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WMU Kentucky Notes



See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky
Georgetown to partner with black Baptist conventions. *Page 3.*

Camps
Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek closing for the winter. *Page 3.*

Editorial
What does the future hold for the relationship between Georgetown and the KBC? *Page 5.*

Super Saturday
Do youth feel welcome in your church's Sunday school space? *Page 7.*

Resources
Former Kentuckian outlines the keys to successful small groups. *Page 9.*

Books
Reviews include a devotional book on discipleship and a study of pre-death dreams. *Page 13.*

Bible finds role in classroom, but is it being taught fairly?

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Dallas (ABP)—As students load their backpacks for school this fall, a growing number include the Bible among their textbooks.

But critics—including Christians eager to see teenagers seriously study the Scriptures—say some public-school Bible courses are designed to promote a sectarian belief and advance a political agenda.

Few of the parties involved question either the value or constitutionality of Bible courses, provided they are nonsectarian and academically sound. But one course in particular—The Bible in History and Literature, produced by the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools—has drawn fire from civil-liberties watchdogs.

The National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools, based in Greensboro, N.C., claims its curriculum has been approved for use in elective courses in 37 states by 312 school districts. To date, 175,000 students have taken the course, and 92 percent of the school boards that have been approached have voted to implement it, said council president Elizabeth Ridenour.

The council does not release a list of all districts using its curriculum to protect them from being "brow-beaten and threatened," said Mike Johnson, a member of the council's board of directors and an attorney for the Alliance Defense Fund.

Instead, the council directs inquiries to a few flagship districts that have agreed to respond to questions. One is the Brady (Texas) Independent School District, about 150 miles northwest of San Antonio.

This fall begins the ninth year the Brady Independent School District has used the curriculum. Tracey Kiesling taught the elective course for the first four years. She now works for the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools, training other teachers to use the curriculum.

About 18 students a year have taken the course in Brady, she noted. "It is vitally important to offer a course of this nature because of the way

□ See Bible ... *Page 8*

Church? 'Boring'



Q & A A video of students' opinions about church is helping Kentucky Baptist church leaders better understand the views of the "dechurched," according to Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development and evangelism team.

KBC's video features blunt criticism

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—A video that's raising eyebrows among some Kentucky Baptists isn't available in your local store.

It's the one being shown at the Super Saturday training conferences held throughout the commonwealth, and it contains some pretty blistering criticisms of churches.

Recorded last fall at the University of Louisville, it features "man on the street" interviews asking students their impressions of church.

"Boring," is the word that comes in rapid succession from four students.

Students also question the motivations of church leaders and say there's a generation gap between church leaders and younger adults.

"Most of the people who lead churches, ... they're really not interested in understanding people like me," one student says.

So is there anything that would make them consider attending church?

"For the last couple of weeks, I've been, and that's really only because you've got to get married somewhere," a young lady replies.

The three-minute video, distilled from 40 interviews, is intended to grab church leaders' attention, according to Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development and evangelism team.

"People's view of the world and church has changed fairly dramatically in the past 25 years," he said. "Dechurched people don't wake up on Sunday morning and think, 'I'm going to church today.'"

Many church leaders are resonating with the responses given on the videos, he added. "I see a lot of heads shaking up and down."

Others are asking for copies to show their churches, he said. "We can't keep up with it. We make 50 (videos) and then they go out of here."

Garland said he thinks the attitudes expressed on the video are representative of many people who have quit attending church.

"The one that's most telling is the last kid who said there are two types of Christians, the real and the fakes," Garland said. "I think these folks have a hypocrisy radar. They're looking for people who are really living it."

Speaking to church leaders at the Super Saturday training conference in Lexington, Garland noted a recent study by researcher George Barna found that 81 percent of Kentuckians outside church used to attend one.

That creates a problem, because many people have preconceived notions of church based on a past, unpleasant experience, Garland said. "Some people say that the reason they haven't been to church is because they've been to church."

Those preconceived notions by the unchurched aren't always unreasonable, Garland added. "Churches have a tendency to perpetuate what we did last year," he said.

"The enemy wants to lock our churches down in control, rules and regulations. (But) God is in the business of changing people's lives if we'll just get out of the way."

Jeff Eaton, pastor of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg, shared the podium with Garland at the Lexington Super Saturday conference to explain how his church has baptized numerous converts by reaching out to people nobody else wants.

□ See KBC workshop ... *Page 6*

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Kentuckians asked to respond to Hurricane Katrina

Louisville—Several teams of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are expected to be needed in the coming weeks, as Baptists prepare to respond to the needs generated by Hurricane Katrina's Gulf Coast arrival.

As of Monday, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief coordinators had requested that Kentucky mobilize two kitchens, clean-up crews and a communications team to help with relief for the damage caused by the hurricane and flooding.

"They're talking long, long, long-term for this response," said Larry Koch, head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief program.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief was preparing for a 300,000-meal response within 24 hours of Hurricane Katrina's landfall in the region stretching from New Orleans to Biloxi, Miss.

To volunteer, contact the KBC men on mission office toll-free at (866) 489-3527.

Warren affirms SBC ties in wake of 'jumbled' comment

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Lake Forest, Calif. (ABP)—Saddleback Community Church is the largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention. But is it really Southern Baptist?

Pastor Rick Warren told a group of high-profile journalists in May that the 40,000-member church no longer is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention. But he retracted that statement Aug. 20, saying he misspoke.

A transcript of the interview, which was posted on the Web site of the Pew Forum for Religion and Public Life in May, was altered to delete the declaration at Warren's request, a Pew spokesman said.

Warren told Associated Baptist Press Aug. 20, "I'm Southern Baptist. Our church is Southern Baptist. And we are a leader in SBC missions support in our state."

In the original May 23 interview, Warren responded to a question by Rebecca Haggerty of NBC's "Dateline," who asked in what denomination he grew up.

Warren responded: "My father was a Baptist pastor. I grew up in little tiny churches of less than 50 people. I call myself an evangelist. We are..." Haggerty apparently interrupted with another question: "Your church is not a Baptist church?"

Warren responded: "No—it was. In the early years, when we first got started, it was a part of the Southern Baptist Convention. One out of 10 churches in America is an SBC church, and the reason the denomination's so big is that every church is totally independent. The denomination has no control over



JUMBLED WORDS Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., said he "jumbled my words in haste" when he indicated in an interview that his church was not Southern Baptist. Saying he was "horrified" when he read the interview transcript, Warren emphasized, "I'm Southern Baptist. Our church is Southern Baptist." (BP photo by Tobin Perry)

it. So basically we cooperated with them in their missions program, but now we're doing our own missions program."

The altered transcript ends the quotation with "I call myself an evangelist." It then jumps to the next question by Haggerty, on a different topic.

Burke Olsen, a spokesman for the Pew Forum, told ABP, "The Pew Forum gives its event speakers the opportunity to review the transcripts of their remarks. The transcript currently posted on the Forum's Web site has been reviewed and approved by Rick Warren."

Warren told ABP he missed an opportunity to change the quote in

the first transcript because he was traveling and too busy to review it. "Bad idea!" he said. "When I read the transcript, I was horrified!"

Warren, whose recent book "The Purpose-Driven Life" has sold a record 30 million copies, later asked Pew to change the quote, which the organization did. But not before the transcript was passed among some Southern Baptists, stirring discussion on several Internet chatrooms and weblogs.

The rumor of Saddleback's departure from the Southern Baptist Convention took on more credence after the July Baptist World Alliance meeting in England, where Warren, a keynote speaker, disagreed publicly with the SBC's withdrawal from BWA.

Saddleback Community Church, started by Warren and his wife, Kay, in 1980, always has downplayed its denominational affiliation because of what Warren calls "widespread misperceptions" about Southern Baptists. Nothing on the church Web site mentions the SBC, and Warren admits many people who attend the church are not aware of its SBC affiliation.

"I am not ashamed of my Southern Baptist heritage and we clearly explain in our membership class that Saddleback is affiliated both doctrinally and financially with the Southern Baptist Convention," he explained in his 1995 best-seller, "The Purpose-Driven Church."

Saddleback claims 40,000 members and regular attendees, which would make it the largest church in the country. In 2004 the church gave \$150,000 through the California Southern Baptist Convention, which

qualifies it as a California Baptist and Southern Baptist church.

Warren said he misunderstood Haggerty's question during the May interview, which included journalists from several national media outlets.

"At one point I thought I was asked if Saddleback was identified as a Southern Baptist church, and I told the reporter 'no' because we've never had Southern Baptist in the name of our church," he told ABP. "Reading the transcript, I saw that the question was, 'Your church is not a Baptist church?'"

"In the early years of our church, we used to put the byline 'Southern Baptist Convention' under the name 'Saddleback Community Church' in our ads, business cards and brochures, but we dropped that by 1982. But for 25 years our church has been involved in the convention at the association, state and national level and has no intention of changing that.

"The bottom line is I jumbled my words in haste trying to quickly explain that Saddleback has thousands of members—over 4,500—who've gone on short-term missions around the world. It appears that I said we're not supporting Southern Baptist missions, but, of course, that simply isn't true."

Warren said a person in the public spotlight is bound to "eventually say something he didn't mean, or intend, or even believe."

"I trust that fellow Southern Baptists will realize that my and Saddleback's mission is better reflected by our faithful track record over 25 years, rather than my fatigue in the spotlight during a busy week."

BAPTIST DIGEST

WMU's WorldCrafts ministry launches Web site. WorldCrafts, a nonprofit ministry of national Woman's Missionary Union, has launched a new Web site to highlight its imported handcrafts from 31 countries around the world. The site, www.WorldCraftsVillage.com, features 300 handmade crafts and provides information about the artisan groups and their countries of origin. WorldCrafts helps establish personal relationships with craftspeople who live in poverty and helps provide them with a steady income. The ministry has allowed some women to escape prostitution and slavery and enabled others to receive an education and graduate from college. For more information about WorldCrafts, visit the Web site or e-mail worldcrafts@wmu.org.

N.C. leaders propose budget compromise. Leaders of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention narrowly approved a budget proposal Aug. 16 that retains direct funding for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, but also could limit representation from churches that give all or the majority of their national missions offering through the moderate group. The two-year budget proposal for 2006-07 from the convention's board of directors' executive committee calls for an additional 1 percent of budget receipts to be forwarded to national bodies supported by the convention's four giving plans. Both the Southern Baptist Convention, funded by Plans A, B and D; and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, funded by Plan C, would receive one-half of 1 percent more in 2006, and an additional half-percent increase in 2007. For Plan C participants and churches in other plans that designate funds away from the SBC and sub-

stitute CBF, however, the portion forwarded to the CBF would no longer count as Cooperative Program receipts for the purpose of determining the number of eligible messengers to the convention.

Baptist archivist earns national award. Bill Summers, director of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, received the top award in the field of religious archives during the Society of American Archivists' annual meeting Aug. 14-21 in New Orleans. Summers has directed the Nashville-based SBHLA since 1988 and was joint archivist for the former Baptist Sunday School Board and the former SBC Historical Commission from 1983-88. Gregory Wills, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and chairman of the SBHLA advisory board, said Summers' recognition "reminds Southern Baptists that Bill has served us well, collecting and preserving our remarkable history and making it readily accessible to all Southern Baptists."

Political correspondent to speak at BP event. Bill Sammon, a senior White House correspondent, will be the featured speaker for the 2005 Excellence in Journalism awards banquet during the fifth annual Baptist Press Collegiate Journalism Conference Oct. 13-15 in Nashville. Sammon, senior White House correspondent for The Washington Times and a political analyst for Fox News Channel, will share his experience as a Christian in journalism. The conference also will include addresses by Steven Helling of People Magazine and photojournalist David Leeson of The Dallas Morning News. Students can register for the conference at www.bpnews.net/journalism.

Midwestern evangelism center honors slain IMB missionaries

Kansas City, Mo. (BP)—Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary dedicated its renovated evangelism center Aug. 23, naming the facility in honor of two Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers killed in Yemen in 2002.

The 35,000-square-foot William Koehn and Martha Myers Center for World Evangelism is the school's first renovation project of academic/administrative facilities in more than 25 years.

Ira Myers, father of Martha Myers, cut the ribbon for the facility on the Kansas City, Mo., campus.

"If Martha was here today, she would be embarrassed, because what she did was not for her glory, but for the glory of God," Myers said of having a building named in her honor.

Reflecting on a conversation he and his daughter had before she left for the mission field and the potential dangers in the Mideast, Myers said she was "emphatic that she was in the Lord's hands."

Myers said when he asked her what her plans were after her IMB service on the field ended, she replied that she would keep ministering in Yemen.

"These are my people," Myers recounted his daughter saying. "They need me."

During the ceremony, Midwest-

ern President Phil Roberts read from the plaque that will be hung at the entrance of the building, which quotes Revelation 12:11: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death."

Roberts said Koehn and Myers were "guideposts and examples for all of us."

"We want to not only honor the memory of Bill and Martha, but we also want to live their example of dying to self and living for Christ," Roberts said.

During convocation services earlier in the day, Gordon Fort, IMB vice president for overseas operations, asked the crowd, "Will you be the one to herald the message of Jesus Christ? Will you go to tell a world of people who desperately want to hear the message of Jesus Christ?"

Fort, a veteran missionary to Africa, underscored the responsibility for all Christians to touch lives for Jesus Christ. To have a balanced perspective of the global task of missions, he said, it is critical to understand the lostness of the world without Jesus Christ.

Preaching from Romans 10, Fort said, "Intends for your current location, God intends for you and your life to impact the lost world for the sake of His Kingdom."

Georgetown to partner with black Baptist conventions

By John Pierce
Baptists Today

Georgetown (ABP)—Four leading African-American Baptist conventions will archive sermons, church records and other historic materials at Georgetown College under a new partnership recently launched by the Kentucky Baptist school.

Georgetown officials met Aug. 8 with leaders from four denominations:

- The National Baptist Convention of America.

- The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.

- The National Missionary Baptist Convention of America.

- The Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Georgetown officials envision establishing a center for African-American Baptist archives and a center for preaching excellence, according to Eric Fruge, Georgetown's director of college-church relations.

The college already houses the Kentucky Underground Railroad Research Institute on campus in a building that once served as slave quarters.

When Georgetown officials began collecting historic documents for that institute, Fruge said, they found many items simply had disappeared through time.

The church archives center would prevent sermons, church histories, diaries and photos from being destroyed through neglect, he added.

Relationships built by Texas Bap-

tist minister Joel Gregory also developed groundwork for the project with black Baptists. Gregory, who is white but often preaches in historically African-American churches, serves as a visiting professor at Georgetown.

Church archives & preaching

The archives center might be named after Bishop College, a historic black Baptist school in Dallas that closed in 1988, Fruge said.

The center for preaching likely will be named after Dallas pastor E.K. Bailey, who died in 2003.

"African-American Baptist preaching is some of the best preaching in America right now," Fruge said. "There's just a tremendous number of great black Baptist preachers right now."

Georgetown officials hope to buy a former church building adjacent to the campus to house sermons and other historical materials related to black Baptist ministers.

Georgetown President Bill Crouch called the partnership an opportunity to relate to a larger segment of the Baptist family. He will promote the arrangement at future national gatherings of the conventions. Likewise, convention leaders will be invited to campus regularly.

To increase the school's diversity—part of a larger goal of Georgetown leaders to attract a chapter of the prestigious national Phi Beta Kappa honor society to the small school—the college recently added more African-Americans to management and admissions positions.

The most high-profile African-American leader at Georgetown is Admissions Director Johnny Johnson, Fruge said.

The school also hopes to increase the number of minority students on campus, Fruge added. No official goals have been adopted, but Fruge said a possible goal could be 10 percent minority enrollment within five years. Fruge estimated the school's current minority enrollment to be less than 7 percent.

