



WESTERN RECORDER

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WMU Kentucky Notes



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FOR THE RECORD

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Jewish leaders say it's OK to wish 'Merry Christmas'

Washington (RNS)—"It's OK to say 'Merry Christmas,'" a group of Jewish leaders said last week, lending their support to evangelical Christian groups who are combating perceived attacks on the holiday's religious content.

"It's a matter of simple courtesy to acknowledge a holiday celebrated by 96 percent of the American people," said Don Feder, president of Jews Against Anti-Christian Defamation, which sponsored the Washington press conference.

Feder blamed the "disappearance of Christmas" on a "militant and perpetually aggrieved minority" who want to eliminate religious symbols and "undermine America's Judeo-Christian ethic."

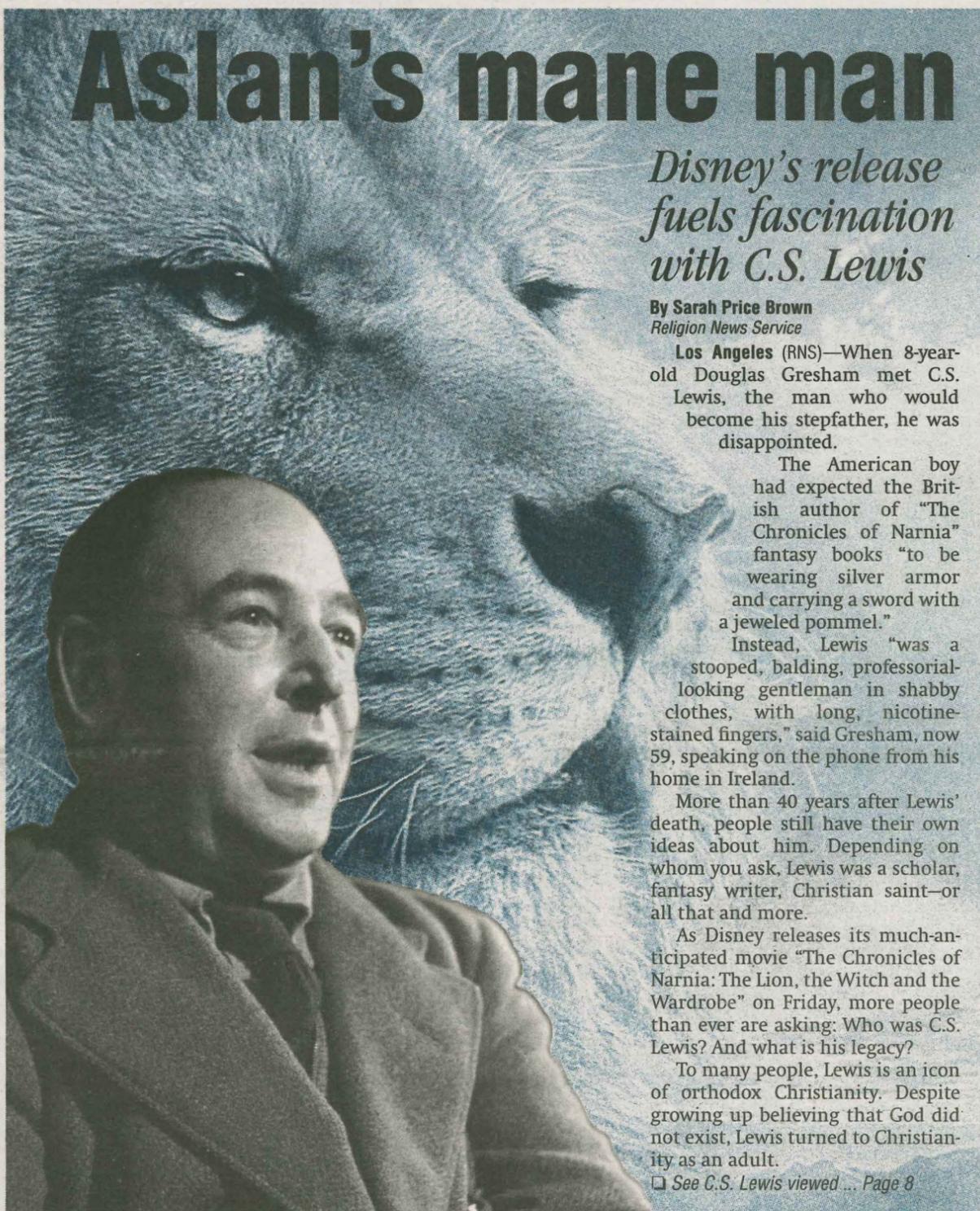
Feder founded the Framingham, Mass.-based organization in April "to provide a Jewish response to anti-Christian bias in the news media, entertainment, government and culture."

Michael Horowitz, a board member of the organization and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, said the issue was more than just "good manners" toward Christians.

"A country robustly proud of its faith is a country that will protect me and my children (as Jews)," Horowitz said.

Feder endorsed the work of the American Family Association, which has called for boycotts of retail chains that downplay the word "Christmas" in their holiday advertising and displays.

Daniel Lapin, an Orthodox rabbi and president of the Jewish group Toward Tradition, said retail establishments are feeling pressure from "increasingly ferocious and fundamentalist" advocates of secularism.



Aslan's mane man

Disney's release fuels fascination with C.S. Lewis

By Sarah Price Brown
Religion News Service

Los Angeles (RNS)—When 8-year-old Douglas Gresham met C.S. Lewis, the man who would become his stepfather, he was disappointed.

The American boy had expected the British author of "The Chronicles of Narnia" fantasy books "to be wearing silver armor and carrying a sword with a jeweled pommel."

Instead, Lewis "was a stooped, balding, professorial-looking gentleman in shabby clothes, with long, nicotine-stained fingers," said Gresham, now 59, speaking on the phone from his home in Ireland.

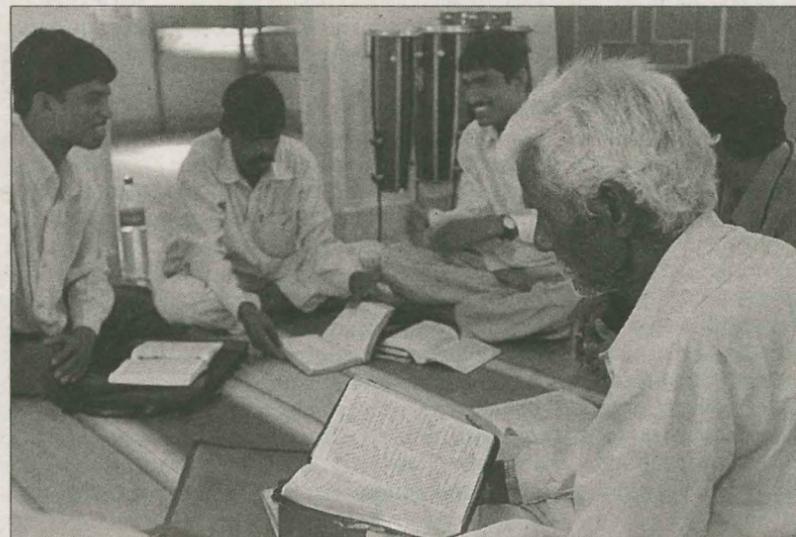
More than 40 years after Lewis' death, people still have their own ideas about him. Depending on whom you ask, Lewis was a scholar, fantasy writer, Christian saint—or all that and more.

As Disney releases its much-anticipated movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" on Friday, more people than ever are asking: Who was C.S. Lewis? And what is his legacy?

To many people, Lewis is an icon of orthodox Christianity. Despite growing up believing that God did not exist, Lewis turned to Christianity as an adult.

□ See C.S. Lewis viewed ... Page 8

Church-planting efforts finding receptive hearts in India



TRAINING CHURCH PLANTERS Christians in a southern India village, two hours from the closest city, are trained to visit homes and share the gospel. During the training, they listen to a lecture and then practice sharing the gospel with each other. (IMB photo)

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

Bangalore, India—The difference between the past and the future for India's Christians is as dramatic as the difference between addition and multiplication.

"In the past, Christian workers have seen encouraging response to the gospel from oppressed communities and tribal peoples," not mainstream Hindus, said Marty Hunter, a Southern Baptist strategy coordinator focused on taking the gospel to India's Lingayat people group. "In our day, we are seeing a new response to Christ from the Hindu."

Hunter (whose real name is not given for security reasons) and his wife are among the missionaries whose work is being profiled during

the Week of Prayer for International Missions. The week of prayer coincides with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to benefit the work of missionaries through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. This year's offering goal is \$150 million.



That all peoples may know Him

The gospel has spread so dramatically among one people group in India that the Hunters, who have been working among them since 1997, are planning to shift their focus to another people group.

When Hunter and his wife accepted responsibility for taking the gospel to India's Lingayat people, other Christian workers didn't offer much hope for success. In 1997, researchers could count only 800 Christians and no churches among

□ See Missionaries' church... Page 2

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, December 7

BAPTIST
DIGEST

Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer of LifeWay Christian Resources, will retire Feb. 1 after 12 years with the Southern Baptist entity. Warren, 58, joined LifeWay in 1994 as chief financial officer and vice president for the business services group. He was named executive vice president in 1995. LifeWay's President-elect Thom Rainer, who will become president and chief executive officer upon James Draper's retirement Feb. 1, will become responsible for all of the entity's executive and operational leadership.

The alumni association of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary has announced it will establish an endowed scholarship fund to honor Truett alumnus Kyle Lake. Lake, 33-year-old pastor of University Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, was electrocuted Oct. 30 after he touched a microphone while in a baptistry full of water. "Kyle Lake was a bright light and a vital voice in the church," said Steve Wells, president of the Truett Alumni Association and senior pastor at South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch sustained minor injuries Nov. 29 in a traffic accident near Hadera, Israel, while visiting Southern Baptist work overseas. Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., was examined at a hospital emergency room in Hadera, north of Tel Aviv, for bruises. He reportedly planned to continue his international trip, which will include stops in several other countries. Clyde Meador, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, also was in the vehicle and sustained a minor leg injury. Both were released after examination. Other passengers were not injured.

IMB: Unreached groups 'moving target'

Huntsville, Ala. (BP)—Southern Baptist workers took the gospel to 137 previously unengaged people groups last year and planted the first evangelical Baptist churches among 14 of those groups, trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board were told during their recent meeting in Huntsville, Ala.

However, IMB President Jerry Rankin told board members, "We have found that we're focusing on a moving target."

He explained that at the end of 2004, researchers estimated just over 500 unreached, unengaged people groups with populations of more than 100,000 existed around the world. By February, that number was down to 486.

"But in our June (trustee) meet-

ing, that figure was back up to 511, and our last report indicates 630 unengaged people groups," Rankin said. "It sounds like we're regressing, but the number is up because there are people groups whose populations keeps increasing. Even as we reach many, there are others who are crossing that threshold and now entering that category of 100,000 people or more.

"We realize that even with the cooperative efforts of the major mission agencies in the evangelical world, we will not do it alone," he emphasized. "Only as we facilitate, mobilize and enable all of God's people called Southern Baptists to be engaged in our Great Commission task can we hope to reach a lost world.

"We have to train, equip and facilitate more Southern Baptist churches to join the task and accelerate reaching the unreached people groups."

In other business, trustees were told the IMB has participated in almost \$9 million given to hurricane relief in 2005. The IMB in September contributed \$2.5 million in relief funds from contingency reserves, and the Southern Baptist Convention has redirected an estimated \$6.5 million in Cooperative Program funds from the IMB to Hurricane Katrina relief.

Salary budget for field personnel has been increased more than \$2.5 million in next year's budget in anticipation of an increased number of missionaries appointed in 2006.

Yemini executed for killing 3 Baptist workers

San'a, Yemen (BP)—A Muslim militant connected to the 2002 murders of three Southern Baptist medical workers in Yemen was executed Nov. 27.

Ali al-Jarallah was blindfolded and shot in the courtyard of the central prison in San'a, Yemen's capital, according to press reports. Al-Jarallah was convicted and sentenced to death in 2003 for plotting the medical workers' deaths and for the assassination of a prominent national politician, Yemeni Socialist Party leader Jarallah Omar.

Yemini authorities said Al-Jarallah planned the Dec. 30, 2002, attack on the former Jibla Baptist Hospital carried out by gunman Abed Abdul Razak Kamel. Kamel walked into the hospital compound that day and shot and killed hospital director William Koehn, physician Martha Myers and purchasing agent Kathleen Gariety. A pharmacist was seriously wounded but later recovered.

Kamel, also convicted and sentenced to death for the murders, remains in prison. No date has been set for his execution.

Kamel admitted in court to coordinating the attack with al-Jarallah. Yemeni officials said both are tied to the al Qaeda terrorist network. Police reported finding audiotapes of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Kamel's home after the murders.

The Jibla hospital provided care for thousands of people in the impoverished Middle Eastern nation for more than 30 years after it was started by Southern Baptist workers. It was reopened as Peace Hospital in early 2003 by the Yemeni government's health ministry.

Missionaries' church-planting efforts find receptive hearts in India

Continued from page 1

the Lingayats, a high-caste Hindu group that numbers 15 million.

