



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
NAMB president pledges cooperation with agency review. *Page 2.*

Lincoln Bingham
Kentucky Baptists honor pioneer in Baptist racial reconciliation. *Page 3.*

Gambling
Kentucky Baptist committee urges casino opposition. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Evangelism Conference sound bites reflect ministry passion. *Page 5.*

Family Forum
Ideas for helping children prepare for Easter. *Page 5.*

Evangelism Conference
Speakers address topics ranging from interpreting culture to leadership. *Pages 6-7.*

Nation
Pastoral misconduct most often about power, panelists say. *Page 10.*

Experts: Churches can do more to discourage arson

By Michael Foust
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Despite a possible sense of vulnerability in light of recent events in Alabama, churches can do much to deter and even prevent arson to their buildings, insurance experts say.

Ten Baptist churches, including four Southern Baptist ones, were torched by arsonists in rural Alabama in February. Nine of the fires were set at night. Federal and state officials have yet to arrest anyone.

Churches in Alabama and other states can take common sense precautions to protect their buildings, experts say. GuideOne Insurance, which often deals with churches, has released a list of arson-preventing tips.

"Probably the best of all the ideas is to have better locks, steel-clad doors and to have a lot of light around the church," said Jim Swedenburg, coordinator of annuity and insurance services for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. "Many churches will put one security light somewhere on the parking lot, and you really need four—one on each corner of the property—facing the building.

"You do those basic things and add a good church watch program, and you've got a good plan."

A church watch program, Swedenburg said, is similar to a neighborhood watch, "where you're making people aware that they need to keep an eye on the church, asking people to drive by there when they're going out—just looking to see if everything's OK."

An alarm system also helps, Swedenburg said. The alarm should be equipped with either an automated phone dialer that calls the police, or at a minimum, an alarm, he said.

□ See Experts: Lockup ... *Page 9*

Annie's army



SAFE PLACE Southern Baptist missionary Chet Cantrell relies on college volunteers to help him run the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Ill., a safe place for dozens of local kids to come after school for recreation, education and spiritual growth. Cantrell is among the missionaries whose work is highlighted as part of the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the related Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Missionary works to save kids from streets

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

"It is not the will of your Father in heaven that even one of these little ones perish" (Matthew 18:14).

East St. Louis, Ill.—Jesus' words in Matthew drive Southern Baptist missionary Chet Cantrell every day of the year.

For the past 16 years—with wife Michelle at his side—Cantrell has served as director of the Southern Baptist-supported Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Ill.

The center serves as a safe ha-

ven for hundreds of children and teenagers growing up in a rough-and-tumble town.

East St. Louis is not for sissies—physical or spiritual.

The Cantrells are among the 5,200 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Chet Cantrell is one of eight Southern Baptist missionaries to

be highlighted as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 5-12, 2006. The 2006 Annie Armstrong

Easter Offering's goal is \$56 million, 100 percent of which is used for missionaries like the Cantrells.

Being a Southern Baptist missionary "means I work for all those people in the pews out there," he says. "They make all this possible—for me to be here."

□ See East St. Louis ... *Page 8*



Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 8

KBC conference urges 'Connections' to evangelize Kentucky

By David Winfrey
News Director

Lexington—Southern Baptists could baptize 1 million people annually if just 10 percent of their churches would be evangelistically focused, according to the evangelism leader for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

"We shouldn't baptize a million this year," John Avant said regarding the goal popularized by Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch. "We should baptize a million every year."

NAMB's director of evangelization was among the keynote speakers for last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. The event, with the theme "Get Connected—Stay Connected," was held at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church.

Avant recalled asking Thom Rainer what it would take for Southern Baptists to baptize 1 million people annually.

Avant said Rainer, a former dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the new president of LifeWay Christian Resources, told him that 10 percent of pastors and their churches would have to change their "DNA" to become outwardly focused and evangelistic.

But doing so will require those pastors and churches to forsake some security for a willingness to embrace change and become passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with a lost world, Avant added.

"We need God's people who have done things in traditional ways to grow up," he said, challenging church leaders to embrace new

methods of reaching people with the unchanging gospel of Christ.

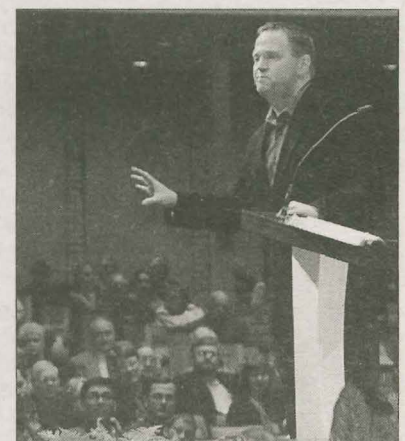
"Methodologies always change," he continued. "I've heard people say, 'I want the music of the good old days.' I say, 'Oh, you like the Gregorian chants?' ... We've got to throw away our self-centeredness."

Avant offered three keys for church leaders to become involved in God's Great Commission, Jesus' commandment to make disciples:

Do the obvious. Many of the tasks to fulfill the Great Commission are obvious but they aren't always simple, Avant said.

"A lot of people think that great movements of God happen when great people do great things that nobody else can do. And that's completely wrong," he said.

□ See KBC conference urges ... *Page 3*



"GROW UP" John Avant, director of evangelization for the SBC North American Mission Board, encouraged older Christians to act mature and be willing to give up some of their own preferences in order to reach non-Christians

Kentucky pastor to nominate Drake as SBC vice president

Greensboro, N.C. (BP)—Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the June 13-14 annual meeting, according to Kentucky Baptist pastor Bill Dodson.

"Over the past 50 years that I've been attending Southern Baptist Conventions, I don't think I've ever met a Southern Baptist any more committed to our conservative values than Wiley Drake," said Dodson, pastor of Bell City Baptist Church near Farmington.

Dodson, a past chair of the former SBC Annuity Board, noted that Drake has been a regular at the microphones of SBC annual meetings, making frequent moral and social issues.

Drake also was a leader in the SBC's 1997 action to boycott Disney. "He's got a keen eye for doctrine and fidelity to our Baptist Faith and Message," Dodson added.

Dodson nominated Drake last year for the same position. Roy Fish, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was elected second vice president with 80 percent of the vote.

Information from Southern Baptists' 2004 Annual Church Profile showed that Drake's church lists \$200 in gifts through the SBC Cooperative Program. According to Baptist Press, Drake said the church's statistics include church membership of 95; 67 baptisms; total receipts of \$96,450; and \$1,000 given through the Cooperative Program.

Reccord pledges cooperation in NAMB review

Nashville—The Georgia Baptist Christian Index has published a 1,500-word response by Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President Robert Reccord to the paper's recent analysis of NAMB.

But NAMB officials refused a media request to release a 2003 communication audit that is at the center of an alleged conflict of interest involving Reccord and a NAMB subcontractor.

The Index article criticized NAMB's evangelism and church planting strategies; its method in counting missionaries; NAMB's relationship with InovaOne, a private media firm; and Reccord's speaking engagements.

The article raised questions about NAMB's dealings with subcontractor Steve Sanford, a longtime friend of Reccord's. Sanford was asked to perform an audit of NAMB's communications strategy in 2003, which NAMB officials said led the agency to outsource 40 positions in its communications and Internet areas. InovaOne, a company founded and owned by Sanford, was later hired to perform some of those services.

Sanford told Associated Baptist Press there is no connection between the audit and his subsequent contracts with NAMB. But NAMB officials are not denying such a connection.

Both Sanford and NAMB declined to release a copy of the communications audit. Sanford said only NAMB is authorized to release it, and NAMB declined ABP's request for a copy.

In his letter published last week in the Index, Reccord wrote, "While I am disappointed these concerns were brought to light in a newspaper article, I am fully committed to assuring Southern Baptists that NAMB values the goodwill of our state partners and churches, and that I take these concerns seriously."

"Recently, NAMB responded to some of the concerns the article raised. ... NAMB's full response is on the NAMB Web site at www.NAMB.net. However, the story also raises a question about my own credibility. As a result, I want to share the steps I have taken to address these concerns, ensure your confidence in NAMB's integrity, and guarantee this experience will make us a stronger and better mission agency."



Robert Reccord

Reccord recounted plans he announced Feb. 22 that include NAMB's trustee chairman naming a group of trustees "who will thoroughly review all the issues raised in the article."

"I will provide our trustees with every record, financial document and piece of data they might need or request, and any personal information they might need from me," Reccord wrote.

Reccord noted he also has enlisted an independent auditing firm "to conduct a thorough audit of the issues addressed in the article." The results will be reported to NAMB's board of trustees March 23.

"But even as we walk through this process, I am committed to helping NAMB stay 'on mission,'" Reccord wrote.

He then listed four "positive things" that God "is doing through Southern Baptists in North American missions":

Church planting success. "Both numerically and qualitatively, church planting efforts by NAMB and its partners have been a success," Reccord wrote. "Comparing the eight years before NAMB's formation shows that the annual number of church plants is higher by 277 churches per year."

NAMB's "missions force" is expanding. "Our missions force in North America is at an all-time

high," he wrote. "At the end of 2005, Southern Baptists had 5,364 missionaries faithfully serving in the field, exceeding the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000. This is due to the committed service of NAMB-funded missionaries and the equally strong service of our Mission Service Corps missionaries." MSC missionaries are self-funded volunteers who make up approximately 45 percent of NAMB's missions force.

NAMB is sending increased funds to the field. "As a result of operating efficiencies, NAMB increased state cooperative budgets (money sent directly to the field) by \$2 million each year in 1999 and 2001 and by more than \$1 million in 2002," Reccord wrote. "The total cumulative increase in these budgets alone ... has been more than \$50 million (cumulative total over NAMB's lifetime)."

NAMB's "commitment to evangelism and programs." "Evangelism is the core of everything we do at NAMB," Reccord wrote. "That is why, in a year of unprecedented disaster relief response (more than 14.5 million meals served in the wake of Gulf Coast hurricanes), we made sure that our chaplains and disaster relief volunteers shared the gospel along with providing food and other assistance."

Reccord concluded: "I ask Southern Baptists to pray for our agency, our trustees, and especially our missionaries as we walk through these challenging days. Though this situation has been painful, I embrace it as an opportunity to clarify any misconceptions that exist in the SBC about our work. Where concerns are valid, I will admit mistakes and make the appropriate changes. Where concerns are invalid, I will state the facts and return to our mission."

Reccord's entire letter is available online at www.namb.net.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

Missionaries return to field after tragedy

South Asia (BP)—One year after the death of their 8-year-old son in a tragic accident, Southern Baptist missionaries John and Shannon Pettit are back where they can continue to heal.

For the Pettits, that place is the mission field.

On Feb. 9, 2005, John and Shannon Pettit were vacationing in Thailand with their family when their son, John, fell near a waterfall. He died the next day from injuries sustained in the fall.

After living and serving in South Asia for more than seven years, the couple shared how going back to the mission field was the best decision for them and their two daughters—Simone, 11, and Joy, 7. They hope for some sense of normalcy and comfort after returning to the place where they raised their son and where people knew him best.

"The time we had with our family in the States after John's death was very good for us and for them," Pettit said. But he added that "our home community was here" on the mission field.

"We needed to be back at our house, to see the empty spot at the table where John sat," Pettit said. "We needed to walk past his room, to hold his clothes and lie down on his bed and weep for our son whom we could no longer hold, laugh with or see play."

The boy's father recalls the helplessness he felt the day of the accident, but he also has found comfort in his faith.

"One of the things God has shown me through John's death is our natural human desire for a Savior," Pettit said.

"I would have given anything for someone to swoop down and save my boy. I did everything I could for that savior to be me, but I failed to save John that day. ... I wanted John saved in the here and now, but God saved him in eternity."

As the family continues to cope with their loss, Pettit describes their current state as "functional."

"We are able to get our work done, see friends, get out and exercise and the like," he said.

The Pettits have found some peace in helping with ministry opportunities they hope will impact their community. They also recently became involved in starting a new house church.

Shannon Pettit expressed thankfulness for God who has brought many good friends into their life to help care for the family.

"I am thankful that God is not only holding our family together but also has drawn us closer together during this time of grief," she said.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Yemeni executed for IMB slayings. The Yemeni gunman who killed three Southern Baptist medical workers in 2002 was executed by firing squad Feb. 27, according to wire reports. Abed Abdul Razak Kamel was shot in the central prison of the southern Ibb province, Yemen's Saba state news agency reported. Kamel was convicted for the Dec. 30, 2002, shooting deaths of Jibla Baptist Hospital director William Koehn, physician Martha Myers and purchasing agent Kathleen Gariety. Kamel admitted in court to coordinating the attack with Islamic militant activist Ali al-Jarallah who was executed Nov. 27. Yemeni officials believe both men were tied to the al Qaeda terrorist network.

Sibley to lead Criswell institute. Jim Sibley, who has served 10 years as coordinator of Jewish ministries with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, was named March 3 as director of Criswell College's Pasche Institute of Jewish Studies. The Pasche Institute was formed by Criswell

College in 2004 to train Christians in Jewish ministry. John Avant, NAMB's vice president for evangelization, said NAMB's intention "at this time is not to attempt to replace Jim, but to continue to use him on a contract basis." Sibley and his wife, Kathy, previously served 14 years as Southern Baptist representatives in Israel.

SBC distributes CP resources. "The Difference" DVD, distributed by the Cooperation Program office of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, is being mailed to every church in the SBC. The DVD focuses on how Southern Baptists have been involved in helping victims of Hurricane Katrina as well as victims of the tsunami in Asia, the earthquake in Pakistan, and other recent natural disasters. The DVD and a related book are the first in a line of quarterly CP resources to be released by SBC officials.

