



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Kentucky

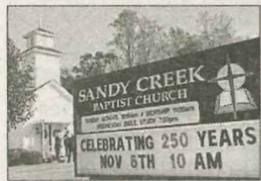
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Report finds TV sex scenes double since '98

Washington (BP)—The number of sexual scenes on television has nearly doubled since 1998, according to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, which also found that 70 percent of all shows include some sexual content, up from 56 percent seven years ago.

The study, called "Sex on TV 4," also found that one in nine prime-time network shows with sex include a reference for risks or responsibilities, which observers say is helpful but leaves plenty of room for improvement.

"Given how high the stakes are, the messages TV sends teens about sex are important," said Vicky Rideout, who oversaw the study. "Television has the power to bring issues of sexual risk and responsibility to life in a way that no sex ed class or public health brochure really can."

Researchers examined more than 1,000 hours of programming, measuring all sexual content, including talk about sex and sexual behavior.

Among the findings:

■ Sex is more common during prime-time hours with nearly eight in 10 shows including sexual content, averaging 5.9 sexual scenes per hour.

■ Two-thirds of all shows include talk about sex and 35 percent of all shows include sexual behaviors.

■ Among the 20 most highly viewed shows for teens, just 10 percent of those with sexual content include a reference to sexual risks or responsibilities.

Wave of hope

When call for help came, missionary wouldn't say no

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

Khao Lak, Thailand—Sunset paints a glorious reddish glow across the placid water lapping the beach at Khao Lak, Thailand.

The view calms the mind, quiets the heart—and packs the tourists at posh resorts.

Used to pack them in, that is, before the tsunami roared ashore last December.



That all peoples may know Him

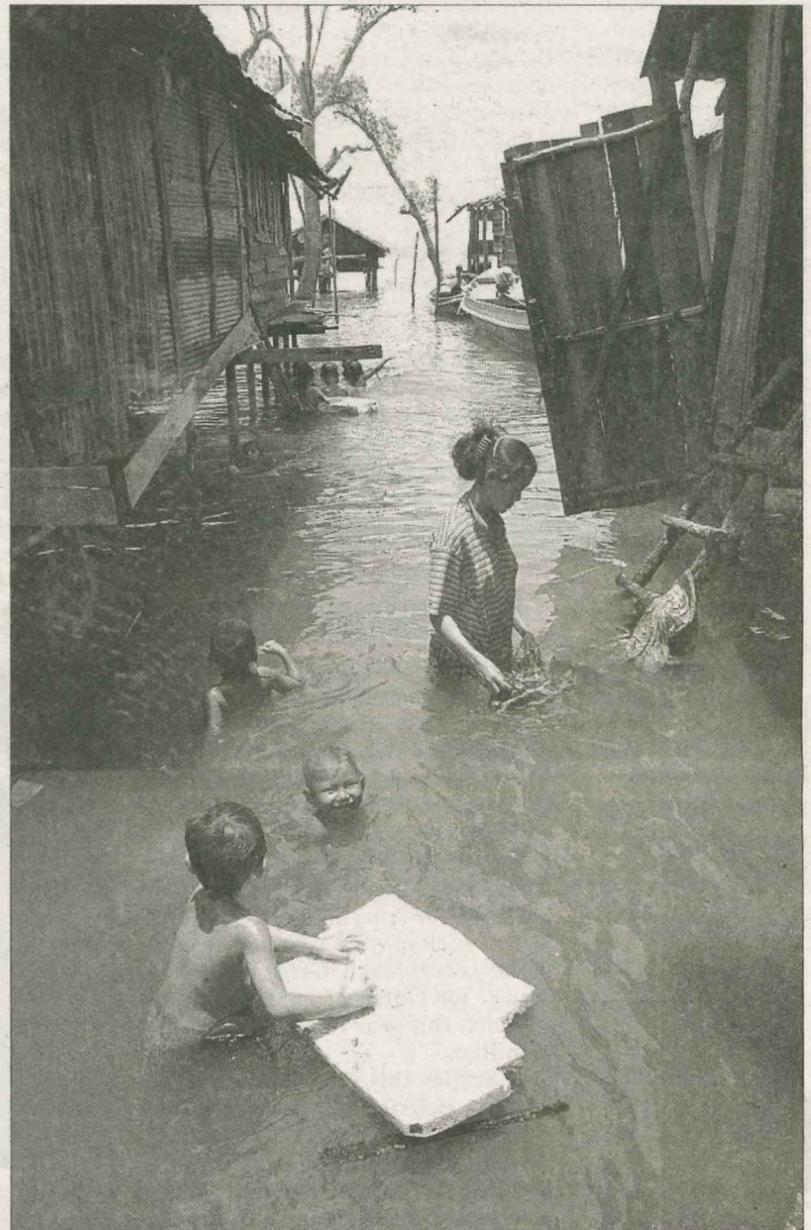
"It's hard to believe an ocean that beautiful could cause so much destruction," says missionary Mark Caldwell, gazing wistfully toward the horizon.

But destroy it did. Looking inland, Caldwell it did. Within walking distance of the places where at least 1,000 bodies were recovered after the Indian Ocean tsunami thundered north into the Andaman Sea—and laid waste to this stretch of Thailand's southern coastline.

Rebuilding continues to work ahead in the beach resort areas. But in the coastal town of Khao Lak, where the torrent destroyed eight of every 10 buildings, recovery proceeds more slowly. "They're going to be finding body parts around here for a long time," a relief worker says.

But Caldwell came to help the living—not just to rebuild their houses and fishing boats, but to find new hope for the future.

□ See Missionary provides ... *Page 2*



WATER WORLD Children play in their "front yards" after the tide comes in to a seaside "Sea Gypsy" village in southern Thailand. Already poor, the village faced starvation when the tsunami of 2004 destroyed their fishing boats. Missionary Mark Caldwell and local Christians brought help and the love of Christ. (IMB photo)

Bowling Green-area Baptists form relief team for local work

By Rachel Adams
Bowling Green Daily News

Bowling Green—The roar of chain-saws and the crackle of a brush fire cut through the quiet morning on Nov. 17 as more than a dozen Warren Baptist Association members worked to clear Vyron Adamson's property on Wren Road.

Adamson, who's disabled and legally blind, sat on the tailgate of a nearby truck as men and women bustled through his tornado-ravaged yard, trimming damaged trees and dragging the limbs to the fire in Adamson's back yard.

"I love each one of them, and I'd like to thank them all for the help," he said. "That's what Christians are supposed to do."

A few months ago, a group of Warren Association volunteers decided they would like to create and train their own disaster relief

team in case a disaster of Katrina-like proportions ever struck Warren County.

Although members of the association have traveled to the Gulf Coast in the wake of August's hurricane, this response in Warren County was the first time their white trailer—emblazoned with a large cross—had been used locally.

"We just want something to help people," said Ted Pemberton, who helped organize the work session. "Katrinas don't always hit in Mississippi and Louisiana. Sometimes they happen here."

Inside the trailer are the tools of the trade: chainsaws, air compressors, ladders, generators. "All the goodies you need to clean up," Pemberton said.

The Nov. 15 tornado felled eight trees in Adamson's yard and blew

□ See Bowling Green ... *Page 3*



HELPING HAND Tim Embertron (left) and Bill Patterson, both of Rich Pond Baptist Church, talk as they walk past the Warren Baptist Association disaster relief trailer. They were among the many Bowling Green-area Baptists helping residents in the Rich Pond and Rockfield areas clean up storm damage. (Bowling Green Daily News photo by Joe Imel)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, November 30

Lottie Moon lobbied for more missionaries & money

Week of prayer missionaries

Eight missionary couples and individuals are spotlighted during the Week of Prayer for International Missions, Dec. 4-11.

The week of prayer and Southern Baptist International Missions Study coincide with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, which this year has a goal of \$150 million.

The missionaries profiled during this year's week of prayer are:

■ Marty Hunter*, who works among the Lingayat people group of India.

■ Mark Caldwell, who coordinates relief and Christian ministries for tsunami victims in Thailand.

■ Percy "Boots" Holder, a strategy coordinator for unreached people groups in northern Peru.

■ Lori Funderburk, leader of a "virtual missions team" of researchers and prayer warriors for the Banta Themne people group of West Africa.

■ Oliver Graham*, a strategy coordinator for evangelism church starting in a city in China.

■ Mike and Molly Turner*, strategy coordinators for a mega-city in North Africa.

■ Daniel Peters*, a missions and evangelism strategist in Madrid, Spain.

■ Carter Bolin*, a missionary strategy coordinator for reaching Muslims in West Bengal, India.

Look for stories about these missionaries in upcoming editions of the Western Recorder or visit www.imb.org.

*Pseudonyms are being used for some missionaries for security reasons.

By Jesse Lyautey
SBC International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—One woman saw a need for more missionaries and more resources to reach the lost for Christ.

Because of her urgent desire to tell all of China about Jesus Christ, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was launched more than a century ago.

Today, thousands of missionaries depend on Southern Baptists' gifts to continue sharing God's love worldwide.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was named after Charlotte "Lottie" Diggs Moon, a legendary missionary to China who was born in 1840. Moon wrote hundreds of letters encouraging people in the United States to become missionaries. She pleaded for more personnel, more money and better training and support for missionaries.

Moon's letters caused many controversies. She wrote passionately about missionary needs and loneliness, women's freedoms in missions and the need for more church involvement.

In the first national offering in 1888, the Woman's Missionary Union raised \$3,315.26 for overseas missionaries. Their goal had been \$2,000. Moon had wanted another single woman to help with the mission in China. The offering was enough to send three women to help Moon.



Lottie Moon

Moon served in China until her health declined in 1912. During the famine that year, Moon gave everything she had to help others and left nothing for herself. She had stopped eating and died in Kobe, Japan, Dec. 24, 1912, on her way home.

Because of her willingness to live and to sacrifice for Christ, she has inspired thousands of men and women to become missionaries. Through the years, Southern Baptists have given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supporting the thousands of missionaries serving worldwide.

Today, more than 5,000 missionaries are supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. From its humble beginnings of more than \$3,000, the offering has grown into a \$150 million partnership between

Southern Baptists and missionaries all around the world.

Moon's legacy has helped missionaries around the globe. The offering supports missionaries and mission efforts worldwide, from church starting in China to relief ministries in areas devastated by last December's tsunami and more recent earthquakes in Pakistan.