"People discouraged us, saying the people were hard-hearted, that the work would be fruitless," Hunter said. "Today we're looking at about 3,000 believers, most of them people who have come to faith in the past two years."

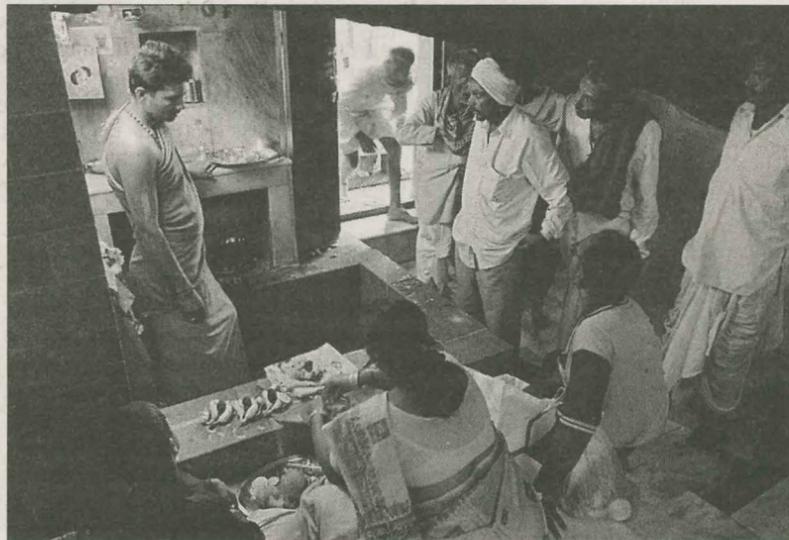
The number of Lingayat believers is growing so rapidly that Hunter expects 18,000 believers in 1,000 house churches by 2006, a movement strong enough to be left in the capable hands of local believers trained to reproduce themselves.

One reason for the response is a new vision and approach that trains new believers to multiply themselves, rather than just add to their number.

"In 2003, I received training from an IMB missionary who told us how he used this technique to see incredible response where there was no response before," Hunter said. "In little more than a year, 30 believers in an area with no churches became 10,000 new believers and 906 small groups."

"Since that time, we have been seeing many Hindus come to Christ and new house churches started by new believers. The new believer is transformed into a multiplying trainer by using very simple concepts that can be passed on from new believer to new believer."

This new approach fosters a church-planting movement—a spontaneous, rapid multiplication of churches among a people. The technique gives new Christians a series of six simple lessons that establish an "obedience-based faith"



LINGAYAT PEOPLE GROUP At a Lingayat temple in southern India, a Hindu priest receives worshipers and blesses their offerings. In 1997, researchers could find only 800 Christians among 15 million Lingayats. Today, Southern Baptist missions strategists say church planting movements could result in as many as 1,000 house churches among the Lingayat people by 2006. (IMB photo)

and equips them not only to win others to Christ, but also to train immediately those new believers to win and train other new believers.

New believers form a house church around family members who also have become believers. They hear and apply God's Word through participative Bible studies, in which a leader asks basic questions to help the group understand the Scripture passage. Because the studies are saturated with prayer and a commitment to hearing and obeying Scripture, the new believers remain solid in theology.

Multiplying churches, not adding

The vision also dramatically affects the way church planters see

their ministries.

"I spoke to a group of 27 church planters," Hunter said. "They no longer thought of themselves as a church planter who plants a church or two," he said. "Instead, they think of themselves as master trainers, each raising up 20 leaders who raise up more leaders, each planting multiplying house churches. The vision transformed from dozens of new churches to thousands of new churches in the same time frame.

"We tell them, 'It is a great thing to plant a church. It is a greater thing to plant multiplying churches. It is the greatest thing to train leaders to plant multiplying churches.'"

Baylor's interim president named to head Mercer

Macon, Ga. (ABP)—Bill Underwood, interim president of Baylor University, was elected president of Mercer University Dec. 2, promising to retain the school's historic Baptist identity despite a recent break with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

"I'm a Baptist," the long-time Baylor law professor told Associated Baptist Press. "And I am committed to Mercer retaining its Baptist identity with or without Georgia Baptist Convention."

Mercer trustees elected Underwood unanimously during a regularly scheduled meeting in Greensboro, Ga. Underwood, who has no previous ties to the 7,000-student university, said he will try to restore formal ties with the Georgia convention.

Underwood will become president July 1, when Kirby Godsey, 68, retires after 27 years at Mercer's helm.

A 172-year relationship between Mercer and the Georgia Baptist Convention ended when the convention voted Nov. 15 to end support for the school. Baptist leaders expressed concern that a recent student event promoted homosexuality.

Hunter instills this vision by showing new believers an apple.

"I ask them, 'When I hold up an apple, what do you see?' Most people will see an apple. A few visionaries will see a forest of apple trees in that one apple. They plant the apple seeds, and the seeds grow into apple trees that produce more fruit and still more seeds.

"I tell them I don't see a group of new believers; I see a whole people touched by the gospel as they train all new believers to share Christ, grow in the Word in participative Bible studies and start multiplying house churches.

Sharing the vision

"I tell them, 'If you live this vision, the gospel will cover your people like the waters cover the sea.' They can see what is happening among them and, even more important, they can see the potential that lies ahead.

"We have a great opportunity before us. I see this as a time to bless Hindus with Christ, Who loves them and died for them."

When the time comes to leave the work entirely in the hands of Lingayat believers, the Hunters won't have a hard time finding another people group in need of the gospel.

"There are nearly 1,000 other people groups just like the Lingayat in South Asia, hidden people groups that have been overlooked with the gospel," Hunter said. "About 50 percent of Last Frontier people groups are Hindu peoples.

"That is such a major bloc of the Great Commission, one that's really neglected."

Kentucky youth groups plan Katrina mission trips

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Hopkinsville—In recent years a Christian County youth ministry network has taken 100 students to a spring break in Panama City Beach, Fla.

But next April, the group will help hurricane victims in Pascagoula, Miss.

"We're finding it hard to sit on the beach when people need help," said Bill Houpt, youth pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church who coordinates the 16-church network.

"They're the ones who decided to do it," Houpt said of his church's teens, noting they helped send Bibles to the region in September. "It's time to do missions ourselves. They're excited. They'd go today if I'd let them."

Pascagoula is home to Jackson County Baptist Association. It is one of three Gulf region associations in partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention as they seek to overcome the effects of Hurricane Katrina. But the Christian County network is organizing its own project, working through First Baptist Church of Pascagoula.

The Hopkinsville-area churches are among a number of Kentucky Baptist youth groups planning to head to storm-battered communities during spring or summer break.

Joe Ball, youth ministry specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said it isn't clear yet how many will go.

"I think everyone has thought about it, but I don't know that everyone is going to do it," Ball said. "There is a groundswell of enthusiasm to go to the Gulf. Trying to figure out how they can do it is a challenge."

Hyland Baptist Church in Henderson has arranged a trip for the last week of June. Minister of Students Jason Cowan expects 40 students and 10 adults to travel to Louisiana.

A third of the group probably will do clean-up projects in Slidell, but most will travel to Angola state prison to minister to guards and their families.

Cowan learned of the need at the prison, about 145 miles from New Orleans, from the pastor of



NEEDS STILL EXIST Leaders of several Kentucky Baptist church youth groups say they intend to take groups to the Gulf Coast region next spring and summer to do mission work, including cleanup and rebuilding projects. "There's a groundswell of enthusiasm to go to the Gulf," said Joe Ball, youth ministry specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention (Western Recorder file photo)

First Baptist Church of Slidell.

"We're going to do a backyard Bible club for their kids, try to minister to them and do worship services," Cowan said. "They're in a remote area, and there's not a lot of contact with the outside world. (The pastor) said it would be a great service to them."

After working in the inner cities of New York and Los Angeles, on an Indian reservation and on beaches, Hyland Baptist's teens are looking forward to a change of pace, Cowan said.

The youth pastor joined a group of Kentucky ministers who worked in a disaster relief kitchen in Slidell the first week of October, and he expects to see God do great things when he returns.

"I believe any time we go on missions for the Lord and have prayed about it, God is going to work in ways we can't ask or imagine," Cowan said. "To be involved (in disaster relief) was eye opening. The impact we can make on the area will be significant if we allow God to work through us."

Rick Snyder, youth and education pastor at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, also traveled to Slidell in October.

One afternoon he accompanied a pastor around the area to inspect storm-damaged churches.

New needs in New Orleans

Besides the physical damage, Snyder said he learned the average church in the New Orleans suburb had lost 40 percent of its leaders, such as staff members, teachers and deacons.

"One of the pleas they gave us is when we return (to) not only help them rebuild but to help train them to do ministry," Snyder said. "And help them to get to know who's in the community now. That was all new to me."

Harrodsburg Baptist workers plan to return, but they haven't worked out the details yet, Snyder said.

Because the church intends to keep its summer commitments with World Changers in St. Louis and Kentucky Changers in Russell-

Fewer volunteers in Kentucky?

As many churches change their mission trip plans to provide Gulf assistance, Kentucky ministries likely will experience a decrease in volunteers, one coordinator says.

Bill Barker, director of the Appalachian Regional Ministry, is forecasting 30 to 40 percent fewer volunteers will come to Appalachia next summer.

Approximately 50,000 volunteers come to the region annually—80 percent to Kentucky or West Virginia. But in 2006 Barker expects those numbers to drop by 15,000 to 20,000.

Now working through the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Barker said the effects of the volunteer shift were felt soon after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In late September he received a call asking for help from personnel at a warehouse in Berea that distributes food across eastern Kentucky.

"I'm hearing from pastors they've depleted their funding," Barker said. "Food and clothing donations have dried up. We're making an appeal (in our newsletter) to people to send food to Berea."

Despite the decline, Barker said there are positive results from the situation.

For example, the decline in volunteers and food donations made him aware that many ministries are drawing from the same pool of volunteers and need to expand the numbers involved in missions.

It's also helping Baptists in Eastern Kentucky to understand they have to be involved instead of depending on others, Barker said.

"We have to separate the necessary things from the things we want people to do for us," Barker commented.

Bill Houpt, youth pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, hopes Kentuckians also will take an understanding outlook. The church, which in past summers has sent volunteers to Poland for youth camps, won't return this year.

"When we called and told them we weren't coming, they were overwhelmingly supportive," Houpt recalled.

ville, the church's youth might go during spring break.

Regardless of when, Snyder said older teens in his group are particularly excited about traveling to the Gulf because of previous mission experiences.

Instead of joining the Christian County network in April, members of Edgewood Baptist in Hopkinsville are planning to go to Biloxi or New Orleans next summer.

Youth pastor J.R. Hopson said 35 church members have done disaster relief work at three Gulf sites and his group is anxious to join this effort. The youth chose Mississippi over a scheduled trip to Mexico.

"Everyone has felt the impact in one way or another," Hopson said. "To help our own in the U.S. is exciting for them."

Start technical & spiritual training soon for spring mission trips, KBC youth specialist advises

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—Regardless of where Kentucky Baptist youth groups plan to go on mission next year, leaders say they should start preparing soon.

Joe Ball, youth ministry specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said education must start months before groups leave so participants understand what they will encounter.

Preparatory projects include regular Bible study, training to share one's faith and getting familiar with an area's culture, Ball said.

"If they're going in the summer, they should start after the first of the year," Ball said, noting the task includes logistics such as deciding where to go, who to work with and where to sleep,

Bill Houpt, coordinator of the Christian County youth ministry network, and three other youth pastors will visit Pascagoula, Miss., in late January to prepare for their April 2-8 trip.

Once preliminary plans are in place, Houpt said, applicants must register, attend training sessions, be active church members and demonstrate readiness to take on the mission.

Anticipated tasks next spring are clean-up projects, feeding, backyard Bible clubs and staging entertainment programs for residents.

"I'll talk to (youth) and ... make sure they're going for the right reason," said Houpt, youth pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church. "They're going to work and get dirty. We'll be sleeping in tents and (there will be) no showers. We're taking

our own cook."

Preparatory Bible study, prayer, work

Rick Snyder, youth pastor at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, said traveling to the Gulf will be similar to the church's World Changers preparation.

That includes Bible study, teaching students to communicate their faith and helping volunteers anticipate what the ministry site will be like.

Snyder always makes a pre-trip visit to meet local residents and to snap pictures to show Harrodsburg Baptist's youth.

The group also sponsors fundraisers to help pay trip expenses. Volunteers often repair a local home as an advance mission project, he added.

"And prayer as soon as we find out where we're going," Snyder said. "Those

elements are always important."

Jason Cowan, minister of students at Hyland Baptist Church in Henderson, said his group's preparation starts on their knees.

"We pray about what God wants us to do and how He wants us to do it," Cowan said.

After the first of the year, Hyland Baptist's youth pastor will search for curriculum to use for pre-trip studies, which will be part of continuing Sunday night youth meetings.

Participants also must attend church regularly and complete local service projects.

"We help them realize it's a big commitment and they have to give up some things," Cowan said. "It helps them focus on what missions is about."