Bush to head theology center. Russ Bush, academic vice president and dean of the faculty at Southeastern

Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., has been named director of the school's new L. Russ Bush Center for Theology and Culture. The center will sponsor annual conferences and provide mentoring in ethics and apologetics. Bush, who also is senior professor of philosophy of religion at Southeastern, has served as academic dean since 1989.

Central Seminary plans move. More than a century after it became the first Baptist seminary west of the Mississippi River, Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., has announced plans to move, mostly to help defer rising maintenance costs on its 16-acre campus. A resource mobilization team that includes board members, alumni and administrators voted to cut losses at the American Baptist Churches school and find a new location. Seminary President Molly Marshall said the school faces about \$5 million in deferred maintenance costs, and the move is expected to save more than \$400,000 a year.

Kentucky Baptists honor Bingham's reconciliation work

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—A Feb. 27 tribute to Lincoln Bingham produced a roller coaster of emotions—and not just because of heartfelt reflections about Bingham's pioneering leadership in racial and spiritual reconciliation.

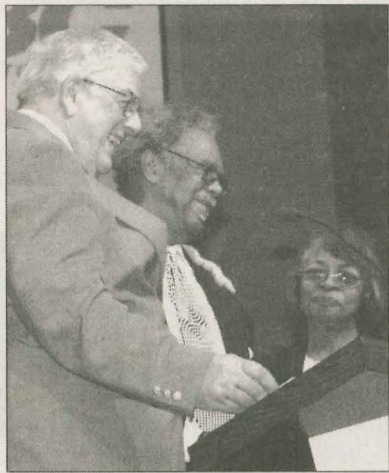
Bingham, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's cooperative ministries consultant since 1983, collapsed on stage midway through the ministry tribute in his honor during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

As he lay on the stage with program personnel gathered around, EMTs quickly responded to a 911 call.

Cracking jokes before being escorted off the platform so medical personnel could evaluate his condition, Bingham remarked, "I'm resting so I'll be ready to preach."

Conference coordinator Dan Garland prepared to cut the service short, but Bingham and his wife, Lillian, emerged a few moments later with Bingham proclaiming, "I took a rest break and I'm ready now."

Preaching from John 21 about the apostles' "colossal catch" on the Sea of Galilee, Bingham said the only way to have a colossal spiritual catch is to combine cane pole fishing (individual soul winning) and network fishing (the Christian church ministering together in unity).



INTERNATIONAL IMPACT Harvey Thomas (left), chairman of the Fellowship of European Broadcasters, honors Lincoln Bingham and his wife, Lillian.

"We need to understand God's plan of both vertical and horizontal reconciliation," emphasized Bingham, who also serves as senior pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

The vertical level involves "all of the body of Christ recognizing that we're all one in Christ and Christ is not divided," he noted. "Then we can network to bring this lost world to Jesus Christ."

To produce a colossal spiritual catch, he added, Christians must use their nets, mend their nets and clean their nets.

Prior to his message, several leaders shared words of appreciation for Bingham's years of faithful ministry, including a representative from Gov. Ernie Fletcher's office who presented a proclamation declaring Feb. 27 "Lincoln Bingham Day."

Bingham, known as one of the first black ministers to promote reconciliation on the local, state, national and international levels, was honored in 2004 with a lifetime achievement award from the Southern Baptist Convention's African-American Fellowship. He has been an influential leader in both the Greater Louisville Christian Reconciliation Ministries and the international Reconciliation Networks of Our World.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey noted that Bingham "has become a legend in his own time as a minister of reconciliation and cooperative ministries. He is living a life of integrity and finishing well."

Leslie Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville which has partnered with St. Paul Church over the years, described Bingham as "a mentor and a friend."

"He created a ministry wherever he was," Hollon added. "I watched him, listened to him and learned from him."

Russell Awkard, Bingham's successor as moderator of the General

Association of Baptists in Kentucky, said the tribute "is being rightly given to one who deserves this honor."

Affirming that Bingham's ministry efforts have had "a huge international spiritual impact," Harvey Thomas, chairman of the Fellowship of European Broadcasters, said Bingham has been "a personal inspiration, a personal encouragement."

SBC President Bobby Welch also made a presentation to Bingham, noting that "I want to honor and recognize you for a lifetime of ministry."

Welch preached earlier in the evening, emphasizing that "dead men do talk."

Preaching from Luke 16, Welch said the passage describes two places—heaven and hell, two people—Lazarus and the rich man, and two preferences—accepting or rejecting God's offer of salvation.

"The poor man did not go to heaven because he was poor in the things of the world; he went to heaven because he was rich in the things of God," Welch declared. Contrasting that with the rich man's choices, he added, "You go to hell because you don't have Jesus."

Challenging Christians to become committed soul winners, Welch said, "If you get hell on your heart and you get heaven in your sight, it's going to change the way you look at everybody you see."

KBC conference urges 'Connections' to evangelize Kentucky

Continued from page 1

"Movements of God most often happen when ordinary people do ordinary things that nobody else will do."

Billy Graham preached simple sermons and refused to segregate his audiences, Avant said, but he's considered the greatest evangelist of the 20th century.

Likewise, Jonathan Wesley got out of the church and preached to the poor and others who wouldn't attend church and he helped spark the Great Awakening.

"What's sitting right in front of you?" he asked. "What's the lamp that you've got stuck underneath the bed, because it may be obvious but it also may not be easy?"

Determine a proper measure for success. Too many congregations measure success by building size or attendance, Avant noted.

"Will you consider it success if your church quadruples in the next year but they're all people from someone else's church? If so, then we might as well give up now."

Avant admitted that a church that focuses on reaching non-Christians likely will cause some members to leave. "What if you had 100 people, 20 of them left, but you replaced them with 20 people who didn't know Jesus?"

Avant encouraged church leaders to measure their success by whether their churches experience the authentic power of God.

Decide to be "Good News." Until church leaders share their faith, they can't expect other members to, Avant said.

He said no Christian should be afraid of evangelism, which he defines as simply "sharing good news

with friends."

Avant said he regularly makes new friends and shares three simple things: God loves them; God sent His Son to prove it; Avant will pray with the friend if they want to know Jesus.

"Don't let a Sunday go by without telling the people your stories of sharing the good news," he said. "Get in on the joy of it and watch what God does."

Other speakers offered a variety of insights. Among them:

■ **Alabama evangelist Junior Hill**, preaching from 2 Timothy 2, outlined difficulties pastors face and challenged them to endure them the same way a soldier does.

"Now, boys, I want to tell you what I've learned after 50 years in the ministry: There is nothing easy about the ministry," he said.

"God hasn't called you on a picnic. He has called you to be a soldier."

Hill told pastors they will face the discouragement of difficulties, the danger of distractions and the disgrace of disqualification in their ministries.

"Unless you're very careful, you'll get your eyes on something other than what God called you to," he said.

"I can't speak for you, but my heart is set. I want to do my best to cross the finish line running hard."

■ **Ken Fentress** told those attending that the biblical basis for evangelical preaching extends as early as the third chapter of Genesis.

"God is the first evangelist when He calls to the sinful Adam and Eve," said Fentress, dean of intercultural programs and a professor of Old Testament interpretation

at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Fentress compared Adam and Eve's attempt to hide with God's calling out to them. "Evangelistic preaching is proactive in nature, ... just as God was."

Fentress said Genesis 3 reveals that evangelistic preaching understands five things: the characteristics of sinners, the call to sinners, the confrontation with sinners, the cross that saves sinners and the consequences upon sinners

"God has sent us with an urgent message to sinners," he said. "How else will they know where they stand with God unless we tell them? They won't figure it out on their own."

■ **Sammy Gilbreath**, state evangelism director for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, challenged Kentucky Baptists to "live like you were dying."

Recounting that he was diagnosed 18 months ago with a rare heart disorder, Gilbreath said his cardiologist told him, "You're going to die and you're going to die real quickly. ... It's just a matter of time."

"Before you get all concerned about Sammy Gilbreath and his heart condition," he told the crowd, "there's no one in this room who has the promise of tomorrow."

Preaching from 1 Timothy 1, Gilbreath said, "If you're going to learn to live like you're dying, you must learn to value the promise of life. ... I believe life ought to be lived with passion."

Urging pastors to realize every sermon they preach could be their final message, he added, "I'm serving the King of Kings and the Lord

of Lords. If I can't walk into the pulpit with passion, there's something wrong in my life."

Gilbreath said living like you are dying also involves learning to value spiritual blessings more than physical ones, learning to value a clear conscious and learning the value of revisiting one's call from God.

Noting that if he doesn't get a heart transplant soon, "it's going to be too late," he said, "If I don't wake up in the morning, I've gone home and I can't lose."

Encouraging fellow ministers to live like they are dying, Gilbreath asked, "What do you need to do before you go back into that pulpit? Before you go to bed tonight?"

■ **Herman Rios**, director of language evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention, shared ways to connect with non-Christians through creative outreach methods, including:

■ Affixing a small red dot to his watch face over the numeral "2" to "remind me that 2,000 years ago Jesus died for my sins" and to remind him to witness to someone by 2 p.m. each day.

■ Using the EvangeCube witnessing tool which he described as "one of the best evangelism tools being used to reach people for Christ."

■ Taking the postage-paid return envelopes from junk mail, inserting a gospel tract and mailing it back.

"There's not one of us here who has an excuse for not telling people about Jesus," Rios said. "Before you go to bed tonight, will you remind somebody that Jesus loves them?"

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

Public affairs committee urges casino opposition

Louisville—Members of the Kentucky Baptist Committee on Public Affairs voted last week to urge Kentucky Baptists to voice their concerns about gambling expansion bills being considered by the Kentucky General Assembly.

Howard Beauman, executive director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, reported that 16 gambling-related bills have been filed this session in the Kentucky legislature.

While he doesn't expect casino-related measures to pass the legislature this year, Beauman encouraged gambling opponents to remain diligent.

"If anything is going to get through, it will be the constitutional amendment" seeking to legalize casino gambling in the commonwealth, he said.

Primary casino-related bills are Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 600. Related legislation includes SB 7, HB 345 and HB 601.

With less than three weeks for legislation to be approved by both the House and Senate, Beauman added, "If people are going to call, they need to call now. We need to get the word out there as strongly and as quickly as we can."

Concerned citizens can leave a message for their legislators at (800) 372-7181 or contact Gov. Ernie Fletcher's office at (502) 564-2611.

In other action, committee chairman John Chowning appointed a subcommittee to explore the possibility of organizing and hosting a one-day conference on moral issues. Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, was named subcommittee chairman.

WESTERNRECORDER

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

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Moving from 'what is' to 'what should be'

By Thom Rainer

Nashville (BP)—Christians live in an age when there is a gap between "what is" and "what should be."

Unfortunately, we do not fully know what "what is" really is. We do not truly understand the health of our churches, the level of commitment of their members or the level of impact churches are having in their communities. As a result, churches become inefficient in reaching the spiritually lost with the gospel.

We do come closer to having an idea of what should be, but we don't know how to close the gap. LifeWay Research will help churches, Christians, the culture and the unchurched clearly identify their respective realities. Additionally, LifeWay Research will propose ways to close the gap so that what should be becomes the new "what is."

I announced the launch of LifeWay Research a few weeks ago after becoming LifeWay Christian Resources' ninth president. I do not state this lightly: My goal is to make LifeWay Research the premier Christian research organization in the world.

I am driven to that end by my passion for the local church. I love Christ's church. I love communicating the world of the church, the

hopes of the church and the struggles of the church. Helping churches and the Christians in those churches reach their potential in Christ is my passion.

To reach that potential, however, we must first acknowledge reality, and reality is that about 96 percent of the churches in America do not meet the criteria for being effective evangelistic churches. Most of these churches have good pastors and good laypeople, but they have not broken out of their mediocrity. They have become satisfied with the status quo; they resist change and often minister only to those inside the church. They might have large budgets, but they are not making a significant impact on their communities.

Those are the facts. How do we change them?

One primary purpose of LifeWay Research is to help LifeWay better understand churches and their needs so we can respond with more relevant products and ministries.

FIRST PERSON

No 'second blessing'

One issue concerning the new International Mission Board policy against appointing missionaries who have a "prayer language" has not been addressed.

Please let me preface what I'm about to say with the fact that I love the IMB and have the utmost respect for President Jerry Rankin and all the leaders who work with him. These godly men and women truly have a desire to see the gospel taken into all the world. The IMB is absolutely the best missionary-sending agency in the world.

My wife and I served with the IMB in west Africa from 1987-2003,

and the issue of speaking in tongues was one of our running battles with many west African believers. The strong numerical presence of a major Pentecostal denomination in west Africa gave Pentecostals credence to teach error concerning glossolalia. These missionaries and churches teach that you must have a prayer language to show evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit—the second blessing.

I was told many times by these Pentecostal pastors and members that Baptists can get you saved but not baptized in the Holy Spirit. I never could comprehend why they wouldn't correctly interpret Ephesians 1:13 where confession, salva-



Helping NAMB help Baptists 'Tell His Story'

"Tell His Story" is the theme for this year's emphasis on North American missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This is a vital offering for the work of sharing the gospel in Kentucky and North America, and I encourage every Kentucky Baptist to give prayerfully and generously.

With that said, you might have seen or read about a recent analysis of the North American Mission Board by the Georgia Baptist Convention newspaper, the Christian Index. The article contained some fairly negative assessments of some of NAMB's efforts.

In response, NAMB and its trustees are giving careful attention to each criticism, which I commend. Bob White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, made a memorable statement about criticism during the recent State Executive Directors' meeting. He shared that his grandfather always said you should listen to criticism if it comes

from a person who has an investment in your ministry and if your improvement would bless your critic.

It is important to understand that leaders at NAMB have chosen to work closely with state and associational leaders. Most of what NAMB does to reach North America for Christ is done in partnership with state conventions through cooperative agreements. Consequently, national strategies require the enthusiastic, strategic participation of all partners for them to be successful.

