



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Commitment to faith depends on how measured

Ventura, Calif.—While 80 percent of adult Americans consider themselves Christians, their level of commitment depends on how it's being measured, a recent survey found.

The poll explored eight measures of commitment to one's faith and found that outcomes ranged from a low of 16 percent to a high of 72 percent.

Indicators that showed the broadest attachment were those that assessed people's psychological commitment to their faith.

For example: 72 percent said they had made a personal commitment to Jesus that was still important in their life.

But researchers found that more demanding involvement in practical forms of Christianity generated lower scores.

For example, only 42 percent said they were "absolutely committed" to the Christian faith.

The lowest scores were recorded for indicators that required the most intense level of participation:

■ 29 percent had attended a church service, prayed to God and read from the Bible during the past week.

■ 16 percent said their faith was the highest priority in life.

"It appears most Americans like the security and the identity of the label 'Christian' but resist the biblical responsibilities that are associated with that identification," said George Barna, whose company conducted the poll. "For most Americans, being a Christian is more about image than action."

Borrowed words



How should pastors treat non-original material?

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—A couple of years ago, many people in church circles were shocked to read that Glenn Wagner had resigned from Calvary Church in Charlotte, N.C., because he plagiarized sermons.

Because of Wagner's prominence as a former officer with Promise Keepers, the author of multiple books and the leader of a megachurch, the incident drew nationwide attention.

Wagner declined to discuss the incident, but in an e-mail to the Western Recorder he indicated there were "far bigger" issues than using a friend's sermons.

Preaching professor Hershael York said he isn't surprised. Plagiarism often indicates another under-

lying problem, said York, associate dean of ministry and proclamation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

York recalled a pastor in another state who was caught using the sermons of Adrian Rogers.

When deacons investigated further, they discovered the pastor was having an affair during supposed sermon preparation times.

"When a guy goes down that road, it can be an indication of other problems in life, whether it's morality, time management or whatever," York said.

Yet, it happens. At a Bible conference in Eastern Kentucky once, York said, he heard a past sermon preached point-by-point.

Ironically, York said he has preached one of Rogers' sermons

and used an illustration about tithing from D. James Kennedy.

The difference, he said, was that he credited the source.

With Rogers' message from Psalm 127, "Dad Should Shoot Straight," York told his congregation he had learned so much from it that he wanted to bless them.

The issue of plagiarism arises every semester at Southern Seminary.

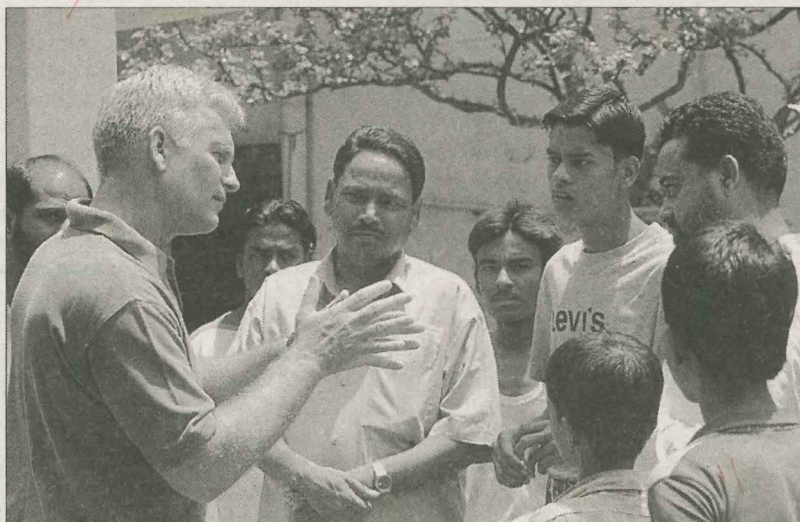
York said he tells students there is a fine line between using a source for further study or the basis of a sermon and stealing someone else's work.

"This foggy line is what I call 'intellectual property,'" said York, who also is pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort.

□ See *How should pastors ...* Page 3

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, January 11

Missionary aims to help start house churches in 30,000 villages



TRAINING CHURCH PLANTERS Carter Bolin (left) discusses Islam and the Christian gospel with Muslims near a mosque in Calcutta, India, West Bengal's capital. He is among the missionaries whose work was profiled for the recent Week of Prayer for International Missions. The corresponding Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions has a national goal of \$150 million. (IMB photo)

Editor's note: Because of security concerns, a pseudonym is used for the missionary in this story.

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

Calcutta, India—As the youngest high school football coach in South Carolina Division 4-A history, 24-year-old Carter Bolin relished the challenge of motivating his team before games against bigger, better opponents.

"I'd point across the field and tell my players, 'Look at those guys. Every one of them has 20 pounds on every one of you. It's gonna' be fun to smack 'em,'" Carter recalls.

Carter took his undersized, overachieving team to the state semifinals for the first time since 1950—thrilling the whole town.

"I could've run for mayor after

that," he claims with a grin.

Instead, he joined the ministry staff of his church, East Cooper Baptist, next door to the Charleston-area high school where he coached. He spent the next 18 years helping mobilize the growing congregation to follow Christ into the world. Local outreach spurred international involvement. About 30 East Cooper members have become missionaries after participating in short-term church mission trips.



That all peoples may know Him

On the flight home from a two-week mission trip to India, Carter was mobilized, by his wife.

"It was miserable, it was hot, it was all the things India can be," he says. "But the people just broke our hearts. There was a spiritual void, and they were filling it with idols.

□ See *Missionary aims ...* Page 12

American Baptists respond to W.Va. mine tragedy

Buckhannon, W. Va. (ABP)—Rejoicing turned to mourning for families gathered Jan. 4 inside a West Virginia Baptist church building waiting for news of their loved ones trapped after a coal-mine accident.

Relatives of the 13 trapped miners had waited in the facilities of Sago Baptist Church near Buckhannon, W. Va., for almost two days since the mine explosion, which trapped the miners on the morning of Jan. 2. In the late-night hours of Jan. 3, those gathered in the church received word that rescuers had discovered 12 of the 13 alive.

But their praises gave way to curses about three hours later, when an executive for the company that owns the mine told them the initial report of survivors was wrong—and that 12 of the 13 were dead.

John Casto, a member of the American Baptist congregation, was among many church members and others from the Sago community who gathered at the church. The congregation's facilities are located near the entrance to the Sago Mine.

Casto told CNN that the scene inside the church was heartbreaking. "They were cussin' and hollerin', and then our pastor, Wease Day, said, 'Look toward God in this tragedy,'" Casto said.

Sago Baptist Church is not the only Baptist congregation affected by the tragedy. According to the American Baptist News Service, one of the miners killed was a leader in another local ABC-affiliated congregation. Junior Toler was a deacon at Stump Chapel Baptist Church in Sutton, W. Va.

The news service encouraged individuals to pray for both congregations and Toler's family. The release said both the ABC and the West Virginia Baptist Convention had offered assistance to the Sago church.

International impact

Baptist Spanish Publishing House marks centennial

By Kay Madaris
Baptist Press

El Paso, Texas (BP)—On Nov. 17, 1905, J. Edgar Davis published his first book in Spanish on a foot-powered press in his kitchen in Toluca, Mexico.

From that humble beginning, the Baptist Spanish Publishing House has become a modern, fully equipped enterprise now printing and shipping Bibles, books and other literature throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

Around 1910, Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa took note of the ministry at a time when he was in desperate need of paper and learned the only supply in Toluca was in Davis' possession. Arriving at Davis' home, Villa demanded use of the paper, even offering to pay for it.

Davis knew he could not acquire more paper without the revolutionary's consent, so he proposed a deal. Davis would sell Villa half his paper and even print Villa's propaganda if Villa would allow him to continue using his kitchen press for his own religious purposes. Villa agreed. Davis' young son, Frank, recalled sitting on Villa's lap as his leaflets came off the press.

As Villa promised, Davis was able to continue printing his Christian literature.

The city of El Paso recently proclaimed Baptist Spanish Publishing House Day in honor of the centennial of the world's oldest Spanish Christian publishing house.

The publishing house, which relocated to El Paso in 1916, was operated by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board for its first 94 years. Since 1999, it has



GRAND OPENING Alfredo Monje (left), president of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House's trustees, and former general director Ted Stanton cut the ribbon to open the 100-year-old ministry's new Joe T. Poe Historic Center. (BP photo by Scott Lashinsky)

been self-supporting with assistance from the Foundation of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House and oversight by an international board of directors.

As part of the centennial celebration, the publishing house opened its new Joe T. Poe Historic Center detailing the ministry's history via various displays of printing presses, books and other printed materials, photographs and other memorabilia.

The center also features an interactive, hands-on program for children that highlights the publishing house's history.

The history center is named for former director Joe T. Poe, the ministry's current historian who has been involved in various aspects of the work for 44 years. Missionary Alicia Zorzoli was in charge of the center's development.

Bilingual celebration

The publishing house's bilingual centennial service was held at First Baptist Church of El Paso. Flag-bearers filled the church's aisle with a

colorful parade of flags of many of the nations where Baptist Spanish Publishing House materials now are distributed.

The centennial celebration included messages by IMB President Jerry Rankin and Luis Gabriel Cesar, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ciudad Satellite, Mexico.

Rankin said he sees evidence of the work of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House everywhere he travels in Latin America.

"Remember the past, as you honor those who have gone before, but also celebrate the future," Rankin exhorted. "Rededicate yourselves to continue this work because of the millions of unreached people in Latin America."

Cesar noted that the purpose of the publishing ministry is to change lives and invest in eternity.

"Do not stop doing it now," he said. "I remind you that the ministry in which you have invested your lives is long-term. This is a wonderful time to celebrate, but it cannot compare to the glory that is to come."

Ethics pioneer Foy Valentine dies at age 82

Dallas (ABP)—Pioneer Baptist ethicist Foy Valentine died Jan. 7 of an apparent heart attack, family members said. He was 82.

A native Texan and Dallas resident, Valentine was executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's former Christian Life Commission in Nashville from 1960 to 1987.

A memorial service was set for Jan. 11 at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas after a private burial in his hometown of Edgewood.

Valentine is survived by Mary Louise, his wife of 58 years, three daughters and five grandchildren.

"He was legitimately a 20th century prophet," said former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen, a lifelong friend and colleague. "He was a pioneer in Christian ethics, civil rights and religious liberty. He dealt with the hardest kind of issues in a prophetic fashion."

Before going to the Christian Life Commission, Valentine served as director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission from

1953 to 1960.

A key figure in the emergence of progressive ethical thinking among Southern Baptists, Valentine's most notable influence was as a champion of civil rights—long before Southern Baptists openly embraced the concept, colleagues said.

W.C. Fields, longtime director of Baptist Press and a friend of Valentine's for decades, described Valentine as the most significant civil-rights leader among Southern Baptists during the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

The source of Valentine's convictions regarding racial equality "without a doubt ... came from his grounding in his faith, his love and understanding of the Scriptures and the fact that from his earliest days, his parents and peers helped him to become a deeply devoted Christian," Fields noted.

"During those dark days, when civil rights was such an explosive issue, Foy always was well-informed, sure of the Christian approach, and he had the courage to follow through on his convictions," Fields

said. "His courage was amazing."

Late in his career, Valentine became a target of SBC conservatives because of his stance on abortion and other volatile issues.

In 1971, he was instrumental in the SBC's adoption of a resolution affirming a right to abortion in some cases.

Allen said Valentine's critics "overstated" his affirmation of abortion. "His position was that abortion was an evil but allowable for the health of the mother," said Allen, who succeeded Valentine at the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and later directed the SBC Radio & Television Commission.

After retiring from the CLC, which later was renamed the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Valentine founded the Center for Christian Ethics, now affiliated with Baylor University.

A graduate of Baylor and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he was the founding editor of the Journal of Christian Ethics and a trustee of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, among other national groups.

SBC Executive Committee member arrested in gay prostitution sting

Oklahoma City (ABP)—A Southern Baptist Convention leader was arrested Jan. 3 for allegedly offering to have sex with a male undercover police officer.

Police in Oklahoma City arrested Lonnie Latham, pastor of South Tulsa Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., on a charge of offering to engage in a lewd act. He resigned from the church Jan. 5.

Latham, a member of the SBC Executive Committee and recording secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has supported SBC efforts to get gays to renounce their sexual attractions. He also has resigned those positions.

"Our heartfelt concern goes out to Lonnie, his family in South Tulsa," said Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Regardless of what others may say," Chapman added, "the failure of one does not negate the witness of many faithful Christians to the power of Jesus Christ in their lives. The hypocrisy of a messenger does not compromise the integrity of the message."

According to several media reports, police in Oklahoma City had received complaints about male prostitutes outside the Habana Inn, a hotel that advertises itself as "the Southwest's Largest Gay Resort," in "the heart of Oklahoma City's gay district."

According to Capt. Jeffrey Becker, an Oklahoma City Police spokesman, the Oklahoma County district attorney's office has agreed to prosecute Latham. Police also impounded his 2005 Mercedes.

Latham was released from the Oklahoma County Jail on \$500 bail Jan. 4. Several media outlets quoted Latham as saying, as he exited the jail, that he had been "set up" and that he simply had been ministering to people in the area.