A variety of resources are available to help churches with the 2005 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:

■ The International Mission Board has sent each church a pastor's guide and a missions leader's guide, which include an interactive CD and video on DVD.

■ Videos, photos, sermon outlines and PowerPoint presentations are available for download at www.imb.org.

■ The Week of Prayer brochure and poster and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering envelopes are distributed to churches by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union state offices. For more information, call toll-free (866) 489-3534.

■ The International Mission Study is sold through WMU and LifeWay Christian Bookstores. This year's study is on India.

Missionary provides hope to Thai villages struck by Tsunami

Continued from page 1

He's a Southern Baptist missionary strategy coordinator "on loan" from his work among the 18 million Isaan people of northeastern Thailand.

He also is among the missionaries profiled this year for the International Mission Board's Week of Prayer for International Missions. The week of prayer coincides with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, which this year has a goal of \$150 million.

Earlier this year, Mark and his wife, Helen, had just returned from United States assignment when the urgent call came: Would they coordinate tsunami relief ministry in Thailand's southern region for up to six months?

They hadn't even unpacked. The Isaan work demanded attention. The Caldwells hesitated briefly, then accepted the temporary job. Why?

"I've always rooted for the underdog," Mark says. "I've always been interested in helping folks who are down and out, and I like to bring people together."

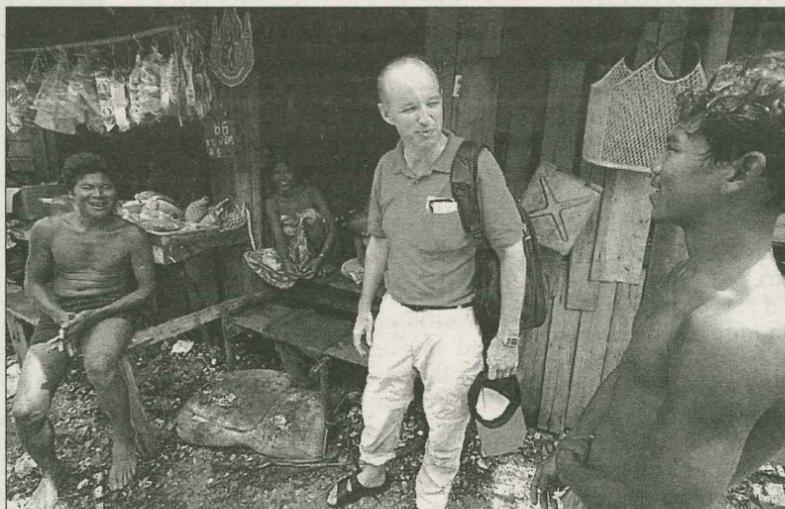
"Underdog" applies to the Isaan, a historically oppressed people the Caldwells first encountered in their previous assignment planting churches in Bangkok.

It definitely applies to many of southern Thailand's tsunami survivors.

5,000 in temporary camps

In the Khao Lak area, approximately 5,000 people still live in temporary camps. Most lost their homes—and their livelihoods—to the tsunami.

Mark and several missionary colleagues have coordinated Southern Baptist volunteer groups delivering food to camp residents. They've provided aid for Thais



HELP & HOPE Mark Caldwell talks to Mogen villagers in an island village off Thailand's southern coast. Already poor, the villagers lost their fishing boats when the tsunami wave roared ashore. With Southern Baptist tsunami relief funds, Caldwell and a local Thai pastor helped the villagers replace their boats and get back to work.

to rebuild homes and build new fishing boats so they can get back to work. They've committed to rebuild two schools in the region.

But Mark brings his strategy coordinator mindset to bear on a greater challenge: What will it take to see church-planting movements, led by Thai believers, spread across southern Thailand?

When the tsunami hit, one Southern Baptist missionary couple was living in the region—home to 5 million people.

Only one Baptist church exists in the six coastal provinces most affected by the tsunami. As in the rest of Thailand, less than 1 percent of the population is Christian. The vast majority of the people see Christianity as a Western, white man's religion.

American volunteers have put a compassionate Christian face on relief efforts.

"But the real goal is to get Thai Christians involved and out front," Mark says. "That breaks down the

barrier that to be a Thai, you are a Buddhist."

Or a Muslim, or an animist, like many of the fishermen who live along the Thai coast.

Reaching "sea gypsies"

To that end, Mark looks for Thai believers to aid and encourage, such as Sian Buaket, a pastor in the coastal city of Ranong. Pastor Sian had longed for years to reach out to the Mogen people—commonly known as "sea gypsies"—living on nearby islands dotting the coastline. But he lacked the opportunity and the resources.

The tsunami provided both.

Some of Sian's church youth went out fishing not long after the tsunami. They came upon a Mogen fishing village on an island not far from Ranong and learned of the villagers' plight. Talk about underdogs: Citizens of neither Thailand nor neighboring Myanmar (Burma), the Mogen are accustomed to poverty, discrimination and exploi-

tation by criminal "godfathers" in the fishing industry.

When the tsunami came, the Mogen villagers ran to higher ground. They returned to find their long fishing boats on the shore—battered to kindling wood. Local authorities provided a few bags of rice. When villagers appealed for more aid, they were denied and told they were not Thai citizens.

Without fishing boats or the money to buy new ones, they faced starvation. Some of the villagers went to coastal cities to look for work, or beg.

Pastor Sian and his people began taking food to the village. Young people began visiting to tell the Mogen children about Jesus. Church members started an open-air school to teach Mogen adults to read. With Mark's help—and tsunami aid funds from Southern Baptists—Sian has helped the villagers buy boats.

"We're better fishermen than the Thai," a village leader proudly claims. "We'll survive. We just needed our boats back."

But they needed something more: Jesus Christ.

The Mogen villagers had long lived with no faith besides animism—and a fear of evil spirits. When family members died, they were taken to another island for burial. Loved ones grieved without hope.

That's all changing.

"We were like an empty glass; now it is full," the village leader says. "The tsunami was a tragedy, but for us it brought new hope. If it had never come, we wouldn't know about Jesus."

Many have decided to follow Jesus.

"They want hope," Mark says. "Who's going to share it with them?"

"The tsunami was a tragedy, but for us it brought new hope. If it had never come, we wouldn't know about Jesus."

Thai village leader

Chitwood names chairs to 2006 KBC committees

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Convention President Paul Chitwood has named the following people to chair KBC committees:

Committee on Arrangements. Farrell Isenberg, pastor of Crosspointe Baptist Church, Owensboro.

Committee on Committees. John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

Committee on Constitution & Bylaws. Scott Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

Committee on Credentials. Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church, Ashland.

Committee on Nominations. Don Mathis, evangelist and member of Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

Committee on Order of Business. Linda Polley, business administrator at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

Committee on Public Affairs. John Chowning, pastor of Saloma Baptist Church, Campbellsville.

Committee on Resolutions. Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

Chitwood also appointed the following people to chair KBC Mission Board committees:

Administrative. Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

Agencies & Institutions. Joe Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, Russell Springs.

Business & Finance. Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.

Church Development & Evangelism. Randy Johnson, pastor of Columbia Baptist Church.

Leadership Development. Richard Gaines, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church, Lexington.

Missions Growth. Pat Reaves, a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville.

Nominating. Tom Hughes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Princeton.

Resource Development & Communications. Chad Fugitt, pastor of Chaplin Baptist Church.

Pastor pleads guilty to tax evasion

By Kevin Eigelbach & Stephenie Steitzer
Cincinnati Post

Cincinnati—Two years ago, things looked great for Larry Davis. He served as the pastor of one of Northern Kentucky's largest and fastest growing congregations, First Baptist Church of Cold Spring.

He had a congregation of about 1,500 people, most of whom revered him and marveled at his sermons.

A year earlier, he had led the widely praised effort to bring Billy Graham to Cincinnati for a four-day mission that resulted in thousands of tri-state residents committing their lives to Christ.

Now, Davis is headed for prison.

In a deal with prosecutors, Davis pleaded guilty last month to federal charges that he lied on a loan application and evaded paying taxes. Five other charges were dismissed.

According to the plea agreement that Davis signed, from 2000 and 2003, he stole \$500,000 to \$730,000 from church accounts he controlled.

"It's a sad thing, but some people just can't stand up to the reality of honesty all their lives," said Bob Hinant of Fort Wright, who left the church when allegations against Davis first came to light.

"Sometimes, even the strongest runner stumbles and falls," he said.

Davis resigns as pastor

Davis faces 24 to 30 months in prison when he is sentenced Feb. 17. He will remain free on bond until then. Davis resigned from the church Oct. 19, church member Don Willig said.

An associate pastor and other ministers have been leading services since Davis's plea agreement. Willig said the church will form a pulpit committee to seek a new pastor.

"If there is a message in this that the community needs to understand, it is that the church is alive and will go on," Willig said.

For most of his 20-year tenure at First Baptist, Davis enjoyed enthusiastic support from his congregation. Members often tell of his personal touch and his willingness to drive great distances to comfort them in times of need.

For several hundred members, that support changed after January 2004, when Fifth Third Bank brought irregularities in church finances to the attention of the congregation's then-treasurer, Dar-

ryl Neltner.

The deacons confronted Davis, and asked him to take a leave with pay while they investigated.

Instead, Davis supporters ousted the deacons at a contentious congregational meeting.

The controversy split the church, and to this date some family members don't talk to each other because of it, said former member and current Cold Spring City Council Member Stuart Oehrle.

About 300 former members, including Hinant, left and formed Christ Baptist Church, also in Cold Spring.

One of them, Larry Everman, said he's glad to see the controversy with Davis come to an end.

"The folks who have left and the folks who are still there are doing their very best to get along with each other," he said. "Hopefully, this will bring it to an end and help heal some wounds."

The two counts Davis pleaded to were the ones with the most severe penalties, U.S. Attorney Gregory Van Tatenhove said.

Davis admitted in his plea that he lied to Fifth Third Bank to get money for church construction and, through church bank accounts he controlled, diverted money to himself.

According to the plea agreement, Davis submitted a letter to the bank—purporting to be a church resolution—that authorized him to borrow another \$500,000 for construction of a new church sanctuary.

Davis created the letter without authorization from the church and then forged the signature on it of one of the church's long-standing members.

