

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Clergy and laity disagree over tithe destination

Phoenix (BP)—A recent survey found that most Protestant ministers believe Christians should tithe to their local church, but many of the people in the pews do not agree.

Studies conducted for Facts & Trends magazine found that 56 percent of all clergy say Christians are under a biblical mandate to tithe 10 percent of their income to the local church. Another 12 percent said Christians should tithe but the gifts do not have to go to the local church. Twenty percent said there is a biblical mandate to give, but not any specific amount or percentage.

But among the people who attend Protestant churches, only 36 percent said there is a biblical command to tithe 10 percent to their local church. Another 23 percent said there is a biblical mandate to tithe, but not necessarily to the local church. Twenty-seven percent feel the Bible commands Christians to give, but not a set proportion or amount, while 10 percent believe Christians are under no mandate to give anything.

Among pastors, there is a clear hierarchy of causes. After disaster relief (80 percent) come three others that are very popular: evangelism (66 percent), denominational causes or programs (51 percent) and specific schools, colleges or universities (49 percent).

## Serving soldiers

*Radcliff church offering Fort Knox soldiers fun, food, phones and faith*

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

Radcliff—Before they head to Afghanistan or Iraq, many of America's soldiers come to Fort Knox for special training.

While there, many of those soldiers also learn about Christ's love through a local church that offers food, recreation, a listening ear and a chance to call home.

Stithton Baptist Church started hosting "Operation Appreciation" in the fall of 2004, according to Pastor Gregg Curtis.

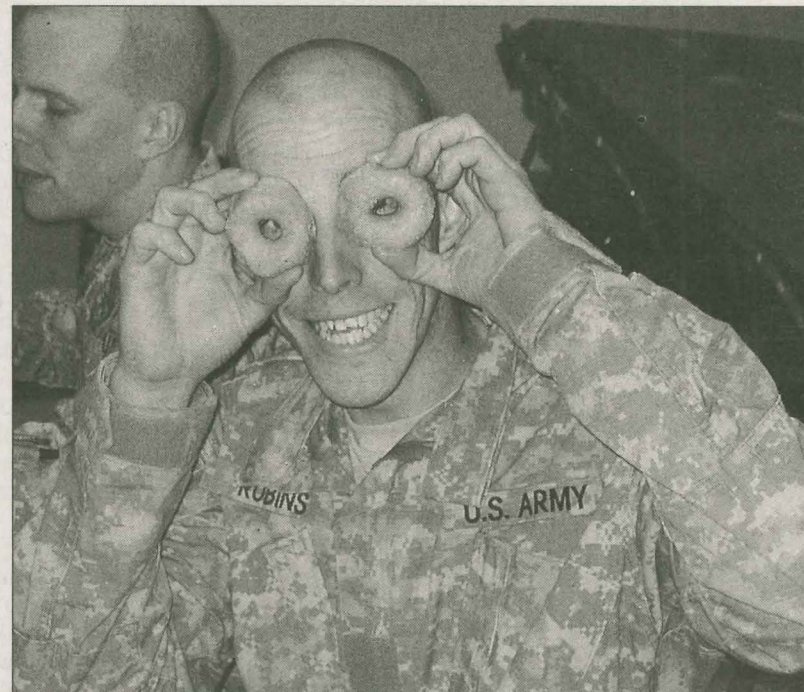
Since then, more than 600 trainees have returned to their Fort Knox barracks knowing Jesus as their personal Savior.

"We get e-mails from all over the country (and) amazing letters from parents telling us how much they appreciate us and that we're an answer to prayer for their son," Curtis said.

One Saturday each month, members at Stithton offer soldiers an eight-hour distraction from the extensive on-base training and work.

The men and women soldiers are training to be cavalry scouts. They are the ones riding in armored vehicles—ahead of the main forces—to scout the enemy and terrain to report back to their commanders.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Willie Ailstock estimates 90 percent of these trainees will be deployed to Iraq or Af-



**FUN WITH FOOD** A soldier from Fort Knox kids around during an "Operation Appreciation" event at Stithton Baptist Church. Since the church began hosting the programs, with meals, recreation and worship, more than 600 soldiers have made professions of faith. (Photo courtesy of Stithton Baptist Church)

ghanistan within their first year.

"I think that has an impact on their spiritual pilgrimage," said Ailstock, who invites troops each month to attend Operation Appreciation events.

"One retired scout (at Operation Appreciation) told of being almost killed in 1991 in the first Gulf war. That helps these guys examine their spiritual life."

For that Saturday afternoon and evening, more than 50 Stithton members provide a variety of services to show their thanks for the soldiers' sacrifice.

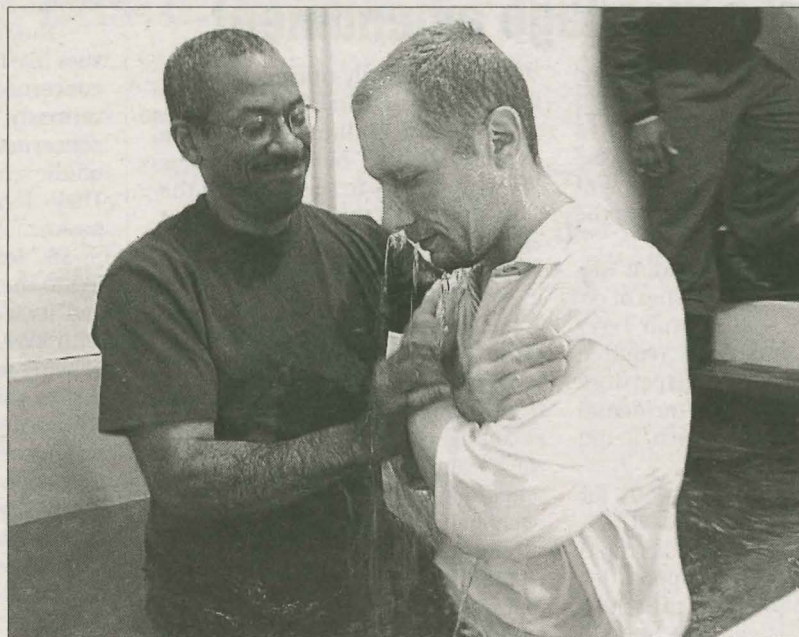
Some members cook and serve food. Others play cards and basketball with the troops. Members also loan their cell phones to soldiers who haven't called home in a while.

Many members simply talk to the soldiers. Half the church is either active or retired military, so many of the members have walked in the same boots as their guests.

Ailstock praised the congregation's involvement. "I've seen how their church family has made this a part of their church," he said.

□ See Radcliff church offers ... *Page 9*

## Missionary seeks to see homeless 'the way God sees them'



**BAPTISM** Southern Baptist missionary Reggie Robbins (left) baptizes a new believer. Robbins' Set Free Ministries and Sanctuary Shelter in Decatur, Ga., has three ministries: a homeless shelter, a substance abuse program and community outreach, which includes serving 1,500 meals weekly. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

Decatur, Ga.—Often discouraged and depressed, the two dozen men sitting in the church service reflect the scars, the struggles, the pain of hard lives on Atlanta's infamous Memorial Drive.

To Reginald Robbins, they are nothing less than God's children, ready to be reclaimed and reborn.

The men might be drug dealers or addicts, alcoholics, street thugs or just homeless guys down on their luck. What they all have in common is a strong desire to find a better way of living.

And if the men—black, white, Hispanic or any race—have families, their wives and children are equally welcomed into the Set Free Memorial Drive Ministries and Sanctuary Shelter, the inner-city church and homeless facility Robbins has di-

rected for the past six years.

Supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Robbins and wife, Anna, are among the more than 5,200 Southern Baptist missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories. Robbins is one of eight missionaries to be highlighted as part of last week's Week of Prayer. The related 2006 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has a goal of \$56 million, 100 percent of which is used for missionaries like the Robbinses.

Set Free has three ministries:

- A shelter for homeless families.
- A ministry to rehabilitate those with substance addictions.
- A community outreach ministry—including a food pantry, serving 1,500 hot meals a week, along with a clothing operation.

□ See Missionary tries to see ... *Page 6*



Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, March 15

**"We are not an ecumenical movement. ... We are Baptists, and therefore we are only sending Baptists."**

IMB Chairman  
Tom Hatley

## IMB chairman seeks to quell controversy

Richmond, Va. (ABP)—The trustee chairman of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board is asking the board's personnel committee to take another look at two measures the board passed in November that have sparked "no small controversy."

Chairman Tom Hatley, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Rogers, Ark., announced the decision in a letter to Southern Baptist pastors March 7. The IMB released the letter, as well as an open letter to all Southern Baptists, two documents supporting the decisions and other materials (see [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)).

The information focuses on the trustees' votes on glossolalia (the practice of speaking in tongues), the use of a private prayer language by missionary candidates, and candidates' mode of baptism. In his letter, Hatley told pastors they can comment on the matters through an e-mail address for trustees, [imbtrustees@imb.org](mailto:imbtrustees@imb.org).

### Hatley encourages "fresh look"

"As chairman I am asking our personnel committee to take a fresh look at these documents with the intention of providing further clarification," he said. "Your suggestions will be passed along to this committee as they are received."

During a November meeting in Huntsville, Ala., the IMB trustees approved a policy stating that a missionary candidate will be disqualified if he or she practices a private prayer language. They also adopted a baptism guideline stating that future missionary candidates must have been baptized in a church that practices believer's baptism by immersion alone; does not view baptism as sacramental or regenerative; and embraces the doctrine of the security of the believer.

Exception clauses were included in both for special situations. Neither the guideline nor the policy is retroactive, and neither will be applied to anyone already in the missionary appointment process.

"Just as there are higher standards in the Word of God" for pastors, Hatley wrote, "there are



IMB Chairman Tom Hatley

standards for missionaries that are equally elevated.

"We are right to expect their ministries to be more in line with our heritage and doctrinal core than those of other denominations or belief systems," he added. "We are not an ecumenical movement, determined to send anyone who wants to go to the field. We are Baptists, and therefore we are only sending Baptists" as international missionaries.

Critics of the policy and guideline warn the IMB and Southern Baptist Convention are becoming increasingly exclusive and narrow.

Hatley responded to concerns that the policy on private prayer language might have been approved as a way to embarrass IMB President Jerry Rankin—who has acknowledged he uses the practice—or pressure him to resign.

"Trustees have been blamed for having the motive of trying to hurt our president," Hatley wrote. "The force that pushed the issue to this higher level, however, included the president and a few others on staff and on the board."

Rankin said last month he insisted the full board deal with the issue because of its importance, not because he supported the proposal. "I did insist it come before the full board because I think you have to be very circumspect in your processes," he said in a question-and-answer session with Baptist editors. "It was at my insistence that the full board act on it, rather than it just being a committee that puts this in place."

Rankin said in February that he didn't think the issue was dead.

"I think there's a lot of reaction ... that's been generated across the convention to revisit it," he noted.

"As much as there's been reaction against it, there's been a lot of support for it as well," he told the editors. "I think even controversy strengthens the resolve of our board to kind of justify or defend what they've done."

Rankin said March 7 he appreciates Hatley's explanation to Southern Baptists.

"Much of the confusion and misperceptions regarding these actions came from the lack of clearly defined explanations for the policies," Rankin said. "While some will not be in agreement with the rationale, these documents will help others understand the deep convictions of those on our board for moving in this direction."

### Study quotes Criswell, Patterson

Hatley said he edited position papers on speaking in tongues, private prayer languages and baptism. The paper on tongues quotes past and present SBC leaders, including the late W.A. Criswell and Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Most pastors and theologians among Southern Baptists of recent decades and of today regard the charismatic movement as divisive, encouraging spiritual pride, and stressing minor gifts out of proportion to biblical evidence," the paper says. "Although there remain some charismatic churches excluded by associations that consider themselves as still belonging to state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention, their number has declined over the years since the mid-'70s."

The paper on baptism notes that the 1925, 1963 and 2000 versions of the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement all demonstrate that Southern Baptists have interpreted Scripture to teach that baptism is an ordinance administered by the local church.

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

## Lotz to retire as BWA head; Kazakh Baptists withdraw

Falls Church, Va. (ABP)—Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance since 1988, announced last week that

he plans to retire.

Members of the BWA Executive Committee also learned the Baptist Union of Kazakhstan has decided to leave the international Baptist federation.



Denton Lotz

Lotz made his retirement announcement to Executive Committee members meeting March 6-8 at the organization's headquarters in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Falls Church, Va.

Lotz, 67, said the process for selecting a new general secretary will begin immediately, and he hopes to announce a more specific time frame for his departure when the BWA General Council meets July 3-8 in Mexico City.

The BWA personnel committee will serve as the search committee.

Lotz, who served as BWA evangelism director before being elected general secretary, said he and his wife, Janice, had turned to Scripture, prayer and the council of friends in making the decision. He also said he made the decision in complete freedom, with no pressure for him to retire.

BWA President David Coffey said the announcement causes a "heaviness of heart," but it "takes a really good leader" to know when it's time to make such a change.

Lotz and Tony Peck, secretary of the European Baptist Federation, announced that the Baptist Union of Kazakhstan had withdrawn from both BWA and EBF. Kazakh Baptist leaders cited many of the same reasons that leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention did when the SBC voted to withdraw from BWA in 2004, they added.

"They're concerned about issues like holiness of life; they're concerned that sin is taken seriously," Peck said. "They're concerned about the excesses of the charismatic movement. They don't believe in women pastors."

SBC leaders, in recommending to the denomination that it end its 99-year-old relationship with BWA, accused the alliance of being too tolerant of member bodies that, in turn, tolerated affiliated congregations or institutions with doctrinal stances they oppose.

BWA leaders responded that Baptist polity does not allow them to prescribe the doctrinal standards of member bodies.

"We tried to remind them that we are not a church," Peck said. "We are a fellowship of member bodies."

## NAMB commissions 143 workers

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—More than 140 missionaries and chaplains were commissioned March 5 by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The 143 workers will serve in 31 states, four Canadian cities and Canada's Northwest Territories.

Noting that "the United States has gone from being a Christian nation to a mission field," NAMB President Robert Reccord said, "Some 224 million people in North America claim no relationship to Jesus Christ.

"Either you're a missionary or a mission field," Reccord told the crowd gathered at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C. "You are one or the other. Which is it for you?"

