wddowns@insightbb.com](mailto:wddowns@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Grace Baptist Church located near Pikeville, Ky. Church averages 150-175 in worship attendance. College degree preferred with some seminary training. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Grace Baptist Church, PO Box 1485, Pikeville, KY 41502.

**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](http://www.broadwaybaptist.org/position-MinisterWithYouth.html).

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

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

# Aiding Africa

*Southern Baptist missionaries' strategy focuses on spiritual, not monetary help*

By Sue Sprenkle  
SBC International Mission Board

**Nairobi, Kenya (BP)**—Politicians, celebrities and activists turned the world's eyes toward Africa during the international Group of Eight meeting in Scotland earlier this month.

The G-8's shared goals: to save lives and eradicate poverty on the continent.

For more than 150 years, Southern Baptists have been working toward the same goals in Africa. Some of the first Southern Baptist missionaries landed in Liberia and Nigeria in the mid-19th century. They confronted the same problems facing Africa now—including disease and poverty.

Today, hundreds of Southern Baptist missionaries work throughout the continent. While they strive to alleviate physical suffering and death on a daily basis, their main concern is Africa's state of spiritual lostness.

According to some estimates, just under half of all Africans claim Christianity. But Christian workers know that statistic probably is overstated. In many African cultures, citizens who are not Muslim are considered to be Christian, regardless of whether they've made a personal commitment to Christ.

Syncretism (the combination

of religious beliefs) is widespread. Evangelical believers numbered about 116 million in the year 2000, according to Operation World statistics. Africa's total population tops 900 million.

Through the years, Southern Baptist International Mission Board officials say they've made some hard choices about how to spread the gospel in culturally appropriate ways.

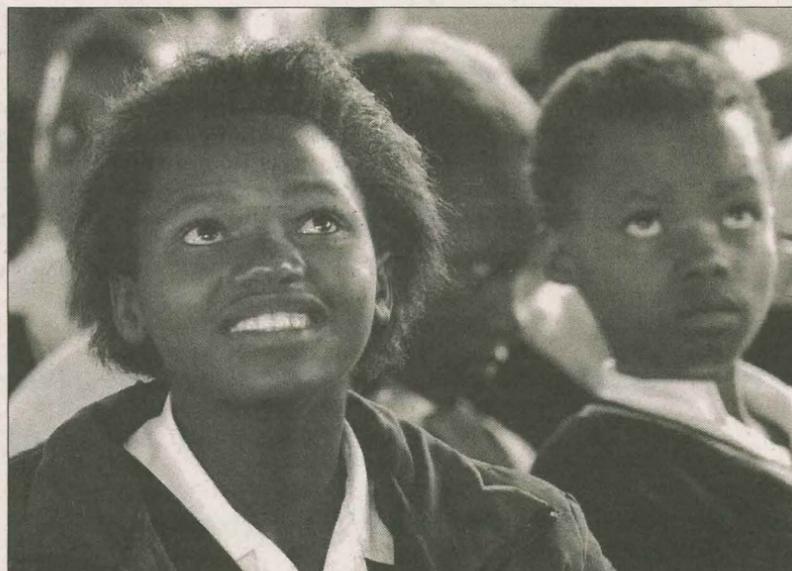
Mark Hatfield, an IMB mission strategist for central, eastern and southern Africa, said the decision not to do missions the easy way—sending money to replicate Western churches—was a good shift.

"The Western idea of a church with four walls, a metal roof, concrete floor and a seminary-trained pastor can't be reproduced by local churches in quantities sufficient to allow the gospel to reach all parts of Africa," the veteran missionary said.

## Giving fish or teaching fishing

"It is so easy for missionaries and mission volunteers to focus on how good it feels to give funds and see physical results of their aid," he added. "But we need to get the same good feelings from helping African churches and their leaders depend on the resources God is providing.

"Africa has the resources both



**HOPE** Southern Baptist missionaries say Africans need more than the aid promised by leaders at the recent G-8 summit. They need the hope that comes from knowing Jesus, missionaries say. (IMB photo)

human and physical to be independent of outside aid," Hatfield insisted.