William Shaw, president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., told the Lexington Herald-Leader he expects the partnership to make "the rich resources that have been resident in the black church experience" available to a larger audience.

Progressive National Baptist Convention President Major Jemison told the newspaper: "I'm honored and privileged to be on the foundation of getting the message out that Georgetown College is available and open—not to some, but to all."

Other Baptist leaders present at the recent ceremony promoting unity and cooperation included Melvin Von Wade, president of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, and Stephen Thurston, president of the National Baptist Convention of America.

Scholarships & trustees

As part of the partnership, Georgetown officials hope to provide a full scholarship to be awarded to a student from each of the four groups, Fruge said.

"One of the accusations we hear is that Georgetown is moving toward secularization," he said. "We are not. ... We're expanding our Baptist relationships."

Georgetown also would like to add a representative from each of the four Baptist conventions to the college trustee board, but Fruge added, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's nominating committee "may have other plans."

Fruge said the college's longtime relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention is more fragile since the nominating committee rejected a trustee recommended by the college in April.

At Georgetown officials' request, the KBC administrative committee two weeks ago authorized KBC President Hershael York to appoint a seven-member team to dialogue with Georgetown officials.

Fruge said the college has the legal option of severing ties with the convention should trustees decide to do so.

"We are uncertain about what the new leadership of the KBC has for the college," Fruge said, adding that Crouch has a strong loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Crouch said growing up in Mississippi in the 1950s, when his father, Henry Crouch, was a pastor, he witnessed much racial tension and hoped to one day be able to do something positive for race relations. This partnership, he said, will give him that opportunity.

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

Members named to Georgetown/KBC dialogue workgroup

Members of a Georgetown College/Kentucky Baptist Convention dialogue workgroup have been named. The group will discuss the working relationship between the two entities.

Members representing the KBC are:

Charles Barnes, chairman, member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville; former KBC president.

Joe Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of Russell Springs; chairman of KBC Mission Board institutions and agencies committee.

Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington; member of KBC Mission Advisory Committee.

Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; member of KBC Mission Board administrative committee.

Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington; chairman of KBC Mission Board administrative committee.

Les Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; member of KBC Mission Advisory Committee.

Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah; member of KBC Mission Advisory Committee.

KBC President **Hershael York**, ex officio member; pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Members representing Georgetown are:

Fred Browning, insurance executive, member of Woodland Church in Plover, Wisc.

Georgetown President **Bill Crouch**, member of Georgetown Baptist Church.

Richard Gaines, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington.

Joanne James, real estate developer, member of First Baptist Church of London.

Karen King, business executive, member of First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon.

Bob Swift, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mayfield.

Guthrie True, attorney, member of Immanuel Baptist Church of Frankfort.

Camps shutting down in winter to focus on summer programs

By David Winfrey
News Director

Cedarmore—Saying Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore should focus staff and money on the months when they can have the greatest spiritual impact, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies President David Melber announced that the two camping and conference facilities will no longer be open year round.

Starting this fall, both KBA properties will close annually from late November until early April, Melber said.

He characterized the schedule change as a matter of stewardship, designed to strengthen two facilities that have struggled for years to become self-sustaining.

Approximately six full-time and 10 part-time employees will be laid off as a result of the schedule change, Melber said.

"We're going to be a lot more volunteer focused," he added.

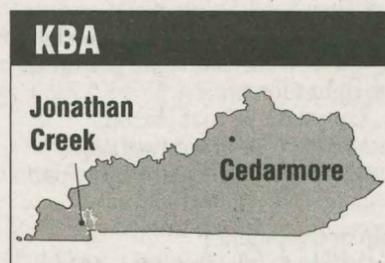
While the winter closing will affect some churches that have held retreats then, Melber said attendance is down significantly during that time of year.

"We'd have a lot of months when we wouldn't have anybody," he said, noting that December and January were especially slow months.

Total guests for Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore were fewer than 1,900 this past winter, he said.

"For perspective, we have more than that in two weeks during the summer."

Nine years ago, Kentucky Baptist



Convention messengers rejected a proposal to sell the camps, which at the time were owned and operated by the KBC. As a result, the two facilities were transferred to a new entity, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, which has operated them since.

Summer camp attendance at Jonathan Creek, located on Kentucky Lake, has grown significantly after the camp launched "Crossings at the Creek," a new summer program, in 2000. This summer, approximately 6,400 people attended Crossings.

Meanwhile, attendance at Cedarmore's Youth Week camps has declined in recent years. Approximately 900 attended this summer. Cedarmore's facilities were in need of greater repairs, and KBA officials have said turning Cedarmore around would take greater effort.

In April, KBA trustees sold 800 acres of unused land at Cedarmore for \$1.3 million. Approximately \$500,000 of that was used to pay for renovations made in 2001 to the camp's Boone Lodge and Byrdwell Conference Hall.

Next year, KBA will launch a new "Crossings" summer camping program at Cedarmore, a move



CROSSINGS AT THE CREEK Officials say closing the camps from late November to April 1 will allow them to focus money and personnel on summer camps, which produce greater spiritual results.

Melber said he hopes will increase attendance.

Keeping both facilities open year round would continue to limit the financial resources KBA could invest in the summer camps.

Focusing on "spiritual impact"

In evaluating options, Melber said, officials have decided to focus money and people on the summer camps because those are the events that are having the greatest spiritual impact. Combined with camping programs in Northern Kentucky and in the country of Moldova, KBA recorded more than 4,100 first-time professions of faith, he said.

"Just by default, we were having to use (summer camps revenue) to

underwrite the rest of the year, which didn't benefit the summer camps," Melber said.

"We could run the most optimistic of summer projections, and we could still not get where Cedarmore is breaking even," Melber said.

By increasing summer attendance at Cedarmore and reducing costs by closing in the winter, he said, "We think Cedarmore can break even within three years."

If so, it would be the first time since the mid-1970s that the facility has not lost money, Melber noted.

In the nine years that the camps have been operated by KBA, Cedarmore has lost an average of \$461,000, including annual depreciation, Melber said.

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

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Missionary kid seeks acceptance, friendship

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va. (BP)—At age 15, "Janene Tepper" already has seen more of the world than many of us ever will.

Janene, a Southern Baptist "missionary kid" in South Asia, has traveled to exotic places and tasted exotic cuisine. She's an old hand at riding nearly any mode of transportation, from rickshaw to jet. She knows how to avoid anti-American demonstrations. She attends school in one country while her missionary parents work in another.

She even understands the security precautions many missionary families must take now to avoid unnecessary public identification in a threatening world. Janene isn't her real name.

But as she prepares to spend a year back "home" in America with her family, Janene is moving into unknown territory: the world of American teenagers. And she's a little anxious. She says so in an "open letter to teens" she composed recently with some help from her mother.

"I'll be coming to the United States next year, and to be honest, I'm kind of nervous about it," Janene writes. "You see, I'm very much like you; yet, I'm very much not like you at the same time. And those two factors make things sort of complicated for me."

She lists ways she differs from many American teens, including:

■ "I've lived lots more of my life outside the United States than in it."

■ "I'm comfortable traveling by plane, train, bus, subway, car, river taxi, ferry, auto rickshaw, bicycle rickshaw, bicycle and foot. Either side of the road and any place in between is OK, too. I have ridden an elephant (and) gone down a river on a bamboo raft."

■ "I've had tea with people in their mud houses, and I've had a blast playing with their kids—the

human ones and the goat ones."

■ "I've used regular toilets, porta-potties, 'squatty potties,' holes in the floor of a train and a ferry and outhouses—oh, and the side of the road, too."

■ "I've tried eating ox-tail soup (I do not recommend it)."

Janene isn't bragging about her globetrotting experiences, however. In fact, she worries that American teens will see her as strange.

"If I talk about what my life is like, you might either think I'm showing off or that I'm just plain weird," she says. "I don't know what music groups are popular, and I haven't seen the latest TV shows or commercials. I've never been to public school, to Six Flags or taken a driver's test. I don't have a clue about some of the newest sports stars or the newest teenage vocabulary. So I'll probably just stand there with a silly smile on my face, feeling uncomfortable while you guys talk about all those things in terms that don't make any sense to me."

Janene isn't weird. She has the same hopes and dreams, fears and anxieties as other teens.

"Like you, I want to fit in and to have friends," she explains. "I don't want to be expected to live up to unrealistic expectations. Nor do I want to be the butt of jokes or cruel remarks if you find me too different or if I don't get your humor or political views. I want you to be willing to risk being my friend, even if you don't quite understand me, and even knowing that I'll be leaving again in a year."

"Like you, I'm trying to figure out who I am, who God is, what He wants from me, and what I want to be 'when I grow up.' Sometimes my parents and siblings drive me crazy and embarrass me in public, but I love them anyway. Sometimes I'm frustrated and confused with life and don't understand why things happen the way they do. Sometimes

COMMENTARY

Meetings in new Baptist Building

The recent move to the new Kentucky Baptist Convention building took place as smoothly as could have been expected. Staff completed their packing by Aug. 11 and all boxes were in our new offices at 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive in Louisville by Monday, Aug. 15. By the end of the week most boxes were cleared.

To the credit of the KBC staff, they arranged and orchestrated this move without reducing services. The weekend of the move, Super Saturday church leader training was being conducted at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. And on Aug. 20, record attendance was recorded for Super Saturdays at Prestonsburg (320) and Hopkinsville (457).

In addition, significant meetings began being held in the new building almost immediately. On Aug. 15, the Archives Advisory Board found a cleared area to make plans for informing Kentucky Baptists about our rich heritage and involving college history students in an essay contest.

On Aug. 16, the Committee on Committees met and completed its work for the November convention, led by chairperson Peggy Snowden of Central Baptist Church in Winchester.

On Aug. 17, KBC President Hershael York and I met with three young pastors who want to see more young pastors involved in the convention. These involved pastors were Skip Alexander, Campbellsville Baptist Church; Greg Faulls, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro; and Paul Chitwood, First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. Special plans are being coordinated by KBC staff members French Harmon and Dan Garland to encourage the involvement of young pastors.

(Speaking of the annual meeting to be held Nov. 15-16 at the Frankfort Civic Center, I hope all Kentucky Baptists will plan to participate. A special seminar has been planned for Wednesday morning featuring three nationally known leaders in areas of spiritual life development, reaching older children and leader-

I just wish life weren't so hard.

"So you see, down deep where it counts, we probably aren't so different after all. I'll try hard to understand you, be patient with you and learn from you next year. Will you do the same for me?"

There are about 3,800 children (age 21 and under) of active Southern Baptist missionaries under appointment by the International Mission Board. As school starts this fall, hundreds of them will be in the United States for a semester or longer. They are thinking the same thoughts and feeling the same emotions as Janene. They'll walk into U.S. classrooms, neighborhoods and churches wondering if anyone will welcome them.

Here are a few tips on how you—and especially your kids—can make them feel at home:

Take the initiative. Walk up and say hello. Don't wait for a missionary kid, who's almost always the "new kid" somewhere, to do it.

Show an interest in their "home" culture. "People need to understand that even though missionary kids look American, they may not always feel American," explains IMB staff member Sharron Hawk, who counsels missionary families. "They often identify more closely with the culture where they were raised. If you really want to connect with them, find out something about what is home to them."

Be patient. Missionary kids, Hawk says, "sometimes might be a little judgmental" about America and its shortcomings—as well as the spiritual superficiality they see at times among U.S. church youth.

Most of all, just be a friend. Some missionary kids eventually follow in their parents' footsteps and take the gospel to lost and needy people. Often, they need only a bit of encouragement and a nudge in the right direction from the right person at the right moment.

You might be that person.
Erich Bridges is senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

ship development.)

On Aug. 18, the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee conducted its regular meeting and approved the appointment of a special work group to work on the relationship with Georgetown College. Charles Barnes will serve as chairman of this work group, and I believe the spirit of the dialogue will be to do what is best for Kingdom ministries. Please pray for God to guide all people involved in the process.

On Aug. 22, the Cooperative Program Study Committee convened with Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, as chairman. Participants received information about what has been done and approved a research project that will help inform the committee's work and recommendations.

On Aug. 23, the Committee on Order of Business met to complete plans for the annual meeting this fall.

I am grateful for Kentucky Baptists who are willing to serve on committees for KBC conducting broader Kingdom ministry, as well as serving in their local churches.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

High gas prices prompt difficult lifestyle choices

By Doug Strader

With the sudden escalation in gasoline prices, Americans are faced with some hard choices related to staying within their travel budget. In some instances we are paying double what we

were paying a little over a year ago at the gas pump.

Americans have been spoiled for a long time with some of the most economical gasoline prices in the world. According to our federal government, we are continuing to drive more and more each year. Automobile companies continue to make several lines of gas-guzzling automobiles, and Americans continue to buy them. But the recent gasoline price hikes might begin to have an effect on our choices.

We should ask ourselves some serious questions about the stewardship of our lifestyle. The following questions can help us to take a serious look at our lifestyle choices and our stewardship accountability to God:

■ Do we really need to drive vehicles that are gas-guzzlers?
■ Is all of our driving that necessary?

■ Is car-pooling a viable option for some of our driving?

■ Is it possible to take the bus to work or school?

■ Instead of making several trips in one day, could we combine some trips?

■ Is it possible for a family to take only one car to church services instead of two or more family members driving separately?

Also consider some things we can do to help cope with the high prices at the gas pump:

■ Drive less.

■ Shop for the lowest gas prices.

■ Lower your speed. Driving five to 10 miles above the speed limit can consume much more gasoline than driving the speed limit or lower.

■ Keep the proper tire pressure in your tires. Low tire pressure can increase gas consumption.

■ Walk or ride a bicycle when possible. (Be sure to obey traffic regulations for bicycles, and always wear a helmet.)

While some of these suggestions might seem inconvenient, seek God's help in evaluating your stewardship responsibility in relation to all of His blessings on you.

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

Seek to strengthen marriage bonds as partners in Christ

Q: I'm frustrated in my marriage. I'm passionate about the arts and sciences. All my husband seems to care about is NASCAR and football. Sometimes I think I would be better off with someone else, someone who shares my passions. What do you think?

If your spouse was "everything" to you, it would be idolatry. God made you different from each other for a lot of reasons.

MARRIAGE

You might have thought when you were falling in love that you had found someone just like you. When the newness wore off, the real work of love had an opportunity to begin. You can begin to see your spouse for who he really is. To love that person is to stretch beyond yourself on the other person's behalf.

The marriage calling is to a complementary relationship of equal partners in Christ. You are unique miracles of God. You were not supposed to be submerged into the other's personality. When you spend time away, developing your own interests and passions, you receive energy you can give back into the relationship.

Try these ideas to help jumpstart being intentional about your marriage:

- Enlist the services of a competent, caring professional counselor or marriage educator and learn the skills needed to find the right balance of personal time and couple time.

- Focus on "big picture" questions: What is the ministry that Christ has called you to together? How can you impact the world for Christ together in ways neither of you could have done on your own? How can you impact the world for Christ through investing in your children?

- Attend one of the many marriage enrichment events available through LifeWay Christian Resources and other organizations or attend a marriage education class through your church or community agency. Take time to get away from the daily grind and nurture the common vision you share in Christ.—James Stillwell

Q: How should Christian parents respond to the Harry Potter craze?

The Harry Potter phenomenon continues. More than 10 million copies of the latest installment, "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince," hit bookstores in mid-July, by far the largest first printing of any book ever. Author J.K. Rowling had promised that the books would become "darker" as the series progressed.

Central characters Harry, Ron and Hermione are one year older (16), one year further along in school and continuing to mature in their relationships. As such, romance plays a bit more of a part, but not in any way that would be inappropriate for children to read about.

The story takes several unusual twists and explains lots of things readers have wondered about. The basic plot continues to be framed around a struggle between good and evil, with Harry and his friends fighting against the evil Lord Voldemort. Throughout the book, Rowling describes Potter as "the chosen one," which will make some Christians nervous and unhappy. However, as the hero of the books, Potter simply emerges as the one chosen and able to take down Voldemort, in much the same way that Frodo was chosen to carry the ring in "Lord of the Rings."