Documents he submitted with the application showed that the church owed money to contractors, but several on the list actually had been paid in full. And one listed, Art Partin Trucking, which Davis claimed was owned \$60,583, had not even worked on the project.

A month after the scandal broke, Davis's attorney at the time, Jim Morgan, said the pastor never had stolen money from the church and never would. He told reporters Davis had given him a "reasonable explanation" for the missing funds.

"He will defend himself and provide an appropriate explanation at the right time," Morgan said at the time.

The plea deal makes clear something that former members have often said, that Davis controlled most of the church's bank accounts, investment accounts and credit cards.

Letting him have that control was a mistake, Hinant said.

"You don't turn over control of finances to an employee. Everything should go through two or three hands before it's disbursed."

In addition to the count of filing false documents, Davis pleaded guilty to evading taxes from 2000 to 2003. The income tax due is \$150,000 to \$199,000.

U.S. District Judge David Bunning, who approved the deal, told Davis to cooperate with IRS officials to clear up his tax bill.

In addition to a prison sentence, Davis faces paying his back taxes, penalties and interest and restitution to the bank if it is determined it lost money. Bunning also can impose a fine on Davis.

Bunning said during the hearing that the agreement was a result of "months" of negotiations between the U.S. attorney and Davis' attorney, Patrick Hanley of Covington.

No more indictments expected

Van Tatenhove would not comment on whether the investigation was officially closed, but he said he doesn't anticipate any more indictments against Davis.

Bunning accepted Davis' guilty plea after peppering him with questions to make sure the pastor understood the terms of the agreement. At one point, he asked Davis whether he made ATM withdrawals from a church account at local racetracks.

Davis replied, "Yes, sir."

Church records had also showed money from accounts Davis controlled being spent at Internet gambling sites.

Neither Davis nor Hanley would comment after the hearing.

The pastor was indicted in June on charges of theft, fraud and tax evasion. His trial was set to begin Nov. 14.

"I think he did the right thing by pleading guilty," said Janet McGarigle, a former church member now living in the San Diego area. "That was the best thing for everybody."

Condensed from Cincinnati Post article with additional reporting by Cincinnati Post reporter Peggy Kreimer. Reprinted with permission.

According to the plea agreement that Larry Davis signed, from 2000 and 2003, he stole \$500,000 to \$730,000 from church accounts he controlled.

Bowling Green Baptist disaster relief volunteers serve local tornado victims

Continued from page 1

the roof off his back porch. "It's just a big mess, more or less," he said.

He, his wife, daughter and grandson were in the house when the tornado sirens began to wail, he said, but all was calm then. When the wind came, it blew the French doors on his porch wide open and a wave of rain gushed into the house.

"It didn't last probably 15 minutes," he said. "It just hit and was gone. I'm lucky. I felt pretty bad after it happened, until I drove around and saw what my neighbors got."

Michael Welch, pastor of White Stone Quarry Baptist Church, heard Adamson, a member there, needed

help. Welch called Pemberton to see what could be done, and soon the group of volunteers was organized.

They continued to work through the weekend, helping others recover from the tornado, Welch said, and are available anytime to help anyone—regardless of whether they're of the Baptist faith or whether they observe a faith at all.

The Warren Association volunteers' first foray into local disaster relief went well, Pemberton said as the workers started wrapping up around 11 a.m.

"It's going great," he said. "When you've got a lot of people, things go good and fast."

Christians are mandated by the

Bible to show compassion to everyone, said Ricky Patterson, who, along with Pemberton, coordinated the Nov. 17 effort. Everyone has different talents and gifts for ministry, he said. The disaster relief team has a knack for showing the love of Christ through physical actions.

"Sometimes the best words you can do are actions," he said.

That's what the organization is all about, Pemberton said, sharing the love Christians have in their hearts.

"God loves us and we're supposed to love everybody," he said. "That's what we're trying to do."

Reprinted with permission of the Bowling Green Daily News



TORNADO RELIEF Ricky Patterson, a member of Bethany Baptist Church, throws debris on a fire. Volunteers with Warren Baptist Association helped residents whose homes were damaged by the Nov. 15 tornado. (Bowling Green Daily News Photo by Joe Imel)

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Words of appreciation

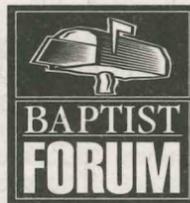
How can one express appreciation to so many who worked so diligently to make the 2005 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference a blessing to so many?

Let me begin by saying that Kentucky Baptists are very gracious to allow a bivocational pastor of a small, rural church to serve as president of the Pastors' Conference. I count it a great honor and privilege to have had this opportunity, but I could not have done this alone. While the focus was on One, Jesus, it was an effort of many.

Indeed, the preaching was tremendous so I would like to thank Dr. Robert Pitman, Dr. Russell Moore, Dr. Kevin Ezell, Dr. Thurmond Coleman, Dr. Paul Chitwood and Dr. Bobby Welch for taking the time to allow God to minister to us through them.

There are many others who God used to make this all come together, some known and others unknown. Many thanks to Dr. Bill Mackey, Rob-

ert Reeves, Larry Brannin and many unnamed staff and personnel at the KBC office. These were responsible for communications, promotion, graphics and sound for the conference and each was outstanding.



ert Mackey expressed a desire that all pastors and churches in Kentucky would know that the KBC staff are a team to serve Kentucky Baptists.

In conjunction with the KBC staff, the Western Recorder was gracious to publish an article that promoted the conference along with the ads for the KBC annual meeting, which included information about the conference.

Finally, I cannot say enough about the wonderful music provided by the music ministry of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. Steve Florence and the entire team thrilled our souls and prepared our hearts to hear the preaching of the wonderful Word of God.

Thanks to all.

Robert Tarrence
Lewisburg

Where have true friendships gone?

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—Where have true, God-purposed "friends" gone in this day of ours?

Most of us start out seeking godly, true friends to walk with us over the stormy times, the pressured times and even our failures. But somewhere in our life experiences "true friends" seem harder and harder to find—and keep. Circumstances change and real, or perceived, pressures on our friends lead them to think of their own best interests instead of ours. They then tend to leave us alone, taking sides with others and protecting themselves, becoming afraid to keep deeply identifying with us.

God, revealed in His Word, set the standard for friendship. I must know what God intended and

choose to develop my character so I can be a true friend to others who seek me out to be their friend.

FIRST PERSON

There is always a cost involved in friendship. But God intends for one to be a friend "at all times." And a friend is truly "born for adversity."

Jesus would say to those who said they wanted to be His friend: "Count the cost ahead of time" (Luke 14:25-33). A friend identifies fully with another, at all times. So you must choose carefully those you would befriend. To honor God, you must remain a friend.

In the Bible, friendship is clearly seen. David had Jonathan as a friend. Jeremiah had Baruch. Moses had Joshua. All were true friends through good times and bad times. Often the cost of being a friend

Great missions leadership

Leitchfield Crossing Baptist Church in Munfordville has a great story of missions leadership by the pastor and lay leaders. The church was established in 1892 and has an average attendance of 35 in Sunday school and 55 in worship.

The church began its Woman's Missionary Union program just last year. This has made a tremendous difference in the life of this church both in giving to missions and in direct ministry.

The church gave more than \$3,000 for its first Lottie-Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions last year. The strong missions giving continued in the spring with an Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions that exceeded \$1,200. And this September, the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions was about \$675.

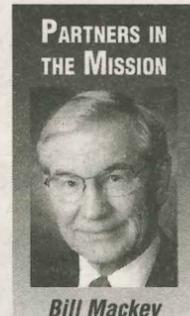
In addition, this church gives 14 percent of its undesignated receipts to state and world missions through the Cooperative Program. The Sunday I was present, the church was re-

ceiving the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children offering as well.

Due to Pastor Frankie Melton's personal relationship with a pastor in Moldova and a young pastor who has started a church in Bulgaria, the church also is involved in helping these pastors. Members give \$1 per week to help these pastors in their ministries.

The church's missions involvement is not limited to giving, however. The WMU, under the leadership of Diana Rose, has conducted a mission trip to Oneida Baptist Institute, distributed fliers for the church revival and prepared weekly hot meals for some young men who live in a small motel across the street from the church.

The church also is working to prepare others for the gospel ministry. The day I attended, two young men were licensed to preach. Director of Missions Gordon McDowell prayed powerfully for the young ministers to remain true to their calling from God.



Peacemaking needed

There will be no winners in Iraq. Everyone, including the United States, loses.

It was a huge mistake to go there in the first place. We are now entangled in the Middle East's cycle-of-violence web—an eye for an eye—that is unending if military solutions are our only hope.

Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, would have us turn our weapons into farming implements, feed a hungry world and out-love our enemies.

Was Jesus naive? Is our trust in God or in our wealth and military might?

We need leaders who are moved to offer the world Christ-like peacemaking initiatives.

Paul L. Whiteley Sr.
Louisville

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

threatened their very lives, but they remained true to each other.

In our day most people are seeking one true friend. It has been said if you can have one true friend in your lifetime you will be most blessed. It is time for each of us to re-think friendship, and set our hearts to be a true friend to others. In Paul's life, they are called "companions"—deeply involved and carrying the burdens of Paul, even into prison. Barnabas was Paul's first true friend given to him by God.

Remember what Jesus said, in terms of a friend: "How you receive the one I send you, you are receiving me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me" (John 13:20).

In the workplace you need a friend, and you need to be a friend.

Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," is president of Blackaby Ministries International in Atlanta

Melton became pastor 18 months ago while completing his master of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is now in the Ph.D. degree program with a major in preaching. It is obvious that the church is impressed with his leadership and preaching ability.

"That All Peoples May Know Him" is the theme for the Week of Prayer for International Missions, Dec. 4-11. The focus is on South Asia, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and smaller countries with a total population of 1.45 billion lost people.

I am grateful for the support of 5,238 missionaries who are supported through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Working with partners and church planting movements, SBC international missionaries reported 607,132 baptisms and starting 21,028 churches last year.

I praise God for churches like Leitchfield Crossing that have discovered the joy of missions support and involvement.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

There are 3 basic types of investors: Which are you?

By Don Spencer

People, as investors, generally can be categorized into three groups: savers, investors and traders.



Savers pick an investment and stick with it, wanting stability and safety.

Often, savers are either unaware or unconcerned about the impact of inflation on their investment.