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

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Creative Christmas caroling ideas

By Diana Davis

Spice up your caroling this Christmas, Christians. You've got something to sing about! Need a few fresh ideas?

Frozen carolers. Even in warm weather, carolers should dress like it's freezing, with scarves, muffers and even fake snow.

Love note. Leave a Christmas card signed by all the carolers.

Decorate your chariot. Embellish carolers' vehicles with signs, gaudy decorations and battery-powered lights. The neighborhood will notice.

Can you kazoo? Bring kazoos for everyone. Or add one instrument—a flute, bongo, guitar, trumpet, accordion, etc.

Memento. Make a simple homemade ornament to deliver as you carol. Decorate it to honor Jesus' birthday and add the church name and date.

Jingle bells. Use tiny jingle bells to add pizzazz. Or play the first two bars of "Joy to the World" on hand bells. It makes a snazzy intro, and no talent is required.

Cup of Christmas cocoa. Bring plastic cups, a thermos of cocoa,

canned whipping cream, and serve a warm drink to spectators. Day-time carolers could serve hot tea in a gift Christmas teacup.

Party with purpose. Begin the church choir Christmas party with a caroling blitz. Divide into quartets and carol for homebound or nursing home residents.

Brilliant performance. Carolers can hold strings of battery-powered lights.

Short and sweet. Good carolers leave them wanting more. Simply sing the first verse of three familiar carols, then "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" as you wave goodbye.

You're caroling where? Carol in unexpected places—fire station, homeless area, bus stop, your apartment balcony. Hospitals, office buildings and shopping malls may allow groups to carol in their atriums.

Nursing home parade. Costume your children's group as kings, shepherds, angels, animals, Mary and Joseph. With permission from the retirement center's director, stage a caroling parade through the hallways, then pose as a nativity for caroling in the common area.

FIRST PERSON

Adrian Rogers' legacy

I appreciate very much the Western Recorder's coverage of the life and work of Pastor Adrian Rogers. Along with other members of my family, I was a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis during his first term as Southern Baptist Convention president. Later, when I could no longer attend Bellevue, I watched Rogers' Love Worth Finding broadcasts on TBN for many years.

Adrian Rogers was a tireless advocate of godliness. He was the

consummate evangelist, Bible expositor and inspiring leader. At the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Denver in 1970, Rogers was praised even then as someone

who would be wonderful to have as president of the SBC. That was nine years before his first election.

Rogers' legacy will live on for years through his writings and recorded messages on audio and video media. I thank the Western Recorder for its recognition of Adrian Rogers' splendid example and leadership.

Robert Causey
Smiths Grove



Joyous celebrations across Kentucky

I recently had the privilege of being in several associations and churches for special occasions, and with the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children during a special dedication. Let me share with you some of the joyous experiences.

First Baptist Church of LaCenter celebrated its 100th anniversary recently. It was a privilege to represent Kentucky Baptists and present a special certificate.

The church was started near the time of the great revival in Paducah in 1905, when hundreds of people came to faith in Jesus Christ. A well-known revival historian, J. Edwin Orr, said the Paducah revival had a connection with the great Welch revival where 100,000 people came to faith in Christ in one year.

Mark Bond, pastor of the church, presented his "Our Best For God's Best" baptism commitment card to me, which would double their baptisms. Bond had been present for the Kentucky Baptist Conven-

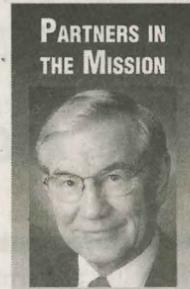
tion baptism celebration in Bowling Green, Oct. 18, along with 274 other church pastors and leaders.

Participants at that gathering were asked to set as a goal this year to help their churches match their best year in baptisms over the last 10 years. It is my prayer that all church members are giving attention to people who are seeking the Lord.

It also was my privilege to be present recently for the groundbreaking for a new school building at the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown. Rep. Jimmie Lee helped secure a gift of \$200,000 through the Kentucky legislature to assist with the construction.

I praise God for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and its president, Bill Smithwick. Indeed, I am grateful for the wonderful ministries of each KBC entity.

Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville also recently invited me to speak on the occasion of



Bill Mackey

It's a gift. Remove top and bottom from big boxes, cut armholes on sides and gift-wrap them. Children's choir members wear the boxes, with bows on their heads, as they carol for homebound folks. Handmade notes read, "The greatest gift is Jesus!"

Reverse caroling. Teens love this. They show up at a youth worker or church family's home, pretending to be carolers. When the family opens the door, they give them songbooks for reverse caroling. That means the visited people sing! Start with "Joy to the World!"

"Outdoor carolers nightly, 7-8 p.m." Display this sign on the church lawn. Spotlight a caroling area and rope a side area for spectators. Schedule 20-minute shifts for various groups within your church to carol—choirs, ensembles, senior saints, finance committee, Bible classes, preschoolers, deacons, women's group, youth, etc. Musical ability isn't nearly as important as enthusiasm and volume for carolers. You'll be amazed at what fun the church softball team will have joyfully singing about Jesus' birth.

Diana Davis is a freelance writer based in Indianapolis. Her husband, Steve, is executive director of the Indiana Baptist State Convention

Thanks for view

I want to thank Paul L. Whiteley Sr. for his Nov. 29 letter, "Peacemaking needed."

I am troubled that more Christians haven't spoken out about what is going on in Iraq. How can we equate what we are doing there with Christ and His teaching?

Joseph H. Scalf Jr.
Danville

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.

their note burning. Although the church has experienced some challenges recently, it has continued to make progress under the interim leadership of Mike Greer.

I also had the opportunity to speak during the annual associational meeting of Franklin Baptist Association where John Heskett is director of missions. In addition to the ministry reports, the highlight of the evening for me was the message by Todd Lester, pastor of Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church. That church had more than 150 additions last year.

I also had the privilege of speaking in South District Association where Jim Clontz serves as director of missions. There were large crowds both nights and informative exhibits in the fellowship hall of Hyattsville Baptist Church. It is obvious that Jim is doing a wonderful job in his new role.

Pray that the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ will reign supreme in the hearts of all Kentucky Baptists this Christmas season.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Charitable Gift Planning 101: It's not all that hard

By Laurie Valentine

Many people would like to make gifts beyond their tithes and offerings to their church and other charitable causes, but they don't know how to do it and are concerned that such giving could affect their financial security and that of their family.

There are a variety of charitable gift planning options that permit individuals not only to fulfill their charitable giving objectives, but also provide for the future financial security of their family.

A variety of assets can be used to make charitable gifts—cash, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate, life insurance and IRA survivor benefits, to name a few. Using appreciated assets to make lifetime gifts provides multiple advantages—a charitable income tax deduction based on the current market value and avoiding all or a portion of the capital gains tax that would be incurred if the asset were sold.

There also are a variety of ways to make charitable gifts:

Beneficiary designations. You can designate your church or other charitable cause as a primary or contingent beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan survivor benefit or IRA.

Bequests. You can include a gift to your church or other charitable cause through a bequest in your will or revocable living trust. Bequest gifts can be outright or can be used to establish or add to an endowment fund.

Endowment funds. An endowment fund is a permanent, perpetual fund created during your lifetime or at your death for the support of one or more Baptist causes. Only the earnings of the endowment fund are paid to the causes you designate; the original value of your gifts is never distributed.

Life income gifts. Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts are plans that allow you to make gifts during life for the ultimate benefit of one or more charitable causes, while retaining the right for you and/or others to receive an income stream for life or a term of years. It offers the joy of knowing the causes you have designated will receive a significant gift at your death.

Charitable gift planning provides the opportunity to help make a lasting difference for the cause of Christ in our world—and it's not hard to do.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Make sure gift-giving reflects sincere, heartfelt perspective

Q: My wife complains every year about Christmas shopping. She says she is tired of doing all the shopping for our family by herself. I think all of this frantic buying and giving is a scam, and I remind her she is just being pulled into it all. How can I get her to leave me out of it?

There is strong cultural pressure this time of year to exchange gifts with friends and family. The idea of giving and expressing our love or value of one another has been somewhat restricted to the Christmas season. In

MARRIAGE

truth, sharing our heart with those we love and care about is needed throughout the year by our spouse, family and friends.

So it's the season of giving. Some rightly criticize commercial giving, aware of inherent dangers such as financial abuse and distraction from celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Others who criticize commercial giving simply use it as an excuse not to give.

Jesus' message always was about the heart. Mary anointed Jesus' head with oil, and He saw the gift of love flowing from her heart. The wise men offered gifts of value to the infant Jesus to express their worship and joy at finding the Christ for whom they had been seeking.

If you do not want to buy into the commercial pressure of exchanging gifts, then don't. If you are using that philosophy as a defense for a selfish heart that is unwilling to move out of your comfort zone in order to express love or worship, then don't bother trying to fool God, yourself or anyone else.

Jesus focuses on the heart. He did not simply talk to His disciples about love or loving them; He showed them. He washed their feet. He forgave them of their shortcomings. He believed in them and told them so.

We are told that the gift of Christ on the cross was bought with a price. Gifts of great love are costly. It is not the price tag on the package. It is the value of the gift you give expressing your love to someone because it cost you something. Talk with your wife. What is the gift she needs from you this Christmas season? Are you willing to give a gift that could truly cost you?—Valerie Vincent

Q: Should I let my younger child see "The Chronicles of Narnia"?

With a PG rating, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" has been promoted heavily as a story about families and for families. Still, I have heard several parents ask, "Will the movie be appropriate for younger children?" The answer depends on the child.

Younger children certainly will enjoy the story—a classic tale of good versus evil. They will readily identify with the major characters, all of whom are children. They will understand the goodness of Aslan and the wickedness of the witch. The question of appropriateness for younger children most likely will center around the big battle that culminates the film.

The battle gets relatively brief treatment in the book, but indications are that director Andrew Adamson chose to make it a focal point for his film and instructed his staff to make Lewis' creatures as scary as possible. Parents must decide how their child will react to the final battle which features children fighting with minotaurs, talking wolves and polar bears and an assortment of other creatures, but according to advance screenings, no bloodshed.

Most of today's children have seen much worse. Still, the child who frightens easily or who has nightmares might want to stay home, enjoy the book and wait for the DVD.

Broadman & Holman has produced a family reading and viewing guide for the movie. Free copies are available at most Christian bookstores.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are:

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



Service honors 'Dean of Baptist Editors'

Chauncey R. Daley was a well-known and highly respected Kentucky Baptist leader during the last half of the 20th century.

As editor of the Western Recorder from 1957 to 1984, Daley was known for his forceful, straightforward editorials on subjects ranging from civil rights to convention controversy. In his inaugural editorial, Daley wrote, "I can only promise that whatever is said will be honest, sincere and personal convictions. Truth in reporting and sincerity in interpretation of events will be my guiding principle whatever the costs."

Former Western Recorder Editor Mark Wingfield, writing the foreword to the book, "Daley Observations: The Best of C.R. Daley's Western Recorder Editorials," noted that Daley "became both a prophetic voice and a compassionate voice in homes and churches across the commonwealth."

According to Duane Bolin in the book, "Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation," when the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board elected Daley as editor in 1957, "they appointed a new kind of editor, one who would have a far-reaching impact on the social and religious consciousness of Kentucky Baptists for a generation."

"Daley's determination not to shy away from social issues in the pages of the state Baptist paper was evident from the start," Bolin added. "Controversial issues relating directly to Baptist work within the state required the new editor to marshal the full range of his courage, expertise and tact, and Daley characteristically addressed these issues with impartial grace. At the same time, the editor continued his practice of voicing his personal convictions."

In addition to Daley's 27 years as editor, he had a distinguished ministry career as a pastor, professor and denominational statesman. He was pastor of three Kentucky Baptist congregations, including Harrods-

burg Baptist Church; taught Greek, Latin, Old Testament and philosophy at Georgetown College as well as serving as dean of men; and after retiring as editor, taught at Boyce Bible School in Louisville.

Prior to his death in 1999 at age 81, he had earned the honorary title of "Dean of Baptist Editors." After his death, friends and colleagues remembered him as "brilliant," "courageous," "influential," "sincere" and "down-to-earth."

While attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the early 1980s, I had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Daley. Serving as a Western Recorder staff intern, I began my Christian journalism ministry as his drew to a close. He quickly became a mentor and encourager to me as he did for so many other people over the years.

Why recount Dr. Daley's ministry impact six years after his death? During the Baptist Building's recent relocation, I worked with Dr. Daley's family to furnish a Western Recorder conference room in his memory. The room's dedication was held last week in conjunction with our Western Recorder board meeting.

Two of Dr. Daley's sons, Gil and Mike, cut the ribbon for the conference room that also houses bound volumes of the Western Recorder dating to the late 1800s.

During the dedication service, I quoted Exodus 1:8, "Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph." Drawing a comparison to Dr. Daley's longtime ministry among Kentucky Baptists, I voiced hope that the C.R. Daley Conference Room will help future generations remember and celebrate the life and legacy of a dedicated servant of God.

