



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Cumberlands draws reactions after expelling gay student

By David Winfrey
News Director

Williamsburg—The University of the Cumberlands expelled a gay student April 6, sparking a host of reactions on and off campus, including some state legislators who called for the school to forfeit public funds for a pharmacy school.

Jason Johnson, a sophomore from Lexington, told WLEX-TV and the Lexington Herald-Leader newspaper that Cumberlands officials asked him to leave the school because they don't approve of his gay lifestyle.

Johnson had posted a personal biography on the Web site MySpace.com stating he was gay and dating a male student at another college.

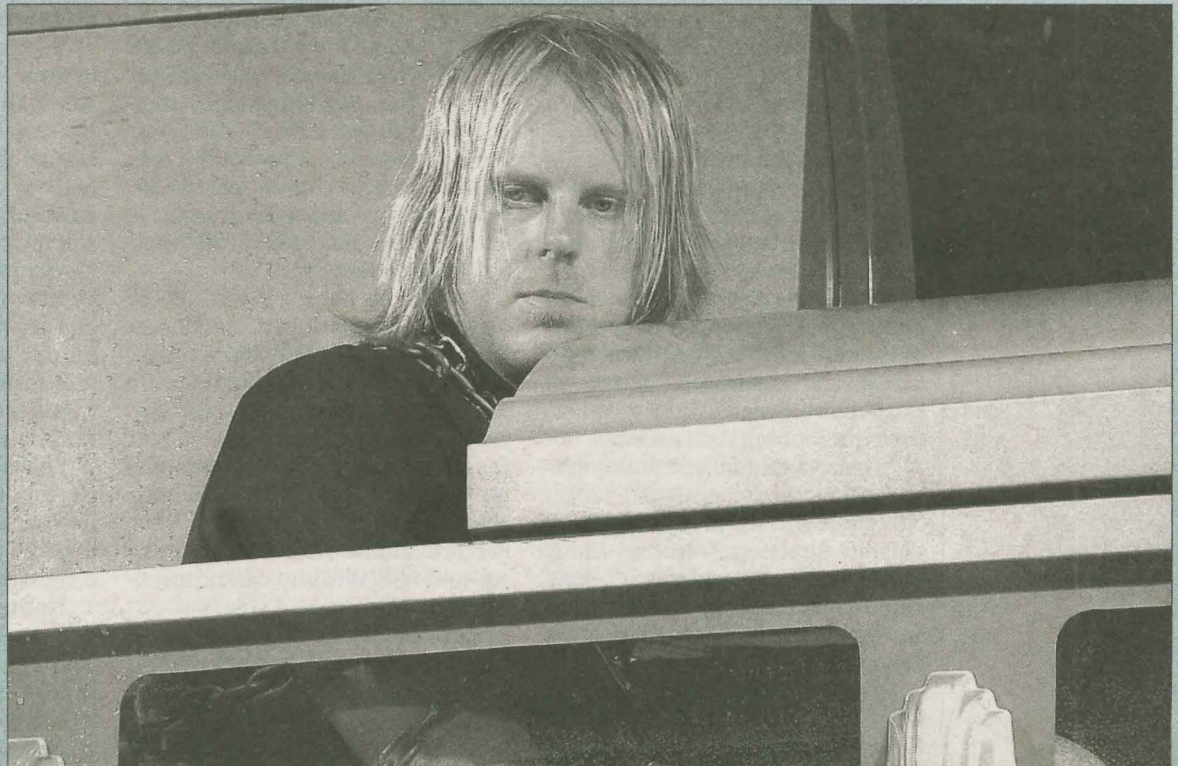
Without referring to Johnson specifically, school President Jim Taylor issued a statement April 7 that University of the Cumberlands students are held to a "higher standard."

"Students know the rules before they come to this institution. We've followed our policies and procedures in keeping with our traditional denominational beliefs," the statement continues. "University of the Cumberlands isn't for everyone. We tell prospective students about our high standards before they come. We are different by design, and are non-apologetic about our Christian beliefs."

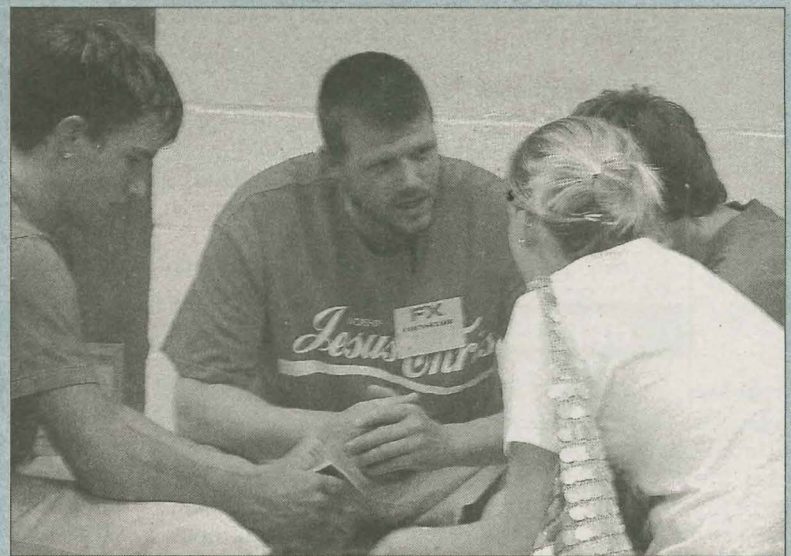
A slightly differently worded statement released to WLEX-TV added: "There are places students with predispositions can go such as San Francisco and the left coast or to many of the state schools."

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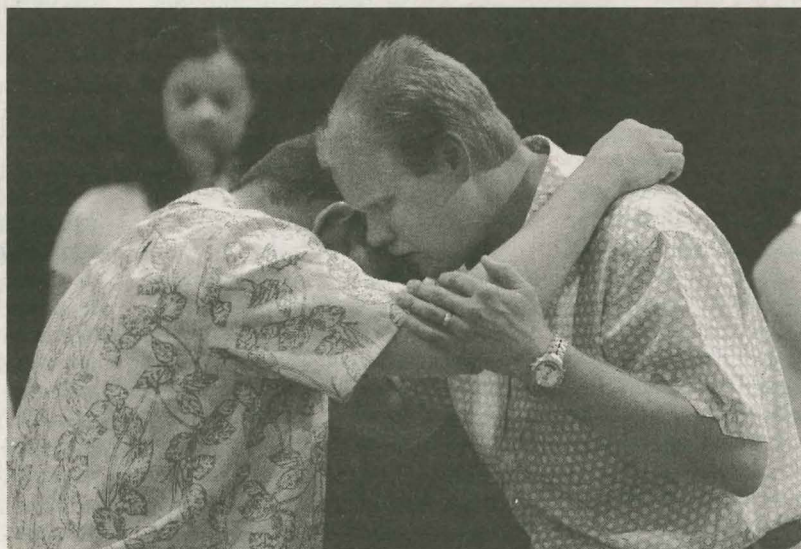
'Freedom' in Henry County



MAGIC, MUSIC & MESSAGE More than 500 people made spiritual decisions last week during the "Freedom Experience" outreach event in Henry County. Illusionist Brock Gill (above) performed such feats as escaping from a water-filled coffin and making people disappear. A Christian band played and the sports team "Chaos on Wheels," performed stunts on bikes and skateboards. The program was coordinated by local congregations and supported by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. ■ Right: Shawn Golden, a member of Drennon Christian Church, counsels teens who responded to the invitation. *Story on page 3. (KBC photos by Jay Parker)*



Missionary answering call to spiritual needs in British Columbia



MISSIONS MOMENT Kevin Madden prays with a member of his congregation at The Potter's House Community Church in Westbank, British Columbia. For 10 years, Madden has served as a Southern Baptist missionary in the Canadian province, supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. (Photo by Adam Buchanan)

By Mickey Noah
SBC North American Mission Board

Westbank, British Columbia—For 10 years, Southern Baptist missionaries Kevin and Alicia Madden have lived 2,200 miles away from Kevin's birthplace in Georgia. Today, their home and hearts are firmly rooted in Canada.

Madden is a church planting missionary and senior pastor of The Potter's House Community Church in Westbank, British Columbia, a community of 30,000 people, located about four hours from Vancouver.

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

He is one of eight missionaries to be highlighted as part of the recent annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions. The related Easter offering has a national goal of \$56 million, 100 percent of which is used for missionaries such as the Maddens.

Reflecting Canada at large, Westbank needs more churches than it has, according to Madden, who said only 5 to 8 percent of people in the region profess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Approximately 90 percent of the population never darkens the doors of any church on any Sunday.

While the spiritual potential is great, the current spiritual climate can be somewhat bleak.

□ See Missionary meets ... *Page 8*



Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, April 19.

Reccord's decision came as several trustees said they were weighing whether to push for his removal at an upcoming board meeting.

NAMB's Reccord resigns under pressure

Alpharetta, Ga.—Embattled President Bob Reccord resigned Monday morning from the North American Mission Board.

Reccord told the NAMB staff of his decision, effective immediately, at a special called meeting, according to spokesman Martin King.

Reccord told trustees in his letter of resignation: "I regret that events of recent weeks have created an environment which makes it difficult to lead the organization and to stay 'on mission.'"

Reccord took the brunt of a critical 19-page report issued by NAMB trustees March 23, which faulted the missions leader for poor management, autocratic decision-making, excessive spending on failed ministry projects, apparent conflicts of interest in no-bid contracts for a friend, and creating a "culture of fear" that prevented staff members from questioning such actions.

"I believe that honest philosophical and methodological differences have brought us to this point of separate directions," trustees added in his letter to trustees. "I have found it increasingly difficult to be an entrepreneurial leader within a denominational structure."

In a statement, trustee Chairman Barry Holcomb thanked Reccord for his service. "We as a board are grateful for his faithful ministry, his visionary leadership and for the many ways God has used him."

Some trustees ready to fire

Reccord's decision came as several trustees told Associated Baptist Press they were weighing whether to push for his removal at an upcoming board meeting May 2.

Several trustees said they did not

want to have the issue hanging over the agency when Southern Baptists gather for their annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., in June.

Some trustees said they feared a motion proposing or favoring Reccord could disrupt the meeting and damage the agency, which directs and coordinates Southern Baptist mission work in the United States and Canada.