The magic, spells, incantations, potions and wizardry imagery that created concern for some parents from the beginning are still there. The ending of the book will cause the most discussion among those who have problems with the series.

I enjoyed the book and still do not feel that Rowling is pushing any spiritual agenda. She has simply created an imaginary world and a story line that children and adults alike are finding fascinating.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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



Georgetown & KBC: What does future hold?

What does the future hold for the relationship between Georgetown College and the Kentucky Baptist Convention? No one knows for certain—at least not yet.

On the positive side, there is a process in place to help answer that question, hopefully to the satisfaction of Georgetown and KBC officials as well as grassroots Kentucky Baptists.

Rumors have swirled for years that Georgetown might withdraw from or seek to alter its relationship with the state convention. Those rumors escalated in 2000 when Georgetown President Bill Crouch announced the school's ambitious plans to pursue elite Phi Beta Kappa standards.

A primary concern was Crouch's suggestion that pursuing PBK status might involve a request to revise the school's trustee selection process, perhaps allowing Georgetown to name up to 25 percent of its trustees. He emphasized, however, that "if we have to choose between Phi Beta Kappa and Baptists, we're going to be Baptists."

Seeking to quell concerns, Georgetown trustees voted in 2001 to reaffirm the school's historic relationship to the KBC.

A new development unfolded earlier this month when Crouch approached KBC leaders with a trustee-approved request for dialogue about the working relationship between the two entities. Members of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee voted Aug. 18 to establish a seven-member workgroup to dialogue with Georgetown officials.

Each group has announced who will serve on the joint workgroup (see article on page 3). Chairing the group is former KBC President Charles Barnes who has become the go-to guy/senior statesman for challenging KBC assignments in recent years. In addition to serving as state convention president in 1998-99, he chaired the KBC's Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee, served on the KBC Mission Study Committee and currently chairs the follow-up Mission Advisory

Committee.

Perhaps even more significantly, Barnes chaired the 1997 KBC committee that negotiated the convention's current relationship with Baptist Healthcare Systems. That negotiation took place after BHS trustees initially severed ties with the KBC. Today, the two entities have a fraternal relationship that includes at least 75 percent of BHS' trustees being Baptist.

While the compromise with Baptist Healthcare Systems was not fully satisfactory to KBC leaders at the time, the relationship has grown into a mutually supportive effort in recent years. Hopefully, that same spirit of negotiation and cooperation will permeate the dialogue between Georgetown and KBC leaders, whatever the eventual outcome.

In addition to Barnes, other KBC representatives on the workgroup include three other members of the Mission Advisory Committee, the chairman and another member of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee and the chairman of the Mission Board's institutions and agencies committee. KBC President Hershael York will serve as an ex officio member.

Representing Georgetown will be Crouch, five trustees and a member of the school's board of governors. The trustees include two pastors, two businesswomen and an attorney. Other participants meeting with the group will include KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and attorneys for both entities.

What does the future hold? It's still too early to tell. But Kentucky Baptists have had a positive track record of carefully evaluating sensitive issues and reaching creative, workable solutions.

"Be patient with the work of the committee," Mackey urged constituents during a recent interview. "Let them do their work and pray for them." That's timely advice for all Kentucky Baptists committed to the long-term ministry success of both Georgetown College and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Are you too busy to serve God?

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—In the Book Revelation, the Lord says He is going to vomit one of the seven churches out of His mouth because it is lukewarm. Aren't you glad you're not a member of that First Baptist Church of Lukewarm? But, wait a minute, maybe you are a member of that church.

It's pretty much a given to say that in most congregations today, 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. So, most churches aren't really dead; after all, 20 percent of the congregation is serving God. But the church sure isn't on fire for the Lord. So, then maybe it's "lukewarm."

The simple truth is that most Americans are too busy to serve God. We've become so complacent and comfortable enjoying God's blessings that many have forgotten the first commandment: "Do not have other gods besides Me" (Exodus 20:3).

So many of us have become so busy doing the insignificant that immorality and cults have grown to alarming proportions. One reason for this is that advocates of depravity and cult activity often are more zealous and dedicated to evil than some of us are given to good.

God doesn't demand obedience, He asks for obedience. Could this be the reason so many believers don't take God as seriously as we

should? Considering obedience as "optional," many people become complacent about their lives as believers. And perhaps it's for this reason that countless Christians simply ignore the very reason for their existence—to glorify God.

Without exception, God has a unique and meaningful plan for every believer, and it doesn't depend on age, income or ability. In the Old Testament, Esther decided she wanted to be used by God. And just as Esther did, every believer must decide either to be used by God or to be bypassed and someone else chosen instead.

What a disgrace it would be if we were to allow temporary comforts and laziness to rob us of true riches both now and for all eternity. "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, (it is clear) what sort of people you should be in holy conduct and godliness" (2 Peter 3:11).

In the parable of the sower (Luke 8:1-15), Christ defined the thorns as worries, riches and pleasures of this world. At first glance, one might assume that committed service to God would yield peace—but peace that's accompanied by poverty and blandness. At least, judging from the way Christians avoid total service to God, this would seem so. However, Jesus Christ said total service to God would yield peace and blessings (within His will).

To a lesser degree, but just as

misguided, there are Christians who apply themselves to fruitless efforts in the name of the Lord. They busy themselves to the point of exhaustion, going to conferences, countless church activities and serving on many committees. However, they are rarely quiet enough for God to direct them. Instead, they become irritable and envious of others. Jesus told Martha, "You are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, she has chosen the good part and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42).

As Christians, most of us wouldn't refuse to do God's will; it's just that we think that sometimes His timing isn't right. But when God calls us, He wants obedience first and worldly wisdom last. We have allowed the urgent things of this society in which we live to overshadow the important things.

Just as God can multiply the fruits of our labor, He also can multiply the use of our time. Any good administrator knows that 10 minutes spent in productive effort is more valuable than two hours spent in confusion and frustration.

Therefore, one of the first things a busy, frustrated, overworked Christian needs to do is to dedicate the best part of the day, week, month and year to the Lord. Surely you can agree that we should never be so busy that we're too busy to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

KBC workshop offers unchurched insights

Continued from page 1

Besides opening their arms to those who might not be socially desirable, churches should overcome their love of structure, Eaton said.

Recalling speaking in a small church where the pastor confessed he failed to help a poor woman needing a stove, Eaton asked what could be done to correct the situation.

One man said they should call a business meeting, while another suggested looking in the checkbook to see if they had the funds, Eaton recalled.

Telling the group neither step was right, Eaton suggested they immediately raise the money and buy the stove.

"If you have to go to a business meeting to buy a stove, you're not going to move too far," Eaton said. "If we'll move at the speed of Jesus, people will respond."

Reaching out and meeting needs is vital in a state where nearly one million adults are not churched and another 650,000 church members aren't committed, Garland said.

Add to that a million children and youth, of which only 5 to 10 percent have been reached for Christ, and there is both a huge challenge and opportunity, Garland said.

The evangelism leader said one of the challenges is overcoming the reasons people avoid church, such as lack of relevance, boring services, hypocrisy and differing beliefs.

Garland said pastors also should put more emphasis on the Bible.

"Maybe the reason so many people came to church and left is because they didn't hear the Word of God," Garland said. "The only way Sunday school teachers are going to teach it is

if you model it in the pulpit."

He outlined a five-step plan for reaching the unchurched world:

Get real. In addition to using real stories and testimonies of changed lives, Garland said church members must reflect redeemed lives.

"Part of the problem is Jesus hasn't changed our lives," Garland said. "We've got religion but we're not redeemed."

Get relational. Evangelism is most effective when it occurs through relationships, he said, pointing to a statistic that nine of 10 people who come to church are invited by a friend, co-worker, relative or neighbor.

"Ministry is out in the world," Garland said, telling pastors to prepare members to tell others about Christ outside the building. "We've got to set people free and release them (into) the community."

Get ready. This includes being more welcoming to newcomers, having small groups where non-members can ask questions and make friends, and by offering life-changing worship and sermons.

Get relevant. Among the steps suggested: teaching focused on the gospel's life-changing power, practical discipleship, ministry that meets people's needs and multiple ways for people to get involved in ministry.

Get right. A willingness to change or repent is the first step in getting right with God and each other, Garland said.

"If we're going to attract the dechurched we're going to have to express love for one another," he said.

To view or download the video, visit www.kybaptist.org/dechurched video.

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

State convention leaders approve KBC department name changes

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders continue to fine-tune the staff reorganization implemented last year.

Members of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee recently approved several department name changes to better reflect ministry responsibilities.

Among the changes, the KBC annual department will become the church financial benefits department, the state missions department will become the mission service and ministries department, and the information services department has been renamed the information technology department.

Committee members also approved transferring several staff members on the missions growth team to different departments. David Aker, mountain missions director, will serve in the new work and association missions department. Bill Barker, Appalachian Regional Ministries director; Charles Blair, Mississippi River Ministry consultant; and Teresa Parrett, Eastern

Kentucky mobilization consultant, will serve in the partnership missions department.

In other action, committee members approved changing the name of campus ministry groups throughout the state from Baptist Student Union to Baptist Campus Ministry.

Collegiate ministry group leader Keith Inman said the change will bring Kentucky campus ministry identification in line with similar programs in other states and on the national level.

Committee members also approved Angela Starnes as a part-time keyboard/music consultant in the worship/music department effective Sept. 1. She will be one of six part-time music consultants who work under the supervision of department director Jim Cordell.

Starnes currently is a voice and piano instructor at the Ursuline School for the Performing Arts in Louisville. She is a graduate of Cumberland College in Williamsburg and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.



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Whitesburg, Pikeville, Prestonsburg, Rush

Monday, September 12
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Carrrollton, LaGrange

Tuesday, September 13
Louisville, Hardinsburg, Owensboro,
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Wednesday, September 14
Paducah, Wickliffe, Fulton, Mayfield,
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Does Sunday school say 'welcome' in their language?

By David Winfrey
News Director

Lexington—A youth Sunday school classroom can tell teens that they are valued as much as the teacher can, a minister told those at a recent KBC workshop.

"What happens when a kid walks into your room?" asked Art Rogers, minister to students at First Baptist Church of Russellville. "Do the youth feel they have their own place?"

Youth teachers and ministers should design their rooms to involve every sense, Rogers said during a Super Saturday workshop on gauging one's Sunday school "climate."

The primary question is whether the church and youth leaders have created an area where youth feel welcome, Rogers said. "If you have, they get that. And if you haven't, they get that, too."

More than just posters and chairs in a circle, Rogers said youth areas can create an ambiance through such features as:

Lighting. Rogers said he designed his church's youth area with no fluorescent lights because he wanted to be able to dim the lighting to match the mood of every meeting.

Sounds. Rogers said he fills the room with contemporary Christian music, often chosen or loaned by youth.

Games. Either by themselves or as an introduction to a study topic, games help create low-pressure environments where youth can build community, Rogers said. "It kind of relaxes everybody."

Smell. When appropriate, cinnamon buns or popcorn not only fill hungry stomachs, but also create a cozy climate, he said.

Technology. PowerPoint presentations and other computer-aided teaching guides are regular features in schools today, so why shouldn't they also be used in Sunday schools?

Rogers said he doesn't expect to "out-technology" youth, but he does want to be able to speak their language. "I want them to feel like this (youth area) is home."

Controlling the room

Joe Ball, youth ministry specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said he tells adults they should arrive early to take the lead in setting the attitude in the room. A teen with a sour attitude might set a negative tone that the leaders might never reverse, he said.

"The first one in the room controls the room, especially with students," he said. "If you're not the first one in (a classroom), you have to get control of the room, and you may not be able to."

Rogers said student leaders should help teachers control the

room's climate by developing the group's plan for welcoming newcomers. "It doesn't really matter what your plan is as long as you have a plan," he said.

Ball agreed that youth must become leaders as part of the ministry's discipleship program.

He quoted Allen Jackson, a professor of youth education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary: "Discipleship is not complete until the disciple becomes the disciple maker."

Church leaders who say they want to reach unchurched youth should be prepared for the challenges they will pose, because "unchurched means untrained," Rogers added.

"They don't know how to behave in church. ... That means that they are going to be distractions," Rogers said.

"You need to staff up big time," he added. "One unchurched kid is more rowdy than 10 churched kids that know how to act in church."

Rogers and Ball noted that teens often have a sense that parents and teachers are "required" to care for them. Volunteer youth leaders who get nothing in return can quickly earn a great deal of trust for their efforts to connect.

Putting effort into designing the youth classroom's climate helps communicate that care, Rogers said.

Learn the learning styles

Lexington—To make Bible lessons more meaningful for youth, teachers should learn how to connect with a variety of learning styles, say two youth specialists.

Gone is the day when linear thinking meant all students could be taught the same way, said Joe Ball and Art Rogers.

Ball, youth ministry consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Rogers, youth minister at First Baptist Church of Russellville, said education specialists have identified a variety of learning styles, from tactile learners, who learn by doing, to intrapersonal learners, who can get wrapped up in their own self-discovery.

Using the story of Noah's ark, Rogers and Ball offered examples of how teachers could relate the Bible story to youth who have different learning styles:

■ For visual/spatial learners, students might construct a timeline for the events of the story or measure out the size of the ark, in "cubits," in the church parking lot.

■ Verbal/linguistic learners might be encouraged to write a skit or sing the "Arky, Arky" song.

■ Logical/mathematical learners could build a computer animated drawing of the ark.

"We have not lost linear thinking, but we have learned linear thinking is not how everyone thinks," Rogers said.

Ball said a failure to recognize the wide variety of teaching styles could be behind the responses Kentuckians recently gave to a KBC-sponsored survey, calling church "boring" and "irrelevant."

"I wonder why we do church 'boring' and 'irrelevant' when we only teach one way," he said.

"They see you work to accommodate them. They translate your efforts as care and concern for them personally," he said. "They'll listen to anybody they believe loves them."

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Turn left on Lagrange Road, then make a left onto Nelson Miller Parkway. Turn left on Eastpoint Parkway, then turn right on Eastpoint Centre Drive.

The Baptist Building is on the left.



Bible finds role in classroom, but is it taught fairly?

Continued from page 1

the Bible crosses virtually all other parts of the curriculum," she said. "Basically, we're into the second generation of Bible illiterates, and much interpretation in especially literature, science, history and the arts is lost if the student does not have at least some knowledge of the Bible."

Ryan Valentine with the Texas Freedom Network agrees with Kiesling about the importance of public-school students learning about the Bible. But he faults the National Council's approach.

"The Texas Freedom Network is all for teaching the Bible in public schools as long as it satisfies the two criteria we keep harping about. It has to be nonsectarian in purpose, and it has to be academically rigorous. The problem with this (curriculum) is that it fails miserably on both counts," said Valentine, director of the Texas Faith Network, a branch of the statewide civil-liberties group.

Mark Chancey, who teaches biblical studies in the religion department at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, wrote a 32-page report for the network's education fund critiquing the material.

Chancey supports the study of the Bible by public-school students, but he finds the approach taken in the National Council's curriculum.

"Asking a biblical scholar if the Bible should be taught is like asking a chef if he likes to cook," he said.

Supporting Bible, not textbook

"I think students are well served to have familiarity with the Bible, and I think it's important to our cultural literacy. I also wish students got more exposure to the diversity of religions—in America and around the world. Now, more than ever, we need that."

In his report, however, Chancey



gives the 290-page teacher's guide for *The Bible in History and Literature* a failing grade on at least three counts.

He maintains it is a sectarian document that "attempts to persuade students to adopt views ... held primarily within certain conservative Protestant circles." He asserts the scholarship is shoddy, failing to cite sources clearly and sometimes reproducing other materials word-for-word without sufficient attribution.