Many Africans voiced the same view at a meeting of the continent's leaders held a few days before the G-8 sessions. While some called for total debt relief for the entire continent, Uhuru Kenyatta, a leader in the KANU party in Kenya, told the world not to expect self-supporting improvement in Africa if outside nations keep handing out money.

"You can give a man a fish and he'll eat today," Kenyatta said. "Or you can teach the man to fish and he'll eat forever."

Baptist missionaries in Africa say that is exactly their strategy: teach local Christians to take the gospel to their own people.

"We have thousands of dedicated African believers who form the foundation for Africa's future," Hatfield said.

"We have leaders like the presidents of Zambia and Nigeria who have stepped out to lead from a Christian base. We have strong churches in many countries that are meeting spiritual and social needs previously met only by missions and non-governmental organizations."

## Africa fast facts

**Countries:** 58  
People: 924 million (mid-2004 estimate) among more than 3,500 ethnic groups  
**Languages spoken:** 2,110

**Economy:** Africa's economy has stagnated for 40 years. Many countries have become poorer; a few have made progress.

**Religion:** Christian 48 percent of continent's population.  
Muslim 41 percent.  
Traditional/indigenous 9 percent.  
Hindu 0.2 percent.  
Baha'i 0.2 percent.  
Other 1 percent.

Religious freedom has increased in Africa in recent years, but persecution of Christians by Muslims also has increased.

**Christian missionaries to Africa:** nearly 18,000.

**Christian missionaries from Africa:** more than 12,000 (some 3,000 serve on other continents).

Sources: Operation World and Population Reference Bureau

# AIDS epidemic leaves elderly to raise children

By Sue Sprenkle  
SBC International Mission Board

**Johannesburg, South Africa (BP)**—Children run wildly up and down the path—turning cartwheels and chattering along the way. Several steps behind, their granny walks stiffly, holding onto her oldest granddaughter's arm for a steadiness she hasn't had in years.

The contrast between youth and the elderly is drastic in this country. An entire middle generation is practically missing, creating the huge gap. HIV/AIDS wreaks its havoc in South Africa almost daily.

"People are dying, and no one wants to talk about the cause," a South African grandmother says as a bell tolls five times in the background. The ringing bell signals to the rest of the village that someone just died.

"Every day that bell rings and every Saturday we go to funerals. Our young people are dying like never before."

A South African survey published in March 2004 found that South Africans spend more time at funerals than they do having their hair cut, shopping or grilling out. It found that more than twice as many people had been to a funeral in the past month as had been to a wedding.

It is estimated that about 600 people in South Africa die of HIV-related illnesses each day.

Typically, half of the people with HIV become infected before they are 25. They then develop AIDS and die by age 35. They leave behind a gen-



**LOOKING FOR HOPE** This South African grandmother lost three of her children to HIV/AIDS. Now her grandchildren live with her. She also has one great-grandson living in the overcrowded one-room, mud brick house. Two of her grandchildren are already showing signs of HIV. (BP photo by Sue Sprenkle)

eration of children to be raised by grandparents or left on their own in child-headed households.

AIDS is generating orphans so quickly that family structures are struggling to cope.

So far, the AIDS epidemic has left behind an estimated 15 million orphans worldwide. Around 80 percent of these live in sub-Saharan Africa. The most recent United Nations reports estimate the number of children orphaned by AIDS will rise dramatically in the next 10-20 years. In South Africa alone, 1.5 million children are expected to be orphaned by AIDS by 2010.

While things might seem hopeless as a generation of providers falls victim to HIV/AIDS, International Mission Board missionaries Andy and Gay Wilkinson say there is still hope.

"If we can reach this younger generation before they become infected, then we can stop the cycle," Andy Wilkinson says. "The hope is in the kids. They will have to break cultural barriers and not have sex outside of marriage. They need to know Christ and live godly lives.

"AIDS is a pandemic, but it's also the greatest opportunity to bring people to Christ."