Former trustee chairman Terry Fox, a pastor from Kansas, who was on the investigation committee, agreed the issue

could have been disruptive if it was debated at the convention, which already is expected to air grievances with another SBC agency, the International Mission Board.

"I'd like to have it taken care of by then," Fox, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., said before Reccord's resignation.

NAMB trustees met all day behind closed doors March 23 to weigh the results of the investigation. The board reportedly was about evenly divided on whether Reccord should resign, some trustees told ABP. With no clear consensus, it never came to a vote.

Reccord met quietly with prominent megachurch pastors Friday, April 13, near the Atlanta airport seeking advice about his future.

Some trustees reported stiffening their resolve in the weeks since the March meeting—but for different reasons. Some were most upset about the excessive spending on failed projects. Others worried about no-bid contracts to InovaOne, a communications firm owned by one of Reccord's friends. Others cited Reccord's blurring of the line between NAMB and personal interests.



Robert Reccord

"The trip to London ticked people off the most," one trustee said, referring to the \$3,800 NAMB paid for Reccord and his wife to attend the premiere of "The Chronicles of Narnia" movie. "But the real issue," he continued, "is InovaOne and the perceived conflict of interest."

NAMB was formed in 1997 in the SBC restructuring's merger of the former Home Mission Board, Radio & Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission.

Reccord, who was senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., from 1992 until his selection as NAMB's president in 1997, served as chairman of the committee that helped complete the transition that established NAMB.

Previously, Reccord had served as senior pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., and co-pastor of Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. He also is a former director of leadership training for Evangelism Explosion International.

Kentucky trustee Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, said he was "saddened by the news" of Reccord's resignation.

Noting that he "did not lose faith in Dr. Reccord's leadership at NAMB," Faulls acknowledged that Reccord's "support was greatly weakened" in recent months.

Carlos Ferrer, NAMB's vice president in finance, was named interim chief operating officer, replacing Chuck Howell, who stepped down in May.

Until trustees elect an interim president, Ferrer will assume all responsibilities for executive level leadership, King said.

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey, Editor Trennis Henderson and Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press

Carter invites diverse Baptist groups to seek common ground

Atlanta (ABP)—Leaders of Baptist conventions and organizations comprising more than 20 million adherents in North America explored "additional opportunities for fellowship and cooperation" April 10.

President Jimmy Carter, a lifelong Baptist lay leader and Sunday school teacher, sponsored the gathering at the Carter Center in Atlanta. Bill Underwood, president-elect of Mercer University in Macon, Ga., helped recruit the participants.

Citing the historic nature of the meeting, Carter urged participants to transcend their differences—including such factors as race, culture, geography and convention affiliation—and seek common purpose.

"The most common opinion about Baptists is we cannot get along together," he acknowledged.

But "there are some things on which we can have unanimity," he added, mentioning the involvement of participants in the Baptist World Alliance and the shared belief that people are "saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ."

Not participating were representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention, which recently withdrew from the Baptist World Alliance over issues of theology and control.

Among the groups represented were the American Baptist Churches USA, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Canadian Baptist Ministries, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Mainstream Baptist Network, National Baptist Convention of America, National Baptist Convention USA and Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Participants engaged in a wide-ranging discussion, ultimately approving a statement titled "A North American Baptist Covenant."

The statement reaffirmed their commitment to "traditional Baptist values, including sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and its implications for public and private morality."

Participants specifically committed themselves to their "obligations as Christians to promote peace with justice, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick and marginalized, welcome the strangers among us, and promote religious liberty and respect for religious diversity."

They agreed to hold a convocation, probably in 2007, "to celebrate these historic Baptist commitments and to explore other opportunities to work together as Christian partners."

BAPTIST DIGEST

Missionary POW in WW II dies at 91. Fern Harrington Miles, a Southern Baptist missionary who was a prisoner of war during World War II, died March 31 in San Angelo, Texas. She was 91. Miles was appointed in 1940 as a mission. After one year on the field, she was evacuated from China. She relocated to the Philippines but later was captured there by the Japanese military and held as a prisoner of war. She was freed by American forces in 1945. Harrington returned to China in 1947, only to be forced out a year later by the communist revolution. She spent the rest of her life in career teaching at a Baptist seminary in Taiwan, retiring in 1975 after 35 years of service.

Pioneer missionary Davis Saunders dies. Davis Saunders, a pioneer in Southern Baptist missions work in East Africa and retired regional vice president for Africa at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, died April 2. He was 80. For nearly 40 years, Saunders dedicated his passion for overseas missions to Africa. He and his wife, Mary, were missionaries in three countries: Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania. During that time, Southern Baptist work grew from 152 missionaries in three African countries to nearly 1,000 missionaries in 33 countries. He retired in 1990. He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

Chowan College becomes Chowan University. Chowan College trustees voted April 6 to adopt a new name, exchanging "Chowan College" for "Chowan University." The school, located in Murfreesboro, N.C., is affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. President Christopher White said student enrollment grew by 40 percent in 2005, with half of the 800 students enrolled for the fall 2005 semester being freshmen.

North Carolina Baptists elect Hollifield executive director

Winston-Salem, N.C. (BP)—North Carolina Baptists elected Milton Hollifield as their next executive director during an April 11 special meeting.

Hollifield, 55, will succeed Jim Royston, who retired in July 2005 to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Mooresville, N.C.

Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem hosted the 1,066 messengers who gathered for the meeting, the first special session since the convention was formed in 1830.

Hollifield, executive leader for the convention's mission growth evangelism group since 1993, is a former pastor in North Carolina and Texas and a former director of missions in North Carolina.

In his first address to North Carolina Baptists, Hollifield said, "The driving desire of my being, as your leader, is to help North Carolina Baptist churches achieve what God is calling each of them to accomplish in their respective fields of ministry."

Hollifield is widely regarded for his ability to foster positive relationships among disparate groups. That

will be an important trait in a large, diverse state convention working through relationship and governance issues with its colleges, entities and other institutions.

During an installation service immediately after the election, Hollifield declared that North Carolina Baptists have been blessed with "some of the greatest institutions and agencies in all of Baptist life."

"It is my desire to keep all of our institutions and agencies related to the work of this convention," he added.

Just hours earlier, the colleges and Baptist Foundation presented reports to the convention's executive committee asking for a different governance relationship with the convention. The institutions are asking for a greater role in naming and electing their trustees. Their requests will be considered in May.

Acknowledging "there are significant differences among us," Hollifield said, "I am challenging you to focus on our points of agreement. I believe we will accomplish more united than we will as separate entities."



Milton Hollifield

The heat is on to lower Kentucky church utility bills

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Wheelwright—Faced with a recent spike in their church's natural gas bill, members of First Baptist Church of Wheelwright are looking for ways to keep their sanctuary thermostat turned down.

"We've been wearing sweaters and hats," interim pastor Charles Wilson said. "We had plastic put over the windows outside too."

Wilson, a missionary who also directs the adjoining Wheelwright Baptist Center, said the church keeps the thermostat at 50 degrees when the sanctuary is vacant. Members supplement the gas heat with two portable electric heaters on Sundays.

While natural gas rates have increased statewide, Wheelwright residents saw their rates triple after the town defaulted on its bill to an out-of-state supplier, Wilson said.

The church paid \$1,200 a month the first two months of 2005. With preventive measures, the bill dropped to \$1,100 per month this year.

Wilson hopes the church can trim that even more after a mission team from Missouri helps install insulation in June.

Churches statewide are scrambling

to adjust to an increase in their utility bills as a result of higher natural gas rates. Among them:

- In Paducah, Trinity Baptist Church's heating bills totaled more than \$3,400 for January and February, nearly a quarter of the church's 2006 utility budget.

"The stress is not just that church expense, but individual households," Pastor Kenneth Brown said. "We have a number of families who are struggling. It has put us in a real pinch."

- Lovelaceville Baptist Church has seen winter heating bills jump from about \$900 per month last year to as high as \$1,600 this year, according to Pastor David McCall.

The country congregation already has spent more than \$3,500 of its \$6,000 annual utilities budget. "It looks to me like we're going to run out of utility budget before the end of the winter."

- The pain has touched large churches, too. In Lexington, Immanuel Baptist Church increased this year's heating budget to \$146,000, an increase of 46 percent.

While that's only a fraction of the church's \$4 million budget, Church Administrator Denny Bridges still doesn't relish spending more money for utilities. "Who could we

help with \$46,000 if we hadn't had to pay the gas company?"

- In Louisville, Highview Baptist Church has seen a 10 percent increase in its utility bills.

"Nothing got cut because of (utility increases), but we know there's (other) things we'd like to do," said Norman Coe, associate pastor of administration. "We could use that money for ministry and missions."

Utility bills increased dramatically this past winter, in part because supply lines from the Gulf Coast were damaged by hurricanes.

In the Louisville area, Louisville Gas & Electric increased natural gas prices 64 percent in November. An adjustment in December lowered bills to approximately 43 percent above the pre-November rate.

Rates could drop

According to Laura Douglas of LG&E's parent company E.ON, LG&E recently filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission for another price decrease that would bring the natural gas rate to just 6 percent above the pre-November rate.

In addition to lowering thermostats, churches are looking for other answers.

In Wheelwright, members of

Jacks Creek Baptist Church chose to go with electric heat in their new sanctuary.

In Bowling Green, Forest Park Baptist Church found that a more efficient furnace and programmable thermostats, installed two years ago, have been good investments.

"It's paid for itself," Pastor Mark Baldauff said. "It helped maintain costs (when) costs were going up."

Because the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board moved into a new, more efficient building last summer, gas bills actually declined, Assistant Business Manager Jim Donnell said.

KBC Business Manager Lowell Ashby said that thus far, the higher gas rates don't appear to have negatively impacted Cooperative Program giving in Kentucky.

For the first three months of the year, churches have given nearly \$6.2 million through CP, the joint funding program for state and national missions in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention. That's a 5.7 percent increase compared to the first three months of 2005, Ashby said.

"Our indications are that the churches view CP missions as a priority in their church's outreach."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

Cumberlands expels student who said he was gay on Internet site

Continued from page 1

Cumberlands' 2005-2006 student handbook states, "Any student who engages in or promotes sexual behavior not consistent with Christian principles (including sex outside marriage and homosexuality) may be suspended or asked to withdraw."

