



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Seattle coach's wife considers missions bigger than big game

Seattle (RNS)—While Seattle Seahawks head coach Mike Holmgren was busy coaching in Super Bowl XL Sunday, his wife and daughter were doing something they consider more important: a short-term medical mission trip to Africa.

Kathy Holmgren and daughter Calla left Feb. 2 on a 17-day medical training mission with Northwest Medical Teams—a relief group based in Portland, Ore.—to the Democratic Republic of Congo. A nurse and obstetrician, respectively, the two joined six other physicians with experience as missionaries.

While much of the world tuned into the Super Bowl, in which Seattle lost to Pittsburgh 21-10, the missions team began training the staff of a hospital operated by the Evangelical Covenant Church.

More than 3.9 million Congolese have died since 1998, most from preventable disease, according to the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

Kathy Holmgren spent 10 months in the country during 1970 but gave up her dream of being a Covenant medical missionary to marry. Last October, coach Holmgren's birthday present to his wife was the trip back to the country she loves.

Mrs. Holmgren said family initially did not consider the women might miss the Super Bowl. "As the possibility of our being in the game became a reality, we decided to continue with our plans. The actual game makes me so nervous, so I don't watch anyway, and we feel like this trip is important."

## Evangelism explosion



'READJUSTING' Each day, many residents of Q-city visit a mountain overlook where they scream to "readjust their Qi (Che)," seeking to rid the body of bad feelings and spirits. (International Mission Board photo)

## Missionaries: 'God thing' happening in Chinese city

(Editor's note: Because of security concerns, pseudonyms are used for the missionaries in this story. For that same reason, the city where they serve is referred to as "Q-City.")

Q-City, China—Three years ago, Oliver Graham had the ideal job. A medical sales rep with top-dollar contracts, he boasted a good salary, flexibility and great clients.

But when God got the Grahams' attention for overseas missions, all they could say was "yes."

"We had put out a fleece and God (answered) in two hours," Graham says. "We knew this 'going to missions' was serious business."

Now the duo are on the front row of what Graham calls a "God thing"—an explosion of decisions for Christ in picturesque Q-city, China.

Since Graham and his wife, Joy,

began mentoring six Chinese believers only 21 months ago, those believers have started more than 55 churches and led 4,000 people to faith in Christ. And the conversions continue so fast that it's impossible to keep count.

But Graham is clear about one thing: He didn't start it, God did. And He worked primarily through Chinese believers, which is the foundation of a lasting church-planting movement.

"God is in the driver's seat," Graham says. "God was working in Q-city since the beginning, and He asked us to show up."

As a strategy coordinator, Graham wants to evangelize through the Chinese themselves rather than forming a ministry dependent on him.

"If Oliver was telling one-by-one,

Q-city would never be reached," Mrs. Graham explains. "He wants this to be as Chinese as possible and not get in the way of what God is doing. He's asking (Christian) brothers and sisters here to share daily, and that's what makes multiplication."

The Grahams want to fan the glowing fire—and leave it sweeping across China when their work is done. But the incredible growth hasn't come easily.

Q-city, where noisy marketers peddle rice, cats and bins of red peppers, has a history of Chinese traditional religions as longstanding as the mountain shrines. Language barriers and spiritual warfare challenge the entire Graham family, even on the brightest of days.

□ See *Missionaries ... Page 10*

## Speaker: Unhealthy view of God affecting faith and ministries

By Ken Walker

State Correspondent

Lexington—Too many people form an unhealthy view of God, affecting their personal faith as well as local church ministries and outreach, according to a pastor and counselor.

Roger Barrier told a recent Shepherd the Shepherd workshop that he encountered this problem vividly when a middle-aged woman visited his church suffering with a decades-old trauma.

As a child, the woman had been sexually abused by her father and his friends.

As she tried to reconcile her past with her pursuit of faith, a nagging question persisted:

"Where was God when this was going on?"

"We taught her that God was there," said Barrier, pastor of Casas Church in suburban Tucson, Ariz.

God gave the woman someone to protect her—her father, the pastor said he explained, but the father failed to do his job.

Barrier advised the victim that God was there when it happened, weeping over those men's regrettable actions.

"We (told her) God was there and wanted to be her helper," Barrier said, whose church averages 4,500 in weekend attendance. "That was important in her healing."

It took three years for a counselor to help the woman work

through her past, but eventually she found healing and prayed to receive Christ as her personal Savior.

Barrier insists this woman isn't alone.

An estimated 20 million drug addicts nationwide are raising children, he notes. When these youngsters need comfort, they often get indifference, Barrier said.

Such tragedies demonstrate one of the three primary ways Barrier says most people form their view of God: significant life events.

The other two are religious traditions and growing-up relationships.

Barrier says the total that results from those three influences generally aren't healthy.

Citing surveys by a church research group, Barrier said just 25 percent of church members see God as intimately and compassionately involved in their lives.

The other 75 percent see God as distant and uninvolved, a harsh taskmaster or someone who is disappointed with their performance, he said.

The implications for the church are serious, Barrier said, affecting everything from people's views of the pastor to evangelism.

Those who view God as judgmental or disappointed in them tend to project similar expectations on their pastor and harshly judge his actions, Barrier said.

□ See *Speaker: Unhealthy ... Page 3*

## Simulcast urges prayer for missionaries

San Diego (BP)—“What would happen if we would commit to pray for our missionaries?” author and speaker Beth Moore asked an audience in San Diego during a live simulcast to scores of churches nationwide Jan. 27.

“The Bible says where two or three or more are gathered, Christ is in our midst,” Moore declared. “But if 10,000 Christians agreed to pray as one people for Christ and the nations, can’t you picture Christ looking over to His Father and saying, ‘Well, would You look at that.’”

Moore was the featured speaker for the live “Lift Up Your Voice ... a Call to Prayer” simulcast from the San Diego-area Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon. A key focus of the simulcast was “Voices of the Faithful,” a new book for fostering prayer for missions.

Released by Integrity Publishers, “Voices of the Faithful” features 366 devotions by Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries who serve around the world. Moore wrote the introduction and the lead-ins to month-by-month sections of the devotional book, which was compiled by Kim Davis, a former missionary to South Africa. They collaborated on the book with the IMB, agreeing that the book’s royalties will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Joining Moore during the simulcast were IMB President Jerry Rankin and David Jeremiah, pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church. The simulcast was broadcast by the Church Communication Network.



**SIMULCAST** Beth Moore issues a call to prayer during the recent “Lift Up Your Voice” simulcast. (BP photo by Fred Greaves)

Prayer “is a way every one of us can be on the same page,” said Moore, who annually leads conferences for women missionaries.

Rankin said several congregations are using the book to emphasize missions.

“It’s an excellent resource to challenge churches,” he said. “People tend to pray for missions generally, but now they can pray more specifically. It is unique. No one I know has been able to read just one devotion a day. Once they start reading the book, they can’t put it down.”

Carrie McDonnall, a humanitarian aid worker with the IMB, shared her testimony during the simulcast. McDonnall was critically wounded in Iraq nearly two years ago when insurgents attacked the vehicle in

which she was riding. Her husband, David, and three other workers died from wounds sustained in the attack.

McDonnall, who could not attend the event because of a recent surgery for her injuries, relayed her story via video. She recounted being injured in Iraq and waking up in the hospital to hear the news that her husband of only a year-and-a-half had died in the ambush.

Those involved in producing the simulcast hope Christians nationwide will realize the importance of praying regularly for missionaries, said Byron Williamson, president and CEO of Integrity Publishers.

“We’re hoping this is a virally infectious spark to get people involved in this important movement,” he said. “It helps us as churches to refocus on missions.”

Prayer is how the gospel is advanced, said Jeremiah, who traveled to Swaziland last year with 400 members of his church to plant gardens and provide spiritual health.

“It’s not going to happen through technology or our intellectual abilities but only through prayer,” said Jeremiah. “When we pray, God works. We believe God blesses churches that bless missions.”

“Lift Up Your Voice” is a year-long partnership between local churches and the IMB to connect with the lessons and inspiration from overseas missions, using the “Voices of the Faithful” devotional book and IMB support materials. For more information, visit [www.voicesofthefaithful.com](http://www.voicesofthefaithful.com).

## Tongues conflict prompts Criswell dean’s departure

Dallas (ABP)—Doctrinal differences among Southern Baptist conservatives contributed to Scott Camp’s recent departure as dean of students at Criswell College in Dallas.

Camp’s contract as dean, which ran through Jan. 31, was not renewed, in part because he supports speaking in tongues.

Some Southern Baptist leaders have argued recently for stricter enforcement of conservative views that oppose charismatic practices.

The Southern Baptist Convention’s International Mission Board recently tightened its policies to exclude missionary candidates who use a “private prayer language,” a form of speaking in tongues. That action and others prompted objections from some observers, who fear the 16 million-member denomination is drawing the circle of fellowship too small.

Criswell President Jerry Johnson, former dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary’s Boyce College, said the departure of his former Criswell classmate was not bitter but necessary. Both men acknowledged doctrinal differences played a role, according to the Dallas Morning News.

“Southern Baptist churches are not charismatic churches,” Johnson told the Morning News. While Criswell enrolls students from charismatic backgrounds, he said, the faculty and top staff are expected to reflect consensus Baptist beliefs.

Although Criswell College is not an SBC-owned school, its students often seek missionary appointment by the IMB. It’s important not to contradict the IMB’s position on speaking in tongues, Johnson told the Morning News.

Camp’s leadership in a local church also apparently factored into his departure. Camp is pastor of a new and growing Southern Baptist congregation in Arlington called Fellowship of Joy Church, taking time away from his Criswell job.

The church’s theological leanings also were an issue, according to Johnson.

Camp hired Harvard-educated Carl Raschke as theologian in residence at Fellowship of Joy. Raschke, author of “The Next Reformation,” has called biblical inerrancy “pseudoscientific” and a “weak” view of Scripture.

“Inerrancy is a big issue for this college and always has been,” Johnson said.

Raschke met with Criswell faculty and students in November to clarify his position on the Bible, which he said is “a stronger view of Scripture” than inerrancy, “not a weaker view.” He told the Morning News the students seemed to understand but not top administrators.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Online registration opens for 2006 SBC.** Online registration for the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., opened Feb. 1. Churches can register their messengers online at [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) to reduce registration time at the June 13-14 meeting. Each messenger registered online must present a printed form that shows the messenger’s reference number at the registration booth in order to receive a nametag and set of ballots.

**Registration opens for SBC childcare.** Registration is open for families planning to enroll their children in the preschool childcare or the children’s conference from June 11-14 in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C. For information about registration, visit [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) and click on “2006 SBC Annual Meeting” then “Children/Students.” The registration deadline is May 19.

**NAMB missionary, 32, found dead at home.** The death of a 32-year-old Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionary is under investigation by officials in the north Georgia county where he lived. The sheriff’s office in White County, Ga., is investigating the Jan. 27 death of William Flake, who directed NAMB resort ministries in a tourist area about 50 miles north of Atlanta. Flake, who had a wife, Natalie, and an 8-year-old daughter, Jorjanne, was found at their home in Helen, Ga. Colleagues said his death was suicide, but White County Coroner Ricky Barrett said the sheriff’s department had not released details of the investigation.

**New Orleans students return to campus.** Calling it a great day of triumph and victory, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary President Chuck Kelley welcomed students back to the main campus Jan. 23. After five months away, about 200 students participated in a “welcome back” lunch on the first day of classes. The return of classes to New Orleans is a milestone in the seminary’s efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina. Full campus operations are scheduled to resume in August.

## N.C. Baptist paper nominates directors to ‘protect freedom’

Cary, N.C. (ABP)—The Biblical Recorder, the state Baptist newspaper of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will nominate some of its own directors in a move to preserve its journalistic freedom, say the publication’s leaders.

Beginning this fall, the 172-year-old newspaper will nominate people for four open seats on its 16-member board, bypassing a convention nominating committee the leaders fear is stacking the board with “agenda-bearing conservatives.”

The move—invoking an option in the convention’s bylaws—will not negate the newspaper’s relationship with the state convention, which still can elect or reject the newspaper’s nominees. But the Recorder, with an annual budget of about \$900,000, likely will lose a total of \$400,000 from the state convention over the next four years.

According to Editor Tony Cartledge, “In most other state conventions where agenda-bearing conservatives have gained control of the state paper’s board, they have either muzzled the editor through censorship, or replaced him with someone who could be counted on to promote the party line. A free Baptist press was lost in those conventions.”

Cartledge informed the convention’s committee on nominations in late January of the Recorder’s decision. The paper’s directors took advantage of a 1992 amendment to the convention’s governing documents

that allow its 12 affiliated agencies to nominate up to 50 percent of its directors. In return, the entity gives up a similar percentage of its funding from the convention during the time those directors serve.

In a similar action, the Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina recently voted to start naming its own trustees. Meanwhile, a convention committee is studying its relationships with five affiliated colleges.

“We exercise this option with deep regret,” said Joe Babb, chairman of the Biblical Recorder board, “not only for the loss of funding but for the increasing polarization in BSC life that has led us to believe that, for the time being, this decision is necessary in order to safeguard and preserve the charter principles of a free press for the future.”

Mike Cummings, the convention’s acting executive director, said he is not troubled by the Recorder’s decision, acknowledging the Recorder’s right to invoke the trustee-nomination provision.