When you visit the Baptist Building, I invite to stop by the C.R. Daley Conference Room. Feel free to use its resources to delve into more than a century of Kentucky Baptist history. I'm confident the "Dean of Baptist Editors" would be pleased.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Help youth share true Christmas spirit

December always is one of the busiest times in the local church and community.

School band and choir concerts, dance recitals, school plays and local Christmas parades fill schedules along with such church events as cantatas, dramas, meals, parties, the international mission emphasis and collecting money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. When you add in the shopping trips, lock-ins, retreats and conferences, it is almost as hectic for youth leaders as the summer (just in a more condensed time frame).

Students, like everyone else in society, seem to be more benevolent at this time of year. Several of our churches use this time to do mission projects.

Michael Coogle, youth minister at Cecilia Baptist Church, uses the Christmas season as an opportunity to "team up with our local Helping Hand organization for Christmas baskets. They provide the baskets of food, clothes, toys, etc., for needy families; we go out and deliver these baskets. Helping Hand does this countywide for hundreds of families. Our group delivers about 50 each year.

The youth and adults from the church do the project together. "This helps them build a bond with the senior adults, and also gives the senior adults a positive taste for young people," he noted. For many senior adults, "all they see are the

'heathens' and 'punks' on TV and in town, and this is an opportunity to show them that there are some good kids out there."

At Burlington Baptist, where Jeff Perry is youth minister, one of the annual Christmas projects they do with the youth is "Gifts for the Homeless."

"Our youth bring items (a Bible, gloves, fruit, candy, food coupons, socks and so on) and they create gift boxes for the homeless in downtown Cincinnati," Perry explained. "We then go downtown on the Saturday before Christmas and actually go to several of the areas that the homeless might be. As we find the homeless, we give them a small gift. Last year we took over 30 gifts. This is one of our most special projects that we do."

The past few years at Edgewood Baptist in Hopkinsville, we hosted a parents' night out event. We provided free childcare at the church for families so parents could spend time together as a couple or go Christmas shopping.

What started out as an event to help the young parents in our church took a broader turn when we opened it up to the community. One year in particular we promoted it for spouses of soldiers at Fort Campbell who were deployed. Most of the moms who came had no family in the area to help. They were able to go Christmas shopping for their children and we were able to share Christ with them and their

children.

The season "also gives us time to teach the true meaning of Christmas," said Jason Sharp, youth minister at Dripping Springs Baptist in Logan County. "The youth and I always have a birthday party for Jesus. We get a birthday cake and only put one candle on it. That just means Christ is the only One.

"Coming to the Christmas birthday party, we all bring a gift where we will give it to a youth in our community that could use it. We also might bring gifts for each other, such as ornaments."

Sharp said he and others "try to get everyone involved, including youth workers. The main focus is to remember Jesus' birth and remember Matthew 25:40." ("I assure you: Whatever you did for the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.")

Along with the hectic pace the Christmas season always brings, it also brings ample time to impact the lives of students.

In addition to participating in mission projects, take time to teach about missions and promote the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Lead the international missions study and give students an in-depth look at what God is doing around the world. The Christmas season offers plenty of opportunities to share stories of missionaries around the world who are sharing the good news of Jesus and why our support of them is important.

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

Faith groups gain clout for potential health care impact

By Nicole Larosa
Religion News Service

New York (RNS)—Hours before the December 2004 tsunami hit Southeast Asia, pastor Rick Warren got a 4:30 a.m. e-mail from a church in Sri Lanka.

An earthquake had just struck, the pastor wrote, and it was so big that a tsunami was bound to follow.

Warren mobilized his network of churches. "We had a team headed for the coast before the tidal wave hit," he said.

Speaking at the opening of Time magazine's recent three-day Global Health Conference, the author of the best-selling "Purpose Driven Life" used the tsunami relief example to explain how churches could be mobilized to deliver worldwide health care.

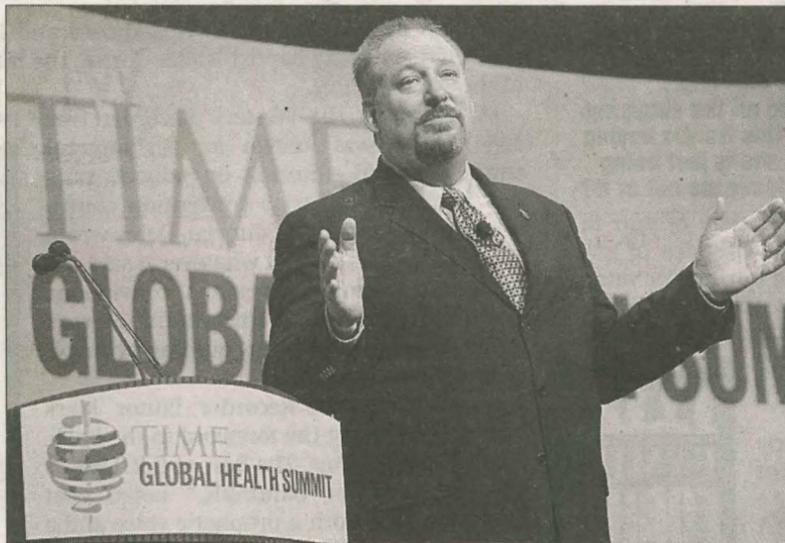
"I can take you to a million villages around the world that don't have a clinic, don't have a post office, don't have a hospital," Warren said. "But they got a church."

The fact that Warren was a summit speaker along with luminaries like Bill Clinton and Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, the famed Columbia economist, illustrates how faith communities increasingly are seen as major players in the global health arena.

At the summit, sponsored in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders touted their health efforts, bickered over challenges, and discussed how they can succeed where governments fail.

Warren and United Methodist officials unveiled major church-to-church health initiatives for sub-Saharan Africa.

Using \$5 bed nets and \$30 hand-



CHURCH IMPACT Pastor Rick Warren speaks at the opening of Time magazine's three-day Global Health Conference last month. Warren noted that millions of villages have no government offices to offer health services, "but they have a church." (Time Global Health Summit photo by Doug Goodman)

cranked radios, United Methodist churches in the U.S. will connect with African congregations to launch a malaria prevention campaign, church officials said.

United Methodist Bishop Joao Machado of Mozambique said 68 percent of hospitalizations in his country are from malaria alone. The disease kills an estimated 2,000 African children every day, and 900,000 people on the continent each year.

"With a radio like that," said Machado, waving one in his hand, "we can educate the people in Mozambique."

Combating the disease is possible, he said, but "we need only people who know that we are one world."

The malaria prevention project is

scheduled to begin in Sierra Leone in December, with startup costs of \$350,000. The church plans to create similar programs in eight other African nations, including Mozambique.

P.E.A.C.E. plan

At the conference, Warren described his P.E.A.C.E. plan, a project that's been piloted in Rwanda. The acronym stands for "plant churches, equip servant leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation." The plan incorporates the much-heralded HIV/AIDS work of Warren's wife, Kay Warren.

Warren sends small teams of volunteers from his Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., to

developing nations.

"When you go into a village, you find a man of peace," Warren tells his volunteers. The person does not need to be Christian, or a man, he said, just open and influential.

Bearing dental hygiene kits and other supplies, they try to address what Warren calls the five Goliaths of the world: spiritual emptiness, egocentric leadership, poverty, pandemic diseases and illiteracy.

Warren said 4,500 Saddleback congregants already are involved in pilot projects, and he just recruited 15,000 more. The church has an average weekly attendance of 22,000.

While religious groups have made strides in addressing health care, their efforts are not without obstacles or controversy.

At a conference panel discussion, a Sufi Muslim, a Catholic, a Protestant, a Jew and Warren, a Southern Baptist, were eager to talk about their interfaith collaborations and health work in the trenches.

The moderator asked about proselytizing. "I'm kind of a pragmatist," said Warren, who didn't directly answer the question.

Warren said if he were sick and someone tried to help, "I wouldn't care what their motivation was."

Nonetheless, evangelicals have been criticized this year for preaching in predominantly Muslim countries like Sri Lanka.

Warren and other religious leaders said they know they can't solve the world's health problems alone.

"There is government, there's business, and there's religion," said Warren. "I'm absolutely convinced that you cannot do it with one sector or even two."

NATIONAL NOTES

Groups back workplace faith bill. Leaders from a variety of faith backgrounds are urging Congress to pass the Workplace Religious Freedom Act to prevent discrimination against employees who practice their faith on the job. "Americans should not have to check the freedom to exercise their faith at the door of their workplace," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"Christmas" tree returns to Capitol. The decorated tree that will stand outside the U.S. Capitol in the coming weeks has officially been designated a "Christmas Tree" again, after several years with the title "Holiday Tree." "The speaker believes a Christmas tree is a Christmas tree, and it is as simple as that," Ron Bonjean, spokesman for House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said. In recent years, some governments have named the trees on their lawns and under their rotundas "holiday trees" instead of "Christmas trees." Others, such as the National Christmas Tree near the White House, stuck with the traditional title.

Religious leaders decry deficit bill. A diverse group of religious leaders lambasted the House of Representatives Nov. 21 for its passage of a deficit-cutting bill that makes many of its cuts in programs that benefit poor people. The House passed the measure on a 217-215 vote Nov. 18. The bill included billions in cuts to programs such as Medicaid, food stamps and student loans. Quoting from the book of Isaiah, Jim Wallis claimed legislators failed to do justice to the poor. "It is a moral disgrace to

take food from the mouths of hungry children to increase the luxuries of those feasting at a table overflowing with plenty," said Wallis, the progressive evangelical who founded the Call to Renewal anti-poverty movement.

Coach sues to pray with team. A New Jersey high school football coach has filed suit against the district his team plays in, claiming it is violating his constitutional rights by prohibiting him from praying with his players before games. In the suit, East Brunswick (N.J.) High School football coach Marcus Borden is asking the court to rule that he can silently nod his head during team prayers before pre-game meals with players and kneel with the team in the locker room before a game. Borden initially resigned when the school board ruled he could not participate in team prayers. He rescinded his resignation and hired an attorney to represent him in his quest to coach the team.

L.A. most evangelical? Some call it "Lost Angeles," but Los Angeles actually is the metropolitan area with the greatest number of evangelical adults, according to The Barna Group. "Keep in mind that the metropolitan L.A. market is huge; it contains more than 10 million adults," George Barna was quick to point out. The city's percentage of Christians is below the national average, but "its population is so massive that it emerged as the largest accumulation of believers." While not exactly a Christian commune, Barna said, "Los Angeles has a significant remnant of believers who can exert tremendous, positive influence on their culture if they so choose."

College seeks ruling on ban for resident assistants leading dorm Bible studies

Eau-Claire, Wis. (RNS)—The University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire has asked the state attorney general to review the legality of its ban on resident assistants leading Bible studies in their dorms, a university spokesman said.

Last July, a school administrator sent a letter to Lance Steiger, a resident assistant, informing him that students might fear they'd be "judged or pushed in a direction that does not work for them" because Steiger conducted Bible studies in his dorm.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a Philadelphia-based group that battles "political correctness" at universities, took up Steiger's cause and asked the school to allow resident assistants to conduct Bible studies.

FIRE issued a statement calling the policy an "assault on basic civil liberties."

UW-Eau Claire spokesman Mike Rindo said resident assistants are essentially state employees and are forbidden to host religious and political activities or "sales parties" in their workplace, the dorms.

Resident assistants receive free room and board plus a \$625-per-semester stipend in exchange for counseling students and explaining community standards.

They are permitted to organize

and lead religious activities outside the residence halls where they live, Rindo said.

"All of this is under review, and we're seeking advice from legal counsel," Rindo said in a telephone interview.

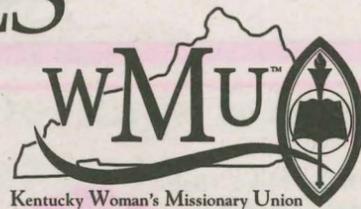
By spring, the school expects to clarify its policies, which have been verbal directives until now, and might put them in writing, Rindo said. It is uncertain whether the attorney general will respond to the school's request for a legal review, Rindo said.



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That All Peoples May Know Him

Season of International Missions

Week of Prayer: Dec. 4-11, 2005

Study Focus: India

National Goal for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering \$150 million

Kentucky churches gave \$3,822,160 to LMCO during 2004-05

Winter 2005



2006 Kentucky Annual Meeting

April 21-22, 2006

Harrodsburg Baptist Church

Theme: Keep the Message Alive

"But you—keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant." 2 Timothy 4:5 (from *The Message*)

Sessions: Friday morning, afternoon, evening; and Saturday morning

Keynote speaker: Kaye Miller, new National WMU president from Little Rock, Arkansas.



Carmela Bartels

International Missionary: Carmela Bartels, Central & Eastern Europe; Special Music by Chandra Bartels

Praise Team: Rejoice from First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington. WMU testimonies, drama, music, and other special features in each session.

Friday Box Lunch by pre-registration. Associational WMU Directors/DOM's will have lunch together. Missionaries and Missionary Parents will have lunch together.

Prayerwalking in Harrodsburg and/or go on a virtual prayerwalk to Kentucky Partnership Missions sites. Ross Bauscher, KBC Partnership Ministries Director will highlight Prayerwalking and KBC Partnership Ministries.