Luc Aube, a US/C2 missionary to Montreal who serves as pastor of a bilingual university church plant in partnership with the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, described how challenging Canada is as a mission field.

"Less than 1 percent of the population of Quebec claims to be evangelical Christians," Aube said. "It's a four-million-person mission field."

Karina America, assistant director of the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, told of the challenges of working as a missionary since Hurricane Katrina devastated the area.

"Please pray for those in New Orleans who lost everything and are trying to rebuild their lives," America urged.

## Official rules church broke law in endorsing marriage amendment

Helena, Mont. (BP)—A Montana state official ruled March 7 that a Southern Baptist church violated state law in 2004 by endorsing a constitutional marriage amendment petition drive without notifying the state.

In a 10-page ruling, Gordon Higgins, Montana's commissioner of political practices, said Canyon Ferry Road Baptist Church was required by state law to fill out paperwork and report itself as an "incidental political committee," which it did not do.

The church placed petitions for the amendment, known as CI-96, in the foyer, and its pastor, Berthold Stumberg, encouraged support for it from the pulpit. The church is located in East Helena. The amendment passed, 66-34 percent.

Gary McCaleb, an attorney for the Alliance Defense Fund, said the law

unconstitutionally infringes on religious expression and free speech.

"It has a chilling effect on a church's speech," he said. "It means (the church) has to register with the state and jump through a bunch of election-law-reporting hoops merely for putting a few pieces of paper out in the foyer."

According to Commissioner Higgins, "Use of the church's facilities to obtain signatures on CI-96 petitions, along with Pastor Stumberg's encouragement of persons to sign the CI-96 petitions during regularly scheduled church services, obviously had value to the campaign in support of CI-96."

Montana's campaign finance law requires the "full disclosure and reporting of the sources and disposition of funds used ... to support candidates, political committees or issues."

# Speaker: Proper tools improve personal Bible study

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Lexington**—With a few well-selected resources, Christians can make personal Bible study time deeper and more meaningful, according to a Kentucky Baptist adult Bible study leader.

"The right tools can really open up Scripture to you," said Brenda Smith, who leads a study group at Southminster Baptist Church in Louisville.

Referencing a study by Thomas Lea and sharing insights from her own faith journey, Smith offered Bible study tips to women attending the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference in Lexington.

A Bible dictionary and atlas, concordance, user-friendly Web sites and at least a cursory knowledge of Bible translations can make personal Bible study more fruitful and exciting, said Smith, whose husband, Von, is pastor of Southminster Baptist.

Many Christians rely on pastors, popular authors and other Bible scholars to do their mental heavy lifting, Smith said, but curricula and commentaries cannot replace a time of personal exploration of Scripture.

Smith noted that author Beth Moore's Bible studies indicate her strong personal walk with God. That same strong personal relationship is available to all believers who seek Him in His Word, Smith said.

"God's doing fabulous stuff in Beth's life. He wants to do fabulous stuff in your life, too," she told the women. "(But) God can't really talk to you that easily except through the Word."

Using tips from Lea's book, "God's Transforming Word: How to Study Your Bible," Smith suggested several tools Christians can use to enhance personal Bible study time:

**Bible dictionary.** A Bible dictionary defines words found in Scripture that are uncommon today, such as "paraclete," a synonymous term for the Holy Spirit.

A Bible dictionary also presents

common words within the context of Scripture and the time in which it was written. For example, the word "rain" in a Bible dictionary includes details such as the common seasons for rainfall in Palestine, and how Jews and non-Jews perceived rain—or its absence—in the context of their religious faiths.

**Bible atlas.** Smith quoted the forward of a Bible atlas to describe its value in study: "It's difficult to play Monopoly without a board.' ... Sometimes it's difficult to explain the context of a Scripture without an understanding of the geography."

**Concordance.** A concordance is an index that lists Scripture references for individual words.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance "lists every word in the Bible," Smith said. "I think it even has 'of' in there." Concise concordances are available in bookstores and online. Many Bibles contain concise concordances.

**Online resources.** News/Web specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Smith recommended four Web sites that offer Bible study resources at no cost:

■ **E-sword** ([www.e-sword.net](http://www.e-sword.net)). This site provides an entire Bible study software package users can download to their own computers at no cost. It includes multiple Bible translations, maps, charts, and tips on how to manage prayer lists, plan group Bible studies and maintain a personal library.

■ **Biblegateway** ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)). Bible Gateway offers Scripture in several languages, has advanced searching capabilities, and Bible translations include the New International Version. "This is the only place I can find the NIV online for free," Smith said.

■ **LifeWay** ([bible.lifeway.com/crossmain.asp](http://bible.lifeway.com/crossmain.asp)). The Bible study site of LifeWay Christian Resources offers the Holman Bible Dictionary online. Smith said she also likes the feature that permits users to research Scripture topically.

■ **Anova** ([www.anova.org/sev/atlas/html](http://www.anova.org/sev/atlas/html)). This site offers an online



Brenda Smith

## Take an analytical approach

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Lexington**—"Analytical Bible study" is a concise term for taking a specific passage of Scripture, breaking it down and exploring it, according to Brenda Smith, an adult Bible study leader at Southminster Baptist Church in Louisville.

Smith provided women attending a session of the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference a guide to in-depth Bible study. The outline is found in the book, "God's Transforming Word: How to Study Your Bible" by Thomas Lea.

Studies of entire books, major events and important people of the Bible are overview studies. Analytical study considers passages within a book, chapter and perhaps even a single verse of Scripture. The passage Smith used to illustrate Lea's method was Philippians 4:4-7.

**Write a personal paraphrase.** After reading the passage or verse several times in different Bible translations, write out your own version. Smith used the New International Version, English Standard Version and The Message to get both a word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation of the passage. Compare the personal paraphrase with a translation to make sure it has not strayed too far from the original text.

**Ask questions and make observations.** Smith encouraged women not to attempt to answer the questions immediately, but rather to come up with several pertinent questions that would help extract the most meaning from the verses.

Suggested questions include: Who is the

author? To whom is the passage written? When was it written? What is the main point? Explore the "why" behind the point and answer the question, "so what?" to help determine personal application.

**Review the passage to identify any imperative or command statements.** To help answer questions and make further observations, Smith recommended using a Bible dictionary, atlas, concordance, Scripture cross references and other tools. During the observation phase, Lea advises to "think, study, meditate and pray" and "use a commentary (or study Bible notes) only after you have struggled to arrive at your own answer."

**Summarize.** Use your observations and questions to state conclusions about the passage.

**Cross-reference.** Compare concepts in the passage to similar passages in the Bible. In the Philippians text, a comparison of the words "worry" and "anxious" or "gentleness" and "reasonableness" would be appropriate.

Think of people in the Bible who reflect the truths from the passage. Search for other comparisons based on words, people, events and topics. "Look ahead and behind" in time, Smith said, to explore the applicability of the passage to believers of the past and today.

**Apply the passage.** "Keep application personal, practical and specific," Lea advises. Ask: What am I to believe? What am I to do? What have I learned about relationships (from this passage)? Is there a promise (within the passage) I need to claim?

Bible atlas provided by the Access Foundation.

**Bible translations.** Selecting a translation of Scripture can be confusing. Some publishers seek to produce a "word for word" translation from the ancient languages. Others are "thought for thought" paraphrases that focus on readability. Many translations are written to fall somewhere in between.

In studying a passage of Scripture, Lea, like other scholars, recommends reading verses in more than one translation.

Study Bibles that contain notes and devotionals for special audiences such as children, teenagers, women, men and pastors can be very helpful, Smith said.

"There are a bazillion choices out there for study Bibles," she said,

even "for left-handed truck drivers from Minnesota."

Like commentaries, she suggests waiting to read a Bible's study notes until after a time of personal exploration. (See sidebar above.)

Rather than selecting a study Bible solely by its target audience, Smith encouraged women to consider more practical features such as the readability of the print, whether its size makes it easy to carry, and the cover's durability. Other factors to consider are resources such as a concordance, maps or cross references.

With a wink, Smith said growing closer to God is the best, but not only, reason for a Christian to incorporate in-depth Bible study into her life. "You want to make sure your pastor's preaching the right thing."

# Bardstown pastor offers ideas for small church evangelism

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Lexington**—Declaring "there are 500 ways in which to reach people" with the gospel of Jesus Christ, Mark Stuart told fellow Kentucky Baptist pastors, "We've got to teach our people, we've got to do it ourselves, we've got to be passionate."

Stuart, pastor of Mill Creek Baptist Church in Bardstown, has led his congregation to grow in the past year from an average of 80 people to 130 attending worship services each week.

Leading a workshop on "Evangelism in the Smaller Membership Church" during the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Stuart said, "If we make evangelism the focus in our churches, I believe it will take care of 90 percent of our problems. One thing people won't complain about is getting people saved and baptized.

"There's nothing I like better than winning people to Christ," he added. "As pastors, the most important thing we do is win people to Christ."

Describing John the Baptist as a soul winner, Stuart noted that Jesus declared, "There has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11).

"There are two important aspects we can learn from John—he was sent from God and he was a man on a mission," Stuart said. "You know why John was successful? He took his mission seriously. He was a greater preacher because he was a great soul winner."

"John knew what his purpose was," he added. "Sometimes we confuse our methods with our purpose; our purpose is to win people to Jesus Christ."

If pastors "catch a passion for lost people, our people will catch

it," Stuart told the workshop crowd. "How do you equip somebody to do something that you're not doing? If we're not winning people to Christ, our people are not going to win people to Christ. It's that simple."

Stuart said witnessing tools he uses at Mill Creek Church range from door-to-door visitation on Wednesday nights to using the church's Web site as an outreach tool.

"I use every means possible," he emphasized. "If it's an evangelism outreach, I'm for it."

Addressing concerns that door-to-door visitation is outdated and ineffective, Stuart said, "Don't you believe it when they say people don't want you visiting door-to-door. I have not found any resistance to going door-to-door. ... Get you a plan of attack. You've got to find a way to reach them."

Stuart said other outreach tools include:

■ **Writing, printing and distributing customized gospel tracts and door hangers.**

■ **Telling people he meets at hospitals, jails and elsewhere that "I want to be your pastor, no strings attached."** He said such efforts "show them I love them, and I now have standing to witness to them."

■ **Forming an "umbrella brigade" among church greeters to escort guests and members into church on rainy days—and then praying for rain.**

■ **Drinking coffee and visiting with "the good ol' boys" who gather at various locations for early-morning fellowship.**

"I can win 10 people to Christ by accident, just by hanging out," Stuart said. "If you're very intentional and very passionate, they'll come. ... Everybody's a prospect."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## 'Babel revisited'

Tongues-speaking is Babel revisited. It is given to a rebellious people for judgment and condemnation, not for blessings (1 Corinthians 14:21-22). God's word blesses only those who understand it, receive it and embody it (Matthew 6:7, James 1:22).

And who is to say that one's noises are a language? To say that the unbridled mouthings of one's spirit—or of another spirit—are the word of God is blasphemous. At best, uncontrolled utterances are not the fruit of the Spirit, but of one's one spirit (1 Corinthians 14:14, Galatians 5:23). At worst, it can be demonic. A person who speaks by another spirit is a spiritist. That is witchcraft, not Christlikeness.

In the end times, the antichrist's deception for gathering the nations to the final war will be frog-like croaking, together with the claim that it is God's word (Revelation 16:13-16). The false prophet will enable the antichrist authority to speak in tongues, bringing down fire from heaven (Revelation 13:13-17).

Christ warned of false prophets dressed as sheep that would come in His name, preaching, performing miracles, casting out demons and calling the people to Christ, all by another spirit (Matthew 7:15-23, 24:23-26). These deceivers claim to

be Christ (Matthew 24:5). The word "Christ" means "anointed."

Who are these false prophets, if not those who claim to be anointed as they mouth gibberish and call it the word of God and the baptism of the Holy Spirit? The mark of the beast will be the false baptism of tongues-speaking and its associated behaviors (Revelation 13:17). The uncontrolled, indecorous behavior of charismatics betrays the real spirit behind their worship.

When did Christ ever fall down, speak incoherently or shake violently? Was it not the demon-possessed who behaved in such fashion? It appears that the frogs have gotten into our Southern Baptist house.

John C' de Baca  
Lexington



## Take up cross daily

This is concerning the Feb. 28 letter, "Irreverent' worship," by Roy L. Jones. Some of his points were very good, but some of his suggestions missed the point completely.

One of the worst things in churches is interruption by people moving around and talking during services. Jesus became so angry with the Pharisees and church leaders making such a noise in the Gentile court of the Temple, He made a whip and ran out the leaders and animals

## Living daily life seriously

By Henry Blackaby

Atlanta (BP)—I often am amazed at how lightly, even carelessly, so many people experience life. They know about the devastating tsunamis and hurricanes. They have seen the reports of the Pakistani earthquake. And, of course, they are aware of the many other natural disasters that have taken countless lives.

But the people remain unmoved. Their minds know about life, but their hearts are not moved at all. They show no deeper understanding of life as God sees it.

The Apostle Paul constantly was

urging believers in his day to live out their lives with seriousness. In Ephesians 5:15-17 he pleads, "See that you walk carefully, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore be not unwise, but understand what the will of God is."

A fool walks carelessly. A wise person walks with seriousness and a constant awareness of the times he lives in. He also is fully aware of the will of God in the midst of his world. He discusses the tragedies in his day with the wise counselors God has placed around him. He does not

## Great church locations

I recently had the privilege of speaking in two churches that have great locations for future growth. First Baptist Church of Junction City and Willow Grove Baptist Church near Danville are doing excellent work in reaching their communities.

Dale Denton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Junction City, invited me to speak on missions. He has been the pastor there less than a year, but he arrived in time to help the church in its relocation to a donated 11-acre site on Highway 127, south of Danville. Home building is taking place all around the church, and the congregation is growing as the result of a great outreach plan.

Denton has led the church to divide the church field into sections. After contacting every person in a section of the community, the church conducts a special welcoming service inviting all prospects.

Fifteen new people came for the first of those worship services.

The new building has a multipurpose room for worship (seating 350) and 24 classrooms. In addition, there are church offices, a choir room, a conference room, a kitchen and a spacious projection room. Total space is 23,000 square feet and the building was built at a cost of only \$1.1 million.