Cartledge said having conservative directors for the newspaper is not the concern.

“I have recommended a number of conservative candidates in past requests,” he noted. “What is important is that the person appreciates traditional Baptist distinctives and is committed to the mission of the Biblical Recorder.”

# Stress in the parsonage

Speaker tells Kentucky Baptist couples what causes it and how to combat it

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Lexington—A Baylor University survey about the stress faced by 4,000 pastors' families verified what pastors of experience already had taught Julie Barrier: life as a pastor's spouse is no picnic.

Completed about six years ago by her daughter, Brianna, and Wade Rowatt—director of the counseling center at Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church—the survey identified four leading stressors on pastors and their families:

- Unrealistic expectations.
- Lack of time.
- Financial stress.
- Health pressures.

"I think you have to address it every day," Barrier said of church members being rude or indifferent toward their pastor's family.

"We think sometimes that one sermon or one time of saying something is going to change the way things are, but it will take years."

Barrier and her husband, Roger, pastor of Casas Church near Tucson, Ariz., were keynote speakers at last month's "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference.

At a workshop for pastors' spouses titled "Pandemonium in the Parsonage," she noted that pastors' families deal with more than 100 unique stresses.

## Unhealthy expectations

But the one that topped the Baylor study was "expectations," whether from family members, congregation, self or God.

Church members often feel they have a right to communicate their expectations to the pastor's children, Barrier said, recalling when her then-8-year-old daughter returned to the cookie table at a fellowship.



Julie Barrier

A woman told her, "You'd better put that cookie back. We don't want chubby pastor's children."

Many attendees could relate with such comments; Barrier said such expectations were a major complaint of spouses she spoke to at her workshops.

"I think having children feeling wounded by a church member was something they really wanted to deal with," Barrier added, "(learning) how to comfort their children and get them past some of the hurts."

In addition to expectations, a lack of personal and leisure time was a primary concern to both survey respondents and workshop attendees.

## A tearful vacation

One major eruption in the Barriers' marriage came early in their pastor's marriage at Casas, when Roger Barrier didn't take a day off for three years.

As they finally prepared for a weekend getaway in Phoenix, a deacon called and asked if he could ride along so he could pick up his car at a repair shop there.

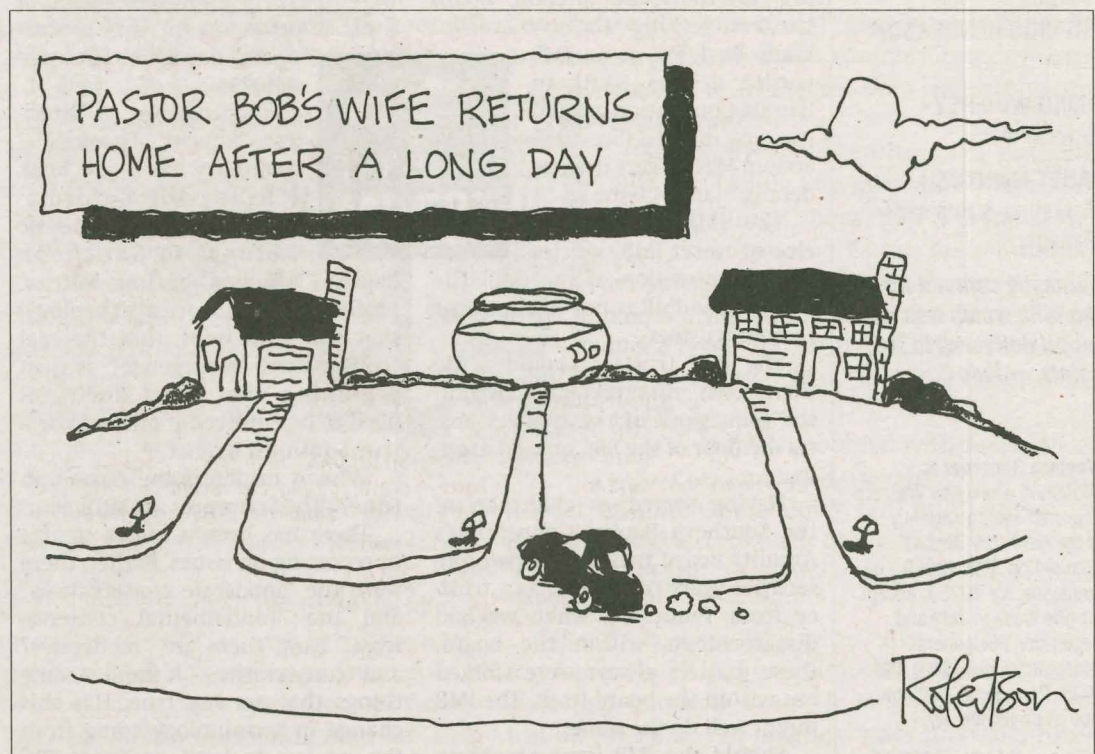
The pastor's wife sat in the back seat and cried during the 100-mile trip, but it took 15 years before they discussed the rift.

Barrier finally explained to her husband the complex emotions she felt because he spent so much time at church and not enough with his family. In turn, he apologized and asked for her forgiveness.

"One of the things we teach is if there's a really big hurt the apology needs to be commensurate with the hurt," Barrier said. "If you have a gallon worth of hurt, a pint-sized apology is not going to do it."

Financial stress is another problem that besets pastors' families, often because of recent moves or other circumstances.

Barrier referred to mission-



ary friends overseas who work in Islamic countries. Recently, their middle-school-aged daughter asked, "Mom, if God is a good God, why does He make me wear hand-me-downs?"

"The other extreme is the pastor's family that is expected to dress to the nines and set church fashion trends on a shoestring budget," Barrier said. "Can't we go to the grocery store without makeup when we want to?"

Health stress includes physical, emotional, spiritual and mental; she noted that the Southern Baptist agency GuideStone Financial Resources ranks pastors in the top three insurance risks for health problems. Many wives also carry the burden of working to make ends meet while serving "full time" in church ministries, Barrier said.

## Creating a healthy culture

Barrier said addressing these problems calls for understanding that people are alone and God instituted three divine relationships to fulfill that need: marriage, family and the church.

With the latter, the goal is to create a community where these issues of loneliness can be met through loving relationships, Barrier said.

"The real issue is: Do you have a dysfunctional church and are you willing to stay long enough at the church to change the culture so it is functional?" she said. "It doesn't happen in two years, it happens in five or 10 years."

Barrier thinks the pastor also has to take the lead in teaching people how to create loving relationships where hurts are acknowledged and forgiven.

The pastor also must help the congregation understand others' needs for such things as acceptance, appreciation and approval, Barrier said.

When such values are taught, modeled and instilled by both pastor and church leaders, God's grace will help change how people relate to each other, Barrier said.

"Teaching them how to identify and meet needs is important," she said. "If your people get in touch with that, they're not going to make (hurtful) remarks."

## Speaker: Unhealthy view of God affecting personal faith, church ministries

Continued from page 1

"They'll be disappointed in him," Barrier said. "They'll talk behind his back because how they view God will flow out of their actions."

"It's hard to evangelize and enjoy people coming to Christ when the people doing the evangelism don't even think God cares that they're alive or (think He) is going to judge them all the time," he added.

While some people might blame this disjointed picture on the failure of churches and pastors' teaching, Barrier places it at the feet of fathers.

The Bible contains much more biblical teaching about fathers

than mothers, Barrier said.

He added that in his eyes most fathers are failing to do their job well.

"People who have a healthy, well-adjusted dad tend to have a healthy, well-adjusted view of God," Barrier said.

"Look across society as a whole and the numbers who had healthy, well-adjusted dads is not a very high percentage."

Part of this failure can be attributed to a culture that allows fathers to escape their responsibilities, Barrier said.

## Three ways to reshape view

Although he doesn't blame the church for the situation, he

said local congregations play an important role in reshaping misguided views of God, using three key elements:

**Scripture.** Barrier quotes Psalm 119:105, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path," and Psalm 23 as two of his favorites.

Meditating on Bible passages is a key spiritual discipline, but tends to get overlooked in Baptist life, Barrier said.

"The light of the Word is the greatest balanced checkpoint in knowing whether we're right or wrong," Barrier said.

"If our view of God doesn't correspond ... to the Scripture, then something's wrong with our view."

**God's people.** Finding mature Christians who know God's heart

and imitating their life and faith is important to adjusting imbalanced views, he said.

**The light of Christ.** Studying the Bible to learn more about Christ's heart and interpreting Scripture in light of that will help people focus more clearly on God's nature, Barrier said.

The pastor said churches that want to project a more loving view of God should get to know Him more deeply so they can share His heart.

They also should view people as fallen and alone, Barrier said.

"If all we do is view them as fallen, we'll never have healthy churches," he said.

"If we can get a grip on the fact they're fallen and alone, that's the way we're going to develop compassion in our churches."



Roger Barrier

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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**Don't remove trustee**

Let me commend you for your forthright information concerning International Mission Board trustees seeking the removal of Wade Burleson as an IMB trustee at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June. (See "IMB action: Messengers deserve details," Jan. 24 issue.)

The IMB trustees are elected to set IMB policies and the direction of the IMB. The work of the IMB is not to choose or remove trustees.

The IMB trustees should settle their own disagreements within the framework of the trustees, not on the floor of the SBC annual meeting.

Having served as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board trustees for two consecutive years (1979-1981) as a trustee from Tennessee, when we had disagreements within the board, these matters always were worked out within the board itself. The IMB might well do the same.

Should the IMB regarding the removal of Wade Burleson as an IMB trustee come before the SBC in June, full details or accusations must be provided to the messengers attending.



periences suggest those "informal" meetings were to develop the agenda and to make certain those actions were properly approved ahead of time. Information on this process is also needed by SBC messengers.

A professor at Southern Baptist Seminary has a new book ("Ready for Reformation? Bringing Authentic Reform to Southern Baptist Churches" by Tom Nettles, professor of historical theology) that states, in brief, that the real "conservative resurgence" is just beginning—that strict doctrines need to be enforced if one is to be a true Southern Baptist.

Who is to determine "true doctrine?" The Scriptures are sufficient.

There has been a major change in there on issues. Earlier, there were the "moderate conservatives" and the "fundamental conservatives." Now, there are "moderates" and "conservatives." It implies some things that are not true. Has this change in terminology come from the grassroots level or from SBC leadership levels?

George Casey  
Worthington, Ohio

**Value all children**

I am writing to create an awareness that there are children with whom we minister in the church who have needs that often can be addressed in simple ways. My concern is for the child and the message the child receives—perhaps of not fitting in, being uncomfortable at church,

Laura Broadwater  
Louisville

**What are you thinking?**

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Submit by mail to Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 489-3565; or e-mail, wesrec@earthlink.net.

**Editorial applauded**

I applaud the editorial on the International Mission Board action. Messengers definitely will need adequate information on this issue to vote intelligently at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June.

Previous stories on this issue state that Burleson came early to a meeting of IMB trustees and found several of them meeting informally before the official sessions. Past ex-

**Collegiate ministry excels**

I was impressed recently when Keith Inman, the director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's collegiate and young adult ministries group, shared some glowing statistics about collegiate ministry.

During the past three years, more than 23,000 students have been involved in KBC collegiate ministry through work on 34 campuses. More than 6,700 of these students were involved in ongoing ministry.

Kentucky Baptists should be grateful to God for this incredible ministry through and for the

involvement of more than 1,080 international students each year. All total, there are about 200,000 college students attending Kentucky institutions of higher education.

Consider these additional facts. On average over the past three years:

- 482 students have been called to vocational Christian ministry.
- 2,400 have been involved in local church ministries.
- 477 students have been involved in witness training.
- 2,614 students have been in-

volved in Bible study and discipleship groups.

■ 598 students have been involved in summer missions and camps.

■ 608 students have been involved in spring break missions.

■ 733 students have been involved in community missions.

In addition, students gave \$1,005,624 for mission causes and mission involvement. They gave an additional \$15,800 for world hunger relief.

Also, just last year there were 335 professions of faith in Christ among students. About half were individuals from non-Baptist backgrounds.

There are 12 full-time and 12 part-time campus directors who give leadership to this highly effective ministry. Monica Merrifield, a dynamic native of Hawaii, directs the international student ministry.

When statistics indicate that more than 95 percent of college students drop out of church, I am grateful that Kentucky Baptists have a high commitment to collegiate ministry through their Cooperative Program gifts. Nine state schools

being a slow learner or perhaps even not feeling loved by God.

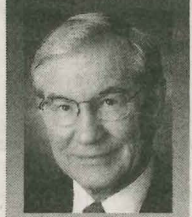
Children with learning differences like Central Auditory Processing Disorder, dyslexia, severe allergies or difficulty with language want to fit in and would offer their praise to God with the help of understanding leadership.

Language is hard and some simple suggestions can make their church experience more inclusive. Children's choir leaders could and should teach text without any accompaniment, send the text home with children or mail it to the parent or guardian and request the text be reviewed with the child. Once the text can be repeated by the children, the accompaniment can be added. Text need not be presented in a dry fashion; it can be presented with rhythm and learning games.