Heritage Fund Party and Reception for Kentucky WMU President Cathy Chinn following the Friday afternoon session. Church and Association WMU displays on the theme "Keeping the Message Alive."

Fiesta! on Friday evening featuring Hispanic ministries in Kentucky. Guests include: Grundy Janes, Carlos & Christina De La Barra, Jorge Garcia, Jesus Pacheco, Ruth Salazar, Pat Howard and the Spanish Praise Band from Cooper Chapel Road Baptist Church. Everyone invited to come in Spanish attire.

Mission Project: Bring a Spanish Bible to be used in Kentucky Hispanic Ministries.



Launch of Korea WMU-Kentucky WMU Partnership or Saturday. Make your commitment to pray and/or volunteer!

Saturday Special events:

- ◆ Missions event for Girls in Action/Children in Action
- ◆ Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon
- ◆ Acteens/Youth on Mission Fellowship

From the opening song to the closing challenge, you will not want to miss a minute of the 2006 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

Additional information will be sent to WMU directors in early 2006



Kaye Miller



A Personal Word

At times in our lives, there are experiences that have a profound impact on us. Pray the Perimeter was such an experience for me. Pray the Perimeter took place in September during the Season of Prayer for State Missions. As we enter the Season of Prayer for International Missions, let me share some reflections.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

On our weeklong tour of Kentucky, I learned that there is a hunger to pray in our state. People want to spend time praying, not just talking about praying. They also want to come together to pray. During the tour people and Kentucky came to meet the van and pray with us. The experience of praying out loud and hearing one another verbalize prayer for our deepest needs

had a great impact on every participant.

During Pray the Perimeter we focused on prayer for spiritual awakening. We prayed for a movement of God in our state and nation. We prayed for lost people by name. We prayed for our churches and pastors. We prayed for ministries that touch lives and share Jesus. We cried out to God for Holy Spirit intervention in the lives of young people caught up in drug and alcohol abuse. One lady with whom I prayed, said to me, "You haven't really prayed until you have walked the floor all night praying for someone." I had to ask myself, "Who have I walked the floor for?"

This fall we've grieved for those who have lost their homes and jobs. We've grieved over the loss of life in earthquakes, mudslides, and storms. There is deep within us a growing need to pray when all around us there is so much destruction from both nature and war.

In this Season of Prayer, may we not allow this to be just another date on the denominational calendar. I am asking you to gather a group in your home to pray. Pray for spiritual awakening in your town, our state and our world. Pray for the spread of the Gospel. Pray for lost people by name. Take a newspaper and pray about what is happening in the world. Pray for our missionaries and for open doors to share Jesus in the midst of tragedy. Use the Week of Prayer for International Missions prayer guide and pray for the featured missionaries.

Pray the Perimeter is not a catch phrase. It is something we can do. Pray the perimeter of your church. Pray the perimeter of your town. Pray the perimeter of your association. Then get a map. Use your hands to trace the perimeter of each country and pray the perimeter of that country. Ask God to guide your praying and put a particular country or people group on your heart. If you are led to pray for Kentucky partnership missions, please register for On Bended Knee. You will receive regular prayer requests by email.

Pray the Perimeter has affected how I view my travel time. Whenever possible, when I am traveling across Kentucky, I plan to include some prayer stops along the way. I will be calling WMU directors and others to join me for prayer. Jesus said, "You have not because you ask not." Let's not miss what God has for us by failing to ask. Join me in asking God to pour out the Holy Spirit on Kentucky and use us as witnesses for Him.

A Kentucky WMU team went to Brazil in February and prayer walked every site where KBC teams would be working this year. God has answered prayer in a wonderful way all year. Cathy Chinn, state WMU president, will lead another Kentucky WMU team March 2006 to prayer walk. While they will go across continents to pray, you can go across the street and across your town. Get a friend and go to pray. Your life will be blessed.

Information for WMU Directors

Welcome Winter!



Is your passion and zeal for missions and mission education still flourishing? New things often fade into the past and we get away from the passion that first inspired us. Much of your role as a WMU director is to keep the passion alive!

In the second quarter of the WMU year, there are three opportunities for your church to ignite a passion for missions and mission education.

Week of Prayer for International Missions: You should have already received your International Missions packet from Kentucky WMU and ordered your materials to celebrate in December. However, if you have not ordered your materials, please contact us as soon as possible. Use this emphasis to inform and educate your church family on the importance of missions internationally and at home. Provide as many resources as possible to reach those who attend and are members.

Focus on WMU: This annual emphasis allows WMU to shine in our churches. Include the entire WMU leadership team to coordinate an event that would include each age level organization and the ministerial leadership. If you have not worked with your pastor on this before, this is a great time to get to know their vision and heart for missions. Make sure to include the goals of WMU: pray for missions, give to missions, learn about missions, do missions, and participate in the work of the church. Share what WMU and its organizations are doing in your church, community and world.

Project HELP: Poverty: Although this is a focus for all year long, this may be a great time to do a check up on where you are as a church WMU in work related to poverty. For more information, see page 69 in the yearbook.

Pass on the Passion!
Peace, Joy and Blessings!

—Wanda

Adults

God is Doing More Than You Can Imagine and it is evident in the lives of women and men across our state. So far this fall, we have **eleven** new Women on Mission organizations in our state. It's all a God thing! Speaking of more than you can imagine... The Women on Mission retreats were inspirational and uplifting. Over four hundred women attended the two retreats. Ginger Smith, NAMB missionary in Houston came to be with us at Jonathan Creek just three weeks after Hurricane Katrina and a week before Rita. She shared how God was using even horrific situations to touch the lives of so many. Jean Cullen challenged us as to whether we really do believe that God can do more than we can imagine and if so, how do we live our lives.



Jean Cullen challenged women at the Cedarmore Women on Mission Retreat that to believe God is doing more than we can imagine, we must live it.

An update on *Baby Boot Camp*... The May event just did not go as hoped, however God opened another door for an extraordinary opportunity on July 23. The Baptist Fellowship Center in west Louisville served as host for twelve young ladies. They spent several hours in candid discussion about baby care and

parent choices; devotions and prayer; lunch and a baby shower. The girls were overwhelmed by the generosity of the shower gifts from women across our state. A second *Baby Boot Camp* was held in Princeton on November 5 and requests are coming in to continue the project. Baptist Nursing Fellowship has responded and will continue this project through 2006 as part of Project HELP: Poverty.

You all are such a blessing to me. I am enjoying coming to your churches and associations. Meeting you is an encouragement. God bless you as you continue to serve Him through Woman's Missionary Union.



May you have a blessed Christmas!
Peace, Joy and Blessings!

—Wanda Walker

Youth



Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to attend Exalt and 4GO in Bowling Green. March 31-April 1, young women will gather at Exalt. Meanwhile, young men will gather at 4GO. 4GO, "For Guys Only", is a Promise Keepers-type event for guys in grades 7-12. Exalt will be held at Living Hope Baptist in Bowling Green and 4GO will be held at Greenwood Baptist. The theme for both events is Mission: Possible. These events will be separate, even using separate hotels, except for a joint closing. However, the churches and hotels are close enough

together that everyone from your church can ride together.

Wini Moran will be the main speaker at Exalt. If you attended Exalt last year, you'll remember Wini in the big, giant sunglasses and the "magic trick" she performed. Katie Richards, president of Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministries (aka BSU), will also be featured. Katie spoke last summer at Acteens Splash. Both of these women are excellent speakers, and you will love them. On Friday night, everyone will go on a secret, undercover mission.

Bonita Wilson, IMB missionary to the

Pacific Rim, will speak on Saturday afternoon to both Exalt and 4GO.

The Week of Prayer and Emphasis for International Missions is December 4-11. The International Missions Study for students focuses on India. You can get material from LifeWay or wmustore.com.

It's not too early to start thinking about camp. See information on page four of this insert.

—LaRaine Dail

Preschool

Mission Friends are happy! Mission Friends have fun! During the winter quarter:

- Involve preschoolers in the **International Mission Study** in December. The study, which focuses on missions in India, can be found in the *International Missions Study 2005 Preschool Teaching Guide*.



- Observe **Focus on WMU**, February 13-19, to help your church recognize Mission Friends as a part of WMU. Plan with the church WMU director for this special emphasis. Ideas are in the *2005-2006 WMU Year Book*, pages 56-57.

- Begin preparing for the **North American Mission Study** coming up in March! Now is the time to set a date to have the study that will feature missionary Bob Johnson, who serves with the Native Americans in Nevada.

Children

A great new resource is available! National WMU has begun a free bimonthly e-newsletter for children's missions education leaders. It includes leadership tips, ministry ideas, important dates, and resources for GA and Children in Action leaders and other missions-minded children's ministry leaders. To subscribe, e-mail wmuc@globalintell.com and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

December marks the emphasis for International Missions. Provide the opportunity for the children in your church to participate in the **2005 International Mission Study for Children**. Children will learn about the culture of India and how missionaries are ministering alongside believers there. Encourage members of Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action to attend. Use this special time to invite boys and girls who are not involved in missions education.



Girls and boys in Girls in Action and Children in Action are invited to the **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** on Saturday, April 22 during the WMU Annual Meeting at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, Harrodsburg. This is a special time for children and leaders to meet missionaries, make new friends, sing and have lots of other fun. The cost is \$2.00 per person attending.

No pre-registration for the event is required. Those attending the event can be involved in a ministry project by bringing one canned food per person to the event. The food collected will be distributed to programs for needy families in the Harrodsburg area. For further information contact Kentucky WMU.



—Brenda Price

President's Perspective

How is Lottie doing in your church? Please do all you can to promote our offering for international missions. Many who need to hear about Jesus for the first time in their own language are depending on you to make funds possible to have more missionaries spreading the gospel to all those unreached people groups all over our world.



Cathy Chinn
Kentucky WMU
president

As we look to a new year, where will you be on mission in 2006? If you have not already begun, start making plans for a mission trip. If you have never been on a mission trip, it is time you got busy being about the Lord's work wherever He tells you to go. If God calls you to a specific place to serve, He will equip you in the ways you feel inadequate. The KBC partnership office is a

great place to begin finding out where there are opportunities to serve. All the teams and assignments for next year need you! Our newest partnership is with the state of Piaui, Brazil. Many have believed in Jesus Christ during the first year of the partnership, and everyone who has gone has been blessed.

Kentucky WMU has a partnership with the Piaui, Brazil WMU. Our first team went to work with the women in February and our second team will go in March 2006. We will be prayer walking all the sites where Kentucky teams will work in 2006, and hope to also work with the women while we are there.

The National WMU event at Ridgecrest Conference Center was a very special meeting. Kentucky had several that attended. You need to put next fall's event on your calendar, September 27- October 1. During that meeting, you will be able to attend the National WMU Annual Meeting, normally held directly before the Southern Baptist Convention.

Begin making your plans to attend our Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting at Harrodsburg Baptist Church on April 21-22, 2006. It is a very special meeting each year that gives much information about missions in Kentucky, in North America, and all around the globe. If you have never attended, let this be your opportunity to learn more about missions and be motivated to do more where you live.

When you read this, I will have recently returned from Moldova. National WMU's International Initiatives has a partnership with Moldova in the area of women's work. This year, in addition to women's work, our team is to help inform the women in Moldova about mission education for children and teens. We will be speaking to an annual women's conference and then have seminars about mission education, Girls in Action, and Acteens. Please invite me to your Women on Mission group, church, or association to hear more about the work in Moldova.

Thank you for your encouragement and prayers for George and me. We have been very busy this summer and fall and feel covered with prayer. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as your WMU president. Do not hesitate to call me if I can be of service to you.

—Cathy Chinn
270-298-7570

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund June 1, 2005 – August 31, 2005

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the fourth quarter of the 2004-05 fiscal year. Thank you to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU.

In Honor of & Donor:

Joy Bolton by Delois Nunley
Cathy Chinn by Delois Nunley
Linda Lee by Grace Baptist Church WMU

In Memory of & Donor:

Joyce Boyd by Jim & Shirley Taliafero
Ann Moffett by Ruth L. Briscoe
Frances Pierce by Irma Woodrow
Irene Warrell by Rhoda Mission Group
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Wilma Reed by Georgetown Baptist WMU
Mildred Gott by Grober-Parish Baptist Women
Thelma Lankford by Frankie Johnson
Wilma Reed by Frankie Johnson
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Gifts in Honor of Anna Mary Byrdwell

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Anita Roberts
Anna White
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Cathy Day
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David & Deann Curtis
Bill & Charmaine Nichols
Julian & Marilyn Holt
Brenda Price
Green Valley Executive Board WMU
Nancy Ann Brinkley

Scholarships Available!!!

Kentucky WMU would like to encourage young women who are seeking a career in missions, social work, or a full time church related vocation. We offer college and seminary scholarships, as well as scholarships for Acteens. Most scholarships are for Kentucky women, although men and out-of-state applicants are eligible for some scholarships. Please contact our office for a scholarship brochure and application.

Applications are due in the WMU office by Feb. 1, 2006.