I also had the opportunity to speak on missions at Willow Grove Baptist Church, located on Highway 150, just south of Danville. The pastor, Brad King, is an outstanding young pastor who recently completed his seminary degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The church is welcoming and has a large number of youth. During the worship service, it was gratifying to see youth making decisions for Christ and men praying at the altar.

I also was pleased to see in the

they were selling from the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13). He told them, "My house will be called a house of prayer."

But concerning dress, I know people who do not have real nice clothes and when they attend a church where people dress in expensive clothes, they will not go back to that church. Are we dedicating our clothes to God in such a setting? (See James 2:1-4).

I think a person should live during the week as Jesus said in Matthew 10:38. We must take up our cross daily and follow Him. So many churches today want to adopt the standards of the world instead of Christ's standards. We have become lukewarm like the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22. Christ says He will spew us out of His mouth if we live like this. Until we give our hearts to Him and live for Him every day, the Holy Spirit will not be present on Sunday.

He told the Samaritan woman (John 4:22) her people did not know who they worship, and in John 4:24, He said we must worship God "in spirit and in truth." Then the Spirit of God will lead what is going on in the service.

One cannot be a part of the fellowship by going to TV church, although there are good ones there for people who are invalids.

R.J. Teems  
Maysville

want to "love in word and tongue, but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18).

How do you respond to life's great tragedies around those in your workplace? Do others see that you take life around you seriously? Do you respond with passion and understanding? Do others know that you care and that you will respond compassionately to what is happening in their lives?

God is fully aware of all that goes on, and He cares. Reflect the care of your heavenly Father. Let the world know you notice and are touched by all of life around you and them.

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

Sunday bulletin that the pastor had included information from the Kentucky Baptist Convention about the dangerous gambling expansion bills now being considered by the Kentucky General Assembly. He also included information encouraging members to contact their state legislators.

In a recent meeting I participated in with Gov. Ernie Fletcher, the governor said his staff's research discovered that the claims about anticipated state revenues by the casino advocates are greatly exaggerated. The truth is that Kentuckians would have to put at risk \$6 billion to \$7 billion in order to produce \$250 million in revenues.

A call or letter from voters makes an impact. It is urgent that you call today. You can make a difference.

On a personal note, my wife, Kay, is with our daughter, Beth, who is awaiting the birth of her third child in North Carolina. Please pray for a safe delivery and the health of the mother and baby.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## GIVING

## Unitrust benefits charities while building nest egg

By Laurie Valentine

Cutbacks in the potential to make deductible retirement plan and IRA contributions have left many executives and professionals looking for tax relief in their years of highest earnings. Many of them also are looking for a supplementary retirement savings vehicle that permits tax-free growth of their nest egg.

A "retirement unitrust" could be just the right planning tool for such individuals, if they are motivated to benefit charitable causes, as well as themselves, with their plan.

A retirement unitrust also is known as a "flip-charitable remainder unitrust."

The benefits to the donor are an income tax deduction equal to the current value of the charitable remainder interest at the time the trust is set up and funded; deferral of much of the trust income until the donor retires; potential for substantial supplemental income to the donor after retirement; and a significant ultimate gift to one or more charitable causes.

Here's an example: John Brown, age 50, transfers assets worth \$100,000 to a unitrust that will pay him the lesser of the net income or 6 percent annually (the "unitrust amount") until 2024 when he will turn 68, at which time the unitrust will "flip" (convert) to a standard unitrust paying him 6 percent each year.

Brown is entitled to a charitable income tax deduction of \$22,767 in the year he creates the trust. If his \$100,000 gift is invested by the trustee to produce 1 percent yield (income) and capital appreciation of 7 percent on average each year until the triggering event (in this instance, when he turns age 68), the trust will grow to \$344,753 by 2024.

His income from the unitrust also will take a big jump in 2024 from \$3,159 in 2023 to \$20,280 in 2024, with potential for the yearly distributions to him from the unitrust to grow even larger in later years (assuming the value of the trust assets continues to appreciate).

Brown also can add to the unitrust in future years—think "charitable IRA," but without the ceiling on contributions an IRA has—entitling him to additional income tax deductions equal to the value of the charity's remainder interest in the additions.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## Professionals can help address depression, addiction, obesity

**Q: I have a friend who is overweight and smokes. He also appears to be depressed. He is a Christian, and tends to "psych himself up" by listening to religious broadcasting and reading books by televangelists. How should I respond to him?**

For each of your friend's issues, there likely is a professional who could be of assistance if your friend is open to getting help.

### DEPRESSION

He might be open to pastoral counseling since pastoral counselors bring together the science of counseling and the theology of the Christian faith to help people find answers to their struggles. You can locate a pastoral counselor in your area at [www.aapc.org](http://www.aapc.org), the Web site for the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Any time depression and addiction are issues, it is worthwhile to seek medical help. Encourage him to get a physical to get a "base line" direction for nutrition, exercise and medication. There are doctor-supervised programs available to lose weight and quit smoking.

Other specialists can be called in as well. Psychologists can help diagnose what is wrong with behavior, help get to the root of the problem and map an appropriate response. Many licensed clinical social workers are trained in cognitive behavioral therapy, often the most effective way to deal with both depression and addictions. Psychiatrists are skilled in keeping up with the latest antidepressant medications and can target which is best and monitor the level of dosage. A pastoral counseling center might either include or have referrals for each of these types of clinicians.

Spiritual support can include the church, especially through a Sunday school class that can surround your friend with care. First, last and all the way through the process is prayer. Let your friend know you are praying for him with a note of encouragement. If possible, pray with him to fulfill the caring commandment of James 5:13-18.—James Stillwell

**Q: How can I help my child resist negative peer pressure?**

As children grow, friends and peers exert increased influence on their decisions and choices. Boys and girls often find themselves torn between wanting to please and obey parents and the pressures of wanting to fit in and be liked by the group.

Parents can begin fighting peer pressure early by teaching their children right from wrong and building a base for moral decision-making. Then, as children grow, parents can surround them with friends and families who will share and reinforce the values they have been taught. However, despite good work on the part of parents, boys and girls still are going to find themselves in situations where hard choices have to be made in tough times when parents are not present.

Many times, doing the right thing and making the right choice would be easier for children if it were not for concerns about losing face with friends. Parents can help by being willing to take the blame for the decision.

Most parents don't care how or why a good choice gets made in a difficult situation as long as it gets made. Most parents won't care if their child's friends think they are hopelessly old-fashioned. With a little advance planning and strategy, your child will have a way to get out of a jam while staying in with their friends.—David Garrard

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## MSC missionaries make ministry impact

Mission Service Corps missionaries have played an increasingly significant role in Southern Baptist North American Mission Board efforts in recent years. Their work also is among issues being spotlighted in the current analysis of NAMB's ministry effectiveness.

How important are MSC workers in Southern Baptists' efforts to reach North America with the gospel of Jesus Christ? And why is their role part of the controversy unveiled last month in the Georgia Baptist Christian Index?

For starters, MSC missionaries are long-term, self-funded mission workers who commit from four months to two years to mission assignments in the U.S. or Canada. They agree to work an average of 20 hours a week and typically are jointly appointed by NAMB and a cooperating state Baptist convention.

Eric Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission service and ministries department, coordinates the work of MSC missionaries here in Kentucky. Since 2000, he has seen the number of Kentucky-based MSC workers increase from about 35 to 150.

MSC missionaries serve across the commonwealth in such areas as church planting, food and clothing distribution, campus ministry, jail and prison chaplaincy, military chaplaincy, equestrian ministry and literacy work. Last year, they reported a total of 1,149 professions of faith in Christ among the people they served.

So how could there be any controversy?

The Christian Index's Feb. 16 analysis of NAMB noted that mission board officials reported a total of 5,364 North American missionaries as of Dec. 31, 2005, which exceeds its 2000 Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 missionaries. The Index reports that only 2,942 of those workers are career missionaries funded through NAMB's annual Annie Armstrong Offering. The remaining 2,422 (45 percent) are self-funded MSC volunteers. Lumping the two

categories together, the Index article contends, "gave Southern Baptists a false sense of accomplishment."

While the Index is correct that NAMB officials often combine the two groups, there also are instances when they detail the differences. The current issue of

NAMB's On Mission magazine, for example, notes that "MSC personnel provide their own funding, although their ministries may receive funding" through Annie Armstrong gifts. It also points out that MSC workers "typically serve in areas where traditional funding is unavailable."

Another area of debate relates to MSC workers' ministry status. NAMB's initial response to the Index article claimed the writer "chose to characterize the growth of MSC missionaries as something unseemly or, at the least, unworthy." That's simply not accurate. While the Index article did ques-

tion NAMB's claim that more than 5,300 missionaries receive Annie Armstrong funding, the article also clearly affirmed that "volunteers are a vital part of the missionary force."

In a commentary in the March 2 issue of the Christian Index, Managing Editor Joe Westbury reiterates that MSC workers "are a valuable part of the Southern Baptist missionary force." Urging readers to "support your Mission Service Corps friends," he added, "They are a vital link to reaching North America for Christ."

The bottom line is there's no good reason for controversy about the key roles MSC missionaries play in Kentucky and elsewhere. It's just a matter of NAMB consistently citing the distinction between funding career missionaries and gifts to aid MSC training and ministry projects.

Regardless of such details, remember that giving generously to this year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions will continue to help spread the gospel to people in spiritual need throughout the U.S. and Canada.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## It's time evangelicals focus on our own sins

By Anne Graham Lotz

**Raleigh, N.C. (RNS)**—When I attended "The Hand of God in U.S. Politics" seminar recently at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the attendees seemed alarmed about the power of "the religious right."

As the panelists and attendees voiced their concern, I sat quietly wondering, "How is it that when the world thinks of American evangelicals, it instead of our love for others or our loyalty to Jesus?"

It occurred to me that the misconception might be our own fault. Have we gone "off message"?

It seems that the only message many people associate with the church is a message of condemnation. After 9/11, some church leaders began pointing their fingers in blame at national social sins as the reason for what they seemed to believe was God's judgment. Again, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we heard some Christians suggesting it was God's judgment.

But could it be that God is less concerned about the sin of the world than He is about the sin within the church?

In the Old Testament, God said, "If My people, who are called by My name, would humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I would hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land."

We love to sing "God Bless America," but it's interesting to note that God's blessing—His healing of our land—is directly related not to politics or public policy or government programs or social justice or racial equality or welfare reform or taxation or education or health care or affordable housing, but to the humble repentance and prayerful devotion of His own people.

I believe it's time for Christians to repent of sin and refocus on Jesus. We need the same kind of personal revival experienced by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah.

In the first few years of Isaiah's ministry, he was filled with righteous indignation at what he believed to be the sins of the nation of Judah. Hurling his words of blame at the world around him, he pointed out their many sins and thundered, "Woe to you. ... Woe to you. ... Woe to you."

Isaiah's no-holds-barred indictment seems to echo through the centuries, and I find myself wanting to join him. Often when I hear or see the news, I too have an overwhelming desire to point my finger and thunder, "Woe to you, woe to you, woe to you!" Like Isaiah, my focus can be entirely on someone else's sin.

But in the midst of his finger-pointing, Isaiah had an incredible experience. The Bible says he "saw the Lord." And it changed him. No longer did he point his finger at oth-

ers. Instead, he was overwhelmed with his own sinful condition and sobbed, "Woe to me!"

He made a startling discovery, blurting out, "I'm a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips." In other words, he was struck by the knowledge that he was no better than the people at whom he'd been pointing his finger.

Like Isaiah, the evidence of sin in my own life has wrenched from my lips an echo of Isaiah's outburst, "Woe to me!"

■ Woe to me for my ingratitude in my abundance.

■ Woe to me for my hypocrisy, pretending to be anything that I am not.

■ Woe to me for my materialism in the midst of desperate poverty.

■ Woe to me for my timidity of the truth that silences my testimony of the truth.

■ Woe to me for my unkindness, prayerlessness, pridefulness.

I am ashamed for ever thinking that those of us within the church are somehow better than those outside the church. We're all sinners.

Perhaps it's time we in the evangelical church in America stop our "Woe to you," and instead, open our eyes, humble our hearts, lift up our voices in a collective cry of "Woe to me" and experience a fresh outpouring of God's power through forgiveness.

Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham, is an international Bible teacher, author and founder of AnGeL Ministries, based in Raleigh, N.C.

## Henderson minister says servant evangelism effective

By David Winfrey  
News Director

Lexington—Gary Cobb isn't saying servant evangelism is the best way to reach people, but he's hard pressed to think of something better.

"The goal of servant evangelism is to let people know that God loves them in practical ways," said Cobb, who led a workshop on the subject during the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference in Lexington.

"People have no clue that God loves them," said Cobb, minister of evangelism and outreach at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

Servant evangelism consists of church members performing acts of service for non-Christians in order to show the love of God in a tangible way and often to earn the opportunity to talk about the Christian faith.

Servant evangelism can be anything from raking leaves for a homeowner or cleaning the restrooms at a business to giving gifts to an unsuspecting recipient.

"When you hand them that gift and tell them that God loves them, it dumbfounds them," Cobb said. Since Zion began performing servant evangelism in the mid 1990s, the

ministry has grown in both scope and influence, he added. "We started raking leaves and going to Laundromats and giving quarters for laundry," he recalled. "We've tried a lot of things that didn't work, but you have to do that to get to what will work."

Last year, he said, more than 500 church members took part in various servant evangelism ministries, making personal contacts with 7,900 people.

Cobb shared a list of ministries that members perform. Among them:

- Members visit the local hospital surgery waiting room, distributing snacks with a card telling about God's love.
- On Valentine's Day, members visited restaurants and distributed gifts to waitresses.
- "Waitresses have a poor opinion of church people," Cobb noted. "They think they're rude, and they hate Sunday because that's when they all come."
- In the fall, members raked leaves for homeowners.
- Members collect stuffed animals for distribution to children in hospitals.
- At Christmas time, members offered free gift wrapping at a local store.

Cobb said servant evangelism accomplishes two things. "It disciples your people. It lets them see that they can do ministry," he said. "It also lets people know where your church is at."

Zion's 15-member evangelism committee initially performed the servant evangelism projects, but as it grew, the work has been delegated to the Sunday school classes. Today every youth and adult Sunday school class in the church is involved in a servant evangelism project, he said.