The primary partner for all denominational entities is the local church. In order for an evangelism strategy to be successful, church leaders and members must see the need and accept ownership.

It is also important to recognize that every church and every believer in the U.S. and Canada has a responsibility to reach North America for Christ. North America cannot be reached until neighborhoods and

Our goal is to provide biblical solutions that help churches become breakout churches that move beyond good to great. Excellence permeates everything about breakout churches. These are churches that reach at least one person for Christ an average of every two weeks.

This type of connection between the church and its effectiveness in its community is enhanced when Christians and churches understand the relevant issues of the day. This is another purpose of LifeWay Research. We will have a finger on the pulse of culture and the unchurched world. Our intention as Christians is not to mirror culture or concede to culture but to impact culture with the truth of Scripture. LifeWay Research will explore culture and the unchurched world with this impact in mind.

Do I know at this time what LifeWay Research will finally look like? I do not. We've launched this boat from the dock not yet fully built, but with a definite destination in mind.

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, my goal is for LifeWay Research to be a torch that lights a path leading from "what is" to "what should be."

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

tion and baptism in the Holy Spirit is a one-step process and involves no prayer language or second blessing.

Some of our Baptist partners and pastors took the position that because Pentecostals are the largest denomination numerically in many west African countries, they must be correct in teaching this doctrine.

Thankfully, however, many of our Baptist pastors and partners see the error in this teaching; one does not have to have a prayer language to be saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit.

May we continue to appoint missionaries with a true calling from God to reach the lost and to disciple them with the truth of God's Word.

Larry Rowell
Campbellsville

family members have been reached. I am grateful for the partnership with NAMB for several reasons:

■ We share a passion to reach North America.

■ We participate together in the financial support of missionaries serving in Kentucky and in developing strategic national and state plans, such as church planting, missions, ministries, disaster relief, language work and chaplains.

■ We work together in effective state and regional partnerships such as the Appalachian Regional Ministry and Mississippi River Ministry.

Please join me in praying for NAMB trustees, staff and President Bob Reccord. We must constantly seek evaluation and excellence because of the eternal value of what God is doing through churches and individuals to expand His Kingdom.

I plan to increase my financial support to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and trust God to work through the process to make any needed improvements for the benefit of Kingdom work and unreached people.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Resources help consumers become savvy shoppers

By Jeremy White

One blessing in my life is that I rarely do any shopping for our family household needs. But when my wife and daughters were sick recently, I received the stereotypical call to pick up a couple things on my way home from the office.

Stepping up to the challenge of a family medical crisis, I ventured into the epicenter of social and economic life in small-town America: Wal-Mart. All I had to do was pick up cold medicine for children and toothpaste. How hard could that be?

Finding the toothpaste aisle, I began to make a quick grab of a familiar brand. Wait a minute! Did I want the tartar control, tartar protection or total protection? Mmm ... whitening sounds good too. But did I want the dual-action whitening or the whitening gels?

Besides plain toothpaste, I could get toothpaste with baking soda, peroxide, antibacterial agents or even mouthwash.

Trying to sort through my confusion, I later searched the Internet. Believe it or not, I found a Web site devoted to toothpaste! It said, "Most experts would agree that as long as your toothpaste contains fluoride, the brand you buy really doesn't matter. Your toothpaste should bear the American Dental Association (ADA) seal of approval. ..." So, most toothpastes are equally effective if they have the seal of approval. The rest is just marketing hyperbole.

Children's cold medicines have just as many choices. Wising up a bit, I started comparing the labels. Most of the heavily advertised brand names had the exact same ingredients as the generic or private label. Of course, the prices were much higher for the brand names.

Here are reminders to help you be a savvy shopper:

■ Compare the ingredients and the order of them. If applicable, also compare the nutritional information. Consider generic brands instead of name brands.

■ Acquaint yourself with independent consumer agencies and rating services, such as Consumer Reports. Refer to the copy of the magazine at the library or use the Internet Web sites.

■ Use the Internet to obtain reviews and search for consumer opinion results for major purchases.

Jeremy White, a certified public accountant in Paducah, offers financial tips on his Web site: www.blythewhite.com



Lenten activities help children prepare spiritually for Easter

Q: How can I help my child prepare spiritually to observe Easter?

With Easter Sunday still several weeks away, parents can begin now helping their children prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The observance of Lent often guides such preparation. Resources abound, but most will be found outside of Baptist circles.

PARENTING

A Google search of "Lenten resources for children" will turn up an entire page of options. Catholicmom.com offers word searches, crossword puzzles and coloring pages designed for children. The site also lists several activities families could enjoy together while learning about the meaning and significance of Easter. These include making Resurrection Eggs and baking Easter Story Cookies. (You seal the oven just as the tomb was sealed.) There also is a great idea called the Jelly Bean Prayer in which children earn jelly beans in the days leading up to Easter by participating in specific actions related to the meaning of Easter.

Christian bookstores also carry a variety of resources designed to aid in observing Lent and preparing for Easter. Children might enjoy using a Lenten Calendar in which each day offers a prayer reminder or suggested activity.

Celebrating Lent provides an opportunity for children to learn the importance of sacrifice and selflessness. Children might want to give up something for Lent as a reminder of how Jesus gave His life for us. Soft drinks, a favorite food, a television show or computer/video game are all possible options. Couple the choice with a commitment to spend the time doing something else such as reading. Lent also might be a good time to read another volume in the Chronicles of Narnia with your children.—David Garrard

Q: Our son is a high school senior and is still unsure what he will do after high school. How can we help him figure out God's will for his life?

Following God can be compared to taking an automobile trip across Kentucky at night. If you go as far as your headlights will take you, by the time you reach that point, you can see several yards further.

Remind your son that there is no road "to" faithfulness, only the road "of" faithfulness. If he has trusted Christ and is seeking after Him daily, the following suggestions might help him in discerning the next steps to take:

- Help him identify jobs and careers in which he has some interest. This can be done through conversation as well as contacting a counselor for some vocational testing. He also might want to do some personality inventories as a way of growing in self-awareness.

- Help him meet and talk with individuals who are involved in various careers that interest him.

- Encourage him to visit nearby colleges, universities or trade schools that offer degrees in which he has some interest.

- Invite him to talk with you about his anxieties and fears about taking the next step.

- Talk frankly with him about your journey.

- Suggest to him that he contact friends and family members to ask for prayer as well as for their input into how they perceive his interests and talents.

- Remind him that trying a job, college or training program does not commit him for life. Help him understand that it is OK and even normal to try out options and even change directions.

Finally, remind your son that whatever he does, God desires that he do it with a mindset that Christ be glorified. While his journey, like Abraham's, might be filled with turns in the road, he never will need to doubt his ultimate purpose.—Scott Wigginton

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Sound bites capture evangelistic passion

Last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in Lexington highlighted the theme, "Get Connected—Stay Connected," echoing the Kentucky Baptist Convention's five-year "Kentucky Baptists Connect" emphasis.

The annual conference, coordinated by KBC evangelism leader Dan Garland, featured 10 plenary session speakers and more than 25 breakout sessions on such topics as "Understanding the Culture," "Christian Spiritual Growth for Dummies" and "Reaching the Dechurched." The two-day event also included a luncheon and breakout sessions for women as well as a Tuesday evening patriotic celebration.

The Western Recorder staff works diligently to communicate the inspiration and application of such events to our readers. But often it is the pithy sound bites that participants remember long after the conference ends. Among memorable words of challenge and encouragement at last week's gathering were:

John Avant, vice president for evangelization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board: "Will you consider it success if your church quadruples in the next year but they're all people from someone else's church? If so, then we might as well give up now."

Ed Stetzer, missiologist and director of research for NAMB: "We live our lives in an evangelical bubble while the world goes to hell around us."

Evangelist **Junior Hill** of Hartselle, Ala.: "There is nothing easy about the ministry. ... God hasn't called you on a picnic. He has called you to be a soldier."

Southern Baptist Convention President **Bobby Welch**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.: "If you get hell on your heart and you get heaven

in your sight, it's going to change the way you look at everybody you see."

Lincoln Bingham, senior pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville and KBC cooperative ministries consultant: "God is pleased beyond most of our imagination when the body of Christ ... comes together for the greatest priority of all—reaching people Christ died for."

Pat Williams, senior vice president of the NBA's Orlando Magic: "Great leaders have a heart for people. They view people as the bottom line, not as a tool to get to the bottom line."

Ken Fentress, dean of intercultural programs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary: "God has sent us with an urgent message to sinners. How else will they know where they stand with God unless we tell them? They won't figure it out on their own."

Herman Rios, director of language evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention: "There's not one of us here who has an excuse for not telling people about Jesus. Before you go to bed tonight, will you remind somebody that Jesus loves them?"

Sammy Gilbreath, director of the office of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions: "I'm serving the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. If I can't walk into the pulpit with passion, there's something wrong in my life. ... What do you need to do before you go back into that pulpit?"

Evangelist **Tim Lee**, a decorated U.S. Marine Vietnam veteran: "If we don't have real revival, if Jesus doesn't come soon, America is going to see more of a mess than she's ever seen before, and we're headed that way. ... We're not in a playground; we're in spiritual warfare. It's about time some of you got shook up."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Cyberspace becomes youth ministry frontier

Years ago, a youth ministry adage was, "If you want to get to know a student then go look at his bedroom." Today that might be better translated, "If you want to get to know a student then check out his MySpace page."

MySpace.com and other youth-oriented online networks demand youth leaders' attention.

According to Reuters, MySpace "has attracted some 56 million users to its site where teens and young adults convene to chat, share music and post Web sites packed with content they create. It has garnered the fourth highest number of visitors behind Yahoo and Microsoft and is neck and neck with Google and generated fiscal 2005 revenue of about \$47 million."

It also is free to teens and young adults to use; revenues come from ad space bought by retailers. You have to be at least age 14 to create an account, and 16 for your site to be made public.

How should youth leaders respond?

Use MySpace or something like it. A quick search reveals several churches with pages on MySpace and similar sites. Brian Schindler, youth minister at Greenville Second Baptist Church, said he uses "a site for my youth that is very 'myspace-ish' called youthglue.com. I do use it for a lot of ministry. I'm able to connect with my students; there's no age limits; it's all clean; plus it has options that make it better for ministry to the church kids we al-

ready have."

Nick Stamps, youth minister at Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville, uses facebook.com "to communicate with my young adult group. It is a great way for me to communicate with them and them with me. We are also setting up a MySpace page to promote D-Now this year."

Online networks are a great way to learn about students and their culture.

Jennifer Jasper, whose husband, Jimmy, is youth minister at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, said Internet blogs "can be a useful tool in learning more about youth culture and in communicating with students. It helps you know about things going on in their lives, struggles they are having. And this opens up doors for youth ministers and volunteers to talk to their students about these things."

"I had two girls give me prayer concerns," noted Bill Houpt, youth minister at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville "I hunted them down on MySpace, where I have a blog posted. I e-mailed them and they both responded very positively." The contact "opened a door I thought was closed."

Mrs. Jasper said she frequently checks out students' blogs and updates her husband about them. "I read some of the blogs of the girls in my small group occasionally and they are very aware of the fact that I read them," she added. "They were very open when I asked for their screen names so I could find them."

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

To help keep volunteer youth workers informed about what's going on in the lives of teens, she said. "I sent out an e-mail explaining to them how to look up students on Myspace.com, livejournal.com, etc."

Youth ministers can encourage their students to use the sites to invite friends to youth meetings as well as set up a youth group or personal account.

Drew Dukes, youth minister at Simpsonville Baptist Church, said several high school students use the sites "as faith-sharing tools for their friends."

Teach parents how to monitor what their students are posting. "I'd rarely tell parents what their kids have in their blogs," Mrs. Jasper noted, "but I will certainly tell them how to look at it themselves."

Dukes said he is concerned that some parents are oblivious to what their teens post online and others simply are in denial. "It seems to me that 8th grade girls telling stories of 'doing stuff' with their boyfriend in the basement of the house is only an indicator that parents don't read them," he warned.

Steve Coleman, youth minister at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville, encourages parents to have "rules, checks, balances and open dialogue" with their youth about their online activities.

"This is a difficult situation to discuss," he noted, "but being a parent is not always easy and there are times that the difficult decisions must be made by the parent. Being your teen's friend is cool, but not when they need a parent."

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

Orlando Magic VP outlines '7 sides of leadership'

"Leadership is always about the future."

Pat Williams, senior vice president of the Orlando Magic

By David Winfrey
News Director

Bowling Green—Vision is the starting point for any leader, a cofounder of the Orlando Magic basketball team told Kentucky Baptist pastors and church leaders last week.

"Great leaders have vision, and the reason is very simple: Leadership is always about the future," said Pat Williams, senior vice president of the Magic and author of "Who Wants to Be a Champion?"

Williams, a keynote speaker for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism Conference, outlined "seven sides of leadership" that he's distilled from years of being a leader and from studying the subject.

"I have bought all the books and I've read them all and I've extracted out of them all of the good chunks," he said.

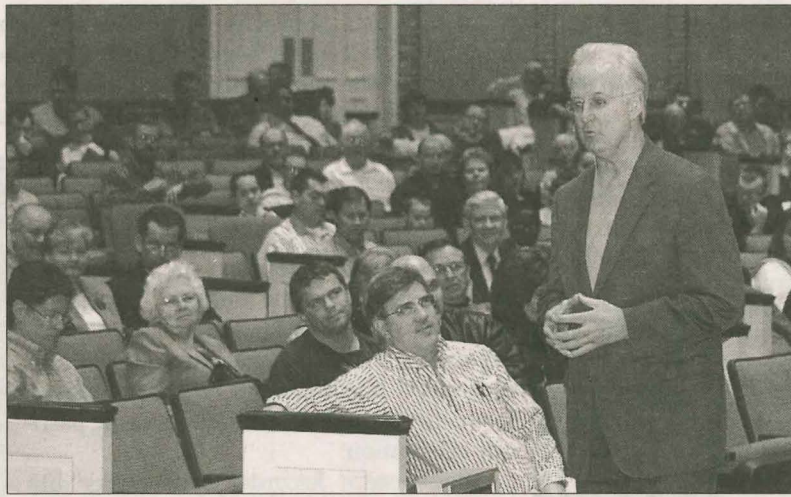
The success of a church or any other entity depends on its leaders, he added. "Everything rises and falls on leadership. It always has and it always will."

