

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD



Baptists
Approximately 12,000 Baptists from around the world gathered for the Baptist World Alliance's Centennial Congress in Birmingham, England last week. *Pages 2 and 6.*

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Workshop speaker: Music ministry not limited to music

Glorieta, N.M. (BP)—Music ministries should be tools for discipleship and evangelism, not just performance-centered entities, a music minister told a recent conference audience.

"We ... have a responsibility to the people that serve in our ministry, (who) make themselves accountable by being involved in your ministry," said Randy Hays, minister of music and worship at Bear Creek Baptist Church in Houston.

Some music ministers focus solely on music, Hays told those attending Music Week at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center. But worship leaders are responsible to tend to the spiritual condition of people in their ministries, he added.

Hays said personal conversations with choir members can help them grow spiritually. "It gives me an opportunity to get to know them more one-on-one, know about their families, to know anything that's going on in their lives."

Transitioning a music ministry to a worship-leading and discipleship mentality is both difficult and worthwhile, Hays said.

"The gold standard for us is that on any given Sunday I can point at any given person on the platform at a prayer time or an altar call and have them come down and pray with someone or lead someone to Christ," Hays said. "They can ... all be there to serve the people who are in the pews."

Bulletin blunders

Comical typos can have church staff begging forgiveness

By Heather Horiuchi
Religion News Service

Portage, Mich. (RNS)—It has long been said that to err is human. But to forgive mistakes in church bulletins may be divine.

If lists of church bloopers are an accurate indication, the need for forgiveness is great. The unintended funnies often passed around on the Internet give the spiritually minded an excuse to let loose with a belly laugh.

"Things are so solemn, grave and violent, we need to lighten up," said Cal Samra, editor of the *Joyful Noiseletter*, a Portage, Mich., publication that collects unfortunate typos that find themselves to church pews.

The collection of ecclesiastical errors has also spread overseas, with a contest in Great Britain attracting much attention and a Web site seeking year-round examples at which to chuckle.

Samra says the bloopers he prints have been verified as authentic. But certain identifying factors are occasionally omitted, he said, to prevent potentially embarrassing situations from being made public.

Here is a sampling:

■ "The church had a going-away party for the pastor. The congregation was anxious to give him a little momentum."

■ "John Smith, ordained as a demon, will pastor two churches in Fannin County."

■ "We will have a special holiday bingo and dinner on Monday



evening. You will be given two bingo packs, which cover all games played, and your choice of children or roast beef for dinner."

■ "Please drop off diapers, size 3, at the Saint Raphael's parish office during regular office hours for Sister Jane."

In the United Kingdom, the "Parish Pump Church Magazine Misprint Competition 2005" is under way, sponsored by Britain's biggest online Christian magazine, *shipoffools.com*.

The Web site regularly posts "the

10 most recent gaffes, blunders and Freudian slips from sermons, prayers and church newsletters, as seen and heard by our readers." It adds, "All painful examples are gratefully received."

The Web site discovered that British churchgoers at one congregation were invited to "prayer and medication" while another invited attendees to socialize over "coffee and mice pies."

Another church trying to reach out to Americans asked folks to attend "a Super Bowl Party."

Poll: Churches put 'unreasonable' pressure on pastor's family

By Ron Sellers
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Phoenix, Ariz.—A recent survey found most pastors said their churches make unreasonable expectations of their spouse and kids, but they still believe their families are fairly healthy.

The survey, conducted for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention found that 93 percent of senior pastors said they believe a minister's spouse has extra pressure, and 91 percent said ministers' children encounter extra pressure.

Eighty-eight percent of senior ministers polled said churchgoers often expect pastors' families to be "better than" other people's families.

In all three cases, Southern Baptist ministers were more likely to say they perceive extra pressure on their families.

Six out of 10 ministers said their

role as pastors leaves them with insufficient time with their families.

Only 18 percent said the amount of time they get to spend with their spouse is at extremely healthy levels, and 10 percent said this about the amount of time they get to spend with their children.

Even so, when asked to rate the health of their relationship with their spouse on a scale of 1 to 5, 47 percent of pastors gave it the highest possible rating, while another 39 percent rated it at a 4.

Similarly, 44 percent of ministers rate the health of their relationship with their children at a 5, and another 42 rate it at a 4. Overall, 26 percent of pastors rate the health of their family unit at a 5, and another 54 percent give it a 4 rating.

The study, conducted among a representative sample of 870 senior pastors, showed eight out of 10 pastors are currently on their first marriage, while another 12 percent are

divorced and remarried.

In general, ministers who have been divorced reported a less healthy relationship with their children and rated the health of their family unit lower than do other pastors.

While pastors see the health of their own family in a positive light, they often perceive problems with families of other clergy members. Just 3 percent said pastors' families in general in their denomination are extremely healthy, while another 26 percent rated this as a 4.

Amid the pressures of time and expectations, many pastors questioned whether they would get sufficient support from their churches if a family crisis arose.

The study found 61 percent of senior pastors said they strongly believe they would receive the necessary support from their church if a family crisis occurred.

Another 33 percent said they

feel only somewhat confident they would get the support they need, and 6 percent said they had no confidence their church would support them in a family crisis.

Guy Futral, a consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development office, said pastors should be aware of both the congregation's expectations and their own for their families.

"We often put both subtle and overt pressures on our children and spouses to perform, participate and behave in ways that equal or exceed the best church member," Futral noted.

"Ministers are often torn between the responsibilities of their job and their responsibilities as fathers and husbands," he added. "His family deserves the best he has to give, just as does the family of every father in the congregation."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, August 3

BWA congress unites Baptists from around world

"Too often, the world is more aware of what the church is against than what it is for, and this is no strategy for winning lost people to Jesus Christ."

Newly elected Baptist World Alliance President David Coffey

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Birmingham, England (ABP)—More than 12,000 Baptist Christians from around the world celebrated a century of togetherness July 27-31 in Birmingham, England.

With music, pageantry and Centenary Congress returned the Baptist World Alliance to the land where it was formed in 1905.

The BWA, an international fellowship of 32 million believers from 200-plus unions, also clarified its theological identity, discussed ways to combat global ills, and recognized a shift of Christianity's center of gravity to Africa, Asia and South America.

A century ago when BWA first met in London, 85 percent of the world's Baptists were in Europe and North America, said Denton Lotz, general secretary of BWA. Now 65 percent of Baptists are in the Third World, Lotz told the delegates.

"This is the new paradigm shift," Lotz said as he asked delegates from Africa, Asia and South America to stand. The Southern Hemisphere may lack money, political freedom or clout, he said, but "they are going to re-evangelize the world."

The meeting was one of the largest gatherings of worldwide Baptists. As a demonstration of their unity, delegates at the opening session recited together the Apostle's Creed, a centuries-old declaration of orthodox faith used in many historic Christian traditions.

The meeting's theme, "Jesus Christ, Living Water," evoked a five-year emphasis on evangelism.

"As water is essential to life, so is salvation," said Korean pastor Billy



OPENING CELEBRATION Korean girls dance during the opening ceremony for Baptist World Alliance's Centennial Congress. More than 12,000 Baptists from around the globe met last week in Birmingham, England, to celebrate a century of unity through BWA, which represents more than 200 groups in more than 100 countries.

Kim, outgoing BWA president.

The \$1.2 million evangelism strategy features regional training and vision conferences with "Telling the Story" workshops.

The congress was the first since the Southern Baptist Convention withdrew from the alliance, taking with it \$425,000 in annual funding. SBC officials claimed alliance leadership was too influenced by liberal members. BWA officials have vehemently denied that charge.

In an indirect allusion to the SBC's defunding, Lotz stressed the international fellowship must not allow others to define it.

"We believe in Jesus Christ, the sole Savior sufficient for salvation," he said. "To accuse the BWA of not believing in the Bible is comparable to accusing a mother of not loving her child."

Also during the meeting:

■ Delegates unanimously elected as president David Coffey, currently general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Outlining values that will shape his presidency, Coffey affirmed belief in the gospel, the church and worship that intersects real-world issues of peace and justice.

He affirmed his commitment as a "Great Commission Christian"—one dedicated to the principle that every Baptist is a missionary.

"Too often, the world is more aware of what the church is against than what it is for, and this is no strategy for winning lost people to Jesus Christ," he said. "We need to be more like Jesus, to earn the reputation of being friends to the repudiated and to give ourselves in sacrificial service for a broken world."

■ BWA officials unveiled a new identity statement structured around eight categories: eschatology, the Trinity, Scripture, the church and the kingdom, the work of Christ, stewardship of creation, mission, and religious freedom and justice

Committee chairman Keith Jones said the statement is Christ-centric and "places the Trinity at its heart."

Jones said it also is evangelistic, Baptist in ecclesiology, "puts the accent on mission and the coming reign of God" and stresses the need to be good stewards of creation and to take strong stands for the poor and needy, and for religious liberty.

■ Two Baptist state conventions joined Baptist World Alliance. Both the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist General Convention of Virginia sought BWA membership since the Southern Baptist Convention withdrew from BWA last year.

Virginia's annual contribution of about \$150,000 now makes it the largest member giver to the BWA. Texas is a close second with about a \$129,000 annual contribution.

■ BWA's General Council approved a 2006 budget of \$2,345,275, an increase over 2005's \$1,974,773 budget.

Despite the SBC's defunding, Lotz said, North American churches—most of them SBC affiliates—gave \$500,000 this year, more than enough to replace the loss.

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson, Marv Knox and Ken Camp of the (Texas) Baptist Standard, John Hall of the (Texas) General Convention, Tony Cartledge of the (North Carolina) Biblical Record and Robert Dilday

Warren urges BWA attendees to pursue 'second reformation'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Birmingham, England—Urging Christians to pursue "a new reformation" in the 21st century, Rick Warren told Baptist World Congress delegates last week, "The first Reformation was about belief. This one needs to be about behavior."