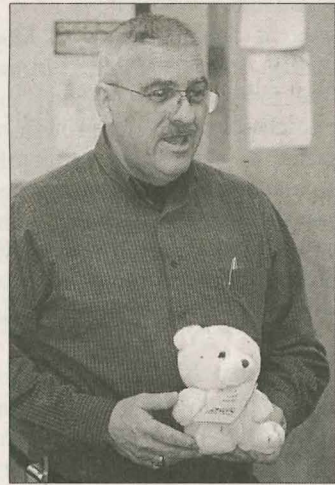
While Zion's numbers might be impressive, Cobb emphasized that any church can customize the concept to their community and church size.

"You don't have to do 100 gifts. You can do five. The important thing is that you get the message out there," he said.

"It's not really a new concept. Jesus began this because He came to serve," he added. "He served people by feeding them, serving them where they were and letting them know that God loved them and He touched their lives."

Getting church members ministering outside the walls of the church is crucial, Cobb added.

"Just because we put a sign up that the church service begins at 11 o'clock doesn't mean that they are going to come," he said. "We've been telling people that God loves them for so long. Now we've got to start showing them in practical ways."



**BEAR WITNESS** Gary Cobb, minister of evangelism and outreach at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, shows a stuffed animal the church donates to children at the local hospital. The project is one of many efforts the church has to share God's love in tangible ways.

## 'History can be rewritten'

### Campbellsville, Simmons cross racial lines to forge partnership

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Louisville—Leaders of Campbellsville University and Simmons College of Kentucky crossed racial and geographical boundaries last week to forge a long-term ministry partnership.

Campbellsville, a predominantly Anglo school affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Simmons, a predominantly African-American school affiliated with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, will work together in such initiatives as a faculty exchange program, collaboration on courses to benefit students in the Louisville metro area and joint mission projects and worship experiences. Campbellsville also will provide Simmons assistance in such areas as library resources, academic accreditation and developing athletic programs.

The agreement was signed March 8 by Campbellsville President Michael Carter and Simmons President Kevin Cosby during a partnership covenant service on Simmons' Louisville campus.

Cosby, also pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville, compared the covenant agreement to the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention apology for historic acts of racism.

Noting that the SBC action denounced slavery and Southern Baptists' "theological justification for such a sick sociology and a sick anthropology," Cosby added, "Many times documents that we sign become mere sentimentality. They are only substantive when we do substantive things like collaborate for the betterment of all people."

Cosby said it is important for Campbellsville and Simmons to cooperate together "because it makes a statement to the world about our faith."

#### "Dream with us"

Citing the lack of leadership and opportunity in many blight-stricken urban neighborhoods, Cosby said, "The only way we can reverse that trend is through education. ... There is a need to educate the masses of people in this neighborhood."

Cosby expressed appreciation to Campbellsville officials for their willingness to "dream with us on how we might improve the quality of lives for people who are so invisible and have been written off."

Emphasizing that the partnership is a two-way effort, he added, "We will continue to explore ways in which we might benefit each other and we will maintain a spirit of unity and cooperation."

Carter described the partnership launch as "an historic and important time in the life of our two institutions."

"We come together because we



**PRAYER PARTNERS** Michael Carter (left), president of Campbellsville University, and Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College of Kentucky, pray before signing a partnership covenant between the two Baptist schools March 8. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

believe this is the right thing to do," he noted. "As we look at Baptist history, we have always known that we could accomplish so much more if we would come together and work jointly."

Acknowledging past racial and cultural barriers between Anglo and African-American Baptists, Carter said, "Our hearts are saddened when that cooperation did not take place because of race or place of origin." While learning from the past, he added, "there are elements of the past that we must leave behind."

#### "Teach me and help me"

Inviting Cosby to "teach me and help me and help Campbellsville University move beyond our 100-year history when at times there was discrimination in our past," Carter declared, "History can be rewritten anew beginning today."

"I do know that God is faithful," he added. "Together, the world can be better and the world can be changed and we can do it."

John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external relations, described the partnership as "God's destiny for both Simmons College of Kentucky and Campbellsville University."

"We will learn and we will share; we will benefit; we will all be a better people as a result of this agreement," Chowning added. "Our purpose is to promote the unity of the body of Christ through the Holy Spirit as we come to work together to advance the cause of Christian higher education" through the two schools.

Campbellsville, founded in 1906, has a current enrollment of 2,080 students and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Simmons, founded in 1879, has an enrollment of 65 students.

Currently accredited by the International Association of Bible Colleges and Seminaries, Simmons is seeking accreditation from the Association for Biblical Higher Education.

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# Prof outlines 'dummies' course in spiritual growth

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Lexington—Keys to effective spiritual growth aren't all that complicated, according to seminary dean Ken Fentress.

Leading a recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference workshop on "Spiritual Growth and Development for Dummies," Fentress played off the popular "Dummies" self-help books.

"What happens to a person after they make a profession of faith in Christ?" asked Fentress, dean of intercultural programs and assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "This is a question every new believer has.

"These are the kinds of things they are asking in their hearts: 'What now?' 'What do I do?'" he added. "And they are looking to us for guidance."

Recounting his own spiritual journey as a new Christian at age 16, Fentress said he didn't receive much discipleship training from the church he was attending.

"It's not enough just to proclaim the good news of the gospel to the people with the hope that they will make commitments to Christ and that's it," he insisted.

A lack of Christian discipleship

"contributes to what we refer to as the revolving door" of people becoming Christians, joining a church and later dropping out, Fentress warned.

"I think where we're losing them is at this point of spiritual growth and discipleship. In some sense, we have unintentionally misunderstood the Great Commission" in Matthew 28 to go and make disciples.

"Make disciples" is the only imperative word in that verse," he emphasized. "Evangelism and discipleship have been, I think, in some sense falsely separated. In reality, both go together. They are two sides of the same coin. ... They are tied together in the context of the local church.

## Moving beyond infancy

"When a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, that is only the beginning of their journey; it is not the end," Fentress noted. "What we tend to do is once a person has made a step of faith and been born again, we say, 'Wow, what an awesome God,' and that is true, but we stop there."

He said many believers "just remain in sort of an infantile stage of growth and development, and that's not the way it should be. ... A new phase of spiritual work re-

ally begins once a person becomes a Christian."

The first step in providing "spiritual growth and development for dummies," Fentress said, is for long-term Christians to continue their own Christian development.

"You can't help someone else grow if you're not growing yourself and developing in your faith," he pointed out. "You should always want to grow in your spiritual journey. Others' spiritual growth and development will depend on you as an example and pattern to them."

Citing Hebrews 5:11 to 6:3, Fentress said the passage highlights the need for Christians to grow beyond childish faith into adult faith.

"Just being a Christian instills within you the desire to want to grow and be more like Christ," he added. "If you're struggling there, be honest with yourself and with God and honestly pray and ask the Lord to restore your spiritual passion."

Spiritual growth and development must be a top priority among church leaders for it to be effective, Fentress said.

"If it's not a core priority in the heart and soul of the pastor, it ain't going to happen," he cautioned. "It has to be an issue that grips the soul of every believer, beginning with those of us who are leaders in

## 'Spiritual growth for dummies'

Seminary dean Ken Fentress highlighted "10 spiritual growth steps for dummies" during a recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference workshop:

1. Read a portion of Scripture each day (1 Peter 2:2-3; Psalm 119:9-16, 33-40).
2. Pray at least three times a day (Daniel 6:10-11).
3. Share the gospel with non-Christians (Romans 1:16-17).
4. Fast for spiritual growth and development (Matthew 6:16-18).
5. Fast for spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-7; Ephesians 4:7-16).
6. Get involved in works of service (Ephesians 2:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:58).
7. Get the proper amount of rest (Mark 6:31).
8. Watch less television (Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17).
9. Read more Christian literature (Philippians 4:8-9).
10. Prayerfully find another maturing Christian to whom you can be accountable (Titus 2:1-6).

the local church.

"The reason why people don't grow in the faith is because they really don't have the practice of obedience," he added. "They don't see very many examples of it among those of us already in the church."

Noting that "Jesus went to the heart of the matter" in addressing spiritual growth, Fentress said, "That's how we've got to think in the church. We've really need to think in terms of the heart of the matter when it comes to reaching people and discipling them."



MONTICELLO A planned addition to the University of the Cumberlands' math and science building will be built to resemble Thomas Jefferson's mansion

## Cumberland gets \$2 million for renovation

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands recently received an anonymous \$2 million donation for the renovation and expansion of its science building.

The renovation, which already is under way, is scheduled to be finished in August 2008.

Rev. Oliver Hawkins, Sr.  
Director of Missions, 1992 - 2006  
Central Association of Kentucky Baptists

Retirement reception  
Friday, March 24  
9 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 3 pm  
Central Association  
114 North Spalding Avenue  
Lebanon, Kentucky

For further information:  
270.692.9577 or centralassoc@alltel.net

Phase one, completed in fall 2005, saw the addition of three chemistry labs. Phase two, already begun, involves renovating the interior of the existing 38,000-square-foot building. It is scheduled to be finished by summer 2006.

Phase three, which will begin in the summer of 2007, includes the construction of a 25,000-square-foot addition with technology-equipped classrooms, lecture halls and office space. The addition's exterior will resemble Thomas Jefferson's Monticello mansion.

The donation is one of the largest contributions to what will be an \$8 million project. Officials expect to announce more contributions soon.

University officials said one in four students at Cumberlands is working toward a major or minor in math or science.

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Music: Rev. Steve Kibbons  
Registration Deadline: March 23  
Reservations:  
David Sandifer, coordinator of The Bivocational Ministry Center  
Bivocational Ministry Center, Campbellsville University,  
ATTN: David Sandifer, UPO. 911, Campbellsville, KY 42718-2799  
Phone: (270) 789-5081 or (270) 789-8459  
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## Missionary tries to see homeless as 'God sees them'

**"We want to present Christ to the whole family."**

Missionary Reggie Robbins

*Continued from page 1*

Set Free Sanctuary Shelter is the only homeless shelter in metro Atlanta that refuses to split families. To date, the largest family to ever live at the shelter included eight members.

Families, who can stay up to three months, are provided with hot meals, clean beds, children's day care, counseling, medical assistance, clothing, drug/alcohol addiction treatment, job training and job search support. They also get a strong dose of the gospel.

"First, we want to keep families together," Robbins said, "for the sake of the children and for the health of the marriage. Most shelters will immediately split up mom and dad, with smaller children going with mom to one shelter while Dad is hauled off to another. If there's a teenage son, he'll be sent along with his dad to the men's shelter.

"Next, we want to present Christ to the whole family."

The impact of homelessness on children and teenagers is both touching and difficult, he said.

"I remember a family with a 6-year-old boy. When we showed the little boy where his room would be, he yelled, 'Look Mom, look Dad, a bed!' You see, they had been sleeping in a car for two weeks."

Homelessness is tough on teenagers as well, because of the potential embarrassment. The shame of being in a shelter would be devastating if other kids at school found out.

### Root causes for homelessness

Robbins said homelessness also damages the father's self-esteem. He cringes when people say, "Well, if people would just try hard enough to find a job, then they wouldn't be homeless."

He admits some homeless people

might be "lazy," but Robbins insists the vast majority are victims of circumstance.

"For instance, the economy is not very good right now. Often, we'll have families who have come to Atlanta from another city or state because the father has been promised a job. And they get here, and the employer tells them the job is no longer available."

Families that were living paycheck-to-paycheck can go quickly from staying in a motel to sleeping in their car when there's no income.

"And when there's no more gas money or when they have to sell the car, they start looking for housing in a shelter," Robbins said.

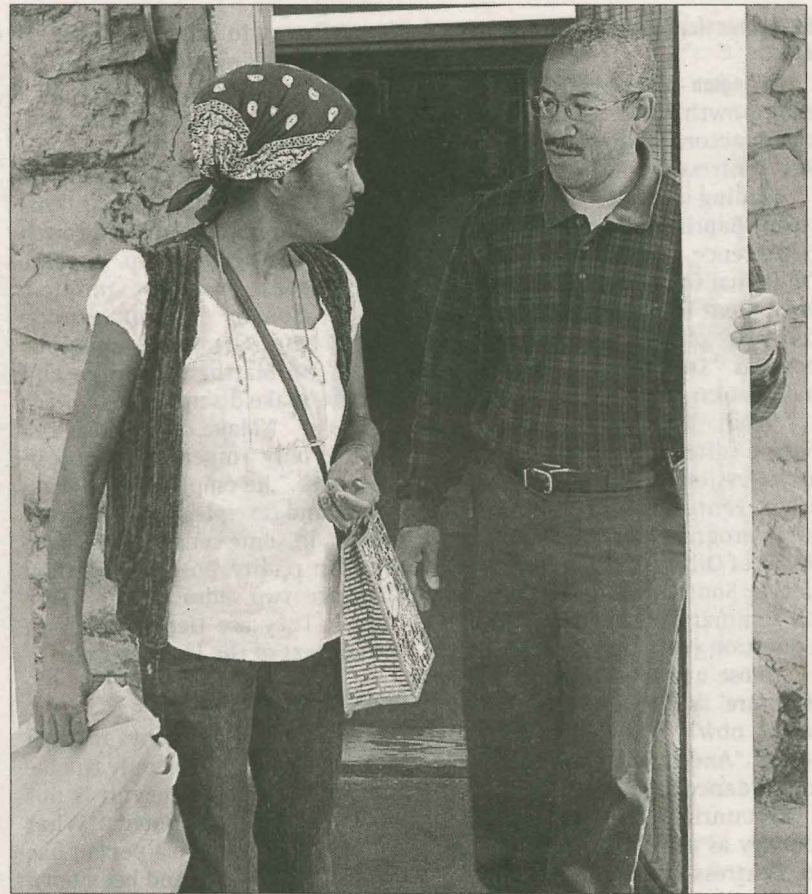
"We have men and women who come to us and simply say they're sick and tired of being sick and tired," Robbins said. "They're tired of being on the street. They're tired of waking up in places in which they have no memory of how they got there. They're tired of hurting their families because of their addictions.

"The homeless come from all walks of life," he said. "Right now, we have a medical doctor who was his own best customer. He got strung out on drugs, lost his medical license, and his wife left him."

### Providing structure to change

Robbins said Set Free's introduction of structure, strict guidelines and chore duties at the Set Free shelter are key steps to bringing a family back from the edge.