And, he said, "Much of the course appears designed to persuade students and teachers that America is a distinctively Christian nation."

Chancey also characterized the material as "thoroughly plagiarized ... the kind of thing that gets students kicked out of school and gets teachers fired."

Chancey maintains the curriculum presents statements of faith as indisputable facts. For instance, he quotes passages in which the Bible is referred to in a matter-of-fact way as "the word of God" and a study on the gospels that urges readers to "picture Matthew as he begins his inspired book."

He also cites passages in the teacher's guide in which Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. "Their own theological presuppositions come through very, very clear, and are often stated in a way that implies they are actual and normative," Chancey said in an interview.

The curriculum's failure to distinguish clearly between objective, verifiable facts and statements of faith is a key failure, Valentine

added.

"There's a difference between saying 'Christians believe Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy,' which is a statement of fact and appropriate in a curriculum, and saying, as a matter of fact, 'Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.' That's where this curriculum crosses the line," he said.

Using a Protestant Bible

Chancey also takes issue with underlying assumptions presented in the curriculum, such as its teaching that the Bible is composed of 66 books, divided into the Old Testament and New Testament.

"As Protestants—as Baptists and Methodists—the Bible they are talking about [in the curriculum] looks very familiar to us because it's basically the Protestant Bible. To Jews, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, this doesn't look very familiar," he said. "A good curriculum should be sensitive to the differences between the Bibles of the different faith groups."

Chancey also believes the curriculum relies too heavily on one translation—the King James Version.

"Students who study this curriculum are receiving an introduction to a specific Bible—the Protestant Bible," Chancey asserted in his report. "That Bible is presented as the standard; Bibles of other traditions, if they are mentioned at all, are often presented in ways that imply that they are deviations from that Protestant standard."

However, an explanatory note on the first page of the National Council's

teacher's guide states: "This curriculum has been prepared using the King James Bible because of its historic use as the legal and educational foundation of America, but school districts are free to use whichever translation they choose, or they may allow each student to use the translation of his or her choice. Sometimes the student can benefit from comparing translations in and out of class."

Chancey acknowledged the material sometimes includes learning activities and statements that present a nonsectarian, but he said these are few and far between.

"The material makes occasional attempts to be nonsectarian, but it's not successful. It falls far short," he said.

But, Tracey Keisling counters, the curriculum has been thoroughly scrutinized by curriculum experts, legal authorities and local school board personnel, and in no way has it been found to be sectarian.

"We have personally worked with curriculum in designing PhDs in curriculum; constitutional scholars from at least Princeton and Notre Dame praise our curriculum highly; and hundreds of school board attorneys and school board members of different political parties across the nation laud our curriculum," she said. "Also, every bit of material in the guide has gone through batteries of attorneys to assure that it complies with the law."

"The facts remain that our curriculum is sound according to the experts. ... Not even one incident. And we have more schools calling and coming on board all the time."

Chancey also asserts the National Council materials directly reproduce lengthy passages from other sources, sometimes citing incorrect sources and sometimes failing to cite any source.

"When the number of pages copied directly from sources with minimal or no rewording and pages identical or nearly identical to uncited sources are totaled, the count approaches 100—approximately a third of the book," Chancey wrote.

The teacher's guide also includes errors, such as saying a sword, rather than a spear, pierced Jesus' side as He hung on the cross; stating that Herod built a synagogue, rather than correctly saying he renovated and expanded the temple in Jerusalem; and citing incorrect dates, he noted.

Attorney Johnson said, in all instances, the National Council obtained permission before reprinting material from other sources. Omitted citations of sources and factual errors will be corrected in future revisions of the material, he said.

Kiesling dismissed the criticism as inconsequential.

"Some of those flaws have been brought to our attention and most of them are unfounded, and some are simply typographical errors," she said. "We are always working to improve our curriculum guide, as any good organization would do."

U.S. Supreme Court backs Bible's role in public school classrooms

Washington (ABP)—While the cultural debate about religion in schools is nowhere near settled, the U.S. Supreme Court has resolved at least this much: Students should know what's in the Bible.

In the Supreme Court's 1963 ruling on *Abington vs. Schempp*, Associate Justice Tom Clark wrote, "It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities."

Other court rulings, notably *Epperson vs. Arkansas* in 1968 and *Stone vs. Graham* in 1980, underscored the constitutionality of teaching about the Bible and religion.

"Because biblical literacy is an important part of what it means to be an educated person, study of the Bible should be included in the public school curriculum," said Charles Haynes, senior scholar at the Freedom Forum's First Amendment Center. "Much of art, music, literature, law and history in Western civilization are incomprehensible without some knowledge of the Bible."

The challenge, he said, is to make sure that any study about the Bible in public schools is both constitutionally and educationally sound.

"That means providing teachers with materials and lessons that are objective and balanced, and offering in-service training to any teacher selected to teach a Bible elective. It can be done. But it takes work," said Haynes, who has been involved in helping develop a forthcoming high school curriculum for the Bible Literacy Project. *Ken Camp*

WMU™ KENTUCKYNOTES



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Supplement to Western Recorder

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Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions

2004-05 Basic Goal: \$925,000
Challenge Goal: \$75,000
Total: \$1,000,000

**Amount received
through August 24:
\$883,257.24**

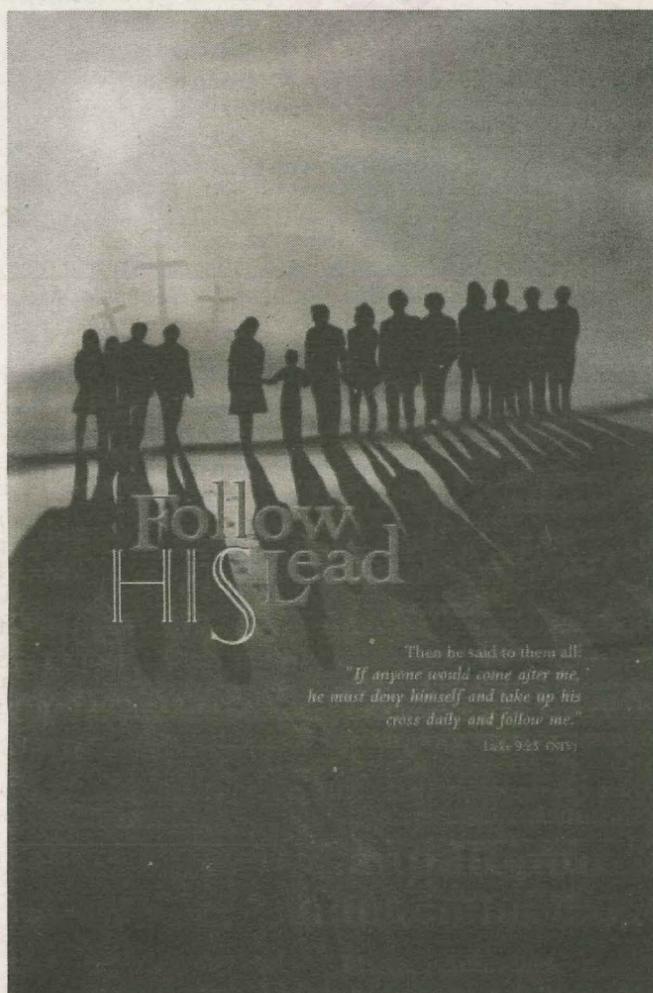
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Fall 2005

A Personal Word

Follow His Lead

**Season of Prayer
for State
Missions
and
Eliza Broadus
Offering
September 2005
Offering Goal:
\$1,000,000**



Contact Kentucky WMU for the 2005 state missions DVD teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes, and promotional ideas.
502-489-3534 or Toll-Free: 866-489-3534

**Read about ministries of Kentucky Baptists through
Disaster Relief, Kentucky Raceway Ministries,
and Missions Education in the September 6
issue of the *Western Recorder*.**

Welcome, Ashlee Wheeler!

Welcome to **Ashlee Wheeler**, our new Receptionist/Data Specialist in the Kentucky WMU office. Ashlee is a 2001 graduate of Georgetown College with a B.S. in Computer Science. She served as a Journeyman with the International Mission Board in Mobasa, Kenya from 2001-03. She was an intern with the University of Kentucky Baptist Student Union (2004-05), working to reach international students. Ashlee has completed 23 credit hours at Southern Seminary and plans to attend evening classes.

Ashlee taught Computer Science to high school students in Kenya and tutored students at Georgetown in Computer Science. She has a heart for missions and is already quickly learning her job duties with us. She will be a great asset to our staff as we utilize technology more and more.



While on a few days of vacation this summer, I spent a morning reading a classic on prayer by E.M. Bounds (1835-1913): *The Weapon of Prayer*. The language of this nineteenth century author has been updated in the 1996 paperback edition from Whitaker House, yet its powerful message has been preserved. E.M. Bounds gives a clarion call to prayer that is just as vital today as when it was first written.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

As we start the Season of Prayer for State Missions, I find several quotations most appropriate.

• "Prayer must be the most conspicuous and the most potent factor in the character and conduct of people who undertake divine commission."

• "It cannot be too often affirmed . . . that the principal need of the church is neither people of money nor people of intelligence, but people of prayer. Leaders in the realm of religious activity are to be judged by their praying habits."

• "Prayer should be the inseparable accompaniment of all missionary effort. . . . Prayer and missions go hand in hand."

• "Missions has its roots in prayer, and missions must have prayer in all of its plans. Prayer must precede, go with, and follow all of its missionaries and laborers."

• "How difficult it seems to be for the church to understand that the whole scheme of redemption depends on people of prayer."

I thought about WMU as I reflected on *The Weapon of Prayer*. I believe that WMU could stop doing everything we do except pray and we would continue to be a mighty force for missions and evangelism. But if we continue to do all we are doing, and even add more, without prayer, we will be ineffective and worthless. Each of us has a "pulpit," a life lived before others with many opportunities to share Christ. Whether our pulpit is in a classroom, a business, or on the street where we live, E.M. Bounds words to preachers apply to us, too:

• "He who does not plow in his prayer closet will never reap in his pulpit."

• "A pulpit without a prayer closet will always be a barren thing."

It has been noted in a number of articles recently that Southern Baptists are not effectively reaching the lost. Baptisms are flat. It takes more Southern Baptists than ever to reach one lost person. Perhaps we are not reaching the lost because we are often too busy to really pray. E.M. Bounds says, "The one weak spot in church institutions lies just here. Prayer is not regarded as being the primary factor in church life and activity; and other things, good in their places, are made primary. This should not be."

Across Kentucky, however, there are places where people are accepting Christ, where unexplained revival is breaking out. Yet, there is always an explanation—prayer. In some places, one individual began praying, sometimes for years. In other places, a group of women began praying together; begging the Lord for an outpouring of His Spirit in their community.

May we first *Follow His Lead* in prayer this fall for Kentucky missions. All else will increase if we begin on our knees.



Information for WMU Directors



What an extraordinary opportunity you have as WMU Director. You have accepted the challenge to be the guide, the leader, and the inspiration for missions and missions education in your church.

Remember to include the following in your plans for this fall:

State Missions Emphasis: Anytime in September; September 18-25 is recommended. You should have received information and already ordered your Eliza Broadus offering materials. Want a speaker to help you out? Contact the state office or any of the Kentucky missionaries listed in the 2005 state missions packet.

Missions LINK: September 10 or anytime in September. This is year three of this Kentucky initiative. Meeting Needs is what it is all about. Look at your church community and see how your church can meet the needs of those who are experiencing difficult circumstances. This fits right in with Project HELP: Poverty.

World Hunger Emphasis: October 9. This is an ideal time to emphasize hunger aspects of poverty. There are numerous resources available.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer: November 7. Gather with other women to pray for the needs of women wherever they are. Check with your association WMU director or another church about plans in your area.

If you have a WMU leadership team, make sure you meet regularly to keep each other up on age level plans and goals and collaborate with each other to encourage missions and missions education in your church. Meet with your pastor and/or staff on a regular basis. Church staff and leadership are essential for missions education and promotion in the church. So, keep them informed. If you do not have a team, organize one by having all age level leaders on the team. If you are the only person doing missions education, meet with your pastor or staff on a regular basis.

God's blessings are being prayed for you as you lead.

—Wanda Walker

Adults

My nieces' favorite characters are Eeyore and Piglet from Winnie the Pooh. They send me e-mails and in one of the most recent ones, Dorian and Deanna sent some fun facts about the characters in Winnie the Pooh. I thought of our adult groups and the women (and men) who work together to further the kingdom of God through missions and missions education. Please indulge me for a few moments.

The four main characters are Pooh, Tigger, Eeyore and Piglet. The Pooh story begins with just two characters, Pooh and Eeyore. Pooh is the cuddly, absent-minded stuffed bear and Eeyore is the melancholy stuffed donkey, two friends that admire and care about each other.



As time passes, Piglet and Tigger join them and the four become the best of friends. Tigger is an exuberant and fun-loving stuffed tiger and Piglet is a small curious stuffed pig. They each have unique and welcome gifts. Pooh is always searching for honey, Eeyore loses his tail, Tigger bounces and causes mayhem while Piglet eagerly experiences the world and is a good friend to Pooh.

Do you begin to see some analogies? Pooh, always searching for the sweetest thing in life...God's love and guidance; Eeyore searching for his way when he thinks he may have lost it; Tigger bouncing around getting people excited about missions; and Piglet wanting to explore the world and being a good friend.

Aren't we like that? We are all different, each with our own personalities, yet good friends with an inseparable bond despite our differences and our personalities.

Yes, this is a different article for Adults to read in Kentucky notes. What I believe is important to remember is that it takes all of us to be who we are as a family. Women and Adults on Mission are one big group of different but best friends people. So, go on ... enjoy a pot of honey with your friends.



—Wanda Walker

Youth

Acteens Splash was awesome! With more than 80 in attendance, we had a great time at Jonathan Creek June 24-25. Katie Richards, Kentucky BSU President, was our speaker and she inspired all of us. Katie will be involved with Youth on Mission Night and Exalt this year, so you'll get a chance to see her again.

Sixteen Acteens and leaders spent a week



in New Jersey working with the Skyline Community Church. A part of the New York Metro Association, the church is only two years old but has already made an impact on the community. We helped with the annual Family Fun Day where more than 300 people came!

Next summer, we will be heading to Slovenia for an international mission trip. We will be working with Dwayne and



Melissa Doyle and helping at an English cultural camp. This trip is open to both Acteens and Youth on Mission members. Information has been mailed to all Youth on Mission and Acteens leaders.

Youth on Mission Night will be held at the BSU building at Western Kentucky University. Rick Brenny of Jefferson Street Mission in Louisville will be there. Watch your mail for more information.

—LaRaine Dail

Preschool and Children

For MISSION FRIENDS Leaders—

Welcome to a new church year in Mission Friends! You have an important part in the spiritual development of preschoolers as you nurture and teach them. *Start, Share and First Steps in Missions* are essential tools that will enable you to provide developmentally appropriate activities for each child. The *2005-2006 WMU Year Book* contains information that is helpful in planning for the year in Mission Friends.

September is the time you will want to involve preschoolers in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. The study material for preschoolers focuses on the way ministries and is available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office. Launch the state missions emphasis by involving preschoolers in Operation MissionsLINK, a simultaneous missions project day across Kentucky on Saturday, September 10.

Plan now to introduce preschoolers to missions in India through the *International Missions 2005 Preschool Teaching Guide*. The unit contains activities and stories and can be taught during a churchwide study in

December or during any regular class for preschoolers.