They view both investors and traders as "gamblers." They often perceive a successful investor as a trader. Uncomfortable with this approach, they retreat to their safety net, investing conservatively and avoiding risk. It's not uncommon for a saver to simply purchase a CD at his or her bank. Considering other investment options is out of the question and they are not even concerned about shopping around for the best CD rates. Familiarity, safety and stability are more important.

Investors have some understanding of the risk vs. reward connection in investing. They are willing to take a reasonable risk to increase earnings.

An investor is not overly concerned about short-term losses, anticipating a greater reward in the long term. Investors tend to view both other types as naive—the saver in taking too little risk and the trader in taking excessive risk.

Market volatility in recent years has caused some investors to question whether they are to some degree really savers. Others, while not happy with huge losses they experienced in some recent years, are true investors. They are in it for the long term and will ride it out, even if they feel a little apprehensive.

Traders enjoy the "game" of investing, using market timing and making frequent changes in their portfolio. They are comfortable with risk and volatility in investments.

Enjoying the challenge of trying to "beat the market," they thrive emotionally at their successes even if they often are wrong. Traders tend to view the other two types as ignorant and naive in the modern information age.

There is no "right" or "wrong" investment strategy. God created us as unique individuals. Make sure your investments are compatible with who you are as an individual and with your overall investment goals.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

How can parents help children keep Christmas focus on Jesus?

Q: As Christmas approaches, how can I help my kids focus more on Jesus Christ than Santa Claus?

Many Christian parents look for ways to celebrate Christmas that are fun for children, but that keep the focus on the birth of Jesus. Many have trouble figuring out where Santa fits into the picture. In his newsletter Context, church historian Martin Marty calls attention to a resource that will help address the issue while adding meaning to the celebration of Christmas.

The Web site www.stnicholascenter.org explores the story of St. Nicholas, the historical figure on whom Santa Claus is based. Subtitled "Discovering the Truth about Santa Claus," the site offers a variety of information, activities and resources that all ages will find interesting and helpful. Here children and parents can discover the true story of St. Nicholas, gift giver, bishop and saint; celebrate his life as a man of compassion, justice and faith; and embrace the Christmas season as a time of joyful giving focused on the Christ Child.

"Around the World" tells how other countries and cultures celebrate the tradition of St. Nicholas. "How to Celebrate" gives ideas for use at home, school and church, including music, stories, recipes, crafts, worship orders and Scriptures. A special "For Kids" section includes online games, puzzles and craft ideas.

Parents and teachers who visit the site will find plenty of educational and fun activities that will help preserve the magic of Christmas for children while keeping the focus squarely on the birth of Jesus.—David Garrard

Q: My husband recently died after a brief illness. Our family has been out of church for several years. How can my daughter and I move on from here?

Celebrate the life you and your husband shared. Reflect on the good things about your husband that can be remembered and cherished. Your daughter needs to know what positive legacy was there for her to follow.

Connect with other widows and widowers. Your church or community likely has a support system for those who have lost a spouse. It is much easier to work through your grief when you are surrounded by people who understand.

Reconnect with a church. God is your ultimate source of strength, and He is represented by His people gathered in a local congregation. Allow them to be there for you. As it says in the book of James, "Pure religion is this: to care for widows and orphans in their distress."

Grieve. Let waves of grief come. Know that in three to seven months after your spouse's death, you likely will experience a new wave of grief. Be willing to say "no" to things you no longer have the energy to pursue. Do special things in remembrance of the one who is gone.

Come to terms with a new reality: You are now a single parent. Seek out single parent resources in your church and community. Parenting need not be done alone. The church and community can network with you in many ways to help make the experience a success.

Know that God is the ultimate Father. He will not leave you comfortless. He will hold up your child and get you through "the valley of the shadow."

Allow yourselves moments of joy as well as grief. Your departed loved one would want you to be happy without unnecessary guilt.

Invest in the new partnership you have with your child. Treasure the moments and the days. Communicate. Talk about which church you both would be comfortable attending. Pray for God's leadership. Regain the resources you might have neglected in the past.

God will never leave you nor forsake you. Connect with God and God's people. You will be glad you did.—James Stillwell

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



Don't forget to tell good news of Christ

As Kentucky Baptists move from the state convention to the Christmas season, the two annual events actually have several things in common.

Just as Kentucky Baptists gather each November to celebrate what God is accomplishing in our midst, Christians around the world rejoice each December over the incredible miracle God performed through the birth of His Son Jesus on that first Christmas morning. We also joyfully celebrate the spiritual miracles He continues to perform in each person's life who accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Kentucky Baptists' primary ministry focus these days is "Kentucky Baptists Connect," a five-year emphasis aimed at "connecting all people to Jesus Christ" through evangelism, missions, leader training, strengthening churches and other vital goals.

At the heart of Kentucky Baptists Connect is the goal of Kentucky Baptist congregations baptizing an average of 25,000 new believers each year throughout the five-year effort.

"Our Best for God's Best," a related effort that highlights each church's top baptism total of the past 10 years, reveals that if each congregation matched its best mark in the same year, Kentucky Baptist baptisms could top 40,000.

What do baptism goals have to do with celebrating Christmas? Both involve telling the good news of Jesus Christ. Among the many Scripture passages that highlight good news are:

Proverbs 15:30, "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones."

Proverbs 25:25, "Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."

Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good

news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners."

Luke 2:8-11, "And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"

Acts 8:12, "But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

As you gather with family and friends this Christmas season to celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth, allow the festivities to be a timely reminder of the urgency of sharing the good news of Christ's birth, earthly ministry, death and resurrection with those who never have personally experienced the good news of eternal salvation.

Kentucky Baptists Connect doesn't need to take a back seat during the month of December. Whether you're sending Christmas greetings to loved ones across the miles, performing a Christmas cantata or pageant in your community or reaching out to those in need of food, clothing or other necessities, make certain that your Christmas activities include clearly communicating the primary reason for our holiday celebration—the good news of God's perfect Christmas gift: the birth of His Son Jesus Christ.

As you celebrate this joyous season, don't forget to tell the good news.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Tannis Henderson

Honesty—it even works in business

By Howard Dayton

Gainesville, Ga. (BP)—Is it possible for a Christian to be totally honest in his or her business practices?

For example, a businessman told me that when he is negotiating for a sale, it is everyday strategy for the seller to start with a price higher than desired, knowing that the buyer starts with a price lower than would be acceptable. That's a common practice, but he wanted to know if it was honest.

Well, the question is important, and there are some guidelines that can help. We always should be aware of how much our value system is clearly evident in the way we handle our money. And we need to recognize that our value system is clearly reflected in the way we treat others where a profit or loss is concerned.

There is little doubt that in the short run a deceitful person seems to prosper. But before too long, a devious person has to find new prospects, because others begin to recognize the dishonest practices. Deceitfulness might provide temporary riches, but that is not the sort of gain a Christian should desire.

When a Christian chooses to follow the world's path and ignores the biblical principles that God has provided for our benefit, he loses God's fullest blessings. A businessperson might argue that when operating in the world, you have to play by the world's rules. I assure you that is not true. The Scriptures are God's

guidebook for Christians living in this world. And in Luke 16:11 God makes it clear that if we will not respond properly with such a relatively trivial thing as money, there's no reason for Him to entrust us with any greater possessions.

COMMENTARY

I believe God has placed us in this world not only to witness to the unsaved, but also to refine our relationship with Him. The way you handle money and treat others where a profit or loss is concerned reflects your value system.

To be frank, there probably will be times when others gladly will take advantage of your honesty. But wouldn't you rather be on God's side in the matter? Christ Himself told us that there's a price to be paid for following Him, but there's also a great reward for doing so.

As a Christian, you should accept God's standard for doing business. God can provide material blessings to those who really follow His directions. You might not want to hear this, but sometimes He elects to store your riches for distribution in eternity. Nevertheless, when you do things God's way, He will multiply your reward multiple times.

The Lord told us that a house, or a life, built upon sand would fall when the storms come, but one built upon the Rock would survive. We are in the midst of a materialistic storm today, and every Christian must decide whether to build upon the solid rock of God's Word or the

shifting sands of society.

The decision to do business by the world's normal standards of guile and deception is a decision to deny Christ. "No household slave can be the slave of two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't be slaves to both God and money" (Luke 16:13).

Every Christian should establish not only financial priorities, but time use and ethical standards as well. Realizing that God always is watching our every action should be a constant reminder that Christians must be led by God's directive and the principles of His Word.

Although some Christian business owners have financial priorities, many are not in line with God's Word. "The one who lives with integrity lives securely, but whoever perverts his ways will be found out" (Proverbs 10:9).

Of course, the way you live your life and run your business is up to you. But I'm convinced that every Christian should come to the place where the approval of God is more important than the world's riches. Only then will the full measure of God's peace and power be experienced.

"But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). Don't be surprised to discover that honesty works in business and in all of life—after all, it's God's way.

Howard Dayton is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries

Baptist mother church

Sandy Creek church became one of two Baptist 'streams'

By Gregory Tomlin
Baptist Press

Sandy Creek, N.C. (BP)—When the bells chimed at 10 a.m. Nov. 6, Sandy Creek Baptist Church near Liberty, N.C., inaugurated its 250th year in ministry.

Inside the white country church, pastor Travis Brock and guests from as far away as Georgia, Texas and Illinois exchanged greetings and waited in anticipation of the event, a full year in the making.

The congregation and choir sang old standards such as "Amazing Grace" and "I Love to Tell the Story" with both smiles and tears.

"It is humbling to think what God has done in this place," Brock said. "One pastor I spoke with said that God had done more through this church than through any other since Pentecost."