Church music is second to the Bible in teaching theology. I am not sure what the quality of our church music will be if we try to make children's choir a youth rock band and skimp on music that teaches sound theology children can remember and sing a month from now. Children's music, unlike rock-style choruses, takes into account the limited vocal range children have with which to sing.

I think children can be made to feel more valued at church by leaders remembering that many children have learning differences. I think there is much to be done to improve how we minister to and with our children to build the Kingdom of God in a more loving fashion.

Laura Broadwater  
Louisville

**PARTNERS IN THE MISSION**

Bill Mackey

have their own collegiate ministry centers strategically located near the center of their campus. This is a major commitment to reaching students and in leadership and missions now and in the future.

Our newest campus minister is Curtis Woods who is now serving at Kentucky State University in Frankfort. Curtis has had experience in Baptist campus ministry at the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, and was mentored by his campus director. Curtis' wife, Tracy, also served in Baptist collegiate ministry for two years. After seminary, Curtis served in Dallas as director of evangelism at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship with Dr. Tony Evans.

Curtis has two children and the most incredible vision and mission statement for his life and his family that I have ever seen. He has done special study related to the Nation of Islam and the culture of the African-American male.

We are grateful for this outstanding addition to the most effective group of collegiate ministers in North America. Please join me in prayer for even greater success in evangelism, missions and discipleship.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

**FAMILY****Seek appropriate balance between saving & spending**

By Jeremy White

When bankers recently were guest speakers in elementary schools, they asked the young scholars, "What would you like to save money for?" A few surprising responses included:

- Money for a boyfriend and college.
- A puppy.
- A Harley Davidson.
- A Hummer limousine.

When asked if he would be driving his friends around in his Hummer, the boy replied, "No, but my butler would."

It's easy to get a sense that the younger generation doesn't know much about saving. Of course, saving money is a difficult discipline, even for adults and governments.

Establishing a savings habit is important. To keep a balanced view, however, the savings should have a target. The hoarders among us tend to save just for saving's sake.

In our family, we have tried to encourage our daughters to put some money away as savings. My younger daughter astutely asked me one day, "What's the purpose of the savings category? What are we saving for?"

I stammered, "Well, that's for emergencies. It's for stuff you want to buy or things you want to do later." Knowing my reply didn't create a groundswell of enthusiasm and motivation, I began helping them identify a savings target.

The Bible emphasizes the wisdom of Proverbs 21:20, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil. But a foolish man devours all he has." On the other hand, Jesus warned the wealthy man about focusing too much on his savings (harvest) and the self-sufficiency he presumed from it.

When auditing a Florida bank early in my career, I learned of a bank customer who was so tight he wouldn't buy his wife a wig after her chemotherapy. Upon his death, his wife discovered more than \$1 million of stock certificates in the safe deposit box he had kept.

Delayed gratification is an important character trait for financial maturity. But there should be some eventual gratification.

Saving something that should be spent or given is not necessarily a financial virtue.

Jeremy White, a certified public accountant, is a partner with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah

## Valentine's Day celebration: Communicate heartfelt love

**Q: Valentine's Day is on the horizon. I really love my wife, but this day can be expensive if you buy into American culture. I would like this day to be a special time and not a formula prescribed by commercials. What can make this day meaningful?**

You're right that our economy is thrilled with all the candy and flower buying, restaurant meals and jewelry purchases.

### MARRIAGE

Valentine's Day should be a time set aside to celebrate and value someone you treasure in your heart. Perhaps you want to set your goal higher than meeting the status quo for Valentine gift-giving.

In relationships, Jesus modeled for us authenticity. He related to His disciples, His Father and others in an honest and forthright manner. Most of the plots of romance movies, books and soap operas revolve around dishonesty, manipulation and deception. This is not the way of Christ. Take advantage of this day to relate to your wife in the most real, honest, open and authentic manner you will risk. Have fun as you celebrate and value each other.

Since God was willing to openly declare His love for us, consider ways to openly declare your love for your wife:

- Write her a love letter that risks revealing what you feel in your heart.
- Draw a picture or a map of how you envision your future together and give it to your wife.
- Take your wife on a prayer walk of your home, seeking God's blessing for each room of the house.
- Look for opportunities to compliment and build up your spouse in front of other people.
- Take time each day (not just Valentine's Day) to express gratitude to your wife for a quality or action she has.
- Play, and play, and did I mention play? Have fun, laugh together, play together. Even giggle if you feel like it. Being serious and somber all the time is not attractive.
- Choose some verses of Scripture to read to your wife as a gift to her—words of encouragement, devotion, healing or help.

In whatever way you choose to celebrate and value one another, be authentic.—Valerie Vincent

**Q: Should I take my preteen child to see the movie, "End of the Spear"?**

"End of the Spear" tells the remarkable story of five missionaries who dared to make contact with the Waodani, a savage and violent tribe living in the Amazon basin of Ecuador. Children should know the story, but most younger children probably do not need to see the movie.

### PARENTING

The film carries a PG 13 rating for good reasons. As the story unfolds, the missionaries are spared to death by the Waodani. The movie does a good job of portraying the spearings without being overly graphic. However, the spearing scenes are intense. These powerful and lasting images contribute to the movie's message, but may be too much for many children.

Beyond the physical violence, the story line focuses on the difficulty the Waodani in general, and one warrior in particular (Mincayani) have in understanding and transitioning from the violent way of life they have always known to the way of peace modeled for them by the missionaries and their families.

I enjoyed watching "End of the Spear," but I would not characterize the movie as child-friendly. Fifth and 6th graders should be able to handle the intensity of the movie's theme and visuals, and probably will enjoy the "making of" documentary and other materials available at daretomakecontact.com. Younger children will learn "End of the Spear's" incredible story of forgiveness and reconciliation better through books and conversations.—David Garrard

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## Valentine's Day: Be authentic & creative

Valentine's Day isn't the highest-profile holiday on the calendar. That honor, of course, goes to Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth (even though the holiday's true meaning often gets obscured by the nonstop commercialism of the season).

Then there's Thanksgiving with its focus on family, feasting and football and Independence Day with its picnics and booming fireworks. Even Memorial Day and Labor Day gain national attention, not so much for their historical significance, but as the bookends of summer.

Valentine's Day typically is more low-key, with a focus on quiet, romantic dinners for two, flowers and candy. Granted, the jewelry industry pulls out all the stops to suggest jewelry is the best (and most expensive) way to commemorate the annual day of love.

Before potential recipients of diamond necklaces and earrings get up in arms over my Valentine musings, let me assure you I have nothing against giving jewelry, flowers, candy or cards as mementos of one's enduring love. I'm simply suggesting that we also consider creative ways to celebrate Valentine's Day that go beyond driving to the mall, pulling out a credit card and purchasing a mass-produced token of affection.

Family Forum writer Valerie Vincent addresses the same issue this week, encouraging couples to "celebrate and value each other" through authentic expressions of love that move beyond "the status quo for Valentine gift-giving."

While Valerie and our other Family Forum writers consistently dispense helpful, thought-provoking advice, I was especially attracted to her suggestion to "choose some verses of Scripture to read to your wife as a gift."

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

And I'm not saying that just because I'm cheap. I also plan to give Pam a "real" gift. But searching out and sharing Scriptures that communicate my deepest love to her seems even more romantic and meaningful.

So why discuss Valentine's Day gifts and how to celebrate love in a Western Recorder editorial? Think about it for a moment. Beyond Christmas and Easter, the sentiments of Valentine's Day come closest to communicating the heart of Scripture: "Now abide faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

In a world bombarded with messages of rage, greed and lust, imagine the potential impact of Christian couples faithfully expressing God-honoring love to each other. That can become both a model and testimony to those in one's circles of influence.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her," Ephesians 5:25 counsels. Consider how that instruction can play itself out in practical ways this Valentine's Day and every other day of the year.

Feel free to take the love of your life out for a nice meal on Feb. 14, give him or her a special gift and express your heartfelt love to each other. But don't stop there. Look for unexpected ways to show your love to your spouse, whether it's getting out the scissors and glue to create a one-of-a-kind homemade card; taking a long, slow stroll together through a neighborhood park; or just making time in your hectic schedule to hold hands, gaze into one another's eyes and reflect on the day you first whispered, "I love you."

Me? I'm going to be busy writing Scripture verses on cut-out hearts to present to my sweetheart. But, hey, don't tell Pam. It's a surprise.

## Spouses share youth ministry insights

My great friend and youth ministry colleague Bill Houpt and I used to joke every year when the summer approached that we would kiss our wives goodbye in May and hello again in August.

Unfortunately, this scenario plays out over and over in youth ministries all across Kentucky. The sad reality is that much too often it is our families who suffer from our fixation with youth ministry.

I polled some spouses of youth ministers and asked them several questions about being the spouse of a youth minister. There are some vital truths youth ministers can learn and issues they should pay attention to. The names and cities of respondents will remain anonymous to protect the integrity of the spouses' ministry.

The first question I asked was: Are there things you wish your spouse knew or would give thought to? The responses included, "How much I loved him and supported him." "How wonderful he is and how good he is at what he does." "How much I look up to him seeking God's will in all he does and being led by the Holy Spirit." "Sometimes you just can't fix everything."

The next question was: What are things you wish the church knew about you? Some responses were: "That my husband and I don't talk

about things at church at home all the time and I don't know the details of everything that's going on." "Don't ask me to tell my husband something that you could easily call or e-mail and tell him

yourself." "That I have an identity, not just 'the youth minister's wife.'" "I am not my husband."

They were just as open in responding to the question: What is the best part about being a youth minister's spouse? "Getting to share my love of ministering to students with my husband." "Seeing my husband do what God has gifted and called him to do." "All the behind-the-scenes stories."

There also are some downsides about being the spouse of a youth minister. They include: "That he's gone a lot." "That he is under a lot of pressure and sometimes that's hard to deal with." "That people complain about your husband sometimes or disagree with something he does or says. It's hard to be nice to those people after you know that." "That sometimes you know things about people and families in your church that you wish you didn't have to know." "Everyone expects you to know everything about the ministry, church, community, universe, etc."

The most responses came to the question: If you could tell your church one thing, what would it

be? "I wish the church knew how much time he puts in to his job." "How important volunteers are in student ministry." "I wish when they saw a need that they would attempt to meet it and not just assume that someone else will." "I wish the church would remember that it's all about Jesus and bringing people into a growing relationship with Him. The methods will change but the message never will." "That they could see the spiritual growth that takes place in our students' lives." "Please don't call our house after 10 p.m. unless someone has died or gone to the hospital!" "God is so much bigger than what the church has labeled and sold Him to be. Church is not about the flowers on the altar, how long the preacher talks, who fixes what, who we blame for the mistakes, and the bottom line of the budget."

One spouse replied: "I have answered your questions because I have been there, done that, and am continually learning how to deal with" such issues. "I had fun answering the questions. I have to admit the last one was something I love to speak about. It is near and dear to my heart."

I would encourage youth ministers to take time this month, when we set aside one day a year for our Valentine, to make a year-long plan to honor those you love and those who love you in return.

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

### YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

## Is Alito conservatives' dream on religion, abortion?



**BUSH & ALITO** President George W. Bush greets newly sworn-in Supreme Court justice Samuel Alito, as he makes his way into the House Chamber to deliver his annual State of the Union address. (RNS/Reuters photo by Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

By Jeff Diamant  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—With the confirmation of Samuel Alito Jr., the Supreme Court gets a justice labeled a “judicial conservative,” a “strict constructionist” and a “traditionalist,” making him a conservative’s dream for the highest court in the land.

The Senate confirmed Alito by a vote of 58-42 last week.

President Bush, who nominated Alito, has said he favors placing “strict constructionists” on the court. The term generally refers to judges who favor text-based interpretations of the Constitution and who would not be inclined, for example, to view abortion as a constitutional right because the Constitution does not mention abortion.

While it’s impossible to forecast Alito’s exact judicial temperament on the high court, it is not too early to examine what might happen now that he has been confirmed.

Throughout the 20th century, strict constructionists were appalled by new, “loose” interpretations of the Constitution that struck down anti-abortion laws and religious displays on public property.

Since the 1970s, justices nominated by Republican presidents have turned back some of these readings. Alito’s ascension could tilt the court even more against them. Here’s a look at how high court rulings on abortion and religion might be dif-

ferent on a more conservative court:

**Abortion.** Roe v. Wade, which in 1973 forbade states from banning first-trimester abortions, based much of its reasoning on a 1965 decision, Griswold v. Connecticut, which granted Americans a constitutional right to privacy.

The word “privacy” does not exist in the Constitution. Rather, the landmark Griswold decision, in which the court said the state couldn’t ban married couples from using contraception, said the right to marital privacy stemmed from other constitutional protections.

But more recent decisions like Planned Parenthood v. Casey in 1992 have allowed states to restrict access to abortion as long as no “undue burden” is posed to a woman.

A court of five conservative judges might define “undue burden” in ways that make it harder to have an abortion. Rogers Smith, a political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania who specializes in constitutional law, said that’s more likely than a complete overturning of Roe v. Wade.

**Religion.** Though mentioned by Thomas Jefferson, the idea of a “separation of church and state” entered Supreme Court majority decisions only in 1947. The words are not found in the Constitution; the First Amendment only says Congress “shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or pro-

### Partial-birth case could go to Supreme Court

Washington (ABP)—Two federal appeals courts have upheld challenges to a nationwide ban on a controversial abortion procedure, increasing the chance that the Supreme Court will end up hearing the case.