"Except for Saturday and Sunday, when the shelter is open 24 hours a day, the shelter closes during the day Monday-Friday," Robbins said. "That's to get the parents out looking for jobs, and to make sure their kids are either in day care or school. If dad is out looking for a job, mom may be at Goodwill



**SERVING HOMELESS** Reggie Robbins says "good-bye" to a homeless woman, who dropped by the Set Free Memorial Drive Ministries and Sanctuary Shelter in Decatur, Ga., for a hot meal and clothes. (NAMB photos by John Swain)

or another agency looking for long-term housing. We also require mom and dad to take a money management course."

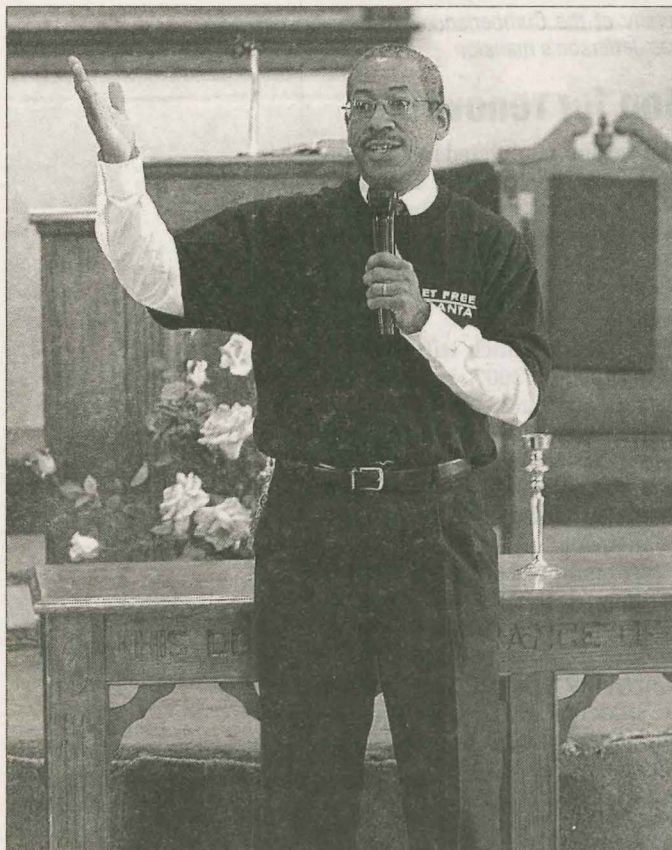
At 7 p.m. each night, the family reconvenes for supper. After supper, the whole family has mandatory chores, such as cleaning sleeping areas or bathrooms or washing dishes and kitchen clean-up.

Robbins has a simple credo for the hundreds of homeless men and women who have wandered into Set Free.

"I tell them that once they cross the threshold into this place of ministry, 'I no longer look at you

like you are or like you were, but I look at you with the aspirations and hopes that you will become what God intends for you to be,'" Robbins said. "Some come in here and at first, look real rough, like real hopeless situations. But I try to give everyone the opportunity, the benefit of the doubt. I try to look at them the way God sees them.

"And when they've come through our system and go out working again, adding to society, and at the same time, they're trusting in God and God is still developing their lives ... those are the times I just want to shout!"



**SERMON** Southern Baptist missionary Reggie Robbins preaches during a worship service for the homeless. Set Free ministry includes a homeless shelter for families, an addiction rehabilitation program and a community outreach ministry.

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## Radcliff church offers soldiers fun, food & faith

Continued from page 1

"They don't just cook a meal. They come out and eat with (the soldiers) and play cards with 'em. They've adopted these guys."

Stithton has hosted more than a dozen of the outreach events. The next one will be March 25.

A worship service concludes each event. Attendance has ranged from 60 to 180 soldiers. One night 96 people responded to the invitation to follow Christ.

In addition to a sermon by Curtis, retired military men like Bruce McGee also have shared their story of how they came to believe in Jesus.

Although he made a decision at 17, McGee said that commitment faded when he joined the Army. It took years before a chaplain in Germany reminded him and his wife who they are in Christ.

"I remind those who made a commitment like I did but weren't committed they shouldn't be doing that," said McGee, a deacon at Stithton.

A retired Army recruiter who has been a member at Stithton since 1998, McGee said the ministry has prompted a deeper, richer spiritual focus in the congregation.

Members who previously complained about the time and money it took to serve the soldiers have since changed their attitude, McGee said.



**SATURDAY SUPPER** Matt Kristofferson and Charolette Kohnstamm, members of Stithton Baptist Church, ladle food onto the plates of servicemen during an Operation Appreciation event. More than 50 members of the church take part in each event, which occurs about once a month. (Photos courtesy of Stithton Baptist Church)

"Every time, to see these guys and see their hearts being poured out, that's why I donate my time," said McGee, who has done everything from flip burgers to serve as a surrogate father.

"I have seen soldiers come forward with tears in their eyes to accept Christ," said member Norris Shake, a retired sergeant major who still works at Fort Knox. "It is such a

blessing to see that happen."

The church doesn't baptize soldier converts. Curtis encourages them to do that back home so loved ones and friends can participate.

Still, during the past 18 months attendance at the Radcliff church has increased by about 100 people.

As a result, the church has hired three new directors for worship, facilities management and the nursery.

"I always believe when you give out, God will bless you," Curtis said of the growth. "We're one of the first churches they see when they come off post. We believe we have a stewardship responsibility to the military."

In addition, Curtis said the ministry has sparked spiritual growth among his members.

"We sense we have a mandate to do what we're doing," Curtis said. "There's an excitement about it. This helps people see who we are and what we've been called to do."

### Baptists hosting appreciation days

Ailstock said appreciation days, which go by various names, started 15 years ago with a Methodist church in Louisville.

Half a dozen churches from a variety of denominations currently host such events for different battalions at Fort Knox.

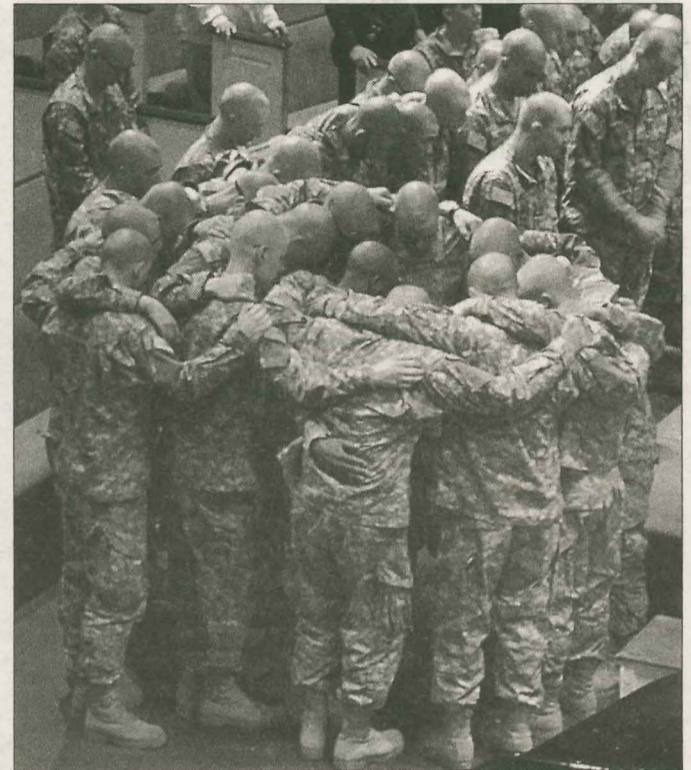
Other Baptist churches that have hosted similar events include Maple Grove Baptist Church near Louisville and St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Last December, Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown served dinner to 450 soldiers prior to a performance by its "Living Christmas Tree."

Regardless of the venue, Ailstock said these days offer a much-needed break from the physical and mental demands of training and are universally appreciated.

"Some of them wouldn't make it without it," he said. "It really meets a lot of needs."

Ailstock, a reserve chaplain, resigned from his pastorate at Dry Ridge Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky after his first extension of duty. He said it's not fair to expect



the congregation to be without a pastor for two years.

Uncertain of his future in or out of the Army, Ailstock said "Operation Appreciation" has left a lasting impression.

"It's opened my eyes to young people," he said. "For so long we've heard that this generation isn't open to God. But I've seen hunger in their eyes, especially at these events."

### A father's care

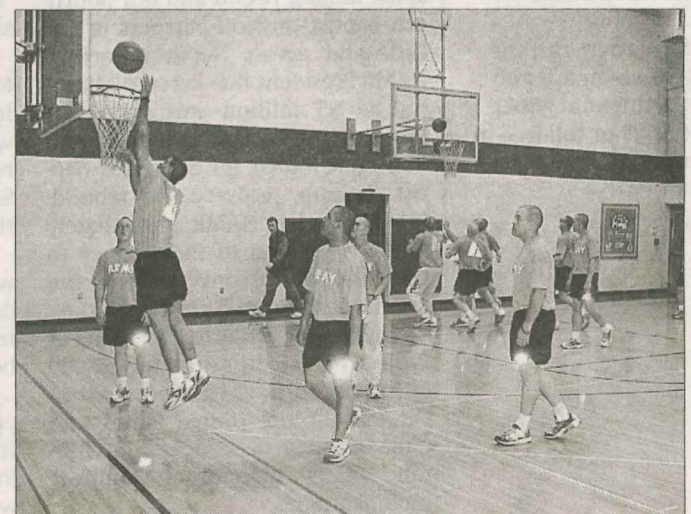
Curtis said he's been able to relate to the pressures that recruits and their parents face since his son joined the Army two years ago.

A Kentucky native who left 34 years ago after graduating from the University of Louisville, Curtis never expected to return to his home state or do military ministry.

But when the opportunity to get involved in "Operation Appreciation" arose, Curtis said he realized why God led him home.

He recalled asking one recruit if he was afraid to die and the young man replied, "Not after tonight, sir."

"I could see the confidence in his face and I said to myself, 'This is why we do this,'" Curtis said. "I've been entrusted to give a message to some of the finest young men in this country. I know I will be standing between time and eternity for some of (them)."



**FUN & GAMES** Soldiers from Fort Knox play basketball at Stithton Baptist Church. The church hosts an "Operation Appreciation" day, on average, once a month.

**DECISIONS** Soldiers pray together after the invitation time at a worship service. Approximately 600 soldiers have made first-time professions of faith at Stithton's appreciation events.

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## Some Hindus mount effort to fight conversions in India

**"This has created an environment of fear for us."**

From a statement issued by the Church of North India

By Erich Bridges  
SBC International Mission Board

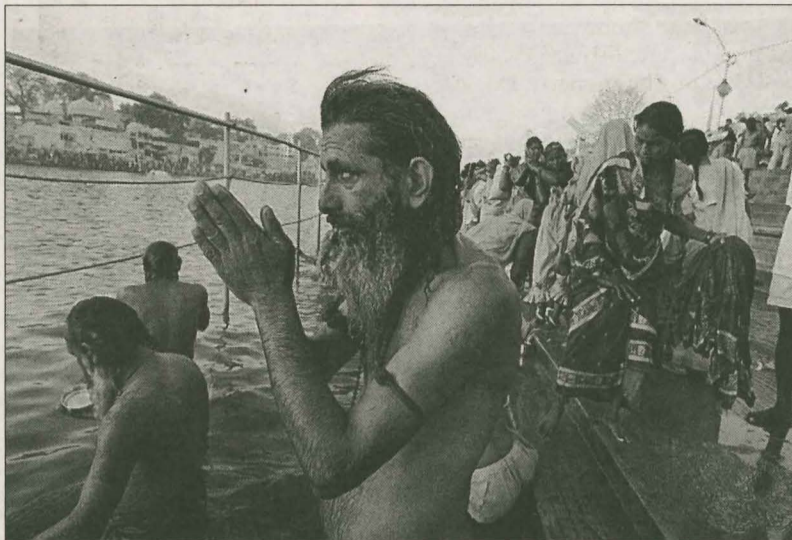
**DANGS, India (BP)**—A new campaign against the conversion of Hindus to Christianity is "evidence of success" for the spread of the gospel in India, according to a Christian worker there.

Militant Hindu leaders mounted a major gathering in February in the northwestern state of Gujarat, the scene of many violent attacks on Christians and Muslims in recent years.

The three-day "Shabari Kumbh Mela" attracted more than 400,000 Hindus to the Dangs district of Gujarat, home to as many as 60,000 tribal Christians. Billed as a worship gathering, the event raised major concerns among Indian Christians, who saw it as an attempt to intimidate—or force—tribal believers into "reconverting" to Hinduism.

The festival featured calls for an end to evangelistic efforts in Gujarat and accusations that church workers are bribing poor tribal Hindus to convert to Christianity.

It ended with only one minor "skirmish" between Hindus and local Christians, news reports said. But Gujarat state officials have declared they will push for new "anti-conversion" laws and press tribal Christians to return to Hinduism. Radical Hindu groups also reportedly plan to hold similar events in other Indian states.



**HINDU CEREMONY** A Hindu prepares to take the "holy dip" during the 2004 Kumbh Mela festival in Ujjain, India, attended by millions of pilgrims. A smaller Kumbh Mela, organized by Hindu radicals, was conducted in February in India's Gujarat state to pressure Hindu converts to Christianity to "reconvert" to Hinduism. (BP file photo)

"It is nice that the Kumbh has passed off peacefully, but the inflammatory speeches delivered during the three days have sown seeds of possible conflicts," said a statement issued by the Church of North India. "This has created an environment of fear for us."

A Christian worker with contacts throughout the giant south Asian nation, however, has a more upbeat perspective.

"Frankly, I look at it as evidence of success," said the worker, who is not identified for safety reasons.

"The fact that so many Hindus are coming to Christ is a major reason (Hindu nationalists) are trying to put these anti-conversion laws in place. That's a good sign."

### Clash of classes

The ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, was swept out of power in national elections in 2004 by the more secular Congress Party and has been losing momentum ever since.

"India has a strong commitment historically to democracy," the

worker said. "A lot of Indians feel very uneasy about saying people cannot convert to another religion or have to get permission from a magistrate to convert. This is evidence of the success of the gospel. Islam is bringing in a lot of converts, too—not necessarily because they like Islam; they're just tired of being untouchables. They're tired of being outcasts."