"We need a reformation of not creeds but deeds," said Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in California and author of the best-selling book, "The Purpose Driven Church."

"Most of the time we're just talk," said Warren, a keynote speaker for the global meeting. "It's time that the church be known for what it's for" rather than what it's against.

Warren said this new reformation requires mobilizing Christians, multiplying churches, evangelizing the world and eradicating global problems. "A non-serving Christian is a contradiction," he warned. "God didn't save you to sit, soak and sour. He saved you to serve. ... Significance comes from service."

When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He gave them the gifts of a new perspective, new pattern and new promise, Warren said.

As BWA celebrates a century of ministry and pursues a vision for the next 100 years, that new perspective, new pattern and new promise "are the exact three things

we need to take us into the 21st century," Warren suggested. Those gifts include seeing the world from God's perspective, following the Son's pattern and believing the Spirit's promises.

"The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King," Warren noted. "It is God's purposeful God's purposes on God's planet."

"If you want to be on the winning side, get involved in the Kingdom of God," he added. "God loves to do new things in a new way."

As an example, Warren said the church in the Southern Hemisphere is "exploding with growth."

"Africa, Asia and Latin America will lead us in the 21st century," he declared. "That's what God is doing."

Urging unity amid diversity, Warren said, "A great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will grow a great church. ... Unity comes from purpose."

While "this is a time for optimism," Warren cautioned that Christians "not only need to see the potential, you need to see the problems." Citing "five global giants," he said churches must address the issues of spiritual emptiness, ego-centric leadership, poverty, disease and illiteracy.

Insisting that the only effective solution to such problems is the

Warren: SBC pullout of BWA 'silly' mistake

Birmingham, England—Saying Baptists from around the world can "have unity without uniformity," Rick Warren told reporters that the Southern Baptist Convention's withdrawal from BWA was a "silly" mistake.

"God has called us to enjoy and fellowship with each other and work together. We're all in this together," he said, adding Baptists can "celebrate our diversity and celebrate our unity."

At a BWA press conference, Warren addressed a question about last year's decision by the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest BWA member, to withdraw membership and funding from

BWA. "I think that was a mistake," he said flatly. "When the Southern Baptists pulled out funding, my wife and I wrote a check for \$25,000 to BWA."

"I see absolutely zero reason in separating my fellowship from anybody," he declared. Noting he has theological differences with many of the diverse denominations that invite him to speak, Warren added, "That doesn't stop me from fellowshiping with them."

When he heard of the SBC's withdrawal, he added, "I thought, 'This is silly! Why would we separate ourselves from brothers and sisters in the world?'"

local church, Warren said he is implementing a global "PEACE Plan" initiative to mobilize 10 million churches, 100 million small groups and 1 billion Christians to impact the world.

"If you're going to think, you might as well think big," he suggested. "In my dictionary, the word 'impossible' isn't there because I cut it out."

Noting that Saddleback Church is quietly testing the PEACE Plan in churches in 47 countries, Warren said the acrostic stands for Plant

churches, Equip servant leaders, Assist the poor, Care for the sick and Educate the next generation.

"These five elements of Jesus' ministry are the practical expression of the Kingdom of God," he said. "What Jesus did in His physical body, He expects us to do in His spiritual body" as the church.

"It's time to stop debating the Bible and start doing it. It's time to stop criticizing and start cooperating," he urged. "It's time for the church to be the church. This is the new reformation I'm praying for."



"It's time to stop debating the Bible and start doing it."

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in California

Modern-day missions ed

Consultant: Today's approach more basic than 10 years ago

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Elizabethtown—Ten years ago, missions education in Baptist churches most often involved telling children who missionaries were. Today, many boys and girls attending missions groups do not even know what missionaries do.

Author Mitzi Eaker told participants at Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's recent World Missions Unlimited event that more children than ever attending Baptist churches "don't have a church background. They don't have a spiritual foundation ... (WMU) is called on by pastors and other spiritual leaders to provide that."

A consultant with national WMU in Birmingham, Ala., Eaker said the message of missions is: "God is alive and active today. We need to teach children about the heroes of the Bible and heroes of our future—the missionaries."

Using principles from her book, "Missions Moments: Foundational Messages and Activities for Children," and other WMU texts, Eaker shared ideas with women attending the two-day event July 15-16 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

She began her session by asking participants to estimate how many minutes their churches currently devote to missions education in a week.

For some, missions education is as foundational as Sunday morning worship. Other women said their congregations lacked focus on the subject.

"We don't have anything," one woman said.

"We just started a van (ministry)," another participant said, noting that her congregation now was welcoming more unchurched children than ever before.

No matter how much or little time a church gives to mission edu-



STATE OF POVERTY Kathy Davis (middle) of Crossroads Baptist Church in Franklin and Kim Brooks (right) of Smithland Second Baptist Church in Louisville during World Missions Unlimited July 15 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The church gym was transformed into a make-believe community during the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union event. The "State of Poverty" simulation offered participants a glimpse of the challenge of living with a meager income. WMU will focus special attention through 2006 on the problem of poverty. Simulation participants were divided into family units and given limited resources with which to address such scenarios as illness, unemployment and foreclosure in addition to the usual needs of food, clothing, utilities and transportation.

cation, there is always time enough to do something, Eaker said.

Budding WMU ministries in churches where "zero minutes" currently are devoted to missions education each week could begin with bulletin boards, Eaker suggested.

Colorful illustrations using SBC and WMU resources can promote simple mission projects in which the whole congregation can participate.

"If you don't have a time slot, make an area in your church where missions is happening," she said. Collecting pennies or other donations a few times each year to support a local ministry or charity is one example.

Wednesday evenings are becoming Baptists' best opportunity to minister to unchurched children, Eaker noted. On those occasions, activities should "teach the Biblical basis for missions."



Mitzi Eaker



REALITY CHECK Anne Smith (left), executive director of Ministries United of South Central Louisville, talks with Regina Kaselow of Shelbyville during the poverty simulation. During the simulation, Kaselow portrayed an 85-year-old unemployed woman living alone without family assistance. Many participants said they felt frustration at not having enough income with which to address the most basic needs.

missions at home with their children through prayer, study or by supporting a specific missionary family financially.

■ Setting aside "1,260 minutes" each year to take children to a week of missions camp.

"Look at traditional resources in non-traditional ways," Eaker encouraged.

Baptists are familiar with the list of good reasons to teach children about missions—obeying Scripture, sharing the gospel with a child who doesn't know Jesus, or setting a future missionary on his or her course.

Eaker said she tops her list with a reason that is profound and must occur before all others: "It teaches children that life isn't all about them," she said. "The world revolves around God."

For missions education ideas in your church, contact Kentucky WMU at (888) 254-5726 or visit www.wmu.com.

Kentucky native missionary killed in auto wreck

Norfolk, Neb. (BP)—Louisville native and veteran Southern Baptist missionary Dennis Hampton, 56, was killed in an automobile accident July 28.

A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Hampton planted churches in Massachusetts and Nebraska and also served the Kansas-Nebraska Baptist convention as town and country missions strategist.

He retired in April from a position jointly funded by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, serving as coordinator of the Sandhills Baptist Association.

Hampton was among the Southern Baptist missionaries featured this year in LifeWay Christian Resources' vacation Bible school materials.

His son, Joel, 15, was a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the accident. He was not injured seriously.

In addition to his son, Hampton is survived by his wife, Elaine, and daughter, Hannah.

His funeral was held Aug. 2, at Northern Heights Baptist Church in Norfolk, Neb.

Super Saturdays to feature dialogue for pastors 39 & younger

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist pastors ages 39 and under are invited to participate in an emerging leaders dialogue at each of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Super Saturday events in August and September.

The dialogues are designed to be a time for open discussion about the issues and challenges facing young, visionary pastors.

The discussion also will offer time for participants to network, share ideas that have worked in their churches and share resources that have helped them in their ministry.

French Harmon, associate team leader for the KBC's church development and evangelism team and Richard Adams, director of the leadership development department, will facilitate the dialogues.

"We are trying to gain infor-

mation. We want to hear what's already working," Harmon said. "I think the convention needs to hear and listen to what's happening in Kentucky and not just come in with our briefcases and say, 'We've got all the answers' because we don't."

Participants also will be asked what skill sets they would like to develop and how the KBC can better facilitate relationships among and with emerging leaders.

"I am hoping that they'll see us (KBC) as facilitators with them—that we're just co-laborers together," Harmon said. "We can come along side of them and together with God, we can help them strengthen their churches."

Harmon acknowledged that emerging leaders can be people in all age groups and walks of life. The decision was made to limit

Super Saturday 411

Super Saturday conferences will be held in six cities throughout the commonwealth:

■ Lexington Aug. 13 at Immanuel Baptist Church

■ Hopkinsville Aug. 20 at Second Baptist Church

■ Prestonsburg Aug. 20 at First Baptist Church

■ Paducah Aug. 27 at First Baptist Church

■ Corbin Aug. 20 at Central Baptist Church

■ Crestwood Sept. 10 at Crestwood Baptist Church

Registration will open at 8 a.m. and the conferences will dismiss at 3 p.m.

this year's dialogues to pastors age 39 and under with the possibility of having similar discussions for other age groups and those who are not pastors at Super Saturdays in the future.

Dialogue participants will receive the book "The Present Future" by Reggie McNeal. McNeal is scheduled to speak at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2005 annual meeting, Nov. 15-16 in Frankfort.

Registration costs \$22 per person. Early registration, by noon on the Tuesday before the conference they attend, costs \$15 per person.

For information about specific classes and to register online visit www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday or call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development/evangelism team at toll-free at (888) 254-5710.