For GIRLS IN ACTION and CHILDREN IN ACTION Leaders—

Join the **Extreme Team** for 2005-06! Both GA and CiA will be using extreme sports and the Extreme Team theme as a vehicle to explore various areas of the United States and the world. Be a prepared team captain (leader) by:

- Using the *2005-2006 WMU Year Book* to help you know, month by month, what is in store for Girls in Action or Children in Action.
- Becoming familiar with the curriculum. (*Aware* for GA leaders and *Missions MatchFile* for Children in Action leaders.) Read the leader section carefully each month for additional information.
- Involving children in learning about poverty and how they can help fight poverty through Project HELP.
- Encouraging your "team" to participate in the World Hunger Sunday in October.
- Involving all children in your church in the 2005 State Missions Emphasis in Sep-



tember and the International Missions Emphasis in December.

• Discovering more information about Girls in Action at www.gapassport.com or Children in Action at www.wmucia.com.

For CiA Agents ONLY—

Members of Children in Action are invited to come to the **Children in Action Missions Day Camp** on Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at Cedar Crest (located, 10 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at Cedar Crest more). Children in Action is WMU's coed organization for boys and girls in grades 1-6. Children will meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, participate in a ministry project, play games and lots more. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.

—Brenda Price





President's Perspective

As I write this article, my thoughts are filled with things I need to do or take with me as I leave Sunday morning with my Acteen Activator team to work in eastern Kentucky for a week. When we return, we will share with our church family about all we saw God doing in Powell County.



Cathy Chinn
Kentucky WMU
president

I know many of you have also experienced missions first hand this summer in a variety of places all across this globe. One of the most important parts of a mission trip is to share about your experiences and explain what God is doing wherever you have been. What you say could impact someone else to get directly involved in missions, too.

Has your church met your Eliza Broadus goal? Have you taken an offering for missions in Kentucky? It is still upsetting to me that many churches in Kentucky do not take an offering for the Eliza Broadus emphasis. If you are aware of churches in your association that are not supporting Kentucky missions, please help them become aware of what the Eliza Broadus offering does and how important it is to work all over our state. There are many of us who would gladly come to any church and share with them in a service about what this special offering does and how necessary it is to the work of Kentucky Baptists.

I hope to see you at one of our fall retreats: do not forget to register. Also, I hope many of you will be traveling to the National WMU meeting in the fall at Ridgecrest. This will be the first national meeting at Ridgecrest in five years, and I hope to see you there.

I was so proud of the great crowd of Kentucky folks we had in Nashville at the National WMU meeting in June. During my term as your President, I have been so proud to represent you wherever I have had opportunity. We are so fortunate to have such a rich WMU heritage in Kentucky and have such a great staff to help us in our local churches. All states are not as fortunate. Please, as you have an opportunity to do so, let our staff know how thankful we are to have them, and how lucky we know we are to have such wonderful state activities planned for us.

I would like to mention that the KBC Missions Growth team has recently begun tours of eastern Kentucky ministries. My husband, George, and I, Dee and Bill Spears, and Cindy and Frank Plewinski are the tour guides. You can contact any of us, and we will travel with your group and take you to various ministry sites all over eastern Kentucky. This is a mission education experience as well as a tool to help motivate churches to bring volunteers to eastern Kentucky, or partner with a particular ministry for a period of time. My number is at the bottom, and you may call the Missions Growth team office to find out the other numbers.

If I can be of service to you, your church, or association, please call me at (270) 298-7570.

—Cathy Chinn

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund March 1—May 31, 2005

With the retirement of Anna Mary Byrdwell and the passing of Joyce Thompson, we have received many gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund. We have arranged the listing of donors a little differently this quarter in order to list every name. Thank you to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. We are also grateful for the Special Gifts received. Ann Moffett had named the Heritage Fund as beneficiary of Charitable Gift Annuities with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The Kentucky WMU/National WMU Endowment Fund reached the \$10,000 mark over a year ago, making us eligible to receive earnings from the fund for the first time.

In Honor of & Donor:

Jane Kent by Shirley Taliafero
Jane Kent by Frankie Johnson
Frances Wells by Salem Missionary Baptist Church WoM

Gifts in Honor of Anna Mary Byrdwell

Mary Pat Price
Bill & Lorraine Kauman
Irma Woodrow
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In Memory Of & Donor:

Thelma Simpson Mendedoht by Carolyn Simpson
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Rosa Fiechter by Kentucky WMU

Gifts in Memory of Ann Moffett:

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Maribeth Hambrick
Ann Helen Clark
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Nan Lee Clark
Ruth Hinkle
Susan Bryant
Joy Bolton

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Remainders of Ann Moffett Charitable Gift Annuities
Earnings from the Kentucky/National WMU Touch Tomorrow Today Endowment Fund

Gifts in Memory of Joyce Thompson

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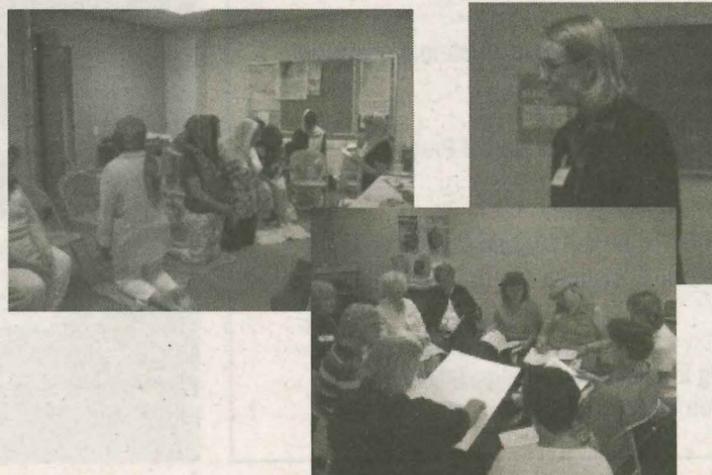
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John & Kay Trisler
J. Quentin & Hildegard Wesley
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P.G. Holt
Mark Troutman
Glenda Triplett
Ronald Mack
Kentucky WMU
Larry & Joyce Martin
Don & Ann Hooks

World Missions Unlimited

In July, 150 people participated in World Missions Unlimited at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. A variety of special interest and leadership training workshops were offered to prepare church WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders for the year ahead in missions education and involvement.

Featured speakers included Mitzi Eaker, children's ministry consultant from national WMU, Birmingham, Ala., and Anne Smith, Executive Director of Ministries United of South Central Louisville, an agency for the poor.

Conferees had the opportunity to participate in The State of Poverty, a simulation learning experience where they assumed the roles of families living in poverty.





Youth on Mission Night

GO

October 21-22, 2005

Baptist Student Union Building
Western Kentucky University

HEALTH MINISTRY . . . PARISH NURSING

People of Faith Working Together for
Healthier Communities

Friday, October 14

10:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (precedes Fall Retreat)

Cedarmore Baptist Conference Center

6 hours Continuing Education Units

\$15.00 for BNF members

\$25.00 for non-members

Lunch included

Registration deadline is October 12

For more information, contact Wanda Walker,

502-489-3453

More than you can ever
Imagine...

God can do anything you know—
far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dream!
He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us... Ephesians 3:20 (The Message)

WMU Fall Retreats
September 16-17 at Jonathan Creek
October 15-16 at Cedarmore

Call 489-3453 for more information



Missions LINK is the Kentucky WMU expansion plan designed to focus on God's plan for reaching the lost and getting us involved in it. Our 2005-06 focus is **Needs**. The objective of Missions LINK is to link our involvement in the mission of God with the needs of a lost world.

The year three focus on meeting needs goes right along with Project Help: Poverty. Be sure to read *Breaking the Cycle: Issues Affecting Poverty*. This book explores issues related to hunger, child advocacy, AIDS, cultural diversity, and others, and looks at how poverty touches them all. Each chapter has practical ideas for meeting needs. As you plan for Missions LINK, be sure to complete a Mid-Point Missions LINK Report Form. This form will help you review WMU participation in your church since the start of Missions LINK and set goals for the next two years. Contact Kentucky WMU for a copy, or download from our website: www.kywmu.org.

Calendar

September

- 10 Operation Missions Link
Super Saturday, Crestwood BC, Crestwood
- 16-17 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Jonathan Creek
- 18-25 Season of Prayer for State Missions & Eliza Broadus Offering
- 24 Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Cedar Crest
- 28-10/2 WMU Conference/Missions Weekender, Ridgecrest, NC

October

- 14-15 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Cedarmore
- 21-22 Youth on Mission Night, WKU, BSU Bowling Green
- 28-30 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Cedarmore

November

- 7 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

December

- 4-11 Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

February 2006

- 9-12 Training Effective Leadership, Talladega, AL
- 13-19 Focus on WMU

Camp Report 2005

Life on the Edge: Last Frontier Missions

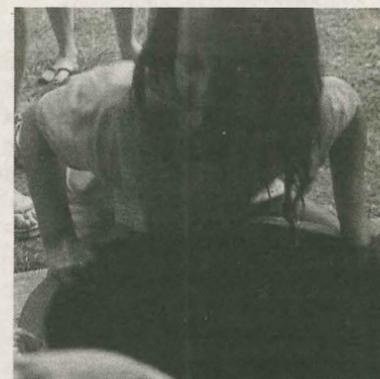
Mission Adventure Campers at Cedar Crest explored the world of Last Frontier Missionaries. They learned about people groups from West Africa and Southeast Asia who have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. Campers were also involved in a mission project for eastern Kentucky. Each weeklong and express week camper made a quilt square for a lap quilt. Lap quilts will be quilted by Women on Mission groups and given to nursing homes in eastern Kentucky. Girls in grades 6-10 participated in mission projects

in nearby Shelbyville.

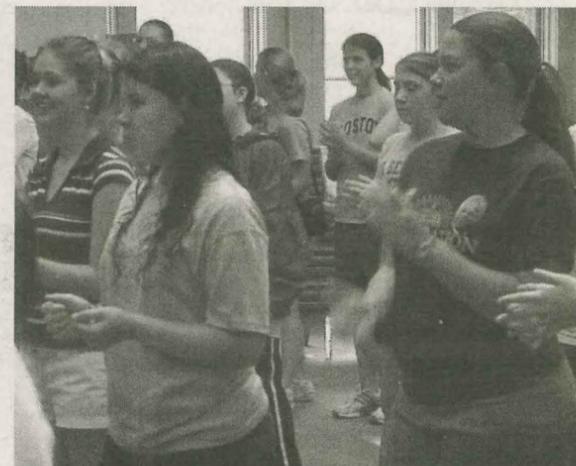
Mission Adventure Camp hosted missionaries from Thailand, Israel, Brazil, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Kenya and Botswana. These missionaries were an invaluable resource for campers.

Throughout the camping season, 711 campers visited Cedar Crest. These campers included girls in grades 1-3 and their moms and girls in grades 3-10. Six campers made professions of faith and one camper rededicated her life to Christ.

Plan to experience Mission Ad-



venture Camp at Cedar Crest next summer!



Small groups fill basic needs, former Kentucky minister says

By Polly House
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Glorieta, N.M. (BP)—Former Kentuckian Rick Howerton encourages Christians to invest themselves in people, not programs, because programs will come to an end.

But when the investment is made in people, he says, the results are eternal.

"We're talking about lives here," said Howerton, a former staff member at Living Hope Church in Bowling Green. Howerton now is national training coordinator for Serendipity House, a brand of small group Bible studies published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"People have an innate longing in their souls to be a part of an intimate group of Christian believers," said Howerton, who also is pastor of The Bridge, a church start south of Nashville. "They may not be Christian—they may not even be interested—but God puts a need in us to have fellowship with Him and each other."

Howerton, speaking at Sunday School Week at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, said small groups involve people who are unwilling to settle for anything less than redemptive community.

The small group is a biblical concept, Howerton noted. "Jesus didn't have a program. He just took 12 people and poured His life into them for three years. They lived their lives together, learning from Him. Then He sent them off to do the same. It must have worked. We're here."

Small groups don't replace Sunday school in a local church, Howerton said, but function in tandem.

Common interests, characteristics

Small groups can be formed around common interests such as missions, fishing or dog training. They can also be based on common characteristics, such as gender or geography, he added.

"I have seen a couple begin a small group with people on their cul-de-sac, including their unchurched and unsaved neighbors. They have had amazing results," Howerton said.

As groups meet and people become more comfortable with each other, a progressive disclosure begins, he said. Trusting becomes easier; sharing deep needs and emotions becomes natural.

Key issues

Glorieta, N.M. (BP)—One key to successful small groups is a good group covenant that establishes certain ground rules for the group.

Rick Howerton, a national training coordinator for Serendipity House resources, says a good covenant should guide members on such issues as:

Priority. When joining a small group, attending meetings should be a priority for every member.

Participation. Everyone participates in group discussions and the group doesn't let anyone dominate.

Respect. Everyone has the right to his or her opinion, and all questions are encouraged and respected.

Confidentiality. Whatever is said in the meeting never gets repeated outside the meeting.

Open or closed. Some groups welcome new members while others are closed for a period of time to develop trust and confidentiality. Groups that welcome new members sometimes put an empty chair in the group to represent the new person they hope God will bring to their group.

Support. Members give each other permission to call upon each other in times of need—even in the middle of the night.

Advice. Members should not give unsolicited advice.

The beauty of a small group ministry, he continued, is in the closeness of relationships. "If you erase the past 1,900 years, you will find churches that met in homes and people who lived their lives together," he said. "Evangelism and discipleship were natural outgrowths for a group of people who loved Jesus. Our churches today can do the same thing."

Crucial to a small group's success is its incorporation of the members into each others' lives, Howerton said. "Take a group of guys from your small group fishing on a Saturday," he said. "You can use this time to invest your life into these other people and lead them to a closer intimacy with Jesus."



SMALL GROUP ADVOCATE Rick Howerton, national training coordinator for Serendipity House, says small groups are an important tool for leading people to a greater intimacy with Christ. (BP photo by Tara Patty)

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SPECIAL GUESTS

Dave Bullock, Elbrock Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin will provide music leadership in all three worship services and serve as a conference leader. Dave has led music and worship at over 50 national conferences including the Billy Graham crusade in Minneapolis.

The **dbNetwork Band** is a worship band of gifted musicians and soloists that comes together for conferences each year. The band leads worship using instrumentalists and vocalists with musical styles from classical to contemporary.

W. Clay Smith, Alice Drive Baptist Church, Sumter, S.C. is the guest preacher and conference leader. Clay has served as pastor in Kentucky Baptist churches. God has used Clay in a powerful way to grow a strong and healthy worshipping church.

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Pastor urges church leaders to pursue 'holy discontent'

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

South Barrington, Ill. (ABP)—Church leadership grows out of an unrelenting compulsion to follow God, speakers repeatedly told participants in the 10th annual Leadership Summit Aug. 11-13.

Simulcast live from Willow Creek

Conference notes

■ **John Maxwell** told conference participants that a Christian leader should differentiate between his or her "comfort zone" and "gift zone."

"If we're growing, we're always going to be out of our comfort zone," said Maxwell, who was a pastor for 25 years before switching careers to become a leadership consultant and best-selling author.

"But know your gift zone," he said, explaining that's the realm of action for which God has prepared His followers. "Never get out of your gift zone."

He quoted World War II-era Christian martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "We are not sure where we are going, but we are sure we are following Jesus. As long as you know you are following Jesus, you are safe."

■ Leadership author and consultant **Ken Blanchard** said that for Christ's sake Christian leaders must quit criticizing each other.

He compared the global church of Christ to a franchised business. But instead of supporting each other, as a reasonable business model would insist of the franchises, churches often do the opposite, he observed.

"Our 'franchises' never talk to each other. They compete with each other and criticize each other," Blanchard observed. "I don't think we're raising Jesus above the walls of the churches. We've got to stop this ridiculous fighting over rituals and regulations."

Community Church in suburban Chicago, the conference attracted about 50,000 people to more than 100 viewing sites in North America.

"When leaders grow and get stuff right, everyone wins," stressed Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Church and host of the summit. "When leaders in church work grow, the darkness gets pushed back, and people's lives get changed forever."