India remains overwhelmingly Hindu. At least 80 percent of its 1 billion-plus people are Hindus.

The ancient Hindu caste system was outlawed by India's constitution when the modern nation was founded, but it persists in most parts of the country. High-caste Hindus in some areas depend on it for continued economic and social domination of lower castes—and the Dalits (untouchables), who have languished in near-slavery for many generations.

"Caste Hinduism requires isolation and insulation from the outside world to exist," the worker said.

"You must have no other choice to remain a Dalit, or untouchable. What's happening now is the modern world, with its globalization, is bringing opportunities, knowledge and options. These anti-conversion laws are the desperate, last-ditch effort of Hindu conservatives to hold onto a world where there are no choices."

### Volunteers still needed for Kentucky-Gulf Coast partnerships

Kentucky Baptist volunteers continue to be needed for projects related to a partnership with three Gulf Coast Baptist associations.

Last fall, the Kentucky Baptist Convention announced a long-term partnership with the associations in Pascagoula, Miss.; Houma, La.; and Lake Charles, La.

Randy Foster, director of the KBC men on mission department, said projects will need workers for at least the next six months.

For more information, call the KBC men on mission department at (502) 489-3527 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

## NAMB to launch \$5 million New Orleans rebuilding effort

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

**Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)**—Eight months after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the people and landscape of New Orleans, a tidal wave of Southern Baptist volunteers is being sought to help rebuild the historic city and surrounding areas.

The North American Mission Board has launched a \$5 million, two-year rebuilding project called Project NOAH (New Orleans Area Hope). The effort, slated to begin in April, calls for volunteer labor to rehab more than 1,000 homes and 20 Baptist churches during the next two years.

"Project NOAH gives Southern Baptists a framework for demonstrating our cooperative mission spirit among NAMB and our Southern Baptist mission partners in the Gulf and across North America," NAMB President Bob Reccord said.

The \$5 million earmarked for Project NOAH is part of the \$22 million contributed for Southern Baptist cleanup, recovery and rebuilding ministries. NAMB immediately sent \$11 million of that money to the state Baptist conventions in the hurricane-affected Gulf states.

During the projected two years of Project NOAH, an estimated 52,000 construction volunteers from throughout the United States and Canada will be needed, said Jim Burton, NAMB's director of volunteer mobilization.

Project NOAH's leadership will work closely with pastors and leaders of churches in the affected New

Orleans area, he said, as well as include new church starts.

The project will be organized into two regions—one focusing on New Orleans proper and a second focusing on the North Shore, a section of Louisiana north of Lake Pontchartrain.

The \$5 million earmarked from NAMB will cover about 60 percent of Project NOAH's costs. The remainder will come from volunteer fees of \$15 per day to defray such volunteer support costs as lodging and meals.

Project NOAH includes only the greater New Orleans area, but Southern Baptists in Mississippi and Florida are conducting similar rebuilding programs, Burton said.

A recent White House report commended Southern Baptists for their "quick and coordinated work to aid storm victims in the Gulf states."

Southern Baptist disaster relief teams provided more than 14.4 million meals to hurricane victims and workers. Nearly 17,000 cleanup and recovery jobs were completed by Southern Baptist volunteers along the Gulf Coast.

Unlike disaster relief volunteers, who need to be specially trained to deal safely with food, chainsaws and mud, construction volunteers can be taught on the job.

"Now's the time for all those people who wanted to help after the storm to come to New Orleans," Burton said. "This is a disaster that won't end."

For more information, call (800) 462-8657, ext. 6134, or (770) 410-6134, or visit [www.TheBridge.NAMB.net](http://www.TheBridge.NAMB.net).

# Senior Living Celebrations

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## 20 campus renovation projects

### Improving where you eat, sleep, play, worship & study

I certainly have enjoyed the sporadic warm days we've been blessed with this spring. Maybe it is a sign of my aging, but every year I find myself reliving the same scenario: I am torn between the anxiousness for summer to arrive and the reality that our time to prepare for summer is growing short.

This year has been especially difficult, as we have numerous projects in motion at both Cedar more and Jonathan Creek. There are literally about 20 significant renovation projects in motion right now as I write. The reality is that these 20 are much more challenging to manage and complete as opposed to a single larger project.

This truth reminds me of how easy it can be for us as Christians to get so diversified in our focus that we seem to be very busy, and real progress becomes more difficult to measure. I believe there is great freedom and clarity when we have a single focus of purpose and clarity of our goal.

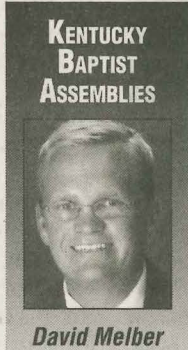
While each of the projects address real needs that will be noticeable to our guests, the driv-

ing force is to remove all potential barriers that are distractions while guests are on the property. Our desire is that the gospel message and the love of God can be seen clearly without focusing on a building that is not at or above an acceptable standard. The numerous projects have addressed the specific areas of where you sleep, where you worship, where you study the Bible, where you eat and where you do recreation.

We have a long way to go, but great strides are being made right now. Each year our plan will be to make noticeable improvements in these five areas. Remember it is not about the buildings; it is about creating the best and most inviting environment so God's Word and love can be experienced clearly in the camp setting.

In closing, I ask for your prayers for our staff. Pray that God will keep us focused on Him and the steps He puts before us. Pray that we have wisdom to accomplish all that is before us and pray that we have unity of purpose in making Him known among ourselves and all who come to our camps.

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



David Melber

## Kudzu

Doug Marlette



## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 Sinful
- 4 "And the Spirit and the \_\_\_\_\_ say, Come" (Revelation 22:17)
- 9 Word in many ranch names
- 12 On the outside (prefix)
- 13 To let slacken
- 14 Put on \_\_\_\_\_ (postpone)
- 15 Rebelled against
- 17 Convalesced
- 19 Friendly and Flintstone
- 21 "Shall I come unto you with a \_\_\_\_\_, or in love" (1 Corinthians 4:21)
- 22 "I give unto you power to \_\_\_\_\_ on serpents" (Luke 10:19)
- 24 "The labour of the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ to life" (Proverbs 10:16)
- 28 Actor William
- 29 Ms. Moreno
- 30 "As it was in the days of \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 17:26)
- 31 Product safety inits.
- 32 "There was a rainbow ... in sight like unto an \_\_\_\_\_" (Revelation 4:3)
- 35 Western state (abbr.)
- 36 NYC opera house
- 38 "Ye shall eat neither bread nor parched corn, nor green \_\_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 23:14)
- 39 Protest
- 41 Kind of alphabet
- 43 Dispatches
- 44 Requirement for college (abbr.)
- 45 Provides sketchy information
- 47 Spice rack spice
- 50 Like a mule, supposedly
- 53 Miner's pay dirt
- 54 "Neither let us \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, as some of them" (1 Corinthians 10:9)
- 56 Actor Louis
- 57 \_\_\_\_\_ & breakfast
- 58 "Foxes have \_\_\_\_\_" (Luke 9:58)
- 59 Oolong, for one

### Down

- 1 "I remember thee upon my \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 63:6)
- 2 Mirror
- 3 "Who maketh thee to \_\_\_\_\_ from another?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- 4 To be fruitful
- 5 Comedian Foxx
- 6 Within; toward (prefix)
- 7 "Mine eye also is \_\_\_\_\_ by reason of sorrow" (Job 17:7)
- 8 "The \_\_\_\_\_ God is thy refuge" (Deuteronomy 33:27)
- 9 Implored (arch.)
- 10 Team's "winningest" pitcher
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Sea
- 16 Consumed with anger
- 18 Where Cain dwelled: land of \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 "I was dumb with silence ... and my sorrow was \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 39:2)
- 22 Tom of Ringling Bros. fame
- 23 "I will make thee \_\_\_\_\_ over many things" (Matthew 25:21)
- 25 Greek letters
- 26 Namely (2 words)
- 27 Gives new life, as Jesus Christ does
- 29 Camino \_\_\_\_\_
- 33 "My soul \_\_\_\_\_ for heaviness" (Psalm 119:28)
- 34 "They that will be rich fall ... into many ... lusts, which \_\_\_\_\_ men in destruction" (1 Timothy 6:9)

- 37 "When the ruler of the feast had \_\_\_\_\_ the water that was made wine" (John 2:9)
- 40 Say okay
- 42 "\_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) with you, saith the Lord" (Haggai 1:13)
- 43 Book divisions
- 46 On cowboy's saddle checklist
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ Hill, San Francisco
- 48 Office or function (suffix)
- 49 Neon competitor
- 51 Grain
- 52 KJV assent
- 55 Metric measure (abbr.)

### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	X	L	E	S	O	A	T	S		
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A	R	I	S	E	N	S	O	P	P	E
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S	U	E	D							

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## Probably last evangelistic sermon, Graham tells New Orleans

### Graham seeks to encourage New Orleans pastors

**New Orleans (BP)**—Speaking to a group of pastors before this past weekend's Celebration of Hope, Billy Graham told pastors their work is crucial to the new city that will follow Katrina's flood.

"Out of this disaster is going to grow a new New Orleans," Graham told those gathered at First Baptist Church of New Orleans. "You (pastors) are going to be the key to its progress because what is needed is a moral and spiritual renewal."

Graham also praised the work of all Christians in ministry in the area and noted that many people have asked him why the storm hit New Orleans.

"I don't know. I don't know anyone who does know," he said. "I just know God allowed it. He didn't send it, but He allowed it."

Graham added: "Jesus is no security against storms, but He is a perfect security in the storm."

By Bruce Nolan  
Religion News Service

**New Orleans (RNS)**—Evangelist Billy Graham seemed to close out his 60-year career as the country's most famous evangelist Sunday, March 12, calling thousands to Christian faith in wounded New Orleans.

Preaching at the New Orleans Arena, Graham said, "This is probably the last evangelistic sermon I'll ever preach."

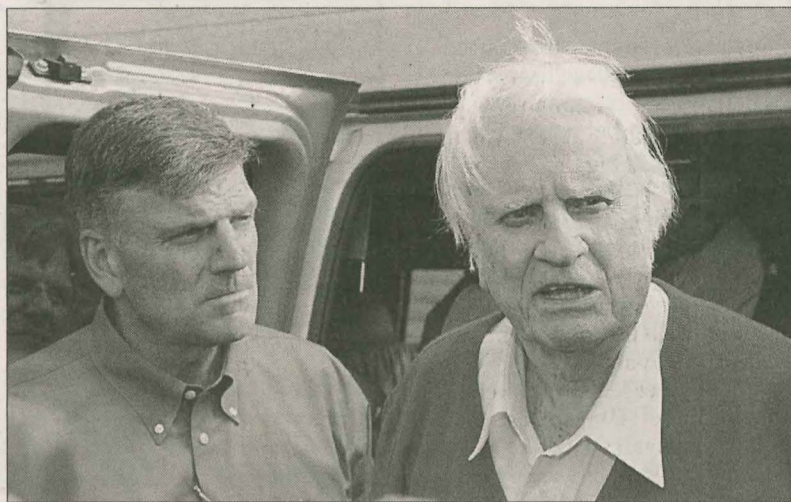
Frail and tentative, the 87-year-old Graham shuffled behind a walker toward the pulpit as a crowd his organization estimated at 16,300 stood in a sustained roar of applause.

His son and heir, Franklin Graham, gently assisted him into place. Thousands of flash bulbs exploded. An overflow crowd of 1,500 watched outside on jumbo TV screens.

Graham went to New Orleans as part of the two-day Celebration of Hope event his son Franklin had been invited to lead. Franklin Graham preached Saturday, and the elder Graham preached Sunday.

The elder Graham originally wasn't scheduled to take part, but he told his son New Orleans had really been "a burden on my heart" and that he wanted to come.

Graham preached on his feet for 22 minutes. The arena's lighting caught his swept-back silvery hair. His familiar square jaw was taut, but his voice has grown thin with the years. Graham told a few well-received jokes and spoke admiringly of Mayor Ray Nagin and the Herculean task of recovery facing him. ("How do you eat an elephant?" he advised Nagin. "One bite at a time. It's the only way.")



**VISITING THE DEVASTATION** Billy Graham (right) and his son Franklin make a stop in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, where flood waters reached 10 feet after Hurricane Katrina. The elder Graham later told pastors he was devastated by what he saw in New Orleans. "I don't even know how to describe it. I haven't even called my wife, because I don't think I am emotionally capable of telling her what I've seen and heard since I've been here." (BP photo by Jerry Ward)

But the core of his message, much abbreviated from that of 417 earlier crusades, was simple Christian evangelism: repentance, acceptance and the assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Graham preached out of his own infirmity, several times referring to his multiple ailments.

He begged his audience's forgiveness in advance should he lose his way in his notes, which he did briefly, once, to no ill effect. He referred to a recent period of illness that included four brain operations. He spoke of sensing the nearness of death and the certainty of salvation.

When finished, he sat back in a lift chair that raised him to the appropriate height behind the pulpit.

As hundreds filed forward in the traditional altar call, he admonished them to "be careful of those people in wheelchairs."

"I'm one of 'em."

### Looking for encouragement

Buses outside the area advertised they came from as far away as Kentucky and Georgia, but the crowd was overwhelmingly local, and badly battered by Hurricane Katrina.

Pastor Louis Jones said he came because he needed to be encouraged. He said he lost his church in the 7th Ward, as well as his cars and his home in eastern New Orleans. His wife, children and grandchildren live outside Dallas while he remains in the city, trying to as-

sist his scattered congregation and working his job in the U.S. Postal Service.

To top it off, he said a brown recluse spider bit him while he was gutting his house, hospitalizing him for two days.

"I'm learning patience," he said. "But I hope to hear some words of encouragement tonight. I always find the Word encouraging. It strengthens me. Sometimes a preacher needs to be preached to."

Many in the crowd said they came for similar reasons: to hear a bit of encouragement in familiar words from an iconic figure in American religious life.

Before Graham's appearance, the crowd was treated to 90 precisely choreographed minutes of Christian rock—a contradiction in terms when Graham started his career—mixed with videotaped personal testimonies, bluegrass music and vibrant traditional hymn singing.

In a highlight before Graham's appearance, 97-year-old George Beverly Shea, a longtime, faithful Graham musical sidekick, sang "How Great Thou Art" to affectionate applause that nearly rivaled Graham's.