Extended teaching care for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten is available on a limited basis.

Childcare reservations must be made at least one week before their conference by calling Wendy Dever at (888) 254-5708.

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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET McINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

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Not with my identity you don't

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—On the ZD Net.com Web site a recent headline shouted: "Consumers, retailers grapple with data theft." MasterCard had reported that an intruder gained access to names, account numbers and verification codes for 40 million credit cards that could be used to commit fraud, and consumers were left in the dark.

We've probably all heard actual nightmare stories of identity theft, so let's look at some things you should consider doing on a regular basis.

How can someone steal an identity? They do it by co-opting your name, Social Security number, credit card number or some other piece of personal identification for their own use. In short, identity theft occurs when someone appropriates your personal information without your knowledge in order to establish a parallel identity.

That allows them to pretend to be you in order to open bank accounts and apply for loans, and you might not know it's happening for months or years. The impostors don't pay the bills, and you are left with a disastrous credit report.

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America, affecting an average of 500,000 new victims each year for the past decade.

Some common sense methods can help protect your privacy. Here are some tips:

- Never put checks in the mail at your home mailbox; your Social Security number on checks or credit receipts; phone numbers on checks; or credit card numbers on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secured site.

- Shred all important papers and correspondence that include your name and/or address.

- Be careful of "shoulder surfers" at ATMs, and at phone booths when using phone cards.

- Cancel credit cards you don't use or haven't used in six months.

- Put passwords on all accounts.

- Memorize Social Security numbers and passwords. Don't carry your Social Security card.

- Monitor every statement for every credit card every month.

- Order a credit report at least yearly, review it carefully, and immediately correct mistakes on your report in writing to the credit agencies.

- Make a list of all your credit card and bank account numbers and keep them in a safe place.

- Always take credit card receipts with you, and never toss them in a public trash container.

- If you receive e-mail requests that appear to be from your Internet Service Provider stating that your "account information needs to be updated" or that "your credit card is invalid or expired and the information needs to be re-entered to keep your account active," do not respond without checking with your ISP.

Unfortunately, in identity-theft cases the victim often has to prove his or her innocence. The burden remains on victims to correct the credit mess the imposter has made.

Generally, victims of credit and banking fraud are liable for no more than the first \$50 of the loss. However, the victim must notify financial institutions within two days of learning of the loss. Even though victims might not be liable for the imposter's bill, often they are left with a bad credit report and must spend months, or even years, regaining their financial health.

In 1998 Congress made identity theft a federal crime and directed the Federal Trade Commission to establish a clearinghouse for identity-theft complaints and assistance. Its Web site is www.consumer.gov/idtheft, and counselors who staff the FTC's toll-free hotline, (877) 438-4338, will provide assistance.

COMMENTARY

Top ten reasons to attend Super Saturday

Super Saturday training has been conducted in August and early September since 1991 when Vernon Cole launched the new training concept. This year will have a similar format with expanded sessions for special groups such as emerging pastors and those interested in reaching the dechurched.

Maybe you need new reasons why you should attend. So, here's my top 10 list for your consideration:

10. Great fellowship and food. Travel by church bus or van and conferences offer great opportunities for fellowship and meeting new people. The food is great too.

9. Get acquainted with special leaders. Kentucky Baptist Convention, church staff members and national leaders will lead conferences.

8. Receive specific helps and resources. Leaders will provide handouts and a LifeWay Bookstore will be open.

7. Learn what's working and why. You will have the opportunity to hear firsthand from leaders and conference participants what's re-

ally working and why.

6. Take home value for your church. The theme is "Strengthening Every Church," so you will have an opportunity to determine what would really make the difference in your church.

5. Inspiration and encouragement from hearing how God is at work. I have attended several conferences and have been amazed at how God is at work in such creative ways in churches of all sizes.

Others will inspire you and you will have opportunities to share how God has worked in your church and ministry.

4. Developing lay leaders. Effective leaders must be continuous learners. This is an opportunity for church leaders to experience learning that will enrich their lives and better equip their ministries.

3. Insights on reaching the dechurched. Hear interviews with the dechurched and how selected churches are reaching them. Participate in great discussion groups.

2. Review and expand your vision

If you are a victim or suspect that you may be a victim of identity theft, it is important to act promptly to stop the thief's further use of your identity. Immediately:

- Report the crime to the local police.

- Call all credit card issuers and get replacement cards with new account numbers.

- Call the fraud units of the three credit reporting companies: Experian (888) 397-3742; Equifax (800) 525-6285; and TransUnion (800) 680-7289. Ask for your account to be flagged, and add a victim's statement to the report.

- Contact the National Fraud Information Center, (800) 876-7060, for step-by-step instructions.

- Notify your bank of the theft. Get a new ATM card, a new account number and password.

- Contact the Social Security Administration, (800) 269-0271.

- Report fraudulent checks to: TeleCheck, (800) 710-9898; National Processing Company, (800) 526-5380; or Equifax (800) 437-5120.

Victims of identity theft often report that they feel they're somehow to blame. Few, if any, of the authorities notified of the crime step forward to give immediate and appropriate help to the victim.

Before any of this happens, the first thing a Christian must do is transfer ownership of every possession to God. This means money, time, family, material possessions and credit. This is essential if you are to experience the Spirit-filled life in the area of finances. A Christian must realize there is absolutely no substitute for this step.

If you believe you own even a single possession, then the events affecting that possession are going to affect your attitude. However, if you make a total transfer of everything to God, He will demonstrate His ability. He will keep His promise to provide every need we have according to His perfect plan.

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

for ministry. Vision will motivate you to seek God, depend on the Holy Spirit, study God's Word, sacrifice, involve and equip others, enlist partners, develop action plans and stretch for God's best.

1. You will never have this opportunity again. God willing, there will be other Super Saturdays, but never this one. I believe Super Saturday conferences will enable you to be and do your best for God's glory and the effectiveness of your local church.

Dates and locations

Aug. 13, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

Aug. 20, First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg and Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

Aug. 27, First Baptist Church of Paducah and Central Baptist Church of Corbin.

Sept. 10, Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

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Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Has your church had a financial checkup lately?

By Doug Strader

Many medical experts recommend that we get yearly checkups even if things are going well physically.



Churches would do well to have regular financial stewardship checkups, especially if they are experiencing major problems with church finances.

Most of us go to a doctor with our physical needs, but where do we go when we have church financial needs?

Most of the time we can do a self-diagnosis of our church's financial situation. Congregations also can ask the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board's stewardship office for help.

How does a church do a self-diagnosis of the health of its financial stewardship? The steps listed below are a good place to begin:

- Write "thank you" notes to the people who are giving to the church budget. Sometimes a word of appreciation from the pastor or finance committee will encourage people to continue to be faithful in their giving.

- Ask the church treasurer or financial secretary to determine the percentage of the budget being given by the top 10 givers.

- Ask the treasurer or financial secretary to determine the percentage of people who are giving 80 percent of the church budget.

- Ask the treasurer or financial secretary to determine the percentage of the budget being given by people under age 50 and those over age 50.

- Encourage the pastor to preach financial stewardship sermons.

- Encourage the Sunday school director to offer quarterly lessons on financial stewardship.

- Provide all members offering envelopes. Using an envelope service company to mail the envelopes to your membership monthly or quarterly can increase the faithfulness of your members in their giving.

If your diagnosis warrants any changes, address the changes in the order of priority. You might not be able to address all the needs immediately, but do not be discouraged. Make plans to address each need and help your congregation become a healthier financial stewardship church.

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

Divorced or separated spouses often need support, recovery

Q: My wife and I have been separated for seven years. She is addicted to alcohol and other drugs and has moved in with her boyfriend. She is not a Christian and she is not interested in coming back. She will not initiate divorce. Would Scripture allow me to do so?

First, let me encourage you to surround yourself with support. Seek a church in your area that has a program of support and recovery for divorced and separated people. You do not have to go through this experience alone. God is for you and your family. You need a safe place in which to grieve your losses.

MARRIAGE

Genesis 16 and 21 tell the story of God's care for Hagar and Ishmael, a single mom and child who were divorced by Abraham. Divorce in that day meant banishment and possible death. In the midst of that situation, God cared for them. You have already experienced rejection from your wife. Seek to let God heal you from that pain.

In Jesus' day there was a raging debate between Pharisees who believed a man could divorce his wife for any reason and those who said a man could divorce only for indecency, which was broadly defined. Jesus told them they were all wrong. God's original intent for marriage was that it was designed for lifelong partnership (Matthew 19). Matthew's account cites adultery as a reason for divorce. Mark's account gives no such reason. New Testament scholar David Garland says the difference likely is that in Matthew, Jesus was speaking to crowds about what everyone already understood: Adultery breaks a marriage. In Mark, Jesus was speaking to His disciples about God's ideal will of a lifelong commitment for all marriages.

It could be that God's ideal will for your marriage is no longer "on the table." You might be left to deal with the negative results of someone else's bad decisions. You need to find a supportive atmosphere in which to process these feelings and realities.

Our God is a God of gracious help. Find a place where you can experience that grace from others who have been through what you are going through right now. They are out there. Check out www.ics-lex.org for an example of a seven-week program that offers spiritual and emotional recovery from the pain of divorce.—James Stillwell

Q: How can I bless my children?

The word "blessing" gets used in many ways. However, to the ancient Hebrews "a berakah" (blessing) involved transmitting or endowing the power of God's goodness and favor. A blessing typically was given with words, and often was accompanied by physical touch, such as laying on of hands. The familiar story of Isaac, Jacob and Esau provides a biblical example.

Parents possess the power to bless their children in ways that will make a difference forever. As the definition above indicates, the blessing becomes a claiming of God's power for and in the life of the child. Rolf Garborg explains how this works in his book "The Family Blessing."