"I was involved in a prayer ministry in that area, and I had a dialogue with police," he said, according to the Web site of the Daily Oklahoman newspaper. "The officer made many suggestions."

But, according to police officials, Latham made no mention of prayer, told the officer his name was "Luke," and said he was from Dallas and worked frequently in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

South Tulsa Baptist Church posted a statement on its Web site Jan. 6 that said Latham had resigned as pastor the previous day and "will not be returning to South Tulsa Baptist Church in any staff capacity."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

How should pastors treat borrowed sermon material?

Continued from page 1

"If you get something from someone that is intellectual property, that is a result of their creative fact, then you need to identify that."

"I don't think you need to be embarrassed about that," he added. "We have libraries full of books, and I assume our people believe we use them and find stuff in them. We always ought to be listening to other preachers. Every now and then we're going to get that gem and feel like we need to share that."

The hard part comes in the more minute details, such as one-liners and incidental references, York said.

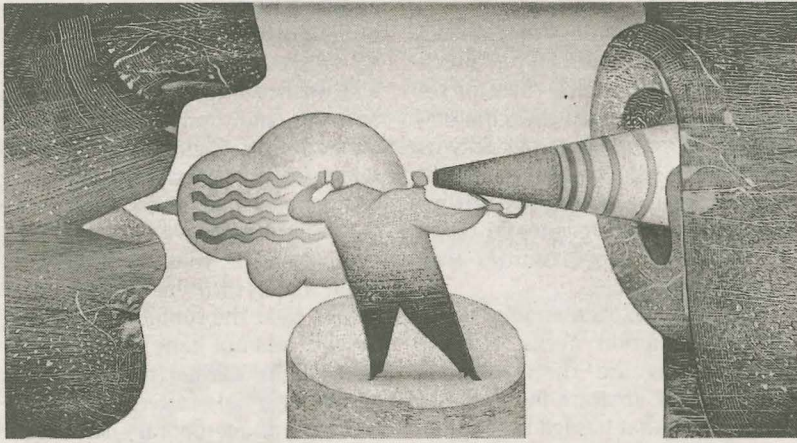
Interrupting a sermon to acknowledge where every fact originated can interrupt its flow or make it appear like the pastor is trying to impress listeners, York explained.

Another fact of 21st century sermon preparation is the Internet. Such sites as Rick Warren's pastors.com, Preaching Magazine's preaching.com and the Sermon Outline Factory offer ready-made messages.

That and a plethora of other electronic material has created confusion among students about proper use of source material, said Bill Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Students at the Pineville school are warned that plagiarism is a serious offense that ultimately can lead to dismissal.

Recently, a suspicious professor ran a student's term paper through



a computerized checking service and learned it had been "lifted" from another source.

Whittaker called plagiarism a slap in the face of God's call. People who feel led to preach should depend on divine direction of their studies and sermon preparation, he added.

"We all depend on help and encouragement from others," said Whittaker, who teaches sermon preparation and is a guest speaker in many churches. "My concern is when we allow somebody else's work to kill our own creativity and quench what the Holy Spirit wants to do. He wants to use our background, experience and talents."

Calvin Miller sees a bright line dividing inspired preaching and plagiarism.

The professor of preaching at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School defines the latter as direct

use of someone else's material that creates the impression it originated with the speaker.

Miller doesn't think pastors should be held to any different standard than a USA Today reporter who was dismissed for taking quotes from another newspaper account.

Miller: Maintain personality

"I believe pastors should strive to be original within their personality," said Miller, a popular conference speaker. "Sound like who you are, be like who you are and bring your own experience of who you are (to the pulpit)."

The author of more than 40 books—half a dozen on preaching—Miller called himself "neurotic" about crediting sources.

He also gets upset when other people steal his work. Recently Miller saw several of his favorite poems posted on the Internet without

crediting him as their author.

Still, Miller tells students if they are quoting from a highly recognized source, sometimes it is better not to cite it during oral presentations—but to include it in their manuscript so they remember its origin.

"If you're quoting Shakespeare it isn't necessary to stop and say this came from Macbeth, act 3, scene 2, line 341," Miller said. "It is important that you note that. I think the same thing is true when you're citing someone else's work. It's generally a good idea to say, 'I heard Charles Swindoll say' or 'Max Lucado put it this way.'"

Still, Miller is sympathetic to the pressure to come up with fresh material in a video age where post-modern audiences are accustomed to brief sound bites and fast-moving images.

"Sermons ... not only need to be image driven, they need to be narrative in their exposition," Miller said. "I believe the old adage of lining up a whole bunch of impressive one-liner precepts is no longer enough."

Whittaker said pastors also face pressure from constant comparisons to such well-known TV preachers as Joel Osteen, Ed Young and John Hagee.

"The average pastor gets this (superstar) model and most of us sense our inadequacies," Whittaker said. "We think, 'I can't cut it unless I get some help from these guys.' I think that's the biggest thing."

"I believe pastors should strive to be original within their personality."

Calvin Miller, professor of preaching at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School

Kentucky pastors sound off on using unattributed material

Six pastors from throughout the commonwealth were asked: "What is your attitude about attributing non-original material in your sermons?"

Craig Loscalzo, Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington:

"With the Internet and several people nailed for plagiarism, I think it's critical to give some sense that material you're using is not yours. But I think you need to do that at varying levels. I don't think you have to footnote every idea you read in a commentary. To take an entire sermon and preach it as if it were your own, there's no doubt. That's plagiarism."

"What I like to say is if you don't give credit, people will wonder why you're so brilliant in the pulpit and such a buffoon at business meetings. The point is what you are in the pulpit and other places needs to square with each other."

Jason Pettus, Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green:

"If a story came from someone else, you should give the person credit. When we did '40 Days of Purpose,' Rick Warren of-

fered a sermon. We cited that this is a sermon by Warren I'll be preaching today; I think we put it on the handout sheet. My conviction is a person who shares a story or writes a sermon should be given credit for that."

"On the other side of that, I don't ask anyone for anything. We have a number of bivocational pastors in our area. I've heard from different (ones) who have found our Web site and listened to our sermons and ask if they could use them. I said absolutely."

Randy Wallace, Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Covington:

"I believe it's important. That was a thing they brought up in high school and college papers. They ingrained it in us on the college newspaper; they were sticklers about if you can possibly name a source (do so)."

But Wallace added that he has learned from others.

"I'll never forget the evangelist when I was a younger pastor. The outline he talked about was don't settle for second best. He was clicking off three major points to me on an elevator. A lady got on and he asked if she was going up or down. When she said, 'Down' he said, 'I hope not for all eternity' and started witnessing. (Later) he gave me the outline and said, 'Use this however you can.' I'm sure I did."

Joel Bowman, Temple of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville:

"I need to do it, particularly when it is material that is directly attributed to a particular author or preacher. There's a biblical principle which says that we are to give honor to whom honor is due. I think one of the ways we can do that is provide opportunities whereby we give proper credit."

"When you look at it, giving credit for your source material makes you look better. I was preaching a revival and one of the associate ministers said, 'Pastor, I really respect your preaching because you're obviously well-read.' When we as preachers give proper credit, that undergirds our preaching as being intellectually driven as well as spiritually anointed."

Joel Rice, Central Baptist Church in Ashland:

"All non-original material should be designated as such. Even in a Wednesday night Bible study, if it's a source you can't credit, I say, 'It's been said' or whatever. If it's something somebody said, you ought to

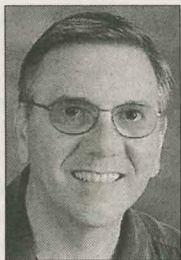
give him credit for it."

Rice said the reason he feels that way goes back to another pastorate in western Kentucky, when he heard a well-known evangelist at a revival meeting: "He used a personal illustration ... that was identical to one I read when I started in the ministry from a John R. Rice sermon book. It was a real graphic, morbid, terrible thing ... and he said it as if he had experienced it. I thought was just a little bit deceptive."

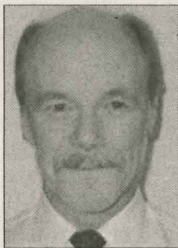
Mitchell Donohue, Parish Avenue Baptist Church in Owensboro:

"You should give them credit for it. If you preach something from Charles Stanley, chances are there are people in your congregation who have heard that anyway, so you just throw an egg on your face and lose credibility yourself if you do that kind of thing without saying something about it."

"As for other things, if I hear something or read something and it stimulates thoughts in my mind and by the time I get around to using it, it's been changed to some degree, I probably wouldn't credit anybody because ... that ended up being something far removed from what I heard or read. But if it's a direct quote, sure, you should say where it came from and whose idea it was."



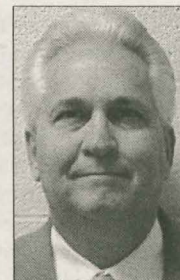
Craig Loscalzo



Randy Wallace



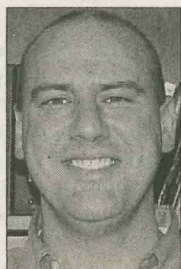
Joel Bowman



Mitchell Donohue



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

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Thank you, Southern Baptist volunteers

By Bill Warren

Diamondhead, Miss. (BP)—Southern Baptist volunteers, thank you! You have been a breath of fresh air for those of us who live along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The communities of Bay St. Louis, Miss. (where 80 percent of the homes and buildings were obliterated or flooded), Waveland, Miss. (90-plus percent), Pearlinton, Miss. (nearly 100 percent) and Diamondhead, Miss. (40 percent) all suffered catastrophic damage from Hurricane Katrina that affected both residents and businesses.

All but two of the eight Southern Baptist churches in Hancock County suffered major damage. Because I am pastor of Diamondhead Baptist Church—one of the two churches that did not suffer major damage—and a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the sense of loss is personal. Yet that loss has opened a huge door of opportunity for ministry that our Southern

Baptist volunteers are helping us realize.

Hope is returning to Hancock County. With the vital help of Southern Baptist volunteers, three of the damaged churches now are at least partially usable, one more already in meeting in a temporary setting, and the other two are sites for repair or rebuilding. Opportunities wait around each corner.

The area has tremendous physical reconstruction needs, but the deeper needs are there as well. People in our area are living under a stress level that has led to relationship problems, anger, depression and despair due to the loss of loved ones, cherished belongings and the sense of security. Volunteers have been magnificent in helping remove debris, flooded possessions and drywall, and they are beginning to help rebuild some homes. An untold story is how they are bringing hope, support and Christian love that serve as a second level of Christian

witness to hurting communities.

As an example, one Christian father, his two sons, his brother and brother's wife, were in their home during the storm. As the water crossed Interstate 10, his house was washed away as they struggled to leave and find higher ground. Miraculously, God guided them to safety. On the other hand, his house was gone, he had no flood insurance and his mortgage was still due.

A team of volunteers brought some hope into his life as they helped clear the rubble from his lot. Despair was not gone totally, but at least a light was starting to dawn as he was now able to receive a trailer on his lot as a temporary dwelling.

Tough times still are on the horizon, but our volunteers are bright lights bringing hope as they show the love of Christ in action, word and attitude. Again, Southern Baptist volunteers, thank you!

Bill Warren, pastor of Diamondhead (Miss.) Baptist Church, is the director of the center for New Testament textual studies and professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

FIRST PERSON

Surprising policy

I was very surprised to read of the new Southern Baptist International Mission Board policy banning the appointment of new missionaries who have "practiced a private prayer language" (Western Recorder, Dec. 20 issue).

Obviously I don't keep up with all that is going on, but a "private prayer language" is a spiritual gift given by God. We cannot choose which spiritual gifts we are given.

How can those with a particular spiritual gift be shown prejudice because they possess a God-given gift? I've been a Baptist all my life, but I just don't understand this policy.

*Bonnie Gibbs
Bagdad*

Worship redefined

Worship has been redefined. True worship is "out of style." The operative word is "fun." Whether

it's listening to a sermon, singing in the choir, teaching or learning, we want it to be fun or we just won't get involved.

Never mind the edification of the church, which should be the result of all we do. We have a total disconnect with worship as described with Jesus Himself—in Spirit and in truth.

"Fun" used to be a word we understood belonged to the secular world. It was something that brought pleasure to us personally. Now the word "fun" has entered the realm of heresy because once again that which is secular has trespassed over to the sacred. There's nothing wrong with fun or entertainment as long as it's in the right setting and God-honoring.

The most disturbing thing is that those who claim to know Christ have no problem with worship that has been profaned by mindless and frivolous secularism.



It should be shouted from the rooftops: Worship is not for you. It is for God and directed to God alone. It isn't about you or how it makes you feel. God does not accept such self-centered worship. The Old Testament is full of God rejecting such worship.

The present generation and their children will have no clue what the purpose of worship is or what reverence implies.

What we are now tolerating will seem normal and acceptable to the generations to come.

I am surprised that I have lived to see the day when we needed to teach what worship is or Who it is about. I always felt it was a perfectly natural response of praise, thanksgiving and reverence to the God Who chose us and redeemed us for His own.

Never once did the word "fun" enter my mind.

*Joyce Paul
Louisville*

KBC Evangelism Conference offers inspiration

The Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, scheduled for Feb. 27-28 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, offers the best opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to be inspired and connected to a stronger vision for reaching and discipling unreached people in their communities.

Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development/evangelism team, has put together an outstanding group of 10 speakers and 26 breakout session leaders. Four breakout sessions and a special luncheon just for women also will be offered.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to hear John Avant, vice president for evangelization at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, share his heart for God and passion for revival and reaching people. When Avant was a pastor in Brownwood, Texas, God moved in such a powerful way that the impact

was felt across the country.

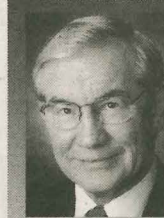
I also hope all Kentucky Baptists and General Association Baptists will make a special effort to be present for the special recognition and message by Lincoln Bingham on Monday night.

This is the year for evangelism. Now is the time to seek God for your intentional plan for being His witness. It is time for every Kentucky Baptist to take personal ownership of the Great Commission. I have been asking God to direct me in additional steps that I need to take as a personal witness.

It also has been my experience through the years that God has spoken to me very powerfully at state evangelism conferences. It was 30 years ago that God spoke to me powerfully in a life-transforming way through a message by Jack Taylor during the evangelism conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church.

A friend of mine, Pat Perry, made

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION



Bill Mackey

a commitment at an evangelism conference in another state to pray through the Scriptures at least one hour per day on his knees. The time often has extended to three hours per day over the past 30 years. I count it a privilege that Pat has me on his prayer list.

I know pastors whose ministries and families have been spared due to commitments made at state evangelism conferences. Others have received a new vision for their ministries and churches.

Something is very special about the atmosphere of this conference that enables you to hear from God in new ways. One pastor said he could get information other places and in other ways, but not the inspiration. He was hungry for the inspiration of the Word of God through Holy Spirit-filled preaching.

This is a special year and special time to anticipate a life-transforming Word from God. It is my prayer that every Kentucky Baptist pastor will find a way to participate.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Gift tax exclusion limit increases to \$12,000 for 2006

By Laurie Valentine

The federal annual gift tax exclusion, which has been \$11,000 since 2002, increased to \$12,000 on Jan. 1.

This exclusion permits you to make gifts up to a certain total amount (now \$12,000) each year to anyone without incurring any gift tax and without using up any of your \$1 million lifetime gift tax exemption. You are not limited to a certain number of "annual exclusion" gifts each year—you can make them to one person, 10 people or more—and a couple can give a total of \$24,000 to one person each year.

While the 2001 Tax Relief Act made major changes in the federal estate tax laws—increasing the estate tax exemption equivalent gradually from \$1 million in 2002 to \$3.5 million by 2009 (for 2006 the estate tax exemption equivalent is \$2 million), repealing estate taxes for the year 2010, and gradually lowering the top federal estate tax rate—most of those changes fall by the wayside on Dec. 31, 2010.

In 2011, the 2001 top federal estate tax rate of 55 percent will be reinstated and the estate tax exemption equivalent falls back to \$1 million. Therefore, keeping the value of your estate below \$1 million, without using up your estate tax exemption equivalent, remains important.

If your total cumulative lifetime taxable gifts (gifts in one year which exceed the annual exclusion amount) exceed \$1 million, you will owe gift tax. The annual gift tax exclusion allows you to continue your lifetime giving, even if you have used up all of your \$1 million lifetime gift tax exemption, without incurring gift tax, as long as you keep total gifts each year to no more than \$12,000.

The increase in the gift tax exclusion also is helpful for those funding 529 college savings plans and state prepaid tuition plans. Previously, you could put up to \$55,000 at one time in one of these plans with no gift tax consequences because the law permits you to count the addition as 5 years' worth of annual exclusion gifts. Now, you'll be able to contribute \$60,000.

The increase in the annual gift tax exclusion is good news for those wanting to keep the size of their estate below the estate tax exemption amount and for those funding high-cost college expenses.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



King's legacy of nonviolence is helpful example for parents

Q: As a parent and spouse, what do I do with feelings of anger toward my family?

Anger can be poisonous. The book of James notes that the tongue can be a deadly poison. This is especially true when it is under the influence of uncontrolled anger.

PARENTING

Anger can have an inward or outward focus. It often is expressed as rage. It can be associated with sadness leading to depression. On the other hand, it can be constructive, used to remove obstacles, useful in problem-solving and goal-oriented.

Ask yourself, "Which type of anger is in my life?" Often, simply reflecting on the question can ease some of the emotion's power.

One thing not to do in a potentially anger-provoking moment is to react too quickly. Thomas Jefferson often said, "When angry, count to 10 before you speak; when very angry, 100." Taking that pause could be just the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to control your response.

Anger-free parenting is a concept introduced by Paul's admonition to not "provoke your children to anger." By intentionally focusing on discipline rather than punishment, the spiritual growth of your child rather than the anger of the parent becomes the controlling issue.

The Apostle James wrote, "Be angry and sin not." The anger that does not lead to sin might be the problem-solving, goal-oriented kind.

Think of all the injustices that have been righted by those who displayed courageous acts of justice on behalf of the poor and abused. Martin Luther King Jr. constantly preached a gospel of love and nonviolence when there were those who no longer believed that nonviolence was achieving justice for African-Americans. The many things King accomplished were at least partly due to his commitment to nonviolent love, living out the Sermon on the Mount in the midst of trying circumstances.

As we observe Martin Luther King Day this month, take a few moments to reflect on the kind of anger that manifests itself in your life. The world too often has seen the anger of hate and not often enough the Spirit-disciplined anger of love.—James Stillwell

Q: My teenage daughter's struggle with envy is poisoning relationships with her girlfriends. How can I help her?

The green monster of envy arises out of a rather normal process of "compare and contrast" among adolescent peers. When one's own adequacy is challenged by a comparison with another, some individuals respond with envy. Envy typically devalues others, erodes self worth and is destructive of community.

Your goal should be to help your daughter develop a sense of graciousness that takes delight in the richness of God seen in the giftedness of others. Developing graciousness and overcoming envy will require several things:

- A personal relationship with Christ that points your daughter to her significance in God's eyes.
- A daily commitment to "renewing her mind," which will come through reading God's Word and talking with the Father.
- Opportunities to explore and discover the "treasures" (gifts, talents and God-given passions) the Father has placed in her.
- Mentors and a peer group that will affirm and encourage her.
- Sufficient parental one-on-one time that mirrors back to her how deeply she is loved and valued.

As your daughter grows in her awareness of her own value before God, and as she becomes aware of ways God has blessed her, she will be able to begin more fully to celebrate the giftedness and blessings of others.—Scott Wigginton

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'Ends of the earth' heading to Kentucky

The world is coming to Lexington in 2010—or at least several thousand representatives from around the globe are expected to converge there.

The occasion is the 2010 World Equestrian Games to be hosted by the Kentucky Horse Park. The games are projected to attract up to 300,000 people, making it the largest sporting event ever held in Kentucky, according to organizers.

What does an international equestrian competition have to do with Kentucky Baptists and why are we talking about it four years before the event occurs? I'm glad you asked.

The two-week event, to be held sometime between late August and early October, is expected to attract about 800 equestrians from 50 countries. The anticipated crowd likely will include about 120,000 people from overseas. As the first World Equestrian Games held outside Europe, officials expect about 1,000 international media representatives.

In other words, Lexington will become the center of the international sports world for two weeks in 2010. And that's where Kentucky Baptists—and advance ministry planning—come into play.

Kentucky Baptists clearly are committed to Christ's call in Acts 1:8 to "be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Much of the state convention's focus through 2009 will be on "Kentucky Baptists Connect," including seeking to baptize 125,000 converts before 2010.

Once the new decade rolls around, Kentucky Baptists will have the opportunity to move directly from "Kentucky Baptists Connect" to "the ends of the earth." In addition to the traditional avenues of overseas partnership missions, prayer and financial support, Kentucky Baptists can minister to thousands of international guests without ever leaving the Bluegrass State.

Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders already are beginning to discuss ministry options. Missions consultant Larry Martin, retired leader of the KBC missions growth team, is heading the effort.

Martin, who coordinates the KBC's equestrian ministries, noted that the state convention currently is involved with equestrian ministry efforts that serve

thousands of people throughout the state as well as with youth ranches in Michigan, Oregon and Tennessee.

Looking toward the 2010 World Equestrian Games,

Martin said, "It's impossible to overestimate the importance of this event for Kentucky. Next to hosting the Olympic Games, I can't think of anything that would have more potential." Comparing the games to another one of Kentucky's beloved sports, he said the anticipated crowd will be twice as large as a typical NCAA Men's Final Four basketball tournament.

Martin said a small team of Kentucky Baptist leaders plans to attend this year's World Equestrian Games in Germany to get a firsthand perspective about the event and ministry opportunities.

As the games draw nearer, Martin said plans will include providing volunteers for the event, translators and hospitality services for international visitors as well as hosting evangelistic events in cooperation with leading horse trainers who are Christians.

As Martin and others work to enlist a consortium of ministries, imagine the possibilities. Woman's Missionary Union leaders have been involved in Olympic ministry efforts in conjunction with both the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City and the 2004 Summer Games in Athens. KBC partnership missions workers have extensive experience working with internationals. The church development and evangelism team has coordinated Crossover evangelistic efforts across the state in recent years.

And the list goes on and on. Baptist campus ministry groups, creative ministry teams, youth groups, area Baptist associations and local churches all could play vital roles.

"As believers, we have the commitment to take the good news into the entire world," Martin emphasized. "There are those special opportunities when at one moment God brings the world to us. This will be one of those moments when we have the opportunity to serve people from around the world in the name of Jesus Christ."

"The ends of the earth" will be in our backyard in 2010. Don't miss it.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

'End of the Spear' offers evangelistic impact

By Bill Webb

Jan. 8 marked the 50th anniversary of the deaths of missionaries Nate Saint, Jim Elliot, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming and Ed McCully at the hands of Huaorani or Waodani Indians (referred to as Auca originally) in a jungle in Ecuador.

The tragic event made the cover of Life magazine. The men perished trying to make contact with an isolated people group they had hoped to win to Christ.

The missionaries first discovered Huaorani huts as Saint piloted them over the dense jungle. The missionaries subsequently flew around the camp shouting words of friendship through a speaker and lowering baskets filled with gifts such as beads, cloths, machetes and photographs of each man. They hoped to communicate to the tribe that they were friendly. The Auca responded by sending back up a parrot and feathered headdresses.

After three or four months of gift dropping, the missionaries decided to land on Palm Beach and make a camp on the Curray River. By one account, four Huaorani men soon came to visit. The missionaries gave them food and gifts as a sign

of peace. In the days ahead, they made other contacts that encouraged them.

A few days later, on Jan. 8, the missionaries launched "Operation Huaorani," their first attempt to go into the Huaorani village. Before they did, Saint and McCully noticed from their plane that 25 or 30 Auca were making their way to the missionary camp. The two landed and all five excitedly began to prepare the camp for visitors. They radioed back to their wives, promising to call them back in three hours.

When the call never came, the women were alarmed. An hour later, helicopters and planes from the Ecuadorian Air Force and the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy swarmed along the Curray River looking for any sight of the missionaries.

Searchers spotted their bodies, brutally pierced with spears and hacked with machetes. When the wives received the horrible news, they reportedly responded, "The Lord has closed our hearts to grief and hysteria and filled in with perfect peace."

The story doesn't end there. Elliot's widow, Elisabeth, wrote about the experience in her classic,

"Through Gates of Splendor." Later, she returned to the area to minister, along with Saint's sister, Rachel, who lived among and ministered to the tribe responsible for her brother's death until she died in 1994. Saint's son, Steve, continues to minister alongside the Huaorani.

Life magazine catapulted the slain missionaries to international recognition, and many people know the story of what happened on Palm Beach on Jan. 8, 1956. Fewer know "the rest of the story," the successful evangelization of the Huaorani.

That could all change in the next few days. "End of the Spear" is a film that will be shown in theaters throughout the country beginning Jan. 20. The movie recently has gone through a series of pre-screenings. It is a product of Every Time Entertainment and is being marketed to Christians as an evangelistic tool on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the martyrdom of the five missionaries.

To learn more about the project, visit www.endofthespear.com. And watch for listings of local showings. The story of redemption in the aftermath of persecution should be electrifying to believers and unbelievers alike.

Bill Webb is editor of the Missouri Baptist Word & Way in Jefferson City, Mo.

Kentucky and Korea Baptist WMU plan 3-year partnership

Louisville—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is preparing to spread its missions zeal to the other side of the world.

Kentucky WMU officially will launch a three-year partnership with Korea Baptist WMU during the Kentucky WMU annual meeting April 21-22 at Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

"We are excited about a partnership with Korea Baptist WMU," noted Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU executive director. "Sook Jae Lee, executive director, and other Korea WMU officers are planning to attend the 2006 Kentucky WMU annual meeting."

Bolton said prayer will be the foundation of the partnership with Korea Baptist WMU. Kentucky WMU will distribute prayer requests for evangelism in both North and South Korea. Anyone interested in the Korea-Kentucky WMU Prayer Partnership can sign up for e-mail prayer requests by writing to kywmu@kybaptist.org.

Partnership efforts will include sponsoring an intern from Korea to work in the Kentucky WMU office during 2007 and assistance for a seminary education for the Korea intern. The partnership also will provide opportunities for Korea WMU leaders to observe the work of Kentucky WMU and for Kentucky WMU leaders to visit Korea WMU.