Mike Colgrove, vice president for student affairs, said he couldn't speak specifically to this case but that discipline issues are handled when they come to the attention of school officials.

"When it comes to discipline, we don't go out looking for any of this stuff," he said. "When this comes to our attention, that's when we follow up on it."

"What we're trying to do is ... maintain a Christian environment that is conducive to learning," he added.

Johnson told the Herald-Leader that Cumberlands officials specifically cited his MySpace Web site biography before expelling him.

On his Web page, which includes photos of young men kissing, the Lexington native notes plans to transfer to the University of Kentucky next semester.

"I'm very excited about being at home more often, and living in a bigger city and not having to go to Cumberland," he writes. "I am so ready to be out of here. When you get to the point where you almost wish that your school will kick (sic) you out, then you know you've got it bad."

On Monday, April 10, some students wore protest T-shirts on campus that read, "Jesus Loves My Gay Friends."

In Frankfort, some state legislators suggested the university should not receive state funds for a planned new pharmacy school.

According to the Herald-Leader, the state budget includes \$10 million for helping with construction of the building and another \$1 million for student scholarships at the yet-to-be created pharmacy program.

Sen. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington, an openly gay member of the General Assembly, said that if the funding was kept, "we will have a state benefit that is only available to heterosexuals."

The school's policy regarding homosexuality could place it in conflict with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. According to the Herald-Leader, the only group that accredits U.S. pharmacy schools requires policies that ban discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, lifestyle, national origin or disability. The revised guidelines, which take effect on July 1, 2007, add "sexual orientation" as one of the prohibited types of discrimination, the paper noted.

Rep. Kathy Stein, D-Lexington, called on Cumberlands to forego the \$11 million in state funds because its policy conflicts with the national accreditation standards.

Belle Wheelan, president of the Commission on Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, said the expulsion would not affect Cumberlands' accreditation by that organization, which evaluates colleges based on each school's purpose.

"That's in line with their mission," she said.

Henry County youths respond to Freedom Experience outreach

New Castle—Three nights of music, illusion, stunts and preaching resulted in 527 spiritual decisions during Freedom Experience last week in Henry County.

Churches continue to follow up with those who responded, as 314 people made first-time professions of faith in Jesus, according to Tommy Rucker, pastor of Covington Baptist Church in Westport. Another 213 people made other spiritual decisions, he said.

Coordinator Mark Combs said the response was more than organizers had hoped for.

"We thought we would have a positive response, but it's been overwhelming," said Combs, an associate pastor at Pleasureville Baptist Church. "From what a lot of our teenagers are telling us, it's the talk of the school."

Attendance at the high-energy shows grew from 1,100 people the first night to 3,200 people the third and final night.

"It just kept getting bigger," said Rucker, who directed counseling and follow up. "It kind of blew me away."

Illusionist Brock Gill and members of Chaos on Wheels led three school assembly presentations, talking about the importance of making wise choices. At each, they invited students to the evening performances, sponsored by area churches, where they could talk about the Christian faith.

"Everybody seems to know that this is a Christian event, but it doesn't stop anybody from coming," Combs said after the second night of the event.

"God is drawing people by His Spirit. Were just praying that disciples will come from it."



Organizers and sponsors praised the quality of the performances as well as the ease with which Gill transitioned from illusions to talking about Jesus.

"It's one of the best things I've seen to partner with," said Joe Ball, a youth ministry strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

This is the sixth time that Freedom Experience has come to Kentucky in conjunction with Kentucky Baptist congregations. Last year the bike and illusion team was in Harland, and prior to that the team worked with KBC "Soak a City" evangelism efforts in Mount Washington, Ashland, Franklin and Pikeville.

Rucker praised the help of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which paid the downpayment to book the performers and provided all promotional materials and counseling resources for those making spiritual decisions.

"I know there's some talk among some people that state conventions are not necessary but to me it is necessary," he said. "I truly value that support and need it."

WATERFALL Illusionist Brock Gill holds a glass of water upside down. More than 500 people made spiritual decisions during Freedom Experience, April 10-12 in Henry County. (KBC photo by Jay Parker)

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

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Pastor, how big is your vision?

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—Over the years, I've learned that—contrary to the popular opinion—the bigger the vision, the easier it is to reach that vision, and, ultimately, the size of a pastor's vision should be determined by the size of God.

How big do you think God is? The issue is not who you think God is, but Who you think God is. In your dreams for your ministry, don't limit yourself by saying, "What can I do?" Instead ask, "What can God do in this place?"

Determine your vision's size

When determining the size of your vision, you should keep three factors in mind. The first factor is the ultimate population of your ministry area. Obviously, if a church planter is going to start a church, he doesn't plan a church of 2,000 in a town that has only 500 people in it. Be pragmatic.

I tell people: Go get a map of your community, draw a circle that would include approximately 15 minutes' driving distance to your church and find out how many people are in that area. Then you say, "Ultimately, we want to try to reach everybody. We know we can't reach everybody. But we assume the responsibility for reaching everybody. We pray that other churches will reach people, but we church to assume responsibility for that."

Make a lifetime investment

The second factor is a question only you can answer: How long do you intend to stay there? There's an old saying: Yard by yard, life is hard. Inch by inch, life's a sin.

Most of us overestimate what we can do in one year and underestimate what we can do in 10 years or 20 years. The trouble with most

goal-setting is we set our goals too low and try to accomplish them too soon.

Instead, we should set big goals, huge goals, enormous goals, but plan on plenty of time in getting there.

COMMENTARY

I tell everyone who comes on staff with us, "We don't expect a miracle overnight. Let's build." We're not interested in building a mushroom. We're interested in building an oak tree. A mushroom takes 12 hours to grow; an oak tree takes 60 years. But an oak tree is going to last.

To reach big goals, you must plan for the long haul in ministry. There are lots of flash-in-the-pan churches. There are churches that have grown larger than our church in a shorter amount of time.

There once was a church near Saddleback Church that started with 1,200 people within the first month, but a year later the church was dead. It didn't build the structure. It didn't build the roots. It didn't build all the other factors. Everything rises or falls on leadership.

So how long will you stay there? If you don't plan on staying someplace for the long haul, don't go there. You must plan for time.

Persistence is the key in reaching a large goal. Conversely, the size of your goal will be determined by how much of your life you plan to spend in reaching it.

Evaluate vision and giftedness

The third factor for determining the size of your vision is a frank appraisal of your own gifts. The Bible makes it clear that there are one-talent people, five-talent people and 10-talent people.

Some pastors never will have more than 150 people in their church because they insist on do-

ing everything themselves. They do all the prayers, all the visitation, all the counseling, all the marrying and burying. They want to know everybody by name, every kid by name, every dog. This shepherd-type of pastor loves the personal contact of getting involved with people in that area.

There's nothing wrong with having a shepherd's heart. God loves people with shepherd's hearts. That's why He made so many of them. There are about 400,000 churches in America and the overwhelming majority of them run fewer than 300 in attendance on a weekend.

Most of those churches are led by men who have a shepherd's heart. But if a church is going to grow, one of the prices of growth is you must be willing to stop being everybody's pastor.

In other words, you'll have people who do not come to you, personally, for counseling. They won't come to you for weddings. They won't come to you for funerals.

I would say that is a price I've had to pay. I can't do everything anymore. I can't meet everybody's needs individually as much as I'd like to; I have to give most of that over to other pastors and lay ministers.

The same thing is going to be true of your area. If you have a vision to grow a large church reaching people from across the spectrum, you'll have to change the way you do it. That's why you have to do an honest assessment of your gifts.

Not everyone can walk away from the shepherd model. If that's you, plan your vision accordingly. Your own gifts and abilities will determine your style of ministry and the size of your vision.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is the author of "The Purpose-Driven Church" and "The Purpose-Driven Life"

Bivocational ministers' tremendous value

The spotlight recently was focused on the tremendous value of bivocational ministers. Campbellsville University and other denominational groups, including the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the General Association of Baptists, sponsored a conference for bivocational ministers and spouses at the Kentucky Baptist Building.

Lincoln Bingham, the KBC's consultant and pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, was the guest speaker at the banquet for the event. He shared his experiences as a bivocational pastor and indicated that two-thirds of the African-American pastors in Kentucky are bivocational.

Within the KBC, it is estimated that about 50 percent of all pastors are bivocational. That means there could be as many as 1,600 KBC and General Association bivocational pastors serving in Kentucky. This does not include hundreds of staff members who are bivocational.

These pastors are conducting a tremendous amount of significant

ministry. Bivocational pastors must be good managers of their time and excellent administrators.

Church members in congregations with bivocational pastors must understand that they must take leadership roles if the mission of the church is to be fulfilled. It is beautiful to see what can be accomplished when pastors and people work together as led by the Holy Spirit.

David Sandifer, director of the Center for Bivocational Ministry at Campbellsville University, served as coordinator for the conference, assisted by representatives from other sponsors: Long Run Baptist Association and Central District Association.

One of those assisting was Larry Orange, a professor at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, who has been an advocate for bivocational ministers and their families. On a recent trip to Mayfield, Orange introduced me to Pastor Chad Lamb and his associate, Tim Allred, of His House Ministries.

The church, His House Minis-

STEWARDSHIP

Checklist offers financial guide for senior adults

By Don Spencer

As we conclude our series about financial planning at each stage of life, remember that certain basic Christian financial planning apply throughout life. But there also are different priorities for each age group.

In my previous two articles, I addressed financial issues for those who are ages 20-35 and 35-60. This month features a checklist of financial issues typically to be considered by senior adults

This list is not meant to consider everything one should consider, but it can serve as a starting point.

What to do for senior adults:

- Re-evaluate and adjust living conditions and spending as health and income change.
- Consider methods of intended property transfer at death.
- Adjust wills and estate plan as needed.
- Evaluate and adjust life, health and disability coverages.
- Secure reliable assistance in managing financial affairs.
- Continue to tithe and consider additional methods of charitable giving.

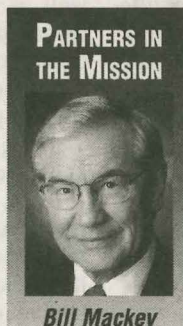
What to avoid:

- Failure to have sufficient retirement resources.
- Failure to adjust insurance coverages.
- No will or estate plan or outdated plans.
- Failure to adequately consider retirement options and alternatives. (Those who retire "from something" and not "to something" often are miserable in retirement.)
- Failure to adjust spending to one's retirement situation.
- Failure to update insurance coverages.