On Jan. 31, both the New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit upheld lower federal courts’ rulings that the 2003 federal law banning so-called “partial-birth” abortion is unconstitutional.

Both rulings are based largely on a precedent found in the Supreme Court’s controversial 2000 Stenberg v. Carhart decision. That ruling requires any law restricting abortion to provide exceptions to protect the mother’s life and health.

The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act did not provide a health exception. Instead, it cited congressional findings stating that the procedure being banned is never medically necessary to protect a woman’s health.

hibiting the free exercise thereof.”

More liberal court majorities after 1947 raised the wall between church and state, striking down specific government and school policies linked to religion on the grounds they violated the First Amendment’s “establishment” prohibition. A religious display or law aiding religious institutions had to have a secular purpose, and its primary effect could not “advance” religion.

In recent decades, Republican appointees have lowered that wall, but it can still be a significant barrier, as was seen last year in a decision against Kentucky courthouse displays of the Ten Commandments.

In that 5-4 decision, justices said the display violated the First

Amendment’s neutrality between religion and non-religion.

In a dissent, Scalia ridiculed the idea of neutrality. He noted that presidential addresses end in “God bless America” and that coins bear the motto “In God we trust.”

If views like Scalia’s command the majority in future cases, it would be easier for governments to post religious displays in schools and to aid religious institutions, Smith said.

“It seems clear the push would be toward the position Rehnquist long advocated—that as long as the country isn’t establishing a ‘Church of the United States,’ a variety of types of aid and help to religious groups are OK.”

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# Bush & Bono promote faith-based poverty fighting

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

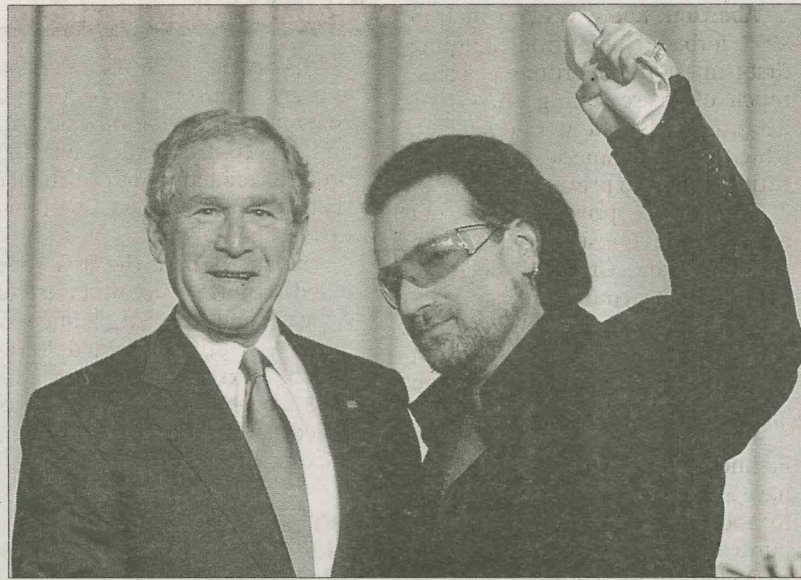
Washington (RNS)—President Bush and rock star Bono, speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast last week, preached messages promoting faith-based activism on behalf of the world's poor.

Bono, an Irish musician with the rock band U2, has drawn attention in recent years to those afflicted by AIDS and poverty in Africa. He said focus on the world's poor is biblically based.

"God is in the slums and the cardboard boxes where the poor play house," Bono said. "God is in the cries heard under the rubble of war. ... It's not a coincidence that in the Scriptures, poverty is mentioned more than 2,100 times."

Bush reiterated his often-stated belief that this is a nation of prayer and said the response to Hurricane Katrina illustrates how Americans act out their faith by helping the needy, at home and abroad.

"After Katrina, volunteers from churches and mosques and synagogues and other faith-based and community groups opened up their hearts and their homes to the displaced," the president said. "We live up to God's calling when we provide help for HIV/AIDS victims on the continent of Africa and around the world."



**PRAYER BREAKFAST** U.S. President George W. Bush stands with Irish rock star Bono at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington last week, where both spoke. (RNS/Reuters photo by Kevin Lamarque)

At one point, Bush turned to the rock superstar and said, "Bono, the true strength of this country is not in our military might or in the size of our wallet. It is in the hearts and souls of the American people."

Bush's words prompted a standing ovation.

The 54th National Prayer Breakfast brought together U.S. politicians and heads of state from other countries. The bipartisan event,

which receives no government funding, is an annual rite in the nation's capital when, for a few hours, political rhetoric takes a back seat to prayer and the reading of Scripture.

## Interfaith breakfast

The prayer breakfast is organized by the Fellowship Foundation, a low-profile group that promotes Christian evangelism. But

this year's breakfast had more of an interfaith flavor than years past. It was co-chaired by a Jewish member of the Senate, Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., a departure from past breakfasts that have had Christian co-chairs. In addition, King Abdullah II of Jordan, a Muslim head of state, said a prayer.

More than 3,000 people, packed in two ballrooms of a Hilton hotel, dined on apple-stuffed pancakes and scrambled eggs and heard speeches from Republicans and Democrats.

Many speakers affirmed bipartisanship and interfaith relations as they prayed for national and world leaders.

"In our country, we recognize our fellow citizens are free to profess any faith they choose, or no faith at all," Bush said. "You're equally American if you're a Hebrew, a Jew or a Christian or a Muslim. You're equally American if you choose not to have faith."

King Abdullah ended the breakfast with his prayer, for the Middle East.

He prayed "that not one more family will lose a loved one to war and bitterness and that together, Muslim, Jew and Christian, we can create a new future for the Holy Land, a future of hope, a future of promise, a future of peace."

## Jordan's king seeks interfaith effort to confront extremism

Washington (RNS)—Speaking to thousands of evangelical leaders Feb. 2, King Abdullah II of Jordan called on Christians, Jews and Muslims to work together in the fight against religious extremism.

"At this point in history, our service to God, our countries and our peoples demands that we confront extremism in its myriad forms," the Muslim head of state said at a luncheon following the National Prayer Breakfast.

"To overcome this common foe," he said, "we must explore the values that unite us, rather than exaggerating the misunderstandings that divide us."

Abdullah, who also said a prayer for the Middle East at the annual breakfast, was the keynote speaker at a luncheon attended by about 3,000, most of them evangelical Christian leaders.

Abdullah drew on the texts of both the Quran and the Bible to make his points, noting that Judaism, Christianity and Islam all call for a love of God and a love of neighbor.

"In our generation, the greatest challenge comes from violent extremists who seek to divide and conquer," he said. "Extremism is a political movement, under religious cover. Its adherents want nothing more than to pit us against each other, denying all that we have in common. We must therefore heed the words of the New Testament: 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'"

# Can Irish rocker move U.S. churches to act on AIDS & poverty?

By Kevin Ectrom  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—Born to a Roman Catholic father and a Protestant mother in the sectarian strife of 1960s Ireland, U2 frontman Bono has more than a few reasons to distrust organized religion.

Far too often, Bono did not see his experience of Christian faith reflected in what he saw as a preachy moralism that neglects the poor and usually "gets in the way of God."

So Bono was as surprised as anyone to find himself the keynote speaker at last week's National Prayer Breakfast. Not only that, he was extolling churches and faith communities for their efforts in his global crusade to rescue Africa from disease, debt and economic destruction.

"I have avoided religious people for most of my life," Bono told more than 3,000 mostly evangelical attendees. Later, he sheepishly admitted that he's "started to like these church people."

After years of running from organized religion, Bono says he can now embrace it, warts and all, as a

pragmatic partner. And especially in the United States, Bono realizes that any effort at social change must include an appeal to Americans' faith-based instincts.

Bono credits religious groups for progress in his humanitarian campaign, and the newfound alliance suggests that (his most famous lyrics notwithstanding) perhaps he's finally "found what I'm looking for"—a partner he can work with.

During a meeting with a half-dozen reporters after his speech, Bono munched on muffins and cantaloupe as he mused about the role of Christian faith generally, and the church's infrastructure specifically, in confronting famine, disease and poverty.

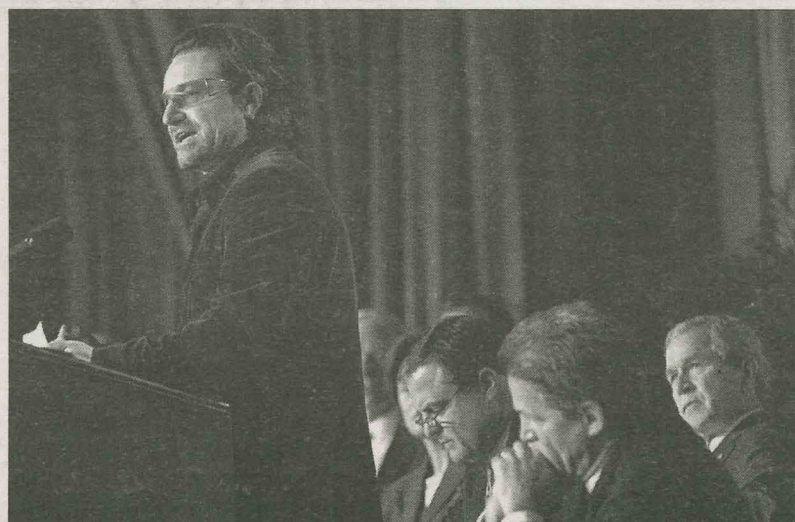
His strategy seems to be three-fold:

**Personal.** For one, Bono brings his own personal faith to bear, one that is deeply personal and not necessarily shaped by the four walls of the church. He finds hope in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, inspiration in the Hebrew prophets and solace in the idea of undeserved grace.

Although U2's lyrics have been picked apart for their explicit and implicit Christian imagery, Bono has sometimes been reluctant to embrace the "Christian" label for himself, often because of his own shortcomings.

And he's the first to admit he's not a theologian. "I appreciate the absurdities of being a rock star quoting the Scriptures," he said.

Nonetheless, he can quote entire sections of Scripture—he used his childhood Bible to prepare for Thursday's speech—and talks in terms of national "tithing" on for-



**CHIDING THE AUDIENCE** Bono last week criticized Western governments for not spending enough to fight AIDS and malaria in Africa. "God will not accept that. Mine won't, at least. Will yours?" (RNS/Reuters photo by Kevin Lamarque)

foreign aid, and the Bible's 2,100-plus verses on poverty.

"This is the leprosy of our age," Bono said, linking HIV/AIDS with the plagues of Jesus' day, in a hotel room after the breakfast. "It couldn't be more poignant, from a scriptural point of view, that this is on God's mind, that this is Jesus' point of view."

**Reimagining Christianity.** Bono's personal faith impacts and informs the second thrust of his work, which is an appeal for a 21st century reimagining of Christian essentials. It's an effort to sidestep divisive issues of sexual morality and partisan politics for a return to caring for the "least of these."

He has openly criticized Western governments for not spending more on foreign aid, especially for drugs that treat AIDS, schooling for African children and mosquito nets to prevent the spread of malaria.

"God will not accept that," Bono chided the prayer breakfast. "Mine won't, at least. Will yours?"

**Harnessing a powerhouse.** Bono's work with churches reflects just how politically savvy he is, and underscores his third goal, which is harnessing the power of American religion to shape the outcome of American politics, or at least the U.S. budget.

Bono has worked with Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton, conservative religious broadcaster Pat Robertson and progressive preacher Jim Wallis. America's strong religious identity has actually made it easier to preach his social gospel here than in Europe, which is now largely secular, he said.

"The church," he said after the breakfast, "is a much bigger crowd than even the stadium-sized crowds that we play to in U2."

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## 'Remarkable and courageous'

*Coretta Scott King remembered as civil rights leader, woman of faith and devotion*



**"It would have been impossible for Dr. King to carry out his ministry to the nation and the world without the invaluable support and counsel of his wife."**

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Atlanta (RNS)—Coretta Scott King, who died Jan. 31, held firmly to her faith as one of the nation's most famous pastor's wives before becoming a civil rights leader in her own right.

Leaders with connections to the King family and the civil rights movement recalled how the 78-year-old widow of the late Martin Luther King Jr., blended a commitment to her marriage with a determination to achieve justice for others.

Bishop Eddie Long, pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, said he asked her how she handled having a husband who was away so often, working on movement causes.

"She said, 'Let me tell you something, I did not just marry a man. I married a destiny,'" he recalled.

Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, director of the African-American studies program at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, said the significance of the Kings' partnership will continue to be a subject of research and education.

"She went into that marriage with the gift of her own progressive education and her own skills and talents and she used them marvelously for our freedom," Gilkes said.

During his State of the Union address on the day of Mrs. King's death, President Bush described her as "a remarkable and courageous woman, a great civil rights leader ... (who) carried on the legacy of her husband."

The widow of the civil rights leader assassinated in 1968 had her own experiences with racism that led her to strive for justice along with her husband.

Since Coretta Scott King grew up in rural Alabama, she "probably saw more rigid, vile prejudice and discrimination than did King 'cause King grew up in the city," said Bishop Woodie White, a retired United Methodist bishop who lives in Martin Luther King Jr.'s hometown of Atlanta.