Authors and speakers on leadership are not unanimous, but they all agree on the importance of vision, he said. "Leadership is all about 'the vision thing,' the ability to see beyond the horizon."

Having a vision will keep leaders focused, give them fuel and help them finish, Williams said.

"The visionary leader begins by seeing the finished product," he said, then builds the infrastructure to accomplish that goal.

Leaders must be enthusiastic about their vision, he added. "Lead-



LEADERSHIP LESSONS Pat Williams told pastors the success of any entity "rises and falls on leadership. It always has and it always will." (Photo by David Winfrey)

ers, if you're not excited, ... guess what? Nobody else will be either."

Other "sides" of leadership, he said, are:

■ **Communication.** Without the ability to communicate the vision, "nothing is going to happen," Williams said.

For good or bad, the world's most memorable leaders were the best communicators, Williams said. "Nazi Germany would never have happened without the verbal skills of Adolph Hitler."

On a more positive note, Jesus gave an "inaugural address," known as the Sermon on the Mount, in which He explained His vision for the Kingdom of God.

■ **People skills.** "Great leaders have a heart for people," Williams said. "They take time for people.

They view people as the bottom line, not as a tool to get to the bottom line."

Jesus is a beautiful model for this characteristic, Williams said, as He always had time for people. "He just drew people to Him."

"Colin Powell said, 'When people stop bringing you their problems, you are through as a leader,'" he noted. "As leaders in the church, how are we doing in the 'loving people department?'"

■ **Character.** "With leadership comes some wonderful perks. ... But that good stuff ruins more leaders than anything I've seen in my life," Williams said. "Without character, folks, we can't lead."

He defined the key qualities of character as honesty, integrity and humility. "Humility is like under-

wear, folks. We all need it, but don't let it show."

■ **Competence.** Leaders must be good at what they do in order to be placed in positions of leadership, he said.

Two competencies of leaders are sales and teaching, he said.

Even Christian leaders are salespeople, he insisted. "You are selling the Christian life and you are selling people on why they need the Christian life."

"For the rest of your lives you are teachers," he added. "You are teaching about this man Jesus Christ to a world that does not get it."

But lifelong teachers must be lifelong learners, Williams said, encouraging the audience to read one hour each day for the rest of their lives.

■ **Boldness.** "Leaders, we're in charge," Williams reminded the audience. "People are looking for us to make decisions."

■ **A servant's heart.** There are many "six-sided leaders" missing this characteristic, Williams noted.

"These are men and women who understand they are not in leadership to browbeat people," he said. "That is not called leadership. That is called assault and battery."

"The leadership style for the 21st century is a style that was pioneered by Jesus, Who said, 'The son of man is here to serve people.'"

Williams encouraged church leaders to invest in others, teaching them the importance of servant leadership.

"Who's going to lead tomorrow? Will it be you?"

Women's speaker cautions against overcrowded calendars

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—Busyness that leads to burnout doesn't please God, Lucinda Rountree reminded women attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference last week.

Rountree, a writer and conference speaker, mixed humor and tears to encourage the women to identify their spiritual gifts and focus them into a specific ministry built for the long haul.

Rountree was the keynote speaker at the March 28 women's luncheon that followed small-group topical breakout sessions. The women's emphasis was coordinated by the KBC's leadership development team.

Rountree said she began her Christian walk as an adult, eventually creating for herself a frenzied routine of service that she thought would protect her from hardship and bring her closer to God.

"I was a little fire ant for Jesus," she said. "In my Baptist mind, busyness equaled spiritual maturity. I was completely wrong."

Satan and the baseball bat

Without going into details, she said that one day, 15 years after becoming a Christian, "Satan was there with a baseball bat. He hit me in every area of my life—finances, marriage, church. He hit me hard."

Jesus' little fire ant was amazed to discover, "My faith was weak."

At the time of her greatest crisis,



FAMILY FIRST Speaker Lucinda Rountree called her family her most important ministry. "I was so busy worried about your salvation, my own family was suffering." (Photo by Dannah Prather)

Rountree said she was so busy, her family teased her with the nickname "Betty Baptist." She said she had few friends. "I had turned down too many lunches and too many girls' nights out. 'Don't have time,' I'd say, 'working for Jesus.'"

"What I was creating inside was a little self-righteous monster," she said, then added playfully to the audience, "I'm up here confessing my sins, I really hope you get something out of it."

Memories of a sixth-grade cave tour gave Rountree an illustration for this difficult time in her life. During the tour, she and classmates entered a passage that narrowed into a "fat man's squeeze." She became panicked with claustrophobia. At the point when she felt fear would immobilize her, the "squeeze" emptied in a large open chamber with a lake and a display of artifacts.

A Christian's time of trial is a "fat

man's squeeze" with blessings waiting on the other side, she said.

The squeeze Rountree felt as an adult ministry leader forced her to make significant changes. She said she began to spend more time with God in Bible study and prayer. She also rededicated herself as a wife and mother. She set about reassessing her spiritual gifts and determining the "assignment" God had given her. Lastly, she adjusted her calendar to fit the assignment.

"My most important ministry is my sweet family, and I never knew that before," Rountree said. "I regret that I didn't pour into my kids and that man of mine. I was so busy worried about your salvation, my own family was suffering."

She implored the Kentucky Baptist women to "be a mama to your babies. Be the best wife you can be."

Referencing Romans 12, Rountree said identifying spiritual gifts often is easier than determining specific assignments. To illustrate the point, she compared it to an interior designer who takes on related jobs, like those of a seamstress, and loses sight of her true job as a designer.

"Be careful, because if you're not focused, the evil one will use good things to sidetrack you."

Identifying gifts & passion

To help determine a person's gifts and assignments, Rountree encouraged women to answer a series of questions: "What are you passionate about? You can outtalk

any woman in the room about this particular subject, cause and ministry. If you could dream a dream with no consequences that it would fail, what would you dream?"

She said a person's passion is "the thing that makes you worship when you worship, and makes you cry when you cry."

For those interior designers of ministry who have become seamstresses, paring down the calendar can be challenging, Rountree said. She admitted that at one time, her full calendar became an object of pride. "I used to look at that calendar and say, 'I am a very important person.'"

Positive changes take time, focus and reliance upon God, she said. There were days when Rountree asked herself, "Am I going to survive my calling? How am I ever going to find the strength to keep going?"

The "fat man's squeeze" calls for endurance. You take it one day at a time, one bite at a time, one chunk at a time, and you pray, "God, get me through this day."

Though humility and recognizing personal weakness are important to the process of major change, Rountree urged women never to forget the power available to them as children of God, and how they can be used to bring others to Him.

"You are gifted," she said. "If you have Jesus Christ for your Savior, you are a stick of dynamite. You've got so much love available, ... you could make an eternal difference in someone's life."



MUSICAL GUEST Alma Randolph of Owensboro sings during the women's emphasis, which was coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development team.

Ed Stetzer: Interpret culture to better reach people

By David Winfrey
News Director

Lexington—Too many churches are facing the 21st century with 50-year-old methods that won't work in today's culture, according to missiologist and church planter Ed Stetzer.

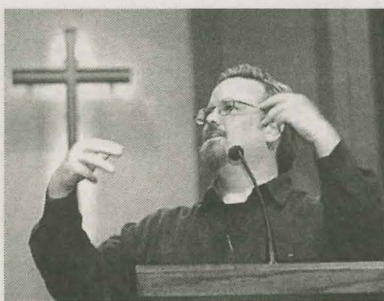
The Southern Baptist Convention's most successful year was the "Million More in '54" Sunday school campaign, said Stetzer, director of the research department for the SBC North American Mission Board.

"The problem is this: Those who were most successful in the last paradigm have the most difficulty in the next," said Stetzer, who also has planted churches in New York, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

"Too many churches are boldly pressing forward in the third millennium with the methods and ministries that worked in 1954," he said. "It worked that way before. But we're not sent to the culture of 1954."

Learning and understanding culture is no different from how international missionaries must understand a people's language, customs, foods and practices, he said.

"We must never forbid North American churches to do the very thing we require international mis-



UNDERSTANDING CULTURE Ed Stetzer encouraged pastors not to preach against culture. "Preaching against culture is like preaching against someone's house. It's just where they live."

sionaries to do."

But many church leaders are opposing American culture instead of the sin that takes place in that culture, Stetzer said.

"Preaching against culture is like preaching against someone's house," he said. "It's just where they live. There's bad parts of it, there's good parts of it."

Stetzer offered four aspects of Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples that he said can guide Christians as they seek to minister in today's culture

■ **Christians are sent.** Stetzer said Christians must go outside their churches to reach non-Christians

"It's time for us to stop thinking attractively—'Come see our show'—and start to think incarnationally—'Let's go among them and tell them of this Savior who transformed our lives,'" he said.

■ **Christians are sent to all peoples.** Jesus' commandment to take the message of His love to all people groups requires that Christians go to different cultures, Stetzer said.

"That means biblically faithful churches in different cultures will look different from Singapore to Seattle to Sellersburg, Ala."

■ **Christians are sent to all people with a message.** That message is the death of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, he added.

"I don't care if you wear a suit or a golf shirt. I don't care if you have a worship band or you have handbells. ... What is important is Christ, Christ crucified, biblically faithful churches reaching people in culture."

■ **Christians are sent to all people with a message empowered by the Holy Spirit.** Stetzer said Christians need the power of the Holy Spirit to break them out of their desire to build an isolated culture where they don't have to interact with non-Christians.

"We live our lives in an evangelical bubble while the world goes to

hell around us."

In a conference workshop, Stetzer shared a process for decoding a community's culture.

The process begins with understanding oneself, Stetzer said. That includes confirming God's call, falling in love with the people, dying to self and examining one's readiness to lead.

Leaders then should seek to understand the community, including studying census and demographic information, reviewing the community's history, talking to local experts and making friends with area residents who can serve as interpreters of the community.

In addition to understanding the community, Stetzer recommended understanding other churches in the area, including non-Christian religious groups. Study what successful churches are doing, he suggested. "Who's growing and why?"

Lastly, Stetzer offered ideas for understanding the people. Study how typical residents dress, how they learn, what music they like.

Breaking a community's code will look different in different places, he stressed.

"I'm convinced too many pastors pastor in their head instead of in their community."

"We're not sent to the culture of 1954."

Missiologist Ed Stetzer

Patriotic celebration caps KBC's evangelism conference

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Lexington—Celebrating America's religious freedom, the closing session of last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference was flavored with patriotism and a call for spiritual revival.

"God Bless America," "The Star-Spangled Banner," an ROTC color guard from Eastern Kentucky University and red, white and blue confetti were among elements of the Feb. 28 gathering at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

"We're grateful for those who have participated in defending the freedom of this country," noted Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey. "We're here tonight because they have been willing to sacrifice."

Chaplain Lt. Col. John Mark Toby of the Kentucky National Guard, shared about his recent experiences as the ranking military chaplain in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, also is KBC first vice president.

Describing the city as "a monumental mess," Toby said, "More than a power wash, that place needs the Lord. ... What a privilege it was to be about a revival experience in New Orleans of bringing that city back to life."

Toby said he distributed more than 800 Gideon Bibles and more than 800 copies of "The Purpose Driven Life" during his time in New Orleans. He also had the opportunity to lead worship in New Orleans' historic St. Louis Cathedral.

Emphasizing that God "brings life to what appears to be dead," Toby added, "May we cry out to the Lord in our time of disaster and desperation."



John Mark Toby



Jay Padgett

Chaplain Capt. Jay Padgett, also a member of the Kentucky National Guard, recounted his ministry efforts in Kuwait and Iraq.

Padgett, associate pastor of Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy, said he witnessed 32 professions of faith in Christ among soldiers during the deployment and had the opportunity to baptize 24 of them.

"My question to my soldiers over and over again was, 'Are you spiritually prepared to go into a combat zone?'"

During his tour of duty, Padgett said he also preached in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces and helped collect and deliver more than 500 boxes of clothes, school supplies and other items for needy children in Baghdad and Mosul.

Citing the Army's reputation for using acronyms, Padgett noted, "One way I could connect with my soldiers was with an acronym, FAITH ... Forsaking all, I trust Him."

Urging Kentucky Baptists to continue their efforts to connect people with Christ, Padgett concluded, "I encourage you to keep the faith—and give it away."

Introducing evangelist Tim Lee of Garland, Texas, as the session's keynote speaker, conference coordinator Dan Garland told the crowd, "I wanted to have a patriotic service because Bro. Tim is a former Marine. He had his legs blown off in Vietnam."



COLOR GUARD An ROTC color guard from Eastern Kentucky University takes part in the patriotic service that concluded last week's KBC Evangelism Conference.

Garland described Lee as "a man of God, a patriot and a man who loves Jesus Christ."

Longing for revival

Citing the nation's ongoing war against terrorism, Lee said, "We're at war tonight and we cannot forget that. These men and women who are serving are thinking about death and life and eternity."

Preaching from the book of Nehemiah, Lee declared, "We know the greatest need in this building and in America tonight is revival. ... I believe the book of Nehemiah deals with revival most effectively."

Warning that "America is in serious trouble," he added, "You can never have revival until you see the need for revival."

Affirming Nehemiah's commitment to leave the comfort of the king's palace to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, Lee said, "It's a whole lot better being in Jerusalem where the mess is and being in God's will

than being in the king's palace and being out of God's will.