Crafters on Mission

A Crafters on Mission Day was held in August. Ladies spent the day working on crafts for the Brad and Sally Womble family, missionaries to Niger. Hand-made dolls were created to aid their children's ministry. The remaining crafts were personal gifts including a lap quilt, embossed cards and a scrapbook for Sally, a native of Hopkinsville. Recently, Sally sent this thank you message:

"Each and every e-mail, card and gift that is sent to us is special, because of the thoughtfulness, interest in missions, obedience to God and many prayers for the Lost it represents. Your box of gifts from the Crafters on Mission event came yesterday. It was extraordinary and moved us to tears as we considered how much energy, time, organization specifically on our behalf that was spent pulling it all together in unique ways for me and for our family, as well for the Songhai people. It is humbling to be the recipient of this kind of gift, yet encouraging, and challenging as well. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!! Thank you for 'holding the ropes,' for sending us and for praying for us. We cannot stay here, nor minister here without the prayers and support of people like you. Please tell me who the ladies are that sent the dolls and committed to pray for Songhai children and where I can send the pack of pictures. Blessings!!! Sally"

Lodging Information for Annual Meeting – Harrodsburg

Blocks of rooms are being held until **March 21, 2006** at the following hotels. Please book your rooms early as two events are on the same weekend as our Annual Meeting – the Horse Show in Harrodsburg and the racing season at Keeneland. Please let the hotel know that you are with the **Kentucky WMU "BLOCK"**.

Country Hearth Inn – Harrodsburg
105 Commercial Dr
859.734.2400
Rate: Single \$53.95 + tax
Double \$62.95 + tax
Hot/Tub/Suite \$89.95 + tax

Best Western – Harrodsburg
1680 Danville Road
859.734.9431
Rate: Double \$55.00 + tax

Country Hearth Inn – Danville
US 127 South
859.236.8601
Rate: \$50.00 + tax (10.24%)

Hampton Inn – Danville
100 Montgomery Way
859.236.6200
Rate: \$64.00 + tax

Holiday Inn Express – Danville
96 Daniel Dr
859.236.8600
Rate: \$59.40 + tax

Best Western – Danville
210 Brenda Avenue
859.236.5525
Rate: \$59.99 + tax

Other possibilities for Lodging – no blocks held

Harrodsburg Bed and Breakfasts:
Aspen Hall Manor
558 Aspen Hall Dr.
859.734.5050 (\$105.00 - \$155.00)

Baxter House
1677 Lexington Road
888.809.4457 (\$99.00 - \$149.00)

Canaan Land Farm
700 Canaan Land Road
859.734.3984 (\$85 - \$125.00)

Lakeview Point
166 Lakeview Point
877.748.8359 (\$95.00 - \$135.00)

Merriman Manor
362 North College
877.734.6289 (\$99.00 - \$155.00)

Shakertown at Pleasant Hill Kentucky Inc.
859.734.5411

CAMP 2006

Summer is not that far away! Make your plans now to attend Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest next summer. Weeklong camps are open to girls who have completed grades 3-6. This year, Express Camp has gone co-ed! Boys may attend Mission Adventure Camp during Express Week. Church chaperones may attend also. Girls who have completed grades 1-3 may attend an overnight with their mothers. Girls who have completed grades 6-10 are invited to a "teens only" week. Don't miss these great opportunities for fun, recreation, Bible study and missions!

Dates

June 12-16	Grades 3-6
June 16-17	Mother/Daughter Overnight, Grades 1-3
June 19-23	Grades 3-6
June 23-24	Mother/Daughter Overnight, Grades 1-3
June 26-30	Grades 6-10
July 5-7	Express Week, Boys and Girls, Grades 3-6
July 7-8	Mother/Daughter Overnight, Grades 1-3
July 10-14	Grades 3-6

Cost, Early Registration:

Weeklong Camp: \$160
Express Week: \$83
Mother/Daughter Overnight: \$44

Overnights at Jonathan Creek

June 23-24	Mother/Daughter Overnight (grades 1-3 & moms or mom substitute) GA Overnight (grades 4-6 & chaperones) Acteens Splash (grades 7-12 & chaperones)
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Cost, Early Registration:

Mother/Daughter Overnight: \$33
GA Overnight: \$37
Acteens Splash: \$44

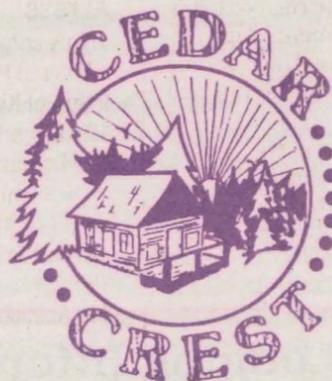
The 2006 camp information is available and will be mailed to church leaders in January. For further information, contact the Kentucky WMU office at (866) 489-3534.

Follow Christ to Camp this Summer!

Join the Mission Adventure Camp Staff!

Come share and experience the love of Christ by serving on Camp Staff at Cedar Crest in Bagdad, Kentucky.

Positions	Length of Service	Qualifications
Unit Leader	6 weeks	completed Freshman year of college
Cabin Leader	6 weeks	completed Freshman year of college
Kitchen Coordinator	6 weeks	completed Freshman year of college
Assistant Cabin Leader	5-6 weeks	High School Junior or Senior
Lifeguard	6 weeks	Red Cross certification, High School Senior or completed Freshman year of college



Applications are due
February 1, 2006.

For more information contact
Stacy Nall at Kentucky WMU.
(502) 489-3454 or
(866) 489-3534
Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org

Calendar

December

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

February 2006

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

March

3-4 Creative Ministries Festival and Youth Missions Workshop, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville
5-12 Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
10-11 Creative Ministries Festival and Youth Missions Workshop, Hillvue Heights BC, Bowling Green
17-18 KY WMU Resource Team Training Cedarmore
31-4/1 Exalt, Living Hope BC, Bowling Green

April

20 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Harrodsburg
21-22 KY WMU Annual Meeting, Harrodsburg B.C.
22 GA/Children in Action Missions Event, Harrodsburg B.C.

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Exalt 2006 Bowling Green March 31- April 1

Giving and receiving

Three giving options have spiritual & tangible benefits

In his farewell to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:35, the Apostle Paul reminded them of these words of the Lord Jesus Himself: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Every serious Christian steward has confirmed this truth in his or her life.

However, many Christian stewards are not aware of giving options today, which did not exist in Jesus and Paul's days. These options provide both an intangible spiritual benefit and a tangible financial benefit. By utilizing one or more of these options, you can receive income for your lifetime, and the lifetime of someone you love, and at the same time leave a legacy for the future ministry of the charitable cause(s) you want to benefit.

The three giving options to which I refer are (a) a charitable gift annuity, (b) a charitable remainder trust and (c) a charitable lead trust. All three provide some favorable tax advantages, and you can establish them with gifts of cash or appreciated securities. In some instances appreciated real

estate can be used. Charitable gift annuities are particularly attractive at this time. Examples of our rates are: 6 percent at age 65; 7.1 percent at age 75; 8 percent at age 80 and 11.3 percent at age 90.

Married couples or parents of children 50 or older may choose two-life annuities. At the death of the surviving annuitant, the funds not paid to the annuitants will be used to support the charitable cause(s) the annuitants selected at the time of the gift. A charitable gift annuity is an ideal way to provide income for yourself and someone you love without the burden of managing the assets you exchange for the annuity. It is income that cannot shrink, and you cannot outlive. If you do not need the income now, you have the option of a deferred gift annuity. This is particularly attractive if you have maxed out the contributions to your retirement plan.

Call Laurie Valentine or me for information about giving and receiving.

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 This admits attorneys
- 4 Tribe of Israel
- 9 Son of King Abijam
- 12 KJV verb
- 13 "The last ____ of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:26)
- 14 Atlantic state (abbr.)
- 15 Exist
- 16 "Abstain from ____ lusts which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11)
- 18 Apiece (abbr.)
- 19 Golf goal
- 21 Golf bag contents
- 23 "I will not give sleep to mine ____" (Psalm 132:4)
- 25 Aerie
- 26 Prophetic O.T. book (abbr.)
- 28 Entreat
- 30 What may be let out
- 33 Linking verb
- 34 "____ yourselves likewise with the same mind" (1 Peter 4:1)
- 35 "As it was in the days of ____, so shall it be" (Luke 17:26)
- 36 Del ____, CA
- 37 Fades
- 39 "There was no room for them in the ____" (Luke 2:7)
- 40 In short order (arch.)
- 42 ____ man (jazz player)
- 44 King of the Moabites (Numbers 22:4)
- 46 Dinner table favorites, especially with children
- 49 Linking verb
- 50 Populates
- 54 Twelve Step gp.
- 55 Under-____ (beach hazard)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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15			16						17		18	
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33				34						35		
36				37				38		39		
		40	41				42	43				
44	45							46			47	48
49			50		51	52	53				54	
55	56			57						58		
59				60							61	

- 57 Hebrew month
 - 58 ATM number
 - 59 "It will be fair weather: for the ____ is red" (Matthew 16:2)
 - 60 Undergarments
 - 61 What Hophni and Phineas took into battle
- Down**
- 1 Bunyon's ox
 - 2 ____ code
 - 3 Correct (abbr.)
 - 4 "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell ____" (2 Peter 3:4)
 - 5 Sault ____ Marie
 - 6 Possesses
 - 7 Ordinal suffix
 - 8 Depended on
 - 9 Classified info
 - 10 "God hath ____ mine affliction" (Genesis 31:42)
 - 11 Exclamation of dismay
 - 16 Summer pest
 - 17 Time period (abbr., pl.)
 - 20 "To the ____ assembly and church of the firstborn" (Hebrews 12:23)
 - 22 First judge of Israel

- 24 "In the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been ____" (Revelation 5:6)
- 25 "Your ____ are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20)
- 26 Flood preventer, sometimes
- 27 Former NFL coach Parseghian
- 29 "Ye do ____, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29)
- 31 Many moons
- 32 "Let no man glory in ____ For all things are yours" (1 Corinthians 3:21)
- 37 "Who sent ____ and wonders into the midst of thee, O Egypt" (Psalm 135:9)
- 38 Mythological nymphs
- 41 Part of fabric
- 43 PC operating system
- 44 Cavern dwellers
- 45 Lose control, with "run"
- 47 Hideaway
- 48 Went down
- 51 What was poured on Saul's head
- 52 Greek letter
- 53 Sitting down, you get this
- 56 Western state (abbr.)
- 58 State College state (abbr.)

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12	I	D	O	L		O	D	E	D		E	T	E		
13	D	A	R	E		E	D	D	Y		A	Y	E		

C.S. Lewis viewed as defender of faith, author & 'saint'

Lifeway Web site offers Narnia resources

Nashville (BP)—Moviegoers intrigued by "Narnia" as well as long-time C.S. Lewis fans can find resources about the fantasy story and its author at a new Web site.

LifeWay Christian Resources has launched www.lifeway.com/narnia to offer background information about Lewis and insights into the Christian allegories worked into his story.

"We believe providing conversation starters and other suggestions for discussing the film will help generate opportunities for one to share their faith with a friend or colleague," said Gary McClure, LifeWay's e-business marketing manager.

The site features information about the movie, books, music and Christian perspectives. It also will feature a free "Webinar," or online seminar, that helps viewers understand the Christian themes throughout the film.

Continued from page 1

He then dedicated himself to promoting the faith and did so, his admirers say, using simple language and logical reasoning that anyone could understand.

Lewis' Christian devotees find meaning in his religious works such as "Mere Christianity," a collection of radio addresses Lewis gave in the early 1940s that explains the common beliefs among Christians of different denominations.

Christians also see symbolism in Lewis' children's books. Aslan, the great lion in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," who sacrifices himself for a human sinner and ultimately is resurrected, becomes a representation of Jesus Christ, for instance.

Evangelical 'saint'

In some evangelical circles, Lewis is revered. On the 100th anniversary of Lewis' birth, the evangelical magazine Christianity Today published an article calling Lewis "our patron saint" and citing a poll in which the magazine's readers chose Lewis as the most influential writer in their lives.

"It is a bit of a paradox that C.S. Lewis, an Anglican, has emerged as a virtual 'saint' among American evangelicals," said Mark Sargent, provost of Gordon College, a Christian school in Wenham, Mass. "But it was Lewis, more than any other author, who rekindled the life of the imagination within the evangelical community."

Gresham, who became Lewis' stepson when his mother, Joy Davidman, married the man, cautioned against any such interpretation of



THE WARDROBE "Narnia" will be released on the big screen on Friday. (© Disney/Walden image)

his stepfather.

"If you want to remember him," Gresham said, "remember him as a man with all the foibles and difficulties and dark times in his life that men have ..., not as some kind of plaster saint."

"He wasn't like that at all," said Gresham, whose book about Lewis, "Jack's Life," was released this fall. "He was a man of great humor, great warmth. He was a fun bloke to be around."

Nobody is saying Lewis was perfect, said Bruce Edwards, evangelical author of the new book "Further Up & Further In" about the spiritual messages in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

"Is there hero-worship involved in how people admire Lewis?" Edwards asked. "Sure."