### "Who she was as a person"

White, who attended meetings with Martin Luther King Jr., to plan a civil rights march in Detroit months before the 1963 March on Washington, writes an annual "Dear Martin" column about the status of race relations in America.

"One of the things that I observed over the years after Dr. King's death was that the causes for which King had become renowned were actually her causes as well," White said.

"She didn't just carry on his legacy. She carried on the fight against injustice because that was who she was as a person."

Often photographed on the arm of her husband at the front of civil



**CORETTA & MARTIN** "Coretta was the bedrock of the household and family of Martin Luther King Jr.," said Clarence Jones, a former adviser to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. (RNS/Black Star © photo by Charles Moore)

rights marches, Coretta Scott King sacrificed a career as a classical vocalist as well as the privacy of her family for the public role to which she ascended with her husband. After her husband's death, she was behind efforts to honor his memory with a national holiday and establish an Atlanta-based center in his name to encourage social change without violence.

### Praise crosses racial lines

After her death last week, praise for Coretta Scott King crossed racial lines.

Said Clarence Jones, a former

adviser with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference her husband helped found: "Coretta was the bedrock of the household and family of Martin Luther King Jr. ... She was also a source of invaluable advice and support to Dr. King's leadership of the civil rights movement."

Added Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission: "Together, Dr. and Mrs. King did more for racial reconciliation in this nation than any couple in our history. As anyone in ministry knows, it would have been

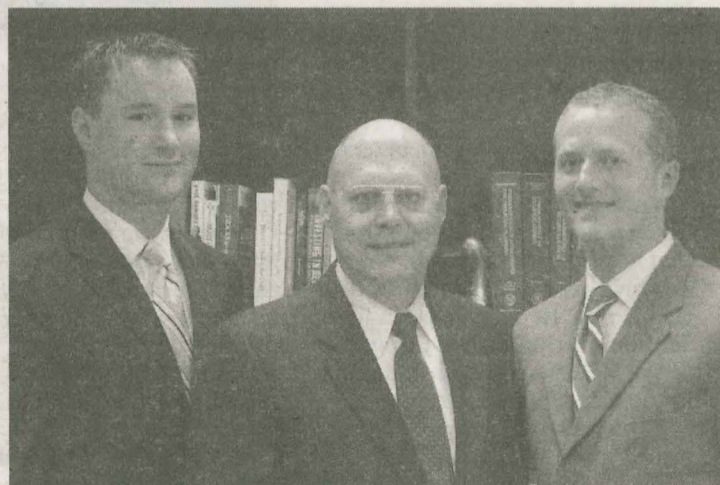
impossible for Dr. King to carry out his ministry to the nation and the world without the invaluable support and counsel of his wife."

Bishop Vinton Anderson, a retired African Methodist Episcopal Church bishop who lives in St. Louis, was among those impressed by Coretta Scott King's commitment before and after Martin Luther King Jr.'s death.

"It always seemed obvious to us who knew them that Coretta was completely dedicated to the work of her husband," Anderson said.

"I think you can't ask for more than that."

## Comfortable with your future?

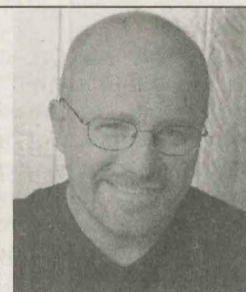


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DAVE RAMSEY

THE DAVE RAMSEY SHOW

## Churches torched



**ARSON SUSPECTED** A worker walks amid the ruins of Rehobeth Baptist Church in Bibb County, Ala. (Alabama Baptist newspaper photos by Lauren Chow)

### Four of five buildings belonged to Southern Baptist congregations

By Hannah Elliott & Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

Centreville, Ala. (ABP)—Federal officials suspect arson in a series of fires that damaged or destroyed five small Baptist churches in rural Bibb County, Ala., the night of Feb. 2-3.

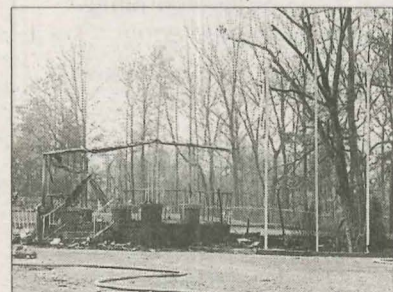
In addition, a sixth church in neighboring Chilton County burned the same night, but church representatives said it might have been caused by an accident.

Investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms joined state and local authorities the morning of Feb. 3 to determine the cause of fires that "were set as fast as they could drive from one location to the next," Bibb County Deputy Sheriff Kenneth Weems said, according to Associated Press.

All five Bibb County churches were located near U.S. Highway 82, and the blazes began within about three hours of each other, according to news reports. The area is located about 50 miles southwest of Birmingham.

The fires completely destroyed Ashby Baptist Church in Brierfield, Rehobeth Baptist Church in Randolph and Pleasant Sabine Baptist Church near Centreville. The other two churches, Old Union Baptist in Brierfield and Antioch Baptist in Antioch, sustained damage but escaped complete destruction.

All of the churches except Pleasant Sabine were members of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Alabama Baptist State Convention and the local Bibb County Baptist Association.



**DESTROYED** Flags hang over the remains of Ashby Baptist Church's building in Brierfield, Ala. The building was destroyed by fire—apparently by arson—early in the morning Feb. 3.

No one was injured in any of the fires. But they called to mind a rash of arsons—many of them racially motivated—that destroyed dozens of African-American churches throughout the South in the late 1990s. Several of those crimes remain unsolved.

Four of the Bibb County churches were home to predominantly white congregations, while the Pleasant Sabine church is historically African-American.

#### Kicked-in back doors

David Hand, pastor of Old Union Baptist Church, said the community remains in disbelief. "Our congregation is pretty upset, but we are also thankful, because others lost a lot more than we did," he said.

Hand said Old Union's damage resulted from two separate fires. The damaged areas include the pulpit, communion table, the American flag and the carpeting surrounding those areas.

The suspected arsonists also kicked in the back door according to Hand—which officials said was a common thread among several of the fires.

"There is a lot of sadness around the area, but we are all pulling together," he said.

Rick Lance, executive director of the state convention, released a statement saying the group was responding in multiple ways to the fires.

"We're working with the leadership of the Bibb Baptist Association to provide prayer support and damage assessment for these churches," he said. "As quickly as possible, we anticipate having mobile chapels available for use by the two churches whose facilities were destroyed."

He also said the state convention would provide "appropriate financial assistance" to the convention-affiliated churches damaged. All of the churches have small congregations and budgets.

As of press time, police had made no arrests nor released the names of any suspects. Alabama lawmakers have offered a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonists.

The Alabama Baptist contributed to this story

Expanding  
Gambling Will  
Be Bad News  
for Kentucky!

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GAMBLING IS NO GAME  
LIVES

The Kentucky General Assembly is currently considering several proposals that would bring casino-style gambling to Kentucky. Here are several strong reasons for Kentucky Baptists to oppose gambling expansion and the placing of this issue on the November ballot:

- Gambling is inconsistent with Jesus' teaching to "love our neighbors" as well as other scriptures.
- Expanding gambling will hurt both individuals and families. Churches will bear the brunt of ministering to devastated families.
- Kentucky Baptists will feel the impact of expanded gambling through a weakened economy as legitimate businesses suffer from the redirection of money in the economy.
- Gambling expansion can corrupt government. Do we really want a government that is dependent upon big gambling interests for a substantial part of the annual state budget?
- Putting this issue on the ballot in November is a bad idea because while it sounds democratic, it gives an unfair advantage to big gambling interests which can invest millions in deceptive media campaigns to get their way.

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# Missionaries: 'God-size' thing happening in China

**"When I began to tell the guys, 'I don't know—let's seek God's face on this,' this is when the breakthrough in trust came."**

Missionary Oliver Graham (pseudonym) in China

*Continued from page 1*

In the early days, as Graham wrestled with stacks of training material that didn't always seem to fit, he wondered if he had come to the right place.

"I had to work through translators, and the Chinese believers just weren't getting it," he recalls. "We'd be teaching the same material over and over again. I spent literally months with my nose in my Bible saying, 'This just isn't working!'"

"I came to a point where I thought, 'It's going to fail.' Coming out of a sales background, you can't fail. If you do, you lose your job, lose money. You have to become creative—and you don't always have to depend on God."

When Graham realized he had taken matters in his own hands rather than depending on God, he called Chinese partners together and asked forgiveness.

"It changed our relationship when I told them 'I don't know.' It wasn't me standing up front telling them what to do—it was us."

He describes that moment as a crucial turning point.

"He meets with brothers, shares their joys and pain, prays and plans," Mrs. Graham says. "They cast a vision, and they hold each other accountable. They will meet for hours. They are partners, and their opinion means more than Oliver's. He loves these guys. They are his closest friends."

## The big picture

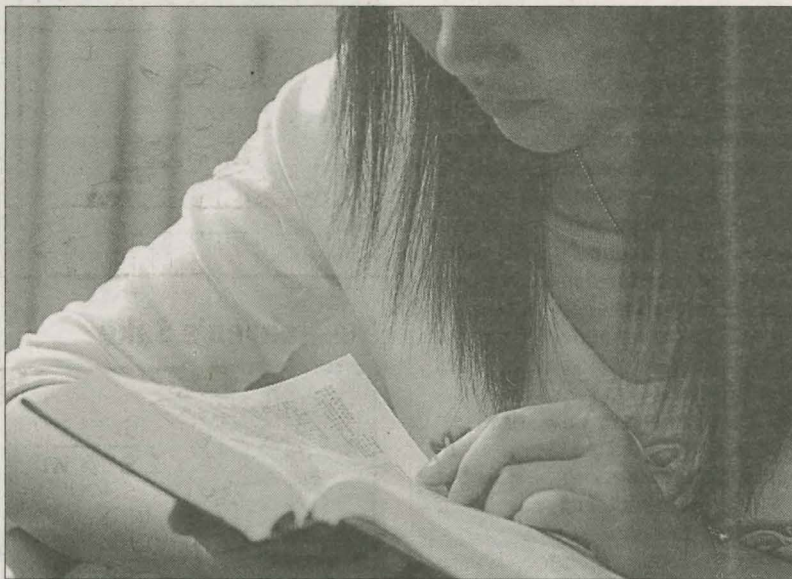
The Grahams and their Chinese partners continued fasting, praying and petitioning God to provide a "person of peace" through whom to work.

And when He did, Mrs. Graham says, it "was like Christmas."

"We were praying every step of the way," she recalls. "We rejoiced in every scheduled and unscheduled meeting. When Oliver would meet with (the other Chinese believers) and they shared their hearts to reach Q-city and agreed to pray and study with Oliver, our entire family cried and jumped up and down for joy."

Then, they say, God poured His Spirit on Q-city and people began to become Christians in vast numbers.

"It exploded so fast that we



**OUTREACH** Christian women in Q-city's house churches use their own shops to reach out to non-believers. During Bible study times, they introduce other women to Jesus. (IMB photos)

didn't know how to handle it," Graham says. "It was way faster than we ever expected."

To handle the exponential numbers of new believers, Graham and his partners put their heads together and made plans for stronger churches, stronger leadership and rapid evangelization.

Graham is thrilled to see the miracles God has done in Q-city—from independent churches to healings to thousands of new believers.

## Preparing to leave

It's bittersweet, though, because coming from a sales background, Graham knows this means he will soon be done.

"You close out your ends, and then you leave," he says. "There are many occurrences every week where I have to let things go. You're doing what you're supposed to be doing—you're working yourself out of a job. But you come here and do all this stuff, and suddenly you're not here."

But the Grahams' passion and message continue through their Chinese partners, who are committed to evangelizing Q-city.

"Oliver pushes us by providing a good model and a good example," says one of the original six believers Graham mentored.

"He and his family made themselves available to God, and that's an encouragement to me—and for

them to love the Chinese people so much."

Graham adds that local believers continue to be amazed by all that God has done.

"We can't believe that it's actually happening," he says. "How could anyone really be prepared for this? It was and is truly beyond my wildest imagination."

"Being from the country, I learned early on that you hang on with all you're worth to bulls. This has definitely been a bull ride!"

## Getting involved

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board offers three ways that individuals and congregations can help share Christ in China:

■ **Teaching English.** Chinese of all ages want to meet others and practice English. English camps, classroom activities and other English language-related projects are offered each summer.

■ **Backpacking.** Many of China's unreached people groups live in remote villages that are not easily accessible.

■ **Small-city adoption.** Nurture a church-planting movement in some of China's smaller cities, taking responsibility for opening doors and developing evangelism, discipleship and training.