But many said they felt the night was Graham's—and another moment of history wrought by Hurricane Katrina, one in which timeless Scripture was intersecting with the end of a mortal life span.

Graham seemed draped with the same sense of closure.

His last words were: "I'm looking forward to that big reunion up there. God bless you all."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

## Three different birth dates, part 2

### Despite academic successes, Ethiopian student faces multitude of tragedies

Last week I introduced you to Napolion, an international student with a sad and confusing history. Napolion has done very well at Oneida Baptist Institute. His command of the English language has greatly improved, but still needs a little polishing. Our English-as-a-second-language classes have been a big help.

In addition to making the honor roll his freshman year, the faculty and house parents also voted Napolion to be the Most Improved Freshman Boy because of his improved attitude and grades. The improvement in attitude resulted from his maturing and gaining a little self respect. There was, and still is, a lot of boy in Napolion.

This could have been the happy ending to his story, but another serious twist was yet to take place in Napolion's life. Because he was receiving additional scholarship money, he and some other students were asked to work for three weeks when school ended last May. Afterward he returned to his father's home in Virginia. They were together only two weeks before his father returned to Ethiopia. Napolion spent most of the rest of the summer taking care of himself until he returned to school in August. A few weeks went by, and Napolion got concerned because he had not heard from his father. Remember, Napolion is an only child, though he does have some relatives here in the States. In early September, Napolion began to sense something was wrong. His uncle who was living in New Orleans made an unexpected trip to Ethiopia. A few days later we received word that Napolion's father had passed away a few weeks

earlier. Family and friends in Ethiopia were afraid to tell Napolion, especially since he would not be able to return Ethiopia for the funeral.

We were encouraged not to tell Napolion of his father's death, but we felt he had to know. It was a difficult time for Napolion and for us. There was so much we wanted to do, but so little we really could do. Now, without a father or mother and no legal guardian here in the States, we didn't know what to do. When I asked Napolion where he would go during the scheduled school breaks, he assured me that his uncle in New Orleans would be happy for him to come there.

Well, there is still one more unbelievable twist. Napolion's uncle left for Ethiopia just three days before Katrina hit New Orleans. When Napolion was in my office a week after Katrina, I told him New Orleans basically was under water and for all intents and purposes was destroyed. What was he going to do now? He simply did not understand the gravity of the whole complicated situation and could only reply that his uncle would work things out.

When his uncle returned to the States, he discovered his living quarters were destroyed. Except for a few personal items, he was left with nothing. The uncle and Napolion decided it would be best for his uncle to go to Virginia and salvage what he could from his father's apartment and try to start over.

So there you have the unfortunate and sad story. We have given Napolion a full scholarship until he graduates. Hopefully the years ahead will be less stressful for this fine young man.

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



W.F. Underwood

## A messenger rather than a sales person

### Current student learned of Clear Creek through alum

In a brief stint selling life insurance, the call to ministry became clear for Darrell Hahn. "God told me I could be a messenger, but not a sales person," Darrell recalled.

The calling began a few years earlier when Darrell was 22, working at a Harrodsburg plant and anticipating marriage.

"The Lord put a guy in my path, a former Clear Creek student, and we became friends," Darrell said. "I saw the love of Jesus in his life and rededicated my life. I considered college, but ended up working 10 more years in the plant."

At the time, Clear Creek offered Saturday classes and Darrell pondered commuting to those. "It was a long drive; I just didn't do it." Then while he was selling insurance, the Lord showed him Clear Creek was where he needed to be.

The 32-year-old Mercer County native grew up in a Christian home and was saved at age 10. Before coming to Clear Creek, his Christian fellowship centered at Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church.

"My wife, Starla, is a Bell County native," Darrell said. "She knew I had a heart for the Lord and has

been a major supporter from day one." They met at Bruner's Chapel when she visited a relative. She works at the campus switchboard, but later this semester will become college relations secretary. Darrell works on the cleaning crew, doing various jobs helping to keep the campus clean. Later this semester he will become coordinator of cleaning services and security.

The family includes Kaylee, almost 3, and a second child expected in June. Darrell commuted for one semester. His house had been on the market for two years without an offer. "We prayed and knew the Lord wanted us on campus," Darrell said. "I

called a realtor friend and asked for a sign to be placed in the yard; 10 days later I had a contract."

Darrell is taking the pastoral ministry major and has had some preaching opportunities. "This is a time for God to equip me," he said. "I'm open to whatever His call will bring."

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



Bill Whittaker

## Christian colleges brace for gay demonstrators

Nashville (BP)—A group of about 35 young adults with the homosexual advocacy group Soulforce has announced a bus tour of 19 Christian colleges and military academies.

Dubbed the "Equality Ride," the group's goal for the tour is to "confront schools that ban the enrollment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students." They are requesting that the schools offer official forums in which the activists can express their views.

The tour, which began March 9, will include stops at Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tenn.; Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla.; and California Baptist University in Riverside, Calif.

Union President David Dockery issued a letter to the university community addressing the matter for those who will remain on campus.

"While we will seek to be kind and gracious in every way, it would be irresponsible for us to offer any public forum on such serious issues to a group of individuals that we do not know and who do not know us," Dockery wrote.

## Three students vented anger at churches

By Carla Crowder  
Religion News Service

Birmingham, Ala. (RNS)—Ben. Matt. Russ. Their names match their profiles. All-American college boys from the suburbs with big dreams, promising futures, good parents.

Between them there was an occasional speeding ticket, the lust for stardom, an unquenchable thirst for beer, but nothing to indicate they were up to no good in the deep woods of west Alabama.

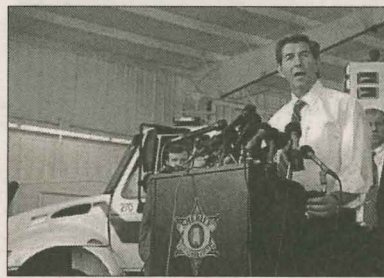
But last week, all three were arrested in connection with a string of church burnings.

Benjamin Moseley and Russell DeBusk, both 19, were top theater students at Birmingham-Southern College. Moseley loved the limelight. DeBusk was his sidekick.

Leaders in local film took note of their quirky talent, and the duo landed roles in a University of Alabama at Birmingham film called the Youth Violence Project. They believed community film would be a springboard to Los Angeles, they told the Birmingham Southern student newspaper.

Eerily, the film appeared March 8—the day their faces were broadcast internationally after being arrested in the torching of Alabama churches.

Less enthralled with fame and film, Matthew Cloyd, 20, hooked up with the others when he and DeBusk lived in the same dorm.



**ANNOUNCING ARRESTS** Speaking after the arrest of three church fire suspects, Alabama Gov. Bob Riley told reporters that churches "in this state can rest a little easier." (Alabama Baptist photo by Grace Thornton)

An academic standout, Cloyd grew up a doctor's son in Shelby County. His true love was deer hunting. But hunting was intertwined with booze, and a rebellious anger crept into Cloyd's personality.

After he got a speeding ticket—85 in a 70—his Web site musings grew cryptically violent. "Let us defy the very morals of society instilled upon us by our parents, our relatives and of course Jesus," he wrote to Moseley last summer as the two planned a road trip.

About the same time, DeBusk and Moseley started dabbling in the occult. They told friends they were Satanists on a hunt for knowledge, though friends didn't take it too seriously.

The three students are charged in a two-count federal complaint

with conspiracy and burning Ashby Baptist Church in Bibb County. The three face five to 20 years in prison and up to a \$500,000 fine.

The church arson spree started Feb. 3 when the first of five Baptist churches were found burned in Bibb County; three of them were destroyed. The second group of fires came Feb. 7, when four more churches were destroyed. The 10th occurred Feb. 11 in Lamar County.

### A joke "out of hand"

Moseley admitted to federal agents last week that he, Cloyd and DeBusk went to Bibb County in Cloyd's green Toyota 4Runner and set fire to five churches, according to an affidavit filed in Birmingham's federal court.

"Moseley said that after they set fire to the first two churches, they saw firetrucks driving by," the affidavit said. "Moseley said that after that, burning the other three churches became too spontaneous."

Moseley told agents he and Cloyd went to west Alabama and burned four more churches as an attempt to throw off investigators. "Moseley said the diversion obviously did not work," the affidavit said.

An unnamed witness quoted Cloyd in an affidavit as saying Moseley "did it as a joke, and it got out of hand."

With additional reporting by Val Walton and Mark O'Keefe for Religion News Service

## Restrictions on religious travel to Cuba questioned

Washington (RNS)—More than 100 members of Congress have signed a letter to Treasury Secretary John Snow questioning changes in his department's rules that have halted the ability of some religious organizations to travel to Cuba.

"We understand the complicated political reality that exists between the United States and Cuban governments," reads the March 3 letter.

"However, we believe it is inappropriate and unacceptable for politics and government to serve as a hurdle and now as a barrier to faith-based connections between individuals. If anything, these connections foster greater religious freedom in Cuba and contribute to a severely-lacking free-flowing exchange of ideas between the two countries."

## Bush asks companies & foundations to fund faith-based charities

Washington (RNS)—President Bush last week urged large private funders to join government agencies in offering grants to faith-based organizations, adding that corporations and foundations should rewrite their rules if they don't allow funding of religious charities.

"I believe all of us ... ought to allow religious organizations to compete and function on an equal basis, not for the sake of faith but for the sake of results," he told about 1,200 people gathered for a national conference of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

He cited research by that office that showed only a small level of grant giving to faith groups by corporations and foundations.

Although the president's focus generally has been on public funding of faith-based organizations, the conference encouraged the private sector to consider religious groups providing social services.

The White House office found that one in five large foundations it researched prohibited funding for faith-based social service programs.

"I would hope they would revisit their charters," Bush said.

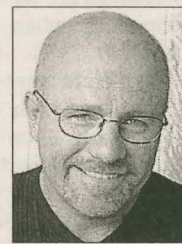
The White House also found that only 6 percent of grants from 20 large corporate foundations went to religious charities.

"I would urge our corporate foundations to reach beyond the norm and look for those social entrepreneurs who haven't been recognized heretofore," the president said.

## Prime time: Christian financial guru recording reality TV show

Brentwood, Tenn. (RNS)—CBS has ordered a prime-time TV reality series pilot from financial guru Dave Ramsey, a Tennessee-based evangelical Christian whose daily radio show airs on 250 stations.

More than 5,000 churches, military bases and businesses have offered Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" video series, in which he squeals with delight as he slices credit cards in half. "Plastic surgery," he calls it.



Dave Ramsey

The pilot program is expected to be delivered to CBS by April or May, said Beth Tallent, Ramsey's spokeswoman. A decision on possible air dates will be made after that.

Plans call for Ramsey to advise and guide selected families through the steps needed to re-establish their financial stability.

"It's a distinct and relatable concept from a very charismatic on-screen personality who engages his guests and audience with his own unique style and flair," said Nina Tassler, president of CBS Entertainment.

Ramsey will star in the show and co-produce it with R.J. Cutler, an Emmy Award winner and Academy Award nominee whose television credits include "Black/White," "30 Days," "American High" and "Freshman Diaries." Cutler's film credits include "The War Room," "A Perfect Candidate" and "Thin."

Ramsey's expertise stems from his own rags-to-riches story. By age 26, he had established a \$4 million real estate portfolio, but he lost it by the age of 30, forcing him to rebuild his own financial life.

One of his favorite Bible passages, he likes to tell audiences, is Proverbs 22:7: "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

Through a series of "baby steps," Ramsey encourages listeners to get out of debt, build an emergency fund, stop borrowing money and begin building wealth.

"Churches have figured out what I have known all along—people are not giving because they don't have money to give," Ramsey said in a recent interview. "When the collection plate goes by, they are thinking, 'I know I should give, but then I can't pay the light bill.'"

# Wouldn't it be great ...

... if churches had a resource to help families with the challenges they're facing?

## You're holding it.

Every week, the Western Recorder offers Family Forum, a faith-based column to help with the variety of issues families face today. Specialists



on parenting, seniors, singles, teenagers and relationships can help equip your congregation to live out their Christianity where it matters most. Shouldn't your members be getting Family Forum?

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING  
**WESTERNRECORDER**

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

### Three Forks Baptist Association in Hazard.

Director of Missions Jim Castlen is leading the association to purchase and equip a "total ministry trailer" that will be used by churches and visiting mission groups to reach children and families for Christ. The trailer will be equipped with food preparation equipment and electrical hook-ups for sound and video equipment. Associational leaders envision the trailer being set up and used in parks, neighborhoods and remote hollows for outreach and evangelistic events. Pray that many unchurched children and families will come to know Christ through this ministry trailer. Pray also that this new ministry tool will be fully operational by summer.

### Mission Service Corps Missionary John Roberts of Warsaw.

Roberts serves as chaplain of Raceway Ministries at the Kentucky Speedway in Sparta. He coordinates the ministry and volunteers who provide worship experiences and special evangelistic events in the speedway's campground area. Tens of thousands of unchurched racing fans will visit the track this season to attend one of the scheduled NASCAR, ARCA or Indy Racing League events. Pray that visitors will experience a genuine Christian witness and understand their need for Christ as Savior. Pray also that volunteers will be faithful to serve and boldly share their faith.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—Rose Hill Church will hold revival services March 19-22 with **Braxton Hunter** as evangelist. **Ronnie Mayes** is pastor.

■ **BANDANA**—Bandana Church recently called **Terry Sills** as interim pastor. He is retired director of missions for Blood River Association and former pastor of West End Church in Paducah.

■ **BOAZ**—Wice Church ordained **Ricky Hawes** as a deacon Jan. 29.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—**Rolando Muniz**, Hispanic missionary with the Southern Kentucky Hispanic Missionary Association, will speak at Saloma Church March 26, 11 a.m. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Rosedale Church recently called **Greg Wingate** as pastor. He previously served as interim pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Evergreen Church recently called **Charles O'Neal** as minister of music. **Tom Douglas** is pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—Central Association will host a retirement reception for director of missions **Oliver Hawkins** March 24, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m., at the associational office in Lebanon.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Energized Church is holding a "40-Day Revival" through April 9. Services begin at 7:30 p.m.