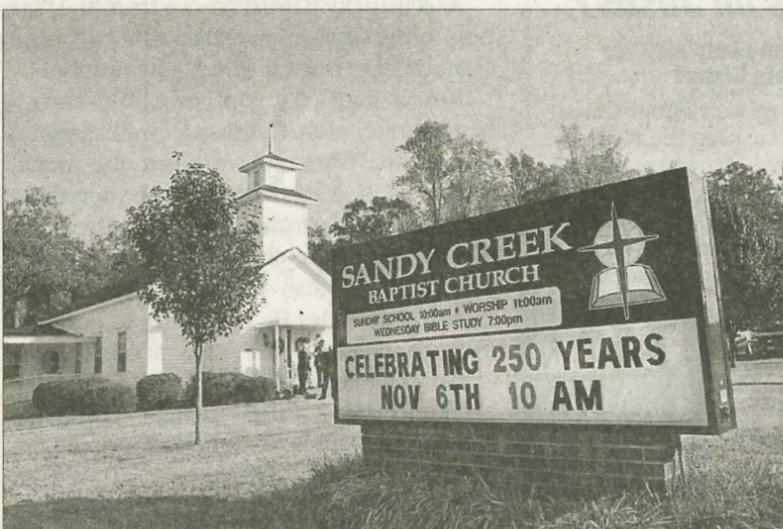
When the Sandy Creek church was founded, the United States did not exist.

The year was 1755, and two recent converts to the Baptist faith, both products of the revival preaching of the First Great Awakening, made their way into a rural and isolated Randolph County and there with 16 others founded the first Separate Baptist Church in the South.

Shubal Stearns and Daniel Marshall both believed they would be well received among the settlers in North Carolina who favored emotional, expository preaching to the confounding, high-church style displayed in churches in the North and in Charleston, S.C.

Within a few years, the church had drawn more than 600 members and within 17 years had planted 42 other churches.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson preached at the church during its



250-YEAR TRADITION Sandy Creek Baptist Church near Liberty, N.C., known for fostering one of the two key tributaries to modern Southern Baptist life, celebrated its 250th anniversary this month. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

anniversary celebration.

He said Baptists usually describe the "Southern Baptist river as flowing from two tributaries, one having its beginning in Charleston, S.C., the more Reformed tradition of Baptist life, and the other at Sandy Creek."

Surviving struggles

Patterson said the church had survived all of these years "by the sweet providences of God."

But that doesn't mean that the church hasn't struggled.

Church records indicate that some members of the Sandy Creek church protested the modern missions movement and the new institutions being formed by the newly organized Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in 1830. Members who opposed the convention continued to meet at the site, naming themselves Sandy Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Members in support of the missions program in the state planted a new Sandy Creek Baptist Church at a nearby school in Shady Grove. They retained their original name and remained there until 1905, when a

portion of that church returned to worship again at the site established by Stearns.

The church constructed a new meetinghouse in 1942—the building Sandy Creek Baptist Church meets in today—just below the Sandy Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Added to the internal struggles of the church have been the Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Depression and the financial struggles following these events. But church members have remained faithful, Brock said, citing the generosity of one such member, Ida Williams.

Born in 1882, Williams, who never married, saved money from the sale of eggs to buy Sunday school literature for the church in the late 1940s. She died in 1967, leaving a portion of her estate to the church for the construction of a parsonage.

But that is history, and as the church was celebrating its past, it was looking forward into its next years of ministry.

"The challenge for us is to not get caught up in the history," Brock said, "but to be concerned about the present and the future."

One 'In God We Trust' suit denied, another rises

Washington—The Supreme Court has declined an attempt to remove "In God We Trust" from the front of a North Carolina county government building, while a California atheist has brought a challenge to the phrase on the country's currency.

The justices declined, without comment, Nov. 14 to hear a case about the Davidson County Government Center in Lexington, N.C. Two local attorneys who regularly do business at the building had sued the county, saying the inscription of the national motto was a violation of the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion.

County commissioners voted to add the inscription to the building's façade in 2002. According to court papers, it was paid for by donations from individuals and local churches, and those who spoke in favor of it at the meeting where it was considered cited religious reasons for supporting it as well as the secular rationale that it is the national motto.

In 2004, a federal district court said the inscription's opponents had not proven that the inscription was created with an insufficiently secular purpose or that it unconstitutionally endorsed or caused entanglement with religion. A unanimous three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld their decision earlier this year.

Currency challenge

Meanwhile, Michael Newdow, the atheist whose challenge of the Pledge of Allegiance reached the United States Supreme Court, is now targeting the same phrase on money.

In a lawsuit filed Nov. 17 in federal court in Sacramento, Calif., Newdow charged the national motto is unconstitutional and should be removed from the United States' paper money and coins. Newdow's suit claims "In God We Trust" violates both of the First Amendment's religion clauses, which ban government establishment of religion and infringement of the free exercise

of religion. The suit also says the motto violates his free speech and equal protection rights.

"We are the nation that gave to the world the establishment that government should not endorse religion and everybody should be what they want," Newdow told The Sacramento Bee before filing the suit in Newdow v. Congress. "And of all the possible choices, we go with the motto of 'In God We Trust,' which totally contradicts that tradition."

The American Center for Law and Justice will defend members of Congress in the suit, ACLJ Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow said.

The national motto "is not only permissible, but constitutional as well," Sekulow said in a Nov. 18 written statement.

"In God We Trust" was placed on a U.S. coin for the first time in 1864 and on a bill first in 1957, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. Congress approved "In God We Trust" as the national motto in 1956.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

Christian campus groups sue for right to exclude homosexuals

Washington (RNS)—The Christian Legal Society at Arizona State University argued that giving gays and non-Christians membership would destroy the group's religious purpose. But the university's nondiscrimination policy forbids such exclusion.

So the group sued for an exemption. An out-of-court settlement was reached in September, with Arizona State agreeing to recognize the organization—as long as it limited membership to all students, heterosexual and homosexual, who uphold its religious values on sexuality.

Similar battles are being waged across the country, pitting student groups' constitutional right to religious freedom against public universities' educational interest in teaching inclusiveness.

A moment of legal truth might be approaching as three other state schools—Southern Illinois University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of California's Hastings College of Law—await decisions in federal courts.

Several other campuses already have grappled with the issue. In virtually every instance so far, Christian groups have won the right to restrict membership to those who share their beliefs, to the dismay of gays.

"We're now living in a country that is being led by people who openly embrace discrimination instead of the love that is taught in the Bible," said Ronni Sanlo, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender Campus Resource Center at UCLA.

Many universities fund fraternities, sororities and political clubs that restrict membership, so Christian groups argue that schools cannot refuse to support Christian organizations just because they do the same thing. But universities argue that funding the Christian organizations, knowing the groups discriminate, would make a mockery of nondiscrimination laws and policies.

Legal scholars see the cases as a competition between the First Amendment's guarantee of free exercise of religion and its requirement that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

Yale Law School professor Robert Post said the cases will help describe the purpose of public education, such as whether schools should teach ecumenism.

The cases could turn on whether teaching nondiscrimination is a legitimate educational purpose for government, Post said.

O come all ye appreciated securities

Gifts of appreciated stock can save multiple taxes

During December many of you will be making year-end gifts to your church, church-related and other charitable organizations.

If you own stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares and other securities with current market values greater than their original costs, it might be to your advantage to give the appreciated security instead of cash.

Because of favorable tax laws related to charitable giving, you can bypass the capital gains tax that would be due on a sale if you donate the security to a qualified charity. Your church, the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its related institutions and agencies are qualified charities.

In addition, you can claim an income tax deduction in the year of your gift based upon its current market value, regardless of the amount you originally paid for it. You must have owned the security for at least one year and a day.

Such a gift is deductible in the year of the gift, up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. Any unused portion of the deduction can be used to reduce taxes in up

to five subsequent years.

For example, you are planning to make a \$10,000 gift to your church, or to establish an endowment with the foundation, and you have the option of giving cash or a stock for which you paid \$5,000 several years ago. The tax deduction will be the same whether you give cash or the stock. But, you will save the 15 percent capital gains tax of \$750 which you would have paid if you had sold the stock instead of giving it.

So, by giving the appreciated stock you will make a significant gift to a cause near and dear to your heart, while preserving your cash, avoiding capital gains tax and generating current income tax savings.

Giving an appreciated security need not be complicated. However, it is important not to wait until the last day of the year and to obtain from the charity its instructions on how to give the security. Call Laurie Valentine or me for the KBF instructions.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "God clave an hollow place that was in the _____, and there came water thereout" (Judges 15:19)
- 4 Prepare fruit
- 8 Whatever _____ you
- 12 Jurist Fortas
- 13 Black
- 14 Dagger
- 15 "He _____ my strength in the way" (Psalm 102:23)
- 17 Permanent mark
- 18 Evidence of beating
- 19 Sesame, for one
- 20 Northwest _____ (abbr.)
- 21 "Shoot out thine _____, and destroy them" (Psalm 144:6)
- 24 Ate out
- 27 Linking verb
- 28 Comprehend
- 29 Son of Zeus
- 30 "How can a man be born when he is _____?" (John 3:4)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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35				36				37					
				38				39			40	41	42
43	44					45	46						
47						48				49			
50						51					52		

- 31 Dead _____ (Dick Francis classic)
- 32 French pronoun
- 33 Hole-making tool
- 34 Amusement park amusements
- 35 Begin a conversation
- 37 Wager
- 38 Hurry (arch.)
- 39 Punish (arch.)
- 43 Steakhouse selection, perhaps
- 45 "Though they would have cast anchors out of the _____" (Acts 27:30)
- 47 Cary Grant, once

- 48 Father of Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:1)
 - 49 Paris summer
 - 50 Challenge
 - 51 Whirlpool
 - 52 Affirmative vote
- Down**
- 1 Spielberg film
 - 2 Aid's partner
 - 3 _____ thin
 - 4 "There was none that moved the wing or opened the mouth, or _____" (Isaiah 10:14)
 - 5 Son of Ner (2 Samuel 2:8)
 - 6 "Asahel was as light of foot as a wild _____" (2 Samuel 2:18)
 - 7 Like omega
 - 8 Son of Kohath (1 Chronicles 6:22)
 - 9 "And they wrought onyx stones _____ in ouches of gold" (Exodus 39:6)
 - 10 Bucolic locale
 - 11 Indian weight
 - 16 Unclean birds (Deuteronomy 14:13)

- 19 Pay dirt
- 21 Son of Bela (Numbers 26:40)
- 22 Used to be
- 23 Cupboard collections, as in dishes
- 24 Fruit of the palm
- 25 Smooth
- 26 One close by
- 27 Cheer competitor
- 30 "_____ no man any thing, but to love" (Romans 13:8)
- 31 Refers to
- 33 Mature
- 34 "The wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no _____" (2 Chronicles 36:16)
- 36 Seat location
- 37 Told all
- 40 Feminine name
- 41 Bethlehem: _____ of David
- 42 Fencing gear
- 43 Exterminate
- 44 Lupino
- 45 Nemesis
- 46 "The _____ number ... is to be redeemed" (Numbers 3:48)