"If we don't have real revival, if Jesus doesn't come soon, America is going to see more of a mess than she's ever seen before, and we're headed that way," Lee warned.

"If you're going to do a work for God, you better be praying," he added. "Our problem is not hearing messages; it's doing something with it after we hear messages."

Listing such moral battles as abortion, homosexuality and pornography, Lee said, "America tonight is being destroyed from within."

"We're not in a playground; we're in spiritual warfare," he emphasized. "It's about time some of you got shook up."

Despite the challenges, he added, "Our God is in the business of providing for us. Where the Lord guides, He provides. ... There's somebody here who needs to come out of the king's palace."



"Our problem is not hearing messages; it's doing something with it after we hear messages."

Evangelist Tim Lee

East St. Louis missionary seeks to save kids from streets.

"You can't save that which you're unwilling to touch."

Missionary Chet Cantrell

Continued from page 1

As a college student, Cantrell discovered he had a yearning for mission work in inner-city neighborhoods like those in East St. Louis, despite all the difficulties that come with such work, including crime, drugs, poverty and illiteracy.

"East St. Louis has a nasty reputation and is plagued with problems," Cantrell says. "It's the first or second poorest urban area in the nation. About 60 percent of the children live in extreme poverty. A majority of the kids will drop out of school before the 10th grade. Until 1995, East St. Louis was the murder capital of the nation."

Kids in East St. Louis learn about the hard knocks of life and how to make a buck on street corners.

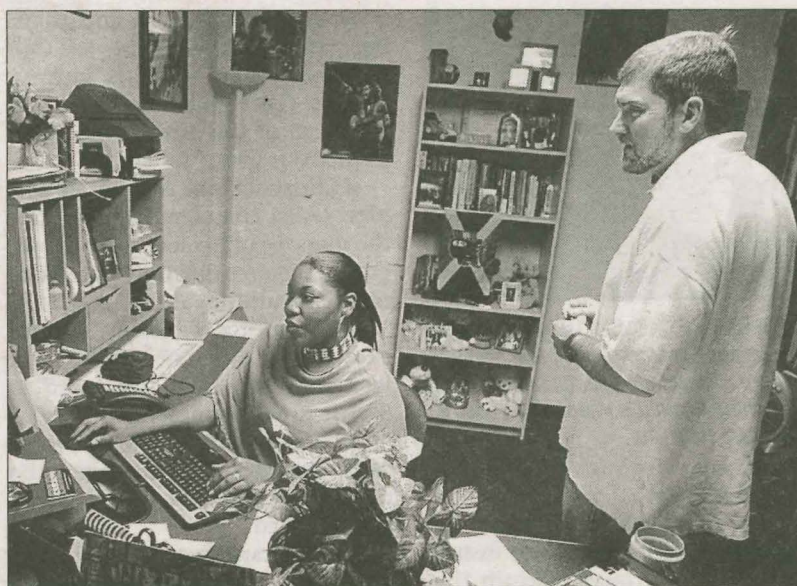
Gangs flourish in East St. Louis because they fill the gaps where families should be. Gangs tell a kid how to walk, how to talk, how to dress and even provide a sense of safety and security. Cantrell estimates that when he first arrived in 1989, 95 percent of teens belonged to a gang. The teen pregnancy rate is five times the national average.

So in the face of one of the bleakest mission fields in the country, what drives Chet and Michelle Cantrell to work at the Christian Activity Center?

"I believe God cares about cities like East St. Louis and the people who live here, and that neighborhoods can be transformed. That's why I'm here," he says.

The center tries to serve youth and families, but the focus is kids.

"We're a place for kids to come off the streets," Cantrell says. "In our town, we have no bowling alleys, ... there are no movie theaters. So we try to make the CAC a safe place for the kids. And we have rules, to let kids know what their boundaries are."



RETURNING TO HELP Tammy Vaughn, one of "Chet's Kids", is now Cantrell's administrative assistant at the Christian Activity Center, after graduating from St. Louis University (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

The busiest part of the day for Cantrell and the center is from 3:30-8 p.m., when as many as 240 youth and children attend programs between the time school is out and when they go home for the night.

Recreation—in the form of basketball, trampolines or a simple game of checkers—is the center's primary attraction for young people.

"Our varsity basketball teams are usually known throughout the city," Cantrell says. "We have won a bunch of city championships. But you can't play for our teams if you have any failing grades in school, or if you have any unexcused tardies or absences. That's a big incentive for kids to do their schoolwork."

More important than the recreational and educational aspects of the center's work are the center's activities focusing on the spiritual.

"You can't save that which you're unwilling to touch," Cantrell

says. "So the purpose of all these programs is to touch kids' lives in every way we can."

"We have formal Bible study for each age group. Sometimes we have 50 teenagers for devotions each night. We have Friday night worship for kids."

Most of the children don't attend church, Cantrell notes. "We're often the closest thing to church that they have," he says. "So introducing our kids to God is primary."

Cantrell and the center have seen some encouraging success stories, including young people who've gone on to be lawyers, MBAs, computer analysts, bankers, teachers, military leaders, preachers, politicians and chaplains.

"After a while, the goodness of this place outweighs the bad. And for every horrible thing that happens, there's a lot of good stuff that happens, too," he says.

"Even out of the blood and dust of the terrible, God does some miraculous and redemptive things."

Annie of the offering

Alpharetta, Ga.—Each year, Southern Baptists honor the life and work of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) by collecting the annual offering for home missions named after her.



Annie Armstrong

As a servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world, Armstrong rallied churches to give more, pray more and do more for reaching people for Christ.

Armstrong led women to unite in mission endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

She spent a great amount of time typing and handwriting letters in support of missions. Many of these letters were quite lengthy, and all were filled with conviction that more could and should be done in Southern Baptists' mission efforts. In 1893 alone, she wrote almost 18,000 letters.

Armstrong also never hesitated to use her hands to reach out to hug a child or distribute food and clothing and the Word of God to those in need. Her hands held her own Bible as she studied to know how best to share God's love with others. She also was a woman of prayer, interceding for the missionaries and for those they were helping discover Christ.

'06 Week of Prayer missionaries

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—In addition to Chet and Michelle Cantrell, other missionaries spotlighted during this year's Week of Prayer for North American Missions include:

Kevin and Alicia Madden, church planting missionaries in British Columbia.

Mary Gore, a resort missionary in Louisiana's popular Toledo Bend Lake area.

Randy and Denise Chestnut of Cleveland, Ohio, where Randy serves as the associational missionary for the Greater Cleveland Baptist Association.

Andrew and Edith Chan, church planters focusing on predominantly Chinese areas of California.

Larry and Joanne Woods, Mission Service Corps missionaries seeking to reach college students in East Lansing, Mich.

Dave and Debbie Howeth, associational missionaries and church planters in Helena, Mont.

Reggie and Anna Robbins, who direct ministries for drug and alcohol addicts in Decatur, Ga.

The North American Missions Emphasis includes three aspects: the Week of Prayer, the North American Mission Study and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

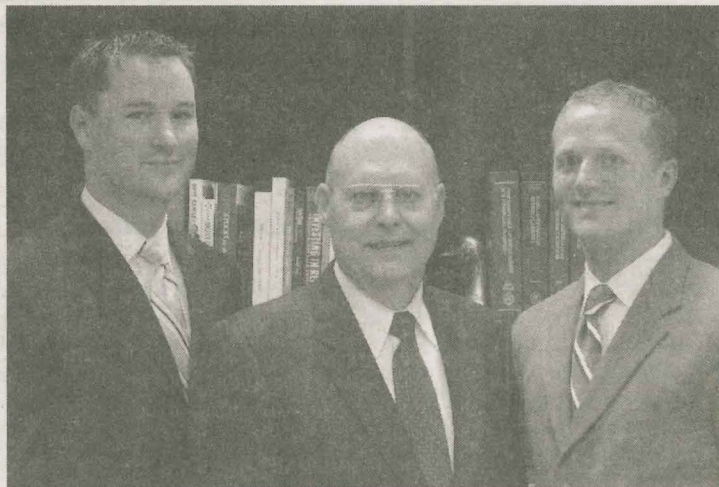
The national goal for this year's offering is \$56 million, 100 percent of which is used for missionary support.

More information about the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is available at www.AnnieArmstrong.com.



Andrew & Edith Chan

Prepared to retire?

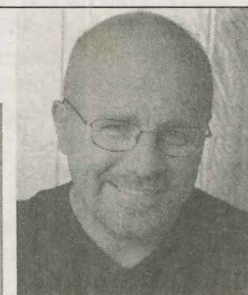


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DAVE RAMSEY



NATIONAL NOTES

Falwell objects to "dual covenant."

Denying a Jerusalem Post story that said he had embraced a "dual covenant" theology, Southern Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell said last week he believes all people, including Jews, "must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to enter heaven." Dual covenant theology holds that Jews are saved through a special, unique relationship with God and need not trust in Christ for salvation. "I do not follow this teaching of 'dual covenant' theology and I believe it runs counter to the gospel," Falwell said in a statement.

Methodists reject city for team.

The United Methodist Church will not hold its 2012 leadership conference in Richmond, Va., because the name of the city's minor league baseball team is racially charged, the church's leadership has announced. Members of the conference's planning commission said they were unaware that Virginia's capital was home to the Richmond Braves when they originally chose the city. "When the minor league Braves issue was brought to our attention after the original announcement, we felt we were obligated to revisit the issue," said Gail Murphy-Geiss, who chairs the commission responsible for planning the conference.

Abstinence program money stops.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has agreed to stop funding an abstinence program that included religious elements. The agreement ends an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit involving the Silver Ring

Thing in Moon Township, Pa. "We are pleased that the government has agreed to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund the Silver Ring Thing's religious activities," said ACLU attorney Julie Sternberg. "The ACLU supports the right of Silver Ring Thing to offer religious programming, but it may not do so using government funds."

"Housewives" boycott planned.

After victories over NBC's "The Book of Daniel" and an offensive segment of "Will & Grace," the American Family Association is targeting what it calls broadcast TV's "worst of the worst"—ABC's "Desperate Housewives." Through its affiliated Web sites, AFA will monitor weekly episodes of the popular show from April to June, making a list of advertisers in order to launch a year-long boycott against those who support "one of the trashiest shows on television."

Robertson loses NRB board seat.

Pat Robertson has lost his place on the board of directors of the National Religious Broadcasters, following a recent vote at the NRB's annual meeting. NRB officials declined to say whether voters might have been influenced by Robertson's recent controversial remarks, including that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's stroke could be God's judgment. "In this year's highly competitive race for the 33 board positions, five candidates, including Pat Robertson, did not receive enough votes to be named a member of the board," the organization said in a statement.

Experts: Lockup, lighting, landscaping, lookout, law enforcement can deter arson

Continued from page 1

GuideOne lists five "Ls" to prevent arson—lockup, lighting, landscaping, lookout and law enforcement. The agency's complete list of arson-preventing tips focuses on three key areas:

Building exterior

- Illuminate exterior buildings, doors and parking lots from sunset to sunrise.
- Consider installing motion-activated lighting near doors and windows.
- Keep doors and windows locked when the building is unoccupied.
- Trim shrubs and trees around windows and doors to eliminate potential hiding places for arsonists and criminals.
- Monitor and limit the disbursement of building keys.
- Make sure doors are of solid core (not hollow) construction and are outfitted with quality deadbolt locks. If doors are hinged on the outside, have tamper-proof hinges.
- Use wire-mesh glass in windows.
- Don't store ladders and tools outside the building.
- Keep the property free from trash and other combustible debris.

- Consider installing video security cameras at entrances and other key areas.

- Park church vehicles in differing locations on the property throughout the week to vary routine.

Building interior

- Leave interior entry lights on overnight.
 - Make sure flammable liquids are stored in a locked closet or cabinet away from any heat sources.
 - Consider a central station monitored security/fire detection system and sprinkler fire suppression system.
 - Consider using timers for lights and/or radios during evening hours.
 - Look for items that appear out of place or out of the ordinary.
- General precautions**
- Ask neighbors to call police if they see anything suspicious.
 - Develop relationships with local law enforcement and invite them to patrol the property.
 - Establish a church watch program in which members volunteer to drive through the property at various times throughout the week.
- Additional information on church safety is available online at www.guideonecenter.com.

Expanding
Gambling Will
Be Bad News
for Kentucky!

DAMAGED
HIVES
Gambling Is No Game

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.

Call your governor and legislators now to let them know
YOUR opinion on this issue!

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Finding violations, IRS updates church guidelines on politicking

Washington (RNS)—The Internal Revenue Service has updated guidelines on political campaign intervention by nonprofits after finding most of the charities it investigated—including churches—engaged in prohibited activities during the 2004 election campaign.

"While the vast majority of charities, including churches, did not engage in politicking, our examinations substantiated a disturbing amount of political intervention in the 2004 electoral cycle," IRS Commissioner Mark Everson said.

The guidelines include specific examples of proper and improper political activities by churches and other nonprofits. They come at a time when surveys identify religion as an important issue among voters and both Republicans and Democrats see churches as potential allies.

The nine-page guidance, defined as "a living document," aims to reduce uncertainty about how much of a role churches, hospitals, universities and other entities can play in a political season. It states that the rules are "not intended to restrict free expression on political matters" by individual organization leaders when they are speaking for themselves. But those leaders should take care to indicate when their comments are personal and not representative of their group.

The IRS said one example of legitimate activity is a minister attending a press conference of a candidate at a campaign headquarters, advocating that candidate's reelection, but noting that he is not speaking on behalf of his church.

But a candidate's preaching appearance at a church is a different matter, if no other contender for that office is invited and the invited candidate asks for the congregation's votes.

The IRS also cautions churches about using a Web site to support a candidate. If a congregation member runs for town council, for example, and the church uses its Web site to urge the congregation to support that candidate shortly before the election, the church "has intervened in a political campaign."