### Spotlight on ...

#### La Center



Ohio Valley Church will hold revival services March 19, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and March 20-22, 7 p.m., with **Rayland Smith** of Wingo as evangelist. **Tim Smith** is pastor.

nightly. For more information, call (502) 634-8222. **Milton Seymore** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—West End Church recently called **Wayne Carter** as pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Ephesus Church will hold revival services March 22-25 with **Samuel Peoples** as evangelist.

### What's going on?

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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March

- 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.
- 24-25 Developing & Managing People Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 28 Children's Bible Drill, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 28-29 Literacy Conference, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 29 Children's Bible Drill, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 29 Children's Bible Drill, Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland.
- 29 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Alexandria, Ky. Please mail resumé to Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 11212 Lees Road, Alexandria, KY 41001; or email to [pleasantrydgebaptist@yahoo.com](mailto:pleasantrydgebaptist@yahoo.com) by March 31, 2006.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor of youth for Piner Baptist Church of Morningview, Ky. Mail resumé to 15044 Madison Pike, Morningview, KY 41063, Attn: Personnel Committee. Web site: [www.Pinerbaptist.org](http://www.Pinerbaptist.org) (for job description).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Jeffersontown Baptist Church. Our Uptown program offers a tremendous opportunity to build relationships with unchurched youth in hopes of sharing the gospel. Strong discipleship skills needed. Contact Pastor Sanford Hill at (502) 905-3779 or mail resumé to Jeffersontown Baptist Church, 10011 Taylorsville Road, Jeffersontown, KY 40299.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Oakhill Baptist Church (due to retirement of former pastor after 21 years of service). This Southern Baptist church is located in Evansville, Ind., and has average worship attendance of 250. Resumés and inquiries should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee (confidential), Oakhill Baptist Church, 4615 Oak Hill Road, Evansville, IN 47711. Sermons on tape with resumés will be appreciated. For more information, call Kathleen at (812) 476-3450; or fax: (812) 477-8113.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for growing country church averaging 160 in SS and 263 in worship. We're an extremely loving and caring body of Christ focused on reaching the lost for our Savior. Mail resumé to: Belleview Baptist Church, 6658 Fifth St., Burlington, KY 41005, Attn: Carol Rudicill.

**SEEKING:** Individual or couple for part-time youth director position. Send letter of application and resumé to: Alton Baptist Church, 1321 Bypass North, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

**SEEKING:** Lincoln County Baptist Association and Casey County Baptist Association are accepting resumés through the end of March for a part-time director of missions. Resumés may be sent to: Lincoln County Baptist Association, 4160 US Highway 27 S., Stanford, KY 40484. Call (606) 365-7123 for details.

**SEEKING:** Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard, Ky., is accepting resumés for the position of pastor. Please send resumés and videotape to: Pastor Search Team, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701. Visit our Web site at [petreymemorial.org](http://petreymemorial.org).

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

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

**SEEKING:** Minister to families, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Nicholasville, Ky. Please respond to [cbjcc@Alltel.net](mailto:cbjcc@Alltel.net) or (859) 312-7638.

**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](mailto:ttrn@adelphia.net).

**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](mailto:1stbaptistelkin@earthlink.net); Website: [elkinfbc.org](http://elkinfbc.org).

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

**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](mailto:rkarroll@verizon.net).

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

**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 resumés to Elkhorn City Baptist Church, PO Box 448, Elkhorn City, KY 41522, or call Pastor Shawn at (606) 754-4781.

**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.

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

## Lexington church seeks to plant churches in Peru

By Frank Lockwood  
Lexington Herald-Leader

Lexington—In Catholic Peru's southern desert, where volcanoes rumble and the ground shakes, evangelical Christians are rarer than raindrops. But a Lexington congregation is determined to change that.

Porter Memorial Baptist Church hopes to plant new churches throughout Peru's Carumas Valley, high in the Andes Mountains.

A team of seven volunteers left last week to travel to the South American nation. They'll go on a prayerwalk around rural, largely indigenous villages and they'll be looking for "men and women of peace," said Larry Cranfill, the church's assistant pastor of missions and community outreach.

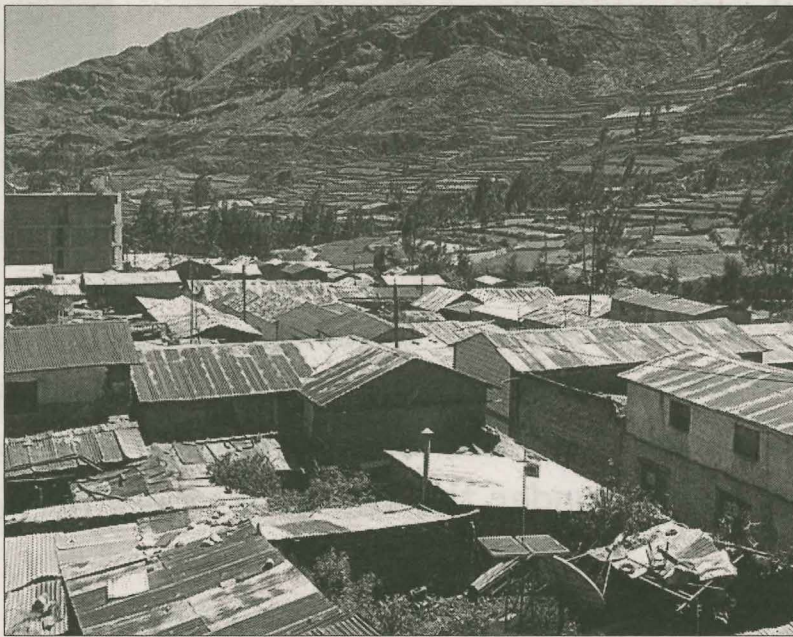
"We're looking for leaders, potential leaders of churches ... who would be willing to work with us and help spread the Word," he said.

Additional teams will travel to Peru in July and October. Eventually, full-time missionaries could be sent from Lexington.

The Kentucky visitors won't be pampered in the city of Carumas—population roughly 700.

"It's fairly sparse. There's not any Hiltons, nor are there any O'Charleys," Cranfill said.

Paved roads and refrigerators



**CARUMAS VALLEY** A Peruvian village sits at the base of the Andes Mountains. A team of volunteers from Porter Memorial Baptist Church is there helping Southern Baptist missionaries plant churches. (Photos by Mike Cooper)

are in short supply. The menu includes potatoes and guinea pigs.

### Possible earthquakes

In Carumas and the rest of Mariscal Nieto Province, the ground trembles periodically. In 2001, a devastating earthquake destroyed or damaged most of the buildings.

Nearly five years later, villagers leave their adobe homes and

sleep in Civil Defense-issue tents whenever the tremors become too violent.

Communication might be difficult.

Peru has two official languages, Spanish and Quechua, but a wide number of other indigenous languages also are spoken. The Baptists will hire translators.

A missionary asked Porter Memorial to consider adopting the area, saying additional help was needed to spread the gospel there. After prayer and research, the church agreed.

Mike Cooper, a member who scouted out the area in the fall, says the Carumas Valley is incredibly remote and more than two miles above sea level.

To reach it, outsiders must travel gravel roads for hours, climbing steep, narrow mountain roads to a height of 15,000 feet before descending to 12,000 feet.

Cooper, who is leading the trip, says he is obeying the Lord by making the journeys. "Missions is a large part of our belief," he said. "Jesus said that we're to go into all the world and make disciples."

Baptist missionaries have worked in Peru for decades, but struggled to make inroads. Fewer than one of every 140 residents is an evangelical, according to "The World Factbook."

Traveling through the region was dangerous when the Shining Path guerrillas were battling government forces. But with the civil war "pretty much resolved," the Lexington missionaries should be safe, says Larry Baker, a missionary to Peru from 1979 to 1992 who now works for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

He predicts the missionaries will be well received. "The people were always extremely friendly," he said. "They were very open to Americans being there."

When the Lexington group is there, "the biggest concern they'll have is some petty thievery, but the people will be extremely friendly to them," Baker predicted.

The visitors will encounter poverty. "To me, they were the hardest-working people I've ever

seen in my life," Baker said of the subsistence farmers he encountered. "They worked from sunup to sundown and yet had very little to show for it."

Porter Memorial, Lexington's largest Baptist church, sends teams of short-term missionaries across the globe—to Poland and Kenya and, a few years ago, to Iraq.

But this might be the church's largest, most ambitious foreign missions project ever—adopting an entire region.

### Seven-year commitment

Porter Memorial has agreed to work with Baptist missionaries in Peru for the next seven years to build churches and spread their faith among the indigenous peoples.

"We're not trying to make Baptists out of them," Cranfill said. "We're trying to make Christians (and) give them the gospel message so they have the chance to respond to it."

Peru is predominantly Catholic: 81 percent of its 28 million citizens belong to that branch of Christianity, according to U.S. government reports. But "it's basically a cultural Catholicism," said Mary Gautier, a senior research assistant with Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

Peru has only one priest for every 8,000 Catholics, she said. As a result, "It's very, very hard for people to be exposed to the regularly occurring Masses and sacramental life that we take so for granted here in the United States."

Most of the people in the Carumas Valley aren't active in any congregation or parish, Porter Memorial officials said.

Most of the villages have no church buildings and no resident clergy.

Gautier says Catholics welcome evangelization efforts, as long as the Protestants don't target Catholics for proselytism.

Jerry Daniel, an official with the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, says the goal isn't to steal anybody's flock.

"The unchurched and the unreached are our focus."

*"Jesus said that we're to go into all the world and make disciples."*

Mike Cooper, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church

# Isn't there something ...

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

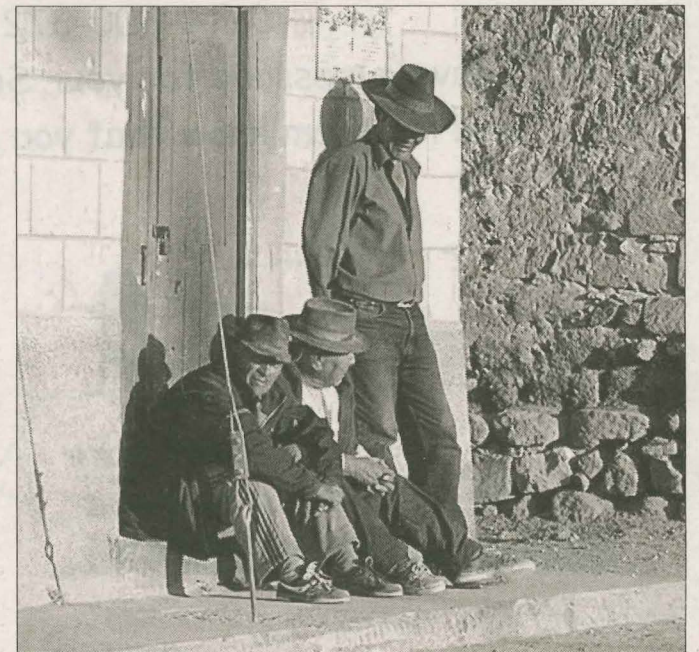
## You're holding it.

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



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**LOCALS** Volunteers will hire translators to talk with locals. Spanish and Quechua are the two official languages, but a large number of other indigenous languages also are spoken.

# Announcing Our New Organization- Kentucky Ethics League, Inc.



Dr. Howard Beauman  
Executive Director

Please note that the *Kentucky Ethics League Inc.*, a sister organization to the *Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems Inc.*, has been created. Gifts to the Kentucky Ethics League, being a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation, are exempt for taxing purposes.

The purpose of the Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems Inc, is and will remain as a political action organization that will lobby in Frankfort and assist communities in local option elections. Contributions to the Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems are not exempt under the IRS codes since it is a 501(c) 4 organization.

Both organizations are at the current address and telephone numbers.

## Issues Currently Facing the State:

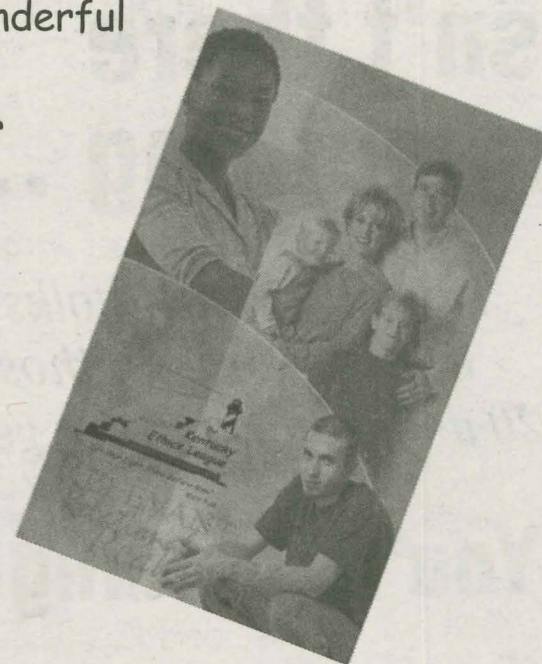
### ❖ **Gambling-** Are Casinos Coming To Kentucky?

The League is monitoring and is strongly lobbying against any expansion of gambling within the Commonwealth.



### ❖ **Alcohol-** There have been 22 bills filed to increase alcohol sales in Kentucky. Some of the most dangerous:

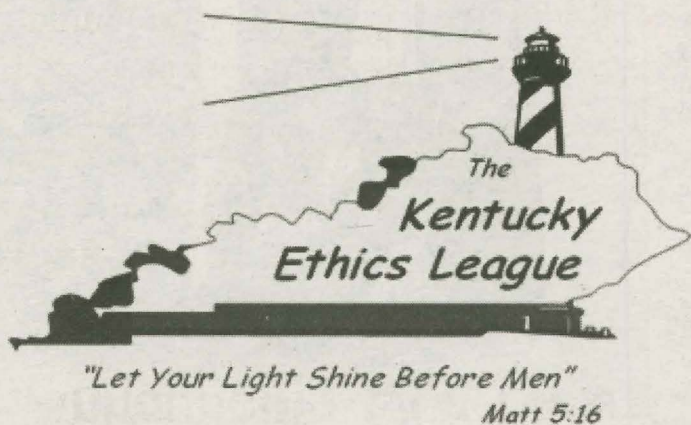
- Allow open bars at our wonderful historic sites
- Permit alcohol sales at our Kentucky State Parks
- Tolerate alcohol sales on election day before the polls close



What can you do to help?

Call 1-800-372-7181

Leave a message for your Senator and Representative and let them know that you do not want these bills passed!



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