What to accomplish:

- Knowledge of expected retirement options and income.
- Develop alternative sources of income as needed.
- Update savings, insurance and investment programs.
- Update will and estate plans.
- Develop (or modify as needed) appropriate plan for transfer of property.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department



Bill Mackey

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Practical 'homework' helps strengthen Christian families

Q: As parents, how can my husband and I contribute to having a healthy family as our children move into their teen years?

Here is the homework that matters most for healthy Christian families:

Eat together. Prioritize at least one meal a day together, even if this meal is eaten at a restaurant.

Spend time playing. Make your home a place where you can enjoy each other. Outdoor games, table games and fun activities are important. When you watch television, try to do it together.

PARENTING

Spend time working. Each person in the family needs to have some responsibilities that remind them they are part of a team. These should be specific and may be changed from time to time.

Include others. Inviting other people to join the family in various activities is a wonderful way to enrich your lives and to have an influence on others. Make sure, however, that there are times reserved just for family.

Spend time worshipping. Attending worship at church is important; family rituals such as prayers and devotions around meals or bedtimes can be creative and meaningful.

Spend time serving others. This includes serving family members as well as other people.

Talk with each other in ways that are kind and respectful. Parents should model this with each other and with their children.

Honor individuals' need for privacy. Each person has a right to his or her own thoughts, feelings and personal space.

Handle anger and conflict constructively. Work on putting an end to criticism, contempt, defensiveness, withdrawal and belligerence.—Scott Wigginton

Q: Is there anywhere to gather with other single adults for fun, fellowship and spiritual nurture?

There are at least two opportunities in 2006 for practical, spiritual growth, social networking and fun in a conference setting. One is statewide and the other is national.

First is the second annual Kentucky Single Adult Conference in June, featuring the humor and insight of Dave Edwards from Oklahoma City. Music will be provided by Hope's Call of Nashville. In addition to large group time, there will be breakout sessions addressing outreach to singles, grief resources, steps to financial sanity, legal issues for singles, sexuality and the single adult, and coping skills for "down days." The conference will be June 9-10 in Lexington. For more information, visit www.abc-lex.org or call (859) 685-3215.

The other opportunity is a Labor Day weekend conference at LifeWay Conference Center in Ridgecrest, N.C., an annual event for more than 25 years. This year's event will feature speaker Ron Hill of San Antonio, Texas. Music will be provided by Keith Longbotham of Nashville and Tara Leigh Cobbs of New York City. Like the Lexington conference, the Ridgecrest event will include breakout sessions on various topics. This conference, sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources, typically attracts hundreds of single adults of various ages from across the country.

Talk to your church leaders about helping you promote these events to the single adults in your church. There are nourishing places for single adults to gather for spiritual growth. Don't miss these opportunities for inspiration, celebration and fun.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

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Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University. E-mail: sewiginton@campbellsville.edu.

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



CP proposal reflects 'Kentucky Baptist way'

Seldom does a state Baptist convention—or virtually any other ministry organization—get the opportunity to reallocate \$1.3 million per year for years to come.

But that is precisely the situation for Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders as they gather next month to consider a detailed proposal to redistribute funds previously earmarked for Georgetown College.

Many KBC leaders acknowledge they would have preferred to maintain closer ties to Georgetown, but they also are pleased with the increased funding opportunities available for a variety of ministries in Kentucky and elsewhere.

During a press conference last fall, Georgetown President Bill Crouch also expressed regret over the decision to loosen ties to the state convention. He added, however, that the school's trustees believed the best way to achieve Georgetown's long-term goals was to revert to a self-perpetuating board and relinquish the school's annual Cooperative Program financial support.

A key component of last year's agreement was the study group's affirmation of "a strong desire for a continued relationship and that there be no litigation, which has created problems for the work of Christ's Kingdom in other states."

Unfortunately, such conflicts continue to play out in other state conventions, with the Tennessee Baptist Convention scheduling a special convention session next month amid stalled negotiations with Belmont University. One possible scenario calls for Tennessee messengers to dismiss Belmont's trustee board and elect a new slate.

By contrast, Kentucky Baptist leaders from diverse perspectives continue to pursue a path of careful study and cooperation for the sake of Baptist work throughout the commonwealth and beyond. Kentucky Baptists are especially indebted to former KBC President Charles Barnes, who chaired both the KBC/Georgetown joint study group and the KBC Mission

Advisory Committee that forged the proposed CP reallocation plan, as well as KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and others who worked closely with Barnes on the proposal.

"I believe the Lord has led Kentucky Baptists in a rather unique way," Barnes noted. "We have acknowledged our differences from time to time, but we also have tried to keep our goals and our vision out there before us."

"The Georgetown situation could have been a very divisive, disruptive matter for our convention," he added, "but leadership on both extremes in the thinking of Kentucky were of one mind that they were not going to let this split apart the convention."

Concerning the CP proposal, Barnes said the committee "looked at this as being new money just as if the giving of Kentucky Baptist churches had increased by this amount, not money that had been previously allocated to anyone."

As a result, the committee proposed funding increases for each KBC-related entity as well as the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program. The proposal includes 41 percent of the available funds for the KBC's four educational institutions, 9 percent for other agencies and institutions, 15 percent for increased CP and stewardship education and promotion, 10.9 percent for KBC Mission Board priority ministry needs and 24.1 percent for SBC causes, most of which will support international and North American missions.

Some Kentucky Baptists might wish more were earmarked for Christian education. Others likely will feel the SBC portion should have been higher—or lower.

Regardless of specific percentage allocations, however, the committee is to be commended for proposing an equitable distribution plan that affirms the value and ministry role of each Baptist entity. Hopefully such deliberate planning and cooperation will continue to be the Kentucky Baptist way.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Living life with purpose

By David Jeremiah

El Cajon, Calif. (BP)—What kind of life do you want to lead? A life that creates a lasting impression?

In order to live this kind of life—a life written upon everlasting rock instead of temporal wind or waves—we must have a goal that makes our lives significant.

A purpose worth living and dying for, a passion that transcends our limited world, a cause bigger than we are—such is the making of a life of purpose.

You can't serve the generation that preceded you, because you weren't there. You'll never be able to serve the generation after you, because you won't be there. You have to serve the generation in which you live, and you must do it by the will of God. The greatest way we can serve the generation in which we live is to live a life of purpose.

If we aren't careful, we just let the years come and go, and we're too tired, too busy or too distracted to find our purpose. We need to change from a passive, lethargic existence to a powerful and purposeful life. That was the secret of God's heroes of earlier generations.

When the shepherd boy David decided to take on Goliath, he was disparaged by his brothers who resented his brash self-confidence. His response? "Is there not a cause?"

(1 Samuel 17:29). Jesus once explained, "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth" (John 18:37).

Have you determined what your life's "cause" may be? Let me give you some ideas that will help.

Why did God place you on earth at this particular moment? Why did He give you the background, personality, gifts and life experiences that are yours alone? How can you find God's purpose for life?

Give Him all of yourself. Say, "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

The famous Bible teacher F.B. Meyer, preaching in 1904 in Keswick, England, testified: "I remember so well when He (Jesus) came to my heart and challenged me as to the keys of my life. Before I gave them to Him, I put one small key in my pocket. He gave them back and said He could not be King at all if He could not be King of everything. I said, 'I cannot give it; but I am willing for Thee to take it,' and He took it. Then they were all His."

It's sometimes difficult to turn every area of life over to Christ, but He can only use what is wholly yielded to Him.

Ask Him to show you His purpose and plan for your life. Proverbs 3:6 says, "In all your ways acknowl-

edge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Seek Him in His Word. In Bible study, we often hear that still, small voice of God saying, "This is the way, walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21). I particularly recommend Psalm 139:16-17, where David testified, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!" God has a plan and purpose for every day of your life. It's already mapped out.

Serve Him. Don't wait for a lightning bolt of revelation. Find a need right now and fill it. Do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, and you're doing it as unto Him. Jesus promised that if we are faithful in little things, He will know we can be trusted with more later on.

Trust Him. Being faithful means we're full of faith; we believe God wants to use us; He has placed us here; He will make us fruitful. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Let's give ourselves fully to His work, seeking His specific purpose for each of our lives, knowing that our labor in the Lord is carved upon the rock of eternity.

David Jeremiah, founder of Turning Point for God, is senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.

NATIONAL NOTES

Land, others call for FDA to regulate tobacco products. The federal government should be regulating tobacco products, Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land and other religious leaders said April 5. Speaking at a Capitol Hill news conference, Land urged Congress to approve legislation that would give the Food and Drug Administration authority to control the manufacture, promotion and sale of such products as cigarettes and chewing tobacco. "Few steps could have a greater impact on our health, because tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "The FDA legislation would finally end the special protection enjoyed by the tobacco industry and protect our children and the nation's health instead."

Henry Blackaby chairs National Day of Prayer. Baptist author and speaker Henry Blackaby will serve as honorary chairman of this year's National Day of Prayer, May 4. Blackaby said he considers prayer the nation's most powerful line of defense against terrorists. "That's why I'm convinced this National Day of Prayer is so urgent, because there's an immediate danger," Blackaby said. "Only sincere, God-honoring prayer will cause the hand of God to keep the enemy from hurting us badly."

Poll: Most in New Jersey believe in Resurrection. New Jersey might be far from the Bible Belt, but a new survey shows the state's residents have a strong acceptance of the Bible as the literal word of God. A Rutgers-Eagleton poll showed that more than half of New Jersey adults believe the biblical account of the Resurrection to be a word-for-word retelling of what happened. More than half of the 800 adult poll respondents said religion is extremely or very important in their lives, while another quarter said it was somewhat important.

Coffin, outspoken activist, pastor, dies. William Sloane Coffin Jr., former CIA agent, peace activist, Yale University chaplain, accomplished pianist and esteemed pastor of Manhattan's Riverside Church, died April 12. Coffin died from congestive heart failure at his home in Vermont. He was 81. Known for his outspoken leadership in civil-rights and peace movements during the 1960s and 1970s, Coffin often used his position at Riverside to speak about poverty, the environment, homosexuality and homelessness.