Church leadership is so important because "the local church is the hope of the world, and its hope rests in the hands of its leaders," Hybels told the simulcast audience.

"Vision is the leader's most potent weapon," he said, acknowledging that assertion raises a vexing question: What precedes vision?

A spiritual leader receives vision from and is motivated by the things that "frustrate heaven and earth," Hybels noted.

In service to God, this feeling is "holy discontent," he reported.

For's people." For King David, it was the giant Goliath "trash-talking" God. For the Prophet Nehemiah, it was people mocking God.

"What can't you stand?"

Hybels' own experience with "holy discontent" grew from observing "churches who don't care about people who are far from God," he said.

That led him not only to start

Willow Creek Church nearly 30 years ago, but also to lead the "seeker-sensitive" movement, which presents the gospel to people who are "far from God" in ways that will bring them close to God and eventually to faith in Christ.

"What can't you stand?" Hybels asked. He cited a litany of possible answers for church leaders—"injustice, extreme poverty, racism, homelessness, AIDS, immoral business practices, dysfunctional churches, ... crappy music, crooked politicians (and) young people drifting further and further away from God."

Hybels offered Christians three tips about finding and following up on "holy discontent":

■ First, "it's not everything you get upset about," he said. "We ought to be looking for that one cause that grabs us by the throat and won't let us go."

■ Second, don't give up if the object of discontent is not obvious, he added. "Keep exposing your heart. ... Travel more in the world. Visit an AIDS clinic or a Habitat (for Humanity) build." Keep on looking.

■ Third, don't run from it, he said. "Most of us run from our first storm of frustration. One of the best things you can do is with it. ... When you find it, feed it. Increase your exposure. Stay close to your holy discontent."

Rick Warren, who also spoke at the summit, echoed Hybels' theme.

"God is looking for people to use, and if you can get usable, He will wear you out," advised Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif. "The most dangerous prayer you can pray is this: 'Use me.'"

Using identity, income, influence

Warren called Moses a role model, pointing to Moses' two principles of leadership.

"You must see the world as God sees it," he stated, noting God gave Moses the opportunity to see the Hebrew people's suffering sensitively, and it broke his heart.

"What's in your heart?" Warren asked. "What disturbs you?"

The next step is self-understanding, he added. "You must see yourself as God sees you. What is in your hand? What are you going to do about it?"

When God called Moses to ministry, the first thing God did was ask Moses, "What is in your hand?" Warren said, explaining Moses' shepherd's staff represented his identity, his income and his influence.

"What is in your hand?" Warren asked the leaders, stressing that they should turn over their identities and resources to God's use, not their own security or identity or comfort.

"When you're faithful with what God puts in your hand, He will give you more," he promised.

Double blessings...just in time for Pastor Appreciation Month.

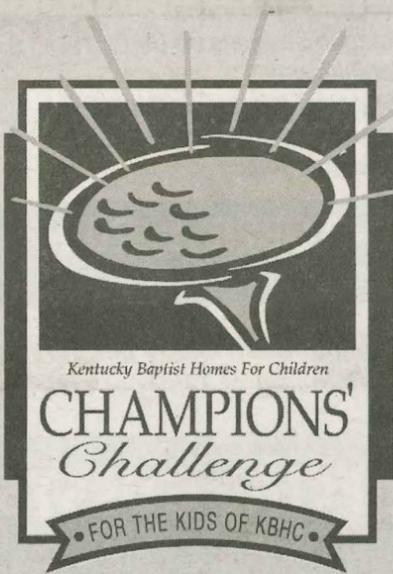
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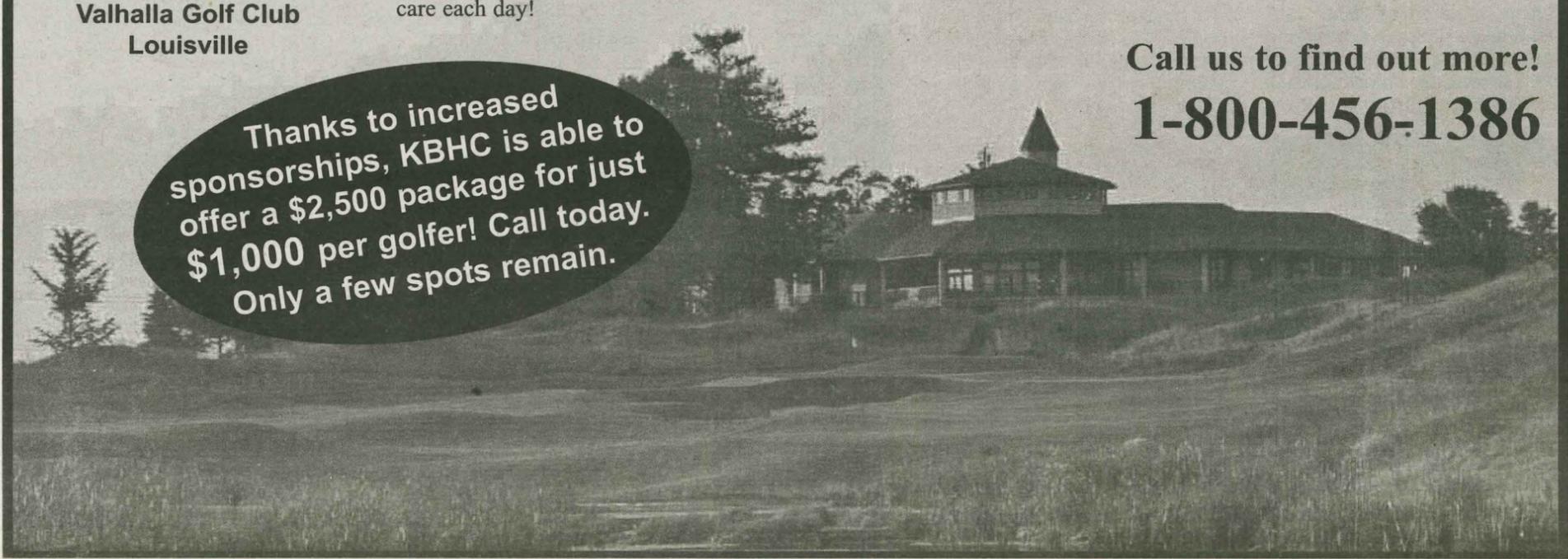
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A true Bible college

Clear Creek deserving of Kentucky Baptists' support

A true Bible college is a scarce commodity these days. One accredited by the same association as major universities is even scarcer.

How fortunate we Kentucky Baptists are to have such a unique ministry within our family, namely, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Nestled in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky near Pine Mountain State Park in Pineville, Clear Creek is providing theological preparation for adult men and women called of God to full-time Christian service. Clear Creek offers its students a dynamic, spiritual atmosphere of learning. Not only are its faculty members qualified with outstanding academic credentials and ministerial experience, but they also are dedicated to preparing those who treasure the truth of God's Word and desire to follow His vocational call in their lives.

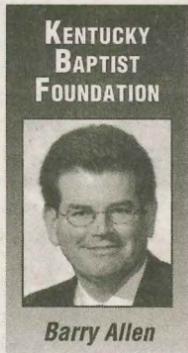
Recently I had the privilege of participating in the annual alumni conference, held on the campus. I was impressed with how many graduates return each year with their families, and I enjoyed hearing the testimonies about

what Clear Creek continues to mean to them. I was reminded of the uniqueness of this ministry and its alumni and how God continues to use Clear Creek in accomplishing His purposes.

This unique ministry deserves and requires friends who will financially sustain and secure its future. Most graduates will not move on to careers that will be financially rewarding. They will become the pastors, church staff ministers and missionaries of the future, all of whom will support Clear Creek as the Lord provides. But, to truly secure Clear Creek's future, more and

more Kentucky Baptists must become financially sustaining friends of this important component of our family. My wife and I are enjoying the blessings of being included among the sustaining friends. Let me encourage you to do the same. Call President Bill Whittaker or Donnie Fox, development director, at (606) 337-3196, or me, to discover how you can become a sustaining friend.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org



Barry Allen

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Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



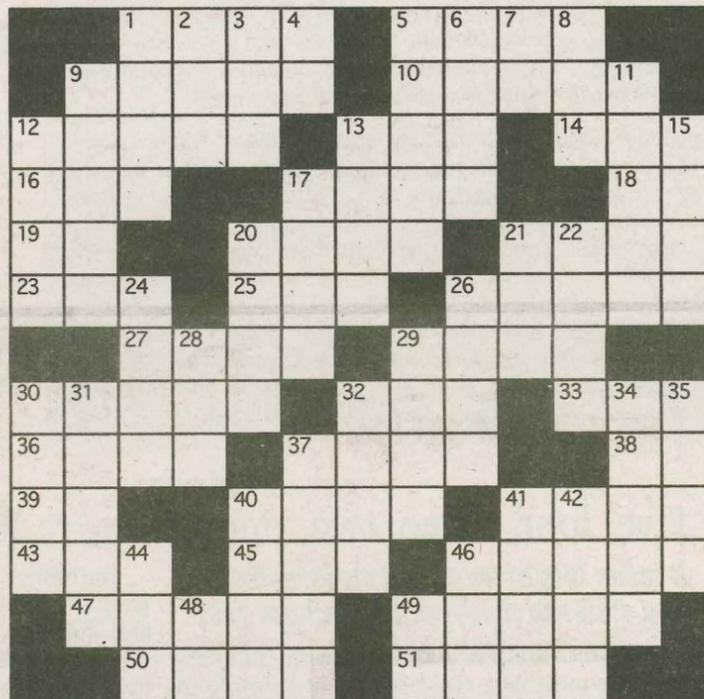
Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

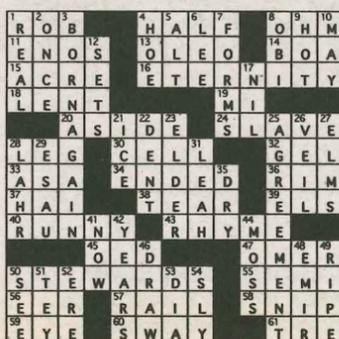
- 1 Spelunker's domain
- 5 "Out of his belly shall _____ rivers of living water" (John 7:38)
- 9 Majorette's must
- 10 "Ye are all children of _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
- 12 Tendon
- 13 "I will come in to him, and will _____ with him" (Revelation 3:20)
- 14 At present
- 16 Chemical suffix
- 17 Off one's rocker
- 18 "There is none righteous, _____, not one" (Romans 3:10)
- 19 Biblical exclamation
- 20 _____ Western Reserve Univ.
- 21 VCR button
- 23 "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the _____ of the world" (Matthew 28:20)
- 25 Orthopedists' org., and many others (abbr.)
- 26 "They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than _____" (2 Samuel 1:23)
- 27 Latest fad
- 29 "Yet _____ of you keepeth the law" (John 7:19)
- 30 Stock in trade
- 32 Family room, formerly
- 33 "A time to rend, and a time to _____" (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
- 36 Mammoth
- 37 Meat paste
- 38 Bar Harbor state (abbr.)
- 39 Preposition
- 40 "Dear _____:"
- 41 "_____ up the gift of God, which is in thee" (2 Timothy 1:6)
- 43 Summer, en Paris
- 45 Coop denizen
- 46 For _____!



- 47 Ancestor of Jesus; father of Achim (Matthew 1:14)
- 49 Tows away
- 50 Cantered
- 51 "The coast turneth to Ramah, and to the strong city _____" (Joshua 19:29)

- 22 Appendages
- 24 Bore (colloq.)
- 26 Unattached
- 28 Linking verb
- 29 "They straightway left their _____, and followed him" (Matthew 4:20)
- 30 If the _____ fits ...
- 31 Pursues with a vengeance
- 32 Mend a sock
- 34 "The _____ dwelt therein in times past, a people great" (Deuteronomy 2:10)
- 35 Existed
- 37 _____ de resistance
- 40 "Your feet _____ with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15)
- 41 "Abraham journeyed ... and dwelled between Kadesh and _____" (Genesis 20:1)
- 42 "We spend our years as a _____ that is told" (Psalm 90:9)
- 44 What the high priest's servant lost in the Garden of Gethsemane, temporarily
- 46 Have one's _____
- 48 "Let him eschew evil, and _____ good" (1 Peter 3:11)
- 49 Kin to alt.

Last week's solution



NATIONAL NOTES

Federal agency defunds 'faith-based' charity. A federal agency has withdrawn funding from an abstinence program that is part of President Bush's "faith-based initiative," saying it does not have proper safeguards in place to avoid direct government support of religion. In a letter received Aug. 22, officials from the Department of Health and Human Services informed leaders of the "Silver Ring Thing" program that it was stopping payment on a \$75,000 grant. The abstinence-only sex-ed program bills itself as an "evangelistic ministry" and gives teenagers silver rings inscribed with a Bible passage.

Religious broadcaster Cerullo indicted for tax evasion. Morris Cerullo, a religious broadcaster with an international ministry, has been indicted on charges of filing false income tax returns. Cerullo, president of San Diego-based Morris Cerullo World Evangelism, misstated his income from 1998 and 2000 by a total of more than \$550,000, the U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of California announced last week. He has been charged with three counts of falsely filing tax returns. Each count has a maximum penalty of \$100,000 and three years in prison.

Conservative Jews endorse Roberts for Supreme Court. Judge John Roberts, President Bush's pick to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, has been deemed "qualified to serve" by a group representing the Conservative Jewish movement. In a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, the public policy committee of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism said Roberts appears to meet general criteria that a judge be "well trained, well educated and enjoy wide respect"; that he eschews an "ideologically defined approach to judicial interpretation"; and that he has a "balanced respect" for the law.

Study: Regular churchgoers tend to support Bush. Americans who attend church services regularly tend to support President Bush's foreign policy, including the war in Iraq, according to an analysis by Public Agenda, a public policy think tank. Public Agenda Chairman Daniel Yankelovich said President Bush has become a more appealing leader to religious people, especially evangelical Protestants, because of what they view as his moral clarity. "They can take what he says at face value and accept his sincerity and clarity of moral purpose. He is on the side of good, and therefore what he does is right," Yankelovich said.

Robertson apologizes for assassination comments

By Adele Banks
Religion News Service

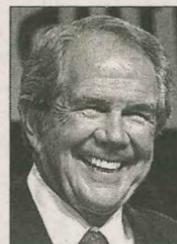
Washington (RNS)—Pat Robertson apologized last week after advocating the assassination of Venezuela's president, but not before creating a firestorm of controversy.

During the Monday, Aug. 22 broadcast of his Christian Broadcast Network show "The 700 Club," Robertson said the time had come for United States officials to consider murdering Hugo Chavez. The elected leader has emerged as one of the Western Hemisphere's most outspoken critics of President Bush's foreign policy.

"You know, I don't know about this doctrine of assassination, but if he (Chavez) thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it," Robertson said. "It's a whole lot cheaper than starting a war. We have the ability to take him out,

and I think the time has come that we exercise that ability."

Within two days, amid a growing chorus of denunciations, Robertson initially claimed his comments were misinterpreted and later apologized.



Pat Robertson

"Is it right to call for an assassination?" Robertson asked in a statement posted on his Christian Broadcasting Network Web site. "No, and I apologize for that statement. I spoke in frustration that we should accommodate the man who thinks the U.S. is out to kill him."

Even usual allies said Robertson went too far.

"The Southern Baptist Convention does not support or endorse public statements concerning assassinations of persons, even if they are despicable despots of foreign countries, and neither do I," said Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch in a statement.

National Association of Evangeli-

calls President Ted Haggard told CNN that Robertson wasn't speaking for evangelicals but he should be forgiven. "Granted, his semantics might not have been well advised."

Muslim leaders speaking out about the comments included Mahdi Bray, executive director of the Washington-based Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation.

"If that had been a Muslim cleric talking about killing a head of state, you would have never heard of it," he said in a statement. "The White House would have denounced it as terroristic, extremist and incendiary or provocative, violent hate speech."