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
T	A	M	A	R	O	M	E	W	A	R
E	L	A	M	A	N	E	M	E	L	I
N	A	E	D	G	E	R	E	A	P	
T	R	U	E	S	T	Y	B	E		
P	R	I	C	E	T	H	I	E		
L	A	T	E	S	H	A	M	O	D	D
A	S	H	S	P	A	R	E	R	O	E
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P	R	Y	M	E	E	T	N	E	E	D

Holland America Line Special from \$1699*

Rev. Billy Williams to Host Baptist Group with Daily Devotions

19-Day Panama Canal Cruise

Join your Spiritual Director Baptist minister Rev. Billy Williams on this Your Man Tours' exclusive 19-day cruise. This will be Rev. Williams third trip as YMT's Baptist chaplain. On October 23, 2006 board your Holland America Line 5-STAR ship, the *ms Ryndam* in Los Angeles. HAL's *Signature of Excellence* focuses on spacious elegant ships and accommodations; sophisticated five-star dining; gracious, unobtrusive service; and extensive enrichment programs and activities aboard ship. Mexican Riviera ports include: Cabo San Lucas; Puerto Vallarta (the quintessential resort overflowing with the charm of Old Mexico); and the small, friendly fishing village with spectacular vistas: Puerto Santa Cruz Huatulco. Next there's Quetzal, Guatemala. Here you may tour the museums, or visit a jade factory. Shore excursions may take you to see a volcano: three out of 33 in Guatemala are active. On November 1 you'll find yourself in Costa Rica. Ecological shore excursions to the interior rain forests are highly recommended. Next is the highlight, the daytime Panama Canal crossing where you will be raised and lowered by giant locks. You will slowly float through the lush jungle and cross the rugged continental divide via 45 miles of canals and the largest man-made lake in the world: Gatun Lake. Next visit Cartagena, Colombia; Costa Maya, Mexico; and Cozumel, Mexico in the Caribbean Sea. You'll fly home from Tampa November 10. *Prices (per person, double occupancy) start at only \$1699 for inside staterooms; \$2049 for outside ocean view staterooms; and \$3099 for larger outside staterooms with private balcony. Add \$539 port/taxes/gov't. fees/services. Add \$500 round trip airfare from Louisville, KY; Evansville, IN; Nashville or Knoxville, TN. Add \$800 round trip airfare from Lexington, KY.

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IMB trustees adopt policies on glossolalia, baptism

By Michael Chute
SBC International Mission Board

Huntsville, Ala. (BP)—International Mission Board trustees adopted two measures—related to baptism and private prayer language—for IMB personnel selection staff to follow in screening missionary candidates.

The board of directors, meeting in Huntsville, Ala., Nov. 14-17, also voted to appoint 89 new missionaries, adopted a new budget and learned that Southern Baptists last year took the gospel to 137 previously unengaged people groups.

The new policy opposes a missionary candidate's practice of using a "private prayer language." It is designed to give the IMB's office of mission personnel staff a framework for evaluating new candidates regarding the issue of glossolalia, or speaking in tongues.

The new policy is related to candidate qualifications related to "Southern Baptist identity."

"In terms of worship practices, the majority of Southern Baptist churches do not practice glossolalia," the policy states.

The policy also says the New Testament speaks of glossolalia as a gift that "generally is considered to be a legitimate language of some people group," and adds that "prayer language as commonly expressed by those practitioners is not the same as the biblical use of glossolalia."

"In terms of general practice, the majority of Southern Baptists do not accept what is referred to as 'private prayer language,'" the policy further states. "Therefore, if 'private prayer language' is an ongoing part of his or her conviction and practice, the



PARADE OF FLAGS Volunteers from Alabama Baptist churches carry flags of the nations during the International Mission Board's missionary appointment service in Huntsville, Ala. A total of 89 missionaries were appointed during the service, held during the IMB's trustee meeting.

candidate has eliminated himself or herself from being a representative of the IMB of the SBC."

The policy is not retroactive and is designed to be followed beginning Nov. 15, the day of its adoption.

Baptism "symbolic"

Regarding a candidate's baptism, trustees voted by a 2-1 margin to establish a guideline that specifies (1) believer's baptism by immersion; (2) baptism follows salvation; (3) baptism is symbolic, picturing the experience of the believer's death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ; (4) baptism does not regenerate; and (5) baptism is a church ordinance.

The guideline establishes that candidates must have been baptized in a Southern Baptist church or in

a church of another denomination that practices believer's baptism by immersion alone.

Trustees voted that any exception to either the policy on a private prayer language or the baptism guideline must be reviewed by IMB staff and the board's process review committee.

Budget declines slightly

In other business, trustees adopted a 2006 budget of \$282.5 million. The 2006 budget is \$600,000 less

than the 2005 spending plan. The budget anticipates receiving \$100.2 million through the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget.

Finance committee chairman Ken Whitten pointed out the operating portion of the budget is up about \$9 million over 2005, while the capital portion decreased about \$10 million. But the capital budget has some flexibility, he said, particularly in capital funding related to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The budget also anticipates receipts of \$150 million through the 2005 Lottie Moon offering; \$137 million is included in the operating budget with \$13 million reserved for capital expenditures. Reaching the \$150 million goal will require a 12 percent increase over the 2004 offering of \$133.9 million. Reaching the operating budget will require a 2 percent increase.

A.C. Halsell, finance committee vice chairman, told trustees that IMB funding—particularly Lottie Moon receipts—could be affected by donations to hurricane relief. Already, Southern Baptist Cooperative Program receipts above the budget for fiscal year 2004-05 and the first three months of the 2005-06 year—October through December—have been diverted to Gulf Coast relief efforts.



PERU BOUND John and Sonia Grady, two of the 89 new missionaries appointed Nov. 15 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Ala., will serve among the 2.3 million unreached Aymara Indians of Peru. (IMB photos)

An Oneida Morning

Each weekday begins with Bible study, breakfast & promise of God's presence

By Michael Spencer
Assistant to the President

It's an Oneida morning. I look at the dawning of a beautiful fall morning as I arrive on the Oneida campus. It's a few moments before 7 a.m., and I am leading a men's Bible study at the campus ministry center. We've been meeting two days a week for two years. We study Scripture, discuss its application to our lives and pray for our ministries. We studied marriage for the first half of the year, and now we are beginning a new study of Colossians.

I conclude the Bible study and walk with my fellow staff members to the dining hall for breakfast. I think breakfast is the best meal of the day at Oneida Baptist Institute, and many students agree. There is always a good crowd of students, especially as the time to close the doors at 10 minutes till 8 nears. It's good to see sixth grade boys filling up their plates with a good breakfast.

Dr. Underwood stands at the door, greeting the students by name, smiling at them and admonishing those who might have taken too much or not eaten what they've taken. His gentle lesson of "don't waste what God has given" is appreciated.

The morning and night house parents also are eating breakfast. Some have just arrived. Others are completing a long night of dealing with whatever occurs on campus or in dormitories while the rest of us sleep. Teachers are eating with their children. Our principal, Dan Stockton, and I share breakfast almost every day. I treasure

his friendship as one of God's best gifts to me. We encourage one another in our ministries for the day.

Students stop by our table and say "hello." There are morning hugs, questions about the day and, in some cases, suspensions handed out by our dean of students. But surprisingly, the majority of those assignments to a day of work come with a smile and are received as loving discipline from those who have the best interests of the students at heart.

Breakfast comes to an end. As I take my tray to the window, I'm greeted by our kitchen staff. They are always friendly and cheerful in their ministry through food service. Some are former OBI students themselves, and they know this routine well.

As I walk down the sidewalk toward my classroom, the girls are leaving the dormitory, carrying their books. It's cold in the morning, and everyone is bundled up. The boys are at the end of the sidewalk; waiting to enter the high school ... and to meet their girlfriends. No matter what else is on the schedule, every day at Oneida is full of the excitement of relationships and friendships.

I walk toward my classroom and I am greeted by Korean boys leaving Baker Hall. I enjoy being someone most of the students know through my ministry of preaching. In a few minutes I will be teaching Bible, and later English. In three hours I will be leading worship in chapel. I feel useful and happy at Oneida. It is a privilege to serve here. Every day has the promise of God's presence and the gifts of God's goodness.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Funding Christian education

Will KBC's four remaining schools receive an increase?

The recent convention decision regarding Georgetown College places on the table another decision. What happens to the funds previously allocated to Georgetown?

Several convention messengers asked that question in the exhibit hall. The Kentucky Baptist Convention's support of Christian education is determined by a formula recommended by the Agencies and Institutions Committee of the Mission Board. The formula is reviewed periodically, but has remained unchanged for several years. Each institution needs more, but none of us wanted to see any increase come by decreasing the others. Now is an opportune time to provide additional support for Christian education.

The dollars coming to Clear Creek have averaged \$524,500 a year during the last six years.

We are grateful for this support. The KBC Cooperative Program amount is the largest single funding stream we receive. But inflation and expanded programming have seen the CP percentage of our budget decline from 25 percent to 16 percent.

Our alumni are pastors, missionaries and church staff, and most of them cannot support their alma mater with large gifts. Clear Creek trustees and administration have made tough decisions: tuition increased, salaries remained the same, retirement benefits were decreased, health coverage was lowered and some employees lost family coverage. We do what we have to do to cut costs and live within our means. After operating without debt for 15 years, we have been forced to use a line-of-credit for operations.

Whenever I take guests on a campus tour, they almost always comment, "I never knew this ministry involved so much." The same could be said, and more, for each of the KBC schools. Next year marks Clear Creek's 80th anniversary. Give us an anniversary gift by increasing the level of support through the Christian education portion of the KBC Cooperative Program.

Kentucky Baptists have been given much in the ministries of the educational institutions supported by the state Cooperative Program. To whom much is given, much is required.

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



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The bottom line *IS* their bottom line – they want to increase their gambling share 14 to 22 times.