New ecumenical group forms. Four years in the making, a new group designed to be the broadest ecumenical coalition in American history was officially formed March 31. Thirty-four denominational and parachurch groups constituted Christian Churches Together. The group is intended to facilitate cooperation across the broadest possible spectrum of Christian traditions—including Catholics, mainline Protestants, white evangelicals, African-American Protestants and Orthodox Christians. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other Baptist groups are participating, but the Southern Baptist Convention is not.

Saddleback celebrates 20,000th baptism. Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., celebrated the 20,000th baptism in its 25-year history in a quiet ceremony last month. In an outdoor baptismal pool, Pastor Rick Warren immersed Mario Soto, a 24-year-old resident of Aliso Viejo, Calif., after the congregation's 11:15 a.m. service. Soto was among about a dozen adults being baptized. Until 2004, Saddleback had averaged almost 1,300 baptisms a year since 1996. The past two years, however, the congregation has averaged more than 2,000 baptisms.

More families making time for dinner. Parenting experts have advocated it for years, and more families now may be catching on to the importance of sitting down for a regular meal together. A nationwide survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that the number of children ages 12 to 17 who ate dinner with their families at least five times a week rose from 47 percent in 1998 to 58 percent last year. "Families that do have dinner together often are families whose parents are fully engaged with their kids," said Richard Mulieri, a spokesman for CASA.

Reversing Roe v. Wade won't affect 43 states

Washington (BP)—If the Supreme Court overturns its Roe v. Wade decision, abortion still would be legal in more than 40 states, according to a pro-life legal organization.

Americans United for Life, a leading anti-abortion legal advocacy organization, assessed the status of state laws on abortion and other issues in its recently released guide, *Defending Life 2006*.

AUL reiterated the country's high court still does not have the votes needed to reverse the 1973 Roe opinion, which struck down state prohibitions on abortion. Even with the addition to the court in recent months of two nominees

by President Bush—Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito—the court still has five justices who have voted to uphold Roe.

If an anti-Roe majority is achieved on the Supreme Court, there "is almost no chance they will create a national right to life," AUL President Peter Samuelson said at a Washington, D.C., news conference upon the release of the guide. Instead, the court likely would reverse the decision and return the matter to the states, he said.

If so, abortion still would be legal in at least 43 states and the District of Columbia, based on cur-

rent law, AUL reported.

Given the current makeup of the Supreme Court, AUL does not support legislative efforts in the states to ban abortion, such as occurred earlier this year in South Dakota.

Instead of challenging Roe directly before a shift in the court's makeup, AUL seeks to take issues that have public support—such as informed consent for women considering abortion, parental notification for minors seeking abortion and clinic regulations—and work for the passage of "incremental laws" in the states, Samuelson said.

KBC Speakers Bureau



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VIPs

They get pampering, but they're not who you expect

"They wear fancy clothes, eat gourmet dinners and get massages. Their public displays of affection are universally welcomed, and their significant others often call just to say, 'hello.'"

According to the American Animal Hospital Association's National Pet Owners Survey, pets have never had it so good. When it comes to their furry friends, pet owners have no fear of commitment. Most pet owners say they are willing to sacrifice for their Very Important Pets. At least 74 percent would be willing to go into debt in order to provide for their pet's well being. Of those who have a will, 27 percent have included provisions for their pets.

Given the growing importance pets play in peoples' lives, especially singles, I was not totally surprised many people had included provisions in their wills for their pets. What continues to be a surprise to me is how many Kentucky Baptists do not have a will for themselves. Many parents with minor children have not acted in the best interest of their children (VIPs) by having a will to designate

a guardian should something happen to the parents. If you are the surviving spouse (VIP) of one who dies without a will, I am confident you will not be happy with the will the Commonwealth of Kentucky has for you. If you have never married, are widowed or divorced, the will the Commonwealth of Kentucky has for your heirs at law (VIPs) is very likely not what you would want, and likely will result in harsh feelings among those heirs at law. If you do not have a will, you cannot make provisions for your church and other Christian causes (VIPs).

In the pet survey, puppy love was very strong among the respondents. What about your love for God and family (VIPs)? Having a Christian will provides a way for you to demonstrate that love for all of the VIPs in your life.

So, don't wait! Call Laurie Valentine toll-free for an estate planning consultation session. There is no cost or obligation.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "What ____ I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psalm 56:3)
- 5 "They cast ____, that is, the lot, before Haman" (Esther 3:7)
- 8 It's not exactly red
- 12 In the near future (arch.)
- 13 Gobbled up
- 14 First two words in Key's composition
- 15 "Help thou mine ____" (Mark 9:24)
- 17 Au ____ (teenaged helper)
- 18 Relieve
- 19 Filled with evil desires, as a heart
- 21 Synonym for scow
- 24 Toward the sheltered side
- 25 "____ them that have the rule over you" (Hebrews 13:17)
- 26 "Thou hast ____ me when I was in distress" (Psalm 4:1)
- 30 Legal object
- 31 Michael, for one
- 32 Poem
- 33 "Yea, I ____ unto you, and ... none of you that convinced Job" (Job 32:12)
- 35 Zone
- 36 Beverages
- 37 Squander
- 38 Cyrus was the king of ____ (Ezra 3:7)
- 41 One who hisses

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48						49				50		
51						52				53		

- 42 Skirt feature
- 43 "Be sober, be ____" (1 Peter 5:8)
- 48 Melita, for one
- 49 Natural mineral
- 50 Day before (pl.)
- 51 Samuel, to some
- 52 See ____
- 53 Want no more

- 21 Fierce wind of the Adriatic
- 22 Aid's ally
- 23 What's left
- 24 Heavenly beings (Fr.)
- 26 Earnest attempt
- 27 Blood and guts
- 28 Utopia
- 29 "If we be ____ with Christ ... we shall also live with him" (Romans 6:8)
- 31 Girl's nickname
- 34 Resurrection day
- 35 "A word fitly spoken is like ____ of gold" (Proverbs 25:11)
- 37 Supplemental income (abbr.)
- 38 Greek letters
- 39 Word in a threat
- 40 Stir up
- 41 Long in the tooth
- 44 Anger
- 45 Actress Gardner
- 46 Fish trap
- 47 Double this for (perhaps) fatal flier

Down

- 1 Greek letter
- 2 Holiday, for one
- 3 Multitude
- 4 Strength
- 5 Receipt word
- 6 Western Native American
- 7 What the watchful waiter did?
- 8 Mines found on Cyprus
- 9 Dweller in the land of Seir, the country of Edom (Genesis 32:3)
- 10 Depilatory brand
- 11 Seaport in Lebanon
- 16 Recline
- 20 Repast

Last week's solution

1	S	E	A	S	5	A	B	D	A	9	A	R	E		
2	T	C	H	N	13	N	A	I	L	14	M	E	R		
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10	C	H	I	45	D	E	48	E	R	R	O	R			
11	H	I	D	51	S	I	D	E	53	L	E	V	I		
12	O	R	E	57	T	R	E	E	58	E	T	A	L		
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Yearbook: Record number of U.S. church groups reflects immigration

Dallas (ABP)—Amid intense national debate about immigration reform, the National Council of Churches recently announced that immigrants have had a positive impact on the numerical growth of U.S. churches.

The council's annual yearbook reports a record number of church bodies for 2006.

One of the nation's best-known sources of church information and trends, the yearbook reported 219 national church bodies, representing more than 163 million Americans.

"The number of national church bodies is reflective of a remarkably robust immigration history and the cultural and constitutional freedom of religion so characteristic of the United States," Eileen Lindner, editor of the 89-year-old annual, said in a press release.

The yearbook lists Asian, Orthodox and Protestant churches—like the Korean Presbyterian Church—as among the largest U.S. groups serving a largely immigrant membership.

The fastest-growing groups included the Assemblies of God, the Mormon Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

Philip Jenks, director of interpretation at the NCC, told Associated Baptist Press the fact that a "wide range of Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox leaders" support immigration reform has swelled the church numbers.

"Immigration reform is also supported by millions of people in the congregations that compose the member communions of the National Council of Churches USA," Jenks said.

"It's not unanimous, however," he added. "The members live in both red and blue" states.

Linder said the 2006 yearbook, which compiled data collected by the churches in 2004 and reported in 2005, demonstrated a "continued overall vitality of church participation" in America.

With almost 68 million members, and as the largest church group in the United States, the Roman Catholic Church reported an increased membership of nearly 1 percent.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the second-largest body with roughly 16 million members, also grew about 1 percent—a rate unchanged from the previous year.

Missionary meets spiritual needs in Canada

Continued from page 1

"Many students go to a school where they don't know of another Christian in the school," Madden said. "Alicia and I grew up in Georgia—in the middle of the Bible Belt—where we didn't know of a non-Christian in school. Here, people are not aware of Christian teachings and don't know much about the Bible."

At the same time, he said, Canadians are open to spiritual issues.

"There's a great openness and hunger for God," he said. "Canadians are a very hospitable and friendly people. But as Christians, we have to develop relationships with them, not try to push a message down their throats or take a harsh approach to sharing the gospel."

The best method, he said, is to let Canadian people witness the authentic Christian life, to talk about Christ, and to model Christ's love and message.

The Potter's House Community Church derived its name from Jeremiah 18, in which Jeremiah learns about God from watching a potter shaping imperfect clay.

Potted plants from Potter's House

Madden extends the pottery theme out into the community. The couple sometimes invite business people to Potter's House Church by strolling down Westbank's main street, handing free potted flowers to the merchants.

Despite the Maddens' creative ways for drawing Canadians to Christ and the church, their work-

load remains formidable, almost overwhelming.

"You could get a map of Canada and close your eyes and just point to any place and I promise you that wherever your finger landed, that location needs not only one church but many Southern Baptist churches." As

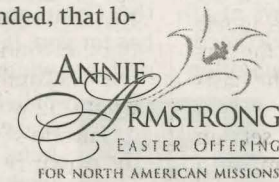
a church planter, Madden has a vision for additional churches in 12 other sites within a day's drive from Westbank. "We need more pastors, more

Bible study leaders, more Mission Service Corps missionaries," Madden said.

He said it's hard to imagine their work without the support of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. "We work very closely with the North American Mission Board. The funds from the Annie Armstrong Offering help as a supplement to my salary, and help us with many of the ministries we carry out as a church plant," he said. "The chairs we sit on in church were provided by Annie Armstrong money."



Kevin Madden



IN RECOGNITION of Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders

The 2006 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.