Korea WMU has requested volunteers to assist with their children's summer and winter camps, and for children from Korea to attend camp in Kentucky. Korea and Kentucky WMU volunteers also will travel together to China near North Korea for a prayerwalk.

"It is our prayer that God will use the partnership to enhance missions around the world and strengthen WMU," Bolton noted. Citing WMU's involvement in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions partnership with Brazilian Baptists, she added, "The request from Korea Baptist WMU to partner with them is another opportunity for us to build relationships with WMU sisters around the world."

SACS removes Georgetown from probation

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Georgetown—One year after being placed on probation by its accrediting association, Georgetown College has been "given a clean bill of health," according to Georgetown President Bill Crouch.

Georgetown was placed on probation in December 2004 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools due to financial concerns. SACS' Commission on Colleges reported at the time that Georgetown "failed to demonstrate compliance" with the requirement that "the institution's recent financial history demonstrates financial stability."

Crouch and other Georgetown officials expressed disappointment with SACS' 2004 action, noting that the school had made progress in addressing financial issues.

"When we were put on probation a year ago, we really didn't feel it was justified," Crouch said last week.

Noting that "in SACS, there's no appeal to a decision made," Crouch added, "We took the high road to prove to SACS what a strong institution we are. We were successful in doing that."

In the wake of the post-Sept. 11, 2001, economic downturn, Georgetown's net assets declined by more than \$16.5 million, from \$61 million to \$44.5 million. Since that time, the school's net assets have increased to \$52.4 million, according to James

Moak, Georgetown's chief financial officer.

The school's long-term endowment, which topped \$30 million in 1998, dropped to \$21.2 million by 2002. Georgetown's endowment has increased each of the past three fiscal years, rebounding to \$28 million this past year.

Affirming the school's efforts to address SACS' concerns, Crouch said, "We're just glad it's over with. It took a lot of our time and energy we could have used in other ways."

Looking to the future

In addition to addressing the probation issue, Georgetown officials spent recent months negotiating with Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders about a revised ministry partnership. The plan, approved in November by KBC messengers, specifies that Georgetown will elect its own trustees beginning in 2006 and that the KBC will phase out Georgetown's \$1.3 million Cooperative Program allocation during the next four years.

Citing the school's successful efforts on both the SACS and KBC fronts, Crouch said, "We've had a really fine couple of months." Looking to the future, he added, "We think we're going to have our most successful year ever in terms of enrollment and fund-raising."

In other SACS-related news, Louisiana College also was removed

from probation and Luther Rice Seminary's request for a candidacy committee visit was denied.

Louisiana College in Pineville is affiliated with the Louisiana Baptist Convention. It was placed on probation a year ago with SACS officials citing concerns about the school's governance and academic freedom.

Under new president Joe Aguillard, the school rescinded policies related to textbook screening, trustees' early involvement in faculty hiring and other issues.

Aguillard said school officials have established "a wall of separation between the role of the board, administration and faculty."

Luther Rice Seminary, based in suburban Atlanta, is an independent school with Baptist ties.

Declining the school's request for a candidacy committee visit—the first step in gaining accreditation from SACS' Commission on Colleges—the SACS report said the seminary "failed to demonstrate in its application its compliance with one or more core requirements" in such areas as institutional effectiveness, program length and faculty.

Luther Rice currently is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools. SACS officials said the school "may submit another application at its discretion."

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

Closing The Back Door

ATTENTION:

**Pastors,
Sunday School Leaders,
Church Staff,
Deacons,
Discipleship Directors,
Assimilation
Team Members,
and any other
key leaders in
your church.**



Are You Connecting with New Members and Guests in Your Church?

An analysis of baptisms in Kentucky tells us that we will lose 80% of our new members in the first year if they do not develop relationships, get in Sunday School, and get involved in a ministry. Bring your leaders to receive training in two methods for strengthening your ability to "Close The Back Door."

**All events are
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

Feb. 7	Beacon Hill Baptist Church	Somerset
Feb. 16	Williamstown Baptist Church	Williamstown
Feb. 21	Mays Lick Baptist Church	Mays Lick
Feb. 23	Severns Valley Baptist Church	Elizabethtown
Mar. 6	Hickory Baptist Church	Mayfield
Mar. 7	First Baptist Church	Madisonville
Mar. 13	Greenwood Baptist Church	Bowling Green
Mar. 14	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Lexington
Apr. 10	Crestwood Baptist Church	Crestwood
Apr. 13	First Baptist Church	Prestonsburg



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Ohio might be next battleground for evolution in schools

Columbus, Ohio (RNS)—Now that a Pennsylvania ruling has been made on intelligent design, Ohio could become the next legal battleground over the critical teaching of evolution in public schools.

U.S. District Judge John Jones III ruled Dec. 20 that intelligent design is creationism in disguise and cannot be taught as an alternative to evolution in public school science classes. The 139-page ruling, the result of a high-profile trial in Dover, Pa., is expected to have an impact in Ohio.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, which helped bring the Dover lawsuit, has obtained boxes of records from the Ohio Department of Education pertaining to the state school board's adoption of a controversial science lesson plan nearly two years ago.

That action is a prelude to a possible challenge of the lesson, "Critical Analysis of Evolution," which critics contend is warmed-over intelligent design. Intelligent design is a belief that life is so complex a higher being must have had a hand in its creation.

After the ruling denouncing Dover's policy, those critics gave Ohio an ultimatum: Get rid of the plan, or face a long, costly and potentially embarrassing lawsuit.

State Education Department spokesman J.C. Benton said the curricula simply require students to think critically about scientific theories such as evolution, Charles Darwin's theory that life descended from common ancestors.

Passion helps plug students into missions

By Meredith Day
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—A recent worship conference for college students didn't just encourage young adults to get involved in missions; it showed them how to plug in.

A capacity crowd of 18,000 students from all 50 states and more than 20 countries invaded Nashville Jan. 2-5 for Passion '06.

"Our heartbeat is to see the campuses of this nation awaken to God," said Louie Giglio, who founded the Passion movement in 1995.

During the closing worship gathering, a majority of the students stood in agreement with the statement, "God has called and equipped me to go. I will go. Go across the hall of my dorm, across the country and across the world. I have the best reason to party. ... My passions have the highest purpose."

At Passion '06, students were led in worship and discipleship by Giglio, Beth Moore and John Piper and worshiped with the David Crowder Band, Chris Tomlin, Charlie Hall and Matt Redman.

But students also were encouraged to visit the "Go Center," where more than 50 exhibitors from schools and missions agencies shared with them how they can be involved in sharing the gospel throughout the world.

When students entered the mobilization area of the Go Center, they met guides who listened to



FULL HOUSE A capacity crowd of 18,000 college students from all 50 states and more than 20 countries filled Nashville's Gaylord Entertainment Center Jan. 2-5 for Passion '06. (BP photo)

their interests and then directed them to booths for more information.

Many participants met with mission representatives from Boston, New York and Toronto—Passion's three focus cities. Passion has organized worship gatherings in each of the cities, all of which have large collegiate populations but few professing Christians.

Students who attended Passion '05 and have since been involved in missions returned for Passion '06 to

celebrate and share what God had done in the past year.

Susan Loyd was at Passion '05 and responded to the call to share the gospel in New York. At last year's meeting, she met with representatives from New Hope New York, part of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's "Strategic Focus Cities" initiative.

"God had already put seeds in my heart for New York City. He was already leading me there. At Passion '05, it was like He was using a megaphone," Loyd said.

In June 2005, Loyd moved to northern New Jersey as part of The Leadership Journey, which gives college students and recent graduates an opportunity to serve with local church-based collegiate ministries in metro New York.

"I went to Passion '05 expecting God to tell me to go somewhere," Loyd said.

This year's Go Center mobilizers, including representatives from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and NAMB, met with many students who are in the process of discerning where and what God has called them.

Abby Rhodes of Milton, Fla., visited the Go Center seeking clarity about the calling God has placed in her life.

"I hear Him saying go, go, go. I've had all this time already, and I haven't done anything yet. I'm not waiting around anymore," she said.

Christian leaders hail support for adult stem cell research

Washington (RNS)—Christian leaders who have opposed embryonic stem cell research are praising the enactment of a new law that will enhance the collection of adult stem cells.

President Bush signed the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 in a ceremony at the White

House on Dec. 20.

"This is wonderful news for the many thousands of suffering patients who can benefit from umbilical cord blood stem cell treatments," said Richard Doerflinger of the new legislation. He is the U.S. Catholic bishops' expert on bioethics.

"We are grateful to Congress and the president for enacting this legislation without further delay."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who began developing the bill in 2001, welcomed the passage of the legislation, which intends to prevent hospitals from discarding umbilical cords that he said have "achieved remarkable breakthroughs" in disease treatment. The law calls for authorization of \$79 million for the collection and storage of cord blood stem cells.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, who attended the signing ceremony in the Roosevelt Room, called the law an "important victory for ethical research."

Carrie Gordon Earll, senior analyst for bioethics at Focus on the Family Action, welcomed the alternative to the more controversial use of embryonic stem cells that involves destruction of embryos.

"Best of all, no life is lost in the collection of these stem cells and many patients will benefit from this effort," she said in a report posted on Focus on the Family's e-newsletter Citizen Link.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, agreed.

"This legislation will provide significant funding to advance stem cell research, with all of its enormous promise to alleviate human suffering, without using U.S. taxpayers' money to sacrifice the lives of unborn human beings in order to harvest their stem cells," Land told Baptist Press.

Pat Robertson's latest comments draw widespread criticism

Washington (RNS)—A variety of groups have condemned comments by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson implying that God's "enmity" had caused Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent stroke.

"Sharon was personally a very likable person and I am sad to see him in this condition, but I think we need to look at the Bible and the Book of Joel," Robertson said on his program Jan. 5, the day after Sharon suffered a massive stroke.

"The prophet Joel makes it very clear that God has enmity against those who 'divide My land.'"

Of Sharon's deal with the Palestinians to pull out of Gaza, Robertson said: "He was dividing God's land, and I would say woe unto any prime minister of Israel who takes a similar course to appease the EU (European Union), the United Nations or the United States of America. God says, 'This land belongs to Me. You'd better leave it alone.'"

Ralph Neas, president of People for the American Way, a liberal activist group, responded: "Pat Robertson leaves us speechless with his insensitivity and arrogance."

In a statement, Robertson spokeswoman Angell Watts said Robertson "is simply reminding his viewers what the Bible has to say about efforts made to divide the land of Israel."

Trent Duffy, a deputy White House press secretary, said Robertson's remarks were "wholly inappropriate and offensive, and really don't have a place in this or any other debate."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, also blasted Robertson's remarks.

"I am almost as shocked by Pat Robertson's arrogance as I am by his insensitivity," Land said.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Prepared to retire?

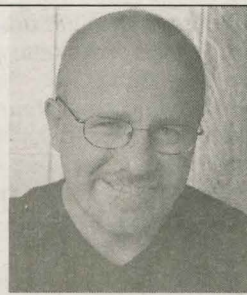


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DAVE RAMSEY

THE DAVE RAMSEY SHOW

'Like being in church'

John Lewis talks about Martin Luther King, civil rights movement and how faith affected both

"Without prayer, without faith in the Almighty, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings."

Rep. John Lewis

Editor's note: To mark the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., Religion & Ethics Newsweekly's managing editor Kim Lawton talked with Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a Baptist preacher who first met King as a teenager and worked closely with the legendary civil rights leader.

By Kim Lawton
Religion & Ethics Newsweekly

Q: What spiritual legacy did the civil rights movement give to the United States?

A: The civil rights movement of the '60s imbues the American community with a spirit that is still with us today. Many of us that got caught up and involved in the civil rights movement saw our involvement as an extension of our faith. We would sing songs ... in Mississippi, in Alabama, in Georgia, in little churches: "I'm gonna do what the Spirit said do." If the Spirit said sit in, if the Spirit said march, if the Spirit said walk, if the Spirit said picket, "I'm gonna do what the Spirit said do."

Without our faith, we wouldn't have been able to succeed. On many occasions, before we'd go out on a sit-in, before we went on the freedom ride, before we marched from Selma to Montgomery, we would sing a song or say a prayer. Without faith, without the Spirit and spiritual bearings and underpinning, we would not have been so successful.

Without prayer, without faith in the Almighty, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings.

You talk about the music of the movement. I've heard recordings from some of those meetings, where people took simple Sunday school songs and made them relevant to what was happening. What was the power of that music?

On many occasions, people would be so inspired, so moved ... they would start singing some of the gospel songs or some hymn of the church. And they would improvise; they would make it current, or make it so powerful, that you knew somehow and some way that you had to go. You had to go and sit in. You had to go and march, because it was the power of the message, of the words of a song—the beat, the rhythm.

And on some occasions, it was just like being in church on a Sunday morning. It was like being at a prayer meeting. And whether it was a sit-in, or whether it was on the freedom ride, or the march from Selma to Montgomery, I felt on many occasions like it was a very deep religious experience.

Are you concerned that the religious aspects of the movement are being lost the further we get from those days?