KEEP offers “Unbridled Gambling”

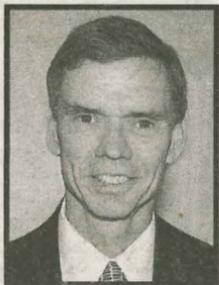
On Sept. 16, the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) announced its push for a gambling takeover that they’ve been planning and building for more than a year. Unfortunately, the fatal flaw in KEEP’s proposal is its goal itself: a huge expansion of gambling in Kentucky. And that makes KEEP nothing more than a Trojan horse filled with “one-armed bandits” that will steal the citizenry blind.

Without doubt, horses are an important part of Kentucky’s culture and the unity of the various associations within the horse industry under KEEP’s banner is a noteworthy success. But they are talking apples and proffering oranges – the fact that Kentuckians like horses and respect the horse industry does not mean they want to embrace the Big Gambling’s casinos that are programmed to separate people from their money as efficiently as possible.

Maybe KEEP should change its motto from “Horses Work for Kentucky” to “Casinos work for Kentucky.”

While we’re at it, based on their proposal, let’s change the new state slogan to “Unbridled Gambling.”

In some sense, KEEP’s strategy is bait and switch – offer the people a lofty image of this noble beast and its accom-



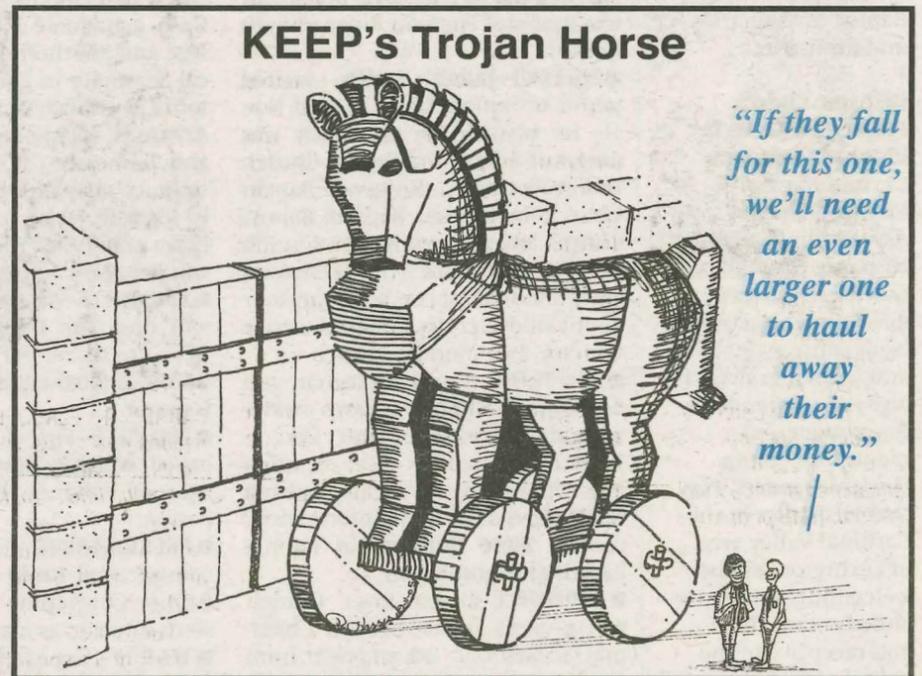
Kent Ostrander is the executive director of The Family Foundation

plishments, and as people step forward with respect and appreciation, substitute the casino that offers no respect of persons in return.

Sadly, even their mathematics point to the “treachery” within this man-made steed. KEEP’s spokesman confidently asserted that these proposed new casinos would generate \$800 million to \$1.2 billion of revenue annually. Without any slight of hand, that is the same as saying the casino mechanism they propose will cause Kentucky families to lose \$800 million to \$1.2 billion a year.

Does anybody really believe that Kentucky families can afford to lose that much money . . . and do so every year? (Note that Kentucky ranks 46th in median household income.)

What the spokesman did not say, but what is commonly known among those who are acquainted with casinos and



riverboats, is that there is a 10:1 ratio of the amount of money gambled – put at risk – to the amount of revenue acquired. This means (based on *their* revenue figures) Kentuckians would need to put at risk \$8 billion to \$12 billion each year to achieve those revenue projections. Last year, \$546 million was risked at the horse tracks in Kentucky each year. Therefore, KEEP’s proposal represents 14 to 22 times the amount of the current gambling at tracks. (Now you understand their passion for casinos.)

By the way, their figures compute to \$2000 to \$3000 placed at risk each year by *each and every Kentucky man, woman and child.*

Expansion? No! It’s absolute multiplication and dominance of this industry.

To illustrate their figures another way, these new casinos will handle as much, or as much and half again, as the entire annual General Fund of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (currently \$8.4 billion). Do we really need to create a “casino vacuum” that is immediately as large as the Commonwealth of Kentucky or 150 percent of its size?

Think about it. . . That casino special interest will *own* the legislature.

The ironic part is that KEEP is promoting itself as representing Kentucky’s “signature” industry. Again, without doubt, horses are important to Kentucky, but “signature industry” probably better refers to the fact that this industry has received more governors’ signatures on legislation than any other industry. Over the years these pieces of legislation have granted the horse industry more tax breaks, subsidies and special funds than any other industry in the state.

Do not begrudge these special legislative favors, but here is the irony: The industry that has spent more money than any other to avoid paying taxes and to receive special benefits is now stepping forward as though they want to pay taxes and help government out of its financial squeeze.

As this casino-filled Trojan horse rolls forward to the gate of our fair Commonwealth, avoid subscribing to the adage, “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.” Instead, examine this nag thoroughly, keep the gate shut and ask KEEP to look for real solutions for the horse industry.

Kt

ACTION!!!

Please do three things:

#1 Sign up to help us – there will be more action items and we can keep you abreast.

Email us at: tffky@mis.net
 Call us at: 859-255-5400
 Contact us via: www.SayNoCasino.com
 Mail to us at: TFF P.O. Box 22100
 Lexington, KY 40522

Send us your email address, we’ll keep you informed.

#2 CALL the Governor’s office 502-564-2611 and leave this message (in your own words):

“Please stop ANY and ALL expansion of gambling”

The Governor is key. Let him know HE can stop this!

#3 If you have a business, or work at a business that has concerns about gambling expansion, PLEASE contact us:

(See #1 above for contact info)

The business community is vital for us to succeed.

For much more information, visit:

www.SayNoCasino.com

www.kybaptist.org The official web site of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

www.kentuckyleague.org The web site of The Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems

www.kycage.org The web site of the Coalition Against Gambling Expansion

The *CITIZEN* is published by The Family Foundation of Kentucky. To reach the staff, call 859-255-5400 or email tffky@mis.net

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Hispanic Church Planter Carlos De la Barra of Lexington. Carlos serves with Elkhorn Baptist Association, assisting Hispanic churches with new starts, strategy development, pastoral leadership, evangelism and church growth. He also is a tremendous encourager and mentor for young Hispanic leaders. Pray that Hispanics in the Cardinal Valley area of Lexington will be welcoming of the new church plant there and receptive to the gospel as it is presented to them. Pray also for strengthening and continued development of existing Hispanic churches in Elkhorn Association.

Missionaries Van and Marjorie Yandell of Fredonia. The Yandells serve as church strengtheners with Ohio River Baptist Association. They continue to research and assist churches in starting and developing outreach ministries. They also are involved in the start-up of a local food bank that will serve needy people in their county. Pray for enthusiasm and a renewed excitement for the ministry God has entrusted to their leadership. Pray also that the physical feeding of hungry people will open doors for sharing the Bread of Life.

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 (866) 489-3530.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BEREA**—Silver Creek Church called **Tim Roberts** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church in Utica.

■ **BUFFALO**—**James Smith**, retired pastor of Buffalo Church, died Nov. 16. He was 66. He previously was pastor of Round Top Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Kirkwood Baptist Church in Salvisa, Bagdad Baptist Church and Auburn Baptist Church as well as a church in Tennessee. He is survived by two sons and four grandchildren. His funeral service was Nov. 19 at Buffalo Church.

■ **COVINGTON**—Latoria Church will host **Kyle Matthews**, a Dove award-winning singer-songwriter, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. Admission is free; an offering will benefit Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. For more information, contact **Steve Holloway** at latoria.baptist@insightbb.com.

■ **CROMWELL**—Green River Church will present Drive Through Christmas Scenes Dec. 2-3 and 9-10 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church at grmbc@apex.net. **Kelley Harris** is pastor.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church will host the **Oneida Baptist Institute Choir** Dec. 4, 10:45 a.m.

■ **GRAND RIVERS**—Calvary Church recently called **Jimmy Jones** as pastor.

■ **HARLAN**—Liggett Church recently called **Joe Howard** as interim pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—**Sam Gash**, former

pastor of Harrodsburg Church, died Nov. 1 in Memphis, Tenn. He was 73. Gash, a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was pastor of several churches in Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. He also served as a military chaplain. Gash is survived by his wife, Jayne, four children and three grandsons. His funeral service was held Nov. 3 in Memphis.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church will host **The Hoppers** in concert Dec. 10, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 896-8882. **Les Hollon** is pastor.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—First Church recently called **Whitney Blackburn** as minister of children. **Paul Badgett** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church recently called **David Aker**, Kentucky Baptist Convention Mountain Missions director, as interim pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Graefenburg Church recently ordained **Robert Myles** as a deacon. **Alan Witham** is interim pastor.

What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

12-13 Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville.

January

12-14 Shepherding the Shepherd, Radisson Hotel, Lexington.

19 Pastor/Staff Forum, Southside Baptist Church, Princeton.

24 Pastor/Staff Forum, Victory Baptist Church, Lexington.

27-28 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Lakeside Baptist Church, Louisville.

27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Severns Valley Association Office, Elizabethtown.

30-31 Theophotic Prayer Counseling Training Seminar, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

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

Burhans, longtime KBC leader, dies

Louisville—Rollin Burhans, who served in 1958-1960 as moderator of the former General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, died Nov. 20. He was 91.

Burhans also was president of the former Kentucky Southern College in Louisville in 1960-1969. According to "Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation" by Duane Bolin, Burhans presented the motion that paved the way for Kentucky Southern to be established.

Reflecting on the school's brief history, Burhans noted in a 1999 interview, "Although the structure of Kentucky Southern has died, the essence of the college lives on."

Burhans, pastor emeritus of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, served there as pastor in

1946-1960. In 1996, the church's education building was named in honor of Burhans and his wife, Delma, who died in 2001.