We Need Your Help To Gather the Following Information:

- Full name of deceased
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
- Name of church where member, association, state where located
- Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before August 31 to:



Executive Office
PO Box 43433, Louisville KY 40253-0433
ATTN: Wanda Karolyi
e-mail address:
Wanda.Karolyi@kybaptist.org

Meet some of the class of 2006, part 5a

Oneida student goes from getting high to getting good grades after enrolling

We are getting closer and closer to graduation. As I do every spring, I'm continuing to share the experiences of some of our seniors who will graduate in May. Their stories are in their own words, and are excerpts from essays they have been asked to write titled, "My Oneida Experience." The essays cover such topics as why they came to Oneida Baptist Institute in the first place, what they have most enjoyed about being at Oneida, which faculty and staff have been the most helpful, where they are in their spiritual journeys and what their plans are for after graduation.

I do not know of any experience more fulfilling than knowing that a young person's life has been changed dramatically because of his or her Oneida experience. The story of "Nathan" (not his real name) makes all the worries and frustrations of the past year worthwhile. This is why we are here and why our ministry is so important.

Here is part of his senior essay:

"My life before Oneida was a life of not taking things seriously. ... I spent most of my time just chilling with my friends and not doing much of anything constructive with my time. I began getting into trouble during my middle school years. ... That is when I had my first encounter with the law. ... After that, it just seemed like my life was pretty much going quickly downhill.

"By my eighth grade year, I was introduced to drugs. Because of my poor choice of friends and my disregard for discipline, drugs began to take a toll on me. So I struggled with drugs and other

problems until the last half of my junior year in high school. That is when my Mom and Dad both decided that Oneida was the place I needed to be. ... I was not happy with the decision my parents made.

"When I visited the campus for the first time I was 'high'. Everything looked good to me at this point, ... but I still did not want to be here. ... I was pretty much put out with my parents for sending me here. I hated them at the time. My first days as a student at Oneida were horrible. ... All I could think about was being with my friends at home and getting high. ... Looking back on those days, and comparing those days to the present time, I find my actions to have been ridiculous. I think that I allowed my anger and my frustrations to cloud my first impressions of Oneida.

"At graduation I will be receiving a standard diploma. This in itself is something that my parents and I never thought would happen. But it is going to happen thanks to Oneida.

"In my classes at Oneida it was easier to get the one-on-one help I needed. The teachers here seemed to really care about the well-being of their students. All one has to do is ask and the teachers will go above and beyond the call of duty to see that their students get the help they need in order to pass.

"I would have to say that my most challenging class was U.S. history. There was always lots of homework and reading to do, both of which I don't care much for."

(To be continued next week.)

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



W.F. Underwood

The clash of culture & values

Tolerance is limited by values derived from the Bible

The clash of biblical values and contemporary culture was again manifest in the recent decision by the University of the Cumberland to dismiss a homosexual student. The administration is commended for their stance.

Many years ago Clear Creek put our position in writing. Our student handbook includes this paragraph, titled "Moral Impropriety": "Sexuality should be expressed in an appropriate relationship and manner, in keeping with the teachings of the Holy Bible. A student may not participate in premarital sex, extramarital sex, homosexuality or any form of deviate sexual behavior (Genesis 1:27-31; Romans 1:21-27; Galatians 5:19). Those who practice or advocate such actions as acceptable Christian conduct will not be allowed to enroll. Should such conduct become manifest while enrolled, that student will be subject to suspension, dismissal and/or eviction."

In response to the problems encountered by Baptist Homes for Children regarding the dismissal of a lesbian employee, in 2004 Clear Creek's trustees added a paragraph to the Faculty/Staff Standards of

Personal Conduct: "Clear Creek Baptist Bible College expects all employees to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner both on and off the job so that their lives reflect Christian values. The reflection of those values is important as employees of Clear Creek assist churches in their ministry to persons in Kentucky, the United States

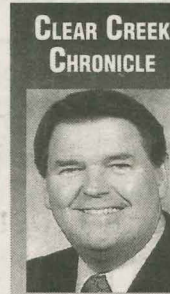
of America and throughout the world. Failure to adhere to this conduct standard may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment."

Trustees also added the following sentence to employment policies in our faculty/staff handbook: "Clear Creek Baptist Bible College employs

only persons who are engaged in a heterosexual relationship within the confines of marriage as defined by Scripture, or persons not married who are celibate."

Fortunately, we rarely have to enforce these policies. The admissions process is careful to express our values and dialogue with prospective students to gauge their spiritual life and values. There are some places where we have to draw the line.

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



Bill Whittaker

'Da Vinci' movie producer sponsors Web site for critics

Hollywood (BP)—Those who wish to combat the "The Da Vinci Code" now have a forum sanctioned by the movie producers themselves for the purpose of discussing the basis of the film.

Sony Pictures has set up thedavincichallenge.com as a place for certain detractors to make arguments against the film based on Dan Brown's bestseller. Most Christians oppose the book's and movie's suggestion that a secret society conspired to cover up evidence that Jesus was married and never rose from the dead.

"We've all seen how some movies can evoke great consternation in society in the past," Jim Kennedy, a spokesman for Sony Pictures, told The New York Times. "I think many people want to move toward a more educational and uplifting dialogue."

Essays by select Christian writers who seek to discredit the book's claims about Christianity are being posted now until the film's May 19 release. Essayists include Chuck Colson, George Barna and Josh McDowell.

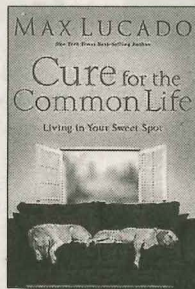
Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your Sweet Spot. Max Lucado. W Publishing Group, 2005. 220 pages. \$22.99 in hardback; \$15 in paperback in June. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Author and pastor Max Lucado's goal in this book is to help the reader come to an understanding of his or her uniqueness and then to find out how to use that uniqueness to be what God would intend.

Lucado's first goal is to convince the reader that he or she was created by God as a unique individual and that this uniqueness is part of God's plan. In this respect, Lucado treads the same ground that Rick Warren does in "The Purpose Driven Life."

Personally, I find Lucaodo's presentation less hard core Calvinism, which is my major criticism of Warren. Lucado is less deterministic while still holding onto a divine plan, a destiny, in one's life.

In order to find one's uniqueness, Lucado directs the reader to discover his or her STORY. Story is an acronym for strengths, topics, optimal conditions, relationships and "Yes!" This technique (which is not unique to Lucado) helps readers find what circumstances make them the most happy and thus to discover his or her "sweet spot." The sweet spot is the place in which the person feels the most comfortable and fulfilled. The bottom line is that if people try to live outside



their sweet spot, they will not be happy and certainly will not be serving God as they need to be.

Lucado offers ample aids to work on one's STORY (This I really appreciate. Some similar books direct readers to expensive surveys that cost more than the book itself.) This book can free one up from trying to be something that is not fulfilling, while helping the reader experience God's creation in a new way, living in his or her sweet spot. I can see this book being used as a group study as well as for individual reflection.

Wayne Hager

The Heart of Praise: Worship After God's Own Heart. Jack Hayford. Regal Publishing, 2005. 176 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦

Jack Hayford is a well-known author, seminary chancellor and former California mega-church pastor who has written more than 40 books.

With "The Heart of Praise" Hayford has reworked an earlier book ("The Heart of Praise: Daily Ways to Worship the Father with Psalms) into an easy-to-read, month-long devotional book to show readers how praising and worshipping God through the Psalms has the power to change lives.

Hayford systematically walks readers through selected Psalms, followed by his insights to the Psalm and a prayer related to it. Each chapter also includes related Scriptures and ideas for putting the Psalm of praise into practice.

In the process, Hayford explains this subject of praise and describes how it can enhance one's Christian walk. Topics include: "The Call to Worship," "The Kind of Worship God Blesses" and "How to Know God's Will for Your Life."

In the chapter "Understanding the Heart of God" the reader is challenged to understand that the heart of God is one of love. When failures come, Hayford writes, "Whatever our shame or sense of unworthiness, let us remember how much we are desired and valued by the Father's heart." It is God Who wants us to worship Him because He loves us.

Worship leaders and worshipers who long to praise God in a deeper, more intimate way will love and

benefit from this book. Steve Coleman

Pastoral Ministry According to Paul: A Biblical Vision. James Thompson. Baker Academic, 2006. 174 pages. \$17.99. ♦♦♦♦

"Congregations continue to assume that the minister will maintain the traditional roles of marrying and burying, but they believe that the ultimate goal of the minister is to take the congregation to a new level of growth. ... (So) search committees ... seek someone who is a combination of, for instance, Jay Leno, Lee Iacocca and Dr. Phil."

James Thompson is concerned that amid the pressure to succeed in the marketplace of consumer religion, churches and pastors are so focused on practical leadership skills that they have failed to build a "theologically coherent understanding of the purpose of ministry."

One might go so far as to say that, not only have we failed at this task, but we have blithely and arrogantly defended such a task as a waste of time and a diversion. The danger in so doing is that we not only lose the soul of ministry, but we truncate the mission of the church.

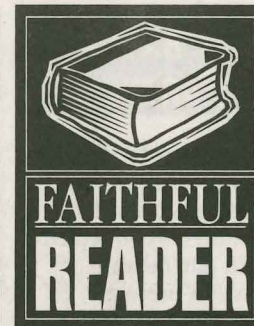
Thompson challenges us to re-examine our pastoral ministry in light of the Apostle Paul's pastoral work in Philippi, Thessalonica, Galatia and Corinth. He even includes Paul's letter to Rome as an example of Paul's effort to outline his understanding of the church's mission.

Looking at the breadth of Paul's ministry, Thompson discovers a common thread—the theology of transformation. This theology of transformation results in pastoral practice that participates "in God's work of transforming the community of faith until it is 'blameless' at the coming of Christ."

"Pastoral Ministry According to Paul" is a challenging, thoroughgoing examination of the scriptural foundation of the ministry of leading the church.

Do not bother with this book unless you are willing to have your pastoral practice challenged. Do not buy this book if you are looking for a manual on how to be successful in the religious marketplace of consumer religion.

Read this book if you are concerned about the gospel ministry. Jim Holladay



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and Steve Coleman, pastor of education and youth at New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: whager@trifluent.net; lyndonpastor@aol.com; risen4me@hotmail.com.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



You can help STOP Child Abuse

In 2005, over 72,000 children were reported abused in Kentucky.