But Edwards warned against linking evangelicals' admiration for Lewis to a naïveté about the world. "It's a convenient caricature to say,

'Oh, they've got their Bibles, and they've got C.S. Lewis' 'Mere Christianity,' and they've got Narnia, and they don't need to look outside their window anymore,' Edwards said. "I've never met anybody like that, who has such an ostrich-like view of the world."

Lewis' broad appeal

Hero-worship of Lewis is not isolated to evangelicals.

"He's very popular among people who keep the old faith, and not so popular among the modernists," said Richard Purthill, Catholic author of the book "C.S. Lewis' Case for the Christian Faith." Purthill praised Lewis as a Christian "apologist," one who gave people a rational basis for believing in Christianity.

Stan Mattson, president of the C.S. Lewis Foundation in Redlands, Calif., which encourages Christians to openly participate in scholarship and the arts, said the group chose Lewis as its mentor because Lewis was a respected scholar who "was not prepared to check his faith at the door." Describing himself as a "mere Christian," Mattson said he, like Lewis, belonged to the wider world of Christianity.

While many see Lewis as a Christian hero, others remember him as an academic who taught literature at Oxford and Cambridge universities.

"C.S. Lewis was primarily an excellent Renaissance and Medieval scholar of the old-fashioned breed," A.N. Wilson, Lewis' British biographer, said in an e-mail.

Wilson, who renounced his own

Christian faith, described Lewis' religious works as "unworthy" of the scholar. "They peddle false arguments which, when unraveled, would lead to the collapse of faith, not its strengthening," he claimed.

As for Lewis' children's books, Wilson called them "crude and derivative."

Yet many readers know and love Lewis through these stories about the magical, snowy world of Narnia, ruled by the evil White Witch. The books in the seven-volume series have sold more than 85 million copies worldwide since "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" first appeared in 1950.

Kristi Simonson, who runs the fan Web site Virtual Narnia, has been captivated by Lewis' make-believe world since seeing a cartoon of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" as a child.

The books "make you long for something better, something more, deeper than our present reality," Simonson said.

For Gresham, all this talk about his stepfather and his legacy is misplaced. "People should not be trying to remember C.S. Lewis at all," Gresham said.

"They should be trying to remember the Jesus Christ whom he represented and whom he preached."



Douglas Gresham

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Twenty-five turkeys a baking

Thanksgiving meal makes a special event for Oneida students, staff, guests

For many American households, Thanksgiving is a special day. While it might not be the favorite holiday for everyone, most will agree that it is one of the best.

As I have written before, Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I know many of my readers would say that Christmas should be my favorite. Maybe it is all the commercialization surrounding Christmas, or all of the rushing around. More recently, you can't even call it "Christmas." It can only be referred to as a "holiday" or "season." No more "Christmas" tree or "Christmas" decorations, just "holiday" trees and "holiday" decorations.

Needless to say, I do believe in the sacredness of Christmas and the gift of God's Son. I look forward to recognizing the reason for the season, but for me there is something special about Thanksgiving. What a wonderful American tradition, a time to reflect and give thanks.

I have spent the past 21 Thanksgivings here on the Oneida campus. I must admit it was difficult at first to get used to giving up this special day with my family to be with a much larger "Oneida family." This Thanksgiving, more than a dozen cooks arrived early; most left their families at home still in bed. Soon, pots and pans were filled with tasty Thanksgiving delights, including 25 turkeys. Tables were set for more than 230 hungry guests! Those guests would include not only many of our students who were not able to travel home for the short holiday, but others as well.

Many of our faculty and staff stayed on campus and invited their family members to join in

our Thanksgiving meal. Some of the parents of our students also traveled to our campus for the special event. And of course, there were our students. Never let it be said that our students don't enjoy eating! They began arriving early and were as hungry as bears after a long winter's sleep.

The tables were arranged differently than they normally are, and tablecloths adorned each table. Instead of walking through a serving line, the bountiful meal was placed in bowls and platters on each table. It was a sight! Guests, faculty and staff were seated first and they scattered throughout the dining area. Then the students were seated, mixing in with our guests and staff.

When was the last time you shared a meal with a boy from Russia or China? Have you ever dined with a boy or girl from South Korea or Ethiopia? These were just a few of the international students who shared the Thanksgiving meal with us. After the blessing, everyone knew what to do, and fill their plates they did! Thirty minutes later, they only wished they could eat more, but they were filled to capacity. Now it was time to take a nice afternoon nap.

Several faculty and staff volunteered to clean the tables and the dining room so our cooks could return home to be with their families. It was a wonderful day!

It was a day to express our thanks to God for all the wonderful blessings He has bestowed upon us, and a time to say "Thank you" to our many friends who made this delicious meal and thousands of other meals possible. Thank you to everyone!

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



W.F. Underwood

A life greatly blessed

Longtime English professor Anna Starkey dies in Kansas

From 1958-79, Anna Starkey was professor of English, dean of women, Kelly Hall hostess and a tutor of Clear Creek students. On Nov. 15 she died in Kingman, Kansas, at the age of 94.

Anna Starkey left her farm family at age 18, during the Great Depression, to attend Pittsburg Teachers College in eastern Kansas, with a major in rural education. "I knew I wanted to teach in a rural area," she said. "I like the country, and I like country people." Her first teaching experience came in one-room rural schools. She found the setting helped students "learn to concentrate."

Testifying that "the Lord wanted me to go to Appalachia," Starkey first spent five years at the Oakland (Calif.) Christian Center. "After that, I felt ready for Appalachia," she said. "I had the experience and training I needed." The final miles of her move to Kentucky came in a wagon pulled by a team of mules over mountain paths and across creek beds.

D.M. Aldridge worked with Miss Starkey while he was presi-

dent of Magoffin Institute, a Baptist high school in Breathitt County. When Aldridge became Clear Creek president in 1955, he soon brought Miss Starkey to the staff.

Alumni tell legendary stories about her. It was not uncommon for her to correct a student's grammar if she overheard it in a conversation with others. Alumni secretary Beth Wyatt of London recently recalled a different perspective. Miss Starkey attended a church where a student was preaching. Afterward, the student asked Miss Starkey about his English. She responded, "I came today to worship."

At 80 years of age, she tutored elementary children in reading. "It seemed like a good idea if I could help out," she explained. Miss Starkey returned to campus for the August alumni reunion several times after her retirement. She never got to see the renovated Kelly Hall.

Reflecting on her life a few years ago, she said, "I feel I've been greatly blessed." Clear Creek was "greatly blessed" by Anna Starkey.

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



Bill Whittaker

Bible & Bugs

Animator using 'Roach Approach' to share biblical stories with kids

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

Oldsmar, Fla.—Animator Bruce Barry has found a new way to tell old Bible stories to young children—cockroaches.

Barry is the creator of "The Roach Approach," a 3-D animated DVD series featuring a family of cockroaches retelling popular Bible stories.

Why cockroaches?

"That's always the No. 1 question I get," Barry said. "Everyone who talks to me about the series says, 'What you're doing is cool, but why cockroaches?'"

Barry said he got the idea watching two kids picking out candy in a local convenience store two years ago.

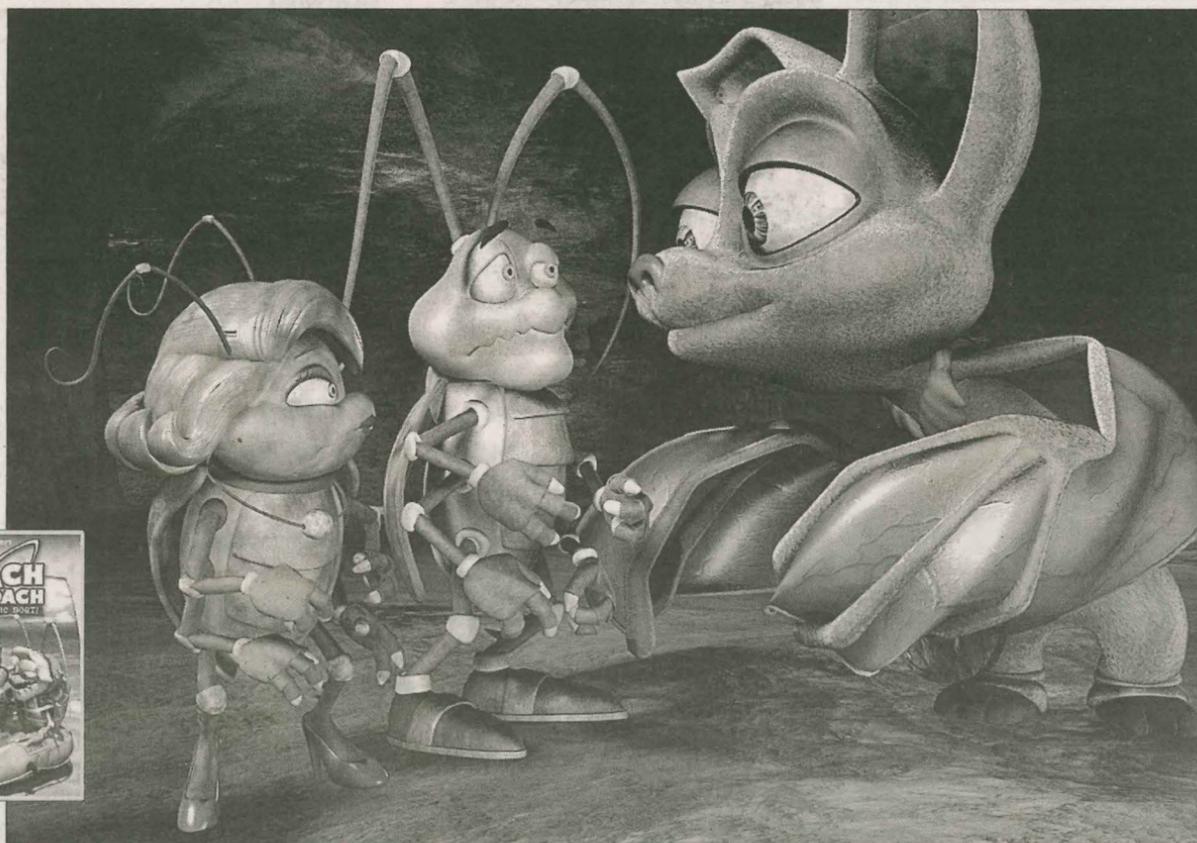
"One went for this candy head where you licked the brains out of the top, and the other grabbed this candy where you squeezed the head and candy eyeballs and a candy pierced tongue popped out," he recalled.

"They could have chosen some sort of traditional candy, but they went for the grossest thing they could get their hands on."

Getting gross for God

Barry said he thought about what he'd seen on his way back home.

"I started praying, 'God, I've forgotten what it's like to be a kid,'" he recalled, "just as I got back home, I saw this huge palmetto bug cross my path. People don't believe me when I say this, but it honestly



GUESS WHO? Lou and Nan meet Fang (voiced by Toby Mac) in "The Mane Event." The video, which tells the story of Daniel in the lions' den, is part of the "Roach Approach" collection. Creator Bruce Barry said he was inspired to tell Bible stories through cockroaches because children are fascinated by gross things. (Wacky World Studio images)

stopped and looked right at me for a moment, and then walked to the other side of our garden."

In an instant, he said, he was inspired by the idea for "Roach Approach." He sketched out the basic structure for the series during the weekend, including the main roach characters, Grandpa Lou and his young grandson, Squiggz.

Still, not everyone was convinced.

"I told my wife about this great idea I had for using these three roaches to tell Bible stories, and she asked me if I was feeling all right," he recalled.

Barry then took his idea to one of his partners at Wacky World Studios, the 2-D design and animation company he owns in Florida.

"Surprisingly enough, he said 'OK, let's do it,'" Barry said. "So we started this venture right then with just one employee and one borrowed computer."

Barry had a background in two-dimensional animation, a skill he said he had learned from his father, an animator who worked alongside Walt Disney in his legendary studio. To create three-dimensional-looking characters that could move and talk on film, however, he had to learn a whole new set of animation skills.

"They have to be drawn very carefully, and you have to be really aware of the movement of the character."

Barry said word of his project got out, and he was asked to put together something to exhibit at the Christian Booksellers Association's annual expo.

"We had nothing at that point but a few drawings," he said. "So we put together a quick movie trailer, a coloring book, and a life-size version of Grandpa Lou, and took it to the convention."

The exhibit was the buzz of the convention, and from there, he said, things grew quickly.

20th Century-Fox signed Barry to a national distribution deal. In August the first two DVDs "Don't Miss the Boat!", a retelling of the story of Noah, and "The Mane Event," the story of Daniel in the lions' den, were released. "Sling Shot Slugger," about David and Goliath, is scheduled for

release in the next few months, he added, with a fourth untitled DVD currently in production.

The movies target children ages 4-8. Barry aims to produce three videos per year and ultimately develop a motion picture that will take Squiggz to the big screen.

Finding God through children

Barry credits the classic Bible stories that mesmerize children with leading him to Christ as an adult.

"I didn't become a Christian until I was 40," he said, "and I came to Christ through the eyes of a 12-year-old girl."