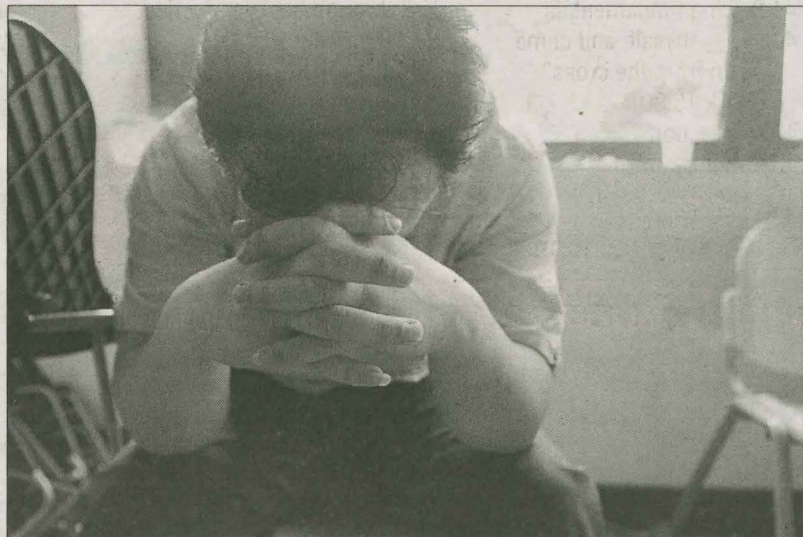
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**HOUSE CHURCH MOVEMENT** A Chinese Christian prays during a house church meeting. In 20 months, more than 55 churches were started through believers whom Southern Baptist missionaries were mentoring.

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*Kentucky Baptists will be learning about a variety of other belief systems at an upcoming conference offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

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**Monday, March 6**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm EST  
*(registration begins at 6:00 pm)*  
**Northside Baptist Church,  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky  
270-765-6424**


**Tuesday, March 7**  
7:00 - 9:00 pm EST  
*(registration begins at 6:00 pm)*  
**First Baptist Church,  
Paintsville, Kentucky  
606-789-3168**

*The conference will focus on the belief systems of New Age, Jehovah's Witness, Mormonism and Islam. All sessions are led by certified North American Mission Board trainers.*


**Session Leaders Are:**  
**Jehovah's Witness - Joe Kreisle**    **New Age - Don Metcalf** (E-town only)  
**Mormonism - Bill Ellis**                **Islam - Don Metcalf** (Paintsville only)

*"We are focusing awareness on the beliefs of major religious groups in America so that Kentucky Baptists will be informed witnesses (of their own faith)."*

**- Dan Garland, KBC Church Development and Evangelism Team leader**



For further information on this conference go online to:  
[www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)  
(Church Development and Evangelism Team)



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Donor-directed

Kentucky Baptist Foundation carries out donors' wishes

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is not a grant-making foundation. Instead, it is a donor-directed foundation. The difference is very important because it defines our mission and how we go about fulfilling our mission.

Most all of the \$224 million for which the KBF has responsibility was given by individuals during life and/or at death with the beneficiary organizations designated by those who made the gifts. The fiduciary duty of the KBF board and staff is (a) to preserve and enhance the real, inflation-adjusted value of the principal of those funds and (b) to provide an increasing stream of earnings to distribute to the donor-chosen beneficiary organizations.

The board of directors and staff of a grant-making foundation, on the other hand, must receive and consider requests from various charitable organizations to which to make grants from the earnings of the pool of funds entrusted to the care of that board and staff. Grant-making foundations usually are established by individuals, families, corporations or community leaders.

**Correction:** Due to an editing error, last week's Kentucky Baptist Foundation column suggested the foundation had a below-par year in 2000.

The column should have read: "Our best year was 2000 when the (foundation's) total return was 6.3 percent and the benchmark was -9.1 percent for an incredible value added of 15.4 percentage points."

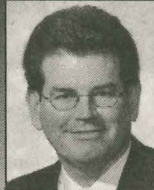
We in the KBF are committed (a) to assisting individuals, couples and families in their estate and charitable gift planning to benefit the causes for which they have affection and passion and (b) to using the care, skill, prudence and diligence necessary to carry out their wishes in perpetuity. It is quite rare for someone to call upon us for help in selecting a cause for them to provide financial benefits. Instead, we are called upon most often to provide assistance in determining the best method and timing for the donors to benefit the charitable causes of their choosing.

Since its inception in 1945, the KBF has distributed \$94 million to those donor-directed causes. By the end of this fiscal year, we expect to have exceeded the \$100 million mark in distributions. What a privilege! What a blessing! That's what it's all about—facilitating the financial stewardship of faithful stewards in furthering the cause of Christ and His mission in this world.

Give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Buys (tickets) for later profit
- 7 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 16:31)
- 12 "An inheritance may be gotten \_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning" (Proverbs 20:21)
- 14 John, on Patmos
- 15 Luc, to Lisette
- 16 Kind of shot or shirt
- 17 Napa Valley sight (pl.)
- 18 Depilatory brand
- 20 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)
- 22 Note on the diatonic scale
- 23 Mete out
- 25 Bleed, as madras
- 26 Body of water (Fr.)
- 27 "Lo, I see four men \_\_\_\_\_ walking in the midst of the fire" (Daniel 3:25)
- 29 Horse hair
- 30 Aircraft authority
- 32 "Remember how \_\_\_\_\_ my time is" (Psalm 89:47)
- 34 1/1000 of an inch (pl.)
- 35 Has strong feelings about
- 37 Ocean (abbr.)
- 38 Solidify
- 39 "Who hath ... \_\_\_\_\_ out heaven with the span" (Isaiah 40:12)
- 43 Borders VA and MD
- 44 Sewing fundamentals
- 46 "\_\_\_\_\_ thyself, and come down from the cross" (Mark 15:30)
- 47 Interjection
- 48 Conjunction
- 49 Shoe size

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	
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56								57				

- 51 Sue \_\_\_\_\_, honey brand
- 52 Traversed by les bateaux mouches
- 54 RSVP request
- 56 Ash and aspen
- 57 Wears; dons

- 21 "That he was gone to be \_\_\_\_\_ with a man that is a sinner" (Luke 19:7)
- 24 As well.
- 26 "Neither shalt thou \_\_\_\_\_ the corners of thy beard" (Leviticus 19:27)
- 28 Further; additional
- 29 Husband of Zipporah
- 30 He doesn't want to be called for a balk
- 31 "Love worketh no \_\_\_\_\_ to his neighbour" (Romans 13:10)
- 33 Haw's partner
- 34 "Thou \_\_\_\_\_ him a little lower than the angels" (Hebrews 2:7)
- 36 Change
- 38 Stations (Fr.)
- 40 Bible mount near Nazareth
- 41 Occurrence
- 42 "Ye have put off the old man with his \_\_\_\_\_" (Colossians 3:9)
- 44 Exhausted, with "in"
- 45 Understands
- 50 Particularly (abbr.)
- 53 Common abbr.
- 55 River in Italy

Down

- 1 Columnist Alexander
- 2 "It is easier for a \_\_\_\_\_ to go through the eye of a needle" (Matthew 19:24)
- 3 Father of Seraiah (1 Chronicles 4:35)
- 4 Army officer (abbr.)
- 5 Pothole's cousin
- 6 Whole bunch
- 7 "I will serve thee \_\_\_\_\_ years for Rachel" (Genesis 29:18)
- 8 Alignment between countries
- 9 French export, to the French
- 10 Earth or air, for example
- 11 "Master ... do for us whatsoever we shall \_\_\_\_\_" (Mark 10:35)
- 13 "Receive my sayings; and the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy life shall be many" (Proverbs 4:10)
- 19 Road trip expenses, sometimes

Last week's solution

W	A	R	S	K	E	E	P	C	A	B		
E	S	E	K	A	L	A	S	H	U	E		
B	A	S	I	N	S	T	A	L	E	N	T	
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T	E	S	S	E	A	S	A	S	P	S		

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## Chris Tomlin, David Crowder Band lead Dove nominees

The show will be aired in national syndication between April 15 and May 21.

Nashville (BP)—Chris Tomlin led all artists with nine nominations for Dove Awards when nominees for Christian music's top honors were announced last week.

Others with multiple nominations for the Gospel Music Association's annual awards are the David Crowder Band, Relient K, Natalie Grant and Joy Williams, each with six; and BarlowGirl, Third Day, Switchfoot, Jeremy Camp, Casting Crowns, the Crabb Family and Israel Houghton, each with five.

Winners from 42 categories will be announced during the GMA Music Awards April 5 at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville.

Songwriter of the year nominees will not be announced until the GMA Music Awards.

Other nominees include:

### Song of the Year

"Cry Out to Jesus," Mac Powell  
 "Friend of God," Israel Houghton and Michael Gungor  
 "Held," Christa Wells  
 "Hide," Joy Williams, Jason Houser and Matthew West  
 "Holy Is the Lord," Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio  
 "How Great Is Our God," Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash  
 "Indescribable," Laura Story and Jesse Reeves  
 "Lifesong," Mark Hall  
 "Only Grace," Matthew West and Kenny Greenberg  
 "Voice of Truth," Mark Hall and Steven Curtis Chapman

### Male Vocalist of the Year

Chris Tomlin  
 David Phelps  
 Jason Crabb  
 Jeremy Camp  
 Mark Hall

### Female Vocalist of the Year



THIRD DAY Lead singer Mac Powell and the band have five Dove nominations, including one for Song of the Year for "Cry Out to Jesus."

Amy Grant  
 Bethany Dillon  
 Joy Williams  
 Natalie Grant  
 Nichole Nordeman

### Group of the Year

BarlowGirl  
 Casting Crowns  
 David Crowder Band  
 Kutless  
 MercyMe

### Artist of the Year

Casting Crowns  
 Chris Tomlin  
 Jeremy Camp  
 Natalie Grant  
 Switchfoot

### New Artist of the Year

Ernie Haase & Signature Sound  
 Krystal Meyers  
 Shawn McDonald  
 Stellar Kart  
 The Afters

### Producer of the Year

Brown Bannister  
 Ed Cash  
 Mark A. Miller  
 Otto Price  
 Vince Gill

### Rock Song of the Year

"Lay Down My Pride," Jeremy Camp  
 "Let Go," BarlowGirl  
 "The Wait Is Over," Kevin Young, Brad Noah, Joey Fife, Tim Barrett and Travis Wyrick  
 "Who I Am Hates Who I've Been," Relient K  
 "The Slam," tobyMac featuring T-Bone

### Rock Album of the Year

"All Gas No Brake," Stellar Kart  
 "Beauty from Pain," Superchic  
 "Disciple," Travis Wyrick  
 "Mhmm," Relient K  
 "The Art of Breaking," Thousand Foot Krutch

### Rock/Contemporary Song of the Year

"Beautiful Love," The Afters  
 "Here Is Our King," David Crowder Band  
 "I Can't Do This," Plumb  
 "Mirror," BarlowGirl  
 "Stars," Switchfoot

### Rock/Contemporary Album of the Year

"A Collision," David Crowder Band  
 "Another Journal Entry," BarlowGirl  
 "I Wish We All Could Win," The Afters  
 "Nothing Is Sound," Switchfoot  
 "Wherever You Are," Third Day

### Pop/Contemporary Song of the Year

"Be My Escape," Relient K

"Cry Out to Jesus," Third Day  
 "Held," Natalie Grant  
 "Hide," Joy Williams  
 "Lifesong," Casting Crowns

### Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year

"Awaken," Natalie Grant  
 "Genesis," Joy Williams  
 "Lifesong," Casting Crowns  
 "Redemption Songs," Jars of Clay  
 "Restored," Jeremy Camp

### Southern Gospel Song of the Year

"Good Morning Lord," Young Harmony  
 "Greater Is He," Crabb Family  
 "Long As I Got King Jesus," Brian Free & Assurance  
 "Not That You Died," Legacy Five  
 "Through the Fire," Crabb Family featuring Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

### Southern Gospel Album of the Year

"Bill Gaither," Bill Gaither  
 "Common Thread," Oak Ridge Boys  
 "Ernie Haase & Signature Sound," Ernie Haase & Signature Sound  
 "Live at Brooklyn Tabernacle," Crabb Family  
 "Live in NYC," Brian Free & Assurance

### Bluegrass Song of the Year

"Living Prayer," Alison Krauss & Union Station  
 "Low and Down," McRaes  
 "One Rose," Lewis Family  
 "There Is Power in the Blood," Buddy Greene  
 "Why Did I Wait So Long?" Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder

### Bluegrass Album of the Year

"Hymns & Prayer Songs," Buddy Greene  
 "New Beginnings," DEWgrass  
 "One Rose," Lewis Family  
 "Shine On," Ralph Stanley  
 "So Glad," The Bradleys

### Country Song of the Year

"Angels," Randy Travis  
 "Jesus, Take the Wheel," Carrie Underwood  
 "Mawmaw's Song (In the Sweet By and By)" Bart Millard  
 "They Don't Understand," Sawyer Brown  
 "When I Get Where I'm Going," Brad Paisley featuring Dolly Parton

## Think about it. Pray about it

### Volunteer service at Oneida can give meaning to post-retirement years

For the past 20 years or so, various prognosticators have predicted all the changes that likely will take place when "baby boomers" reach retirement age. Some of the predictions appear to provide some positive possible outcomes, while other predictions are a little less exciting. You will have a lot more personal time, but Social Security might not last for the long haul. Either way, many baby boomers are just about ready to start retiring.

If you are about to retire and might have considered doing some semi-long-term volunteer work, this might be the very opportunity you have been seeking. The news is filled with more reports of retirees needing to downsize and move to smaller living accommodations. That is where Oneida Baptist Institute can help. This might be the ideal time for you 60-plus-year-olds to consider volunteering for two, three or four years at OBI before investing in that smaller retirement home.