Last year, the number of children who died as a result of abuse or neglect rose by 22 percent.

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PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following churches, missionaries and volunteers connected with partnership mission projects between Kentucky Baptists and Baptists in Brazil, Poland, New England and the International Baptist Convention in Europe:

■ Church staff in Malta and Brasilia, where two volunteer mission teams recently returned from evangelistic mission projects. Pray for those who have questions about Christianity to continue to learn more. Pray also for those who made professions of faith, that they will grow in their new faith and be part of a church family.

■ Women's conferences in Italy and Germany, April 26-May 9, to be led by a team from Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

■ An "Experiencing God Week" in Emirate Baptist Church in Dubai, April 24-29.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ARLINGTON**—Danny O'Guinn, pastor of First Church, recently resigned to become pastor of Parker Road Church in St. Louis.

■ **BEECHMONT**—Hazel Creek Church will hold revival services April 23, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and April 24-26, 7 p.m., with **Otis Cunningham** as evangelist.

■ **BREMEN**—Bethlehem Church will hold revival services April 23-26 with **T.J. Milam** as evangelist.

■ **BUFFALO**—Buffalo Church will hold revival services April 23, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and April 24-26, 7 p.m., with Pastor **Rodney Troutman** preaching.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cherry Hill Church will hold revival services April 23-26. Speakers include: April 23, 11 a.m., **Ray Gilliland**; April 23, 6 p.m., **Danny Mooneyhan**; April 24, 7 p.m., **Roger Skipworth**; April 25, 7 p.m., **Donnie Wilkins**; and April 26, 7 p.m., **Travis Fox**.

■ **CLINTON**—Timmy Stinson recently resigned as pastor of Obion Church.

■ **ELKHORN CITY**—Elkhorn City Church honored **Willie May** as deacon emeritus March 26. **Shawn Bruce** is pastor.

■ **FOREST HILLS**—Aflex Church recently called **Charles Gary May** as pastor.

■ **FULTON**—Max Anderson recently resigned as pastor of Crutchfield Church.

Mount Carmel Church will hold revival services April 23-27 with **Tommy Griffin** as evangelist. **Dale True** is pastor.

Riceville Church will hold revival services April 26-29 with **Ben Stratton** as evangelist. **Danny Zickefoose** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity, will speak at Faith Church April 22, 6:30 p.m.

■ **GRAHAM**—East Union Church will

Spotlight on ...

Princeton



Southside Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary with special services April 29-30. Special guests will include former pastors and ministers of music.

hold revival services April 23-26 with **Ronnie Sivells** as evangelist.

■ **HICKMAN**—West Hickman Church ordained **Charles Wiley** as a deacon March 19. **Jason Sipes** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold revival services April 23-26 with **Jerome Byrd** as evangelist. **Gerald Murphy** is pastor.

■ **LaGRANGE**—Eighteen Mile Church recently called **Michael Taylor** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Baxter Avenue Church recently called **Ben Lairamore** as pastor.

Louisville Deaf Church will hold revival services April 21-22, 7 p.m., and April 23, 10:45 a.m., at Deer Park Church with **Ricky Milford** as evangelist. Services will be voice interpreted for those who don't use sign language. **Tim Bender** is pastor.

Midlane Park Church recently called **Tony Hough** as interim pastor.

St. Matthews Baptist Pastoral Counseling Center will host an art exhibit featuring the theme, "Art, Faith and Healing" April 23 in the chapel of St. Matthews Church. The event will include a luncheon and silent auction at 12:15 p.m.

■ **PRINCETON**—Emmanuel Church recently called **Doug Jones** as pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church ordained



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

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, Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland; and St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

29 Regional Keyboard Festival, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

May

1 Adults 50+ Living Celebrations, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.

2 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.

4 Adults 50+ Living Celebration, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

4 "Next Level" Ministry Workshop, Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington.

5 Children's Bible Drill, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; and First Baptist Church, Somerset.

5-7 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave.

6 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; and First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

6 Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Training for Associational Leaders, First Baptist Church, Central City.

13 Regional Keyboard Festival, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

15 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Second Baptist Church, Madisonville.

16 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Long Run Baptist Association Office, Louisville.

17 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Allen Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.

18 "The Word Became Flesh" Workshop, Trinity Baptist Church, Lexington.

22 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.

22-24 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association Spring Retreat, Bullittsburg Retreat Center, Petersburg.

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

Jerry Dunning as a deacon March 26.

■ **PROSPECT**—First Church recently called **Devin Rost** as minister of music. He is a student at Boyce College in Louisville.

■ **REIDLAND**—Reidland Church will host a women's spring banquet April 25, 8 p.m., with **Cindy Plewinski**, a Mission Service Corps missionary, as guest speaker. For more information, call (270) 554-5717.

■ **ROCKHOLDS**—Pleasant Grove Church recently called **Larry Sow-**

ders as pastor.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Elk Creek Church recently called **Bob Phalen** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Red Bird Church recently called **Jerry Sester** as pastor.

What's going on?

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Four plots in the Garden of Gethsemane section (lot #49), Green Hills Memorial Garden (Hopkinsville, Ky.). Cost: \$6,480 for four plots (may be divided). Until 4 p.m.: (270) 886-4461; after 4 p.m., leave message on answering machine.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: South Campbellsville Baptist Church, 601 South Central Avenue, Campbellsville, KY 42718. Phone: (270) 465-4261.

SEEKING: If you are a retired pastor or layperson interested in a special, part-time nursing home ministry in your area, call Ebenezer Ministries, (601) 737-4506 (day), or 737-2240 (evening). E-mail: ebenmin@aol.com. Write: Ebenezer Ministries, PO Box 45, Bailey, MS 39320.

SEEKING: Memorial Baptist Church, Murray, Ky., is accepting resumé for senior pastor. Resumé may be e-mailed to: pulpitcommittee@mbcmurray.org; or mailed to: Memorial Baptist Church, 906 Main St., Murray, KY 42071, Attn: Randy Wilson. You also may visit our Web site at www.mbcmurray.org to submit your resumé and review our church profile.

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

SEEKING: Part-time pianist for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Strong accompanying skills required. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291. Questions? Call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, located in Middlesboro, Ky., near the entrance to historic Cumberland Gap National Park in SE Kentucky. Average attendance in Sunday morning worship: 100-125. We are looking for a shepherd who is passionate in his love for the Lord and for the flock, and will challenge our people to pursue holy living and to bring others to know Christ through clear, expository preaching of God's Word. Send resumé, at least one audio or video tape, and any related information to: Pastor Search Committee, East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, PO Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Part-time/bivocational pastor for Beech Grove Baptist Church in Owen County, Ky. Send resumé to Dave Jones, 1165 Slippery Rock Road, Owenton, KY 40359; or e-mail: jonesdave2001@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Cropper Baptist Church in Cropper, Ky. Cropper Baptist is a Southern Baptist church in a fast-growing community. Average weekly worship attendance is 100-plus. Mail resumé with references to: Anna Woods, Pastor Search Committee, 482 Hillspring Road, Eminence, KY 40019.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education—degree and experience necessary. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, Yellow Creek Baptist, 5741 Highway 144, Owensboro, KY 42303. For info about our church, visit www.yellowcreekbaptist.com/.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for wonderful rural community neighboring Owensboro (short drive to Louisville). Average attendance at blended worship: 300. Five staff members. Resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Lewisport Baptist Church, 1115 Pell St., Lewisport, KY 42351.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor to students for Ball Camp Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Pastor to Students Search Committee, Ball Camp Baptist Church, 2412 Ball Camp-Byington Road, Knoxville, TN 37931.

SEEKING: Full-time youth pastor for Stanford Baptist Church. Interested candidates send resumé to: Search Committee, Stanford Baptist Church, 204 Church St., Stanford, KY 40484.

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister for Brookside Baptist Church. Primary duties would be to lead activities on Sundays and Wednesdays. Send resumé to Pastor Jason Glenn, Brookside Baptist Church, 1351 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, KY 40390; or e-mail to Jason@brookside-baptist.org.

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.

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Hope amid ashes

Alabama church explores building options after fire

By Grace Thornton
Alabama Baptist

Brierfield, Ala. (ABP)—The clearing where Ashby Baptist Church once sat tucked in the woods is now clearer than it's been in nearly a century.

With the ashes and debris from its sanctuary cleaned up, the site a quarter mile off Highway 139 almost betrays the memory that a white wooden church was ever there. To neighbors who—out of habit—still expect the 87-year-old church to be there when they pass, the place is strangely blank.

The church's long-range plan is blank too, now that the Feb. 3 spate of arsons in Bibb County made its facilities a total loss, according to Pastor Jim Parker.

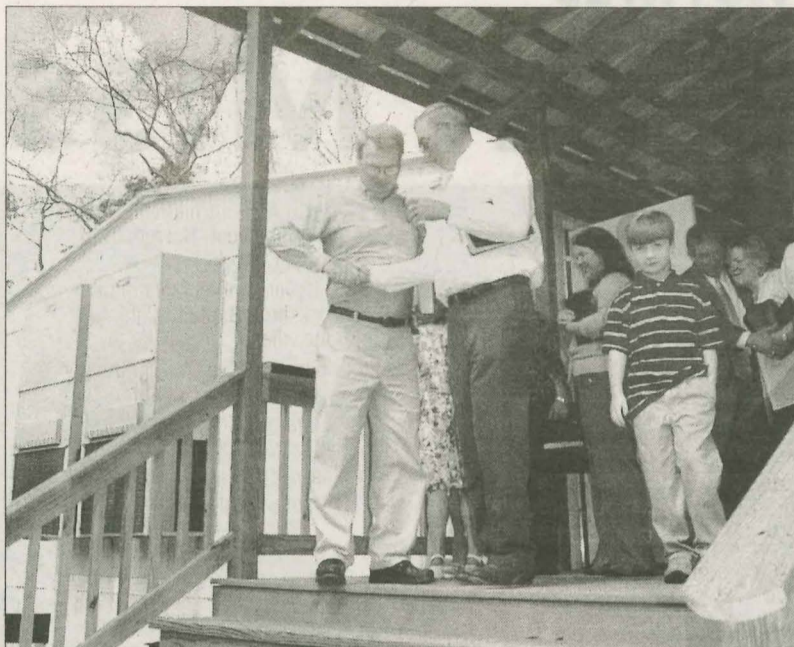
But, he added, a blank slate is not necessarily a bad thing. In fact, it's a challenge church members are getting excited about.