The investigation was based on specific referrals and addressed a minute segment of the nation's 1 million tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations.

Of 47 churches that were given a thorough examination by the IRS, 37 were found to have had inappropriate political activity, three were cleared and seven still are being examined. An additional 16 churches initially assigned for examination also were cleared.

Of the 82 nonprofits, including churches, whose investigations have been completed, 56 were found to have had inappropriate political activity, 18 were cleared of that allegation and five were found to have committed nonpolitical violations (such as delinquent returns).

Most of the nonprofits, including churches, that were found to have been involved in prohibited activities were issued a written advisory. Such advisories are issued for what the IRS considers to be a "one-time, isolated violation."

Panelists: Pastoral misconduct about power

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Waco, Texas (ABP)—Sexual misconduct occurs among ministers at a rate higher than among other trusted professions such as doctors and lawyers, Joe Trull told ministers at an ethics conference at Baylor University's Truett Seminary.

"Clergy sexual exploitation is not primarily about sex. It is an abuse of power expressed in a highly destructive sexual manner," said Trull, a retired ethics professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Trull participated in a panel discussion on clergy sexual abuse during the conference, sponsored by the Christian Ethics Today Foundation.

Several studies during the last 25 years across denominational lines have demonstrated consistent results—about 10 percent to 12 percent of ministers acknowledged they engaged in sexual intercourse with church members, and roughly one-fourth to one-third admitted to sexually inappropriate behavior, he noted. In more than 90 percent of the cases of sexual abuse in Protestant churches, the misconduct

occurs between a male minister and female church member.

Avoiding same-sex counseling

To offset that record, churches benefit from having gender balance in their ministerial staff when it comes to pastoral counseling, said Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Waco.

Some topics are best dealt with by a counselor of the same sex, she noted.

"My policy is that I don't counsel people more than three times. After that, then I refer them," she said, pointing out the danger of boundary violations in extended counseling relationships.

When a minister abuses an individual, the church also feels victimized, and it might react in inappropriate ways, said Philip Wise, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Lubbock.

"Churches often do what families do—keep it quiet and try to heal the hurt," he said. "But often, people who cross a barrier once will cross it again unless there are appropriate consequences that occur and appropriate protections put into place."

Wise said he will counsel "anybody, anytime" about spiritual matters, but, like Pennington-Russell, he refers all other counseling needs to qualified professionals.

Quoting Marie Fortune, an authority on clergy sexual abuse, Trull said abusive ministers usually fall into two categories:

Predators. Typically, they are manipulative and controlling. They are sociopaths who will continue to abuse their position if given the opportunity, leaving behind a trail of victims, Trull asserted.

Wanderers. Generally, they are less successful professionally and personally than predators. Because they feel inadequate, they may give in to temptation and violate a boundary with another needy person, Trull said.

Ministers can avoid many problems by making it a policy never to be alone with a person of the opposite sex other than a spouse, said James Carter, retired director of church-minister relations for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. In private counseling sessions, he suggested always making sure someone is in a nearby room.

Abortion foes say ruling removes 'cloud' from protests

Washington (RNS)—Religious opponents of abortion say a U.S. Supreme Court decision last week removes uncertainty about the legality of protesting in front of clinics but others say it could put women in harm's way.

The unanimous ruling ends a long battle in which the National Organization for Women tried to stop anti-abortion protests by citing racketeering and extortion laws designed to fight organized crime.

"Decisions of this court have assumed that Congress did not intend the Hobbs Act to have so broad a reach," wrote Justice Stephen Breyer, referring to an extortion law.

The American Center for Law and Justice, which represented Operation Rescue, a defendant in the case, hailed the decision.

"This is a major victory for the pro-life community and removes a cloud that has been hanging over pro-life demonstrations for years," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of legal group.

But Carlton Veazey, president of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, expressed disappointment.

"This case is not only about the safety of women's clinics," he said. "It is also about the safety of churches that have pro-choice posi-

tions and pro-choice clergy and the safety of homes of clergy who are pro-choice. ... The court's decision in this case leaves these individuals without protection."

The case marks the second action within a week by the nation's high court that abortion opponents view as favoring their side of the debate. Justices decided Feb. 21 to consider the constitutionality of a federal law banning a controversial type of late-term abortion.

Anti-abortion activists have hailed the presence of two new conservative justices, though one of them—Justice Samuel Alito—didn't participate in this 8-0 decision.

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A 1-in-146 million chance

Why bother with lottery's get-rich-quick scheme?

For some reason, the most recent multi-state lottery Powerball jackpot got my attention like none others in the past. Prior to the ticket sale deadline, the media kept announcing, on the one hand, the \$365 million prize, and, on the other hand, the 1-in-146 million odds of winning. I kept asking myself why anybody would take such a chance.

Then I got curious, and with the assistance of Howard Beauman, executive director of the Kentucky Ethics League, I contacted the Multi-State Lottery Association and asked these two questions: (1) How many total dollars were spent on Powerball tickets for this jackpot? (2) How many Powerball tickets were sold? I received a prompt response, which stated 665,674,691. Since it appeared they only answered one of my two questions, I contacted them again, and their response was "dollars and sales are the same because tickets cost \$1 each." Well, now you know I had never bought a lottery ticket; I didn't even know the ticket price.

So, more than 665 million people and groups spent more than

\$665 million on lottery tickets with each one having only a one-in-146 million chance to win a \$365 million prize, the present-cash value of which was approximately \$177 million, or less than 50 percent of the announced jackpot amount. There was one winning ticket and 665,674,690 losing tickets. Again, I asked myself why anybody would take such a chance, even with \$1.

Then I thanked the Lord for parents who taught me early in life not to get seduced into trying to get something for nothing and get-rich-quick schemes, which is exactly what buying a lottery ticket reflects, not to mention all of the biblical teachings about our

stewardship responsibility to God for everything He has entrusted to us, including that \$1 spent on a lottery ticket. Imagine how many lives could have been touched if that \$665 million had been given through the offering plates of churches, church-related and human need organizations. Read Paul's advice in 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

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

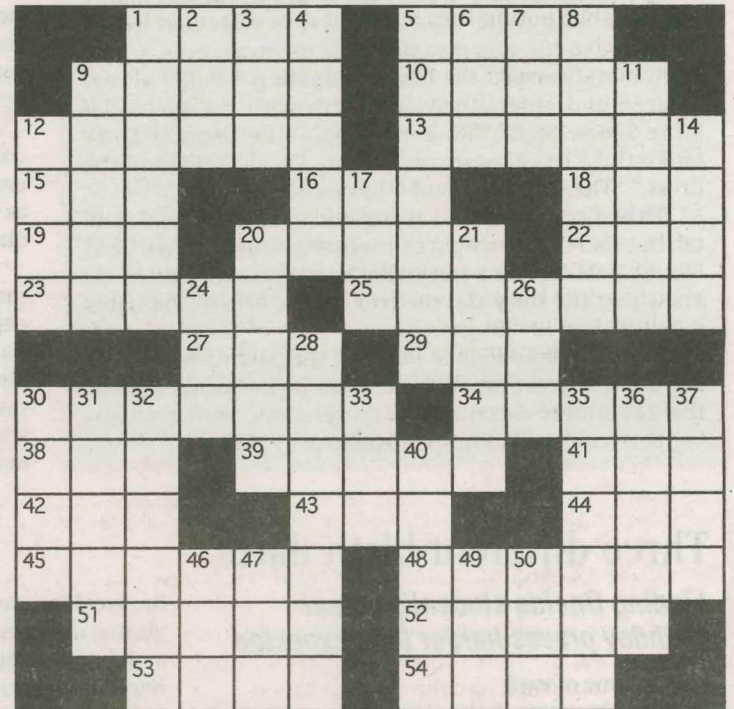


Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "The ___ trees of the wheels were joined to the base" (1 Kings 7:32)
- 5 Ingredient in some cereals
- 9 Father of Kish (1 Samuel 9:1)
- 10 "___ up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- 12 Achieve success (colloq.)
- 13 "Mount Zion, which is ___" (Deuteronomy 4:48)
- 15 Fuss
- 16 Let go, not so nicely
- 18 Greek letter
- 19 Utility org. for noncity dwellers
- 20 Main rooms of ancient Roman house
- 22 Poetic contraction
- 23 Support one's alma mater
- 25 Job requirements
- 27 Stack or rack
- 29 "Ye shall go out with joy and be ___ forth with peace" (Isaiah 55:12)
- 30 Side and back, to name two
- 34 Narrow, deep pass
- 38 The style of (suffix)
- 39 Accustomed oneself, with "into"
- 41 Son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 42 Push, and even shove
- 43 Inhabitant, e.g. (abbr.)
- 44 "Ye shall be hated of all ___" (Matthew 10:22)
- 45 Hope for all generations: Jesus has ___ from the dead!
- 48 Saturated with liquid, with "up"



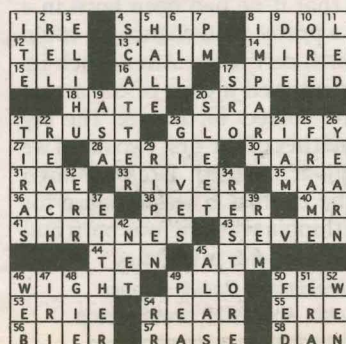
- 51 "Laying up in ___ for themselves a good foundation" (1 Timothy 6:19)
- 52 "For we which have believed do ___ into rest" (Hebrews 4:3)
- 53 Taken to court
- 54 "Call ye upon him while he is ___" (Isaiah 55:6)



- 17 Son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 20 "Now it is high time to ___ now is our salvation nearer" (Romans 13:11)
- 21 "___ you ways and your doings" (Jeremiah 7:3)
- 24 Exclamation of surprise
- 26 Fuss
- 28 Ached
- 30 Watery animal fluid (pl.)
- 31 Alexander and others
- 32 Forgives; pardons
- 33 Compass dir.
- 35 "The third part of an hin of oil to ___ with the fine flour" (Ezekiel 46:14)
- 36 "Be of good ___; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)
- 37 "Naphtali is a ___ let loose" (Genesis 49:21)
- 40 Industrial center in Germany
- 46 French coin
- 47 Before
- 49 "As the body is ___, and hath many members" (1 Corinthians 12:12)
- 50 School org.

Down

- 1 Europe, in particular, to Americans
- 2 Hours in the day, to a centurion
- 3 O.T. book
- 4 "For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine ___" (Isaiah 45:4)
- 5 Brother of Caleb (Joshua 15:17)
- 6 Linking verb
- 7 Black liquid
- 8 Tribe of Israel
- 9 Actress Eve
- 11 "But I will shew thee that which is ___ in the scripture" (Daniel 10:21)
- 12 River in Switzerland
- 14 Fashion designer Byron

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'Ten Commandments' to have three-disc collector's DVD debut

By Phil Boatwright
Baptist Press

Kansas City, Kan. (BP)—Cecil B. DeMille's Oscar-winning classic "The Ten Commandments" will debut as a three-disc collector's edition DVD on March 21 from Paramount.

Nominated for six Academy Awards and winning for best special effects, DeMille's 1956 remake stars Charlton Heston as Moses leading God's chosen people from an enslaved existence in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

Yul Brynner costars as the Pharaoh who needed a great deal of convincing before allowing the Israelites to flee. And even after several destructive plagues, his heart hardened once more, which led to the destruction of his army, vividly portrayed in the movie by ground-breaking—make that sea-parting—special effects.

Filmed in Egypt and the Sinai with one of the biggest sets ever constructed for a motion picture and truly a cast of thousands, the newly restored biblical epic has a rare on-screen introduction by Cecil B. DeMille himself.

The three-disc set contains the original 1923 silent version, also directed by DeMille. And there are enough extras to keep viewers entertained for several evenings.

DeMille was a taskmaster and a hard man, but he had a strong faith and he spent much of his artistic life bringing biblical truths to the general movie-going public. Born in 1881, he was the son of an artistic man torn between being a minister and a playwright. The great filmmaker inherited both these traits. Not always respected by his peers due to his gargantuan scenic extravaganzas, which often overshadowed the films' dramatics, DeMille always amazed and entertained audiences with his spectacles ("The Squaw Man," "King of Kings," "The Greatest Show on Earth," "The Plainsman," "Union Pacific," "Sign of the Cross," "The Crusades" and "Unconquered").

His work can be looked at as pious and overtly sentimental, but there's no escaping the entertainment value. Cecil Blount DeMille was a storyteller unsurpassed by most. He knew that the story was the true special effect. And never more so than in this grand envisioning of Moses. Heightened by the depictions of plagues, the parting of the Red Sea and the creation of the Ten Commandments tablets, the 220-minute extravaganza moves along with a satisfying pace and a standout performance by Heston.

LifeWay introduces podcasts to its list of technology resources

Nashville (BP)—LifeWay Christian Resources has introduced Christianpodder.com to allow users to listen to Christian content on their personal digital audio players anywhere.

Christianpodder.com provides a free repository of "podcasts," or digital audio files, that users can download to their MP3 players or other devices for playback at any time and any place.

"Podcasting is the next wave of ministry opportunity," said Gary McClure, manager of marketing in LifeWay's e-business department. He noted that as of last fall about one-quarter of American consumers owned digital audio players.

Christianpodder already includes podcasts on a wide range of topics including Bible study, instrumental worship music, family and relationships, and theology.

An article in the December 2005 issue of Christian Computing Magazine reported that research shows 67 percent of Americans are turning to the Internet for spiritual resources.

In addition to the downloadable content, Christianpodder offers users an opportunity to rate podcasts, as well as share their thoughts and questions in an online forum.

"Christianpodder.com is a free interactive site that allows people to engage with timely, relevant Christian messages in a manner convenient to their lifestyle," McClure said. "Offering the ability to interact with other listeners to discuss the material is definitely a bonus."