We can provide you with an opportunity to devote some serious time to volunteer work with little or no expense. Many friends I have talked to through the years have said they wish they had made a greater effort to do more ministry work when they still could. For various reasons, they simply never were able to see that desire turn into actuality. Since many of my readers are seriously considering the reality of a downsized home anyhow, why not consider spending some time doing much-needed and appreciated volunteer work here at Oneida for a few years?

Go ahead and sell your current home and place that money in a safe, short-term invest-

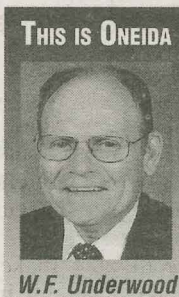
ment. We will provide you with nice housing, including all utilities except for the phone and TV. All your meals are provided. In fact, we even cook the meals for you! You will have virtually the same amenities as our other faculty and staff, except there will be no salary or insurance.

If you are seriously interested, tell me what you enjoy doing and how you are willing to serve. I will share our needs, and we will decide where best to use your skills. If you are married, both husband and wife should serve. I am more than willing to consider any special needs related to time off, but even without any special considerations, you will have five weeks of vacation each year. Best of all, that time is scattered throughout the year: one week of vacation in October, two weeks at Christmas, a week in March and another during the Fourth of July week.

The two or three years you spend here will give you more time to consider that final earthly home for your retirement years. And the extra two or three years of free rent, food and utilities will give you the chance to save a few more dollars for retirement. In most cases, we will even move you to our campus and then to your retirement home.

Before time takes any greater toll on your physical body and while you still have the energy, you can help with some very special mission work. This might be the opportunity you have longed for. You can be a special blessing to us and fulfill a lifelong desire to serve the Lord full-time. I am waiting for your call. My number is (606) 847-4111, ext. 202. Think about it. Pray about it.

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



W.F. Underwood

## Mission to Alaska

### Clear Creek students and staff assist alumni in Juneau

As students ponder mission opportunities for spring break and the summer, some wish they could return to Alaska. Last summer, a team of five students, three staff and four staff family members worked with Glacier Valley Baptist Church in Juneau.

The connection came through 1998 graduate Todd Buck. "When Todd graduated we told him we wanted to bring a team," Academic Dean Malcolm Hester said. "It finally worked out. Todd and Jody are great assets to the church and community." Todd is bivocational associate pastor for the congregation; Jody is a schoolteacher. The church has an attendance of 150.

Half of the team worked in children's Bible school and assisted with construction. "VBS is a major outreach for the church," Hester said. "We had a preschool session in the morning and elementary children in the afternoon; about 150 attended." The team had the assistance of three out-of-state college students; they were in Alaska on summer mission assignment to help churches in the association. "We were able to share the gospel

with the children and also influence their families," Hester added.

The other half of the team helped the church complete a building under construction for four years. "The facility was like a family life center with study rooms and a kitchen," Hester said. "It will really help with their outreach program." Other volunteers—

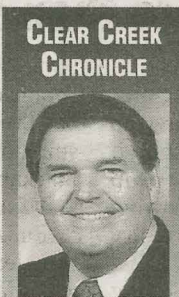
especially from California, the pastor's home state—had worked on the facility. The Clear Creek team painted, installed doors, placed insulation in the attic and built a wheelchair ramp.

The Clear Creekers arrived on a Saturday and began preparations for the vacation Bible school. They worshipped with

the church on Sunday. Some of the team stayed over a few days to see more of southeastern Alaska.

Team members included Malcolm and Brenda Hester, James and Dorothy Ditty, Tanya Ditty, G.P. and Jenny Simmons, Robbie and Terry Catoe, Mike Hatter, Doug Odle and Paul Kirkemide. They paid their own way, with a college home missions endowment helping with some expenses.

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



Bill Whittaker

## NPR launches music program of 'Sacred Classics'

Washington (RNS)—“Here is music based on Mary’s song of praise to God: The Magnificat,” says Stephanie Wendt, her smooth, crisp voice beckoning from the radio.

“He has put down the mighty from their seat, and has exalted the humble and meek.”

Ethereal voices then fill the airwaves, rising and falling in a rich melody written by Flemish Renaissance composer Nicolas Gombert, and, thanks to Wendt, in some context.

Wendt is the host of “Sacred Classics,” a choral music program that National Public Radio began offering to affiliate stations Jan. 1. Listeners can revel in haunting motets and cantatas that span the centuries, and learn what inspired them.

“It’s not about a lecture,” said Wendt, an Australian pianist with 15 years of radio experience. “It’s really the music that’s doing the talking.”

But she’s excited that a general audience now can hear and learn about sacred choral music.

“They feel like it’s an oasis,” she said. “We’re bombarded by images of violence, power, money and sex. People need something that feeds them in the opposite way.”

Most of the music on the show is Christian. The church had the resources to write down and preserve its compositions even in the 11th century. But the show’s producers keep an eye out for recordings from other traditions, Wendt said.

The decision to go national marks a major increase in the show’s distribution. Before January, only 51 NPR stations aired the program. Now it’s available to all 815 NPR affiliates throughout the United States.

# Getting creative

Ed Young Jr. says church leaders owe it to unchurched

By Shawn Hendricks  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—Ed Young Jr. has never forgotten taking a buddy named Scott to church years ago.

They both were in college at the time, and Scott was a new Christian who hadn’t grown up in church and struggled with drugs and crime.

Young, today a popular conference speaker and senior pastor of Fellowship Church in Dallas, chose to see church through the eyes of Scott. And Young didn’t like what he saw.

“The terminology was confusing. The music was tired,” Young writes in a new book on creative leadership. “The overall feeling was lifeless and just plain boring.”

In “The Creative Leader: Unleashing the Power of Your Creative Potential,” Young writes that he decided early in his ministry that the best way to reach people like Scott was through creative, compelling and biblically sound worship. The book explores multiple facets of church leadership and how a creative approach can strengthen a congregation.

“Trying to influence my friends for Christ helped me see the need for doing church in a radically different way,” writes Young, who helped start Fellowship Church 15 years ago and has seen the congregation grow from 150 people to more than 20,000.

“The church has the greatest, most hopeful message known to humankind,” Young writes. “Yet too often, that message fails to connect with the masses of humanity passing by your church and mine.”

### Keys to creativity

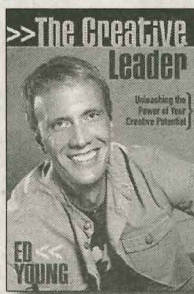
Two keys to becoming a creative leader include paying attention to detail and being “consistently in-



consistent.” Young has delivered a sermon dripping wet and another while taking scissors to his suit coat. He admits his way of doing things might not be for every pastor, but all pastors should apply creativity to worship.

“People should always wonder what’s coming next,” he writes. “Being consistently inconsistent appeals to a culture that expects change. One of the reasons the church has been accused of being irrelevant or stagnant is because it has not embraced change but sat neutral.”

Preparation is another crucial component to creativity. Young recounts the long hours he and his team put into preparing for every service. He also admits to looking just about everywhere—from fishbowls to “bug zappers”—for creative ways to share the Bible. The book also includes catchy sermon titles and some examples of brochures and other material Fellowship Church leaders have produced for that congregation.



Anyone can be creative if they are willing to work at it, Young contends. “We say to God, ‘I’m not creative,’” Young writes. “I can’t sing, dance or act. I don’t have an original bone in my body. ... But these excuses ring hollow in the ears of our creative Creator.”

The Bible is full of creativity, Young adds.

“Jesus was the most creative leader and teacher that ever walked the planet,” he says. “He spoke from hillsides, boat bows and beaches. He drew in the sand, used a Roman coin, cursed a fig tree. ... Jesus was all about delivering His life-changing message in dynamic and creative ways to meet His listeners’ needs and backgrounds.”

To reach people like Scott, Young contends, Christian leaders must approach worship in a fresh new way.

“We cannot let the Scotts of this world fall by the wayside, because of laziness, apathy or an affinity for the status quo,” he writes. “Scores and scores of Scotts out there need not only a radical Savior but a radical church to meet them where they are.”

### SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ed Young Jr., who has preached from a tank to illustrate a sermon, urges church leaders to be creative in worship. (Fellowship church photo)

## Leadership more than technology and techniques, Henry Blackaby writes

By Shawn Hendricks  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—If you’re a pastor who feels more like a CEO than a church leader, your spiritual leadership skills might need some improving, contends author and speaker Henry Blackaby.

With state-of-the-art marketing techniques, technology and the demand to handle minute-by-minute challenges, many pastors and churches lose sight of what spiritual leadership is truly about, Blackaby writes in a new Bible study guide.

As long as their pastors produce new buildings, big offerings and exciting programs, many churches are willing to overlook “significant character flaws” in their leaders.

To address this and similar issues, Blackaby, author of the “Experiencing God” Bible study recently wrote with his son, Richard, “Spiritual Leadership: The Interactive Study.” The study guide is a follow-up to the

book “Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God’s Agenda.”

“Everyone experiences (leadership), or the lack of it, in daily life,” Blackaby writes.

“If anything can revolutionize today’s Christian leaders, it is when Christians understand God’s design for spiritual leadership.”

The study guide challenges pastors to use the material in a small-group setting. Through more in-depth group discussion, Blackaby hopes readers will discover how God can use spiritual leaders in today’s fast-paced society.

### “Why do people follow me?”

Too many of today’s leaders are in their positions for the wrong reasons and take advantage of them, Blackaby writes. One question he asks leaders to consider is, “Why do

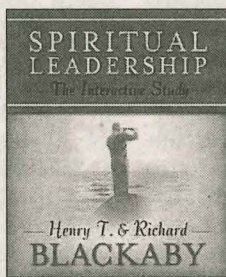
people follow me?”

“Is it because they believe it is their duty?” he asks. “Is it because they are afraid of me? Or do they see God’s activity in my life?”

Leadership, he writes, “is not something upon which you can insist. It is something God must produce in you.”

The book examines a variety of “pitfalls” for many leaders, including pride, greed, sexual sin and cynicism. Identifying these obstacles in advance, and establishing a plan to resist them, can make the difference in a leader’s success or failure.

“More and more leaders are recognizing that with deliberate effort, good planning and much prayer, they need not succumb to the pitfalls that could paralyze their leadership and jeopardize their personal lives,” he writes.



Leadership “is something God must produce in you.”

Henry & Richard Blackaby in “Spiritual Leadership”

Technology also has imposed many challenges on today’s leaders. Blackaby describes technological advances—faxes, e-mail, cell phones, and video conferencing—as both a blessing and a curse to today’s leaders.

“Technology makes today’s leaders constantly and instantly accessible,” Blackaby wrote. “The pressure to make rapid decisions and to maintain constant communication can intimidate the most proficient leader.”

Despite the challenges today’s leaders face, being in that position does have its share of rewards, some of which include building relationships and feeling the gratification of making a difference.

“Don’t give up,” he writes. “Be patient. Allow God to take all the time He wants to build your character.”

“If God has called you to lead, He is perfectly capable of equipping you to be the leader He desires.”

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Belinda Berry

On our first Valentine's Day together, my future husband surprised me with flowers, candy, gifts and lunch. When I arrived at my apartment after class to find my sweet Mike preparing lunch, I was touched by his love for me. Just two weeks earlier, I had accepted his marriage proposal and now we were looking forward to spending the rest of our lives together.

Later that evening, he took me to dinner at a nice restaurant, and I was convinced that he would present me with my engagement ring to culminate our day together. However, when I opened my final gift, inside the large box I found a beautiful white sweater. Despite how lovely the sweater was, I would be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed. A few months later, Mike surprised me with my long-anticipated ring.

The simple fact is the same is true with the gifts God gives us. 1 John 3:1 tells us that God lavishes His love on us to the point that we are called children of God. It doesn't get much better than to be included as a son or daughter of the King of Kings. In addition to this kinship, we are given peace, joy, provision of our every need, patience and assurance of salvation.

Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." This is the greatest gift ever given to anyone. Don't miss it. Do not be disappointed and still want more. Rest in the assurance of God's perfect gift of love.

*Belinda Berry, minister of education and family life at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, is president of the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association*

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church recently called **Karen Goderwis** as part-time children's ministry director. **Terry Wilder** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—**Pat Williams**, senior vice president of the Orlando Magic, will be the guest speaker at Crestwood Church Feb. 26 at 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Mount Zion Church recently called **Jeff Baird** as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—**Steve Payne** resigned as pastor of Thornhill Church effective Feb. 28.

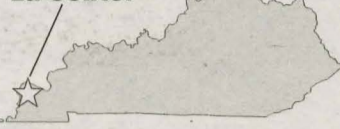
■ **GHENT**—Ghent Church recently called **Graham Reynolds** as bivocational pastor. He has served as interim pastor since September.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highview Church will host a "Revive Our Hearts" conference with **Nancy Leigh DeMoss** March 3-4 at the church's east campus. For more information, contact (502) 231-6245 or [www.ReviveOurHearts.com](http://www.ReviveOurHearts.com).

St. Matthews Church will host a father-daughter banquet Feb. 24, 6 p.m., with U.S. softball Olympic gold medalist **Leah O'Brien-Amico** as guest

### Spotlight on ...

#### La Center



Oscar Church will hold revival services Feb. 19, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Feb. 20-22, 7 p.m., with **Ronnie Sivells** as evangelist. **Marty Brown** is pastor.

speaker. For more information, contact **David Garrard** at (502) 896-8882 or [dgarrard@smbclouisville.org](mailto:dgarrard@smbclouisville.org).