Barry said he was hired to draw illustrations for a Bible-story themed display in a children's church in Mobile, Ala., when a young girl walked up and commented on his design of a whale.

"She told me I wasn't drawing the whale right," he said, "that I should draw it with its mouth open. I had never even stepped foot into a church before that night, so I had no idea what she talking about. So she started telling me the story of Jonah and the whale."

Intrigued, Barry asked her to tell him the stories behind some of the other Bible stories he was installing. Within a week, he said, he became a Christian.

"It was those stories that led me to Christ," he said.

"I know the power of those stories. And that's why I have a passion to retell them in a way that grabs kids and reaches them at their level."

"I told my wife about this great idea I had for using these three roaches to tell Bible stories, and she asked me if I was feeling all right."

Bruce Barry, creator of "Roach Approach"



STORY TIME Grandpa Lou and Nan prepare for a storm with their grandson Squiggz in "Don't Miss the Boat." The storm reminds Grandpa of his time aboard a boat built by a man named Noah.

Our newsletter plan can help you stretch this more than you ever imagined.

WESTERNRECORDER

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By John Mark Toby

As Christmas quickly approaches, we soon will give and receive a variety of gifts from family and friends. At Christmas we remember the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23 warns that "the wages of sin is death." It emphasizes that the best we can do on our own is not good enough. "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

What is the difference between a gift and wages? A gift is not earned by the person who receives it, but is paid for by someone else.

Jesus paid the price for our sin and offers the incredible gift of eternal life to everyone who makes Jesus the Lord of his or her life. You can do that by confessing to God that there are things in your life that are wrong and that you want Christ to forgive you as you turn away from your sin.

The only way Jesus can direct our lives is for us to receive His precious gift. We must surrender to Jesus as Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation."

Will you receive Christ, the greatest gift of all, this Christmas?

John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, is first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church's choir will present a Christmas musical Dec. 18, 11 a.m. The youth will lead a Christmas program that evening at 6 p.m. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—**Ned Nugent** has resigned as youth pastor of Thornhill Church effective Jan. 7. He has accepted a position at a church Missouri.

■ **HARDINBURG**—Hardinsburg Church will host the Hardinsburg community choir's 20th annual Living Christmas Tree Dec. 8, 9 and 11. **Doug Miller** is pastor and **M.L.**

Roberts is music minister.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Jeffersontown Church recently called **Laurie Brown** as minister of music. **Sanford Hill** is pastor.

■ **NANCY**—Fishing Creek Church recently called **James Gossett** as pastor. He succeeds **Earl Davidson** who retired after 48 years as pastor.

■ **SOUTH CARROLLTON**—South Carrollton Missionary Church called **Greg Brooks** as pastor effective Nov. 6. Brooks is the first full-salaried pastor in the church's 154-year history.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Hillsboro Church recently called **Paul Joria** as pastor.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY Campbellsville University officials and guest dignitaries break ground for the school's \$4 million Ransdell Chapel.

Campbellsville breaks ground for chapel

Campbellsville—Describing the site of Campbellsville University's Ransdell Chapel as "holy ground," trustee chairman Jerry Bennett helped lead a recent groundbreaking ceremony for the \$4 million facility.

Citing Ecclesiastes' declaration that there is a season for everything, Bennett added, "For the Ransdell Chapel, there have been and will be many seasons" as the project was conceived, designed and is now being built. The construction project is expected to take 16 to 18 months to complete.

Campbellsville President Michael Carter noted that George and Marie Ransdell donated \$1.3 million to-

ward the cost of the 900-seat chapel. Ransdell is a long-time member of Campbellsville's board of trustees.

The Ransdells "always want the chapel to be used in a way to build up the Lord," Carter said. "The chapel will be used virtually every hour of the day, and we will use it in a way to lift us up to Jesus Christ."

He said more than 200 people have made pledges or gifts toward the chapel.

Affirming that "this is a good time in the life of Campbellsville University," Carter added, "I don't know of a better way to make an imprint on students' lives than with this chapel."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

February

- 3-4 Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat, Bowling Green.

- 20 Retirement Choices Workshop, First Baptist Church, Princeton.
- 21 Retirement Choices Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 22 Retirement Choices Workshop, First Baptist Church, London.
- 23 Retirement Choices Workshop, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 25 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions and State Youth Choir Festival—East, Central Baptist Church, Winchester.
- 25 Hispanic Evangelism Conference & Hispanic Women's Meeting, Horse Cave Baptist Church.
- 27-28 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

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

Kentucky Baptist couple among 89 new international missionaries

Huntsville, Ala.—Jeff and Denise Gray, members of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, were among 89 missionaries appointed Nov. 15 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

The Grays will serve as missionary apprentices in the IMB's central, eastern and southern Africa region. He will serve as a strategy coordinator and she will work in community and home outreach.

The Grays are graduates of Murray State University and the University of Louisville. He is an administrator in Owensboro Public Schools and previously was a teacher in Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville. She has worked as a teacher in Owensboro and Jefferson County.

The couple has three daughters, Amanda Lynn, age 12; Haley Catherine, 7; and Vivian Rebekah, 3.

During the appointment service held in conjunction with the Alabama Baptist State Convention annual meeting in Huntsville, IMB



Jeff Gray



Denise Gray

President Jerry Rankin told the new missionaries God has called them to the nations to "declare they can be free in Jesus Christ."

"You are going to speak to the truth of salvation in Jesus Christ to nations all over the world," he added. "God wants them to be set free."

Rankin said the 89 newly appointed missionaries come from 30 states and six other countries. The group includes businessmen and teachers, pastors, engineers, computer analysts, a farmer, an accountant, a building contractor and a police officer.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR RENT: 2-bedroom/2-bath condo. Winter in Gatlinburg: \$65/night. Walk to town. (251) 666-2175. pdw@world.att.net.

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

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

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 Marylin Sutton, 1614 North Bend Road, Hebron, KY 41048; or e-mail to: masutton@aol.com.

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

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

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: 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.

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

Baptists hand out 17,000 turkeys to Biloxi residents for Thanksgiving

By Erin Curry
Baptist Press

Biloxi, Miss. (BP)—Baptist volunteers recently ministered to the residents of Hurricane-ravaged Biloxi, Miss., by giving away 17,000 Thanksgiving turkeys.

The project, coordinated by Bay Vista Baptist Church in Biloxi, culminated with a worship service featuring Christian music artists Newsong and Clay Crosse and country music singer Mark Wills.

"Our community lost more than 20,000 jobs after Hurricane Katrina, so I knew that there was a good possibility that 20,000 families would appreciate having a turkey for Thanksgiving," Pastor Kevin Clifford said.

Since Hurricane Katrina, the church has been an operations center for the distribution of more than 4 million pounds of food to needy families.

For the Thanksgiving giveaway, Bay Vista spread the word, and about 200 Christian organizations gave money to the project. A man in Virginia donated \$75,000 to get the ball rolling, and the church kicked in another \$25,000.

Then Bay Vista got permission to use the local coliseum to distribute the birds. The complex was damaged by the hurricane, but volunteers from several states brought in machinery and manpower to clear debris and ensure that the parking lot could handle the massive crowds that would come to pick up a free turkey.

Members of Bay Vista have developed a friendship with Jim Law, an associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., where Johnny Hunt is senior pastor. When Bay Vista announced its plans, Hunt volunteered to take part in the effort, preaching at the service.

Newsong, Crosse and Wills also got word and wanted to help, Clifford said.

The turkeys were limited to one per car, and gospel tracts accompanied them when they reached the hands of residents. Volunteers also took time to pray and talk with those needing individual attention.

While community members were grateful to receive free turkeys and volunteers were glad to minister to them by meeting their physical needs, Clifford said organizers hope people left with the idea that God is the only sure Foundation on which to set their hope.

"Most had been building them on the sand of casinos, and we want so desperately to show them that it's the Lord Jesus Christ that can supply all of their needs according to His riches," Clifford said.

Historic find

Ruins might be earliest Christian church discovery

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Megiddo, Israel (ABP)—The ruins of an ancient Christian church, found within the walls of an Israeli prison, may prove to be one of the earliest churches ever discovered and could change the historical understanding of the Christian church in the region.

Two elaborate mosaics loaded with Christian symbols—presumably the floor of a relatively large sanctuary—were unearthed recently by prisoners working on an expansion project for the Megiddo prison, near the site of the end-of-the-world battle of Armageddon described in the book of Revelation.

Some archaeologists say the evidence dates the mosaics to the late third century or early fourth century, when Christianity was outlawed by the occupying Romans and most Christian worship was held secretly in homes.

If the church was operating in the third century, it "would be very surprising, since Christianity was persecuted sporadically until the conversion of (Roman Emperor) Constantine around (A.D.) 312," said Richard Vinson, professor of New Testament at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

"If it proves to be as early as some of the early news reports suggest, it would be much earlier than most scholars of early Christianity would expect such a thing," Vinson said.

Two prominent fish symbols at the center of one mosaic, pottery shards found on top of the floor, and the style of Greek used in the mosaics' inscriptions all suggest the floor was made in the late third century. Soon thereafter, the symbol of the cross replaced the fish as the dominant worship symbol, archaeologists say.

One of the Megiddo inscriptions credits a woman named Aketous for paying for a table used in worship. Archaeologists say such tables were replaced by altars in churches of the fourth century and later.

But another inscription—a tribute to a Roman military officer, Gaianus, a Christian who helped



HOLY LAND DISCOVERY A prisoner at a facility at Megiddo, near Jerusalem, cleans the remains of a mosaic floor of what might be the world's oldest Christian church. (Flash 90 photo by Avi Ohayon)

pay for the mosaic—is troubling to some historians and archeologists, because Rome was persecuting Christians at the time.

"If I were a Roman soldier in the third century, I certainly wouldn't want my name on it," Joe Zias, former head of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, which controls such finds, told the New York Times. "This would not have been a good career move. In fact, it sounds like the kiss of death."

"My gut feeling is we may be looking at a Roman building that may have been converted to a church at a later date," Zias said.

The earliest existing churches are considered the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem,

both from after A.D. 330, decades after Constantine's decree legalizing Christianity. But little of the original buildings exist in either case. The 30-foot-by-15-foot floor of the Megiddo church would be a major find.

But even a date in the late fourth century would be significant, scholars say. "Even though by that time Christianity was favored in the (Roman) Empire, this would be one of the earliest—if not the earliest—building discovered," Vinson said.

It's not yet known if the Megiddo site will be preserved intact and opened to visitors or if the mosaics will be removed to a museum. Ultimately, the Israeli Antiquities Authority will decide. Meanwhile, the prison is looking for someplace else to build its addition.

'Merry Christmas' controversy continues

Tupelo, Miss. (BP)—An informal survey of 11 advertising inserts recently found that only one referred to Christmas for the season's holiday sales.

The American Family Association gathered inserts from 11 different companies placed in the Memphis Commercial Appeal and the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, two newspapers circulated near the agency's Tupelo, Miss., headquarters.

Of the 11 companies, only one—the McRae's/Belks department store—had a reference to "Christmas," AFA found, and it was only mentioned twice by that chain. The other 10 companies opted to use the word "holiday" instead.

The companies that didn't use the word Christmas, AFA said, were: Target, Kroger, Office Max, Walgreens, Sears, Staples, Lowe's, J.C. Penney, Dell and Best Buy.

AFA officials said Lowe's later notified the group that it will use the words "Christmas Trees."

"These retailers are willing to use Christmas to secure about 20 percent of their yearly sales, but they absolutely refuse to mention the Reason for the season," AFA President Don Wildmon said.

AFA is starting another petition drive, asking Americans to sign a letter which will be sent to every national retailer that bans "Christmas," asking them to change their policy. More than 425,000 have signed the petition, and the goal is 1 million.

Pastor takes up parachute jump challenge to illustrate faith

Northampton, Mass. (RNS)—Taking a leap of faith, Pastor Thomas Rice overcame a lifelong fear of heights, jumping from a Cessna 206 cargo plane with only an instructor, a parachute and his trust in God by his side.

"Ooh, it was so much fun. I think I'm alive," said Rice, patting his arms and legs Oct. 28, after planting his feet on solid ground.

A few friends, church members and his parents watched as Rice, 54, made the leap. He is pastor of First Baptist Church of Agawam, Mass.

For Rice, the anticipation lead-

ing up to the dive might have been as harrowing.

The jump was rescheduled four times due to rainy weather. At one point, Rice wondered if that was a sign from God.

Realizing the doubts were merely fears, Rice set the jump for a Friday rather than risk another rainy weekend.

Although it still was overcast, the plane climbed to 9,500 feet and Rice and instructor David Strickland, owner of Airborne Adventures Skydiving School in Northampton, leaped from the six-seater plane.

"We actually went through two cloud layers," said Strickland, who is also an ordained minister. "He was closer to God than ever before."

The inspiration behind Rice's jump came from church member Edwin Damon, 86, who prodded him after a sermon on why Christians should have faith in God despite their fears.

"Tom's afraid to do this, yet he's overcoming his fear. It's a great lesson here," Damon said.

"Every time you do something to overcome a fear, you're a stronger person for it."