"For a lot of the folks here, losing their church building is like losing an old friend or friend of the family. You process it like you do death," Parker said. "But as the healing process has gone on, the people are getting ready to move forward. And there are so many options on where to go from here."

Catching a new vision

A wide spectrum of vision casting already has begun in Brierfield, a small community nestled in the top easternmost corner of Bibb County. The area recently has caught some of neighboring Shelby County's population shift, and the church's new direction includes adjusting to reach more of those people, said Gary Swafford, director of the office of associational missions and church planting for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

"In building their new church, they are talking about re-dreaming their dream and adopting a new



GLAD TO BE BACK Philip Hubbard (left) greets B.C. Crocker as the crowd trickles out of Ashby Baptist Church, Brierfield, March 12 following its first service on-site since the church building was destroyed by fire. (Alabama Baptist photo by Curry Evans)

vision to go with the new building, which is a good idea," he said.

When representatives from the state board of missions visited the first five damaged churches to offer monetary and prayer support, Swafford was in the background, offering demographic studies and church-building guidance for whenever the churches felt they were ready to start rebuilding.

Ashby Baptist quickly took him up on his offer.

"We got the demographic study done, and we used the projections to go ahead and extrapolate a number we believe we will have in each age group," Parker said.

With the church averaging about 90 people for worship services each Sunday morning, the new building is planned to hold 300. The congregation also is considering moving from its current site in the woods to a more visible lot on the highway.

"We figure that based on the demographic projections, in the next three to five years, we'll double," Parker said. "We trust the Lord on that. We have seen a lot of growth

even in just the last six months, and we believe He wants us to grow."

Before the fire, the congregation of Ashby Baptist already had begun weighing the decision of whether to relocate or add on to their current facilities.

"The Lord answered that question for us," church member Debbie Crocker said with a laugh. "There have been trials, but we are making the best of it, and it is turning out to be a good thing."

Swafford said church members seem thrilled about being able to plan their new facilities toward reaching new people moving into the area.

"This established church is wanting to take a different, inclusive, intentional stance to incorporate new people into their congregation," he said. "And yes, now is definitely the perfect time to do it."

Using mobile chapels on loan from the state board of missions, the church had its first service back on its site March 12. "Everyone was just so excited to be back," Parker said. "The spirit was great."

Pastor finishes 1,000 mile trek to closer walk with God

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Houston (ABP)—Pastor Ed Hogan lost about a dozen pounds since he started walking 10 miles a day, but he's more interested in talking about what he has gained from the experience—a closer walk with God and with church members.

Post-Christmas blues, the prospect of a new year's challenges, and reflections on "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction" by Eugene Peterson prompted Hogan to begin a 1,000-mile pilgrimage during the 100 days leading to Easter.

At his invitation, church members have joined him on the journey—either physically or by reading his daily reflections in a blog linked to the church's Web site.

"I was feeling physically lethargic along with feeling spiritually lethargic," said Hogan, pastor of Jersey Village Baptist Church in Houston. He decided he needed the discipline of a literal daily walk

with God.

"My first thought was that I'd walk 1,000 miles in the 40 days of Lent," he recalled. But after his wife convinced him 25 miles a day was unrealistic, he decided instead to devote 100 days to the 1,000-mile trek.

"I needed to walk, so I decided to make it a 14-week visual sermon illustration demonstrating our need to walk with God," he said.

"The first 25 days were tough. From then on, it's been great. ... I feel good now—much better than I've felt in a long, long time."

During the 14 weeks leading to Easter, Hogan has preached on the ascent Psalms, prayers and hymns the Jews recited on a pilgrimage as they walked to the temple in Jerusalem, probably for Passover. The emphasis dovetailed with "The Path," the church's interactive Easter drama.

As he preached on Psalms 120-134 and began his 10-mile-a-day

walks, he recorded his thoughts in a blog at www.xanga.com/ehogan.

"There's a real discipline involved I didn't understand when I started doing it," he acknowledged.

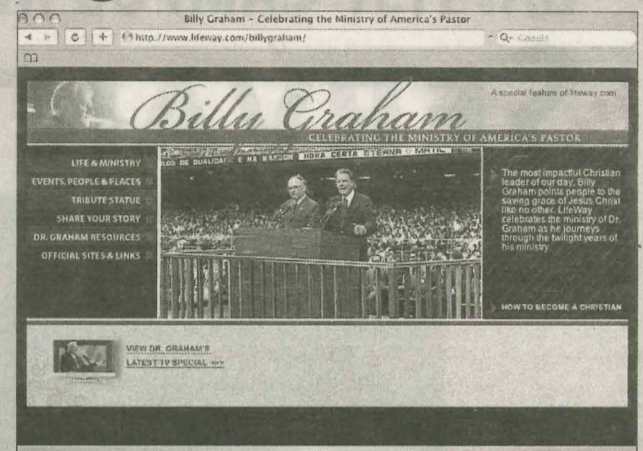
But he discovered church members connected with him at a different level when they read his daily Internet postings.

By sticking to his 10-mile-a-day goal to reach the 1,000-mile mark, Hogan hopes his members learn a lesson about perseverance and "being in it for the long haul." As the church enters a building campaign, that might be a good lesson.

Already, his example has inspired church members to make walking a daily discipline. Some use a half-mile trail at church for daily exercise and devotions, and some married couples have started walking and talking together.

"I just want to impress on our people the importance of that daily discipline and to get people walking with God," Hogan said.

High-tech tribute



WEB SALUTE LifeWay Christian Resources launched this Billy Graham Web site with the purpose of celebrating and furthering the ministry of "America's pastor." The site includes photos, quotes, and video tributes.

LifeWay launches Web site as way to honor 'America's pastor'

By Brooklyn Noel
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—For 60 years, Billy Graham has traveled the world proclaiming God's message.

Now, in the twilight of Graham's humble yet monumental career, LifeWay Christian Resources has unveiled a Web site dedicated to celebrating Graham's life and ministry.

"We simply want to join people everywhere to say 'thank you' to Billy Graham for diligently proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ around the world," said LifeWay President Thom Rainer.

The site, www.lifeway.com/billygraham, is designed to honor "America's pastor" as well as highlight the ever-changing face of a ministry that continues despite its founder's official retirement.

"The technology revolution has shrunk the world to a global village," Graham said in 1995. "It is time for the church to utilize this technology to make a worldwide statement that in the midst of chaos, emptiness and despair, there is hope in the person of Jesus Christ."

The Web site offers a simple yet worldwide avenue for the stories of Graham and his years of ministry to continue affecting people for Christ, Rainer said.

Visitors can browse extensive resources, including a timeline of Graham's life and ministry, numerous photos, key media coverage and even a map showing the location of Graham's 400-plus crusades and his tours into such countries as Russia and North Korea.

"Quotable Graham"

The site offers commentaries by other Christian leaders about Graham and it also allows Graham to speak for himself.

"One Message, Many Decades" is a three-minute video unique to the site that depicts Graham through the years as he proclaims his central message of faith in Jesus Christ.

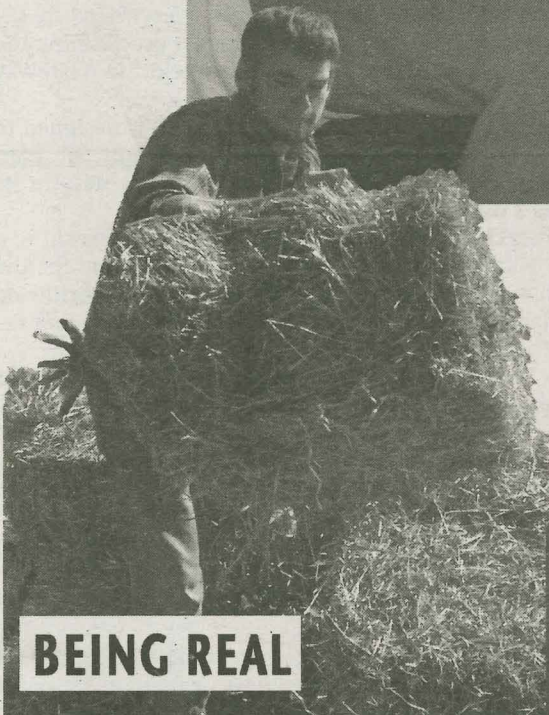
The video captures some of his finest visual moments of teaching, while the "Quotable Graham" portion of the site records some of Graham's most memorable statements. From one-liners to longer proclamations, Graham's words reflect the story of his life's work.

A hallmark of Graham's pioneering impact has been his willingness to embrace and leverage the technology of the day—initially radio, followed by film, television and satellite extension of his worldwide crusades.

"Throughout his ministry, Dr. Graham has always been progressive in utilizing every means possible to reach as many people as possible with the gospel message. And God has honored his faithfulness," said Larry Ross, director of media and public relations for Graham for the past 25 years.

"As his personal involvement in the work of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is tapering off due to age and health," Ross added, "it is exciting to see how Dr. Graham's writings and emerging technologies—such as podcasting, Internet resources and media archives—will continue to extend his unique ministry influence to future generations, further establishing his legacy as the greatest evangelist of the modern era."

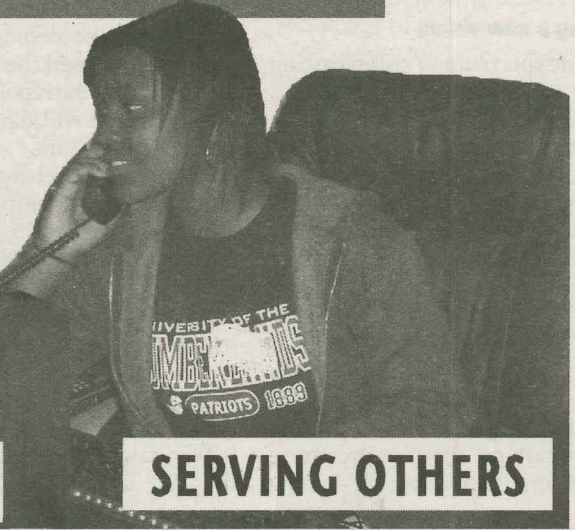
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