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Three different birth dates

Finding Oneida student's actual birthday proves harder than expected

(Part one of two)

Over the years I have written many stories about our students. While many of those articles included some sad details, I don't believe any story I have ever written has been as sad and complicated as this one. In January 2003 we received an application for a young man by the name of "Napolion." Yes, Napolion, and that is his real name! Napolion is from Ethiopia and has a most unusual story to go with his distinctly different name.

When I asked Napolion how he got his name, he told me that when he was little—very little—he always was sick and small for his age. Like all children, he had a birth name, but his parents decided that because of his illness it might be good to give him another name, so they did. When his illness continued, they decided that maybe he needed a biblical name and possibly that would help. So he was given a biblical name but to no avail. Finally, when he was nearly 4 years old his father decided he needed still another name, and this time he would be called "Napolion."

This is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg when it comes to Napolion's most unusual story. His father actually came to the U.S. more than 30 years before Napolion did. During all that time, Napolion's mother lived in Ethiopia and remained there after Napolion's birth. His father had a job in the States driving a school bus and made visits to Ethiopia from time to time. When Napolion's father filled out the application for him to enroll at Oneida Baptist Institute, we were given a birth date of March 28, 1987. Later, nearly

by accident, we discovered that we had been given a different birth date.

It became important for many reasons to learn Napolion's actual birth date. This was not going to be simple to solve. First, the reason his father was trying to enroll him in our school was that Napolion's mother had passed away in 2002. Napolion's father wanted his only child to come to the U.S., but knew it would be difficult for him to succeed in our public schools, in large part because his command of the English language was poor. Napolion enrolled with us in early 2003 as an eighth grader. Though his grades were pretty average when school ended, we decided he was not ready for high school. We asked him to repeat eighth grade.

In the fall of 2003 Napolion repeated the eighth grade and ended the year with a grade point average of 2.83. We were proud of his good grades and so was Napolion. When he entered high school we knew we had to get the correct birth date so he could be involved in athletics. In trying to get accurate information we discovered Napolion was not sure if he had been born in a hospital. We believed that if he had been born in a hospital there was a pretty good chance we could get a copy of his birth certificate. After much inquiring, we finally received a copy of his actual birth certificate and correct birth date. The big surprise was that neither of the first two dates we had was accurate. His actual birth date was March 28, 1990. Part of the confusion was because his father was not in Ethiopia when he was born and he must have gotten his dates mixed up.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Blessed to be a blessing

Meet who processes your financial gifts to Clear Creek

Mark and Lena Tate moved to campus the week after Christmas. The past few months have seen the answer to many prayers.

"Christmas wasn't the best time to move," Lena said. "But it is His time, not ours. We had the assurance God called us here to better equip us." Mark anticipates service as a pastor. Lena said: "I knew God had a call on our lives when we married, but didn't know what it would be."

Lena didn't grow up in a Christian home; her grandmother took her to church as a child. Her father had two heart attacks at age 35. "I was 9 years old and had to grow up in a hurry, helping mother take care of the family," she recalled. "I missed out on some childhood things, but the Lord kept me out of some bad things."

At age 21 a friend invited Lena to a youth meeting, and that night the Lord saved her. She was baptized on Father's Day, 1999, at McKinney Baptist Church, where her grandmother was a member. Since then, her brother was saved and her mother rededicated her life.

Pastor Jim Norman, a 2001

alumnus, told the Tates about Clear Creek. "I'm doing well; but it was a little overwhelming at first," Mark said. "I'd been out of school for 15 years, and had to get back in the groove of studying."

With faith that the Lord would provide a job, Lena left a computer bookkeeping position at the corporate offices of First Southern National Bank in Stanford. "Within a week of our move, I had a job," Lena said. "My campus workshop job as donor management secretary is similar to what I did at the bank." Jesse Correll, First Southern CEO, is a grandchild of Charlie and Clara Correll of Somerset; the Correll family donated the library building in their memory.

"When I process the donor letters I realize how good God is," Lena said. "These donors have their eyes on the Lord; the Lord blesses people so they can bless the school."

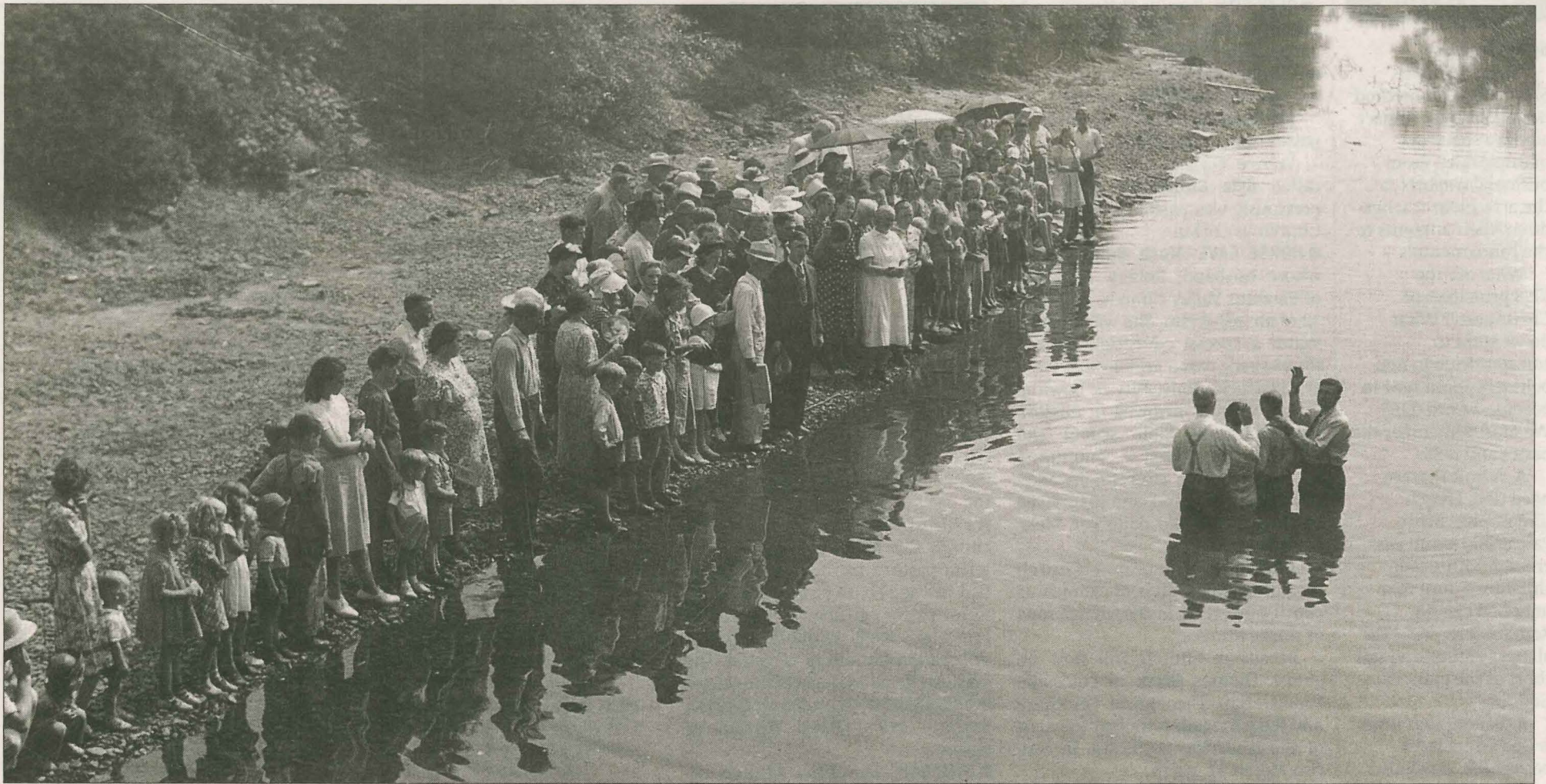
Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977; (606) 337-3196

CLEAR CREEK
CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Seeing the believing



MOREHEAD BAPTISM This photo by Marion Post Wolcott in August 1940 shows a river baptism in Morehead. A new book examines the photos of faith that are among those that photographers took while documenting the Great Depression for what became known as the U.S. Farm Security Administration and the Office of War Information. (RNS photos courtesy of Yale University Press)

Book examines religious photos of Great Depression and World War II

By David Anderson
Religion & Ethics Newsweekly

Washington (RNS)—Between 1935 and 1943—the height of the Great Depression and the early years of World War II—the federal government embarked on one of the most remarkable and ambitious artistic projects in American history.

Under the auspices of what became known as the Farm Security Administration and the Office of War Information, photographers traveled the country making a visual record of the impact of the Depression and the war on the American people.

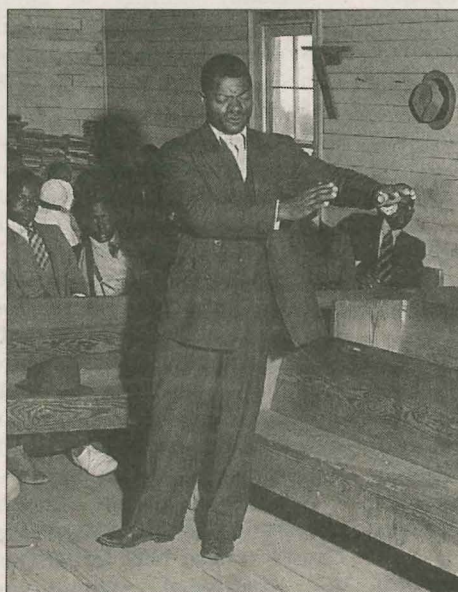
The mostly amateur (and at the time unknown) photographers—among them Russell Lee, Marion Post Wolcott, Dorothea Lange, Gordon Parks, John Vachon and Walker Evans—took thousands of pictures. Approximately 164,000 black-and-white negatives have been preserved in the Library of Congress.

Among the fraction of religious photographs are pictures of families saying grace, river baptisms, itinerant preachers, stark wooden churches in rural settings, Salvation Army officers in San Francisco, and boys studying Hebrew texts in rural Colchester, Conn.

Colleen McDannell, a professor of history and religious studies at the University of Utah, has compiled a fascinating study of the religious images from the project in a book, "Picturing Faith: Photography and the Great Depression."

The purpose of the New Deal project was both to document and to propagandize.

"If Americans saw the lives of the poor," McDannell writes in the book, "they would be more concerned about poverty in the United States" and more supportive of New Deal efforts to respond to the Depression.



"PICTURING FAITH" Men sing during the collection at a church service in Heard County, Ga., April 1941.

The chapters of "Picturing Faith" generally follow the chronology of the federal project, but they also are topical. The book begins with an overview of the project's assumptions and goals, followed by separate looks at subjects such as the South, city congregations, rural Jewish farmers, African-Americans in Chicago and Roman Catholics in New Mexico.

"Picturing Faith" makes a complex and nuanced argument.

McDannell wants to challenge the pervasive view associated with most presentations of the government images: that they present a "decidedly secular" America. She acknowledges that the 1930s was "a profoundly secular period of American history" and that Roy Stryker, the head of the historical section of the Farm Security

Administration who directed the project, and his photographers were among the "unchurched."

Yet despite that secularity, Stryker told his photographers to include pictures of things religious, and they complied.

Because photography can depict some but not all aspects of religious experience—and in part because of their own attitudes about religion, art, and the project's need to show the poor as both dignified and deserving—the photographers focused on certain expressions of faith and ignored others.

"Their 'eyes' were shaped by their own personal biographies, their understanding of the project's mission, the reigning standards of art, and the changing American political environment," McDannell writes.

Photographers' shift in perspective

Over the life of the federal project, two slightly different motives directed the work as its mission shifted. During the Depression, the aim was to portray the essential dignity of the poor and those displaced by the economic cataclysm that had shaken America to its roots. During the war, however, photographers used religion and religious communities "as ways to assert the cohesiveness of American society."

As America prepared to enter the war, McDannell notes, religion "ceased to be merely one element of culture and became one of four essential freedoms upon which a moral order could be built."

The difference in motives can be seen in McDannell's reading of the photographs of Christian charity taken before and during the war. Before the war, she sees a near-hostility on the part of the photographers toward churches providing charity and thus undermining the dignity of the

poor. But during the war, they viewed the provision of charity as a reflection of the strength and diversity of the nation.

The photographers, she argues, "like other Roosevelt New Dealers, were optimistic that the federal government could make substantial changes in the lives of the poor and the unemployed. ... The ideals of the New Deal that shaped the outlook of the FSA/OWI photographers were created by men and women who believed ... that private and religious charities could neither appropriately address the problems of the Depression nor act as a foundation for protecting Americans against future economic and social instability."

It's a perspective particularly worth noting in light of contemporary debate about faith-based charities, welfare policy and social work.

But McDannell also finds that some of the photographers—specifically Vachon's pictures of the City Mission in Dubuque, Iowa, and Lange's photos of the Salvation Army in San Francisco—refused "to accept the state's isolation of belief rituals and supernaturalism from welfare and social reform. Evangelical social workers provided an alternative model of reform from that offered by the New Deal."

McDannell is the curator of an exhibition of photographs from "Picturing Faith" that will travel in 2006 from Kansas City, Mo., to Grand Rapids, Mich., Syracuse, N.Y., and Kingston, R.I.

"Picturing Faith" is a rich combination of sharply insightful social and religious history and sympathetic but astute aesthetic criticism. It is an essential contribution to understanding the "cultural worth" of religious life at a critical moment in the nation's history "when Americans intensely engaged the world beyond and integrated it into their everyday lives."

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By **Tog Goodson**

"Keep It Simple, Silly." The KISS method has had a great impact across a spectrum of disciplines. From business to sports to the arts, great teachers direct their students to the fundamentals.

What are the KISS principles of Christianity? What do we want to communicate to non-believers about how to become a Christian? We must remember the basics and KISS.