Words spoken to a child on behalf of God can make God more real to boys and girls, can help shape their character and can give them a much-needed sense of confidence and security. Garborg suggests beginning with the simple and familiar blessing found in Numbers 6:24-26. Each night at bedtime, place your hands on your child's head and repeat this blessing aloud, personalizing it with their name.

The words of blessing don't have to be the same every time, but Garborg feels there are benefits to continuity. He also cautions that blessing your child should not take the place of praying for them. When you begin, explain to your child what you are doing and why. Hold them in your arms or place your hands on their heads during the blessing. Teach them that the blessing is simply one way that God offers His protection and presence.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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

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

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

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

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



Global Baptists celebrate unity in Christ

From the opening celebration to the closing gavel, the centenary Baptist World Congress was a tribute to global Baptist cooperation.

More than 12,000 delegates from 100-plus nations gathered July 27-31 in Birmingham, England, to celebrate 100 years of ministry and fellowship through the Baptist World Alliance. The multi-cultural worship celebrations featured such keynote speakers as former President Jimmy Carter; Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life"; and outgoing BWA President Billy Kim of South Korea, as well as Baptist leaders from Brazil, Great Britain and Nigeria.

Undeterred by terrorist bombings that hit London just three weeks before the congress convened, participants gathered from such diverse settings as Angola, Australia, Chile, India and Norway. Incoming BWA President David Coffey, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, described the gathering as "a witness to our solidarity with a hurting world and a persecuted church."

Highlighting the theme, "Jesus Christ Living Water," the pageantry began with an opening night Parade of Nations that showcased BWA's 211 member bodies.

As delegates enthusiastically sang "To God Be the Glory" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," I found it difficult to control the joyful emotion of worshiping with thousands of Baptist brothers and sisters from far-flung nations.

Absent from the congress for the first time in BWA's 100-year history was an official delegation from the Southern Baptist Convention. But scores of individual Southern Baptists took part in the global congress held once every five years. In addition to Warren, Bible study leaders included Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," and Wanda Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union.

BWA's General Council elected the Baptist General

Convention of Texas and the Baptist General Association of Virginia as member bodies. Retired WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien was elected as a BWA vice president.

From a personal perspective, I've had the privilege of attending and reporting on three Baptist World Congress meetings: 1985 in Los Angeles; 1995 in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and 2005 in Birmingham. I also have served the past five years on BWA's communications committee.

Those experiences have allowed me to gain a firsthand view of BWA's ministry impact around the world. Despite the SBC's action last year to withdraw from BWA involvement, I unapologetically remain committed to working alongside fellow Baptists from around the globe for the sake of the gospel.

During press conferences at the congress, I asked both President Carter and Rick Warren their views about the SBC's recent decision.

Emphasizing that Baptists can have "unity without uniformity," Warren said he considers the SBC action "a mistake." Later describing it as "silly," he added, "Why would we separate ourselves from brothers and sisters in the world?"

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, a former BWA vice president, countered that if Warren had been involved in the SBC's study of BWA, "he may have come to the same conclusion reached by the SBC." But Chapman added that "all Southern Baptists, including me, honor Rick's right to relate to the BWA as he feels God leading him."

President Carter said he hopes the SBC eventually "will once again join the Baptist World Alliance so that we might be united in a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood with one another."

Global Baptist unity remains a fitting goal for believers committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with people in need around the world.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Small churches make big ministry impact

Some of the most dynamic youth ministry in Kentucky is happening in churches that average fewer than 100 people in Sunday school with part-time or no youth ministers. What are some of the keys to doing ministry in a small church setting?

Ministry is ministry is ministry.

"Part-time youth ministry isn't any different than full-time when it comes down to the students," says Alex Parrish, youth minister at Stamping Ground Baptist Church. "The only thing that's really part-time is the status that's listed on your job description."

"The kids are the same no matter how your employment works," he adds. "The challenge, then, is to be able to budget your time so that you get the maximum amount of benefit."

"I don't suppose I view part-time status on my job description as an issue," Parrish notes. "From my perspective, the fundamental differences are what you're able to do during the day, the amount of weeklong trips you can take—having to use vacation time, that only lasts so long—and the occasional strained days when you are literally running nonstop."

Being small is not a handicap. According to Chris Wyndham, youth minister at Summit Hills Baptist Church just south of Louisville, "The No. 1 factor in the growth of our youth group can be attributed to removing the notion that just because our church building is small,

that the God we serve is any smaller as a result.

"Our core group of youth loves the Lord and they love Summit Hills," he adds. "When they hear of a program that the mega-churches are having success with, they don't bolt to join a ready-made plan. They grab the bull by the horns and make the same things happen right here at home."

Barry Williams, bivocational pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Crofton, notes, "Youth ministry in a small church like Macedonia is riddled with challenges, but because of our small size and the absence of a Wednesday service, I was able to begin the youth meetings myself."

"I have also been blessed with a church that understands the value of youth and that they are the church of tomorrow," Williams says. "I also try to listen to them and supply them with material that appeals to their interests. The smaller church with its smaller volume of kids provides an atmosphere of intimacy."

Time management is key. "Because of the time constraints on a bivocational pastor with other jobs and the responsibilities of the church, I rely on existing programs like Lifeway's Fuel," Parrish explains. "There have been times where the kids have said, 'Hey, can you come here? Can you come to this?' and I've had to decline because I'm at work, and don't have the time to take off. Those times haven't hampered me

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

much, I don't think. Making sure to give them the best of the time you do have apart from your full-time job is the key and they understand if you're detained by earning a living."

No minister is an island. Wyndham says he is "fortunate to have older adults in our church who lead youth Sunday school classes, open their homes to youth gatherings and provide much-needed monetary support for our kids."

According to Williams, "With the youth minister partnership we have in the Christian County area, our small church can also take advantage of the programs offered by larger churches with larger staff and larger budgets."

Relevance and quality are essentials. Parrish says the youth ministry at Stamping Ground "thrives on wild and wacky games to draw a crowd, then we flip it at the end of the evening and do devotional. Being over-the-top gets you a reputation that spreads. I don't think I'd do it any differently if I were at full-time pay, honestly."

Williams says that at Macedonia "the best way I have found to attract the kids is to plan events like bowling, putt-putt and other fellowship opportunities."

Perhaps Wyndham says it best: "I guess it all comes down to a steadfast commitment by our youth and their leaders to make sure the message we preach at our church is biblically sound while being presented with the flare necessary to attract the youngest of nonbelievers to want to learn more." Amen.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Kentucky Baptists reflect on BWA's global impact

Birmingham, England—Dozens of Kentucky Baptists were among the 12,000-plus delegates attending the July 27-31 Baptist World Congress in Birmingham, England.

David Harmon-Vaught, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, said he is "excited about the enthusiasm that the world fellowship of Baptists have for global evangelism as they look toward the second 100 years of Baptist World Alliance."

"I continue to be amazed at the unity that a focus on Christ brings in the midst of cultural and doctrinal diversity," he added. "It's been educational for me in becoming aware of some of the ethical and moral issues BWA is addressing such as human trafficking and justice issues for the poor."

Bill Marshall, retired Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director, said he has been attending BWA events for 40 years.

He said last week's centennial congress provided "a renewed confidence for what I have hoped through my faith—that God is still at work among Baptists."

Tyler Stewart, a sophomore at Georgetown College, is serving as a summer youth intern at International Baptist Church in Stuttgart, Germany.

He described his Baptist World Congress experience as "a taste of what heaven is going to be like with all kinds of nations and people worshipping Jesus together."

Mel Doughty, a member of First Baptist Church of Mayfield, is director of Destiny, an organization that sponsors youth and adults on international mission trips.

Noting that he has been a BWA supporter since attending the 1968 Baptist World Youth Conference in Switzerland, Doughty said BWA "puts us all under one hat."

"You don't know what it is until you see it and see the vastness of it and know the history of it," he added.

Carter urges Baptists to focus on gospel, not divisions

By Tony Cartledge
(North Carolina) Biblical Recorder

Birmingham, England—Divisions in the body of Christ damage the church's witness to the rest of the world, Jimmy Carter told delegates attending the Baptist World Alliance Centenary Congress.

Carter, leading a Sunday morning Bible study July 31, said divisions in the church present a negative image of Christians to the world that is "directly opposite the gentle aspect of the One we have chosen to worship."

Carter cited the Galatian churches as an example. He said they had become divided as leaders took the clear and adequate gospel of Christ and began adding other requirements for acceptance or fellowship, causing disagreements and acrimony that threatened survival of the early church.

That division is "almost an exact description of what is happening today," he said, as fundamentalism uses certain elements of belief to divide Christians.

Paul used surprisingly strong language in Galatians 1:6-8, Carter said, indicating that he was "astonished" or "disgusted" that the Galatian believers were "so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ, and are turning to a different gospel." Anyone who dared to proclaim a different gospel should "be accursed," Paul said.

A hope for reconciliation

The problem, Carter said, was that church leaders were adding requirements for fellowship and salvation, such as adopting Jewish law and being circumcised. Other leaders were imposing a creed concerning the eating of meat sacrificed to idols, requiring people to agree in order to be accepted.

Redefining the gospel always has been a temptation, Carter said, "either to liberalize and dilute the gospel so it becomes meaningless," or to add to the gospel, constructing creeds and imposing them on others. Baptists have traditionally been averse to creeds, he said.

Fundamentalist movements in any religion have common characteristics, Carter said. Almost all are led by authoritative males, he said, they draw distinctions between themselves as "true believers" and others whose beliefs are considered inferior, and they are militant in fighting any challenge to their beliefs.

Fundamentalists also tend to make their self-definition increasingly narrow, to demagogue certain social issues, and to see negotiation as weakness, Carter said.