I'm deeply concerned that many people today fail to recognize that the movement was built on deep-seated religious convictions, and

the movement grew out of a sense of faith—faith in God and faith in one's fellow human beings.

During those early days, we didn't study the Constitution, the Supreme Court decision of 1954. We studied the great religions of the world. We discussed and debated the teachings of the Great Teacher. And we would ask questions about what would Jesus do.

In preparing for the sit-ins, we felt that the message was one of love—the message of love in action: Don't hate. If someone hits you, don't strike back. Just turn the other side. Be prepared to forgive. That's not anything any Constitution says ... It is straight from the Scripture: reconciliation. So the movement, the early foundation, the early teaching of the movement was based on the Scripture, the teaching of Jesus, the teaching of Gandhi and others. You have to remind people over and over again that some of us saw our involvement in the civil rights movement as an extension of our faith.

How did Rev. King influence you spiritually, in the development of your own spiritual journey?

I grew up in rural Alabama, 50 miles from Montgomery, in a very loving, wonderful family; wonderful mother, wonderful father. We attended church; we went to Sunday school every Sunday. But one Sunday I heard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preach on the radio. I was 15 years old, in the 10th grade. He was talking about Paul's letters. And he turned it around and talked about Paul's letters to the Christians in America. And I felt he was talking to me. The words of Dr. King were so inspiring I wanted to find a way to get involved in the civil rights movement. I heard Dr. King say things like, "We must not just be concerned about the pearly gates and the streets made out of milk and honey, but we have to be concerned about the streets in Montgomery, Ala."

A few years later, I had the opportunity to meet him, and it changed my life. I felt like he was doing the work of the Master. That he was saying in effect that our hands, our feet, our minds must be the hands, the feet and mind of God Almighty. That we must do the work, and whatever we do it must be in keeping with the building of what he called the Beloved Community, of what some of us may call the Kingdom of God here on earth.

You were so young. That must have been key to your spiritual development.

Martin Luther King Jr. had a major impact on my search for truth, on my search to become a better human being and try to do what I consider the will of God. When you heard Martin Luther King preach, whether it was at a pulpit in Montgomery, Ala., at some little church

in the backwoods of Mississippi or southwest Georgia, or from his church in Atlanta, it was a message that was so moving and so powerful that you had to be willing and prepared to act according to that message.

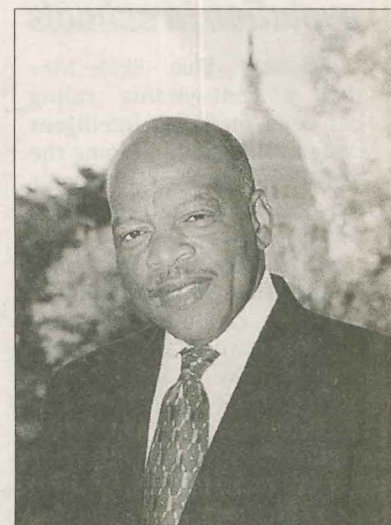
As you look at your life now, how do you see all of that?

When I look back and even consider where I am today, if it hadn't been for the teaching and preaching of Martin Luther King Jr., for getting that early foundation in the church, I probably wouldn't be here. I don't know where I would be. I probably would've got lost maybe in a sea of despair, maybe become very bitter and hostile. But, in a sense, the movement, Martin Luther King Jr., and these other religious leaders who led the civil rights movement, they not only rescued many of us but they also saved us and made us better human beings.

You went through so much. How did you move beyond that without becoming paralyzed by hatred?

At a very early stage of the movement, I accepted the teaching of Jesus, the way of love, the way of nonviolence, the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation. The idea of hate is too heavy a burden to bear. It's better to love. When we were involved in the sit-ins, in the freedom ride, on the march from Selma to Montgomery, we were not struggling against people but against customs, traditions, a bad way of life, and we were trying to win people over and be reconciled to each other. I think I had maybe what I call an executive session with myself, and maybe an executive session with God Almighty, and said, "I'm not going to hate. I don't want to go down that road. I've seen too much hate, seen too much violence. And I know love is a better way." You feel so different, and you feel so much better.

When you look today at the nation and some of the issues we are battling, how are the religious communities and leadership rising



SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT Civil rights movement leader John Lewis says he's concerned that people are forgetting that the sit-ins and marches of the 1960s were largely an extension of participants' faith. "Be prepared to forgive. That's not anything any Constitution says ... It is straight from the Scripture: reconciliation." (RNS photo)

to the challenges?

On so many occasions ... I wished and prayed and somehow want to go back 40 years ago when the ministers, priests, rabbis, nuns, bishops and others stood up. And sometimes I feel today that maybe, just maybe, the religious leaders are too quiet.

You know, Dr. King and others had the ability, had the capacity to rally people, to get people together. I will never forget, after Bloody Sunday in Selma in March of 1965, after we had been beaten and tear-gassed and trampled by horses, two days later, more than a thousand religious leaders—priests, rabbis, nuns, ministers—came there. Not just to Selma, but they got in the streets of almost every city in America, at the Department of Justice, at the White House, preaching the good news.

Somehow we need to find a way to reclaim our position as people of faith. ... When I was growing up, my mother and father and grandparents used to tell us, "Don't get in trouble. Don't get in the way." But during the '60s, the religious community got in trouble. We got in the way. And it's time again for the religious community to get in the way. To get in trouble. Good trouble, necessary trouble.

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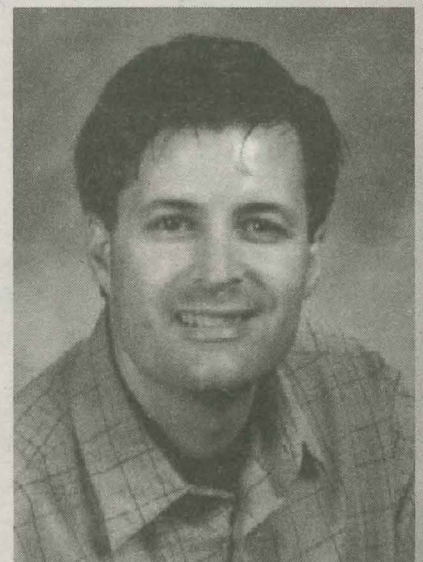
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get
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*Hear Dr. Bret Robbe,
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Dr. Bret Robbe

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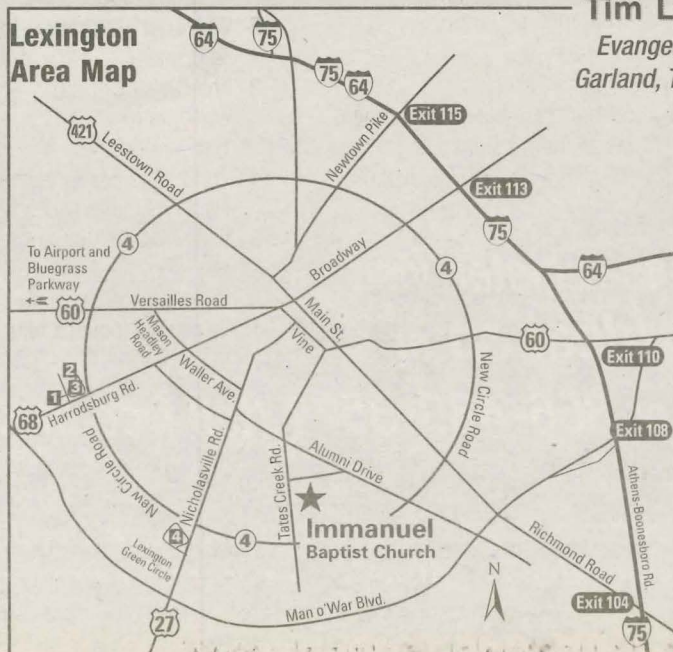
Rate: \$79

4 Hilton Suites Lexington Green

245 Lexington Green Circle

859.271.4000

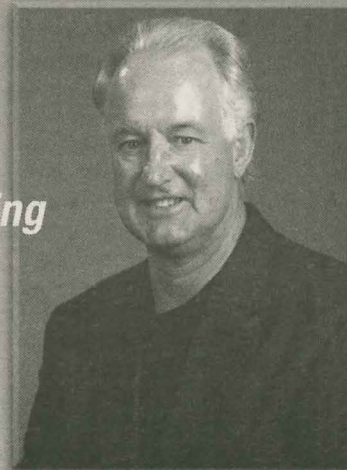
Rate: \$79



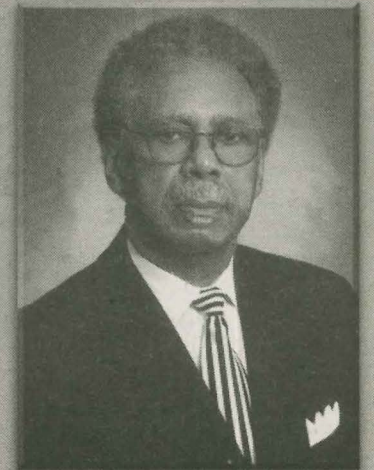
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This event is sponsored by the Church Development & Evangelism Team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and is made possible by your gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Volunteer help needed

Upgrades, changes planned before summer camp starts

Are you keeping your New Year's resolutions? I realize it is only two weeks into the New Year, but now is a good time to ask. Last year was rather eventful in our ministry and the New Year is promising to be even more exciting.

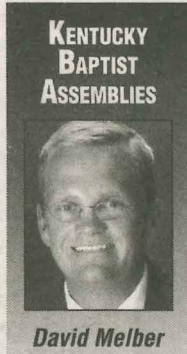
According to our most recent registration numbers, we are expecting to have 7,000-8,000 students come to Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore in just a few short months. Our full efforts are needed to be prepared for the coming masses, and we could use some additional help as well.

During the next 14 weeks, many more upgrades and changes will occur at both locations, and we need many volunteers to help with the preparation. For those of you who might consider helping out, let me assure you that we are not only talking about making the properties look better, but we also are focusing on removing distractions.

Our primary focus is to create an environment where guests can come to know Christ or more fully experience Him. All that we do must support this one goal.

How can you help? One simple way to help is to volunteer your time and talents. We will be upgrading areas of our buildings that are in significant need. Cedarmore's Boone Lodge will be re-carpeted soon, walls will be repaired, and old beds will be replaced. The list goes on. We need you to partner with us to complete these tasks and be ready for our guests this spring and summer.

We have 52 weeks in a year, and camp lasts for 10 of those weeks. The remaining 42 weeks are spent mostly preparing for the summer. There are many needs to address in the coming weeks. Your time will make an eternal difference. The work might be hard, but the rewards will be great as thousands will hear the gospel message. Looking forward to seeing you!

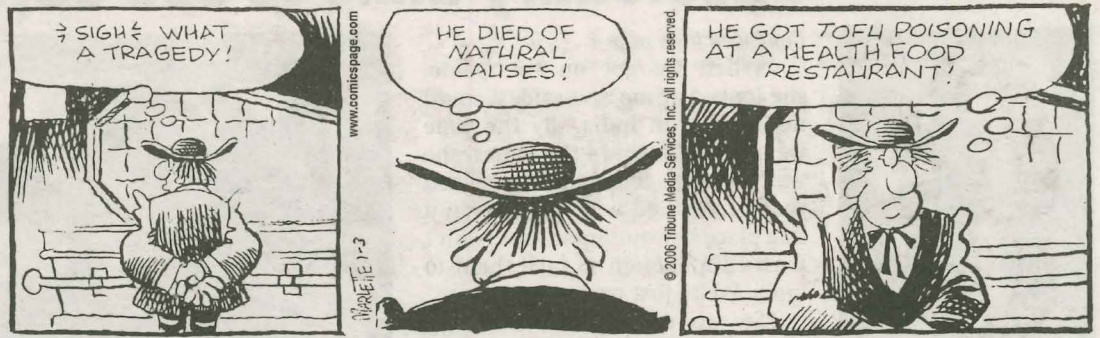


David Melber

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

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

- Across**
- 1 Woolly ones
 - 5 Under the weather
 - 8 Mull over
 - 12 Imply
 - 13 Feminine Israeli name
 - 14 Covenant
 - 15 Make null
 - 16 Attila, for one
 - 17 Zone
 - 18 "As newborn babes, _____ the sincere milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2)
 - 20 "_____ is all, and in all" (Colossians 3:11)
 - 22 Cable, for one
 - 23 Hairpin curve
 - 24 "In thy fear will I _____ toward thy holy temple" (Psalm 5:7)
 - 28 Temporary dwellings
 - 32 "For Adam was first formed, then _____" (1 Timothy 2:13)
 - 33 Gratuity
 - 35 Vowel trio
 - 36 "To be a reproach and a proverb, a _____ and a curse" (Jeremiah 24:9)
 - 39 "The dragon shalt thou _____ under feet" (Psalm 91:13)
 - 42 _____ drum
 - 44 "Ye _____ of your father the devil" (John 8:44)
 - 45 Graven image, perhaps
 - 48 Mental pictures
 - 52 Hope
 - 53 Donkey
 - 55 Disreputable establishment
 - 56 Sheltered side
 - 57 "A faithful witness will not _____" (Proverbs 14:5)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
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32					33		34			35		
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			42		43		44					
45	46	47					48			49	50	51
52					53	54			55			
56					57				58			
59					60				61			