During a Pentagon press conference Aug. 23, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said of Robertson's recommendation: "Our department doesn't do that kind of thing; it's against the law."

Robertson is "a private citizen," Rumsfeld added. "Private citizens say all kinds of things all the time."

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

New discovery might negate stem-cell research controversy

Washington (ABP)—A new discovery in embryonic stem-cell research might end up leap-frogging the moral debates over the procedure.

A team of researchers from Harvard University announced Aug. 21 that they had converted adult human skin cells into what appear to be the kind of stem cells found in embryos. Detailed results of their research were published in the online version of the journal *Science*.

The discovery has the potential to defuse two significant debates

over the research, which many biologists believe holds significant promise for treating several types of terminal diseases. If proved applicable to humans, the new process may avoid controversies over whether human embryos should be destroyed in the process of extracting their stem cells.

The new procedure also would negate questions about whether such embryos should be cloned using genetic material from the patient to be treated. Such "thera-

peutic cloning" to produce stem cells would reduce the risk of the patient's body rejecting the cells used for treatment.

Many religious conservatives and others have opposed embryonic stem-cell research because, until now, it has necessitated the destruction of the embryos used.

Stem cells are valued for research into treating diseases that destroy organs because of their "pluripotency," or ability to develop into almost any kind of tissue.

Five, four, three, two, one ... they're back

It takes lots of work, but classrooms and staff are ready for new school year

After thousands of hours preparing, countless hours in meetings, hundreds of interviews and an endless list of other things to do, the reward is seeing the faces of the young people returning for school. I don't think anyone really minds all the extra work—all the hours put in off the clock, and all the other preparation by a countless number of people—because it all is done with the understanding that it will help meet the needs of our students. Seeing them return to campus with the hugs they give us, which say, "I missed you this summer," and the hugs for Mom and Dad, which say, "I will miss you when you leave," makes us feel really good about all the long hours we spend preparing for their return.

Our middle school students are enjoying four beautiful classrooms that have been completely remodeled. The Monday after graduation in May, volunteers began taking out the walls, lights, floor tile and everything else in what used to be four classrooms. Four days later, when the dust settled, we had one very large room ready to be transformed into four awesome classrooms before the students returned for the fall term. Work was not completed until two days before the students would need those classrooms. More than a dozen volunteer groups, our maintenance personnel and our new construction crew worked tirelessly all summer to complete the project. As recently as this past Monday, it did not look like we were going to make our deadline. But with the dedicated efforts of everyone involved, the job was done just in the nick of time.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Dormitory rooms have been cleaned and painted. Floors have been waxed. Windows and curtains were washed, and furniture was repaired or replaced. Everything that could be done was done in order to make our returning students happy to be back. New teachers and house parents are anxiously beginning their new experiences on the job. We have done our best to prepare them, but there is no substitute for just getting in there and getting the job done.

Our beautiful campus, with all the flowers and shrubs, looks so nice in spite of the unusually warm temperatures during the past three weeks. We have been blessed to have a little more rain than some received, so our grass is still very green and everything looks so nice for our students.

This is the first time in three years that our corn has not been under water. During the past two years, floodwaters covered our corn a total of five times.

Even with that disadvantage, we had a good harvest. However, this year's harvest should be one of our very best. In addition to planting about 30 percent more corn, the rains have come at just the right time to produce some really large ears.

Now that our students are back, we realize that the clock is ticking. In just nine short months school will be out. There is so much to get done between now and then. Hopefully we can inspire our students, especially our new students, to reach for higher goals than they ever thought about before. It is so good to have them back.

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

Still following orders

12-year Army veteran follows call to study at Clear Creek

When Kevin Bruns graduated from a small-town high school in Wyoming, he didn't think he could afford college; the military looked like a good opportunity for training.

He joined the Army in 1991, and during the following 12 years was posted to Ft. Campbell, Korea, Egypt, Panama, Ft. Hood and Hawaii.

"In Hawaii, God changed my plans," Kevin said. "A chaplain recommended my wife and I visit a church off base. There, during a mission conference, God issued a call to ministry. We both knew, at the same time, we were called. I hesitated some, but God told me to quit the service and He would show me the way."

Some direction came in October 2003 when he helped prepare and serve an appreciation picnic for 300 missionaries who had served in Haiti. "God used that to confirm my calling," Kevin said. In November 2004, Kevin and his wife, Susan, went to Haiti with New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville and helped place a roof on a 195-foot-long church near Port Au Prince.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

"When I left the service in October 2004, God told us to go and train, but I still didn't know where," Kevin said. In the aftermath of the hurricanes, he went to Alabama with the Kentucky disaster relief team. While sharing with some pastors about God's direction, one of them, a Clear Creek graduate, repeatedly told Kevin "that is where you need to go." At home Kevin told Susan, "If I hear another word about Clear Creek I'll explode." Two months later they moved to campus. "Isn't God neat how He works," Kevin stated.

The family includes four children, three girls, Skyla, 9; Kali, 8; Jessica, 6; and a son, Josiah, 4. "They have adjusted well and have lots of friends from school and on campus." Susan said. The family likes living at Harmony Heights. "The neighbors are friendly and we do things together," Kevin said. "We like the trees. Living on the plains of Wyoming, we didn't have many trees."

Kevin works on a four-man crew that maintains the campus grounds. This week he started his second semester and Susan began her first semester.

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

Christian magazines seeking mainstream store shelf space

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

New York (RNS)—Look around the magazine racks at your local Wal-Mart, Barnes & Noble or Rite Aid and you might see some new titles amid Sports Illustrated and Southern Living.

Charisma, a magazine principally aimed at Pentecostal Christians, this summer launched a concerted effort to cross over into the general market, following in the footsteps of Christian music and books that have made the leap from religious to secular shelves.

And it's not alone: Precious Times, a quarterly publication for African-American Christian women, entered Barnes & Noble in April. Around the same time, NavPress Periodicals started placing its Pray! and Discipleship Journal magazines in stores like Borders.

"As a publisher we would like to get our message out to a broader and broader audience," Stephen Strang, publisher of Charisma magazine, said. "There's a new receptivity."

Ron Sklon, a New York-based newsstand consultant, advised Florida-based Strang Communications to make the move. Next month, Strang will launch two other titles, Vida Cristiana, Charisma magazine's Spanish language-format, and New Man, a men's magazine, in the general market.

"We've been trying to encourage other Christian magazines to give it a try because we think the more titles there are, the better off we would be," Sklon said.

So far, some are heeding the call to venture beyond Christian retailers while others are taking a wait-and-see attitude. Still others have been there all along.

Christianity Today International has nine of its 11 magazines on

some general market newsstands, such as Borders and Barnes & Noble, said Carol Thompson, vice president of circulation and marketing.

Though their presence is "modest," some CTI publications have been in the general market for at least 15 years, she said.

Karen Burk, a spokeswoman for Wal-Mart, said the inclusion of Charisma in about 250 of its more than 3,000 stores fits into her company's attempts to satisfy customers. Wal-Mart also carries such inspirational magazines as Guideposts, Moment and Gospel Today.

"What decides whether we're going to carry it or not is whether it's something we think the majority of our customers in that community are wanting us to have on our shelves," she said.

Grabbing distributors' attention

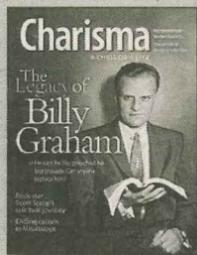
Charisma's efforts to tap the secular market are fairly unusual, said Doug Trouten, executive director of the Evangelical Press Association, which is based outside Minneapolis.

"I would say it represents a significant step for retailing of Christian magazines," he said.

But, Trouten said, the mainstream market appears ready.

"The general market success of products like the 'Left Behind' books, the Mel Gibson 'Passion of the Christ' movie, have been enough to catch the attention of major market distributors and to help them realize that this is a market sector worth doing business with," he said.

BigTop Newstand Services, a division of the Independent Press Association, has distributed Discipleship Journal, Sojourners magazine and Christian Networks Journal along with Mother Jones and other independent magazines in the last couple of years.



Conservative Christian activist gets FCC job

Washington (RNS)—The agency charged with regulating content on television and radio has hired a conservative Christian activist and former lobbyist to serve as a special adviser.

Penny Nance, founder of the Kids First Coalition of Alexandria, Va., now serves as a liaison between the Federal Communications Commission and Congress, public interest groups and industry.

Nance began her job at the FCC in July and was not replacing anyone, according to FCC spokesman David Fiske.

"Where you have special advisers and special assistants, these positions can be fluid," Fiske said, adding that staffers bring a range of expertise to meet agency needs at any given time.

Nance now holds a part-time position in the FCC's Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis.

Fiske said she works on consumer and social issues that come before the commission.

For years, the Mississippi-based American Family Association and other conservative activist groups have criticized the FCC for failing to crack down on indecency. In hiring Nance, the FCC has tapped someone who has identified a "huge indecency problem" on cable television and advocated for a family hour when racy programming is held off the air, according to Mediaweek Magazine.

The Kids First Coalition addresses obscenity and pornography among other child-related issues. Until recently, Nance also served on the board of directors for the Washington-based Concerned Women for America, a group committed to "bring biblical principles into all levels of public policy," according to Mediaweek.

The Daily Discipler. Neil Anderson. Regal Books, 2005. 528 pages. \$24.99. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Neil Anderson delivers bite-sized nuggets of Bible teachings in his devotional book, "The Daily Discipler."

The book is divided into sections that can be read five days a week for 52 weeks. It covers many important topics to mentor yourself or others seeking to learn how to become a disciple of Christ.

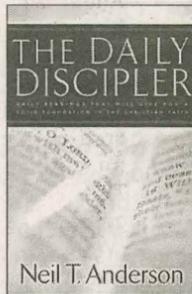
The 52 weeks are divided into four sections: "Rooted in Christ," "Built Up in Him," "Living in Christ" and "Forces Opposing Our Sanctification."

Anderson's subjects help readers discover who they are in Christ, what it means to be a child of God and how to live a liberated life in Christ. Each week's teaching emphasizes a specific truth, and each day's devotional builds on the day before.

Each devotional is a page and a half or shorter, and should take no more than 10 minutes to read. Each reading also includes a question and a thought of the day to ponder.

Although the book divides its topics into sections, one can get confused about where one section ends and the next begins. Unless the reader refers to the table of contents, it's possible to lose track of whether one is reading about how the truth can set you free (section 14) or the nature of faith (section 15). But this is a minor issue.

The book is especially good for those who are in the process of mentoring or discipling another person or teaching the fundamentals of the Christian faith. *Steve Coleman*



affirm the often-spiritual nature of death dreams. They do insist that dreams offer a way to examine the death, and the life, of a specific individual. I think they make a strong case that placing the proper importance on these dreams can help the dying person (and their loved ones) move into his or her death with a peacefulness about the process of dying and a renewed sense of purpose for the life that has been lived.

The authors do not attempt to create a dream interpretation glossary. They rightly say that a person's own life experience must always be considered in order to get a meaningful message. They propose some universal themes, such as journey, guides and obstacles. Each dream, however, might have a new element or theme that the dreamer/interpreter can interpret by knowing the life history of the dreamer.

The last chapter and conclusion are written to people who are terminally ill in an attempt to help them do all they can to have a "good death" and to summarize the methods that can be used to get the most of the dreaming process before dying. I highly recommend this book to anyone who professionally or otherwise has a relationship with someone who is dying. *Wayne Hager*

The Worship God Is Seeking. David Ruis. Regal Books, 2005. 150 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

"The Worship God Is Seeking" is another book in the worship series from Regal Publishing, featuring such authors as Matt Redman and Tim Hughes.

David Ruis writes that "the journey into worship is a lifelong pursuit of discovering God in His Word and seeing Him constantly at work in our everyday lives and the world around us."

Too often, the success of Sunday morning worship is determined by whether those attending "enjoyed it" or whether the service went smoothly, Ruis contends. Instead, he writes, successful worship should be determined by whether God is satisfied with what we offer to Him.

As evidence, Ruis points to Revelation 4, a powerful scene of God's throne room and the worship taking place there. The room is filled with a rainbow of color. The sound of the worshippers there in the presence of God must be deafening.

Ruis uses this scene to drive home the sometimes scary notion that worship is not about the people sitting in the pews but the One sitting on the throne. Ruis challenges readers to get the wonder back into the time of group worship.

David Ruis believes in the grace of God freeing people to worship God. He states, "Worship is no longer just an activity—it's now our identity. As Jesus would tell us, God longs for worshippers (not just worship) and those born into worship are those He seeks." *Steve Coleman*

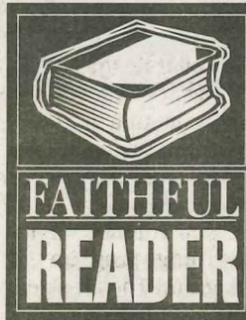


Dreaming Beyond Death: A Guide to Pre-Death Dreams and Visions. Kelly Bulkeley & Patricia Bulkley. Beacon Press, 2005. 152 pages. \$24.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

As a pastor who has been at the bedside of numerous dying people and is married to a hospice social worker, I find the idea of the connection of dreams and the dying process is not only an intriguing subject, but very much a career issue. Having heard a number of people relate dreams just before their death, I wanted to know if I should put any stock in these dreams or just count it as the result of a neurological system either well drugged or slowly being deprived of oxygen.

"Dreaming Beyond Death" and its authors, a mother (a Presbyterian minister) and son (a dream researcher), have convinced me that we (ministers, family, hospice and medical teams, and friends) have paid too little attention to the dreams and visions of dying people.

This book does not claim that dreams must be seen as a message from God about dying or that they offer a divine blessing or curse for one's life. The authors, however, do



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C., 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@trifigent.net and risen4me@hotmail.com.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

West Union Baptist Association. Director of Missions James Bryant reports that West Union Baptist Association, in partnership with Mount Zion Baptist Church, sponsored a week of Upward Basketball in Paducah. Enrollment was 75 and 41 people (33 young people and 8 adults) professed faith in Christ during the week.

The same week, Lone Oak First Baptist Church conducted an Upward Basketball clinic in Milton, Ontario, Canada, in partnership with The Sanctuary Church in Milton. Of 60 young people participating in the clinic, 40 made commitments to Christ. The Canadian young people represented many nationalities. West Union Association has an ongoing partnership with The Sanctuary Church.

Pray for follow-up with the new believers in Paducah and Milton, Ontario, who came to know Christ through the Upward Basketball emphases.

Pray for continued openness to the ministry of West Union Baptist Association in The Set (a community in downtown Paducah). Members of the association regularly pray for two policemen who patrol The Set.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-4302.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Canton Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sept. 11. For more information, call (270) 924-5227. **Paul Cannon** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Lowell Avenue Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 25.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church honored **Virginia Hodges Nelson** on her 90th birthday Aug. 21. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **ELKTON**—Elkton Church will hold **rethivals** as evangelist. 11-14 with **Don Mathis** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church's Light and Lively Senior Adults will host **Bill Ellis**, adjunct professor of Baptist history at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky in Lexington, Sept. 1, 11 a.m. **Robert DeFoor** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Middle Creek Church recently called **Edwin Ataway** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—**Barbara Ostrander** died Aug. 12 after a battle with cancer. She was 49. A graduate of the University of Kentucky School of

Nursing, she was a registered nurse with Central Baptist Hospital. She is survived by her husband, Kent, executive director of the Family Foundation of Kentucky, four children and her parents. Her funeral service was held Aug. 17 at Calvary Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church ordained **Logan Dunn** to the gospel ministry Aug. 21. Dunn will serve as associate pastor of American Church in London, England. **Les Hollon** is pastor of St. Matthews Church.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Pryorsburg Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary with homecoming activities Sept. 11. Events will include a noon meal and an afternoon musical program. **Jimmy Stairs** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—First Church called **Mike Harmon** as associate pastor of administration and education effective Sept. 1. He previously was associate pastor of education and senior adults at First Church of Princeton.