"Rigidity, domination and exclusion" are key words to describe fundamentalist movements, he said.

Carter said "I have been grieved in the last few years because some differences which I don't totally comprehend have separated us from the Southern Baptist Convention."

"None of these differences are enough to prevent reconciliation," Carter said. "I hope and pray we will be reunited with them and with other Baptists," he said, to applause.

Carter said he does not minimize the importance of controversial questions such as abortion, homosexuality, the dominance or servanthood of pastors, the separation of church and state, the priesthood of believers, or whether Scripture should be interpreted by the words and actions of Jesus Christ or by a group of elected leaders.

But, "Paul made it vividly clear that applying any of these issues, no matter how important, to salvation, would dam up progress," Carter

said, and hinder the church.

The gospel is not of human origin, but divine, Carter said, and "its message should not be distorted by controversial human opinion."

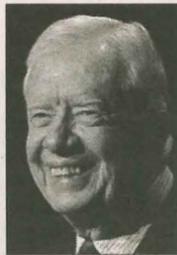
Carter cited 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9 as encapsulations of the gospel as salvation by faith in Christ. "That's adequate," he said. "There's nothing wrong with believing in fundamentals. All of us have fundamental beliefs."

The most important belief, Carter said, is that "we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ."

"This is adequate as a foundation on which every Christian denomination on earth can unite in harmony and peace and mutual cooperation to spread the gospel of Christ to all people," he added.

Baptists must resist rigidity, domination, and exclusion, Carter said. He cited Galatians 5:26 and Ephesians 4:32, saying "believers should not provoke one another, but be kind and forgiving."

"The vast and diverse Christian world needs to rise above divisive controversies, adhere to the basic Christian message to emphasize healing of differences," Carter said.



Jimmy Carter

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The Shelbyville Road campus offices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and the Western Recorder, will be closed

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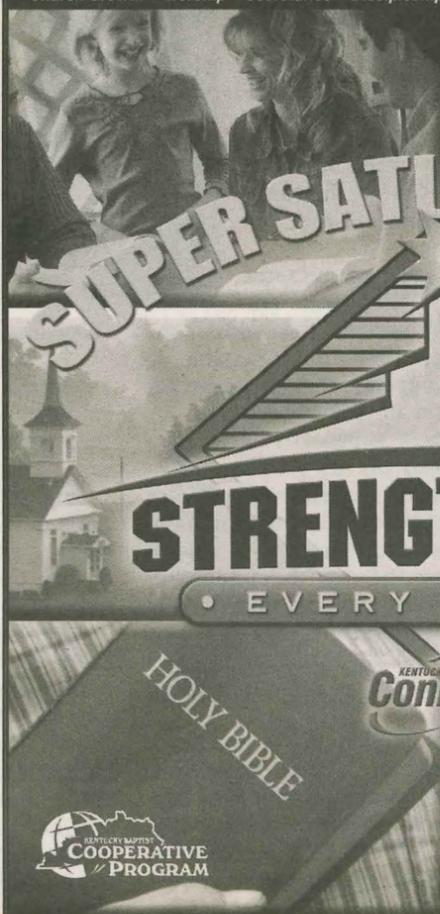
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BAPTIST DIGEST

Honduras mission team accident kills one, injures 15. A mission to Honduras turned deadly July 26 when the brakes failed on a vehicle carrying volunteers down a steep mountain hill, killing one and injuring at least 15 in the ensuing crash. The volunteers were part of a group of 20 people—including teenagers, college students and adults—from First Baptist Church in New Albany, Miss. The group had been scheduled to perform medical and dental work as well as conduct vacation Bible school and construction work.

Author, theologian Mary Kassian joins Southern. Mary Kassian, a scholar and theologian on issues of feminism and biblical womanhood, has been appointed as distinguished professor of women's studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Kassian is a member of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood and is author of several books on feminism and gender issues, including "The Feminine Mistake." She will teach classes at Southern's Women's Ministry Institute and help develop a long-term vision for the school's women's program.

Legendary missions professor Cal Guy, dies. Calvin Guy, one of Southern Baptists' most influential and innovative missiologists, died July 25 at the age of 88. From 1946 until his retirement in 1982, Guy served as a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Guy often challenged the mission techniques that were popular during the mid-20th century. Guy believed missionaries were too 'westernized, institutionalized, building-ized, and subsidized' in their approach to missions. His teaching influenced generations of Southwestern students who went on to serve as Southern Baptist missionaries abroad.

Joel Gregory to teach at moderate seminary. Joel Gregory, who earned degrees at Baylor University long before embarking on a career that climaxed in his being a leader among the conservative wing of the Southern Baptist Convention, is returning to teach at Baylor's moderate seminary. Gregory has been appointed a professor of homiletics at the school's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. The seminary was founded in the 1990s, partially in response to the conservative movement.

Welch asks associations to host rallies

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—After launching the "Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge" at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in June, SBC President Bobby Welch is challenging every local Baptist association to hold two "baptism rallies" by next fall.

Welch said local associations are a key to the goal of Southern Baptists witnessing to, winning and baptizing one million people within a year.

"My prayer is that we will have bold, urgent, creative leadership emerge out of every association to have two of these baptismal rallies in that one year and that these rallies will begin to spring up all over the different parts of the country," he said.

Welch's goal is for associations to hold the two rallies Oct. 1 of this year and Sept. 30, 2006.

He recommended that the rallies be held at a neutral outdoor site with each participating pastor bringing at least one person to be baptized into the local church.

Rallies could include testimonies, singing, preaching or other activities that organizers plan.

Welch said outdoor rallies would help church members practice getting outside the walls of the church and into the community to interact with people who need Christ.

"If we go outside to baptize ... the community gets excited and wants to understand what's happening," he said. "The newspaper wants to know, 'What are you



OUTLINING STRATEGY SBC President Bobby Welch is calling on all 1,188 Baptist associations nationwide to hold two "baptism rallies" in the coming year. In a DVD being mailed to all pastors, he compares each association to puzzle piece in the goal to baptize a million people in the coming year. (BP photo by Michael Yarber)

doing there? All of these pastors and churches have come together. They're baptizing. What does baptizing mean? And you will have not only this wonderful opportunity to come together as an association, but you will have a wonderful opportunity to publicly preach the gospel to your whole area free of charge."

The associational emphasis also will help churches share resources and ideas. Larger churches could offer vacation Bible school teams to help smaller congregations, Welch noted, or a pastor whose church has had a large number of baptisms could preach a revival for a church with few or no baptisms.

Welch plans to distribute a DVD by the end of next month that details his strategy for the baptism initiative.

Welch said associations need at least one person to take the lead in organizing the baptism rallies.

"Now here's the thing that is overwhelmingly important at this point. That is, you must not allow somebody else to take responsibility for it," he said to the camera during taping of the DVD.

"I want to—in the best and most sincere way I know how—help you understand that you really are it," he said. "You're it. ... You must take the responsibility."

"I believe (this initiative) has the potential of connecting our pastors and people and churches in the association like never before," Welch said.

"This is all part of the commitment to attempt to unify this convention for a single purpose and that is reaching people for the gospel's sake."

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'Magic milk'

Many Oneida students need help adjusting to being away from home

By Suzi Garrett

Oneida Baptist Institute Houseparent

"I am not homesick!"

How many times have I heard those words in 20 years as a houseparent at Oneida Baptist Institute? Nobody ever wants to say he or she is homesick. Does it show some kind of weakness to admit it? I guess each child wants to be independent.

After several days of denying homesickness, most finally end up at the dorm office door about 2 or 3 in the morning. I usually ask, "Why are you out of your bed this time of night? Are you sick?"

The typical response is, "I just can't sleep!" A roommate who has seen this kind of thing before has sent him to the office.

"Joe (or Sally, depending on which dorm I'm working in) said you would give me some 'magic milk' to help me sleep. What is magic milk, anyway? How does it help anyone sleep?"

"Just sit down on the couch and we'll talk while I fix it."

I go to the refrigerator and fill an oversized mug with milk. I add sugar and stir in vanilla flavoring. As the milk warms in the microwave, I ask the student how he is feeling about being away from home.

Is there someone or something at home that he misses? Maybe it's just that suddenly he is sharing a room for the first time in his life. Or perhaps he shared a bunk bed at home with a sibling and only now he realizes he misses that little kid who just last week was driving him

crazy.

Often a newcomer will decide to share with me the reason he came to be a student here, though houseparents try never to ask about that.

Usually, by the time he gets to the bottom of that mug, there are tears in his eyes and a quiver in his voice as he admits his homesickness.

We talk about one of the most valuable lessons that all young people must learn—how much home means to him.

I suggest he write a letter home telling his family how much he misses them and that he is looking forward to calling them the next Sunday.

The tears end; I hug the young man and we pray together, asking God for a good night's sleep and a better day tomorrow.

I always have considered it a privilege when any young person lets down his barriers and cries on me. I have

learned after all these years that as soon as boys and girls can admit homesickness, they start to recover from it and get on with their lives. All it takes is a willing ear to listen, a quiet place to talk, a little "TLC," a heartfelt prayer and a mug full of "magic milk." It works almost every time. A new bond has been formed.

I thank our heavenly Father for allowing me to work with these young people who He has entrusted to us here at Oneida. I pray He will help me always to be receptive to their cries for help, just as He is to ours.



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

Study online

Clear Creek continues to expand online curriculum

Fifteen courses totaling 35 academic hours will be offered this fall semester through Clear Creek's online distance education program. We operate the program in cooperation with Learning-house, a major online education providers.

Each course is written by a Clear Creek professor and parallels the same course offered on campus. Online and campus students use the same texts. A student can receive immediate grading of weekly quizzes, midterm and final exams. Instructors have the option of including essay question exams submitted by e-mail.