- 58 Appliance
 - 59 "The day of the Lord is _____" (Joel 3:14)
 - 60 Sra, in Sarasota
 - 61 Left
- Down**
- 1 Son of Gera, the second judge of Israel (Judges 3:15)
 - 2 "Woe to them that are mighty to drink _____" (Isaiah 5:22)
 - 3 "The Creator of the _____ of the earth, fainteth not" (Isaiah 40:28)
 - 4 Group of philosophers who met Paul at Athens (Acts 17:18)
 - 5 "They that do such things shall not _____ the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21)
 - 6 President Hoover's wife, familiarly
 - 7 Masculine name
 - 8 Rough; earthy
 - 9 Mata _____
 - 10 Summers, in Nice
 - 11 Reporter's question
 - 19 Stadium sound
 - 21 Honolulu's time zone
 - 24 _____ paint
 - 25 Eggs
 - 26 Father of Serug (Genesis 11:20)
 - 27 "To him was given the key of the bottomless _____" (Revelation 9:1)
 - 29 Snooze
 - 30 Up to that point (var.)
 - 31 Feminine nickname
 - 34 The children of the Proverbs 31 woman call her blessed, and the husband _____ her
 - 37 "They are all delivered unto death, to the _____ parts of the earth" (Ezekiel 31:14)
 - 38 Greek letter
 - 40 "The isles shall wait upon me, and on mine _____ shall they trust" (Isaiah 51:5)
 - 41 Bucolic spot
 - 43 King's bailiwick
 - 45 _____ song
 - 46 Mosaic piece
 - 47 On a steamer
 - 49 "_____ unto the Lord the glory due unto his name" (Psalm 96:8)
 - 50 Tied
 - 51 Dispatched
 - 54 Title of respect

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
M	A	R	A	P	O	A	M	D	O	A
O	R	E	B	I	D	L	E	R	U	B
W	A	S	H	L	O	A	D	E	S	E
T	O	W	E	R	E	M	I	T	S	
S	H	O	R	E	U	S	A			
A	I	R	B	E	E	N	H	A	L	F
I	D	E	A	L	A	D	I	D	O	L
L	E	S	S	T	O	P	O	N	E	
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S	H	A	R	E	W	H	E	A	T	
T	A	X	A	S	I	A	T	I	R	E
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Isn't there something ...

... that can help folks know what to do with those new 20-dollar bills they're getting?

You're holding it.

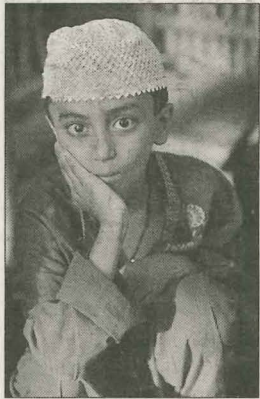
Every week, the Western Recorder's Financial Forum column provides practical ideas for applying biblical truths about personal and church finance. Whether the topic is tithing, church budgets or personal debt, our panel of experts has the experience and insights to help your members learn and apply sound financial



WESTERNRECORDER

JACKSON

Missionary aims to see 30,000 house churches in India



BENGALI BOY Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions has a national goal of \$150 million.

Continued from page 1

"When we got on the plane, she looked at me and said, 'I could never serve in India.' By the time we touched down in the States, she was in tears. She said, 'I realized that I trust God with my kids in a safe place like our home, but I don't trust Him enough to take them to India. We're just paying lip service.'

"So we ended up mobilizing ourselves and our kids to India. We just felt, 'If not us, who? If not now, when?' It was time for me to put up or shut up, because this is what I'd been preaching."

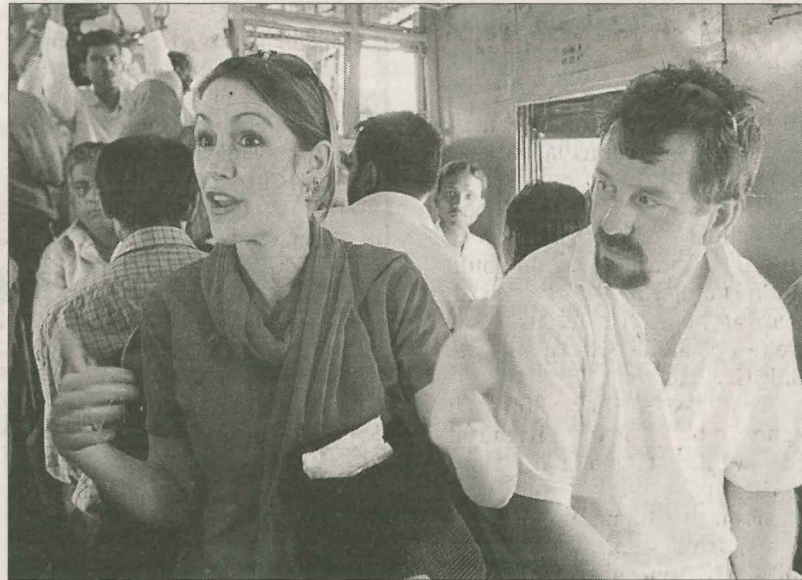
"Attempt great things ..."

That was five years ago. Today, as a Southern Baptist missionary strategy coordinator, Carter faces a bigger challenge than he ever encountered as a coach.

The challenge lies in the Indian state of West Bengal, where William Carey launched the modern missionary movement more than two centuries ago. Today it is home to at least 80 million people. Most are Hindus, the primary focus of Christian missions among Bengalis since Carey's day. But one in four Bengalis proclaims Islam. Muslims comprise a quarter of the 16 million people of Calcutta, West Bengal's sprawling capital.

As in much of the rest of India, however, the real numbers can be found in the villages. In West Bengal and neighboring areas of India, Bengali-speaking Muslims predominate in about 30,000 villages.

Carter's vision and goal as a strategy coordinator is to see Jesus Christ glorified through a church-planting movement among the 27



NEWLYWEDS ON MISSION Julian and Kim Scarbrough, a newlywed couple from South Carolina, delayed their honeymoon to save for a trip to India. They didn't go to see the Taj Mahal and other tourist spots; they took the train to help missionary Carter Bolin in rural villages of West Bengal. (IMB photos)

million Muslims of West Bengal and nearby areas. How? By planting a "jaamat"—or house church—in every one of those villages.

It's a vision that fits both parts of William Carey's famous motto: "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

And Carter says it's doable. In fact, it's already beginning to happen. More than 100 jaamats—with about 1,000 former Muslims who have become baptized followers of "Isa Masih" (or Jesus Christ)—have sprouted throughout West Bengal during the past two years.

That represents only a typical month's spiritual harvest across the border in Bangladesh (once part of Bengal), where several powerful

church-planting movements among Muslims now count more than half a million believers. But momentum is gathering.

"We feel like we're on the end of the runway getting ready for takeoff," Carter reports. "Things are starting to happen."

Angry imams & peaceful listeners

When Carter or other missionaries and volunteers on his team accompany a Bengali church planter into a new area, they ask about village life, make friends and inquire about religious traditions.

They intentionally seek out the local imam (mosque leader) or village head to discuss the Quran, Islam's holy book, and what it says

about Jesus. That serves as a bridge to the "before books"—the Old and New Testaments—which the Quran commands good Muslims to read.

"It's a bridge," Carter stresses. "You don't camp on it; you cross over it. It gives Muslims 'permission' to look into the New Testament."

As each visit progresses, they pray that a "man of peace" will emerge—whether it's the village leader or someone in the crowd that eagerly gathers around—who will become the key to reaching the community with the gospel.

"If you go as a learner and spend an hour just getting to know them, love them, play with their kids, talk to them about their goats and their harvest, have tea with them, that goes a long way," Carter says.

Usually they get invited to stay for a meal or to spend the night. The dialogue goes on; often the whole village listens.

Not every encounter ends on a positive note. They're asked to leave some villages. Once, an imam grew hostile during a group discussion.

"The crowd actually rallied around me, siding with me and countering his points," Carter recalls. "He was very angry, so as we left I said, 'Peace, brother,' embraced him and thanked him publicly for allowing us to talk.

"A couple of guys followed us back to the vehicle. They asked for the Book (Bible), and they wanted to know how Jesus could make our lives so loving and caring. So in the midst of what I thought was a bust, since we didn't get anywhere with the imam, these guys saw our message of love."

Just 6,000 miles from home

Keeping sick boys quarantined a chore for boarding school houseparents

By Suzi Garrett
Oneida Baptist Institute Night Shift Houseparent

"I have little bug bites all over my tummy, and they itch so bad," Mickie said as he came into the office about 4:30 a.m. one August morning.

Closer examination showed Mickie had little "bumps" on his chest, abdomen and armpits, but they did not look like bug bites. I was afraid to even think what I suspected they might be.

It was just the third week of a new school year, and it appeared we might have a case of chicken pox in the dorm. I gave him an over-the-counter anti-histamine and some cream to help with the itching.

Where was I going to put him until we could get him to a local doctor to verify or eliminate my suspicions? I didn't want to cause a panic on campus. I sent him back to his room and told him not to come out. Since he was running a considerable fever, his roommate already had been exposed.

I called the campus medical coordinator at 6 a.m. and asked her to arrange an appointment at a local clinic. But in less than an hour, Jose came to me complaining of the same malady. Little blistery bumps covered his chest and neck. I made a hurried call for another doctor's appointment.

The only good news I heard was that the roommate of the first boy had already had chicken pox when he was 5 years old. I quickly moved Jose into the room with the first "itcher" and put the original roommate into Jose's room,

after washing down his bed with disinfectant.

Two hours later, the doctor confirmed my fears. What would I do? Normally we would have the parents come get them and take them home until they were no longer contagious. But one of these boys was from Mongolia and the other was from El Salvador, both too far from parents to appear at a moment's notice. The answer was to quarantine the boys in a single room and pray no one else would get the chicken pox.

For seven days, we waited hand and foot on these two itchy young men. Special meals were eaten in solitude, and assignments were sent from school. Both boys stayed in their room when the other boys were in the dorm. The two did homework in our television room during the time when others were at school. My coworker and I had to spray down any room they used each time they left it.

They were terribly bored and soon had slept so much that they would come to my office at night begging for something to do. Each child called his concerned parents every day. The day shift houseparent and I had to chase their friends away from their door at least once a day. Notes were passed back and forth instead.

We prayed that God would spare us from any more "pox," and He did. The doctor declared them safe to return to school. Nobody ever saw two boys happier to go back to their classrooms. Not one other person got chicken pox. Hallelujah! God continues to bless us here at Oneida Baptist Institute.

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



W.F. Underwood

Good news in the mail

Friends give needed support and encouraging words

I sent an unusually frank end-of-the-year appeal for financial support to names on our mailing list. Thankfully, many responded with needed support and encouraging words.

From Tennessee came these words: "Ever since I can remember, Dad was a friend of Clear Creek. (He) went home to be with the Lord on June 28 while living with my wife and me here in Tennessee. Because I know of my father's commitment to Clear Creek Mountain Preachers Bible School throughout my life and as one of his beneficiaries, God has placed in my heart to send this contribution from the proceeds of Dad's estate."

An Ohio friend wrote: "Your recent letter ... has a familiar ring in the wake of tsunamis, and Katrina and other catastrophes. I can just imagine how hard it is to make ends meet in such difficult times. I appreciate your efforts to acquire financial solvency by very practical ways. I'm sure some of these have been gut-wrenching. I know my check needs to be multiplied many times over, but I do pray God touches the hearts of His children

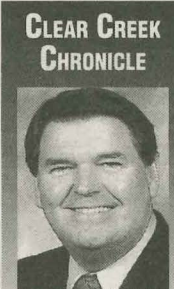
to help in your effort."

A Georgia couple noted: "We are in our late 60s, retired, and have all our needs met, and have a heart for missions. Our Christmas gifts to each other will be this gift to Clear Creek. We believe in what you're doing." Later, he sent \$2 and explained: "Two of my grandsons gave me \$1 each as a Christmas gift to Clear Creek.

They know 'Papa' likes to give to the 'Bible School' so more people can learn about Jesus. We're trying to pass our commitment to Clear Creek on down to our two children and four grandchildren."

A Kentucky couple sent their tax refund; an alumni couple, displaced from New Orleans

Seminary and recovering from significant loss, sent a gift and prayer for God to bless. Realizing God's grace, we want to help wherever there is genuine need. We can't do everything; sometimes we can do only the very best—pray. Ministers like ours survive because people do what they can and together it meets the need.



Bill Whittaker

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

Pat Boone spearheads song project to honor Billy Graham

By Jason Kane
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—When Princess Diana died in 1997, Elton John's musical tribute, "Candle in the Wind," captured the popular notion of the beloved princess, and with it, the world's attention.

The song's success made singer Pat Boone consider a hero of his own.

"If there's anyone in my lifetime who deserves honor, it is Billy Graham," Boone, 71, said in an interview. "I think he is the most significant figure since the apostles. I didn't know Peter and I didn't know Paul, but I know Billy Graham."

Thus began a process that would culminate eight years later in a tribute of his own, featuring more than a dozen of the recording industry's biggest names. Boone calls it "a love letter ... from the world."