Campbellsville conference to explore Jesus' death, resurrection

Campbellsville—Exploring the theme, "The Death and Resurrection of Jesus in the Gospels of John," Campbellsville University will host its annual Pastors and Church Leaders Conference Sept. 22-23.

The two-day conference will be held in the Gheens Recital Hall of Campbellsville's Gosser Fine Arts Center.

Featured speakers are Alan Culpepper, founding dean of the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Atlanta, and Fred Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Noting that the conference will be "coupled with some excellent breakout sessions and worship services," John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external relations, said the event "will be a challenging time of learning and fellowship."

The conference will be divided into three sessions: Sept. 22, 3 p.m., "The Trial of Jesus"; Sept. 22, 8 p.m., "The Death of Jesus"; and Sept. 23, 10 a.m., "The Resurrection Appearances of Jesus."

Breakout sessions will be held

8 KBC Preaching Conference, Lancer Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.

14-15 Women On Mission/Baptist Nurses Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

15 KBC Preaching Conference, New Vision Baptist Church, Mayfield.

18 Celebrate Baptism, Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

22 KBC Preaching Conference, First Baptist Church, Junction City.

24-25 Senior Adult Choir Festival, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Big Creek Baptist Church, Hazard.

28-29 Regional Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association, Baptist Building, Louisville.

November

4-6 International Student Weekend, Cave City Convention Center

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

September

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

10 Super Saturday, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

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

19 Interfaith Conference, White Hall Baptist Church, Richmond.

20 Interfaith Conference, First Baptist Church, Fitzpatrick.

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 2, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

October

5-8 Reconciliation Networks of Our World, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Christian and patriotic neckties; retail value: \$12-\$15; your cost: \$6; great fundraiser; postage paid. Humor book: "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine" \$8. Men's suits: \$58.75. (606) 285-3051.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor of education and youth. Williamstown Baptist Church is a Southern Baptist purpose-driven church with a weekly attendance of 300-plus located in a growing Northern Kentucky town near Lexington and Cincinnati. Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, well organized and a creative team player who has an ability to relate to people of all ages on a personal and spiritual level. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's with related experience is a plus. Check us out at www.williamstownbaptist.com. Send or e-mail resumé by Sept. 9 to: Stephen C. Rice, 214 North Main Street, Williamstown, KY 41097. E-mail: srice@fuse.net. Telephone: (859) 824-4102.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and part-time minister of youth for First Baptist Church, Richmond, Mo. Anyone interested may send resumé to: Staff Selection Committee, First Baptist Church, 306 West Main, Richmond, MO 64085-1620; or e-mail to mkinnard@epsi.net.

SEEKING: Family nurse practitioner. Send resumé to Dr. Cora Withrow, Berea Health Ministry, 132 Mini Mall Drive, Berea, KY 40403.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students and children. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 670, Whitley City, KY 42653.

SEEKING: Youth intern (15 hours a week) at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Primary responsibilities include leading Bible study for middle school youth activities on Wednesday evenings and small-group Bible study on Sunday evenings. Intern will need to be available to lead retreats, participate in recreational activities and corporate worship. If interested, contact Tomara Brown at (502) 896-8882, or tbrown@smbclouisville.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education and music for Olivet Baptist Church. College graduate and seminary degree preferred; Baptist training required. Education responsibilities include development and implementation of comprehensive religious study based on Baptist theology. Music responsibilities include direction of blended music that enhances the worship experience. Olivet is a suburban church with an average SS attendance of 180. Please send resumé to Olivet Baptist Church, 5186 Hinkleville Road, Paducah, KY 42001. Resumés will be accepted until Oct. 15, 2005.

SEEKING: Pastor for Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, Ky. Job description can be found at www.petreymemorial.org. Resumés, tapes/videos should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701.

SEEKING: Part-time interim minister of music for Cecilia Baptist Church. Blended worship; services on Sunday mornings and evenings with adult choir practice on Wednesday evenings. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 416 East Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724.

SEEKING: Youth minister for First Baptist Church, Fermandina Beach, Fla., on Amelia Island. Located in a growing community with a deep history steeped in tradition, we are seeking a minister with a vision for the future and an appreciation of our past. Minimum requirement: seminary degree in youth ministry. Resumés to: Youth Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 416 Alachua St., Fermandina Beach, FL 32034.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister to build youth program in First Baptist Church, Vero Beach, Fla. (on the Atlantic Ocean 60 miles south of Cape Kennedy). Candidate should be energetic, able to relate well to all ages and willing to be involved in community activities. Send resumé to: Dr. Matt Parris, chairman, Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 2206 16th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and part-time youth minister for Temple Hill Baptist Church. Send resumé to Helen Crabtree, Search Committee chairman, 174 Siloam Road, Glasgow, KY 42141.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth for First Baptist Church, London. Please send resumé to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, 804 West Fifth St., London, KY 40741; or e-mail to: fb.london@alltel.net.

SEEKING: Part-time church pianist for Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Skills would include accompanying, improvisation and sight-reading for blended worship style. Contact: Chris Kihn, minister of worship & music, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222, or (502) 426-2444.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for FBC Shepherdsville (20 hours per week). Responsibilities include planning and leading Sunday worship, Wednesday night choir rehearsal, creation of new music groups and special music events. Contact: gary@shepfb.org.

SEEKING: Pastor for newly formed DeHaven Baptist Church in LaGrange, Ky. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, DeHaven Baptist Church, c/o Daniel Fendley, PO Box 349, LaGrange, KY 40031.

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.

Taizé founder stabbed to death during worship service

By Robert Marus
Associated Baptist Press

Taizé, France (ABP)—The legendary founder of a monastic community that united Christians from Anglican, Lutheran, Catholic and evangelical traditions was stabbed to death during a prayer service Aug. 16.

Brother Roger, leader of the Taizé Community in the French region of Burgundy, was 90. According to a statement on the group's Web site, he was attacked by a woman who was "probably mentally disturbed." She was in a crowd of about 2,500 people attending evening prayers in the monastery's Church of Reconciliation.

The monks, including Brother Roger, regularly worship in a central rectangular area of the sanctuary separated from other worshippers only by a low hedge, which the knife-wielding woman reportedly crossed before she slit Brother Roger's throat.

News reports said he died a few moments later, and the suspect was identified as a 36-year-old Romanian woman who had been trying to contact the monk. She is in custody, and French officials have charged her and ordered that she receive a psychiatric evaluation.

Brother Roger was born Roger Schutz in 1915, in Switzerland. His father was a Swiss Reformed pastor and his mother was a French Protestant.

His father encouraged the mystical side of his son's faith. As World War II was getting under way in 1940, the younger Schutz rode across the French border on a bicycle and chose the town of Taizé to establish a community designed to foster peace and reconciliation.

Brother Roger said he chose the location to express solidarity with the French, who at the time were subject to Nazi rule. Due to his activities during that time—including sheltering Jews in Taizé—German officials expelled him from France for a time.

After the war, he returned to Taizé, and the monastic community gained in notoriety. Its message of peace and reconciliation especially became popular with young people beginning in the 1960s. The community annually attracts 100,000 pilgrims. During the summer, the weekly retreat crowds can number 6,000, mostly young adults who camp out in the tiny town.

The Taizé monks' distinctive worship style—mostly original, meditative songs sung in repetitive fashion and reflecting many Christian traditions—has spread around the world. Many American churches, including some Baptists, use Taizé style for contemplative worship services.

'Chill Mobile'



STAYING COOL Students in Trussville, Ala., enjoy cold treats on a hot day thanks to the Chill Mobile of NorthPark Baptist Church. Church leaders bought the 1971 truck through eBay before renovating it for local use. (Photo by Erin Webster)

Church's ice cream truck helps connect with neighbors

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist
Trussville, Ala.—An Alabama church recently found a way to make evangelism a lot cooler. On the first day of class at Hewitt-Trussville Middle School, new teachers, new schedules and new fashions were the hot topics of the day. But the outside temperature was even hotter as the last bell rang.

Enter the Chill Mobile. Sirens wail, flashers blink, spinners spin and huge speakers visibly thump as the souped-up lime-green ice-cream truck—the brainchild of NorthPark Baptist Church in Trussville—parked within sight range of the school's front door.

Several church ministers, decked out in loud green shirts to match the truck, sat poised and ready at the truck's interior freezer, newly installed and loaded down with more than 1,000 servings of ice-cream sandwiches, brown cows and flavored popsicles.

Within minutes, they were mobbed by middle-schoolers.

"It's free? Really? What's the catch?" an eighth-grader shouted to Stan Albright, associate pastor of evangelism and missions for North-

Park Baptist, as Albright passed a popsicle out the truck window to a girl at the front of the line.

"It's always totally free," Albright replied.

"That's awesome!" he shouted back. "It's the coolest thing I've ever seen!"

"Always Totally Free," like Jesus

Spreading the word to the community and its schools is easy to do when the word is "free ice cream." Just ask Pastor Bill Wilks.

"Always Totally Free." That's the motto painted on the side of the truck. The phrase makes passersby scratch their heads and gives middle-schoolers a moment of pause to wonder who's doing this for them, and why.

But NorthPark members know why it's totally free. It's an outpouring of a deeper motto they cling to: "Serving Him by serving you."

"We want to show the community we're here to serve and show the love of Christ in practical ways so we can share Christ," Wilks said. "When we give the ice cream away with no strings attached and they ask why, we can say it's because the most important gift ever given to us—salvation through Christ—is

totally free to us."

The Chill Mobile recently began testing the waters in the church and the community, and it's getting nothing but rave reviews—church members can't wait to be on the truck's crew, and area residents can't line up fast enough for free ice cream.

The first few trips were to a community festival, the middle school's first day of class and football practices at area schools—an idea preapproved and applauded by the coaches.

The final kinks still are being worked out of the engine and body of the Chill Mobile, a 1971 ice cream truck bought through eBay and shipped to Trussville from Chicago.

But it's hoped that soon—and definitely by next summer—the Chill Mobile will work up to running daily routes in the area communities with three-person teams trained in safety and personal evangelism.

"We want to be good neighbors, have an influence in the community and be a ministry people can trust," Albright said. "It's offered us unusual opportunities to share our faith in Christ."

Three Baptist colleges ranked among Princeton's 'most religious'

Princeton, N.J. (RNS)—Three Baptist colleges have been listed among this year's "Most Religious Campuses," as ranked by The Princeton Review.

Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, the Mecca of Mormon higher education, was rated the nation's most religious university. Perhaps not surprisingly, BYU also was dubbed the "most stone-cold sober" campus in the country.

Baptist schools making the top 20 this year were: Samford University (fifth) in Birmingham, Ala.; Baylor University (10th) in Waco, Texas;

and Furman University (15th) in Greenville, S.C.

The Princeton Review rates everything on college campuses from best academics to worst food. Their ratings are based on student responses to a 70-question survey at 361 colleges and universities. The rankings for campus religious climate was calculated from a five-point scale based on students' answers to the statement, "Students are very religious."

Experts say the college experience has a dramatic impact on student spirituality. An ongoing

\$1.9 million study at the University of California-Los Angeles has shown that most students have found few outlets on campus to foster their spiritual development.

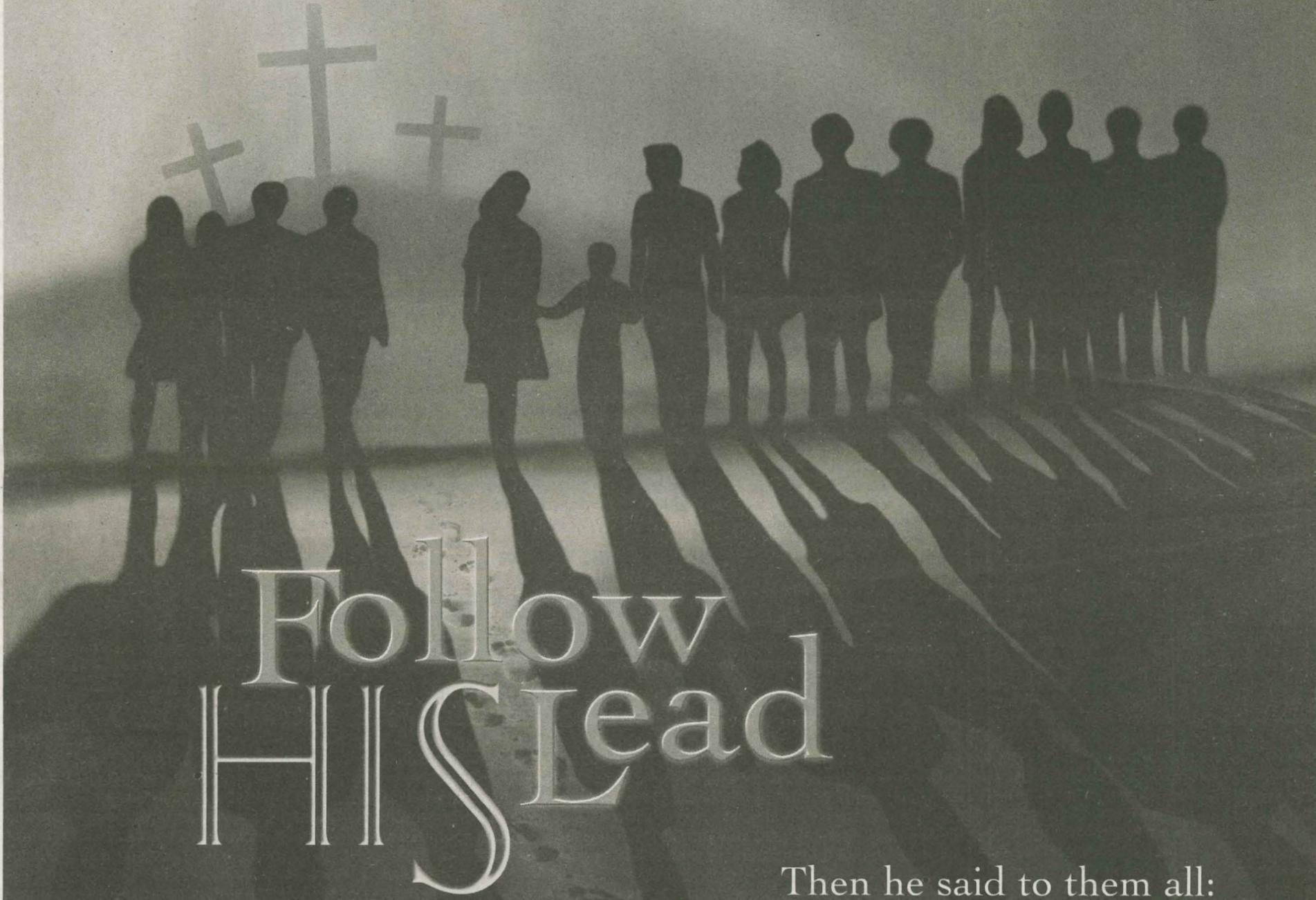
The UCLA surveys also found, for example, that regular attendance at worship services drops from 52 percent for freshmen to 29 percent for juniors.

In addition to Brigham Young and Samford, the top five included Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.; Grove City College in Grove City, Pa.; and Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind.

"We want to show the community we're here to serve and show the love of Christ in practical ways so we can share Christ."

Bill Wilks, pastor of NorthPark Baptist Church in Trussville, Ala.

2005 SEASON
of PRAYER for
State Missions &
Eliza Broadus Offering



Follow
HIS Lead

GOALS

Basic: \$925,000

Challenge: \$75,000 (for New Work, Special
Ministries & Cedar Crest)

Total Offering: \$1,000,000

Then he said to them all:
*"If anyone would come after me,
he must deny himself and take up his
cross daily and follow me."*

Luke 9:23 (NIV)

Kentucky Woman's
Missionary Union