Each course includes a discussion board with questions related to the current lesson posted for comments between students and the instructor. Many online students indicate they participate more than they would in a campus class. The instructor and student are also linked by e-mail for questions and concerns.

The fall schedule includes these two-hour courses: Old Testament 1,3,5 and 7; New Testament 1,3,5 and 7; communication in ministry; and intro to ministry.

Three-hour courses include evangelism, intro to missions, sermon preparation and Systematic Theology 1 and 3. Current professors will teach 12 of the 15 courses. Experienced adjunct instructors include Bill Tichenor, Donnie Mathis and Charles Rice.

Online classes begin the week of Aug. 15, but enrollment is possible

until Aug. 26. Registration costs \$165 per academic hour, plus a \$100 technology fee per course. Online enrollment has nearly doubled since the program started in 2003. Students give us positive comments for "solid instruction," personal touch and affordability. A student can complete the Bible and profes-

sional requirements toward an associate's degree; the general education requirements could be completed at a community college. The bachelor's degree requires some course work on campus. Students pursuing a Clear Creek degree are eligible for financial aid. Check us out or enroll at www.cbcc.edu. The academics icon on the home page will refer you to the online classes with complete information and application form.

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



Strobel, Lucado among evangelical publishers' 'Gold Medal' winners

Denver (RNS)—Lee Strobel and Garry Poole's "Experiencing the Passion of Jesus" has won the Jordon Christian Book of the Year Award.

The award, bestowed by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, was announced July 11. Nineteen other Gold Medallion prizes were given in separate categories.

"The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren was awarded a Double Diamond Award in recognition of more than 20 million units sold. It won the book of the year award in 2003 and 2004.

The ECPA Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Barbara Johnson for her contributions to the Christian book-selling industry.

The 2005 Gold Medallion Book Award winners by category were:

Bibles: "The Hands-On Bible" by Group Publishing Inc.

Reference Works/Commentaries: "New Testament Theology" by I. Howard Marshall.

Fiction: "Oceans Apart" by Karen Kingsbury.

Biography/Autobiography: "A Table in the Presence" by Lt. Carey Cash.

Theology/Doctrine: "The Holy

Trinity" by Robert Letham.

Devotional: "His Passion," edited by David Veerman.

Inspirational: "It's Not About Me" by Max Lucado.

Christian Living: "When God Doesn't Answer Your Prayer" by Jerry Sittser.

Christianity and Society: "Total Truth" by Nancy Pearcey.

Missions/Evangelism: "A Case for a Creator" by Lee Strobel.

Christian Ministry: "New Light on Depression" by David Biebel and Harold Koenig.

Christian Education: "Emerging Culture an Interactive Curriculum," edited by Jimmy Long.

Preschool Children: "I'd Be Your Princess" by Kathryn O'Brien

Elementary Children: "A Faith to Grow On" by John MacArthur.

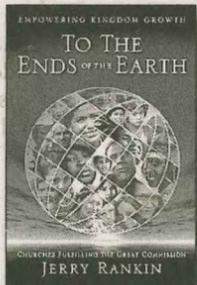
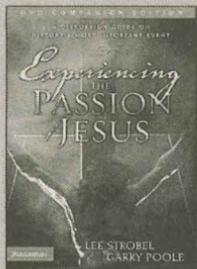
Youth: "Every Young Woman's Battle" by Shannon Ethridge and Stephen Arterburn.

Marriage: "Love & Respect" by Emerson Eggerichs.

Family and Parenting: "Grace Based Parenting" by Tim Kimmel.

Gift Book/Poetry: "To a Child Love Is Spelled T-I-M-E" by Mac Anderson and Lance Wubbels.

Bible Study: "Great Lives: Job" by Charles Swindoll.



Rankin details IMB's strategy in new book

Richmond, Va. (BP)—Jerry Rankin lays out his vision for the International Mission Board's involvement in Kingdom growth in a new book titled, "Empowering Kingdom Growth: To the Ends of the Earth."

In it, the IMB president shares not only the vision but also practical ways Southern Baptists can be involved in carrying out the Great Commission.

While the book seeks to help pastors encourage and inform their congregations, Rankin said he hopes the book also will help missionaries, volunteers and others with hearts for people throughout the world who do not know Jesus.

To show Southern Baptists how God is at work throughout the earth, Rankin includes stories of resistant people groups turning to Christ and explosive multiplication of churches, along with stories from his own missionary career in Asia.

He said he envisions the stories showing readers how God is work-

ing and that they will want to be a part of the mission.

"It is a vision that is greater than church or denominational growth," Rankin writes. "It is bigger than our programs. It is a God-sized vision for impacting our world for Jesus Christ."

Rankin challenges believers to see the Great Commission as their responsibility and to take ownership by finding ways to reach non-Christians.

"One of the primary messages is that the International Mission Board doesn't do missions on Southern Baptists' behalf but exists to serve, empower and facilitate their involvement in fulfilling the Great Commission," Rankin said.

Rankin said he has wanted "to write such a book for several years to communicate the compelling vision and passion driving our mission efforts, to communicate our contemporary mission strategies and to challenge churches to become involved with us."

Why Men Hate Going To Church. David Murrow. Nelson Publishing, 2005. 232 pages. \$13.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five).

According to David Murrow, the statistics are staggering: Fewer than 40 percent of adults in most churches are men.

Murrow, takes head-on a subject that most Christians whisper about and few try to fix.

Yes, he writes, God's Word should be preached and not compromised, but that doesn't preclude asking how to attract men? Murrow contends that many churches talk mainly to women. "Almost everything about today's church—its teaching style, its ministries, the way people are expected to behave, even today's popular images of Jesus—is designed to meet the needs and expectations of a largely female audience."

Much as John Eldredge writes in "Wild at Heart," Murrow says churches should be portraying the Christian faith in terms of adventure, battles and victories. "Few churches model men's values: risk and reward, accomplishment, heroic sacrifice, action and adventure. Any man who tries to live out these values in a typical congregation will find himself in trouble with the church council in no time."

This book challenges the conventional wisdom that rules many of today's churches. Sermons are too long, too boring and not applicable to most listeners' lives, he writes, and most men remember little from a sermon the day after they hear it.

He challenges the notion that worship should be a mostly emotional experience, because men don't come to church to shed tears in public. But Murrow is not all negative, as he offers solutions to the problems he raises.

If you haven't read "Wild at Heart," start there. It explains men's nature in the world and in church. "Why Men Hate Going to Church" does a great job of continuing the discussion about what churches should do about it. *Steve Coleman*

Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out. Robert Lewis and Wayne Cordeiro, with Warren Bird. Jossey-Bass, 2005. 227 pages. \$23.95 ♦♦♦♦

This book is not like many works that offer to help a church leader revitalize his or her church. Most books have a stock program or cute formula to be followed regardless of the church setting.

As the title indicates, Robert Lewis and Wayne Cordeiro believe change in a church is more than putting in place some new ministry plan that worked somewhere else. Each church ministry must be unique. At least, a leader must be willing to adapt some other church's program to his or her culture. This book helps assess the culture of the church. The authors contend that change occurs only through a culture shift. That shift takes time and must start with the leaders themselves.

The first task for the leader is to assess the current culture of the church. The authors provide a

solid and novel approach to doing this. One option is to get a group of non-members to visit your church for one month. They then detail their observations about the church. These outside eyes provide valuable insight about the current culture.

From this point, the process tries to uncover the dreams of the church and then move to shift the culture from one place to the other. Lewis and Cordeiro cannot stress enough, and they mention it all the time, the importance of the leader in this process.

Lewis and Cordeiro share extensively from their experiences. Their basic ideas would work with any size church and any worship style.

The only negative I have about the book is that there are times when it is redundant. I kept thinking, "Didn't they just say that?" Maybe they are working a culture shift on the reader by repeating issues over and over again, much like what has to happen in a church. *Wayne Hager*

Jesus and Politics: Confronting the Powers. Alan Storkey. Baker Academic, 2005. 336 pages. \$24.99 ♦♦♦♦

In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, if a pastor preached on race or war, church members most likely would tell him that politics do not belong in the pulpit because it hurts the cause of evangelism.

Today, politics and religion are front and center in the news. Only this time, many of those who previously spurned political rhetoric in church or political involvement by churches now are cheer-leading for it. Many who are put off by the causes of politically active churches are tempted to retreat to

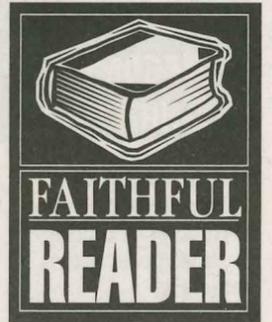
the admonitions of decades past; still others are more than willing to join the fray, only with different causes.

Do politics and religion mix? Absolutely, says Alan Storkey, but not in the way most of us envisage it.

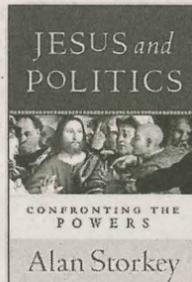
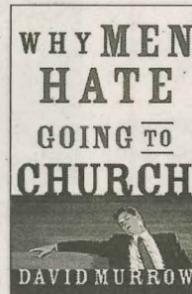
Storkey, who teaches social theology and serves as a Christian political theorist for various international Christian groups, contends Jesus is a political figure and His message is a political message. Storkey calls Jesus a deconstructionist, who "undermines the structure of the ruler-centered religio-political system."

In Jesus' message, only God rules. Consequently all other sources of governance and power are subordinate. Those who follow Jesus become citizens of the Kingdom of God, and "this Kingdom is not secondary to the United States of America, my party or my career. It requires top priority."