The song, "Thank You, Billy Graham," didn't receive much attention when it was released on Boone's latest album, "Glory Train: The Lost Sessions," last summer. But the creative forces behind the song claim the process, nearly a decade after its inception, is still in the works and could grow larger still.

Boone, who began his career as a 1950s rock 'n' roll heart throb famous for his white buckskin shoes and outspoken Christian faith, first penned a twangy tribute titled "We Call Him Billy" that caused some listeners to cringe.

"I liked the idea, but I thought the song itself was dreadful," said David Pack, a veteran gospel producer who agreed to review Boone's demo. "He was at least kind enough to say, 'Why don't you try something yourself, then?'"

"We Are the World"-type project

Pack accepted the challenge, and with the help of country songwriter Billy Dean, reworked the bluegrass melody into a contemporary "We Are the World"-type single.

Artists from the rock, pop, country, R&B and gospel traditions joined the ensemble project to pay tribute to the man, now 87 and ailing from Parkinson's disease, who has evangelized the world for half a century.

After bumping into U2's Bono at a Grammy party, Boone convinced the rock star to record an introduction.

"I give thanks just for the sanity of Billy Graham," Bono, an Irish Catholic, says of the Protestant evangelist in the recording. "For that clear, empathetic voice of his and that Southern accent. Part poet, part preacher, a singer of the human spirit, I'd say."

Musicians from country star LeAnn Rimes to gospel singer Andrae Crouch recorded separate segments in the ensuing months.

Digitally combining their voices in the studio, Pack and Dean assembled a multi-media package based around the lyrics:

"He heard the word, he got the call/ He took the message to us all/ He said it so we all could understand/ Around the world, here at home/ He let us know we're not alone/ Oh, thank you, Billy Graham..."

Even CNN's Larry King, an agnostic but long-time friend of the evangelist, added his voice to the mix.

"From parliaments to presidents, from kings to common folks, each one heard the truth of God's amazing grace," King says in his narration of the third verse.

Demand to participate in the project soon outpaced available space on the single. Country superstars such as Faith Hill and Tim McGraw were asked to simply record spoken tributes.

But the process stalled and nearly collapsed in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Contributors backed out, the Web site ThankYouBillyGraham.com was shut down and plans for a televised concert disintegrated in the chaos.

Growing nervous that the self-financed endeavor might fail completely, Boone tacked the single onto his 2005 "Glory Train" album, but says "a very major" retail negotiation currently is under way for mass distribution of the song.

Equally frustrated, Pack began looking into recording a version with artists more familiar to a younger demographic.

"This has been five years of my life and I am still not going to give up hope that this will be a live concert," Pack said. "We must make that happen to introduce Billy to the next generation."

Boone plans to donate eventual proceeds to two Christian ministries—Samaritan's Purse, headed by Graham's son, Franklin Graham, and Mercy Corps, which focuses on relief and development efforts.

Mark DeMoss, spokesman for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, called the tribute "an honor to Mr. Graham" and for now, Boone said such modest recognition is enough.

Still, Boone said he is hopeful the single will become the next "Candle in the Wind," helping people remember Graham long after he has "gone to his glorious reward."

"I would hope that in the months and years to come people would continue to do him honor by humming the song and playing it for the kids and grandkids," Boone said.

"I really believe God has been populating heaven through the ministry of Billy Graham and we hope thousands more will be helped in Billy's name."

Let's Start with Jesus: A New Way of Doing Theology. Dennis Kinlaw. Zondervan, 2005. 165 pages. \$15.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

For 18 years Dennis Kinlaw served as president of Asbury College, so he is well aware of the theological dialogue at the interface of evangelical and mainline Christianity.

From that perspective he understands that Protestant Christianity owes its life to Luther's and Calvin's understanding of "salvation by grace alone through faith alone." But he is concerned that the juridical understanding of the atonement and salvation, which is the lynch pin of Protestant theology, is not wholly adequate.

He writes: "The cry of the human heart is for a personal knowledge of God more intimate than that which the judicial one pictures for us."

Consequently, Kinlaw advocates a different starting point: Jesus. He contends that the essence of the gospel is that Jesus is God's most personal, ultimate revelation of Himself and humanity. Jesus is not only the way of salvation; He is the truth about God, ourselves and our world. Jesus does not simply come to offer truth to be believed, an ethic to be followed or an atonement that forgives; He comes to be life for us.

Kinlaw suggests that evangelical Christians would benefit by taking the Christian understanding of the triune God more seriously. He points out that by putting Jesus at the center of our theology, ecclesiology and ethics, we do not have to sacrifice the other Reformation principle "Scripture alone."

For those who have paid little attention to Christology, or for whom the whole topic might seem esoteric, Kinlaw offers a succinct, readable introduction. Without a doubt his understanding of the God and humanity Jesus reveals will push many of us beyond our rather reductionist understanding of the gospel.

My only complaint was the book's typeface. It made reading more difficult than it needed to be. Jim Holladay

The One Thing You Need to Know. Marcus Buckingham. Free Press, 2005. 285 pages. \$29.95. ♦♦♦♦

Marcus Buckingham helped teach organizations the difference between leadership and management when he wrote, "First, Break All the Rules."

Buckingham, a former leadership consultant for the Gallup Organization, convincingly writes that organizations need both visionary leaders and solid managers. Good leaders, he states, know how to articulate clear direction and goals for an organization. Good managers are crucial to helping their organizations navigate complex situations.

An organization with leadership but no management will have a vision of where to go but no understanding of how to get people trained and organized to go there. Churches or businesses with strong management but no vision

might have well-organized people and programs but no idea what to do with them. As Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Unfortunately, many small organizations settle for one over the other. Actually, they are structured this way because they put their expectations in one person, and he or she is wired either to see the forest (big-picture, visionary leadership) or the individual trees (management).

With "The One Thing You Need to Know," any pastor or church leader can begin to determine if he or she is a natural leader or manager. Readers also can begin to understand why a church, ministry or other organization needs both and can begin the conversation about how to recruit missing leaders or managers to the team.

Not only does Buckingham distill the key points of good leadership and management in "The One Thing." He also has a section on how to understand one's own skills and interests in order to sustain individual success. David Winfrey

Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success: Building Blocks for a Better Life. John Wooden & Jay Carty. Regal Books, 2005. 163 pages. \$17.99. ♦♦♦♦

In a society that reveres success and achievement, legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden and Jay Carty, one of his protégés and former players, have written a wonderful book.

"Success is an equal opportunity player," the coach writes. It's not about achievements, but it's found in the "self-satisfaction achieved when you know that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."

The book is simple to read, with Scripture references at the end of each chapter. The authors outline their version of success in a pyramid of principles. Each chapter corresponds to a building block principle, with specific insights on how to achieve each chapter subject.

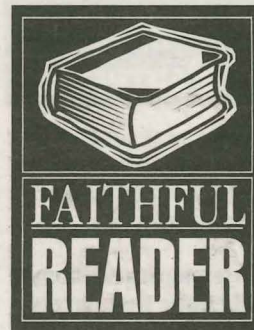
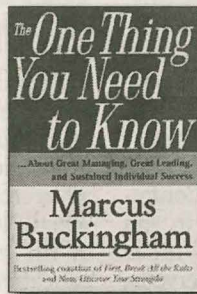
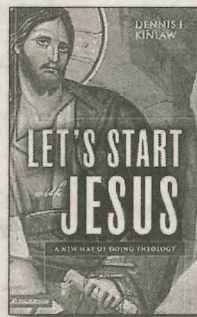
Foundational topics include industriousness, friendship, loyalty, cooperation and enthusiasm.

Climbing the pyramid, readers find cap blocks or mortar principles, including ambition, adaptability, resourcefulness, patience, integrity and honesty.

The book also features interactive "Your Turn" sections, in which one can read Scriptures, answer questions related to the topic, pray and be challenged to form new habits.

A smaller "Cliff Notes" version of the book, called "The Playbook" is also available. This concise version can fit easily into a pocket or purse and can be read anywhere at any time.

This book is a great read for anyone seeking a Scripture-based self-improvement book. Coaches and youth ministers might especially find it a good resource for sharing with youth. The book also would be a great gift for graduating seniors. Steve Coleman



By Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; David Winfrey, Western Recorder news director; and Steve Coleman, pastor of education and youth at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: lyndonpastor@aol.com; david.winfrey@kybaptist.org; and risen4me@hotmail.com.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Missionaries Anthony and Katie Humphress of Lexington. The Humphresses direct "The Rock," a campus ministry to fraternities and sororities at the University of Kentucky and Morehead State University. Through weekly gatherings and special events, The Rock mentors and disciples believers, and encourages them to be Christian witnesses in the "Greek" community. Pray that students returning to the campus this month will be open to the life-changing message of the gospel as it is shared and that Christians involved in fraternities and sororities will boldly stand for Christ. Pray also that God will meet the needs of the ministry team as they seek Him for resources.

Church Planter

Jason Hutchinson of Paintsville. Hutchinson is beginning Mountain Community Fellowship under the watchcare of Enterprise Baptist Association. The core group has been meeting weekly for worship and Bible study and is expanding to include others as leadership training is developed. The church hopes to have an official launch during the summer of 2006. Pray that God will raise up a sponsoring church as Mountain Fellowship seeks to step out in its vision to be a multiplying church. Pray that additional leaders will say "yes" to God in response to the need for children's, youth and worship ministers.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org or call (866) 489-3530.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church recently ordained **Gerald Belcher, Rett Dallas** and **Becky Tomblinson** as deacons. **Mark Hopper** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Crossroads Church recently called **Jeff Jackson** as pastor, **Winston Harris** as youth minister and **Tommy Radford** as minister of music.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church ordained **Roy Gaddie** and **Bill Smith** as deacons Jan. 8. **Dan Francis** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Church recently called **Harold Meers** as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church ordained **James Lee** and **Jason Womack** as deacons Jan. 8. **David Platt** is pastor.

New Heights Church recently called **Cody McNutt** as pastor.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church honored **Gene and Faye Brown** on their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 18. **Richard Carver** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Ewing



Ewing Church will hold a dedication service for its new education and fellowship facilities Jan. 15, 2 p.m. **Darryl Wilson**, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's adult Sunday school/discipleship group, will deliver the dedication message. A reception and tours of the building will follow the service. **DeWayne Sowell** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Bellevue Church recently called **Tommy Rhinerson** as children's ministry coordinator. **Greg Faulls** is pastor.

New Orleans Seminary celebrates first post-Katrina graduation

Birmingham, Ala. (BP)—New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary celebrated a historic graduation last month—its first since Hurricane Katrina. In spite of the disruption caused by the storm at the start of the semester, 137 graduates completed their degrees.

The graduation, held at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., marked another milestone in the seminary's effort to recover from the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

"God proved Himself to be faith-

ful and true," master of divinity graduate April Price said. "Through this hurricane, I had to learn to rejoice in Him always, and regardless of the circumstances it was amazing to see how faithful He was."

Price said walking across the stage was "even sweeter" because of difficulties each graduate faced.

In his remarks to the graduating class, seminary president Chuck Kelley praised the work of the students and faculty in the wake of the hurricane, calling their efforts "the stuff of legend."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

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

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—Mount Beulah Church recently called **Paul Grainger** as pastor.

■ **ROBARDS**—**Larry Birkhead** retired in December as pastor of Robards Church.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—**Minnie Kim-**

ball, whose husband, Marlin, is pastor of Mount Eden Church, died Dec. 31. She was 77. In addition to her husband, she is survived by five children, 23 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

more important than his own life.

"What you do, you do at God's direction," Kelley urged. "You do not do it because it is easy. You do not do it because it is rewarding. You do it because you simply must finish that which God has called you to do."

Kelley said Hurricane Katrina gave students vital experience in following God. He encouraged the "Katrina class" to apply the same passionate commitment they exhibited after the storm throughout their life in ministry.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR SALE: 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. (606) 285-3051.

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

SEEKING: Volunteers, March-November, for Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, N.M., in the mountains at 7,500 feet, 18 miles northeast of Santa Fe, N.M. Serve in maintenance, conference support, grounds, food service. Commitments of 2-12 months preferred, with a minimum commitment of one month. Each volunteer required to work at least 30 hours/week for which Glorieta will provide free: a full-hook RV site, or an efficiency apartment or hotel room; and meals. For information/application, contact Lee or Bea Carl, volunteer coordinators, at (505) 757-4298, or e-mail vols05Carl@cybermesa.com.

SEEKING: Minister of education and spiritual formation for Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky. Immanuel is a progressive Baptist congregation in Western Kentucky affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Southern Baptist Convention and the West Union Baptist Association. The church is a diverse congregation of more than 800 members. The worship of the church may be characterized by a warm formality, and the seasons of Advent, Lent and Holy Week are significant times of worship. The church has a strong tradition of excellence in Christian education. The individual interested in this position should have earned at least a Master of Divinity degree and/or a Master of Religious Education degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school. He or she should be aware of the challenges facing Christian education in the local congregation. Immanuel encourages the development of new initiatives to involve adults, students and children in educational opportunities beyond the Sunday school hour. The current Sunday school enrollment is 441 with an average attendance of 281 through October 2005. The church has many members gifted in the areas of teaching, discipleship and shepherding. Immanuel operates the Immanuel Preschool for children ages 2-5, and Encore, an after-school

program for kindergarten-grade 5. In past years the church has developed its own curriculum and materials for vacation Bible school. Interested candidates may view our website for more information about the church: www.immanuel-paducah.org. The minister of education and spiritual formation will serve with three other full-time ministers: the senior minister, minister of music and minister to students. He or she will assume other ministerial responsibilities in addition to education and spiritual formation, and will receive secretarial support from the office assistant who also provides support for two other staff members. The church staff also includes a part-time minister to children and the director of Immanuel Preschool/Encore. Please send letters of inquiry and/or resumés to: Personnel Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 3465 Buckner Lane, Paducah, KY 42001. Applications/resumés will be accepted through Feb. 15.