A. Admit that we need God. French philosopher Blaise Pascal said we all are created with a God-shaped vacuum that only God can fill. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

B. Believe that Jesus is God's Son, led a perfect life, was killed, buried and came out of the tomb. He is God's Son and has the ability to put us in right relationship with God. Romans 6:23 explains, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus."

C. Confess—tell somebody. Romans 10:9 says, "That 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."

My friend Tim didn't know about all of the theological debates that have raged for centuries when I shared with him the "ABCs of Christianity." The only thing Tim knew was that his life and family were totally messed up and seemed to be deteriorating by the week. Tim needed Jesus and he needed someone to KISS him with the gospel.

Tim accepted Christ, is learning vast amounts about God and himself and is effectively communicating with his friends and family that God loves them. How is he sharing the gospel? How is he teaching others to share the gospel? With a sweet KISS.

Tog Goodson is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention worship and music department

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CLAY CITY**—Powells Valley Church ordained **Gary Willoughby** to the gospel ministry Feb. 12.

■ **CORBIN**—Bethlehem Church recently called **Jeff Ellis** as pastor.

Joe Samples recently resigned as pastor of Greenland Church.

White Oak Church recently called **Kyle Knight** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Bethlehem Church in Corbin.

■ **HORSE CAVE**—**Ruth Helen Ward**, whose husband, Robert, is pastor of Pleasant Valley Church, died Feb. 12 of an aneurysm. She was 49. Mrs. Ward, a special education teacher for 28 years, was a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. She was involved in mission trips, vacation Bible school and choir and organized a community care ministry to shut-ins. In addition to her husband, she is survived by their 13-year-old daughter, Melanie Brooke.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church recently called **Travis MacIntosh** as youth minister and **Darrell Schoppa** as music minister.

Broadway Church will host organist **Thomas Goetz** of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and **Jerry Amend**, principal trumpet of the Louisville Orchestra, in concert March 12, 3 p.m.

Green Acres Church ordained **Andrew Ahn**, **Jack Brewer**, **Rick Karnes**

Spotlight on ...

Springfield



Rockbridge Church will hold revival services March 24-26, 7 p.m., with **Kelsey Hopson** as evangelist. **Bobby Chesser** is pastor.

and **Wesley Maddix** as deacons March 5. **Daniel Powell** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will host a free viewing of the movie, "Beyond the Gates of Splendor," March 12, 6 p.m. For more information call (502) 589-5290. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Correction: The church **Bill Jones** is serving as interim pastor was incorrectly identified in the Feb. 14 issue. Jones is interim pastor of Lebanon Church in Princeton. **David Whitlock** is pastor of Lebanon Church in Lebanon. The Western Recorder regrets the error.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—New Hope Church recently called **David Kizziah** as pastor.

■ **SYMSONIA**—Symsonia Church ordained **Robert McManus** as a deacon Jan. 22.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

8-22 Kentucky Changers College Blitz, Morehead.

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

10-11 Mission Service Corps Basic Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

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

13 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Greenwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

14 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington.

18 All-State Youth Choir/Orchestra Auditions, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

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

18 State Youth Choir Festival, West, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

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

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

24-25 Great Commission Prayer Conference, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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

25 RA Congress Region 4, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville; RA Congress Region 7, Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello; RA Congress Region 8B, Camp Howard.

31-April 1 Exalt, Bowling Green.

April

7-8 Collegiate Leadership Training, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

7-8 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

10 Connecting with Guests and New Members, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

13 Connecting with Guests and New Members, First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.

21-23 All-State Children's Choir, Cedarmore.

21-22 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

22 Girls in Action/Children in Action Missions Event, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

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

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SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Western Kentucky area. Send resumé to 7146 US 431, Owensboro, KY 42301.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for a small Southern Baptist church approximately 60 miles south of Louisville. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church of Eastview, 251 Church Lane, Eastview, KY 42732.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for youth, children and their families for First Baptist Church, Elkin, N.C. Seminary or divinity school degree required; ministerial experience preferred. The minister will coordinate and lead age-appropriate programs for children, K-12, directing attention to spiritual, biblical, theological, missional and recreational areas. The minister will assist other ministerial staff in giving pastoral care to the children and their families. First Baptist Church, Elkin, is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the North Carolina CBF and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Send inquiries to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, Elkin, PO Box 618, Elkin, NC 28621. E-mail: 1stbaptistelkin@earthlink.net; Website: elkinfbc.org.

SEEKING: Lead guitarist and bass guitarist for established, progressive Southern Gospel group. Call Karen Pannell, The Gospel Envoys, (270) 929-9527.

SEEKING: Pastor for Beattyville Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Ken Farmer, 8433 Highway 587, Beattyville, KY 41311.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 21 Glory St., Irvine, KY 40336.

SEEKING: Old Testament professor (adjunct). Newburgh Theological Seminary. Accredited doctorate required. Mail resumé to Dr. Glenn Mollette, president, Newburgh Theological Seminary, Newburgh College, PO Box 1238, 8988 Ruffian Lane, Newburgh, IN 47629.

SEEKING: Associate pastor/worship leader. Theologically conservative Southern Baptist church is seeking a man who uses a blended style of worship. Must exude a love for Jesus and have a servant's heart. Reply to: FBC, 106 West Oak St., West Frankfort, IL 62896. (618) 932-2105. Fax: (618) 932-2106. rkarroll@verizon.net.

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

SEEKING: 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.

SEEKING: Minister to families, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Nicholasville, Ky. Please respond to cbcjc@alltel.net or (859) 312-7638.

SEEKING: Full-time youth director for First Baptist Church, Hayti, Mo. \$28,000 plus insurance. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 201 East Lincoln, Hayti, MO 63851.

SEEKING: Director of Missions for Sullivan Baptist Association, Kingsport, Tenn. Accepting resúmes until March 31. Send to: SBADOM Ardon Taylor, 171 Promise Land Drive, Gray, TN 37615; or ataylor@tcbchurch.org. Include statement telling why God is leading you to seek this position.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/music for Thalia Lynn Baptist Church to lead both contemporary and traditional worship. Send resumé and references by April 1, 2006, to: Chairman, Music Search Committee, 725 Southleaf Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462; or e-mail: music@thaliaylenn.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for West Fork Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. Send resumé to Kenneth Greer, 115 Shadow Circle, Murray, KY 42071. Resúmes accepted through March 31, 2006.

SEEKING: Part-time/bivocational pastor 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.

SEEKING: Part-time administrative assistant/circulation clerk for the Western Recorder. Mail resumé to Janet McIntosh, PO Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. For more information, call (502) 489-3428.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth (grades 7 to 12) to continue God-given growth through current AWANA program. Send resúmes to Elkhorn City Baptist Church, PO Box 448, Elkhorn City, KY 41522, or call Pastor Shawn at (606) 754-4781.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Silver Creek Baptist Church of Berea, Ky. Resúmes may be mailed to PO Box 97, Berea, KY 40403, or e-mail silvercreekbaptist@alltel.net.

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. Resúmes may be mailed to: Pastor Paul Badgett, 126 4th St., Pikeville, KY 41501; or e-mail: pastorbadgett@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth in a growing central Kentucky community. Send resumé and personal ministry statement to Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 111 North Main St., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342, Attn: Kevin Payton; or e-mail to ttrn@adelphia.net.

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Spokeswoman 'Jabez' author did not leave Africa ministry 'in huff'

Washington (RNS)—Contrary to news reports, "Prayer of Jabez" author Bruce Wilkinson did not leave the AIDS-fighting African charity he founded "in a huff," according to a ministry spokeswoman.

Instead, he returned to the States because God told him to come home, said Janine Maxwell, a spokeswoman for the recently renamed Heart for Africa ministry.

"There's nothing in his fiber, there's nothing in his being, that he would ever leave anywhere in a huff," Maxwell, wife of Wilkinson's chosen successor, Ian Maxwell, told Religion News Service.

The Wall Street Journal reported in a front-page story Dec. 19 that Wilkinson, whose self-help prayer book sold millions of copies, "resigned in a huff" from the charity, formerly called Dream for Africa.

"He abandoned his plan to house 10,000 children in a facility that was to be an orphanage, bed-and-breakfast, game reserve, Bible college, industrial park and Disneyesque tourist destination in the tiny kingdom of Swaziland," the Journal reported.

The Journal quoted Wilkinson as saying, "I'll put it down as one of the disappointments of my career."

But Janine Maxwell said Wilkinson's Dream House idea was just part of his vision for Africa. She said Wilkinson, a Georgia preacher who four years ago moved to Africa and announced his intention to save 1 million children left orphaned by the AIDS epidemic, made important strides in Africa.

In the last two years, the charity recruited 3,500 people to join in short-term missions to Africa, and those volunteers planted more than 500,000 gardens on a continent where an estimated 30,000 children die daily from hunger, she said.

"That's truly miraculous," Janine Maxwell said.

Asked why Wilkinson was retiring at age 58, she said, "The Lord said, 'Come home.'" She added, "It's a huge success."

In a statement earlier this month, the organization said the name change from Dream for Africa to Heart for Africa reflected the charity's "true vision while clearly describing all whose hearts God has called to 'go' and serve in Africa."

In a Jan. 29 ceremony at Unionville Alliance Church north of Toronto, Wilkinson blessed the new director, Ian Maxwell. The charity's statement said, "It has been clear to many that God has handpicked Ian Maxwell to move this missions movement forward."

One Bible: \$4 million

Handwritten Bible involves computers and turkey feathers

By Jason Kane
Religion News Service

Collegeville, Minn. (RNS)—With the help of computers, calf skins and turkey feathers, Donald Jackson is reviving a lost art form by creating a Bible by hand, at a cost of about \$4 million.

The Saint John's Bible, a seven-volume, illustrated endeavor slated for completion in 2007, is the first handwritten Bible to be commissioned by a major religious institution in 500 years.

According to a group of more than 200 monks at Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minn., five centuries was too long to wait for an artistic reinterpretation of the Bible.

How monumental is the task?

It's "one of the extraordinary undertakings of our time," according to Smithsonian magazine.

"I think we should look upon it as something on the scale of a huge building project, as it would have been in the Middle Ages. Similar things, I suppose, are the Sistine Chapel, the building of Hadrian's Wall, or these enormous artistic enterprises of the past," Christopher de Hamel, manuscript scholar at Cambridge University in England, told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Project coordinators say all Christian groups lost something when the making of handwritten Bibles took a sabbatical.

"This project comes at a time when people don't necessarily connect the Catholic faith with Bible reading," said Eric Hollas, director of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at Saint John's. "It's important for us to make the point that the Bible is at the core of the Catholic heritage."

Calf skin, feathers & egg yolks

Using close to 250 pieces of calf skin for parchment; traditional pens adapted from the feathers of swan, goose or turkey; and centuries-old pigment mixed with egg yolk,



Jackson's final 1,100-page Bible will dwarf most versions, measuring 15 7/8 inches wide by 24 1/2 inches tall.

Yet Jackson and his team benefit from state-of-the-art technology beyond the imagination of their 15th-century predecessors. The calligraphy filling the pages of the Saint John's Bible is designed on computers for planning purposes, using fonts approximating Jackson's handwriting.

The text, the New Revised Standard Version, is sent via computer from Minnesota to Jackson's workshop in Great Britain. He uses the electronic aids to orchestrate each page before setting pen to parchment.

While printed Bibles allow greater accessibility, they lack the elegance of their handwritten counterparts, Hollas said. Elaborate calligraphy forces Bible readers to stop and consider the meaning of the text.

"Most appealing is the sense of importance of each and every word," Hollas said.



ERASING Donald Jackson literally scrapes away the surface of vellum to erase multiple lines from a Bible page. Later, the skin is prepared again and new writing can be added. When handled properly, vellum is enormously strong. Most paper would not stand up to such treatment. (RNS photo courtesy of © Michael Freeman Photography, London, England)

In Jackson's native Great Britain, where he and a team of experts have constructed a "scriptorium" to complete the project, the archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has given his approval.

"This project not only revives the ancient tradition of the church sponsoring creative arts, it also offers an insight into that lost skill of patient and prayerful reading," Williams said in a statement. "We tend to read greedily and hastily, as we do so many other things. This beautiful text shows us a better way."

Calligraphy expresses emotions

Jackson, a former scribe to Queen Elizabeth, would not be interviewed while working on the project. But in a documentary, he told the BBC the art of calligraphy is "a rather peculiar thing" of expressing emotions in a world where such feelings are kept to a minimum in public life.


"So when you really mean something, when you want to say, 'We think you've achieved something brilliant,' you don't type it out on a piece of paper and send it to them, you ask somebody like me to put those words into such a form so that it looks like you really mean what you're saying," he said.

The original artwork from several of the books began a worldwide tour last spring, starting in Minneapolis. Beginning Jan. 21, the artwork went on display in Omaha, Neb., and London, with future stops in Tyler, Texas; Washington; New York City; Phoenix; and Mobile, Ala.

While Christian booksellers now carry print copies of the first two manuscripts, Hollas says the "captivating" quality of the originals is not easily transferred to reproductions.

"Americans should see this Bible because it creates a striking connection between the individual, the art and the Bible," Hollas said. "The world needs a 21st-century Bible to inspire our time. We think every generation needs to do this."

ST. JOHN'S BIBLE
Calligrapher Donald Jackson poses with a portion of the St. John's Bible. With the help of computers, calf skins and turkey feathers, Jackson is reviving a lost art form by creating a Bible by hand, at a cost of \$4 million. (RNS photo courtesy of © Derek Evan, Huw Evans Agency, Cardiff, Wales.)



Life on the Edge

Camp for Girls

2005

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Express July 6-8 (Grades 3-6)

Mother/Daughter Overnights (Grades 1-3 and moms or "mom substitute")

June 17-18 • June 24-25 • July 8-9

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Mother/Daughter (Grades 1-3 and moms or "mom substitute")

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