"Jesus and Politics" is a head-on challenge to re-examine the gospel and its social impact. Of particular note is the background Storkey provides about the political scene in Palestine during the life of Christ. His description of Herod, Pilate, the Pharisees and Sadducees provides a perspective that will improve our preaching and teaching, regardless of what we think of his view of Jesus. *Jim Holladay*



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



Because 'Desperate Housewives' probably isn't your best source for family advice.

WESTERNRECORDER

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Rebecca Carnell

We are not required to do a lot of talking to share Jesus with someone.

Just ask five simple questions and be prepared to listen to the answers:

What are your spiritual beliefs? Who is Jesus to you? Do you believe in heaven or hell? If you died today, where would you go? If what you believe were not the truth, would you want to know?

Just listen. Don't argue, explain or give your opinion. Your objective is to find out what the person believes about spiritual matters.

If the answer to the last question is no, then you are finished with the conversation for now.

However, if the answer is yes, turn to Romans 3:23 in your Bible and have the person read it to you. Then go down the rest of the Roman Road: Romans 6:23, 5:8 and 10:9, 13. At the end of the road, your friend or acquaintance might be ready to say a prayer that will change his or her life forever. If not, you have done what you were supposed to do. The seed is planted and someone else may water it and reap the harvest.

Have the person read the Scriptures instead of reading to him, so that the Holy Spirit has a chance to speak to his heart. "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

How very important it is for a person to be able to read the Word of God.

Rebecca Carnell is the literacy consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention state missions department

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Brooksville Church called **Calvin Perry** as interim pastor.

■ **BENTON**—New Bethel Church ordained **Ryan Graham** as a deacon June 5.

■ **BLOOMFIELD**—**Brett Champion**, associate pastor of education and missions at Bloomfield Church, resigned effective Aug. 21 to accept a pastorate in Idaho.

■ **BOSTON**—Mount Moriah Church ordained **Luke Barber, Chris Culler, Russ Culler** and **Mike Embry** as deacons May 1. **Todd Rader** is pastor.

■ **FANCY FARM**—Kirbyton Church recently called **Brandon Wilson** as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Farmdale Church recently called **Frank Farley Jr.** as interim pastor and **David Blankenship** as children's minister.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church of Franklin and Living Hope Church of Bowling Green held a joint service July 17 to ordain **Mark Phillips** to the gospel ministry. Phillips is senior high pastor at Living Hope Church. First Church also will dedicate its new building Aug. 7, 10:45 a.m. **Bob Sutton** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will hold its Immanuel led by **T.W. Hunt** Sept. 9, 7 to 9 p.m. and Sept. 10, 9 a.m. to noon.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church ordained Minister to Children **Chris Miracle** to the gospel ministry July 17. **Derek Yelton** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Hall Street Church will hold revival services Aug. 14, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Aug. 15-17, 7 p.m. with **E.V. Hale** as evangelist.

■ **PINEVILLE** East Jellico Church



GROUNDBREAKING Westside Baptist Church in Murray broke ground July 24 for preschool and youth buildings. The \$1.7 million project includes additional parking and upgrading the auditorium sound and theatrical lighting systems.

ordained **Shawn Cadel**, a recent Clear Creek Baptist Bible College graduate, into the ministry on July 13. Cadel is pastor at Amanda Church in Middletown, Ohio.

■ **PRESTONBURG**—First Church called **Beecher McCarty** as minister to students effective Aug. 21. **Floyd Price** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—**Dale Etheridge**, pastor of Spring Valley Church for more than 10 years, retired July 31. Etheridge, a pastor in eastern and western Kentucky and Tennessee for almost 40 years, will move to Auburn, Ky.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—**Josh Lansford** recently resigned as pastor of Buffalo Lick Church.

■ **WADDY**—Waddy Church recently called **Marshall Phillips** as interim pastor.

■ **WALLINSCREEK**—Wallins Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary homecoming Aug. 14, 11 a.m., with former pastor **James Wedding** as guest speaker. Activities also will include a noon dinner and fellowship. **Freeman Clark** is pastor.



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.

30-Oct. 1 Journey into Worship II, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

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



REBUILDING IN PEMBROKE Salem Baptist Church in Pembroke is rebuilding after a lightning fire destroyed the church's 152-year-old building as well as records dating back to the early 1800s. "During the last year, we have been learning over and over how much God is still in control of all things," Interim Pastor Ronnie Grace said. The first Sunday after the fire, he said, a person made a profession of faith in Christ, he added. "We have seen more people saved and baptized since the fire than the two years before," he said. "We have also seen a great outpouring of love and generosity from so many people helping us with money that our insurance does not cover. This has certainly been a wake-up call for us about the importance of having enough insurance on our church and buildings."

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOOKS: We buy quality used Christian books. Christian Book Nook, 2116 South Preston St., Louisville, Ky. (502) 637-8881.

FOR SALE: 1993 Ford 15-passenger van, 88,619 miles. For more information, please call (270) 765-2545 or 765-4373.

FOR SALE: 1989 International Bluebird Bus. 70 seats, good condition. \$4,000. Clarkson Baptist Church, (270) 242-4567.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for blended worship service for church in central Kentucky. Please contact the Music Committee at Springfield Baptist Church, PO Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069. Phone: (859) 336-3544.

SEEKING: Bivocational Southern Baptist pastor. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Mill Creek Baptist, 117 N Main, Tompkinsville, KY 42167. Phone: (270) 487-5588.

SEEKING: Accounting supervisor. Requires bachelor's degree in accounting with at least two years supervisory experience, preferably for a non-profit organization. Strong communication and computer skills also required. General ledger and payroll experience preferred. Send resumé with salary history and requirements to: Personnel Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville KY 40280; or personnel@sbts.edu.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister/education director. Bachelor's degree required; seminary training preferred. First Baptist Church, Kennett, Mo. Send resumé to Janet Scherer, 1621 South Lincoln, Kennett, MO 63857, or e-mail jscherer@we.rr.com.

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

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: 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 Sunnyside Road, Smithfield, KY 40068.

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

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

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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: Personnel Committee, Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515, or e-mail wddowns@insightbb.com.

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Promise Keepers movement celebrates 15th year

By David Briggs
Religion News Service

Cleveland (RNS)—Praise the Lord and pass the testosterone.

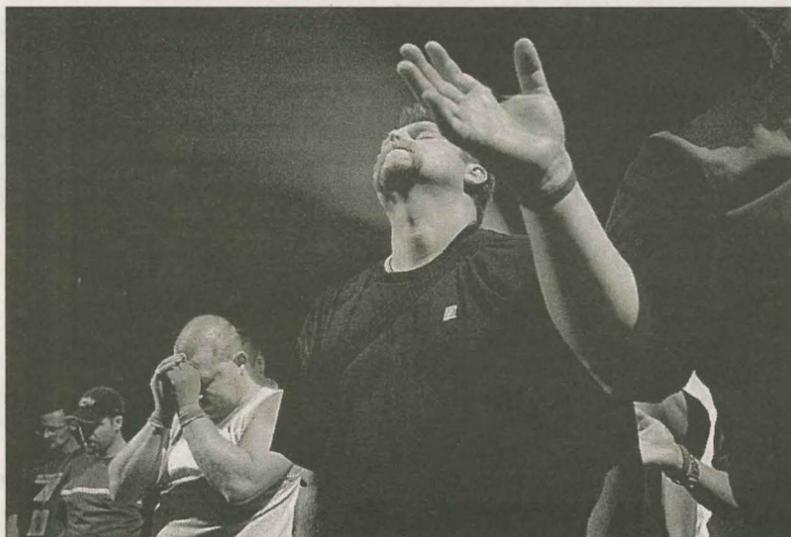
Promise Keepers is celebrating its 15th year of ministry with a 20-city nationwide tour.

With fists pumped high in time to a Christian rock band, and hot dogs, sodas and chicken wings balanced on their laps, more than 8,000 men gathered July 22-23 in Cleveland's Gund Arena for a two-day Promise Keepers conference.

The men's movement that was a runaway success in the early 1990s, then endured serious financial problems that forced sharp cut-backs in its national staff, can still provide the Christian-men-will-be-Christian-men setting that draws evangelical guys to play, pray and catch some divine rays in arenas across the country.

"It's a guys' night out. It's a guys' weekend," said 20-year-old Jeremy Walden, a minister at Brimfield Church of God in Kent, Ohio.

Cleveland was the eighth stop on the 20-city schedule in 2005 that concludes Oct. 28-29 at the Tacoma Dome in Washington state. Spokesmen said Promise Keepers drew 179,000 men to its rallies last year and hoped to reach 200,000 men this year.



PROMISE KEEPERS Michael Elenio, of Ann Arbor, Mich., (center) and Bill Shaw, of Parsons, W.Va., pray during a recent Promise Keepers conference at Gund Arena in Cleveland. Organizers for the national ministry say attendance is down from the events held in the 1990s, but meetings still meet a need for Christian men. (RNS photo by Thomas Ondrey)

Feminist groups have criticized the movement, characterizing it as an attempt to turn back the clock on women's rights, but there were no protesters around the Gund arena.

Instead, groups of men in golf shirts, jeans, T-shirts and shorts, and carrying their Bibles, were greeted by several women with

signs who had come to encourage the men.

Barbara Brown, 56, of Euclid, Ohio, said getting closer to God "is a good thing for men. Inevitably, it's good for women."

Inside, the conference opened with a concert from the Australian Christian rock group the Newsboys. During the two-day conference,

the men experienced a lineup of worship, music, drama skits, inspirational talks, altar calls and even a Christian comic.

"A boost for the year"

While Promise Keepers no longer generates the buzz to routinely fill football stadiums—in 1996, more than 1 million men attended stadium rallies—participants said there still is a place for the movement as it attempts to make the transition from a phenomenon into a lasting mission agency.