SEEKING: Part-time secretary for East End church, three days a week. Must be proficient in Publisher and Word. Fax resumé and handwritten cover letter to Administrator at (502) 893-9386.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church of Highland Heights, located in Northern Kentucky. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 2315 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights, KY 41076.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, Ky. Average Sunday school attendance: 170; worship: 275. Mail resumés to: Marilyn Craycroft, 333 Atwill St., Brandenburg, KY 40108. Applications accepted until Jan. 31, 2006.

SEEKING: Church secretary (20-plus hours per week). Call or submit resumé to Victory Memorial Baptist Church, 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40214; or call (502) 638-2521.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education/youth for First Baptist Church of Walton. Resumés may be mailed to 47 South Main St., Walton, KY 41094; or e-mail to pastorfbcw@fuse.net.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for conservative Southwestern Indiana Southern Baptist church. Candidate should submit inquiries, video cassettes, audio cassettes/CDs and resumés to Pastor Search Committee (confidential), Oakhill Baptist Church, 4615 Oakhill Road, Evansville, IN 47711.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music to lead a 25-member adult choir, children and youth music groups for a Southern Baptist church. People skills and music skills are important. Potential for growth in the music programs. Contact: Personnel Committee, Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 E Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724, Attn: Bill Goodman.

Finding Jesus

Police turn up 27 of them, all wrapped in swaddling clothes

By Mary Jo Patterson
Religion News Service

Sayreville, N.J. (RNS)—Detectives investigating the theft of a baby Jesus statue from an outdoor Nativity scene at a Sayreville church followed a trail two weeks ago that led them to the missing statue—and 26 other baby Jesus figurines.

Police said they assumed all 27 statues had been stolen, although they did not know from where.

Police spread the figurines out on a counter at police headquarters to take inventory. All lay, in swaddling clothes, on their backs.

"It looks like a nursery here," said police spokesman Ken Kelly.

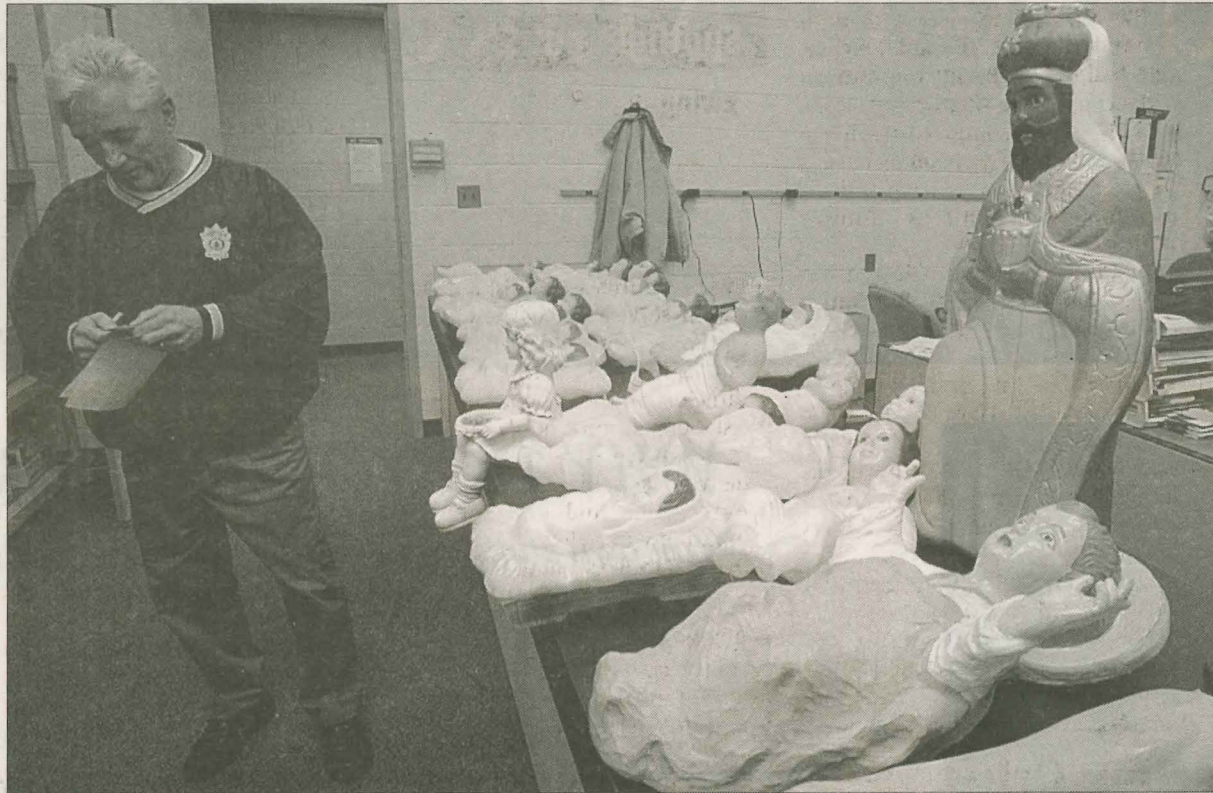
The figurines, most of them plastic, were found stashed "in plain view" in a car parked outside the home of Christopher Olson, 18, of Old Bridge, N.J., police said.

Detectives canvassing the church neighborhood Jan. 1 had been given a description of a "suspicious" car by residents, police said.

Authorities jailed Olson and two other men—Michael Payne, 19, of Old Bridge, and Nicholas Hess, 18, of Matawan—in connection with the theft of the Nativity infant from St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, and the desecration of objects at the church's cemetery. A 15-year-old boy also was taken into custody.

Payne's truck contained several items from the church cemetery, police said.

"It was supposed to be some kind of Jesus burning party. I guess they were going to burn everything up," Kelly said, adding that local prosecutors would determine whether the incident constituted a bias crime.



STOLEN Ken Kelly, a detective with the Sayreville (N.J.) Police Department, stands near the 27 Jesus figures that were taken from homes and churches. Police recovered the stolen statues Jan. 2. The wise man statue was taken from a church in the area. (RNS photo by Amanda Brown)

"There was nothing sprayed or written. Is it a crime against Christians? I don't know. We'll be looking at that," Kelly said.

Frank Payne, the father of Michael Payne, said the theft "wasn't a hate crime."

"Michael has been hanging around the wrong people. He goes to college. He's an outstanding young kid," he said.

Jesus "in many different places"

The discovery brought relief to the parishioners of St. Stanislaus Church, who had taken the theft of their statue very hard, according to Pastor Ken Murphy.

The theft, as well as the theft

of a smaller baby Jesus from the church's school and the toppling of a 15-foot crucifix in the church's cemetery, took place late in December.

"As I told people ..., the most important thing is, we celebrated the birth of Jesus," Murphy said. "Jesus is in many different places. If they saw the display and saw He wasn't there, they would be reminded that He is in them."

Sayreville police called the pastor about 11 a.m. on Jan. 2 to report that they might have found the statue. Murphy drove to Old Bridge and identified it.

Because Polish tradition calls for keeping Nativity scenes on display

for 40 days after Christmas, the statue was restored to its place in the manger. But first, he said, "police said they had to dust it for fingerprints."

The plaster statue, life-sized and more than 25 years old, was easy to identify since it had a fresh coat of paint, Murphy said.

The priest said he himself was not sure religious bias played any role in the theft.

"As aggravating as it is, I know these things happen. Children do pranks. It has happened in other places I have been, from Christmas displays both religious and secular," he said. "I'm just so happy the infant has been returned."

"It was supposed to be some kind of Jesus burning party."

Sayreville, N.J. police spokesman Ken Kelly

Veterinarian cared for 80 pets as ministry to Katrina victims

By Keith Manuel
Baptist Press

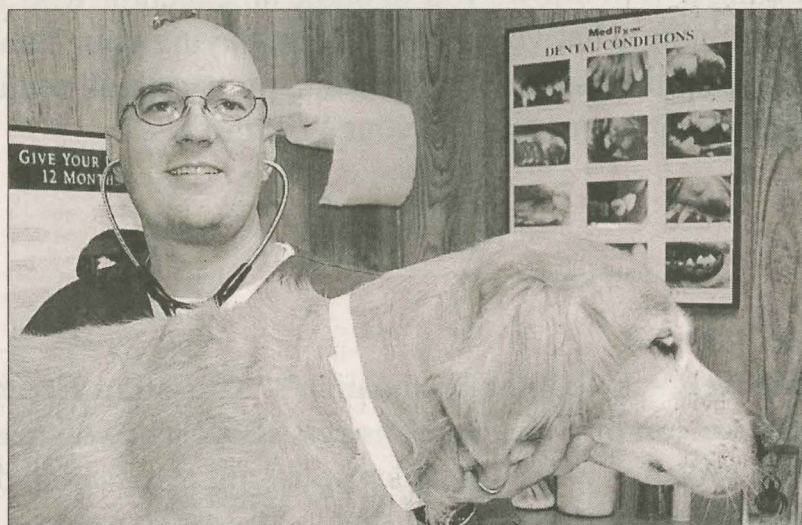
Ocean Springs, Miss. (BP)—Ministering to people through their pets is a part of Walter Mullen's everyday veterinarian medicine practice. Since Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Mullen's efforts have quietly intensified.

"I am much more content being behind the scenes doing something for somebody than being up front and noticed for doing it," Mullen said.

One of the veterinarian's behind-the-scenes ministries in the aftermath of Katrina involved trips to Starkville, Miss., a five-hour drive one-way, to retrieve food and water for more than 80 pets that families had entrusted to his care as they were evacuating the region.

Mullen, a member of First Baptist Church in Ocean Springs, views boarding pets as an opportunity for ministry because, tragically, one of his clients died when she would not leave her dog during the storm.

"She drowned. They found her holding her dog," he said. "She was the quintessential, pleasant grandmother-figure."



DOG'S BEST FRIEND Veterinarian Walter Mullen sees his work as an opportunity for ministry. (BP photo)

Reflecting on the tragedy, he said, "It kind of sobers you up. It was something where we could have helped her."

Since the storm, Mullen has made sure the pets received the care they need, often by adjusting his fees for the owners depending on the devastation of their personal property.

One unique way of adjusting his fees has been asking a client who escaped damage in the hurricane to write a check payable not to him for the veterinary service but, instead, to another client who lost everything.

Mullen lives in the house where he grew up in Ocean Springs, Miss. It is almost four feet off the ground

and approximately 25 feet above sea level and yet water flowed under the home.

Although he fared well, many of his neighbors did not, including his 95-year-old grandmother, with no visible sign of her home left on her lot.

Mullen's wife, Jan, stated that one of their staff from the veterinary practice became a Christian during her evacuation from the Gulf Coast.

"(Walter) has been a good witness to his staff. (The employee) came and told him after the storm that she became a Christian because she knew he was a Christian too," Mrs. Mullen recounted. "He gave her some guidance about finding a church home and getting involved in a Bible study."

One of Mullen's favorite Bible verses, Proverbs 3:5-6, has manifested itself in his life in the days after the storm.

"Do you know why the storm came? No," he reflected. "Do you know why you lost your house? No. But, if the trust is there, if the faith is there, you know that whatever happens, God is going to be there with you."

January Is Make Your Will Month

WHY DO YOU NEED A WILL?

"You own stuff; you will die; someone will get your stuff."

Jane Bryant Quinn

- To be a good steward — a good estate plan reduces death taxes and probate expenses leaving more for you to pass to your family and charitable causes at your death.
- To avoid the "Will" the state has written for you — Kentucky's "Intestate Succession Statute" — the state's plan of asset distribution may not meet your family's needs or accomplish your estate planning objectives.
- Making a Will allows you to say who will get your "stuff" (your assets) and how they'll receive your "stuff" at your death.
- Making a Will allows you to designate whom you want to be appointed as guardian for your children if both parents die before your children reach age 18.
- Making a Will assures smooth administration (probate) of your estate at your death.
- Making a Will allows *you* to name an executor who will handle the tasks of determining what you own at death, paying your final debts and expenses, managing the assets in your estate, preparing all required tax returns and distributing your assets as your Will directs.

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FOUNDATION

P O Box 436389

Louisville, Kentucky 40253-6389

(502) 489-3533

(866) 489-3533 (KY only)

www.kybaptistfoundation.org

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The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's **"Christian Estate Planning Basics"** seminar can provide more answers about why you need a Will. Contact Barry Allen at barry.allen@kybaptist.org to schedule this one hour, free seminar at your church.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's private, no cost, confidential estate planning consultation service is a great way to get started on putting an estate plan together or updating an existing estate plan. Contact Laurie Valentine at laurie.valentine@kybaptist.org to arrange a time to meet in person or by phone.