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—**Jones and Sarah Hamm**, members of Maretburg Church, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

■ **PADUCAH**—Twelve Oaks Church recently called **Louis Brinker** as pastor.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Faith Church recently called **Larry Lindsey** as interim pastor. Lindsay is a former international missionary.

## Awkard compares King to biblical prophet at Campbellsville service

**Campbellsville**—Comparing Martin Luther King Jr. to John the Baptist, Russell Awkard spoke at Campbellsville University's recent memorial service held in honor of the slain civil rights leader.

"Tonight we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Awkard, pastor of New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville and moderator of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Declaring that John the Baptist "was not just a prophet (but) sent for a purpose," Awkard added, "Dr. King was not just a dreamer (but) a crusader and trumpeter for Jesus."

"The Martin Luther King Jr. we honor today is a sanitized version," he said. "King raised his voice before it was popular to do so."

"We need to catch the flame and carry the dream," he added. "We can make a difference."



**KING MEMORIAL** Russell Awkard, moderator of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, speaks at Campbellsville University's recent Martin Luther King Jr. memorial service. (Campbellsville University photo by Tiago Pinheir)

## Georgetown hosts ministry reunion

**Georgetown**—What started as an effort to track down alumni who have been called to the ministry has turned into a ministry reunion for Georgetown College.

"A Baptist school has been in Georgetown since 1787 but we have never had an event like this one," said Georgetown President Bill Crouch.

More than 400 alumni are expected to attend the April 24-26 event. In addition to Georgetown alumni, the reunion activities are open to anyone who would like to participate.

Dwight Moody, dean of the chapel at Georgetown, said the idea for a reunion came when a small group of Georgetown staff and alumni launched a phone-calling campaign in the summer of 2004.

"We were not asking for money," he said, "just reconnecting, just touching base with a very important alumni constituency of the college."

Reunion events will include a golf scramble, art exhibit, scholars forum and marketplace where alumni and friends can sell ministry-related materials, such as books, tapes and art. A reception for missionaries is being co-sponsored by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Keynote speakers include former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, who will retire next month as pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., and Karen Thomas Smith, chaplain to the Christian community at Al Akhaway University in Morocco.

"I am thrilled with the possibilities this reunion has for energizing our current students," said campus minister Cynthia Insko. "The first worship service during the reunion is our annual student missionary commissioning service."

For more information or to register, visit [ministry.georgetowncollege.edu](http://ministry.georgetowncollege.edu) or call (502) 863-7047.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

16 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Williamstown Baptist Church.

20 Retirement Choices Workshop, First Baptist Church, Princeton.

21 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Mays Lick Baptist Church.

21 Retirement Choices Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.

22 Retirement Choices Workshop, First Baptist Church, London.

23 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

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.

25 Love 101, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

25 RA Congress Region 1, First Baptist Church, Mayfield.

27-28 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

### March

3-4 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

3-4 Handbell Festival, Cave City Convention Center.

4 RA Congress Region 5, Central Baptist Church, Maysville.

4 Vacation Bible School Clinic, Victory Baptist Church, Lexington.

6 Interfaith Witness Training, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

7 Interfaith Witness Training, Paintsville.

8-22 Kentucky Changers College Blitz, Morehead.

10-11 Creative Ministries Festival, Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green.

11 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

11 RA Congress Region 3, South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville.

11 Vacation Bible School Clinic, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

18 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions and State Youth Choir Festival—West, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

18 RA Congress Region 2, First Baptist Church, Madisonville; RA Congress Regions 3 & 7 Combo, Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green; RA Congress Region 6, Red House Baptist Church, Richmond; RA Congress Region 7, Campbellsville University.

20-21 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.

20-21 Welcome to Kentucky, Baptist Building, Louisville.

24-25 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

25 RA Congress Region 7, Monticello Baptist Church; RA Congress Region 8B, Camp Howard.

25 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Murray.

25 Regional Keyboard Festival, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

25 Youth Bible Drill & Speakers Tournament, Jonathan Creek.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Pianist/organist for revivals, special events or programs of sacred music. For more information, contact John Williamson at (502) 352-6270 or 395-3290.

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

**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 pastor for Northern Kentucky area. Send resumé to 13015 Highway 127N, Glenoe, KY 41046.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director for Harvestland Community Church, a young and growing congregation in Hodgenville, Ky. Mail resumé to: Steve Wright, 239 Jewell Lane, Magnolia, KY 42757; or e-mail to: [wswcsa@aol.com](mailto:wswcsa@aol.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 303 East Cedar St., Franklin, KY 42134.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students (youth-college) for First Baptist Church, Pikeville, Ky. Resumés may be mailed to: Pastor Paul Badgett, 126 4th St., Pikeville, KY 41501; or e-mail: [pastorbadgett@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorbadgett@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time director of children's ministries for Perryville Baptist Church near Danville, Ky. This church of 200 in Sunday school has an exploding children's ministry and desires to become a child-friendly church. Mail resumé to Perryville Baptist Church, PO Box 26, Perryville, KY 40468, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SERVICES:** Trinity Janitorial Services is available to provide janitorial services to churches. Licensed/insured, praiseworthy references with 20 years of experience. If you need cleaning done, please call: (502) 227-4795, 229-3883; or e-mail: [jeffcharlotte@earthlink.net](mailto:jeffcharlotte@earthlink.net).

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## Megachurches more integrated than you might think, study says

Hartford, Conn. (RNS)—When you think of megachurches, do you think of them as congregations that are homogeneous gatherings in huge complexes?

Scholars who have just completed a study of congregations that have a weekly attendance of 2,000 people or more say you might need to think again.

Thirty-six percent of 406 churches surveyed said minorities comprise 20 percent or more of their congregation.

And a higher percentage—56 percent—said they are making efforts to become multi-ethnic.

"I find that just amazing, given that we always talk about Sunday being the most segregated hour of the week," said Scott Thumma, professor of the sociology of religion at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. "There's a good bit of diversity going on here."

Thumma was the principal investigator for the study, which was done in conjunction with the Leadership Network, a Dallas-based nonprofit that aims to foster innovation among Christian leaders.

Researchers found that more than 1,200 megachurches exist in America. Thumma said his database of megachurches included 600 five years ago and 850 in early 2005.

"They're not so much an anomaly as they were a decade or two ago," Thumma said.

Investigators found few megachurches have colossal sanctuaries.

Just 5 percent have sanctuaries that seat 3,000 or more. More than half—53 percent—have four or more services during the course of a weekend.

The findings were based on surveys completed by 382 churches with weekly attendance of 2,000 or more, and 24 with attendance of 1,800 or more, supplemented by research to learn the latest totals of megachurches.

Researchers reviewing the total number of megachurches found that the states with the most megachurches are:

- California, 178.
- Texas, 157.
- Florida, 85.
- Georgia, 73.

Thumma's database lists 14 megachurches in Kentucky, including seven that are affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The largest portion of megachurches (34 percent) were nondenominational, followed by Southern Baptist (16 percent), unspecified Baptist (10 percent), Assemblies of God (6 percent) and United Methodist (5 percent).

## New Orleans pastors try to rekindle worship

By Keith Manuel  
Baptist Press

New Orleans (BP)—Pastors in St. Bernard Parish have taken steps to expand worship opportunities in the New Orleans-area parish where Hurricane Katrina sent floodwaters crashing through their sanctuaries Aug. 29.

Before Katrina, approximately 67,000 people lived in the New Orleans-area parish. Since the storm, the pastors estimated only 500 residents have returned to live, but thousands of temporary workers are there.

Beginning Feb. 12, Poydras Baptist Church at the lower end of the parish will host a weekly worship service, while another service at the upper end of the parish will be held at a location in Chalmette yet to be determined.

Only First Baptist Chalmette and Delacroix Island Baptist churches have held any meetings, but neither in their buildings. First Chalmette Pastor John Jeffries said attendance ranges from 20 to 150. Delacroix leader Boogie Melerine said approximately 15 people attend home meetings.

"What we're trying to do is get the churches to choose one meeting place and all worship there for the time being, until the population is strong enough to justify opening the other churches," said Joe McKeever, director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. "We are trying to be good stewards of what God has given us."



**OUT WITH THE OLD** Mold-covered pews at First Baptist Church of Chalmette, La., had to be removed with a chainsaw. Members of the church, in the St. Bernard Parish in metro-New Orleans, still don't know when they can rebuild. (BP photo by Keith Manuel)

Pastor Jeffery Friend agreed.

"If I opened Hopeview Church anytime soon, we'd be so few and so needy that I'd have to spend all my time raising money just to pay our bills," he said at a recent meeting of St. Bernard pastors, their second since Katrina.

"Better to leave it closed and let's work together until enough people have returned," Friend said. "Let's put the emphasis on building the people instead of building the churches."

St. Bernard Baptist Church called Paul Gregoire as pastor in January 1983. Twenty-three years later, he remains undaunted even

though his church was only 100 feet from an oil spill during the storm that deposited a million gallons of petroleum over the parish.

Gregoire not only is trying to find church members spread throughout numerous states, but he also is helping students regain some sense of normalcy as the registrar of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, which resumed commuter classes in the city Jan. 23.

"God has told me to rebuild St. Bernard Baptist Church," Gregoire said. "We started the church from zero. ... It doesn't frighten me to start all over again."

## Dolls give children tangible touch for divine

By Greg Garrison  
Religion News Service

Birmingham, Ala. (RNS)—About 10 years ago, Mary Englund moved her 5-year-old son into a basement room—and he was terrified.

To comfort him, Englund put a statue of Jesus in the bed with him.

"I put it under the blanket and told him, 'Jesus wouldn't want you to be afraid,'" she said. "He was fine with it. I said, 'I'm sorry it's not soft.' When I left the room, I thought, 'I wonder if there is a Jesus doll.'"

Now there is. Plenty of them.

Englund created what has become known as "My Loving Jesus Doll," which sells for \$19.95. It's about a foot tall, a squeezable soft doll with outstretched arms, dressed in a robe. It comes with a linen scroll addressed to a child, explaining who Jesus is.

Englund, 47, a mother of three in Champlain, Minn., began making the dolls and sold more than 400 of them out of her basement. She got help with the sewing, and her kids helped stuff the dolls. "It sold by word of mouth," Englund said.

Dolls are important companions for children, she said, and can be used as a tool to introduce children to Jesus. "If you can plant that seed early, it doesn't go away," Englund said. "When I was a girl I talked to my dolls. I loved my dolls."

At the opposite end of the exhibit hall, a more expensive Jesus doll was on display. Made with molded rubber face and hands, the Soft Saints dolls sell for \$98 apiece.



**"MY LOVING JESUS DOLL"** This foot-tall doll for \$19.95 is squeezably soft with outstretched arms and dressed in a robe. It comes with a linen scroll addressed to the child, explaining who Jesus is. (RNS photos by Tamika Moore)

"We can barely stay ahead of the demand," said Teri O'Toole, founder of Soft Saints, based in Anaheim, Calif. She said she began making and selling her realistic-looking dolls in 2000.

"I looked at the religious gifts available to children," said O'Toole, a former advertising executive. "There wasn't much available. What do you give a kid—a rosary, a statue?"

### Britney Spears or GI Joe?

The toys children play with have an emotional impact on their lives, she said.

"Give a girl a Barbie doll, and by the time she's 11, she's dressing like Britney Spears," O'Toole said. "Give a boy a GI Joe, and he's playing war. We innocently give our children role models to aspire to be like. I wanted to give children a role

model that really lived, Who lived a holy life."

She offers several Jesus dolls, including an infant Jesus. And she sells a Virgin Mary holding a baby Jesus.

"They look like porcelain dolls, but I wanted the dolls to feel like skin and be virtually indestructible," O'Toole said. "This is a handcrafted doll. We have stay-at-home moms who sew for us."

Another entry in the Christian doll market is Faith Filled Friends, small plush religious toys made by J-Zoo in Vista, Calif., including Jesus and several saints in a simple style like stuffed carnival toys, selling for \$16.95.

For those wanting wholesome religious dolls, the choices, once few, are many.

"A lot of people just don't know about it," O'Toole said.

## Jesse Jackson starts effort to return people to New Orleans

New Orleans (RNS)

—Jesse Jackson says a coalition of black city and state leaders will mount a public initiative for housing and jobs aimed at bringing home every displaced New Orleanian who wants to return.

Jackson kicked off the drive Jan. 29 from the pulpit of New Hope Baptist Church in New Orleans' Central City neighborhood.

He called on church members suffering because of Hurricane Katrina to demand rapid access to jobs and housing so they can rebuild their shattered communities.

"You have the right to return," Jackson told a crowd of 300 or so, including about 70 church members based in from Houston.

He urged the congregation to join a march across the Crescent City Connection on April 1. For many, the bridge has become a symbol of injustice after

people trying to escape the growing chaos at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Aug. 31 by crossing to Gretna on the far bank of the Mississippi River were turned back by police. Gretna officials said that city had no facilities to accept any more fleeing families.

During the church service, Jackson preached from Psalm 137, which expresses exiled Israelites' longing for Jerusalem.

Jackson urged the crowd to maintain hope, but not to settle for permanent displacement, unfair insurance compensation and lack of jobs. He urged them "not to take \$50,000 and let them close down the Lower 9th."

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