# Canada becomes fourth country to legalize homosexual marriage

**Ottawa (RNS)**—Canada has become only the fourth country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage.

Bill C-38 received royal assent and became the law of the land July 20. Just the evening before, Canada's Liberal-dominated Senate, the upper chamber of Parliament, approved the bill by a vote of 47-21.

The lower house of Parliament already had passed the legislation late last month despite fierce opposition from conservative politicians and some faith groups, including the Catholic Church, who portrayed it as an attack on organized religion.

Opponents fear churches and religious officials will be sued for refusing to carry out gay marriages or for preaching against it from pulpits. Ottawa has assured faith groups that religious officials would not be forced to marry same-sex couples, and that religious teachings will be protected by laws guaranteeing free speech.

The federal government also has stressed that its bill addresses civil marriage only in public institutions like courthouses and city halls. It says religious institutions—churches, mosques, synagogues and temples—and individuals can continue defining marriage as they see fit.

Nevertheless, some faith groups lashed out after the bill cleared its final hurdle.

"The fundamental and universal reality of marriage remains the exclusive union of a man and a woman for life," said a statement from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The law "denatures the moral values and principles," the bishops said. "Catholics are to continue to oppose it," and must ensure that freedom to oppose it is upheld.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada "cannot by reason of faith, conscience, practice and teaching accept this new definition of marriage and we will continue to promote and uphold marriage as the exclusive union of one man and one woman," stated president Bruce Clemenger.

Belgium and the Netherlands have allowed gays and lesbians to get married for years. The Spanish Cortes (parliament) approved same-sex marriage on June 30.

# *Parks Baptist Scholars Program*

*The Parks Baptist Scholarship, offering full tuition, room and board, is the most prestigious scholarship offered by Georgetown College. Established in 1994 to pay tribute to former trustee Dr. Paul Parks '43 and his late wife, Phyllis, the Parks Baptist Scholarship recognizes highly qualified Baptist students who pursue an undergraduate degree at Georgetown College in preparation for lifelong learning, teaching, and Christian service.*

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## **Georgetown College Congratulates and Welcomes Parks Baptist Scholars Fall '05**

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**Mary Alice Birdwhistell - '05 Valedictorian**  
Anderson County High School  
Lawrenceburg, Kentucky

**Sarah Schobel - '05 Valedictorian**  
Larry A. Ryle High School  
Union, Kentucky

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## **Returning Parks Scholars**

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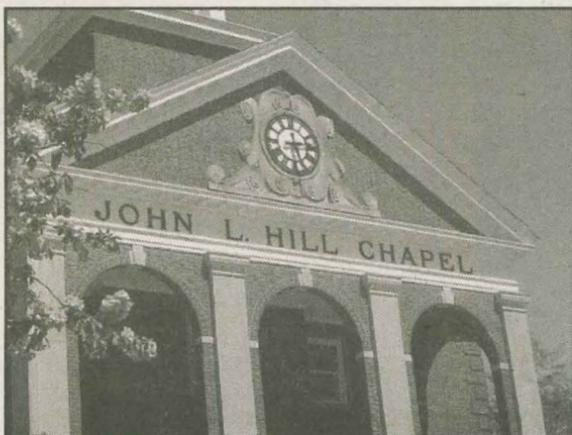
**Katie Dale, '02**  
Cincinnati, OH  
Clark Montessori High School

**Adam Glover, '03**  
Glasgow KY  
Barren County High School

**Brittany Pappas, '03**  
Bassett, VA  
Home Schooled

**Taylor Rains, '04**  
Paducah, KY  
Paducah Tilghman High School

**Tyler Stewart, '04**  
Crestwood, KY  
Oldham County High School



*"... Aside from the opportunity to associate with an incredible group of students, the (Parks) scholarship has allowed me to grow spiritually and given me several leadership opportunities that I might not have received at another college..."*

*-Adam Glover, Class of 2007*

# GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

*For more information, or to receive an application for the Fall 2006 Parks Baptist Scholars Program, contact:*

**Office of Admissions**

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