He also was pastor of Ormsby Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green and First Baptist Church of Clarksburg, W.Va.

A graduate of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, he served as moderator of Long Run Baptist Association and as a trustee of the former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

He is survived by three sons, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. His funeral service was held Nov. 26 at Crescent Hill Church.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Magnify Quartet—men's 4-part harmony gospel music—live musicians seek to magnify Jesus. Love offerings requested—never a fee. Call toll-free: (877) 409-3764 or (859) 393-4517. www.magnifyquartet.com.

FOR SALE: 1991 Ford 15-passenger van. 96,643 miles; good condition; asking \$3,300. Call (502) 368-5806.

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 (must purchase necktie to qualify for suit). (606) 285-3051.

SEEKING: Church organist. For application/job description, call (859) 441-2771.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for church with about 125 active members. If interested, please contact the church office at (502) 223-8364.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Dry Ridge Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, Ky. Dry Ridge Baptist Church is a Southern Baptist church in a fast-growing community with 200-plus attending weekly worship services. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 14, Dry Ridge, KY 41035; or e-mail to: office@dryridgebaptist.org.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. We need a mature, evangelistic, creative youth minister to grow a devoted youth ministry. Discipleship commitment is preferred. Some youth ministry experience is required. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Victory Memorial Baptist Church, 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Cooper Baptist Church in Monticello, Ky. Cooper Baptist is a Southern Baptist church located in Wayne Co. Please send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Cooper Baptist Church, PO Box 96, Monticello, KY 42633.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Flint Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. For more information, contact Rev. DeWayne Chadwick at donalchadwick@bellsouth.net; or by phone: (270) 753-7978.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor for Buck Creek Baptist Church, located 12 miles south of Owensboro, Ky. Ideally, this position would comprise music and youth responsibilities, though a youth-children combination would be considered. Please forward resumé, with church membership history and five references, to Bro. Jeff Devine (senior pastor). E-mail address: heartland@pngusa.net. Or mail to 3788 US Highway 431 N, Calhoun, KY 42327.

SEEKING: Director for parents' day out program in east end of Louisville (approx. 20 hours a week). Established program. Ideal requirements for director: regular church attender; bachelor's degree in early childhood education; three years full-time experience in early childhood education. If interested, please e-mail resumé to: Lsawowles@bluegrass.net; or fax it to: (502) 245-7945.

SEEKING: Dedicated bivocational individual to lead music program at Cloverport Baptist Church—would be responsible for leading choirs and music in worship services. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Cloverport Baptist Church, 314 W Main St., Cloverport, KY 40111.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister—able to lead traditional or blended worship. Will consider college student pursuing music ministry. Mail resumé to: Bethel Baptist Church, 5260 E Highway 452, Eubank, KY 42567.

SEEKING: Experienced part-time minister of music for Hebron Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resumé to Marilyn Sutton, 1614 North Bend Road, Hebron, KY 41048; or e-mail to: masutton@aol.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor needed for a small, traditional, 12-year-old Southern Baptist church in a fast-growing suburban area 20 miles south of Salt Lake City, Utah. Great growth possibility. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman Myron Adams, 2228 East 7110 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Deep Creek Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Please send resumé to Buddy Logue, Pastor Search Committee, 627 Greenwood Drive, Harrodsburg, KY 40330. For more information, call (859) 734-7622.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to Cloverdale Baptist Church, 4401 Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Paul Bewley.

SEEKING: Part-time children's ministry coordinator to work with elementary students, grades 1-5, under the supervision of the children's ministry director of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Must read music, have good people-skills. Call (859) 351-7653.

SEEKING: Full-time worship leader for First Baptist Church in beautiful, historic Carter County. Music degree from college or seminary required. Experience in contemporary/traditional. Must also have good people-skills. Send resumé to: Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 212 East F Street, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

SEEKING: Pastor for Parkway Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky. For more information, please e-mail donnastrader@peoplepc.com. Send resumé to Parkway Baptist Church, PO Box 326, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

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

SEEKING: Pastor for Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, Ky. For more information, please visit our Web site at www.petreymemorial.org. Resumé, tapes/videos should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for children through youth for McDowell First Baptist Church—an exciting, growing, loving fellowship in Eastern Kentucky. Mail resumé and/or sermon tapes to: McDowell First Baptist Church, PO Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647, Attn: Search Committee.

Toxic baptisms?

Groups say sewage, drainage causing problems for parts of Jordan River

By Michele Chabin
Religion News Service

Deganya, Israel (RNS)—At the Alu-mot Dam on the edge of Kibbutz Deganya, a cooperative community located a couple of miles south of the Sea of Galilee, you can smell the Jordan River long before you see it.

Once there, two Jordan rivers come into view.

North of the dam, the water is calm and clean enough for swimming, and every year tens of thousands of Christian pilgrims flock to Yardenit, the picturesque baptism site on the Israeli side of the Jordan, the river in which Jesus was baptized.

South of the dam, the river is tainted with untreated and partially treated sewage, saline water and fish pond effluents that tumble from large drainage pipes built into the riverbed. The stench is choking.

This pollution, coupled with the diversion of much of the river's clean water by Israel, Syria and Jordan, is endangering the river—the backdrop of so many biblical narratives—to the point of extinction.

"In the summer, the Lower Jordan River (the river below the Galilee) is dry in certain places, and this is a totally man-made problem," said Gidon Bromberg, an Israeli environmentalist.

"The Lower River is an open sewage canal, and the sad irony is that the sewage water is keeping the river flowing. Being baptized in the water below the dam—something that takes place on the Jordanian side of the river—cannot be too spiritually uplifting," said Bromberg, who heads the Israeli branch of Friends of the Earth Middle East.

The Jordan River's main water source is precipitation from Mount Hermon, a snow-covered peak shared uneasily by Israel and Syria in the north. Three streams originat-



ing in Lebanon, Israel and the contested Golan Heights also feed the river. On its way to the Dead Sea, its final destination, the Jordan swells the Huleh Lake and the Sea of Galilee, and waters the Jordan Valley.

The river's slow but steady decline began in the 1950s, when Israel started to divert the water for agriculture and other domestic use. Jordan and Syria built a series of dams and canals on the Yarmouk River, the Jordan's main tributary, further cutting the flow to the river.

Prior to the diversions 50 years ago, the average amount of water that flowed down the Jordan to the Dead Sea each year was 1.3 billion cubic meters, according to environmentalists. Today it's just 50 million to 100 million cubic meters annually.

"In summertime up to half of that flow is untreated sewage from communities in Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority," Bromberg noted.

Endangered Dead Sea region

The diversions are also endangering the Dead Sea region, another

biblical backdrop, where the Bible says Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt and where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. The salt-filled sea, whose shores abound with spas that offer medical treatments for skin ailments and other conditions, has lost a third of its surface area during the past half-century. As a result, sinkholes are swallowing up some of the land adjacent to the sea.

Khaled Nasser, the director of the Jordan Society for Sustainable Development, said "regional mismanagement" of the Jordan and its tributaries is exacerbating the Middle East's chronic water shortage. The Jordan River, he stressed, "is holy to Muslims as well."

Nasser said "a lot of water is lost through leakage through the (pipe) networks, and not all parties are taking their share. Israel is taking much more water than international law allows," Nasser asserts.

Uri Schor, spokesman for Israel's Water Commission, replied that "Israel is fulfilling its side of our agreements and in fact gives more water to our neighbors than the agreements require." He called on the Palestinians to treat and recycle their sewage water for agricultural use, contending that "the only way to increase the region's limited water supply is by recycling and creating desalinization plants."

Nasser also criticizes the region's governments, including his own, for encouraging farmers to grow crops "without enforcing wise agricultural strategies."

This, Nasser said, "has led to the salination of land in some parts of the Jordan Valley." Rather than grow bananas, tomatoes and watermelons, which need a great deal of water, he said, "the land should be used for vegetables suitable to the environment."

Lots of water for little money

If it were up to environmentalists, local countries would import more produce in order to save the Jordan and other water sources in the water-deprived Middle East.

"Agriculture accounts for just 2 percent of Israel's GDP (gross domestic product), yet it utilizes 30 percent of the fresh water in the country," Bromberg said, pointing out an Israeli grove of banana trees within sight of the Yarmouk River. "In Jordan, where agriculture accounts for 6 percent of the GDP, 70 percent of the fresh water is used for crops. The economies would benefit more from tourism projects."

Friends of the Earth Middle East, one of the few successful partnerships among Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians, recently stepped up its efforts to bring the Jordan River's sorry state to world attention. One July publicity stunt saw Jewish and Arab mayors from local municipalities jumping into the clean part of the river, hand in hand.

Religious leaders, who also have a stake in the embattled Jordan, say more needs to be done to get the word out.

"The whole Sea of Galilee and Jordan River are in and of themselves a holy site," says David Parsons, information officer for the International Christian Embassy, an evangelical ministry that brings thousands of Christians to the Holy Land every year. "If this news gets out, I think a lot of Christians will be very concerned."

Polluted baptisms

Although ICE's pilgrims go to the Yardenit site along the Upper Jordan to be baptized, Parsons says: "I worry about those believers, mainly from the traditional churches, who sometimes get baptized in the Lower Jordan, on the Jordanian side of the river. I don't think they realize the pollution there."

Jesus is believed by some to have been baptized in the Lower Jordan.

While the Yardenit site evokes images of the Garden of Eden, with reeds, small fish and even otters floating in the crystal-clear pools, Parsons is convinced that "if Christians knew that just a mile down the river a toxic mix was being dumped, they would be very upset about it."

WET FOR A CAUSE

In an event called the "Big Jump," mayors and members of local governments from Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority join hands to call for the rehabilitation of the polluted Jordan River. Friends of the Earth Middle East—a partnership among Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians—recently stepped up efforts to bring the Jordan River's pollution to world attention. (Photos courtesy of Friends of the Earth Middle East)



SEWAGE DUMP Environmentalists say the dumping of sewage is endangering the Jordan River to the point of extinction. The river—the backdrop of so many biblical narratives—has been tainted with pollution that tumbles from large drainage pipes (such as the one in the middle left of this photo) that flow into the river.



**That all peoples
may know Him**
**Week of Prayer for
International Missions**
and
International Mission Study
December 4-11, 2005

**Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering**

National Goal: \$150 Million