Men benefit from having a place of their own for spiritual revival, some Cleveland attendees said.

Dave Coblenz, 33, an Amish man from Middlefield, Ohio, said he goes to a rally every year. Last year, he attended the conference in Indianapolis.

"It gives you a boost for the year," he said.

Pastor Jerome Gibson of Elohim Christian Fellowship in Cleveland said Promise Keepers provides men with a safe place to open up.

He said it allows men to release a lot of pressure, "and to be real with their wives and their congregation and to say, 'I'm hurting here,' and not to worry about being put down or that anyone will think less of them."

Some Christian groups pressure gay-friendly firms

By Yogita Patel
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—As more companies adopt gay-friendly business policies, they risk the wrath of conservative Christian groups prepared to take action with their collective buying power.

"People are willing to fight back with their pocketbooks," said Tim Wildmon, president of the Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association (AFA), a conservative group that has boycotted such companies.

Liberal and moderate religious groups have long used economic pressure to leverage what they consider social justice.

A four-year boycott of Taco Bell, led by mainline Protestant and Orthodox denominations, ended in early March after the company agreed to raise pay for tomato pickers in Florida.

And during the past year, some of those same churches—led by the Presbyterian Church (USA)—have considered withdrawing millions of dollars in investments from Israeli companies to protest that country's treatment of Palestinians.

Now Christian conservative organizations like AFA are employing some of those same tactics to target companies for practices that don't align with their values and beliefs, especially gay rights. And they say they're just getting started.

"The companies that are aggressively promoting the homosexual agenda, we are going to highlight," Wildmon said.

He said boycotts are used only in cases they consider egregious. As examples, he mentioned donating money to gay rights parades and groups like Human Rights

Campaign or buying advertising during the television shows "Will and Grace" or "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" or in gay magazines like Out.

Wildmon said AFA might launch a boycott against Kraft Foods because of the company's support of the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. "If most people knew Kraft sponsored the Gay Games, they probably wouldn't buy their macaroni and cheese anymore," Wildmon said.

The decision to boycott Kraft, he said, will depend on whether the company agrees never to sponsor the games again.

The Disney example

Economic efforts by religious conservatives have had mixed results. In 1997, the country's largest Protestant denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, launched a boycott of the Walt Disney Co., in part for festivities at its theme parks reaching out to gays.

In June, that boycott was lifted. Critics of the boycott said it failed because Disney has not changed its position on gays. But Southern Baptist leaders argued the boycott contributed to financial troubles at Disney and an increasing receptivity to their values. They cited Disney's upcoming film of C.S. Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia" as an example of positive change.

Religious conservatives say other cases of economic pressure have been at least partially effective:

■ Microsoft received harsh criticism and boycott threats from an area evangelical minister earlier this year after it voiced support for legislation that would outlaw workplace discrimination against gays in the company's home state

of Washington. Microsoft pulled back its support for the bill, then returned to its original position after feeling pressure from gay-rights activists inside and outside the company.

■ In September 2004, conservative Christian groups including the AFA and Focus on the Family asked supporters to suspend purchases of Procter & Gamble's Tide laundry detergent and Crest toothpaste after the company donated \$10,000 to a campaign to repeal a Cincinnati ordinance barring the enactment of gay-rights laws. The boycott was dropped in April because AFA said P&G was "backing off its support for the homosexual agenda."

■ The AFA launched a boycott against Ford Motor Company on May 31 because of the company's support of gay marriage, according to Wildmon. After meeting with a group of Ford dealers one week later, AFA agreed to suspend its effort until at least Dec. 1.

Calculating boycott's impact

Companies are being forced to consider complicated and charged issues surrounding such threats, according to Bradley Googins, executive director of the Center for Corporate Citizenship at Boston College.

"Now a company has to weigh who is going to be putting pressure and how to calculate impact," Googins said.

Wildmon said he hopes the efforts by AFA and its supporters will persuade companies to take themselves out of the "culture wars."

"We aren't asking for them to write checks to the American Family Association," he said. "We are asking them to stay out, stay neutral."

Frist's new stem-cell views upset religious conservatives

Washington (RNS)—Religious conservatives are expressing disappointment over Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's announcement that he supports expansion of federally funded embryonic stem cell research.



Bill Frist

In a floor speech July 29, the Tennessee Republican declared his stance based on his knowledge as a medical doctor and his personal, "pro-life" beliefs.

"I believe human life begins at conception," he said, according to remarks prepared for delivery that were posted on his Web site. "This position is consistent with my faith. But, to me, it isn't just a matter of faith. It's a fact of science. ... I also believe that embryonic stem cell research should be encouraged and supported."

Many conservative Christians oppose the research because it involves destruction of embryos.

"It is an understatement to say that the pro-life community is disappointed by Sen. Frist's decision to join efforts to void President Bush's policy limiting the funding of embryonic stem-cell research," said James Dobson, founder and chairman of Focus on the Family.

"A morally sound line must be drawn at the beginning of this journey into stem cell research: that no human life is sacrificed for possible or proven scientific gain—period."

Frist endorsed the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which would repeal the president's rule prohibiting federal funds for stem cell research that results in the destruction of human embryos.

The House of Representatives passed the measure in May. The Senate is expected consider it after it returns from a recess. Bush has said he would veto the legislation.

"While human embryonic stem cell research is still at a very early stage, the limitations put in place in 2001, will over time, slow our ability to bring potential new treatments for certain diseases," Frist said in his remarks.

Some religious conservatives say there have been advancements in adult stem-cell research that do not require embryo destruction.

"While we respect the senator's desire to support a science that offers hope to ailing patients, we want to respectfully remind him that that hope already exists through the numerous advances in adult stem-cell research," said Lanier Swann, director of government relations for the Washington-based Concerned Women for America.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

DO YOUR WORK WILLINGLY, AS THOUGH YOU WERE SERVING THE LORD HIMSELF, AND NOT JUST YOUR EARTHLY MASTER. IN FACT, THE LORD CHRIST IS THE ONE YOU ARE REALLY SERVING, AND YOU KNOW THAT HE WILL REWARD YOU. (CEV)



VOLUNTEERS FROM MORGANTOWN CLEAN UP DEAD TREES



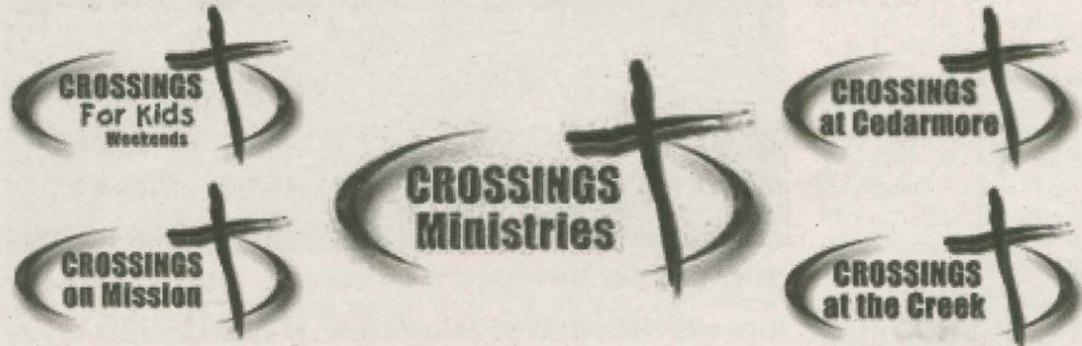
VOLUNTEERS FROM SIMPSONVILLE SERVE GUESTS IN THE DINING ROOM



VOLUNTEERS FROM INDIANA, CALIFORNIA, & FLORIDA SERVE SUMMER CAMPERS



**VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS
ED & WANDA LYONS**



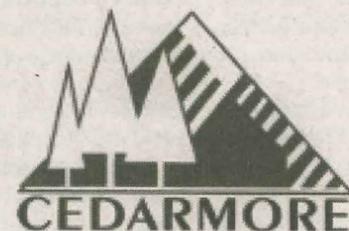
CROSSINGS MINISTRIES HAS ALREADY WITNESSED OVER 2600 SALVATIONS THROUGH ITS CAMPING PROGRAMS THIS SUMMER. OF THE MANY THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS THAT PASS THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS, BEING WITNESS TO JUST ONE OF THOSE DECISIONS IS ENOUGH PAYMENT TO CONVINCE ONE OF OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS TO SIGN UP FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF SERVICE THROUGH THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AT CROSSINGS.

CROSSINGS MINISTRIES OPERATES BOTH CEDARMORE AND JONATHAN CREEK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTERS AS WELL AS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS PROGRAMS. THESE MINISTRIES COULD NOT CELEBRATE THE KINGDOM SUCCESSES THEY CURRENTLY ENJOY WITH OUT THE AID OF COMMITTED SERVANTS LIKE THE ONES THAT MAKE UP THE CROSSINGS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.

THE CROSSINGS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OFFERS MANY WAYS TO EXERCISE YOUR GIFTS. FROM SERVING SUMMER CAMPERS AND WEEKEND RETREATERS MEALS TO SPLITTING LOGS AND MOWING GRASS, OUR VOLUNTEERS CONTINUALLY ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE OUR GUESTS WITH ENVIRONMENTS IN WHICH THEY CAN COME TO KNOW CHRIST OR MORE FULLY EXPERIENCE HIM.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, CONTACT ED & WANDA LYONS AT [WELYONS@POCKETMAIL.COM](mailto:welyons@pocketmail.com) OR CALL US AT 502-747-8911.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CROSSINGSMINISTRIES.ORG FOR UPDATES ON WORK PROJECTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, APPLICATIONS AND SCHEDULES AS WELL SPECIFIC WAYS YOU CAN PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRY.



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